

**LISBURNE HOUSE,
LLANFIHANGEL Y CREUDDYN,
CEREDIGION:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF 2012**



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For: Mr Peter Garson



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LISBURNE HOUSE, LLANFIHANGEL Y CREUDDYN, CEREDIGION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Gan / By

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	1
INTRODUCTION	2
Project Commission	2
Scope of the Project	2
Report Outline	2
Abbreviations	2
Illustrations	3
Timeline	3
THE SITE	5
Location and Topography	5
Archaeological Background	5
WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY	11
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS	12
CONCLUSIONS	18

TABLES

Table 1:	Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales	3
Table 2:	Archaeological and Historical Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record within 500m of the centre of the proposed development	6

FIGURES

Figure 1:	Location plan of Llanfihangel Y Creuddyn, Ceredigion	4
Figure 2:	Extract of 1840 Tithe Map of Llanfihangel Y Creuddyn parish, with site area highlighted	8
Figure 3:	Extract from the Ordnance Survey first edition map of 1880s with site area highlighted	9
Figure 4:	Extract from the Ordnance Survey second edition map of 1904 with site area highlighted	10
Figure 5:	Detailed location plan showing area of watching brief and observed features	13

ILLUSTRATIONS

Illustration 1:	Llanfihangel Y Creuddyn in 1889 (Old Inhabitant 1915)	7
Illustration 2:	Detail of Llanfihangel Y Creuddyn in 1889 (Old Inhabitant 1915)	7

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1:	Site area on northern side of Lisburne House, prior to groundworks commencing	12
Photo 2:	Detail of cobbled pathway on northern side of Lisburne House	12
Photo 3:	Concrete capped drainage runs adjacent to Lisburne House following removal of cobbles	14
Photo 4:	Fully levelled area for sun room to north of Lisburne House, with patch of exposed underlying natural soils to in front of scale	14
Photo 5:	Area of compacted crushed stone in southeastern part of garden area, viewing south along existing driveway adjacent to garage	15
Photo 6:	Brick lined chamber viewing south	16
Photo 7:	View northeast along hedgebank boundary running to the northeast of Lisburne House	17
Photo 8:	Former agricultural building within the garden of Lisburne House, facing east	17

LISBURNE HOUSE, LLANFIHANGEL Y CREUDDYN, CEREDIGION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

A planning application and Listed Building Consent was submitted to Ceredigion County Council, for the erection of a sun room, new garage and associated drainage at Lisburne House, Llanfihangel Y Creuddyn (Planning Ref: A110131LB). Due to the potential for archaeological remains to be present within the development area, the archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority recommended that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were commissioned by Mr Peter Garson to undertake the watching brief.

The watching brief was undertaken on the 22nd May 2012 during the initial topsoil strip and ground reduction across to the north and east of the building. On the northern side of the building a cobbled surface was present likely to be contemporary with the construction of Lisburne House in c.1800.

To the east of the house an area of well cultivated garden soils was present. Pottery and other detritus from the 19th and 20th centuries was recovered from these garden soils which would be associated with the disposal of domestic waste.

An area of compacted stone to the southeast of the property was also recorded which lay within the area of a single storey cottage shown on earlier maps and an illustration of 1889. This may represent the foundation for a clom (clay) walled structure with a thatched roof, as indicated by the 1889 illustration and lack of building stone, foundations or roof slates/tiles within this area.

The watching brief revealed no evidence for occupation or activity during the medieval or early-medieval period, even though the site lies close to the main road through the Llanfihangel Y Creuddyn and opposite the church of St Michael's. Although no significant archaeological remains were revealed within this development area, there is still potential for significant archaeological deposits to be present in the vicinity.

INTRODUCTION

Project Commission

In response to a request from Mr Peter Garson, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services provided an archaeological watching brief during groundworks and topsoil stripping associated with the construction of a new sun room, garage replacement and associated service works at Lisburne House, Llanfihangel Y Creuddyn, Ceredigion (Figures 1 & 2; centred on NGR SN 66541 76056).

The requirement for an archaeological watching brief was placed as a condition on the Listed Building Consent for the planning permission (Planning Application No: A110131LB) by Ceredigion County Council following advice from their archaeological advisors.

An archaeological written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA¹, 1994, revised 2001) and was designed to provide an approved scheme of archaeological work to be implemented during the construction works. This document was approved in writing by Ceredigion County Council prior to any groundworks commencing.

Scope of the Project

The main scope of the project was laid out within the WSI as *'Archaeological attendance and recording during groundworks associated with the construction of a new garden room/conservatory and garage to the side and rear of Lisburne House, which may expose, damage or destroy any underlying archaeological remains, if present.'*

The WSI also stated that the project objectives were:

- Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services will undertake the watching brief.
- 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.

Report Outline

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

Abbreviations

Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record² (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services – DAT-FS; Written Scheme of Investigation – WSI

¹ Institute for Archaeologists.

² Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Shire Hall, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AF.

Illustrations

Record photographs are included at back of the report. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale and are illustrative only.

Timeline

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

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 – 1899	
Modern –	20th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales



Figure 1: Location plan of Llanfihangel Y Creuddyn, Ceredigion

(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 Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd., The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A

THE SITE

Location and Topography

Llanfihangel Y Creuddyn lies some 10km to the southeast of Aberystwyth, between the Afon Ystwyth and Afon Rheidol valleys. Lisburne House lies to the east of the large parish church of St Michael's. The house is bounded by a small road to the south, the main road through the village to the west, a small track accessing Tymawr to the north and farmland to the east.

The sun room/conservatory will be built on the northern side of Lisburne House, with a replacement garage on its eastern side. New drainage runs and BioDisc sewerage system will be placed within the wider garden area to the east. The land around the property has a gentle slope from north to south, most evident on the eastern side of the property where a driveway drops past the existing garage to the road.

Archaeological and Historical Background

A search of known of the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust was undertaken to provide information on known sites of archaeological and historical significance within a 100m radius centred on Lisburne House. The HER returns 13 known sites, all relating to buildings within the village, mostly being of post-medieval date (Table 2).

Lisburne House itself is recorded as being a grade II listed building (PRN 58326). It is described in the listed building description as a later 18th century or early 19th century village house of unusual scale, possibly associated with the Trawsgoed Estate of the Earls of Lisburne, grade II listed as a particularly elegant Georgian village house. It is thought that the house was completed in 1800 for one of the estate managers (Peter Garson pers. comm.).

The house lies on the eastern side of the road from the church of St Michael (PRN 5176), a medieval chapelry to Llanbadarn Fawr parish which became a parish church during the post-medieval period. This is considered to be one of the best preserved medieval churches in Ceredigion (and is Grade II* Listed). It is possible that it has its origins in the Early Medieval period (PRN 50140).

It is also possible the line of a Roman road (PRN 5222) from Trawscoed Fort may pass through the immediate vicinity roughly following the alignment of the existing road through the village. The bridge that crosses the small river through the village is a replacement for a ford which was in existence until the later 20th century. This ford crossing may well have been in use in the Roman period (if not earlier).

The remaining recorded HER sites are associated with the other post-medieval listed buildings within the village centre. These include the row of grade II listed late 18th century cottages (PRN 7060) to the north of Lisburne House, containing the houses called Llwynfynwent (PRN 58330), Creuddyn Villa (PRN 58329), Ceunant House (PRN 58328) and Cartref (PRN 58327). A building recorded as the Old Post Office lies to the north-northwest of Lisburne House, although it is known that Llwynfynwent (PRN 58330) and Tymawr (located to the east-northeast) were also formerly recorded as post offices. Other sites include the grade II listed property known as Preswylfa (PRN 7056), a former pair of cottages which is located to the southeast; a former blacksmith's workshop (PRN 19144) located to the southeast; and the village school (PRN 19143) located to the southwest.

PRN	Site Name	Description	Grid Reference	Period
5176	St Michael's	Medieval chapelry to Llanbadarn Fawr parish which became a parish church during the post-medieval period. It is a large, cruciform church consisting of a chancel, a central tower over a crossing, north and south transepts, and a nave. It is a Grade II * Listed building.	SN 66508 76051	Post-medieval, Medieval
5222	Roman Road	Part of suggested route for RR69c from Trawscoed Fort to PenLlwyn Fort. Route not proven. Also identified as RRX64 on RCAHMW Manuscript map.	May follow road through village	Roman
7056	Preswylfa	Grade II Listed Pair of cottages recorded by RCAHM in 1976. Condition unknown.	SN 66589 76031	Post-medieval
7058	Old Post Office	Former post office converted into a dwelling recorded by RCAHM in 1976.	SN 6650 7610	Post-medieval
7060	Terraced cottages	A row of 5 terraced cottages, dating to the late 18th century. Grade II Listed. Llwynfynwent; Creuddin Villa; Ceunant; Cartref	SN 66531 76077	Post-medieval
19143	Llanfihangel Y Creuddyn School	A school shown on the 1964 Ordnance Survey map. Present usage and condition unknown.	SN 6650 7599	Post-medieval
19144	Blacksmiths Workshop	An old smithy shown on the 1964 Ordnance Survey map.	SN 6659 7599	Post-medieval
50140	St Michael's	Early medieval D site, ie. possible early medieval origins. Churchyard occupied by the medieval Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn church PRN 5176, which was a chapelry to Llanbadarn Fawr parish, later becoming a parish church.	SN 6650 7605	Medieval, Early Medieval
58326	Lisburne House	Grade II listed house	SN 66541 76057	Post-medieval
58327	Cartref	Grade II listed cottage	SN 66524 76089	Post-medieval
58328	Ceunant House	Grade II listed cottage	SN 66527 76083	Post-medieval
58329	Creuddyn Villa	Grade II listed cottage	SN 66521 76098	Post-medieval
58330	Llwyn	Grade II listed post office	SN 66519 76105	Post-medieval

Table 2: Archaeological and Historical Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record within 500m of the centre of the proposed development

Lisburne House is shown on the 1847 Tithe Map of the parish (Figure 2). The plan also shows a longer narrow building running roughly along the street front to the east of the property. The first Ordnance Survey map of the 1880s (Figure 3) also shows this adjacent structure, but it is no longer shown on the 1904 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 4). All three maps otherwise show a very similar layout of the village with Lisburne House as a large rectangular building with no additions or extensions, other than the steps leading up to the front door. The 1904 map indicates that Lisburne House was a Public House (P.H.). A small structure is shown close to the northeastern corner of the house in the rear garden. A run of cottages is shown to the northeast of Lisburne House, of which today only a single property survives (Tymawr) which lay at its northeastern end. The ruins of most of the other buildings are still present in the gardens of this house.

An illustration of Llanfihangel Y Creuddyn dating from 1889 (shown in an article by 'Old Inhabitant' 1915³; Illustration 1) shows the southern façade of Lisburne House and also indicates part of the frontage of the adjacent property shown on the earlier maps. The illustration shows the façade of Lisburne House as exists today, with central doorway accessed by steps, with a window above the doorway and windows at ground and first floor levels to either side. A small opening is also indicated beneath the ground floor window on the southeastern side, which is also still present today, although has been partially bricked up.

³ Old Inhabitant, 1915, "Vanished and vanishing Cardiganshire" *Transactions and archaeological record Cardiganshire Antiquarian Society*, Vol. 2, No. 1 p. 71-81.

This window leads to a small $\frac{3}{4}$ height cellar beneath the southeastern side of the house. A barrel is illustrated in front of the house which is thought to indicate that the building was a pub at that time. A small area of exposed stone appears to be illustrated in the lower southeastern corner of the façade (Illustration 2) which would suggest that Lisburne House was either rendered or lime-washed at this time, as it is likely to have been originally (and still is today).

The small part of the façade of the adjacent building is of particular interest as the illustration implies it may have had a thatched roof (Illustration 2). The building is of a single storey and of very different scale to Lisburne House. It is unclear if the illustration shows a small curving lean-to of thatch joined the two buildings, or if they were separate. The two buildings are not shown to be connected on the early maps.

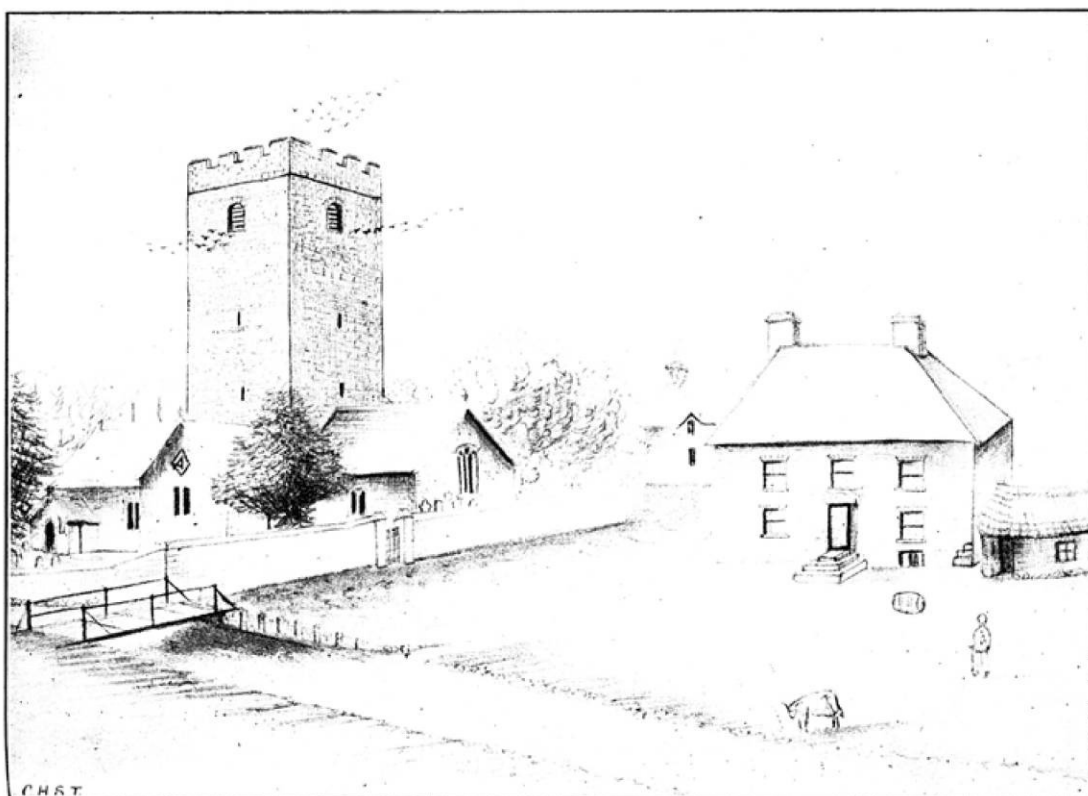


Illustration 1: Llanfihangel Y Creuddyn in 1889 (Old Inhabitant 1915)

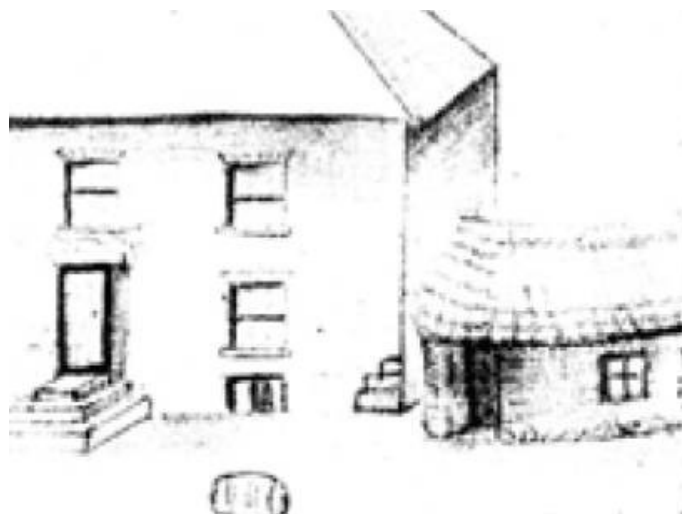


Illustration 2: Detail of Llanfihangel Y Creuddyn in 1889 (Old Inhabitant 1915)

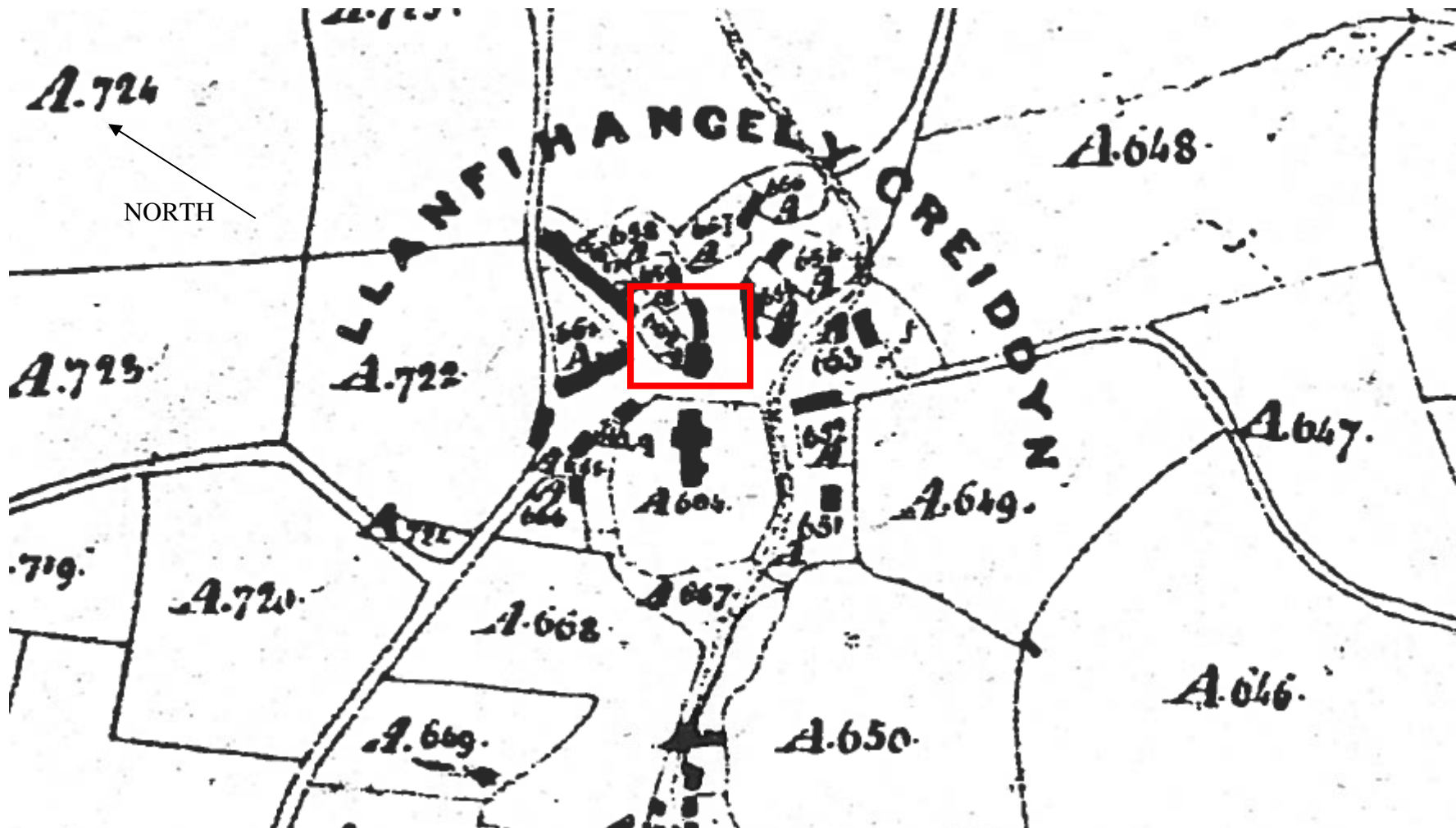


Figure 2: Extract of 1840 Tithe Map of Llanfihangel Y Creuddyn parish, with site area highlighted

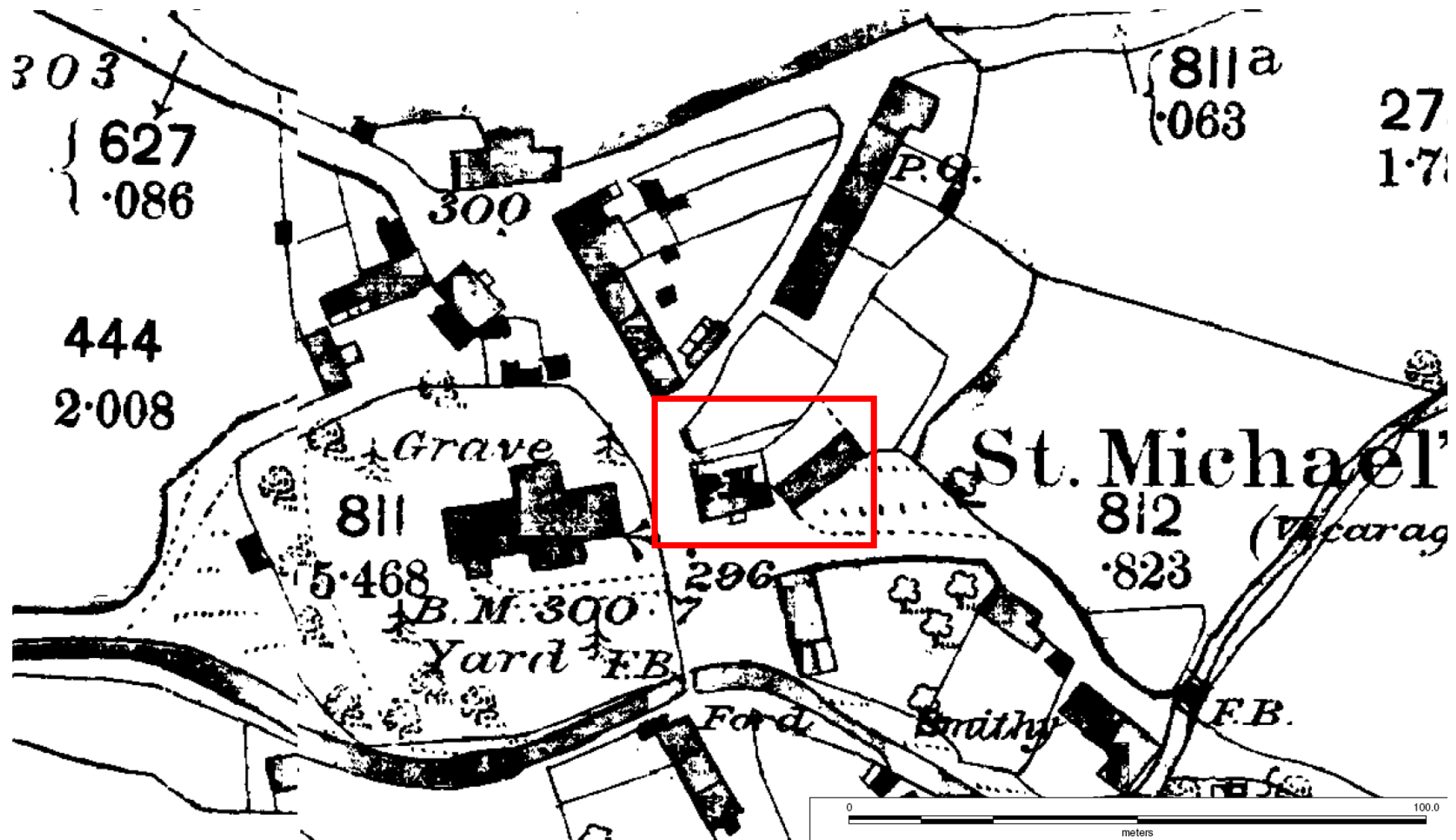


Figure 3: Extract from the Ordnance Survey first edition map of 1880s with site area highlighted

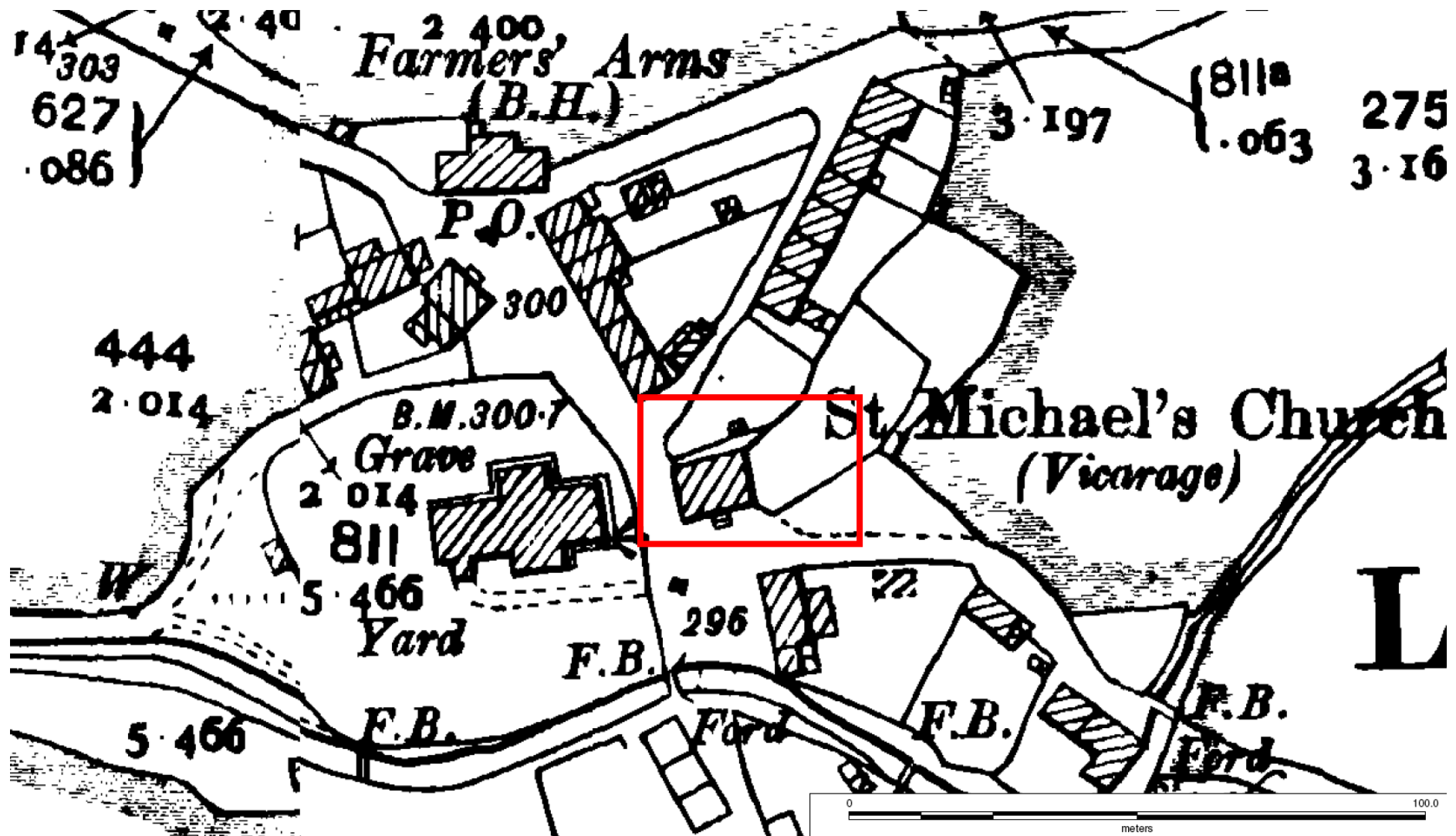


Figure 4: Extract from the Ordnance Survey second edition map of 1904 with site area highlighted

WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

The detailed methodology for the watching brief was laid out within the WSI. The relevant methodology can be summarised as follows.

Fieldwork

A 'watching brief' was undertaken during initial ground works within the proposed development site that had the potential to expose, damage or destroy underlying archaeological remains. This was undertaken across the footprint of the proposed sun room/conservatory and across a large strip within the garden area to the east of the house where drainage and temporary contractor access were to be placed.

All archaeological deposits revealed during the groundworks were examined and recorded to an appropriate level.

Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual⁴ used by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services.

Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving

All data recovered during the fieldwork 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 2007), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.

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.

A report fully representative of the results of the fieldwork has been prepared.

Timetabling of Fieldwork

The watching brief involved monitoring of groundworks during a single day on 22nd May 2012. The weather was sunny and dry. All groundworks were undertaken using a mini digger fitted with a toothless bucket. A toothed bucket was used for foundation trenches and removal of some existing concrete and drainage runs.

⁴ Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services have adopted the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS (Figure 5)

The area of the sun room/conservatory lay on the northern side of Lisburne House. A cobbled path ran along this side of the property (Photo 1) comprised of small thin angular stones with rounded edges, laid vertically to give a rough cobbled surface (locally sourced stone) (Photo 2). The southern edge of the cobbled path has been previously disturbed when modern drainage was inserted and capped with concrete. To the north of the cobbles was a garden area comprising a flower bed rising up to a lawned area (Photo 1).



Photo 1: Site area on northern side of Lisburne House, prior to groundworks commencing



Photo 2: Detail of cobbled pathway on northern side of Lisburne House

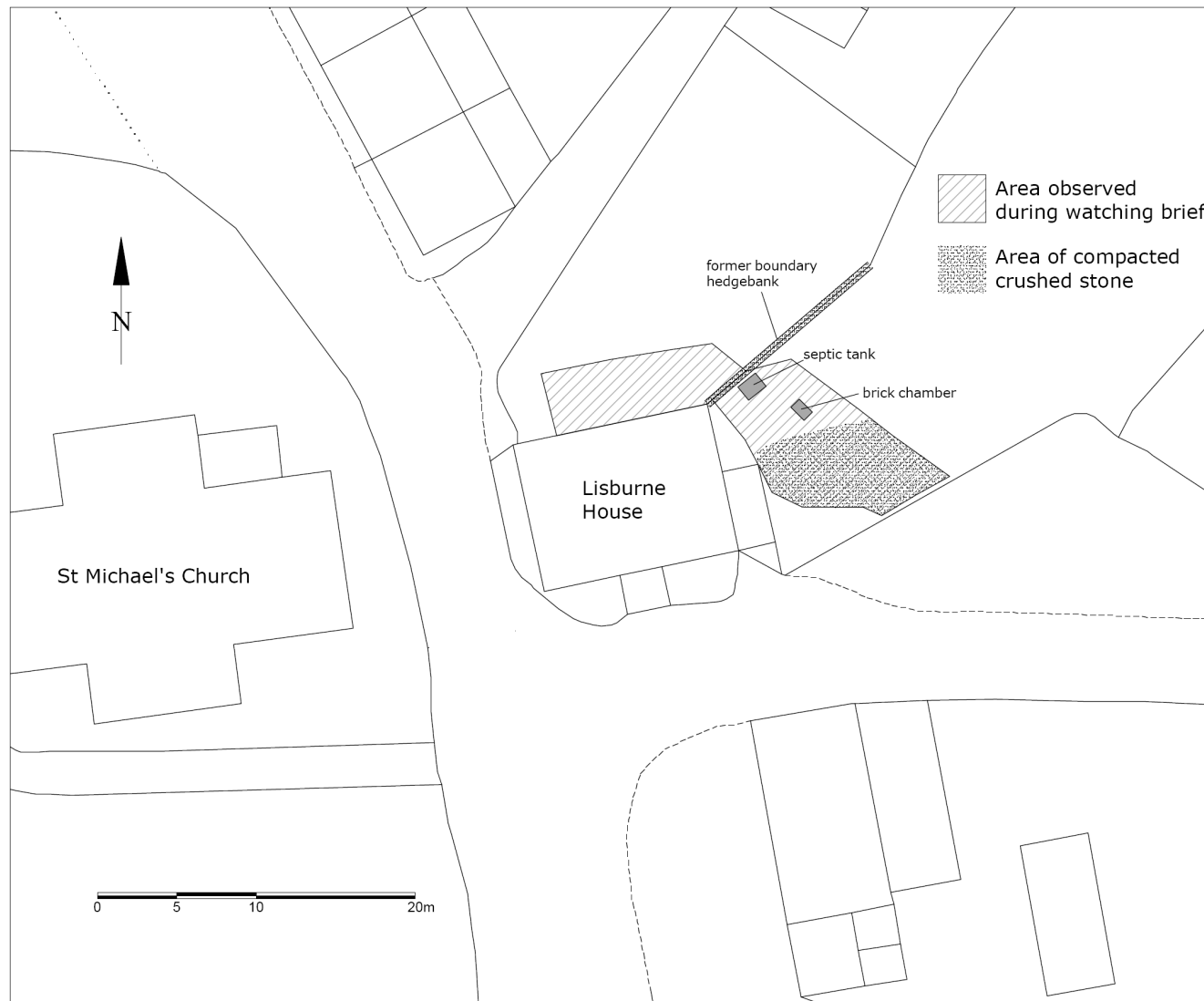


Figure 5: Detailed location plan showing area of watching brief and observed features

The footprint of the sun room was reduced using a toothless ditching bucket. A toothed bucket was used to remove the cobbled surface and concrete capping to the modern drains. This indicated that the cobbled path was a 0.12 – 0.14m deep layer of rounded stones laid upright in a sandy clay soil matrix set on top of a levelled area of ground (Photo 3). Natural underlying soils were not fully exposed, a thin spread of compacted soils with a few fragments of late 18th/19th century pottery being present above them.



Photo 3: Concrete capped drainage runs adjacent to Lisburne House following removal of cobbles



Photo 4: Fully levelled area for sun room to north of Lisburne House, with patch of exposed underlying natural soils to in front of scale

The remainder of the area stripped for the sun room demonstrated a depth of garden soil, varying from c.0.15m to 0.75m, generally increasing in depth from the southern edge adjacent to the cobbled surface to the northeast (Photo 4). Only one area of clear undisturbed natural ground was encountered at this level in the north eastern part of the stripped area, otherwise a spread of topsoil/ploughsoil covered the natural. The layer contained quantities of 19th and 20th century ceramics and glass bottles, presumably having been originally discarded as waste and subsequently mixed through the soil during cultivation. The layer was only partially removed when the foundation trenches around the perimeter of the sun room/conservatory were excavated. These showed that the layer was quite shallow. As the layer was not fully removed, it was not possible to determine if any archaeological features were present.

To the east of Lisburne House new sewerage systems were to be installed, including the renewal of sewer pipes and replacement of the existing septic tank with a BioDisc system. During the watching brief the turf layer within the garden was stripped under archaeological supervision to enable the existing sewer pipes to be located and exposure of the existing septic tanks and inspection chambers.

To the southeast of Lisburne House an area containing compacted crushed stone was recorded. This spread ran across an area along the southern edge of the garden (Photo 5). It roughly corresponded with the location of the former building that stood on this part of the site as noted above. No indications of any structural remains or building stone were found within this part of the site.



Photo 5: Area of compacted crushed stone in southeastern part of garden area, viewing south along existing driveway adjacent to garage

The edge of the compacted stone spread was not well defined, being very uneven and patchy. To the west where exposed nearer to the house, a soil containing far less soil was present, which was very friable. This contained numerous fragments of pottery of 19th century and later date, as well as pieces of broken ridge tile of an identical type that are still present on Lisburne House. No definite features were present in this area, but due to the friable nature of the soils it is likely that the area had been used for cultivation or flowerbeds in the recent past.

Drain runs leading from the existing septic tank across the garden area to a small brick lined chamber to the east of the house were also noted (Photo 6). Much of the area between the existing septic tank to the northeast of the house and this chamber had been previously disturbed by the insertion of the drainage features.



Photo 6: Brick lined chamber viewing south

At the northern edge of the machined area was a small hedgebank, lined with stones on its faces (Photo 7). This hedgebank demarcated a boundary present on earlier mapping. As part of the works it was necessary to remove a small section of the bank. No finds or dating evidence were recovered from the feature. The bank was a maximum of 0.60m in height, much of it topped with a small, probably ornamental, hedge.

The watching brief did not observe the demolition of the existing garage at the property or levelling of the area for the new proposed garage. The existing garage was of 20th century date with levelled concrete floor. It was considered unnecessary to return to the site to observe groundworks for this part of the development as any archaeological remains would have been removed or significantly disturbed by the construction of the existing garage. A gravelled track lay adjacent to the garage which would have again compromised any archaeological remains that may have been present in that area.

During the watching brief it was noted that the remains of a former agricultural building stood in the garden (Photo 8). It was visible as an area of brick flooring with low walls surviving around it. Its layout suggests it was for livestock and may be a former pigsty. The materials used in its construction, which included a lot of concrete, may suggest a 20th century date for the building. Within the garden it was also possible to see the remains of the former terrace of houses visible on the early Ordnance Survey maps of which only the house at the northeastern end now survives (Tymawr). Also in the adjacent garden was a former railway goods carriage used as a shed.



Photo 7: View northeast along hedgebank boundary running to the northeast of Lisburne House (Septic tank below cone in foreground of photograph)



Photo 8: Former agricultural building within the garden of Lisburne House, facing east

CONCLUSIONS

The watching brief at Lisburne House, Llanfihangel Y Creuddyn has provided some useful archaeological information regarding post-medieval development of the area. Unfortunately no archaeological remains associated with medieval settlement in the vicinity of the church were revealed or any remains that could be dated before the turn of the 18th century. It is possible that the construction of Lisburne House removed any such evidence, or it lies sealed beneath those areas of the house that have not been previously cellared.

On the northern side of the building a cobbled surface was present. This was constructed of partially rounded local stones, presumably collected from the nearby river. It is considered that the surface was contemporary with the construction of Lisburne House in c.1800.

In the garden area to the east of Lisburne House loose and friable soils were noted containing fragments of 19th century and later pottery and other detritus. The area is likely to have been used as gardens until very recently, with the friability of the soil a result of repeated cultivation. A few fragments of ridge tile of a type used on the existing roof of the property may indicate either a slipped tile, debris associated with the construction of the building or an episode of repair of the roof. In general the finds recovered from the area to the north and east of the building comprised mainly domestic ceramics, table ware and cups, with a number of broken bottle fragments. Such remains would be expected to be found adjacent to a property of such date, with domestic rubbish being disposed of within the gardens. Although the building is known to have been used a public house at the turn of the 19th century, surprisingly few bottle fragments were recovered, which may indicate there are larger rubbish pits where broken bottles were disposed of in other parts of the garden.

A series of drainage features were also present in the garden to the north and east of the house, including the existing septic tank and brick lined chambers. These are of low archaeological interest.

The area off compacted stone to the southeast of Lisburne House would seem to lie within the area of the former cottage shown on earlier maps and illustration of 1889. It is presumed this formed a solid base for the floors of the structure as opposed to a yard area as its location would correspond with the house. The lack of building stone found within the topsoil or visible in the surrounding garden area or any evidence for foundations could indicate that this adjacent cottage was constructed with clom walls (a mix of clay soils and binding material). There are a number of examples of known clom buildings in the vicinity. The lack of any roofing slate or roofing tiles within this area may also confirm that the building was thatched, as implied on the 1889 illustration.

The small hedgebank projecting to the northeast from the northeastern corner of Lisburne House is indicated on the earlier maps of the site area. The boundary may be one that was present prior to the building's construction or could have been constructed at that time to separate the garden to the north of the house from the gardens of the cottage to the southeast. Following the demolition of the cottage, the gardens were taken over by Lisburne House and the boundary became more of a garden feature than functional boundary.

Although groundworks within the area for the proposed new garage were not observed, the archaeological potential for this area is considered very low to negligible due to previous disturbance when the existing garage and adjacent trackway were constructed. A decision was therefore made that further visits during these groundworks would be unnecessary.

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**Gorffennaf 2012
July 2012**

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by

JAMES MEEK

Swydd / Position: HEAD OF FIELD SERVICES

Llofnod / Signature ..



Dyddiad / Date:

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
This report has been checked and approved by:

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position:

Llofnod / Signature.....

Dyddiad / Date

*Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau sydd
gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn*

*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*

