

**LAND AT FFARMERS, LLANWRDA,
CARMARTHENSHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING
PLANNING REF. NUMBER: E/38212**



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Services,
For: Mr and Mrs D J E and R Davies



Henneb



DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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February 2024

LAND AT FFARMERS, LLANWRDA, CARMARTHENSHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

by

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**LAND AT FFARMERS, LLANWRDA, CARMARTHENSHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

Client

Mr and Mrs D J E and R Davies

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**LAND AT FFARMERS, LLANWRDA, CARMARTHENSHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

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**LAND AT FFARMERS, LLANWRDA, CARMARTHENSHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Archaeological monitoring and recording were undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of two dwellings on land sited between Preswylfa and Cysgod Y Dderwen, Ffarmers, Llanwrda, Carmarthenshire (centred on NGR SN 64971 44511).

The modern highway, Sarn Helen, which runs through the centre of Ffarmers and skirts the boundary of the development site follows the route of a Roman road. During the archaeological monitoring and recording there was no indication of any evidence of the Roman road surface presumed to follow the course of the modern highway, and no evidence of any finds, features or activity of archaeological significance was noted.

CRYNODEB GWEITHREDOL

Ymgwymerwyd â monitro a chofnodi archeolegol yn ystod gwaith daear yn gysylltiedig ag adeiladu dwy annedd ar dir rhwng Preswylfa a Chysgod y Dderwen, Ffarmers, Llanwrda, Sir Gaerfyrddin (yn ganolog ar NGR SN 64971 44511).

Mae'r ffordd fawr fodern, Sarn Helen, sy'n rhedeg trwy ganol Ffarmers ac yn mynd heibio ffin y safle datblygu yn dilyn llwybr ffordd Rufeinig. Yn ystod y gwaith monitro a chofnodi archeolegol nid oedd unrhyw arwydd o unrhyw dystiolaeth o wyneb y ffordd Rufeinig y tybir ei fod yn dilyn cwrs y ffordd fawr fodern, ac ni nodwyd unrhyw dystiolaeth o unrhyw ddarganfyddiadau, nodweddion na gweithgaredd o arwyddocâd archeolegol.

LAND AT FFARMERS, LLANWRDA, CARMARTHENSHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

1.1.1 Heneb: Trust for Welsh Archaeology - Dyfed Archaeological Services (henceforth referred to as Dyfed Archaeological Services) was commissioned by Mr and Mrs D.J.E. and R. Davies to undertake archaeological monitoring and recording (previously known as an archaeological watching brief), during groundworks for the construction of two dwellings on land sited between Preswylfa and Cysgod Y Dderwen, Ffarmers, Llanwrda, Carmarthenshire (centred on NGR SN 64971 44511 – Figs 1 and 2). The groundwork to be undertaken was the removal of a hedge bank and the excavation of the first 10m of the new access road.

1.1.2 The modern highway, Sarn Helen, which runs through the centre of Ffarmers and skirts the boundary of the development site, follows the route of a Roman road. During an archaeological evaluation in 2014, undertaken approximately 300m south of the development site, a section of the Roman road surface was uncovered (PRN 106670).

1.1.3 A planning application was submitted to Carmarthenshire County Council (application ref. E/38212) for the development. Outline planning permission was granted with a condition of requirement for archaeological works:

"no development shall take place until a qualified and competent archaeologist has submitted a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for approval in writing by the local planning authority. This WSI will describe the different stages of the work and demonstrate that it has been fully resourced and given adequate time. On behalf of the local planning authority, their archaeological advisors (Dyfed Archaeological Trust) will monitor all aspects of this work through to the final discharging of the condition. This work will not be deemed complete until all aspects of the WSI have been addressed and the final report submitted and approved."

1.1.4 The condition was placed upon the development following advice from the Development Management section of the Heneb: Trust for Welsh Archaeology – Dyfed Region in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the LPA.

1.2 Scope of the Project

1.2.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring and recording was prepared by TWA – Dyfed Region prior to the commencement of the works (Appendix 1). The WSI outlined the project objectives as:

- Provision of a WSI to outline the methodology for the watching brief which TWA – Dyfed Region would undertake;
- To monitor ground works in order to identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits;
- To establish the state of preservation, character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits identified;
- Production of a report and an archive of the results.

1.2.2 The overall work was summarised as:

Archaeological attendance during ground works associated with the construction of two dwellings on land sited between Preswylfa and Cysgod Y Dderwen, Ffarmers, Llanwrda, Carmarthenshire, SA19 8JN, which have the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains. Appropriate investigation and recording of any such remains will be undertaken if revealed. A report and archive of the results of the works will be prepared.

- 1.2.3 The archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* (2023), its *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* (2023) and its codes of conduct.

1.3 Report Outline

- 1.3.1 This report provides a summary and discussion of the archaeological monitoring and recording results.

1.4 Illustrations

- 1.4.1 Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale. On maps, north is towards the top of the page unless otherwise indicated.

1.5 Timeline

- 1.5.1 The following timeline (Table 1) is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text.

Table 1: Archaeological and historical timeline for Wales.

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period	c. AD 410 – AD 1086	
Medieval Period	1086 – 1536	
Post-Medieval Period*	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period	1750 – 1899	
Modern	20th century onwards	

* The post-medieval and Industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional Historic Environment Record as held by the Trust for Welsh Archaeology – Dyfed Region.

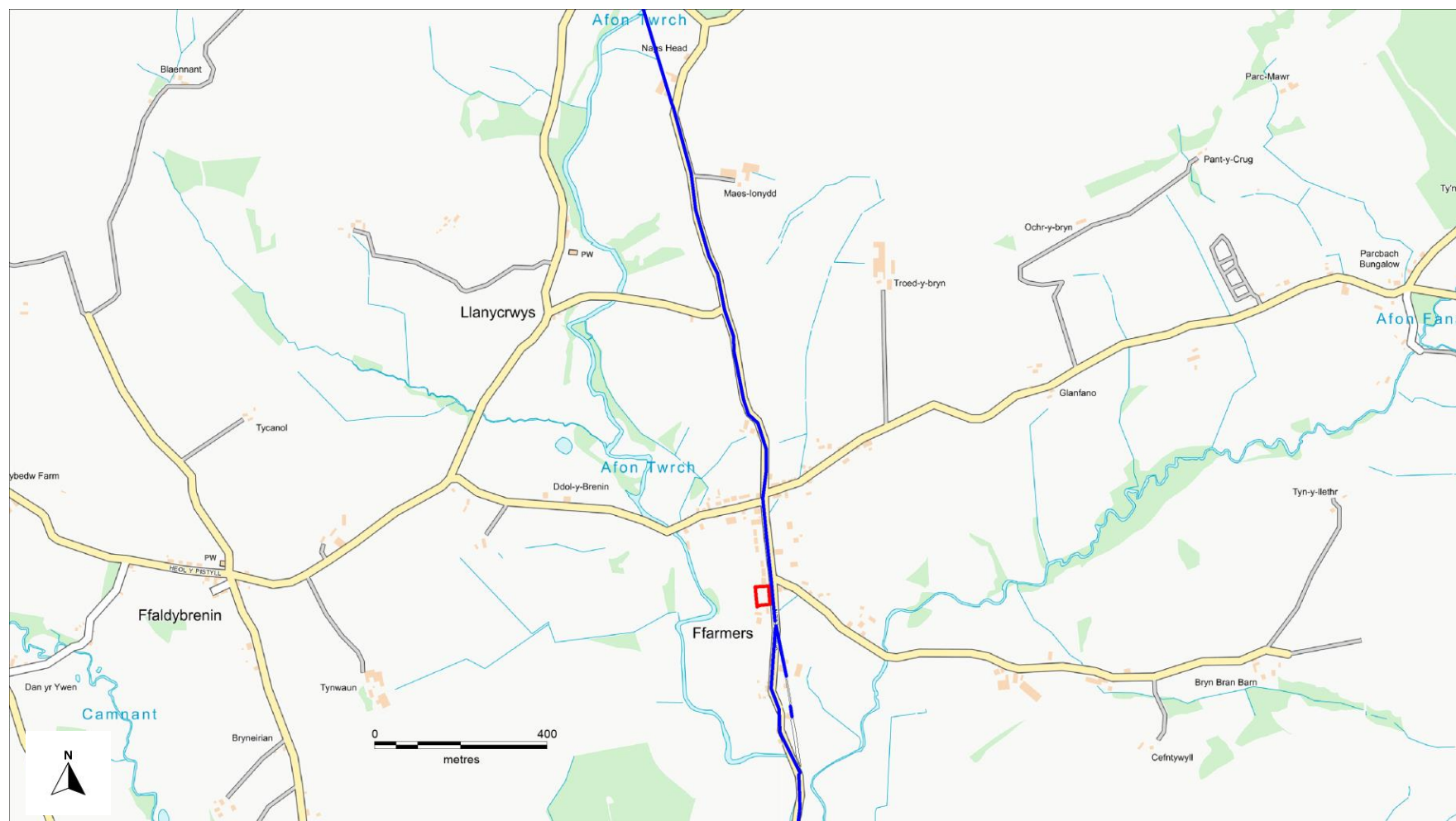


Figure 1: Location of development area showing the proposed development site in red. Map data from OpenStreetMap (OSM)
<https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright> 19/02/2024

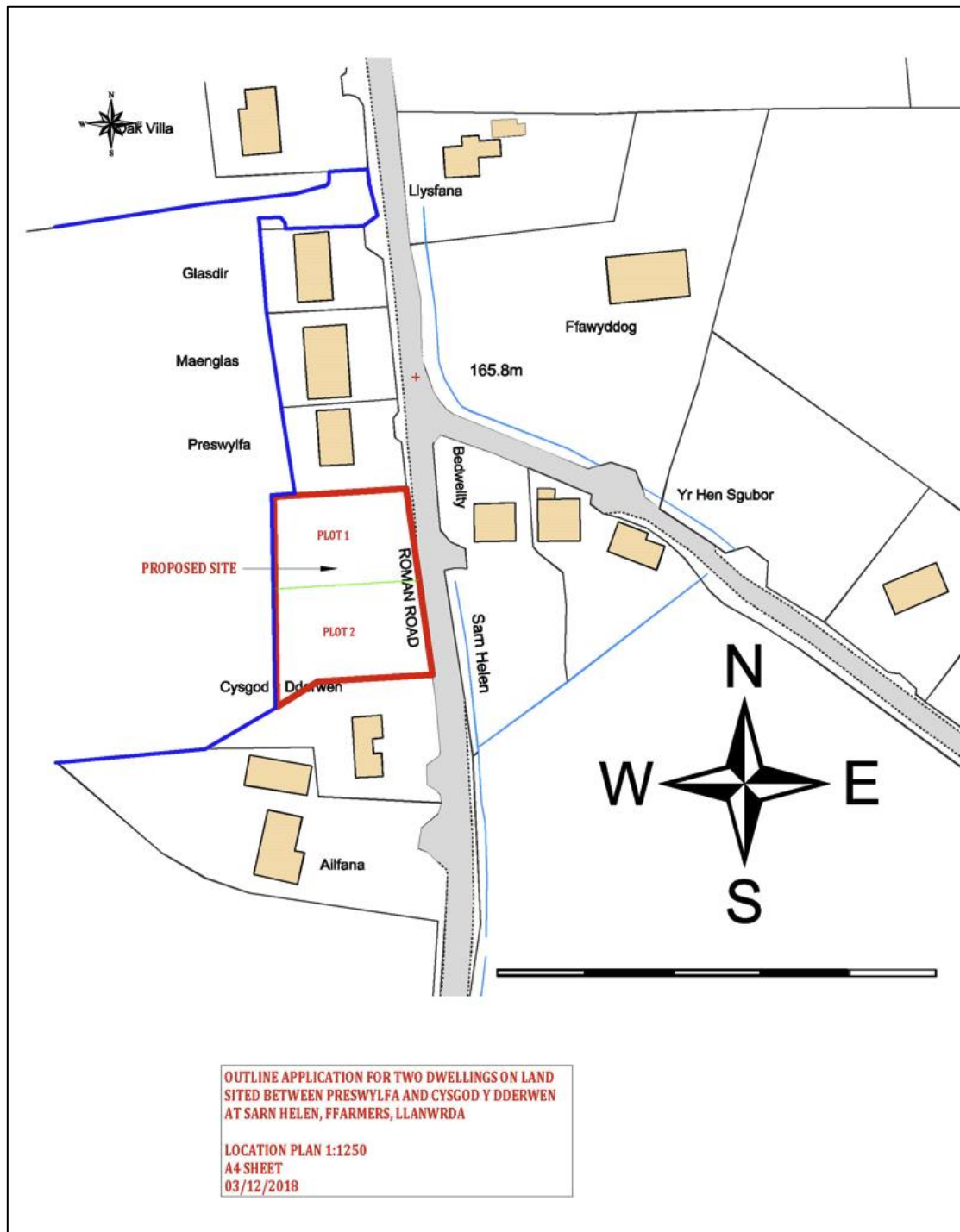


Figure 2: Location plan with development site highlighted in red. Plan supplied by the client, not reproduced to scale.

2. THE SITE

2.1 Location and Topography

- 2.1.1 The small village of Ffarmers is situated 2.5km northeast off the A482 in northern Carmarthenshire. Running north-south through the centre of the village is Sarn Helen which follows the course of a Roman route. The village contains a village hall and public house and is surrounded by agricultural pasture.
- 2.1.2 The town of Lampeter lies 8km to the northwest, and the town of Llandovery lies 15km to the southeast. To the west of the village runs the Afon Twrch which joins the River Cothi 5km to the south at Pumsaint.
- 2.1.3 The underlying geology of the site is a sedimentary bedrock of the Glanyrafon Formation, an interbedded mudstone and sandstone formed between 438.5 and 433.4 million years ago during the Silurian period ([BGS online](#)).

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 There are 10 non-designated assets recorded in the immediate surrounding area, registered on the Historic Environment Record (which is held and managed by the Trust for Welsh Archaeology – Dyfed Region, Corner House, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo SA19 6AE) with no prehistoric sites having been identified (see Table 2).
- 2.2.2 The modern highway which runs through Ffarmers (Sarn Helen) is thought to follow the route of a Roman road which linked Llanfair Clydogau in the north and Pumsaint, approximately 5km to the south, where there are the recorded remains of a Roman fort (PRN 42781). Nearby at Dolaucothi is the site of a Roman gold mining operation of international importance (PRN 42781). In 2014 an archaeological evaluation undertaken at Bryndolau, just 300m south of the development site, uncovered a section of the Roman road surface (PRN 106670, Photo 1).
- 2.2.3 The village of Ffarmers is 19th century in origin, with map evidence from 1840 (Fig 3) depicting only a mill (the site of a later 1957 mill - PRN 5121) and cottages on the site of the later post office (PRN 29664) and the Drovers Arms (PRN 29641).
- 2.2.4 Later historical map evidence (Fig 4) also shows that by 1888 the Drovers Arms and post office had been established, along with the school (PRN 18911) and smithy (PRN 29665). Much of the residential housing seen in Ffarmers today was built during the 20th century.

PRN	Site Name	Description	Period	NGR
12946	Kenvinways; Felin Rhos	A 15th century fulling mill in or near the village of Farmers, Carmarthenshire, recorded within historic documents.	Medieval	SN648447
48054	Kenvinways; Felin Rhos	Mill-race recorded on the historic Ordnance Survey maps associated with Felin Rhos (PRN 5121). It may have earlier, medieval origins as part of the 15th century Kevynways fulling mill complex (PRN 12946)	Post Medieval	SN647894473
48055	Kenvinways; Felin Rhos	Mill-pond associated with 19th century Felin Rhos corn mill (PRN 5121) It may have earlier origins as part of 15th century Kevynways fulling mill (PRN 12946). Recorded on the historic Ordnance Survey maps, linked to mill-race PRN 48054)	Post Medieval	SN64814474
5121	Felin Rhos	Site of a 19th century (1857) corn mill recorded on the 1840 tithe map and historic Ordnance Survey maps, possibly on the same site as Kevynways medieval fulling mill (PRN 12946). It was powered by millrace (PRN 48054) diverted from the river to the north and linked to a mill pond (PRN 48055) just behind the mill.	Post medieval	SN64804470
18885/ 29665	Old Smithy	19 th century. Converted to dwelling and mechanic's garage.	Post Medieval	SN65204488
18911	School	School dating to c.1870. Marked on both 1st and 2nd edition OS Historic Mapping.	Post Medieval	SN64934472
29403	Ffarmers	Village originating in the 19 th century	Post Medieval	SN650447
29641	Drovers Arms	Pub on Drovers Road. Certainly 19 th century in date, perhaps earlier.	Post Medieval	SN64944475
29664	Old Post Office	First appears on 1888 1:2500 OS Map. Now closed and vacant.	Post Medieval	SN64974473
33999	Llys-Berllan	A segment of Roman road RR62c from Pumsaint to Llanfair Clydogau. Part of this stretch of Roman road was recorded ahead of housing development in 2014 (PRN 106670).	Roman	SN65034413

Table 2: List of non-designated assets in Ffarmers as recorded on the Historic Environment Record.



Figure 3: Extract from the tithe map of Cayo Parish (1840) showing the area now known as the village of Ffarmers.



Figure 4: Extract of the first edition Ordnance Survey six-inch map (1888).

2.3 Previous Archaeological Investigations

- 2.3.1 In 2014 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken approximately 300m south of the development site at Bryndolau, Ffarmers, due to the proposed construction of a residential dwelling at the site (PRN 106670). A 12m long by 3m wide trench was excavated across the footprint of the proposed dwelling.
- 2.3.2 The upper gravel layer of a road surface was uncovered at 0.4m below present ground level, with some evidence of resurfacing (Photo 1). The lowest layer was identified as possibly forming the agger of the road. Two ditches flanking the road surface were also recorded (Enright, 2014).



Photo 1: Roman road surface uncovered during a 2014 archaeological evaluation at Bryn Dolau, Ffarmers, PRN 106670. Photo credit: Enright (2014). Scale: 1 metre.

3. MONITORING AND RECORDING METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The monitoring and recording was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists' *Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (CifA 2023)* and its *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (CifA 2023)*.
- 3.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing the proposed archaeological works was prepared by TWA – Dyfed Region (Appendix 1).
- 3.1.3 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual used by TWA – Dyfed Region (adopted from the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology, a copy is always available on-site for inspection if required). A written, drawn and photographic record was maintained throughout the monitoring and recording, and all contexts encountered were recorded.
- 3.1.4 The area for development was excavated by a 5.5 tonne 360° mechanical excavator. The spoil removed during the works was used to build the proposed new hedge bank.

3.2 Timetabling of Fieldwork

- 3.2.1 The monitoring and recording took place over one day on 1st February 2024. The weather was dry and sunny.

3.3 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving

- 3.3.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork will be collated into a site archive structured in accordance with specifications in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2011), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 3.3.2 The results of the fieldwork have been assessed in local, regional and wider contexts. The report includes a desk-based research element to ensure that the site is placed within its wider archaeological context.
- 3.3.3 A report fully representative of the results of the fieldwork has been prepared.

4. MONITORING AND RECORDING RESULTS

- 4.1 Excavation was completed using a 3 tonne 360° mechanical excavator with 1.6m grading bucket. Approximately 40m of hedge bank was removed along the length of the development plot, which runs parallel to the existing roadside in a north-south direction (Photo 2). The removed spoil was deposited to the north and south, approximately 5m to the west of the original line of the bank, in two 15m bunds, to be used in the future landscaping of the building plot.
- 4.2 The bank was approximately 0.5m high (Photo 3). The uppermost layer (1004) of the bank was approximately 0.20m deep and consisted of a dark, friable, greyish-brown soil with frequent tree roots and occasional and poorly sorted small to medium sub-angular stones. The bottom layer (1005) was a mid-greyish brown loam with occasional and poorly sorted very small to large sub-angular stones. Aside from a modern glass bottle and a modern ceramic sherd, no finds were recovered from the spoil.
- 4.3 During removal of the hedge bank excavation did not go deeper than the base of the bank. The removal of the bank was monitored in its entirety and no archaeological finds or features were exposed beneath the bank.



Photo 2: Looking north at removal of the northern section of hedge bank.



Photo 3: Looking north at south facing section of hedge bank. Scale: 1metre.

- 4.4 At the mid-point of the length of the development site, the excavation for the foundation of the entrance for the new access road was undertaken (Photo 4). The entrance road is orientated east-west off the existing highway. The excavation measured 12m wide along the current roadside, gradually narrowing to a constant width of 4m moving westwards. The full length of the excavation was 10m, completing the footprint of the entrance way.
- 4.5 During excavation of the entrance approximately 0.8m of mid-brown topsoil (1001) was removed. Below was a subsoil (1002) of mid-brown silty clay with occasional small to very large stones, poorly sorted. The removal of the subsoil revealed the natural geology (1003) (Photo 6), a light grey silty clay with occasional small to very large sub-angular stones, poorly sorted. Approximately 0.12m of the natural layer was exposed in section.
- 4.6 At the western end of the trench, approximately 0.5m from the trench edge, a feature was noted running north-south (Photo 5). The feature was 0.8m wide and filled with a brown silty clay. The client confirmed this was a modern field ditch which he had filled in within the last two decades.
- 4.7 No evidence of a Roman road surface was noted and no other features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded during the archaeological monitoring and recording.



Photo 4: Looking east across the excavated road entrance. The main road (Sarn Helen) in the background. Scale: 1 metre.



Photo 5: The modern field ditch, facing north across the trench. Scale: 1 metre.



Photo 6: Looking north at the variation in natural geology (1003). Scale 1 metre.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of two dwellings on land at Ffarmers, Llanwrda, Carmarthenshire.
- 5.2 The groundworks comprised the removal of 40m of hedge bank running along the length of the development site, and the creation of an entrance point for a new access road which will lead to the new housing.
- 5.3 The removal of the hedge was undertaken first, during which no finds of archaeological significance were noted.
- 5.4 The second stage of monitoring and recording was undertaken during the creation of the new road entrance. The excavation area measured 12m wide where it bordered the existing highway, narrowing to 4m wide to the west and was 10m long. Aside from a modern drainage ditch, no finds or features of archaeological significance were noted.
- 5.5 In conclusion, there was no indication of any evidence of the Roman road surface presumed to follow the course of the modern highway, and no evidence of any other archaeological activity was noted during the monitoring and recording of the groundworks. It is suggested therefore that the Roman route of Sarn Helen at this location could run slightly to the east of the current highway.

6. SOURCES

CIfA. 2023, *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*

CIfA. 2023, *Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*

Enright, C. 2014 *Land Adjacent to Bryn Dolau, Ffarmers, Carmarthenshire*: Unpublished DAT Report No 2014/25

Databases

Regional Historic Environment Record, held and managed by the Trust for Welsh Archaeology, Dyfed Region, Corner House, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo SA19 6AE.

Online Sources

BGS Online, [BGS Geology Viewer - British Geological Survey](#) [Accessed 05/01/2024]

Welsh Tithe Map, <https://places.library.wales/> [Accessed 07.02.2024]

APPENDIX 1

**PROPOSED WORKS ON LAND SITED BETWEEN PRESWYLFA AND
CYSGOD Y DDERWEN, FFARMERS, LLANWRDA,
CARMARTHENSHIRE
PLANNING APPLICATION E/38212
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This written scheme of investigation has been prepared by HENEB Dyfed Region Archaeological Services in response to a request from Mr and Mrs D J E and R Davies to provide an archaeological watching brief during the construction of two dwellings on land sited between Preswylfa and Cysgod Y Dderwen, Ffarmers, Llanwrda, Carmarthenshire, SA19 8JN (centred on NGR SN64971 44511, Figures 1 and 2).
- 1.2 The requirement for a scheme of archaeological mitigation has been placed upon the development proposals (Planning Ref No: E/38212) to mitigate against the building works, by Carmarthenshire County Council Planning Authority following advice from their archaeological advisors.
- 1.3 The recommendation states:

No development shall take place until a qualified and competent archaeologist has submitted a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for approval in writing by the local planning authority. This WSI will describe the different stages of the work and demonstrate that it has been fully resourced and given adequate time. On behalf of the local planning authority, their archaeological advisors will monitor all aspects of this work through to the final discharging of the condition. This work will not be deemed complete until all aspects of the WSI have been addressed and the final report submitted and approved.

Reason: to protect historic environment interests whilst enabling development
- 1.4 The site in question lies between a row of houses and the village hall (built in the late 1920's) in Ffarmers, which stands on the course of the Roman road known as Sarn Helen and is a 19th century village in origin.
- 1.5 Sarn Helen refers to several stretches of Roman road in Wales. The 160-mile (260 km) route, which follows a meandering course through central Wales, connects Aberconwy in the north with Carmarthen in the west.
- 1.6 Maps demonstrate that by 1840 the mill, the Drovers Arms and a cottage on the site of the post office are recorded. Figure 3 and Table 1 illustrate the heritage assets that lie near the proposed development which are recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Monuments Record of Wales.

- 1.7 In 2014 an archaeological evaluation (PRN 106670)¹ was carried out close by (Figure 3). Analysis of aerial photographs and LIDAR data had suggested that the site for a proposed dwelling could be located on an abandoned section of the Roman road Sarn Helen which runs north from Pumsaint. A single trench was excavated, 12m long and 3m wide across the footprint of the proposed dwelling, targeting the linear anomaly identified in aerial photographs and LIDAR data. At a depth of approximately 0.4m a stoney/gravel layer was encountered which appeared to indicate the upper layer of the Roman road surface with possible evidence of re-surfacing (Photograph 1). The lowest layer of the road appeared to comprise material forming the agger of the road. Associated features included flanking gully ditches either side of the road which had become silted up with a sandy material.



Photograph 1: Evaluation trench excavated in 2014 (PRN 106670) looking northwest facing showing road surface in the foreground (008) and natural in the background (007).

- 1.8 The following written scheme of investigation outlines the methodology through which Dyfed Archaeological Services will undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at the site, which have the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains. The approval of this written scheme of investigation by the planning authority will be required before work can commence.

¹ Enright, C, 2014 *Land Adjacent to Bryn Dolau, Ffarmers, Carmarthenshire: Archaeological Evaluation, DAT Unpublished Report No 2014/25*

- 1.9 The written scheme of investigation is in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014).
- 1.10 Dyfed Archaeological Services has considerable experience of this type of project and always operates to best professional practice. Dyfed Archaeological Services is a contractual arm of Heneb: Trust for Welsh Archaeology that has its own Health and Safety Policy, and all works are covered by appropriate Employer's Liability and Public Liability Insurances. Copies of all are available on request.

Heneb: Trust for Welsh Archaeology is a CIfA Registered Organisation, and all permanent staff are CSCS registered.

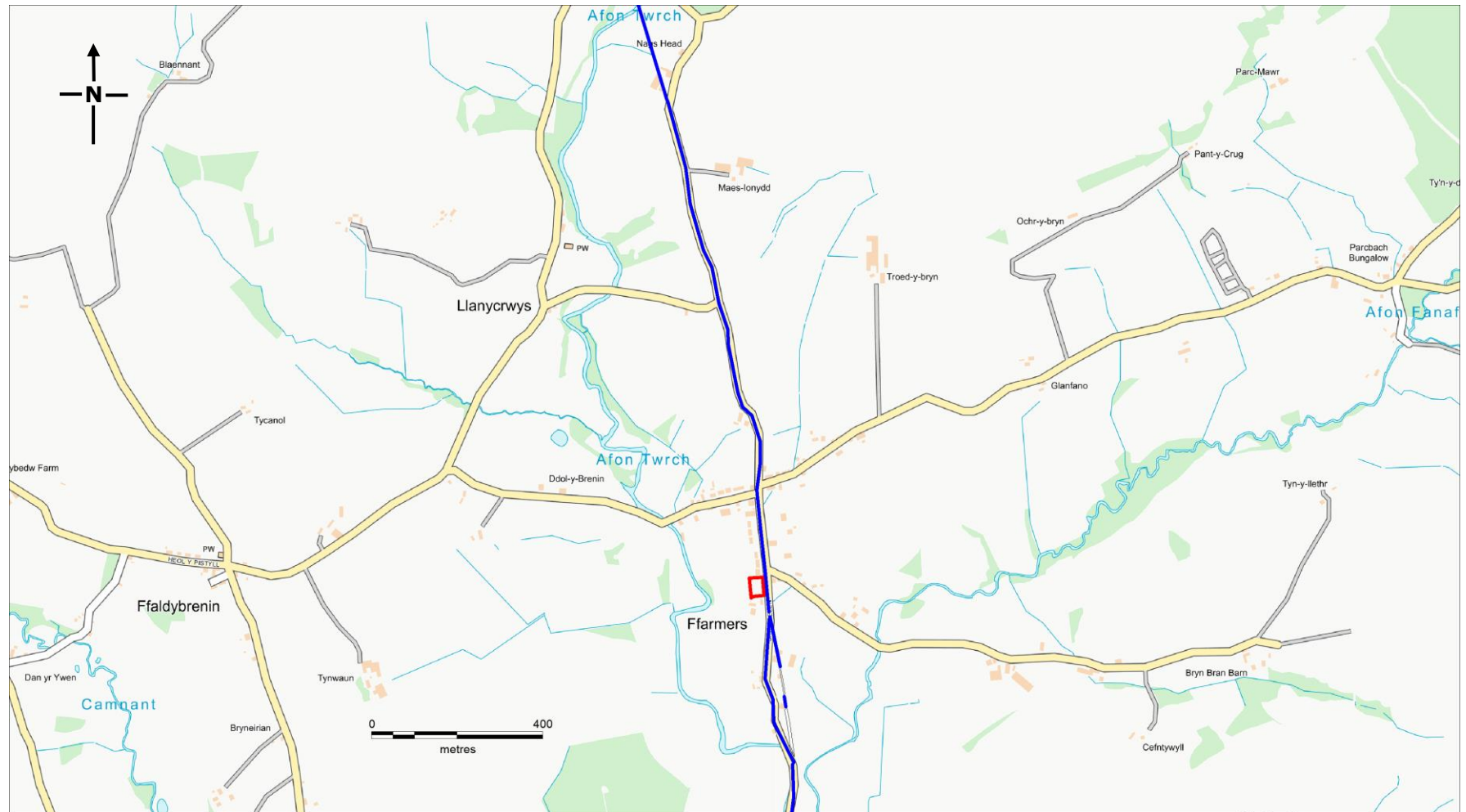


Figure 1: Site location map showing the proposed development area (red dot) and the Roman Road (Sarn Helen) in blue.

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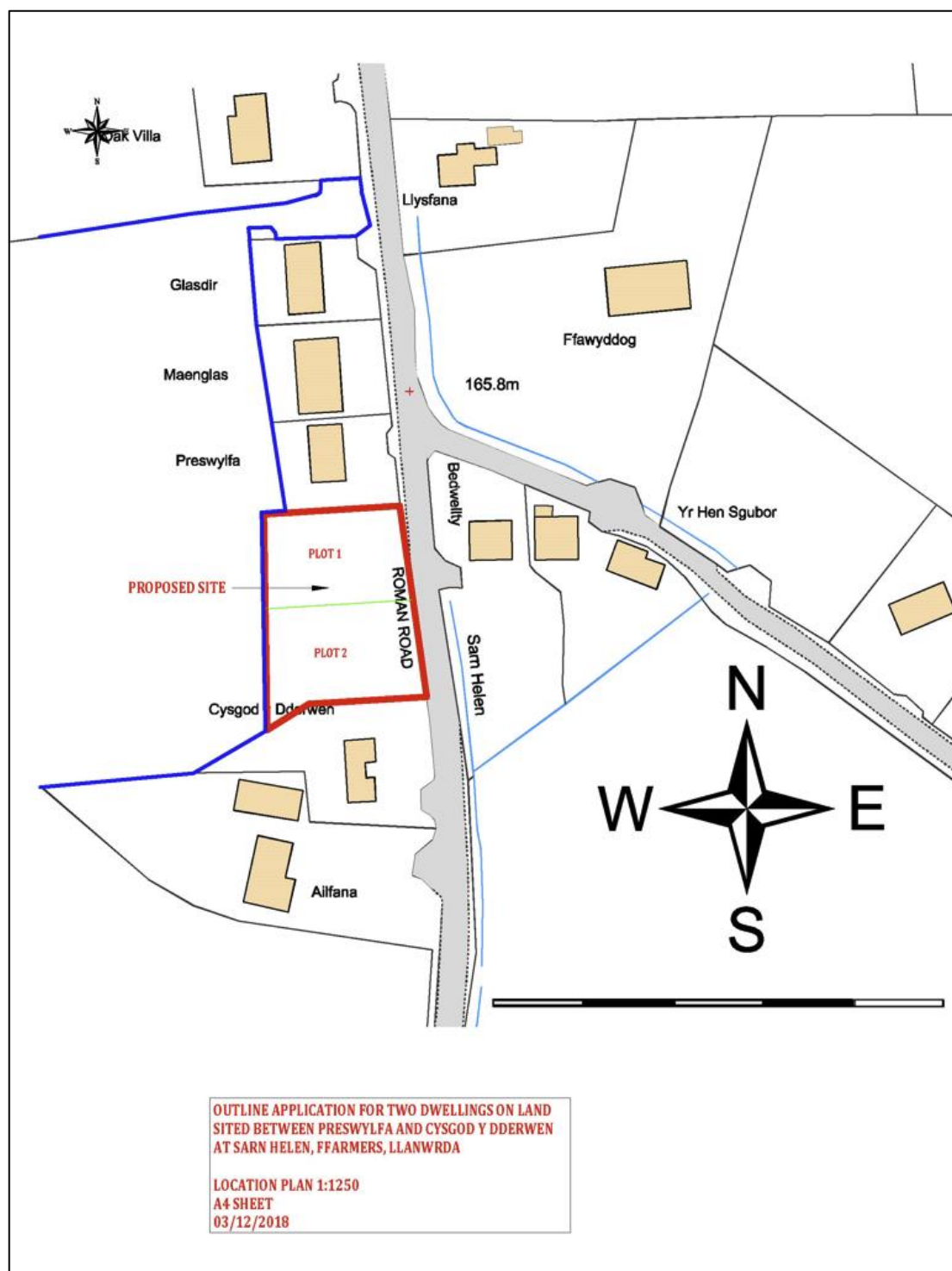


Figure 2: Detailed location plan showing the development site outlined in red and the Roman road (Sarn Helen). Plan supplied by the client.

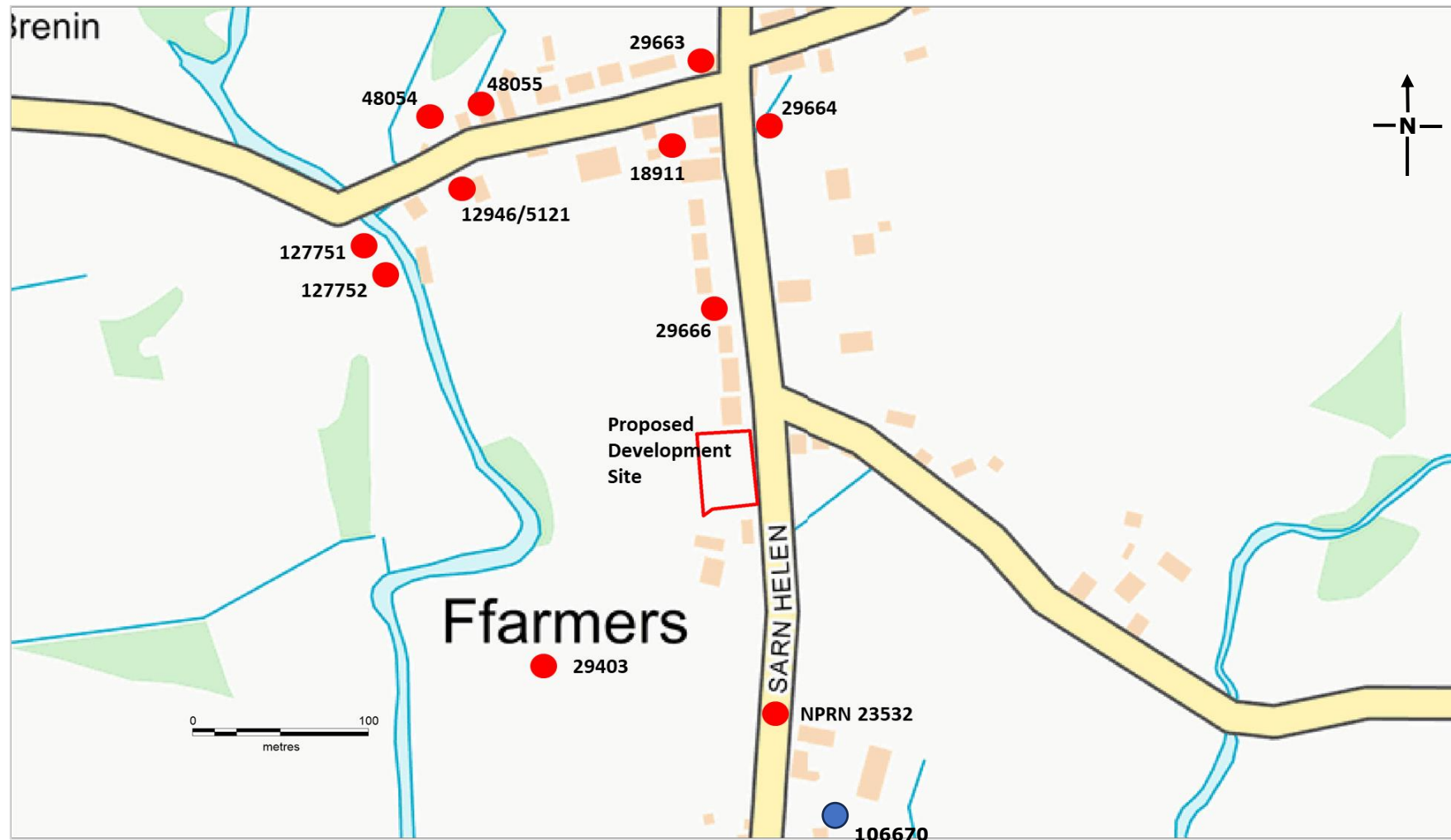


Figure 3: Plan showing sites of historic interest from the Historic Environment Record (Table 1).
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2023.

Table 1: Recorded heritage assets near the proposed development site in Ffarmers.

PRN	Name	Information	Period	GRN
5121	Felin Rhos	Site of 19C corn mill recorded on 1840 tithe map and historic ordnance survey maps, possibly on the same site as Kevynways medieval 15C fulling mill (PRN 12946).	Post medieval	SN64804470
18911	School	Marked on both 1st and 2nd edition OS Historic mapping.	dating to c.1870	SN64934472
29403	Ffarmers	Ffarmers lies in the north western corner of Dinefwr. The origin of the name is obscure, save that it is an English loan word and apparently of recent date, not appearing on the tithe map of 1841. Ffarmers is a 19th century village in origin.	19 th century in origin	SN650447
29663	Drovers Arms	Pub on the Drovers road.	19 th century	SN64944475
29664	Old Post Office	On 1888 1:2500 OS Map.	19 th century	SN64974473
29666	Village hall	Village hall with Post Office in ante-room.	Built 1933	SN64944469
48054	Mill race	Mill-race recorded on the historic Ordnance Survey maps associated with Felin Rhos (PRN 5121) It may have earlier, medieval origins as part of the 15th century Kevynways fulling mill complex (PRN 12946).	Post medieval	SN64794473
48055	Mill pond	Mill-pond associated with 19th century Felin Rhos corn mill (PRN 5121) It may have earlier origins as part of 15th century Kevynways fulling mill (PRN 12946). Recorded on the historic Ordnance Survey maps, linked to mill-race PRN 48054).	Post medieval	SN64814474
106670	Land adj to Bryn Dolau, Ffarmers	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Bryn Dolau, Ffarmers. Approximately 0.4m down a road surface was revealed with possible evidence of re-surfacing; likely to be a section of the Roman road running north from the nearby Roman fort of Pumsaint. Associated features include flanking gully ditches on either side of the road.	Roman	SN65004431
127751	Footbridge	Footbridge marked on 1st and 2nd edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey maps.	Post medieval	SN6474144666
127752	Footbridge	Footbridge marked on 1st and 2nd edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey maps.	Post medieval	SN6475544654
NPRN 23532	Sarn Helen	Roman Road.	Roman	

2. WATCHING BRIEF

2.1 The definition of an archaeological watching brief, taken from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (CIfA 2014) is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.

2.2 The purpose of a watching brief, as laid down in the CIfA guidelines is:

To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.

To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment.

2.3 This document provides a scheme of works for:

Archaeological attendance during ground works associated with the construction of two dwellings at on land sited between Preswylfa and Cysgod Y Dderwen, Ffarmers, Llanwrda, Carmarthenshire, which have the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains.

Appropriate investigation and recording of any such remains will be undertaken if revealed. A report and archive of the results of the works will be prepared.

3. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which Dyfed Archaeological Services will undertake the archaeological watching brief.
- To monitor ground works in order to identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

4.1 A watching brief will be maintained during groundworks on land sited between Preswylfa and Cysgod Y Dderwen, Ffarmers, Llanwrda, Carmarthenshire, SA19 8JN, where there is the potential for archaeological remains to be exposed, damaged or destroyed. These groundworks could include, but are not limited to, ground clearance, levelling, foundation and service excavations.

- 4.2 It is anticipated that the archaeological watching brief will be carried out within the area between the existing houses to the north and the village hall to the south and covering the land proposed for the construction of two dwellings, to a point where it is clear that no further potential archaeological remains would be disturbed.
- 4.3 The archaeologist will monitor the groundworks and aim to identify any archaeological remains that may be present. They will have the authority to halt groundworks in areas where archaeological remains are identified until they have been further investigated and recorded.
- 4.4 Adequate time must be made available to the visiting archaeologist to ensure that appropriate recording can be undertaken of any archaeological features or deposits exposed during the watching brief.
- 4.5 Features containing deposits of environmental significance will be sampled. The samples will be retained in stable conditions until analysis can be arranged.
- 4.6 All deposits will be recorded by archaeological context record sheet, scale drawing, photography and site notebooks. All individual deposits will be numbered using the open-ended numbering system in accordance with a recognised system, such as the Dyfed Archaeological Services' Recording Manual. Significant deposits will be recorded by scale drawing (no less than 1:20); drawn plans will be related to Ordnance Datum and, where possible, known boundaries. A digital photographic record will be maintained as a minimum using a high-resolution camera, with photographic information recorded for all photographs taken.
- 4.7 All archaeologically significant artefacts, ecofacts and samples will be retained and, where possible, related to the contexts from which they derived. Sensitive materials will be stored in appropriately stable conditions. Finds will be temporarily stored by Dyfed Archaeological Services in stable conditions. All finds, except those deemed to be Treasure, will remain the property of the landowner, but it is assumed that permission will have been given by the landowner for these to be stored as part of the archive in a suitable repository (ownership will still be with the landowner).
- 4.8 Under the 1996 Treasure Act, "Treasure" can be summarised as:
- Any object other than a coin containing at least 10% gold or silver and at least 300 years old;
 - Any prehistoric assemblage of base metal;
 - Coins found together which contain 10% gold or silver (but no single coins) and groups of at least 10 coins of other metals, provided they are at least 300 years old;
 - Any object found associated with treasure except unworked natural objects; and
 - Any object which would have been Treasure Trove before the 1996 Act but not covered above.
- 4.9 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the development, or where unexpected archaeological remains of high significance are exposed, the appointed archaeological contractor will have the power to halt any ground works and shall inform the client and Dyfed Development Management and prepare a written statement with plan(s) detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by all parties, if required, a contingency scheme for

salvage excavation of affected archaeological features may have to be implemented. This event would need to be covered by contingency financial arrangements within the project budgets.

- 4.10 In the event of the discovery of human remains, all remains will be left in situ. If removal is necessary, it will only take place following the granting of all permissions in writing by the relevant authorities (a burial licence granted from the Ministry of Justice).

5. POST-FIELDWORK REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

- 5.1 Following the completion of all phases of fieldwork an archive will be prepared if it meets the requirements of the Heneb: Trust for Welsh Archaeology Dyfed Region Archive Retention Policy (2018). If it does, then data recovered during the watching brief will be collated into a site archive structured in accordance with the specifications in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2011), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 5.2 A Data Management Plan (DMP) (Appendix I) for this project has been produced in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CIfA 2014, updated 2020).
- 5.3 The National Standards for Wales for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives produced by the Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales will also be adhered to. Digital archives will be collated using the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales systems (2015) and deposited with the RCAHMW. The *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records* (Welsh HERs) shall be followed.
- 5.4 The results of the fieldwork will be assessed in local, regional and wider contexts.
- 5.5 A report that is fully representative of the results of the fieldwork will be prepared and copies will be sent to the client for dissemination to all relevant parties.
- 5.6 A summary of the project results, excluding any confidential information, may be prepared for wider dissemination (e.g. *Archaeology in Wales* and special interest and period-specific journals).
- 5.7 The project archive, including all artefacts and ecofacts (excepting those which may be deemed to be Treasure Trove) will be deposited with an appropriate body following agreement with the landowner.
- 5.8 A copy of the final report will be deposited with the regional HER within six months of the completion of the project.
- 5.9 Appropriate specialists to be used by Dyfed Archaeological Services include:
- Animal Bones – Worcester Archaeology
 - Conservation - Phil Parkes (Cardiff University)
 - Environmental / Pollen analysis – Worcester Archaeology or AOC Archaeology
 - Fishbones – Jennifer Browning (University of Leicester Archaeological

Services)

- Geophysics – Luke Jenkins (Heneb)
- Human Remains – Kate Hemer (UCL University)
- Industrial Archaeology – Jennifer Protheroe Jones (National Waterfront Museum, Swansea)
- Metallurgical analysis - Dr Tim Young (Geoarch)
- Post-medieval / medieval pottery – Dee Brennan (local independent specialist)
- Prehistoric Pottery – Dr Alex Gibson (formerly of University of Bradford / now independent pottery specialist)
- Prehistoric Flint – Dr Andrew David (formerly of English Heritage, now independent lithics specialist)
- Radiocarbon dating - Beta Analytic
- Roman Glass – Ken Murphy (Heneb)
- Roman Pottery – Peter Webster (Freelance)

6. STAFF

- 6.1 This project will be managed by Fran Murphy, Head of Dyfed Archaeological Services.
- 6.2 Archaeological attendance during the watching brief will be undertaken by staff drawn from the team of archaeologists employed by Dyfed Archaeological Services.

7. QUALITY ASSURANCE

- 7.1 Dyfed Archaeological Services has considerable experience of undertaking all categories of archaeological fieldwork and always operates to best professional practice, adhering to CIfA guidelines where appropriate. The Heneb: Trust for Welsh Archaeology is a Registered Organisation with CIfA and all staff abide by their code of conduct and adhere to their relevant standards and guidance.
- 7.2 Dyfed Archaeological Services operates robust internal monitoring procedures that ensure that the standard of each project is maintained from commencement to completion.

8. MONITORING

- 8.1 The fieldwork may need to be monitored by Heneb: Trust for Welsh Archaeology Dyfed Region Development Management in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Carmarthenshire County Council Planning Authority, who should be provided access to the site at any time during the archaeological works. The Head of Dyfed Archaeological Services may also monitor the on-site works intermittently.

9. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 9.1 All permanent Dyfed Archaeological Services staff are CSCS² registered.
- 9.2 Dyfed Archaeological Services will carry out a health and safety risk assessment to ensure that all potential risks are minimised.
- 9.3 All known health and safety risks and the presence of any services etc must be made known to the attending archaeologist at the start of any groundworks by the client/site contractor.
- 9.4 All relevant health and safety regulations must be followed, including compliance with Welsh Government guidelines on working practices introduced in response to specific events such as those implemented for the Covid-19 pandemic, and guidance issued by CIfA.
- 9.5 All site inductions, health and safety procedures and site rules of the site contractor will be made known to Dyfed Archaeological Services staff prior to them commencing work on-site.
- 9.6 Safety helmets, high visibility vests and boots are to be used by all site personnel as necessary. The site contractors will make all archaeological staff aware of any other PPE³ that may be required and provide them. Archaeological staff must not enter any area where there is a considered to be a health and safety risk that has not or is not being appropriately mitigated against.
- 9.7 DAT Archaeological Services staff must ensure that their presence on site is communicated to all relevant site staff, especially machine operators.

10. ARBITRATION

- 10.1 Any dispute or disagreement arising out of a contract in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision to the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists' arbitration scheme.

² *Construction Skills Certification Scheme (Health and Safety Tested)*

³ *Personal Protection Equipment*

APPENDIX I:

DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

This Data Management Plan (DMP) is produced in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014, updated 2020). The table below is based on the Work Digital / Think Archive guidance for digital archives prepared by DigVentures, on behalf of Archaeological Archives Forum and in partnership with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. The project was funded by Historic England (Project No. 7796).

Section 1: Project Administration

Project Ref. No and Name
FS23-049 – Ffarmers, Llandwrda, Carmarthenshire
ERN (if known)
130183
Project Type
Watching Brief
Client
Mr and Mrs D J E Davies
Project Manager / Data Contact
Fran Murphy
Principal Archaeologist on Site
Shelley Williams
Date DMP Created
28/11/23
Date DMP Last Updated
28/11/2023
Related Data Management Policies
Written Scheme of Investigation Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) <i>Standards & Guidance</i> . Dyfed Archaeological Trust, 2018, archive retention policy. Brown 2011, Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation. NPAAW, 2017, The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017. RCAHMW, 2015, RCAHMW guidelines for Digital Archives, Version 1. WAT, 2018, Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs).

Section 2: Data Collection

Data Type (Delete as Appropriate)
<p>Documents</p> <p>Written Scheme of Investigation, Risk Assessment – Word doc & PDFs.</p> <p>Context sheets, site registers, site notes - paper copies, scanned and saved as PDFs.</p> <p>Site plans – permatrace, scanned and saved as PDFs.</p> <p>Final report – Word doc & PDF.</p> <p>Illustrations – Adobe Illustrator/Affinity Designer files, PDFs.</p> <p>Specialist assessments (Finds, Environmental etc) – Word doc, PDF, Excel Spreadsheet.</p> <p>Images</p> <p>Site photographs – Jpeg & Tiff (for archive).</p> <p>Other collected data (scans, archive material, social media images etc) – Jpegs.</p> <p>Survey</p> <p>In house surveys - .dxf files, GIS files (see below).</p> <p>External surveys – Dependent on external contractor, eg .dxf, .dwg, .rwv etc.</p> <p>GIS</p> <p>Mapinfo files, Esri Shapefiles.</p>
Data Acquisition
<p>All data will be collected as per the methodologies and guidance stated in the WSI (Fieldwork / Methodology).</p>

Section 3: Documentation and Metadata

Documentation and Metadata Accompanying the Data
<p>All data recovered will be archived in accordance with the guidance stated in the WSI (Post Fieldwork Reporting & Archiving)</p>

Section 4: Ethics and Legal Compliance

Management of any Ethical, Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Issues
<p>All personal data collected during the course of the project will be handled in accordance with Heneb: Trust for Welsh Archaeology Dyfed Region Archive Retention Policy (Personal Data Protection Policy (2018, revised 2020) and current Code of Practice.</p> <p>Licence agreements will be established, and Copyright permissions will be sought as appropriate (eg reproduced mapping extracts, archive material, specialist reports) prior to the submission of the data and/or inclusion in the publication of the project results.</p>

Section 5: Data Security: Storage and Backup

Data Storage, Accessibility and Safety During Research
<p>All site-produced data will be stored digitally at the first available opportunity. All digital information is stored on the Heneb: Trust for Welsh Archaeology Dyfed Region server, accessible by members of the staff. This will be checked regularly by the Project Manager. All digital data on the server is backed-up at regular intervals. The server contains ample capacity for all anticipated site data, and appropriate protocols are in place to manage any potential digital malfunction or cyber-attack.</p>

Section 6: Selection and Preservation

Data Retention, Sharing and Preservation
Data will be retained as per Heneb: Trust for Welsh Archaeology Dyfed Region Archive Retention Policy (2018).
Long-term Preservation Plan for the Dataset
<p>The digital archive relating to the project will be deposited with the NMR, held and maintained by the RCAHMW, Aberystwyth and will be created in accordance with their practices.</p> <p>The final report will be submitted to the regional Historic Environment Record in PDF format, along with any additional information they require.</p> <p>If a different digital repository to the NMR is used, their own procedures will be established at the outset of a project and followed.</p> <p>If a project includes artefacts to be deposited at a museum, arrangements will be made prior to the commencement of the project, and a copy of the digital archive will be sent with the artefacts.</p> <p>Archiving costs are included within the project budget.</p>

Section 7: Data Sharing

Sharing and Accessibility
The dissemination of data is detailed in the WSI (Post-Fieldwork Report and Archiving).

Section 8: Responsibilities

Responsibilities
Data collection, storage and manipulation will be carried out by the site team. The Project Manager will be responsible for the implementation of the data management plan.



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