Archaeology Wales

Land adjacent to Cresselly Arms, Pontargothi, Carmarthenshire

Strip, Map & Record



By Jerry B Bond

Report No. 1823



Archaeology Wales

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Strip, Map & Record

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Report No. 1823

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Summary

This report details the results of a program of Archaeological Mitigation (Strip, Map & Record) that was undertaken by Archaeology Wales at the request of GTJ Properties Ltd as the result of a Planning Application for a Residential Development on land adjacent to the Cresselly Arms, Pontargothi, Carmarthenshire. The development site is centred on SN 50642 21818. The associated Planning Application No. is E/38060.

The site of the medieval chapel of St Mary's (PRNs 726 / 49276) is believed to lie in this area. The recommendation for Archaeological Mitigation was made by Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, Carmarthenshire County Council.

No traces of any surviving archaeological remains were encountered during the program of archaeological mitigation of the site, though it is possible that some archaeological features or other archaeological remains may have been removed during development works or previous agricultural activity prior to archaeological mitigation.

All work was be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

Crynodeb

Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn nodi manylion canlyniadau rhaglen o Leddfu Archeolegol (Cloddio, Mapio a Chofnodi) a gynhaliwyd gan Archaeology Cymru ar gais GTJ Properties Cyf o ganlyniad i Gais Cynllunio ar gyfer Datblygiad Preswyl ar dir gyferbyn â'r Cresselly Arms, Pontargothi, Sir Gaerfyrddin. Mae canol y safle datblygu wedi'i leoli yn SN 50642 21818. Rhif y Cais Cynllunio cysylltiedig yw E/38060.

Credir bod safle capel canoloesol y Santes Fair (PRNs 726 / 49276) wedi'i leoli yn yr ardal hon. Gwnaed argymhelliad am Leddfu Archeolegol gan Ymddiriedolaeth Archeolegol Dyfed – Rheoli Datblygiadau, yn ei chapasiti fel cynghorwr archeolegol i'r awdurdod cynllunio lleol, Cyngor Sir Gaerfyrddin.

Ni chanfuwyd unrhyw olion o weddillion archeolegol sydd wedi goroesi yn ystod y rhaglen o leddfu archeolegol ar y safle, er ei bod yn bosibl bod rhai nodweddion archeolegol neu weddillion archeolegol eraill wedi'u symud yn ystod y gwaith datblygu neu weithgaredd amaethyddol blaenorol cyn y gwaith lleddfu archeolegol.

Cynhaliwyd yr holl waith yn unol â safonau a chanllawiau Sefydliad Siartredig yr Archeolegwyr (2014).

1 Introduction and Planning Background

This report details the results of a program of Archaeological Mitigation undertaken in association with a planned residential development on land adjacent to Cresselly Arms, Pontargothi, Carmarthenshire SA32 7NG (SN 5064 2182). Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) were commissioned by GTJ Properties Ltd to carry out the work.

The methodology for this programme of archaeological mitigation (archaeological strip, map and record) was detailed in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), Poucher June 2019. A number of planning applications have been submitted in connection with this site. Outline planning permission for the development of 15 residential dwellings (planning application number E/22039) was granted on 11/4/2014. An application for the formation of an off-site surface water attenuation pond was submitted (planning application number E/30985), but this was subsequently withdrawn. Planning permission (reserved matters) for the construction of a new access and estate road (planning application number E/31008) was granted on 26/8/2015. Finally planning permission was sought for the extension of time on the residential development (planning application number E/38060), which was approved on 4/6/19. The local planning authority is Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC).

The site of the medieval chapel of St Mary's (PRNs 726 / 49276) is believed to lie in this area. The chapel was recorded as 'an ancient and dilapidated edifice' in 1833 lying near Cothy bridge, with more recent research (Ludlow 2002) suggesting the chapel may have been located in the middle of the field containing the planned development site, on a level platform on top of the river terrace overlooking the river to the west. As a result, further archaeological mitigation was recommended.

The methodology set out in the WSI was agreed with the Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management (DAT-DM) in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority. DAT-DM recommended that a staged archaeological evaluation of the development site should be carried out, as laid out in a number of letters to the local planning authority related to the different planning applications. However, no Condition requiring this archaeological mitigation was attached to the outline planning permission for E/22039 or planning permission for E/31008, but a Condition was attached to the planning application E/38060. This Condition (23) reads:

No development approved by this permission shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

The purpose of the archaeological mitigation was to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains on the site of the development,

the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy (revised edition 10, 2018), Section 6.1 and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017). The work is to ensure that all historic and archaeological assets are fully investigated and recorded if they are disturbed or revealed as a result of activities associated with the development.

DAT-DM had stated that their preferred approach would have been to undertake a geophysical survey of the site, which could then inform further archaeological mitigation. However, groundworks have commenced on the construction of the access and estate road (E/31008), which included substantial clearance, levelling and excavation work within the site boundaries. A site visit was undertaken by AW on 25/6/19, which established that this work had removed deposits across a large part of the site negating the possibility of carrying out a geophysical survey in the first instance. After further consultation with DAT-DM it was indicated that the preferred approach would now be to carry out an archaeological 'strip, map and record' across parts of the site where archaeological potential remained. This was identified as an area at the northern end of the site where levelling work appears limited, and an area in the centre of the site where siltier deposits were evident amongst the natural stony subsoil.

This work was subsequently undertaken on 24/07/2019 under the supervision of Jerry Bond ACIfA with the assistance of Dan Moore and the project was managed by Phil Poucher MCIfA, all staff of Archaeology Wales. This report was compiled by Jerry Bond. The AW project number for the work is 2742, the site code is CAP/19/EV.

All work was undertaken to the standards & guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

2 SITE DESCRIPTION

The development site (figure 1 & 2) occupies a former agricultural field on the north side of the A40 in Pontargothi, Carmarthenshire. Prior to development, a ridge of higher land presenting a relatively level platform extended along the eastern boundary of the site, protruding out westward at the northern end of the site. The western part of the site sloped downward into the river terrace. The site had largely been used for pasture, bounded by hedgerows to the east and south, and a fence line to the north and west, with a mature oak tree standing in the northwest corner of the site. The site is bounded by a small modern residential development to the west, and by the A40 to the south and a car park for the nearby Cresselly Arms public house. Agricultural land extends to the north and east.

Pontargothi is a small settlement traditionally focused on the crossing of the A40 across the Afon Cothi, although with new residential development forming to the east. The Afon Cothi lies approximately 60m to the west, running roughly north to south to feed into the east – west flowing Afon Tywi around 1.5km to the south. The A40 is one of the main roads through Carmarthenshire, and follows the base of the Tywi valley from Llandovery in the east to Carmarthen in the west, although the roads itself extends much further. Carmarthen is the nearest largest settlement, lying approximately 9.5km to the west.

The underlying natural ground comprises sand and gravel river terrace deposits, overlying mudstones of the Mydrim Shales Formation (BGS 2019).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The area lies within the Towy Valley Historic Landscape and specifically within area 191, Nantgaredig to Derwen Fawr. This large area on the northern side of the Tywi valley stretches eastwards from Nantgaredig in the west to beyond Llandeilo. The valley has been used as a historic routeway for millennia. The Roman road's course was followed by a Turnpike road in the mid-eighteenth-century, although the straighter sections of the road through Derwen Fawr and Pontargothi were constructed by Telford in the early nineteenth century. It was the construction of this later section of the road that led to the development of two villages (HLC 191, 2014). The routeway is now followed by the A40 between Carmarthen and Llandeilo. Llanegwad, located 1.2km to the east, is a known early settlement in the area and consisted of a possible early medieval church and associated radial system of boundaries (Sambrook 1995, 59).

The site field, located north of the bridge over the river Cothi, has potential historical and archaeological significance as it is referred to as Cae'r Capel (Chapel Field) in the 1839 Llanegwad parish tithe map. It is recorded in the HER as the possible medieval site of St Mary's Chapel (PRN 49276), a grange chapel to Talley and chapel of ease of Llanegwad. Lewis (1833, 5) indicates that 'near Cothy bridge are the remains of an ancient and dilapidated edifice, formerly a chapel of ease to the mother church (Llanegwad), but now converted into a stable: there were anciently several other chapels in the parish'.

Research has been carried out into the chapel (Ludlow 2002), which suggests that it may once have been located in the middle of the field on a level platform, on top of the river terrace that occupies the field. No surface remains of the building, enclosure or burial ground are visible in the field today

(prior to development works). In his description Ludlow also suggests the chapel may have been located within an Iron Age enclosure. He also goes on to suggest that the chapel may have been associated with a medieval hamlet, and potentially shared a large cemetery with another nearby medieval chapel behind the Salutation Inn to the east. No physical archaeological evidence of these features have ever come to light.

In November 2014 AW carried out a geophysical survey of land immediately to the north of the development area (Jones 2015). No definitive evidence of a chapel was identified in this survey area, although a number of linear features were apparent. A series of linear features lay on lower ground immediately to the northwest of the current development area, interpreted as possible enclosures or paddocks of unknown date.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The program of archaeological works was designed to ensure that the mitigation met the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2014), and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (2014).

The Strip, Map & Record works was laid out in phases. The first phase being the strip (figure 3), or removal, of overburden to an agreed level. This was to be followed by planning of all revealed archaeological deposits and features. Following planning, phase 2 comprised an excavation of archaeological deposits and features to establish a required understanding of the nature of the archaeology and its chronology.

As no Archaeological features or remains were encountered only phase 1 was undertaken.

4.1 STRIP, MAP & RECORD

The objective of the strip, map and record was to reveal, identify, record and map any archaeological deposits, features or structures in the development area. Topsoil had already been removed from the designated areas down to subsoil deposits. These areas had lain exposed for several weeks and rainwashed and wind-blown deposits may have obscured potential archaeological features. The recent weathering deposits were removed by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision. Following this removal, limited exploratory excavation was to be carried out on any revealed archaeological remains to detail the nature of the features encountered. Where there was no archaeology present the strip was deep enough to reveal undisturbed natural deposits.

The main objectives of this work was to establish a broad, phased plan, of the revealed archaeology, and investigate the function of any structural remains and activities taking place within the stripped area.

4.2 EXCAVATION

The objective of the proposed excavation was to preserve, by record, detailed information on all archaeological deposits within the designated area, prior to their likely destruction as a consequence of the development. Any archaeological deposits, horizons and artefacts, if encountered would have been recorded and removed stratigraphically by the excavation team.

The objectives of this work included producing relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on the site, establishing the character of any deposits in an attempt to define functional areas on the site (funerary & ritual, domestic, industrial etc), and produce information on the economy and local environment to compare and contrast with results of other archaeological work in the area. However, no archaeological remains were encountered during the stripping.

4.3 Reporting & Archiving

Following all stages of the work this report was produced to provide a detailed account of all the archaeological work undertaken. Sufficient desk-top research was to be undertaken to ensure that the results of this work were properly understood, interpreted and reported.

A full site archive has been produced, including project records.

5 METHODOLOGY

After the initial development works associated with the access road was undertaken on the site had taken place without any archaeological monitoring, it was decided that some potential remained across the site in a few areas, for survival of archaeological remains. Therefore limited re-stripping under archaeological supervision might uncover archaeological remains that might have survived on the site (figure 3). Two areas of potential were identified following an initial site visit, however this was extended to four areas during the course of the Strip, Map & Record to ensure any potential for remaining archaeological deposits and features was investigated.

A mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket was used to remove the minimum of deposits across the four areas of the site, in an attempt to find any remains which might have escaped the previous development groundworks. This was done under archaeological supervision

and suitable records were made, using digital photography, drawn scale plans and sections and unique written context records of any layers or deposits encountered across the site.

6 RESULTS OF THE PROGRAM OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION

The program of archaeological mitigation found no traces of any surviving archaeological remains in any of the four areas that were restriped as part of the program of archaeological mitigation.

The site was divided into 4 areas discussed below, (figure 3).

Across the site, three contexts were recorded, with two considered to be "natural" deposits, whist only one, the topsoil layer which only survived in section (figure 3, plate 8) around the edge of the site was of an archaeological nature.

The lowest layer encountered, (003), a mottled deposit of sandy silts, clays and frequent medium sized round stones & gravels, (river cobbles) across the site, with higher concentrations of stones in places whist compacted patches of clay silts were also noted. It was in excess of 0.7m in thickness and was encountered across the entire site. This deposit is typical of river terrace deposits composed of sands and silts and gravels/cobbles.

Above was the subsoil layer, (002), a compact, sandy silt, varying in colour from mid to pale orange brown, with quantities of sub angular and rounded stones of between 0.05 to 0.07m diameter. It was of an average thickness of 0.25m, though in the area 2 of the site it was noticeably thicker with almost no stones.

Overlying all was the extant topsoil layer (001), though it had been mostly removed prior to the archaeological mitigation. It was a compact, mid grey brown, sandy loam with moderate quantities of small and medium sized rounded and sub angular stones (0.02-0.05m in size). It was of an average thickness of 0.15m.

Area 1 (plate 4) was in the SE area of the site on the upper terrace, adjacent to the A40 main trunk road. It was roughly 8m (E-W) \times 17m (N-S) and was an area of the site that was level and appeared to have had little more than the extant topsoil removed. No surviving traces of any archaeological remains were encountered, and it is considered that, due to the relatively shallow stripping that had taken place in this area, that no archaeological remains ever existed here unless they were of a very shallow and ephemeral nature.

Area 2 (plate 5) was located on the upper terrace, central to the site and was approximately 14m N-S x 5.5m E-W. The area restriped had at its focus, a half circular patch of clean silty material, part of the subsoil layer (002). No remains of an archaeological nature were noted, though a series of parallel lines was examined and found to be the trace of the previous stripping of the site with the use of a toothed digging bucket fitted to a mechanical excavator. Similar traces were also found in at least one other part of the site. This deeper subsoil deposit appears to have formed within a natural hollow in the in the river terrace deposits, but no evidence of archaeological material was identified within the subsoil. No other remains were encountered in area 2.

Area 3 (plate 6) was located on the upper terrace, at the northern most part of the site near to the boundary. This elevated position, with projected closest to the line of the nearby river, was thought to be one of the most suitable locations for the site of the chapel as per the description by Ludlow (2002). This area of the site had been stripped down to the subsoil on its west whilst on the south it had been stripped to the river gravels and it was felt that this second area had already been stripped to the point that nothing had survived here, if in fact it had ever had any archaeological remains within it. The northern area, roughly L shaped and 27m E-W and 31m N-S was deemed worthy of being restripped. The stripping consequently showed that no traces of any archaeological remains were present cutting into the subsoil and river terrace deposits. It is thought likely that if any buildings or other features cutting into the underlying deposits had been here, they would have been uncovered during this work, unless they were ephemeral in nature and/or potentially removed through prior agricultural activity. No archaeological material was visible within stripped deposits.

Area 4 (plate 7) was located on the sloping land to the south of the site, fronting onto the main road. Although sloping ground, the indications were that only topsoil had been removed and therefore any present archaeological features should remain visible within the underlying subsoil. This was an irregular shaped area of roughly 21m x 21m and again no traces of any archaeological remains were encountered here.

An area of the site located centrally between areas 2, 3 & 4 had been comprehensively stripped to a much deeper level than the former mentioned areas and it had subsequently been buried under aggregate stone to form the roadway central to the site. It was not deemed practicable, or worthwhile to re-excavate this area of the site, because, if any remains had been in this location, they would have been removed during the unmonitored stripping of the site.

7 THE FINDS

No finds were recovered during the program of Archaeological Mitigation.

8 Discussion and conclusions

A Strip, Map and Record programme of archaeological mitigation was undertaken on land adjacent to the Cresselly Arms, Pontargothi, Carmarthenshire. The work was undertaken as a condition of the planning permission for development works on the site, on the recommendation of Dyfed Archaeological Trust — Development Management. The development site is located within a field formerly known as 'Cae'r Capel' (Chapel Field) and is believed to be the site of a medieval chapel (PRN 49276). Development works had been undertaken on the site prior to establishment of the programme of archaeological mitigation, which had included extensive site stripping and landscaping works and the construction of an access road base.

Four areas of potential remaining archaeological deposits were identified on the site. The results of the archaeological mitigation showed no surviving traces of an archaeological nature in any of the four areas of the site that were re-stripped during the archaeological mitigation. It is likely that remaining deposits within the four areas would have showed some traces for the presence of any cut archaeological features had they been present. The lack of archaeological finds, features or deposits in these areas suggests that features were either not present, where ephemeral in nature, or potentially previously removed through agricultural activity (ploughing) on the site.

However, at least one large area central to the site was irredeemably machined prior to the archaeological mitigation and the possibility remains that the missing "structure" of a former chapel had been in that location. That being said, it is the authors opinion, that unless the remains had been of an extremely ephemeral nature and also of a very small size it is thought unlikely that a Chapel had ever been located there, and perhaps its location needs to be sought elsewhere.

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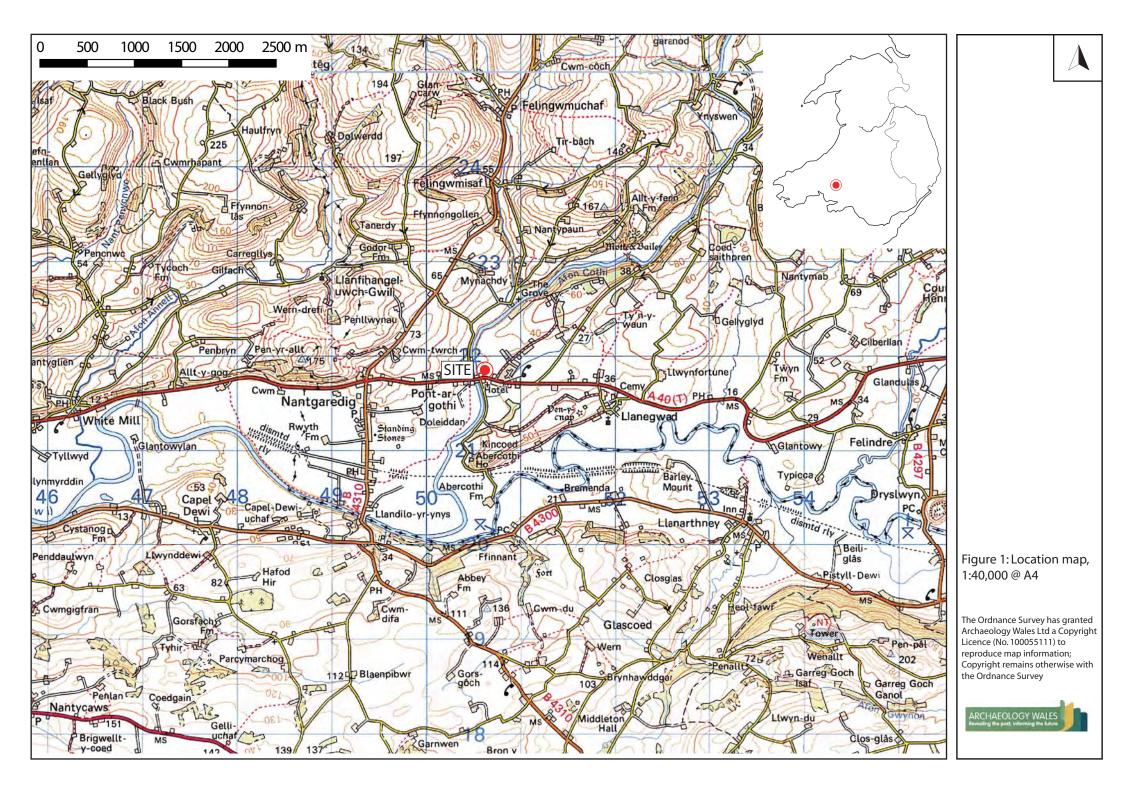
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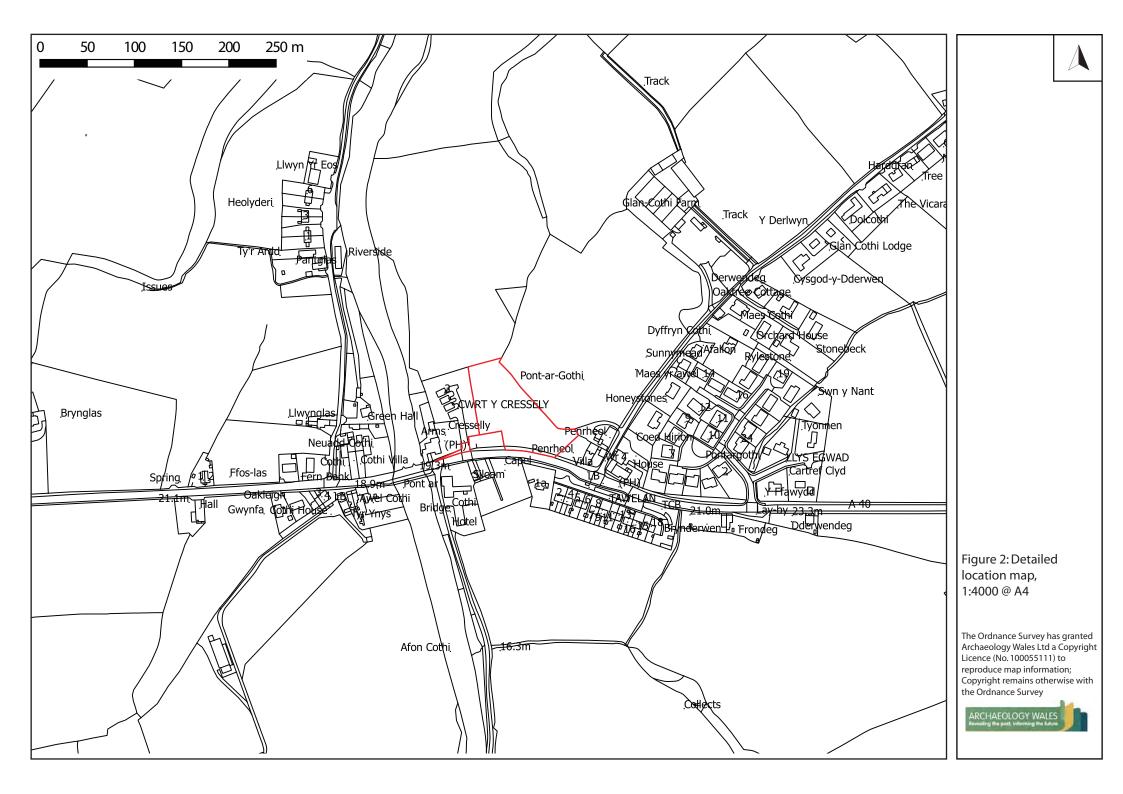
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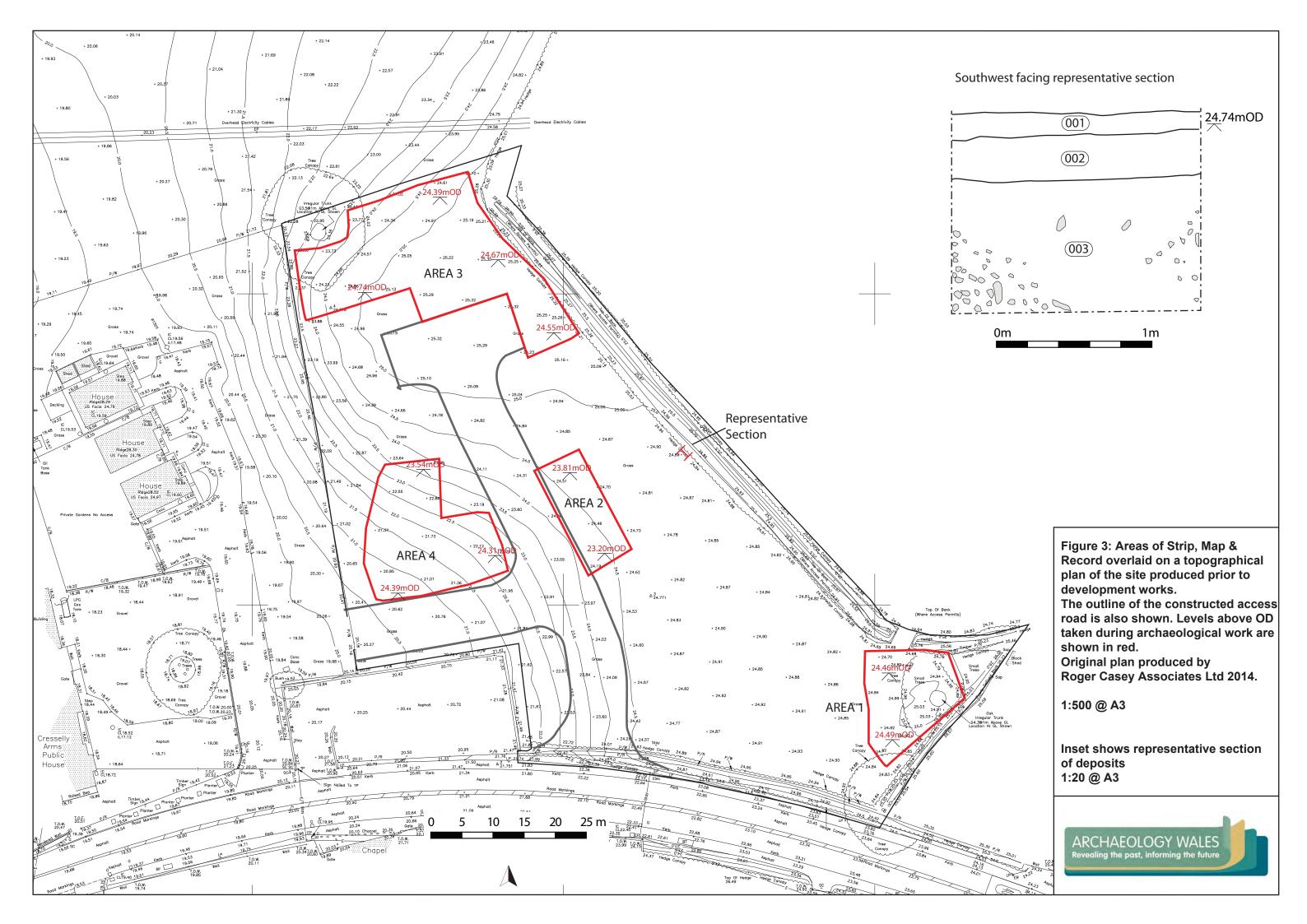




Plate 1: View from site west towards the Cresselly Arms and bridge.



Plate 2: View across the site, looking north.



Plate 3: View across the site, looking south from Area 3.



Plate 4: General shot of Area 1, looking north. 1m scales.



Plate 5: General view across Area 2, looking north, showing machining scars. 1m scales.



Plate 6: General view across Area 3, looking east. 1m scales.



Plate 7: General view of Area 4, taken from the access road entrance to the site with the rising river terrace beyond, looing northeast. 1m scales.



Plate 8: Representative section taken into the northeast section of the site, showing the riverine gravels and silts (003) overlain by subsoil (002) and a thin topsoil (001). Taken facing northeast, 1m scale.

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APPENDIX I: Context List

Context number	Context type	Description of context	Extent
001	Deposit	Topsoil.	Across site,
002	r	Moderate, mid red-brown silt.	0.15m thick
		Common, medium sub-angular stone.	
		No finds	
002	Deposit	Subsoil	Across site,
	_	Compact, mid/light orange-brown silt.	0.25m thick
		Common, medium, sub-rounded & sub-angular	
		stone.	
		No finds	
003	Deposit	Natural	Across site, in
		Compact, light brown-yellow clayey-sand with	excess of 0.7m
		orange-grey patches.	thick
		Abundant medium-large angular and sub-	
		angular shale fragments	

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APPENDIX II:Written Scheme of Investigation



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WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION

AT Land adjacent to Cresselly Arms, Pontargothi, Carmarthen, SA32 7NG

Prepared for:

JCR Planning

Project No: 2742

June 2019



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Figures

- Figure 1. Site location
- Figure 2. Detailed site location
- Figure 3. Site development and topographical plan showing areas of strip, map & record

1. Introduction and planning background

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details the methodology for a programme of archaeological mitigation (archaeological strip, map and record) to be undertaken in association with planned development works on land adjacent to the Cresselly Arms, Pontargothi, Carmarthenshire SA32 7NG. The development site is centred on SN 50642 21818. A number of planning applications have been submitted in connection with this site. Outline planning permission for the development of 15 residential dwellings (planning application number E/22039) was granted on 11/4/2014. An application for the formation of an off-site surface water attenuation pond was submitted (planning application number E/30985), but this was subsequently withdrawn. Planning permission (reserved matters) for the construction of a new access and estate road (planning application number E/31008) was granted on 26/8/2015. Finally planning permission was sought for the extension of time on the residential development (planning application number E/38060), which was approved on 4/6/19. The local planning authority is Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC).

This WSI has been prepared by Philip Poucher MCIfA, Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW).

The site of the medieval chapel of St Mary's (PRNs 726 / 49276) is believed to lie in this area. The chapel was recorded as 'an ancient and dilapidated edifice' in 1833 lying near Cothy bridge, with more recent research (Ludlow 2004) suggesting the chapel may have been located in the middle of the field containing the planned development site, on a level platform on top of the river terrace overlooking the river to the west. As a result, further archaeological mitigation was recommended.

The methodology set out in this WSI will be agreed with the Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management (DAT-DM) in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority. DAT-DM recommended that a staged archaeological evaluation of the development site should be carried out, as laid out in a number of letters to the local planning authority related to the different planning applications. However, no Condition requiring this archaeological mitigation was attached to the outline planning permission for E/22039 or planning permission for E/31008, but a Condition was attached to the planning application E/38060. This Condition (23) reads:

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The purpose of the archaeological mitigation is to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains on the site of the development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy (revised edition 10,

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All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

2. Site Description & Historical Background

The development site occupies an former agricultural field on the north side of the A40 in Pontargothi, Carmarthenshire. Prior to development a ridge of higher land presenting a relatively level platform extending along the eastern boundary of the site, protruding out westward at the northern end of the site. The western part of the site sloped downward into the river terrace. The site had largely been used for pasture, bounded by hedgerows to the east and south, and a fenceline to the north and west, with a mature oak tree standing in the northwest corner of the site. The site is bounded by a small modern residential development to the west, and by the A40 to the south and a car park for the nearby Cresselly Arms public house. Agricultural land extends to the north and east.

Pontargothi is a small settlement traditionally focused on the crossing of the A40 across the Afon Cothi, although with new residential development forming to the east. The Afon Cothi lies approximately 60m to the west, running roughly north to south to feed into the east — west flowing Afon Tywi around 1.5km to the south. The A40 is one of the main roads through Carmarthenshire, and follows the base of the Tywi valley from Llandovery in the east to Carmarthen in the west, although the roads itself extends much further. Carmarthen is the nearest largest settlement, lying approximately 9.5km to the west.

The underlying natural ground comprises sand and gravel river terrace deposits, overlying mudstones of the Mydrim Shales Formation (BGS 2019).

The area lies within the Towy Valley Historic Landscape and specifically within area 191, Nantgaredig to Derwen Fawr. This large area on the northern side of the Tywi valley stretches eastwards from Nantgaredig in the west to beyond Llandeilo. The valley has been used as a historic routeway for millennia. The Roman road's course was followed by a Turnpike road in the mid-eighteenth-century, although the straighter sections of the road through Derwen Fawr and Pontargothi were constructed by Telford in the early nineteenthcentury. It was the construction of this later section of the road that led to the development of two villages (HLC 191, 2014). The routeway is now followed by the A40 between Carmarthen and Llandeilo. Llanegwad, located 1.2km to the east, is a known early settlement in the area and consisted of a possible early medieval church and associated radial system of boundaries (Sambrook 1995, 59).

The site field, located north of the bridge over the river Cothi, has potential historical and archaeological significance as it is referred to as Cae'r Capel (Chapel Field) in the 1839 Llanegwad parish tithe map. It is recorded in the HER as the possible medieval site of St Mary's Chapel (PRN 49276), a grange chapel to Talley and chapel of ease of Llanegwad. Lewis (1833, 5) indicates that 'near Cothy bridge are the remains of an ancient and dilapidated edifice, formerly a chapel of ease to the mother church (Llanegwad), but now converted into a stable: there were anciently several other chapels in the parish'.

Research has been carried out into the chapel (Ludlow 2004), which suggests that it may once located in the middle of the field on a level platform, on top of the river terrace that occupies the field. No surface remains of the building, enclosure or burial ground are visible in the field today. In his description Ludlow also suggests the chapel may have been located within an Iron Age enclosure. He also goes on to suggest that the chapel may have been associated with a medieval hamlet, and potentially shared a large cemetery with another nearby medieval chapel behind the Salutation Inn to the east. No physical archaeological evidence of these features have ever come to light however.

In November 2014 AW carried out a geophysical survey of land immediately to the north of the development area (Jones 2015). No definitive evidence of a chapel was identified in this survey area, although a number of linear features were apparent. A series of linear features lay immediately to the northwest of the current development area, interpreted as possible enclosures or paddocks of unknown date.

3. **Objectives**

This WSI sets out a program of works to ensure that the mitigation will meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2014), and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (2014).

The Strip, Map & Record works will be undertaken in phases. The first phase being the strip, or removal, of overburden to an agreed level. This will be followed by planning of all revealed archaeological deposits and features. Following planning excavation will be undertaken to establish a required understanding of the nature of the archaeology and its chronology.

Strip, Map & Record

The objective of the strip, map and record is to reveal, identify, record and map any archaeological deposits, features or structures in the development area. Topsoil has already been removed from the designated areas down to subsoil deposits. These areas have however lain exposed for several weeks and rain washed deposits may now obscure potential archaeological features. These recent weathering deposits will be removed by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision. Following this removal, limited exploratory excavation will be carried out on any revealed archaeological remains to detail the nature of the features encountered. Where there is no archaeology present the strip will be deep enough to reveal undisturbed natural deposits.

The main objectives of this work is to establish a broad phased plan of the revealed archaeology, and investigate the function of structural remains and activities taking place within the stripped area.

Excavation

The objective of the proposed excavation is to preserve, by record, detailed information on all archaeological deposits within the designated area, prior to their likely destruction as a consequence of the development. All archaeological deposits, horizons and artefacts encountered will be recorded and removed stratigraphically by the excavation team.

The objectives of this work include producing relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on the site, establishing the character of these deposits in an attempt to define functional areas on the site (funerary & ritual, domestic, industrial etc), and produce information on the economy and local environment to compare and contrast with results of other archaeological work in the area. Detailed objectives will be adjusted, adapted and refined as the strip, map and sample work is undertaken and the archaeological resources becomes better understood.

Reporting & Archiving

Following all stages of the work a report will be produced that will provide a detailed account of all the archaeological work undertaken. Sufficient desk-top research will be undertaken to ensure that the results of this work are properly understood, interpreted and reported.

The report will include a comprehensive assessment of the historic context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within regional, national and, if relevant, international research frameworks.

A full site archive will be produced, including project records, artefacts, ecofacts and any other sample residues and summaries of the context, artefact and environmental records.

4. Timetable of works

4.1. Fieldwork

The programme of mitigation will be undertaken prior to further ground works associated with the proposed development. A start date for the ground works has not yet been finalised, but it is likely to commence shortly after the approval of this WSI. AW will update DAT-DM with the exact date when known.

4.2. Report delivery

The report will be submitted to the client and to DAT-DM within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be submitted to CCC. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional Historic Environment Record.

5. Strip, Map & Record Detail

The strip, map and record will be used to investigate two areas of potential archaeological activity. At the northern end of the site lies an area of remaining high ground measuring approximately 34m east — west by 20m north — south. This is bordered by the site boundaries to the north, west and east, and by the newly excavated and established estate road and deeper levelling works to the south. This area has been stripped of topsoil, but groundworks do not appear to have been more extensive than that in this area. This area represents part of the potential terrace upon which the medieval chapel is believed to have been located. The second area lies in the centre of the site, an covers an area measuring approximately 12m by 16m, encompassing an area of siltier deposits visible amongst the typical stony subsoil that has been revealed across the rest of the site. Upper deposits have been stripped from this area, but the siltier deposits suggest the potential that this may represent an area of archaeological activity. Across the remainder of the development area development works have exposed, and in places excavated into, a stony natural subsoil with no further areas of archaeological potential apparent.

The project manager in charge of the work will satisfy him/herself that all constraints to groundworks have been identified, including the siting of live services, ecological constraints, Tree Preservation Orders and Rights of Way.

Stripping will carried out by a 360° machine excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working backwards from one front. The designated areas will be stripped of recent weathered deposits, under close archaeological supervision, to the top of the archaeological horizon or the natural deposits, whichever is encountered soonest. If archaeological remains are found to be present cutting through soil layers that conceal lower archaeological horizons, then the upper levels will be mapped and investigated prior to their removal to the lower levels. Machines will not be allowed to track over the stripped areas until the fieldwork has been completed in these areas and it has been signed off by DAT-DM. The supervising archaeologist will monitor the movement of any plant on the site, and suspend operations that are potentially damaging to underlying archaeological deposits. Spoil heaps will be stored at least 1m from the edge of excavation areas.

If machine stripping does not provide the required clarity to accurately identify archaeological features and deposits, the resulting surface will be hand cleaned using hoes and/or pointing trowels, as appropriate, to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features and to determine their significance. All such features will be recorded, and if required, sample excavated. Sample excavation may be undertaken to establish whether features are indeed archaeological in nature or not.

All archaeological features and deposits will be mapped and recorded as per the methods laid out in section 7.1. Features and deposits will be recorded in close sequence to the stripping. Exposed surfaces will be regularly monitored to identify any further features that become apparent through weathering. Sufficient levels will also be taken across the site to support future topographic modelling.

6. Archaeological Excavation Detail

Any subsequent archaeological excavation will be undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (2014). The excavation strategy will be agreed with DAT-DM and the client following the completion of the machine stripping. The excavation strategy will continue to be reviewed, developed and agreed through further consultation with DAT-DM as further details come to light through the excavation.

All overburden will have been removed and archaeological features revealed, cleaned and initially recorded during the preceding strip, map and record phase of the works.

All archaeological features will be planned and sectioned as a minimum objective.

Full excavation will be carried out on individual features relating to structural remains and other areas of significant activity (religious, domestic, industrial, hearths, etc). Pits, postholes and stake-holes will be half-sectioned, unless the nature or complexity of the features requires quadranting or excavation in plan. The sample rates of linear features such as ditches and gullies relating to activity potentially associated with the chapel site will be a minimum of 15%. Other linear features such as field boundaries will be sampled at a minimum of 10%. The linear features will be excavated in 1-3m wide slots. All termini and intersections will be examined to obtain a phasing of the site.

Isolated discrete features such as pits and postholes (less than 2m²) not belonging to structures or other features discussed above will be half-sectioned.

Artefacts, environmental sampling and human remains are discussed below.

7. Recording & Archiving

7.1. Recording

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets, etc.) using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 or 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

All features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries.

Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 10MP+ camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

The archaeologist(s) supervising the machine stripping will have access to the AW metal detector and be trained in its use.

7.2. Finds

The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological (2014) will form the basis of finds collection, processing and recording.

Finds will be carefully excavated by hand. The excavation of fragile or particularly significant finds will be undertaken in consultation with an appropriate archaeological conservator.

Finds will be bagged by archaeological context, the location of special finds and flint working deposits will be recorded three dimensionally.

All manner of finds regardless of category and date will initially be retained. These will be suitably bagged, boxed and marked. Following cataloguing and initial analysis finds of little archaeological significance may be discarded.

Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under *The Treasure Act 1996* will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (normally Phil Parkes at Cardiff University).

7.3. Environmental sampling strategy

Deposits with a significant potential for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental material will be sampled, by means of the most appropriate method (bulk, column etc). Where sampling will provide a significant contribution to the understanding of the site AW will draw up a site-specific sampling strategy alongside a specialist environmental archaeologist. All environmental sampling and recording and will follow Historic England's *Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology* (2011).

7.4. Human remains

In the event that human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established, the client, DAT-DM and the coroner informed. Measures will be put in place to ensure that any such remains are fenced off, covered and protected from deterioration and damage, and that human remains and burial goods will be treated in a respectful manner.

Where preservation *in situ* is not possible the human remains will be fully recorded and removed under conditions that comply with all current legislation and include acquisition of licenses and provision for reburial following all analytical work. Human remains will be excavated in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains* (2017). A Ministry of Justice Licence will be obtained before remains can be lifted, this applies to both inhumation and cremated remains.

AW in-house osteoarchaeologist (Rhiannon Joyce) will be on call to advise and supervise the removal.

7.5. Specialist advisers

In the event of certain finds, features or sites being discovered, AW will seek specialist opinion and advice. A list of specialists is given in the table below although this list is not exhaustive.

Artefact type	Specialist
Flint	Kate Pitt (Archaeology Wales)
Animal bone	Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall (APS)
Clay pipe	Hilary Major (Freelance)
Glass	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst (University of York)/Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy (University of Leicester)/ Quita Mold (Freelance)
Metal work and metallurgical residues	Dr Tim Young (GeoArch)
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson (Bradford University)
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby (Freelance)
Roman Pottery	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)/ Peter Webster (Freelance)
Post Roman pottery	Stephen Clarke (Monmouthshire Archaeology)
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot (Freelance)
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling (University of Wales – Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers (Freelance)

7.5.1. Specialist reports

Specialist finds and palaeoenvironmental reports will be written by AW specialists, or subcontracted to external specialists when required.

8. Monitoring

DAT-DM will be contacted approximately one week prior to the commencement of archaeological site works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

Any changes to the WSI that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to DAT-DM for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.

DAT-DM will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the mitigation work. No area will be back-filled until DAT-DM has had the opportunity to inspect it, unless permission has been given in advance. DAT-DM will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

9. Post-fieldwork programme

9.1. Archive assessment

9.1.1. Site archive

An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017* (National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales) and the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists upon completion of the project.

The site archive (including artefacts and samples) will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and deposited with an appropriate receiving organisation, in compliance with CIfA Guidelines (Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives', 2014). The legal landowners' consent will be gained for deposition of finds.

9.1.2. Analysis

Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of analysis and reporting will be undertaken.

This will result in the following inclusions in the report:

- Non-technical summary
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological works, and the background and circumstances of the report (including development proposals and planning background)

- Location plan showing the area/s covered by archaeological works, including the locations of all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plans and section drawings (if features are encountered) with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- A written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate. An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development, and proposals for further necessary analysis
- The report will contain a discussion of the local, regional and national context of the remains by means of reviewing published reports, unpublished reports, historical maps, documents from local archives and the regional HER as appropriate.
- A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples, finds and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.

9.2. Reports and archive deposition

9.2.1. Report to client

Copies of all reports associated with the mitigation, together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, including photographs and illustrations, will be submitted upon completion to DAT-DM for comment and approval. Following approval a copy will be sent to the client, and for formal submission to CCC.

9.2.2. Additional reports

After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of all reports will be deposited with the relevant county Historic Environment Record (DAT), the National Monuments Record and, if appropriate, Cadw. The report and all relevant information will be submitted to the Historic Environment Record following the guidelines and procedures laid out in the *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records* (WAT 2018).

9.2.3. Summary reports for publication

Short archaeological reports will be submitted for publication in relevant journals; as a minimum, a report will be submitted to the annual publication of the regional CBA group or equivalent journal.

9.2.4. Notification of important remains

Where it is considered that remains have been revealed that may satisfy the criteria for statutory protection, AW will submit preliminary notification of the remains to Cadw.

9.2.5. Archive deposition

The final archive (site and research) will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution. If artefacts are recovered, and dependent on the size of the final archive, the preferred receiving institution would be a suitable local institution, in this case Carmarthenshire Museum, Abergwili. If the archive is not acceptable the archive will be deposited with Amgueddfa Cymru — National Museum Wales, Cardiff. If no artefacts are recovered then the archive will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth. Arrangements will be made with the receiving institution before work starts.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, copies of all reports and the final archive will be deposited no later than 12 months after completion of the work.

Copies of all reports, the digital archive and an archive index will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER. A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to DAT-DM.

9.2.6. Finds deposition

The finds, including artefacts and ecofacts, excepting those which may be subject to the Treasure Act, will be deposited with the same institution, subject to the agreement of the legal land owners.

10. Staff

The project will be managed by Philip Poucher MCIfA and the fieldwork undertaken by suitable qualified and experienced AW archaeologists. The site will be Supervised by Jerry Bond. Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of DAT-DM and the client.

Additional Considerations

11. Health and Safety

11.1. Risk assessment

Prior to the commencement of work AW will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations* 1992. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. A copy will be sent to the client (or their agent as necessary) for their information. All members of AW staff will adhere to the content of this document.

11.2. Other guidelines

AW will adhere to best practice with regard to Health and Safety in Archaeology as set out in the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) health and safety manual Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (2002).

12. Community Engagement and Outreach

Wherever possible, AW will ensure suitable measures are in place to inform the local community and any interested parties of the results of the site investigation work. This may occur during the site investigation work or following completion of the work. The form of any potential outreach activities may include lectures and talks to local groups, interested parties and persons, information boards, flyers and other forms of communication (social media and websites), and press releases to local and national media.

The form of any outreach will respect client confidentiality or contractual agreements. As a rule, outreach will be proportional to the size of the project.

Where outreach activities have a cost implication these will need to be negotiated in advance and in accordance with the nature of the desired response and learning outcomes.

13. Insurance

AW is fully insured for this type of work and holds Insurance with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hiscox Insurance Company Limited through Towergate Insurance. Full details of these and other relevant policies can be supplied on request.

14. Quality Control

14.1. Professional standards

AW works to the standards and guidance provided by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*. AW fully recognise and endorse the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct, Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* and the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs* currently in force. All employees of AW, whether corporate members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists or not, are expected to adhere to these Codes and Standards during their employment.

14.2. Project tracking

The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

15. Arbitration

Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision in accordance with the Rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' *Arbitration Scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists* applying at the date of the agreement.

16. References

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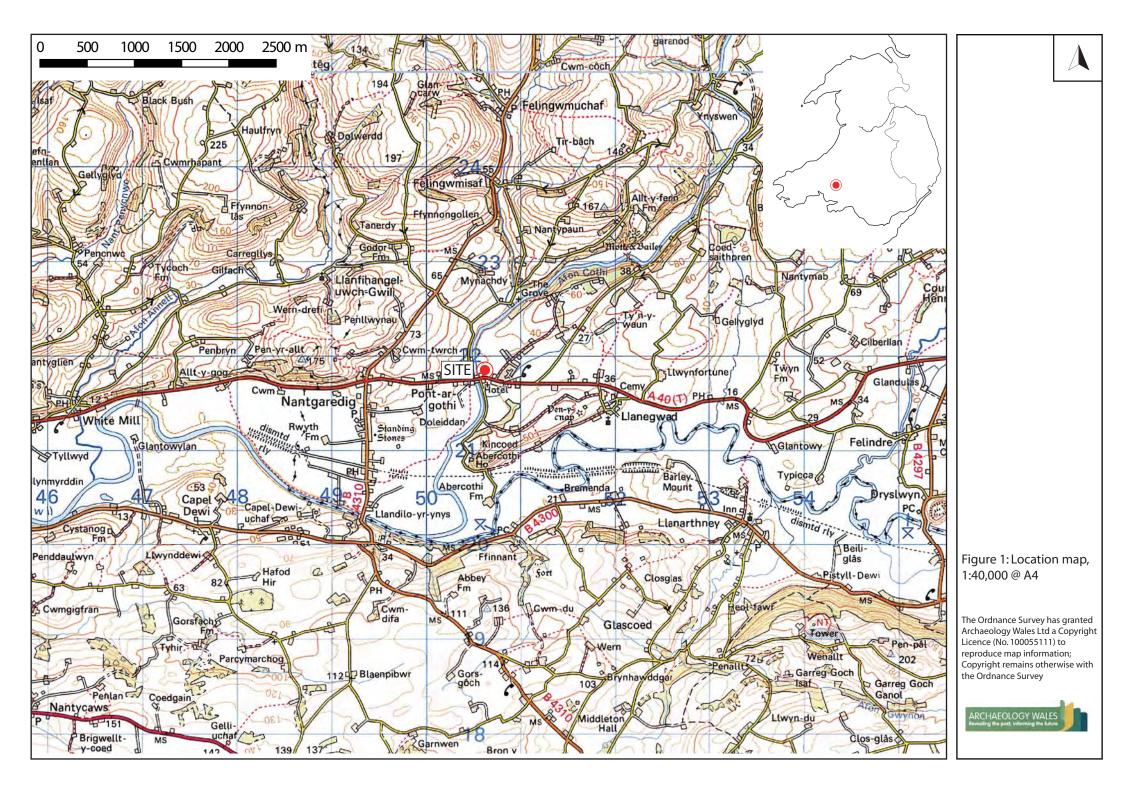
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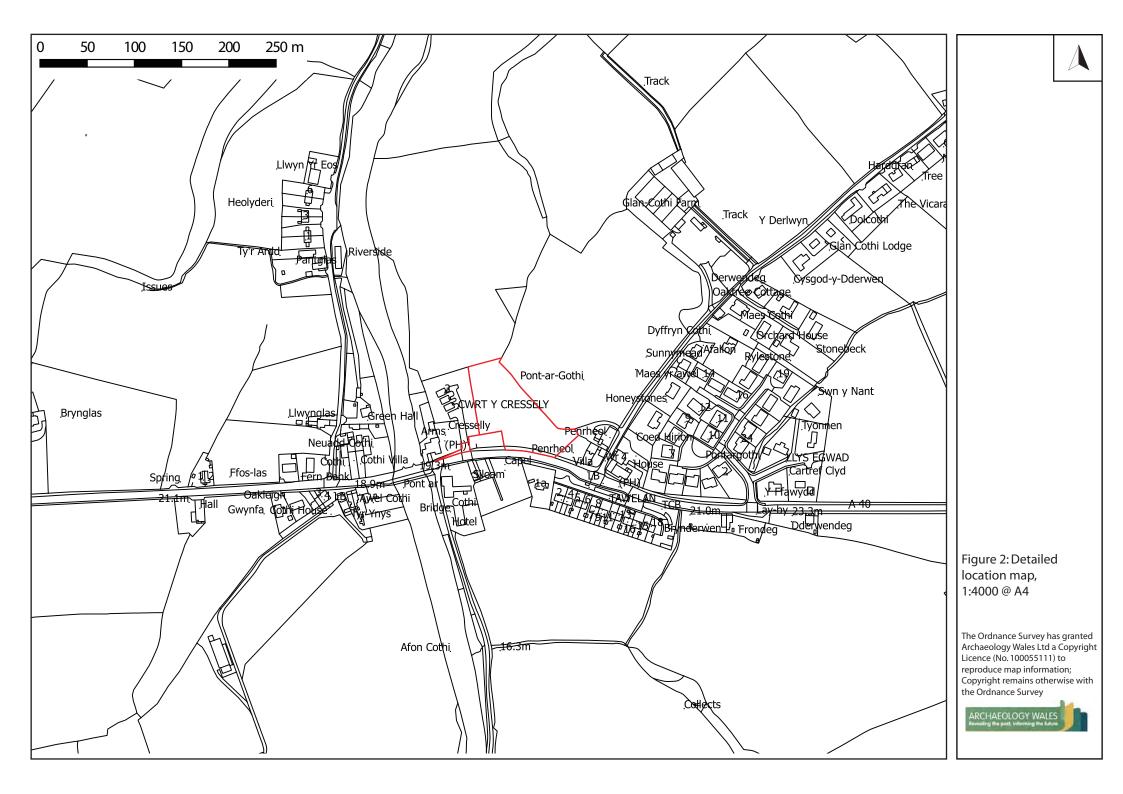
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Archaeology Wales

APPENDIX III: Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Land adjacent to the Cresselly Arms, Pontargothi, Carmarthenshire

Site Name:	Cresselly Arms, Pontargothi
Site Code:	CAP/19/EV
PRN:	49276
NPRN:	-
SAM:	-
Other Ref No:	-
NGR:	NGR SN 50642 21818
Site Type:	Development works within a former agricultural field, identified as the possible location of a medieval chapel.
Project Type:	Strip, Map & Record
Project Manager:	Philip Poucher
Project Dates:	June 2016 - July 2019
Categories Present:	-
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of duplicate Archives:	RCAHMW, Aberystwyth
Number of Finds Boxes:	0
Location of Finds:	-
Museum Reference:	-
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to access:	None

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