

THE WHITE LION, LLANDDAROG, CARMARTHENSHIRE:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For: Mr and Mrs G Coles



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Gan / By

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Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau sydd
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As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may
have on the content or presentation of this report

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**THE WHITE LION, LLANDDAROG, CARMARTHENSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Summary

A planning application (W/15249) was submitted by Mr and Mrs G Coles to construct an extension to a property known as White Lion House in Llanddarog, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN50221663).

The site is located to the north west of the parish church of St Twrog, which is known to have medieval origins, and would have formed the nucleus for any medieval settlement. Additionally the site lies in close proximity to the former White Lion public house.

Given the potential for archaeological remains and deposits to be present on the site planning permission was granted with a condition that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during the groundworks for the development. In order to comply with this planning condition Mr and Mrs G Coles, commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Operations to carry out the archaeological watching brief in August 2008.

Despite the site being located in a potentially sensitive area no significant archaeological features or deposits were noted during the course of the watching brief.

1.INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

Plans to construct an extension to a former public house (Planning application number W/15249) known as White Lion House, Llanddarog, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN 50221663) required an archaeological watching brief be carried out. The only known archaeological site within the development site being the former White Lion public house (PRN 22002). However, the close proximity of the development site to the church of St Twrog, and the presence of the White Hart Public House resulted in an archaeological watching brief condition being recommended by the Local Planning Authority's (LPA) archaeological advisor¹. Mr and Mrs G Coles commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to undertake the watching brief which was carried out in August 2008.

1.2 Scope of the Project

The project was designed to record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during major episodes of earth moving or ground breaking, such as topsoil stripping and deep cutting during the proposed development.

1.3 Report Outline

This report describes the location of the site along with its archaeological background (Section 2) before summarising the watching brief results and the conclusions based on those results (Section 3).

1.4 Abbreviations

Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER²) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR).

1.5 Illustrations

Photographic images (Plates) are to be found at back of the report. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale and are illustrative only.

¹ Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management made the recommendation in a letter dated 30th January 2007.

² Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Llandeilo.

2.THE SITE

2.1 Location

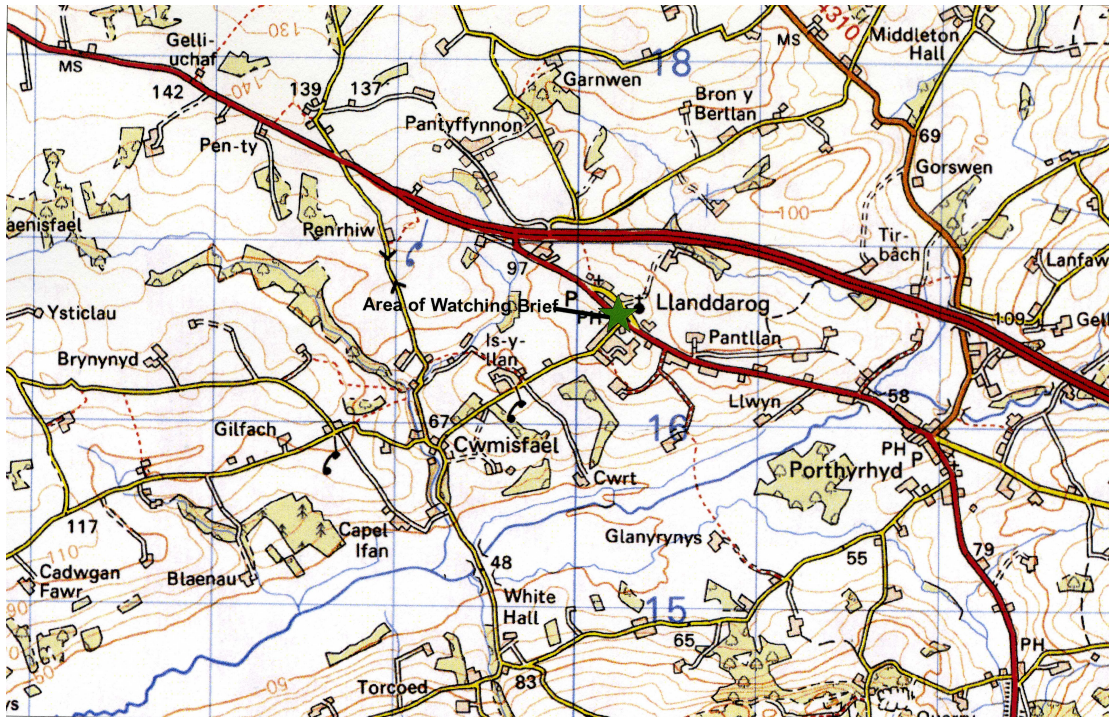


Figure 1: Location map of site based on Ordnance Survey.

Reproduced from the 1995 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Cambria Archaeology, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A

The site is located at NGR SN50221663, which is a central location within the village of Llanddarog. Topographically the site is broadly flat and is situated at a height of c.110m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying solid geology of the area is Devonian undivided Old Red Sandstone (British Geological Survey, 1994).

2.2 Archaeological Background

A search of the regional HER revealed one known archaeological site adjacent to the development site:- The White Lion public house (PRN 22002) once occupied the property known at present as White Lion house.

Map evidence has revealed that the site was a public house in 1891 as it is depicted on the 1st edition 1:10560 Ordnance Survey map of the area and is named (OS, 1891). However, by the 2nd edition 1:10560 Ordnance Survey map the site is no longer marked as a public house, which suggests it may have been closed by this time. However, a conversation with the developer MR Coles indicated that the White Lion was purchased at an unknown date by the proprietor of the adjacent White Hart public house. A search of available trade directories held at Carmarthen Library failed to find any record of the White Lion at Llanddarog in the early 20th century. However, the following public houses are recorded.

Occupier	Public House
Harries, F	Saxe Coburg*
Jones, Ann (Mrs)	Abadam Arms
Voyle, Thomas	White Hart
Williams, John	Butchers Arms

Table 1: Public houses and occupiers trading Llanddarog and vicinity in 1926 (Kelly's, 1926, 509-510)

Occupier	Public House
Aubrey, John	New Lodge
Harries, Eliza (Miss)	Butchers Arms
Harries, William	Prince Saxe-Coburg*
Jones, Ann (Mrs)	Abadam Arms
Voyle, Thomas	White Hart

Table 2: Public houses and occupiers trading Llanddarog and vicinity in 1914. (Kelly's, 1914, 496).

Occupier	Public House
Aubrey, John	New Lodge
Davies, Griffith	Prince Saxe-Coburg*
Harries, Eliza (Miss)	Butchers Arms
Jones, Ann (Mrs)	Abadam Arms
Voyle, Thomas	White Hart

Table 3: Public houses and occupiers trading Llanddarog and vicinity in 1906. (Kelly's, 1906, 450).

* Prince Saxe-Coburg changed its name to Prince of Wales around the time of the Second World War to avoid any perceived German connection.

In 1875 the White Lion public house is known to have been in existence as it is listed as being occupied by John Davies (Worrals, 1875, 182). The public house is also listed in 1868 when Henry Thomas was listed as occupier (Slaters, 1868, 77).

The Tithe Map and Apportionment of 1839 for Llanddarog Parish depicts the White Lion and records it as a public house and field known as Cae Maes (126 and 128 on Figure 2). The property was recorded in the Apportionment as under the ownership of Rawleigh Addenbrooke Mansel Esq, and occupied by Henry Thomas (Tithe Map & Apportionment, 1839). It is known that Rawleigh Addenbrooke Mansel was High Sheriff of Carmarthenshire for 1844.

3 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

3.1 Methodology

The watching brief consisted of a site visit being made to monitor topsoil stripping and the excavation of foundation trenches for the proposed extension.

3.2 Results

The stratigraphical sequence was broadly the same across the site with a dark grey brown silty clay 0.38m deep topsoil of friable compaction containing 20% large angular stone, 10% sand and 5% coal ash. Underlying the topsoil was a 0.40m deep layer of mid reddish brown sandy clay of moderate compaction and containing 10% small subangular stone. This layer was seen to overlie the natural Old Red Sandstone bedrock.

The only finds recovered were post-medieval pottery, including some pieces of blue and white Cornish ware. In addition to the post-medieval pottery a broken brown saltglazed stoneware ginger beer bottle was recovered along with a broken white stoneware 'blacking pot'. The stoneware ginger beer bottle was manufactured by Doulton of Lambeth, and was transfer printed 'Buckley Bros Brewers Llanelly'. This indicates that it was produced between 1883 and 1894 as from December 1894 the name was changed to Buckleys Brewery Ltd. However, whilst it is known that the bottle was produced during this period it is highly likely that it continued in use long after this date, probably by the brewery itself. The broken 'blacking pot', which would once have contained black lead polish for the polishing of cast iron stoves and fireplaces, bore no indication of brand name. However, a Powell Bristol pottery mark was noted which indicates that it was produced prior to 1906, when the pottery was absorbed by Price of Bristol the name changing to Price Powell & Co. It is therefore possible to ascribe a late 19th possibly early 20th century date to the pot.

Archaeological features that were recorded during the course of the watching brief were the stone base of a garden wall which had recently been demolished, a possible soakaway, and a former driveway. These were of modern date and not deemed to be significant.

3.3 Conclusion

Despite the site being located in a potentially sensitive area no significant archaeological features or deposits were noted during the course of the watching brief.

SOURCES

Map

British Geological Survey 1994 1:250,000 The Rocks of Wales. London.

Ordnance Survey 1891 1:10560 Carmarthenshire Sheet XL SW.

Ordnance Survey 1905 1:10560 Carmarthenshire Sheet XL SW.

Ordnance Survey 1995 1:50000 Landranger.

Tithe Map and Apportionment 1839 Llanddarog Parish.

Published Sources

Kelly's Directory of Monmouthshire and South Wales, 1926. London: Kelly's Directories Ltd.

Kelly's Directory of Monmouthshire and South Wales, 1914. London: Kelly's Directories Ltd.

Kelly's Directory of Monmouthshire and South Wales, 1906. London: Kelly's Directories Ltd.

Slater's National Commercial Directory of North and South Wales, 1868, London: Isaac Slater.

Worall's Directory of South Wales, 1875, Oldham: John Worall.

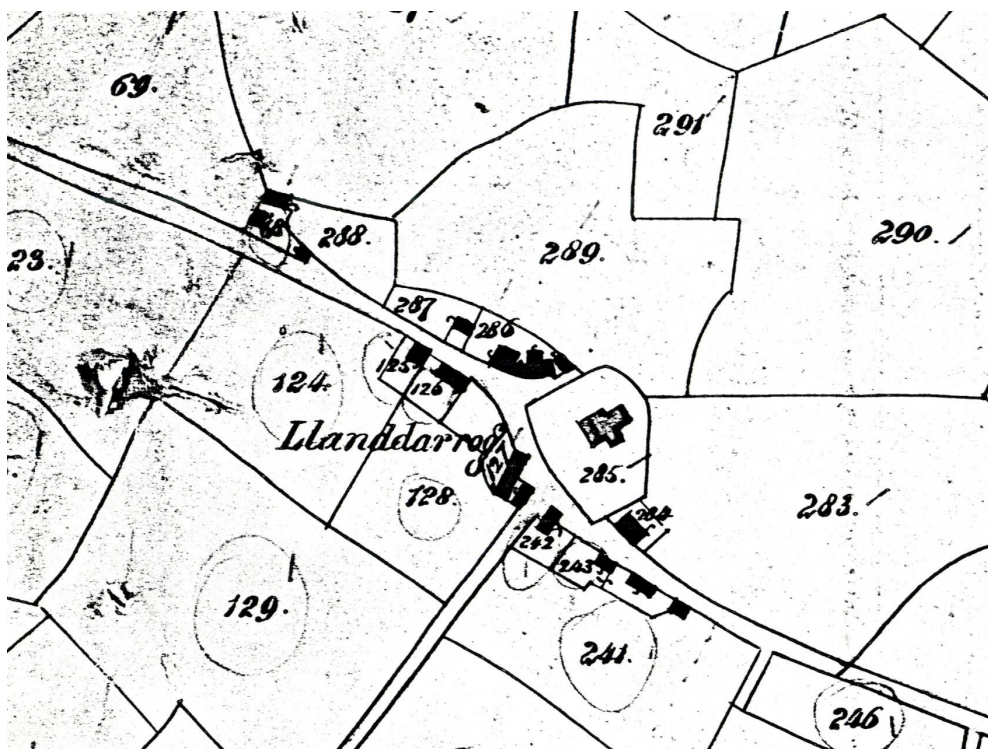


Figure 2: Detail of Tithe Map showing White Lion Public House at 126.

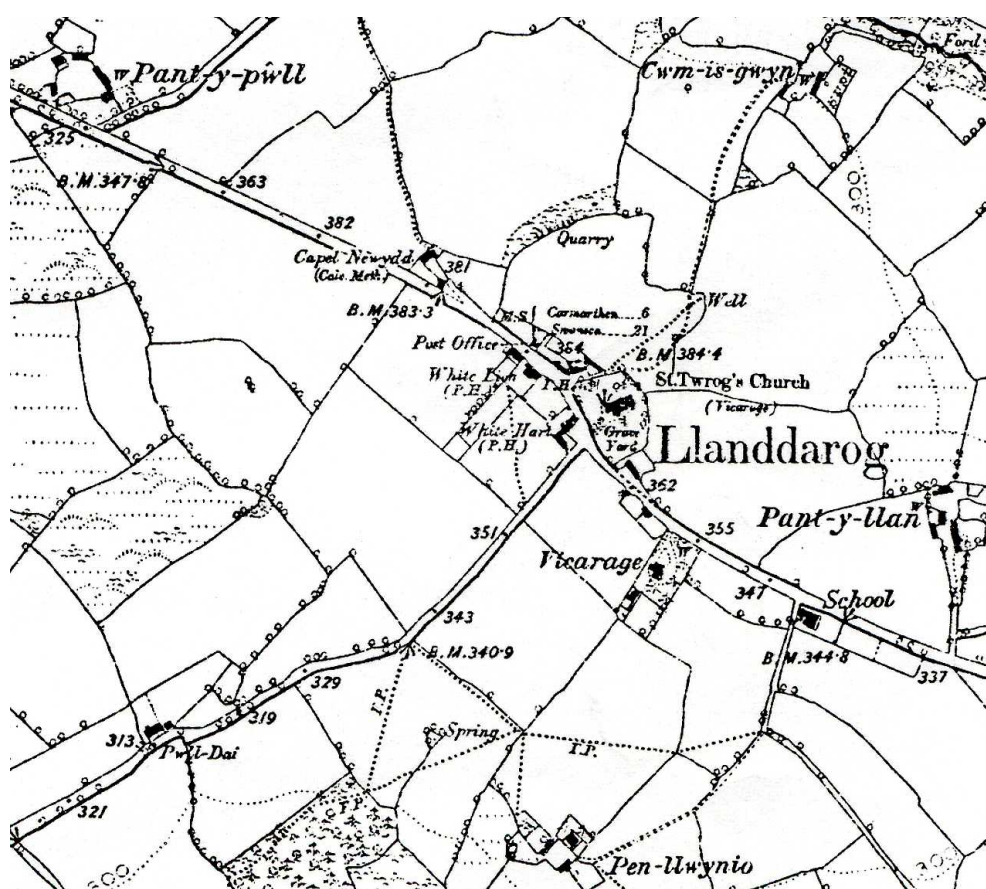


Figure 3: Extract of 1st edition OS map White Lion Public House marked.

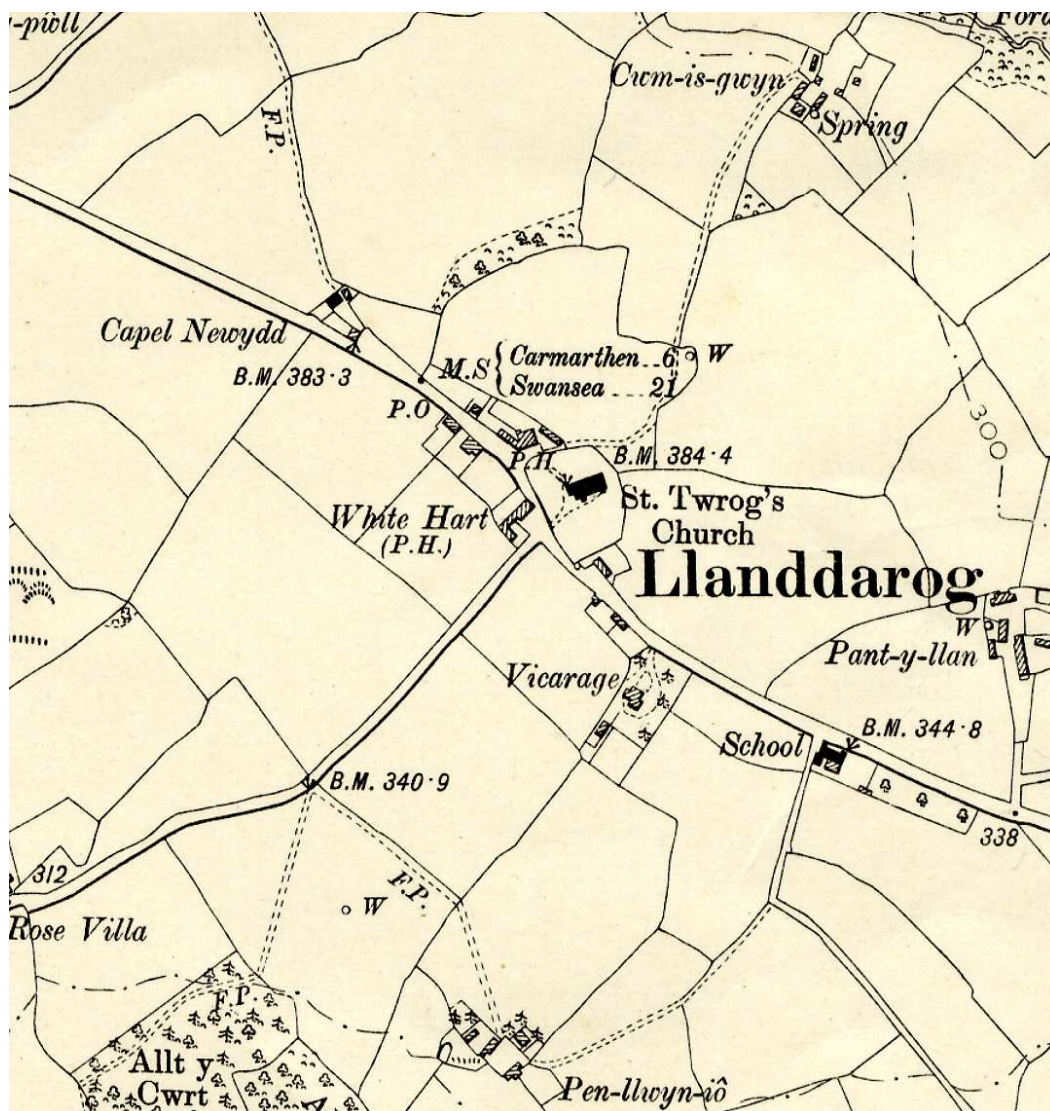


Figure 4: Extract of 2nd edition OS map White Lion Public House no longer marked.



Plate 1: Former White Lion Public House.



Plate 2: General view of site following topsoil stripping.



Plate 3: Overall view of former driveway.



Plate 4: Possible soakaway exposed during topsoil stripping.



Plate 5: Remains of garden wall following foundation trench excavation.



Plate 6: Southeast facing section showing revealed layers.



Plate 7: Southeast facing view of foundation trench, remains of garden wall to left.



Plate 8: Southeast facing view of foundation trench at southwestern end of development site.



Plate 8: Southwest facing view of foundation trench.