

Archaeological Trenched Evaluation Report:

Land at the rear of Maes Griffith,
High Street, Llansteffan,
SA33 5JW.

November 2023



Report No. 2240

By

Dan Moore



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Prepared for TRJ Ltd

By
Dan Moore MA

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Contents

Non-Technical Summary	2
Crynodeb Annhechnegol.....	3
1 Introduction	4
2 Site Description and Archaeological Background.....	5
2.1 Location, Topography and Geology	5
2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background	5
3 Methodology.....	6
3.1 Objectives.....	6
3.2 Methodology.....	7
4 Archaeological Trenched Evaluation Results.....	8
4.1 Overview	8
4.2 Trench 1	8
4.3 Trench 2	8
5 Discussions and Conclusions.....	9
6 Bibliography	9
7 Plates.....	11

List of Tables

Table 1	Trench Summary.....	8
---------	---------------------	---

List of Figures

Figure 1	Site Location
Figure 2	Trench Location Plan
Figure 3	Trenches 1-2 overlaid with Tithe Map
Figure 4	Trenches 1-2 constraints Map
Figure 5	Trench Plans and Sections

List of Plates

<i>Plate 1: Trench 1 fully excavated, view to the north. 2x1m scale.</i>
<i>Plate 2: West facing representative section of Trench 1. 1m scale.</i>
<i>Plate 3: Trench 2 fully excavated, view to the southeast. 2x1m scale.</i>
<i>Plate 4: Northeast facing representative section of Trench 2. 1m scale.</i>

Appendices

Appendix I: Context Inventory

Appendix II: Written Scheme of Investigation

Contents

Non-Technical Summary	2
Crynodeb Annhechnegol	3
1 Introduction	4
2 Site Description and Archaeological Background	5
2.1 Location, Topography and Geology	5
2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background	5
3 Methodology.....	6
3.1 Objectives.....	6
3.2 Methodology	7
4 Archaeological Trenched Evaluation Results.....	8
4.1 Overview	8
4.2 Trench 1	8
4.3 Trench 2	8
5 Discussions and Conclusions	9
6 Bibliography	9
7 Plates	11

List of Tables

Table 1	Trench Summary.....	8
---------	---------------------	---

List of Figures

Figure 1	Site Location
Figure 2	Trench Location Plan
Figure 3	Trenches 1-2 overlaid with Tithe Map
Figure 4	Trenches 1-2 constraints Map
Figure 5	Trench Plans and Sections

List of Plates

- Plate 1: Trench 1 fully excavated, view to the south. 2x1m scale.*
- Plate 2: West facing representative section of Trench 1. 1m scale.*
- Plate 3: Trench 2 fully excavated, view to the southeast. 2x1m scale.*
- Plate 4: Northeast facing representative section of Trench 2. 1m scale.*

Appendices

Appendix I: Context Inventory

Appendix II: Written Scheme of Investigation

Non-Technical Summary

Archaeology Wales conducted an archaeological evaluation on behalf of TRJ Ltd comprising two 6m x 1.8m trenches in advance of a proposed housing development on land at the rear of Maes Griffith, High Street, Llansteffan, SA33 5JW on 23rd October 2023 (Carmarthenshire County Council Planning Application Ref: W/38547).

The evaluation represented the second phase of mitigation on the site, the northern part of which had already been subject to a geophysical survey undertaken by AW in June 2023. The survey identified no anomalies characteristic of archaeological features. The southern part of the site comprises an area of mature trees and was not suitable for geophysical survey. On consultation with DAT-DM it was agreed that a small, trenched evaluation would provide suitable alternative mitigation.

The evaluation revealed no features or finds of archaeological interest. No evidence was recovered for sub-surface remains relating to the two 19th century field boundaries visible on the Tithe map that had been targeted in the trenches. LiDAR imagery suggests that these boundaries may have taken the form of lynchets or hedge banks rather than ditched boundaries. Although no clear evidence for lynchets were visible in the trench sections, cultivation terraces were visible on the ground elsewhere on site. All finds were modern and contained in the topsoil.

All work was undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020).

Crynodeb Annhechnegol

Ymgwymerwyd Archaeology Wales mantoliad archeolegol ar gyfer TRJ Ltd yn cynnwys dwy ffos 6m x 1.8m, o blaen i'r ddatbylgiad arfaethedig ar gyfer adeilau tai ar tir tu ôl Maes Griffith, High Street, Llansteffan, SA33 5JW ar yr 23ain o Hydref 2023 (Rhif Cyfeirnod Cais Cynllunio Cyngor Sir Gâr: W/38547).

Mae'r mantoliad yn cynrychioli'r ail gyfnod llinariaeth ar y safle, mae'r ardal ogleddol y safle wedi bod yn destun i arolwg geoffisegol gan Archaeology Wales ym mis Mehefin 2023. Ni wnaeth yr arolwg nodi unrhyw anghysondebau yn nodweddiadol o nodweddion archeolegol. Mae'r ardal De'r safle yn cynnwys ardal o goed aeddfed ac nad oeddynt yn addas ar gyfer arolwg geoffisegol. Gydag ymgynghoriad gyda DAT-DM, cytunodd fyd mantoliad ffos fechan yn rhoi llinariaeth addas arall.

Ni wnaeth y mantoliad dadlennu unrhyw ddarganfyddiadau neu nodweddion o ddiddordeb archeolegol. Nad oedd tystiolaeth ar gyfer olion is-wynebol yn gysylltiedig â'r ddwy ffin gaeedig a welwyd ar y Map Degwm a oedd wedi'i targedi gan y ddwy ffos. Mae darluniadaeth LiDAR yn awgrymu fod y ffiniau yna wedi'i chymryd siâp fel glaslain neu gwrych yn lle ffos. Er nad oedd tystiolaeth ar gyfer Glasleiniâu yn y toriadau'r ffosydd, fe oeddynt yn weladwy ar y llawr mewn llefydd eraill y safle. Roedd pob darganfyddiad yn fodern ac wedi'i lleoli o fewn yr uwchbridd.

Ymgwymerwyd yr holl waith mewn cytundeb a'r safonnau a chanllawiau'r Sefydliad Siartredig ar gyfer Archeolegwyr (2020).

1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Archaeology Wales was commissioned by TRJ Ltd at the request of Dyfed Archaeological Trust -Development management (henceforth -DAT-DM) to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on the site of the proposed residential housing development on land to the rear of Maes Griffith, High Street, Llansteffan, SA33 5JW, (henceforth – the site), centred on SN 35211 10845 (Figures 1 & 2). The local planning authority is the Carmarthenshire County Council (henceforth – CCC), and the planning application number is W/38547.
- 1.1.2 Following the submission of a revised planning Application W/38547, further consultation was undertaken with DAT-DM. In an email response dated 23rd May 2023 DAT-DM advised that:
- 1.1.3 *Ideally, the site would be evaluated pre-commencement of development works but I’m unsure how suitable it is for geophysics. This would leave sample evaluation. Alternatively, as the perceived impact is only potential, we could be okay with a WB, if the applicant is happy with the inherent risk of possible delay/rising cost etc.*
- 1.1.4 The larger part of the site proved unsuitable for geophysical survey due to the presence of mature trees. Ecological mitigation work is also currently in progress in this area. However, the northern part of the site was clear of trees and available for geophysical survey (Figure 2). This part of the site was subject to a geophysical survey conducted by Archaeology Wales (AW) on 13th June 2023 (Muller, 2023).
- 1.1.5 Following further consultation between AW and DAT-DM, it was agreed that an archaeological trenched evaluation comprising 2 trenches measuring 6m x 1.8m each (Figure 2), would be appropriate pre-commencement archaeological mitigation for the remaining part of the site that could not be subjected to the geophysical survey (Figures 3-4).
- 1.1.6 The work was undertaken to highlight and assess the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.
- 1.1.7 A WSI was subsequently prepared by Einir Smith (AW) and agreed with the Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT-DM) in its capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority (Carmarthenshire County Council). The purpose of the proposed archaeological evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts, and their research potential, within the development area (CIfA 2020) and to provide the local planning authority with the information they are likely to request in respect of the proposed development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy Wales Revised Edition.11, Section 6.1 (2021) and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017).
- 1.1.8 All work conformed to Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2020) and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Artefact and

Environmental Collection, Documentation Conservation and Research (ClfA 2020). The work was undertaken by suitably qualified staff to the highest professional standards. AW is a Registered Organisation with the ClfA.

- 1.1.9 The field work was carried out on 23rd October 2023 under the supervision of Menna Griffiths with assistance from Rachel Willmot of Archaeology Wales. The project was managed by John Davey PhD MCIfA.

2 Site Description and Archaeological Background

2.1 Location, Topography and Geology

- 2.1.1 The site comprises a single plot of unused land covered mostly with rough grass and trees. It is bounded by the backs of houses in every direction except to the north-east, where it is bounded by a walking path running roughly east/north-east and another walking path running north-east/south-west. To the west and north-west the houses are mostly post-medieval, two of which are Grade II-listed and all of which sit on the south-east side of the High Street. The houses bounding the land to the south are a modern development.
- 2.1.2 The field encloses an irregular parcel of land, approximately 0.9 hectares in area. The ground slopes gently down to the east, from approximately 17m AOD at the west end to 12m AOD at the east end.
- 2.1.3 The field lies somewhat central in the village of Llansteffan, though to the north-east of the medieval centre. Just 250m to the east/south-east is Llansteffan Beach on the River Towy, while to the north, west and south-west lie agricultural fields.
- 2.1.4 The underlying bedrock of the area comprises argillaceous rocks with subordinate interbedded sandstone and conglomerate of the Milford Haven Group. Overlying superficial deposits of Devensian Diamicton (BGS 2023).

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 The area immediately south of the site was subject to an Archaeological Evaluation, undertaken by Archaeology Wales in 2011 (Pannett 2011). In summary, the evaluation uncovered a shallow posthole and a modern cut. The posthole contained no dating material, though was believed to possibly relate to the use of the area in the medieval period, as the site lies close to the medieval centre of Llansteffan.
- 2.2.2 The northern part of the current site was subject to a geophysical survey undertaken by AW in June 2023. The survey identified numerous dipolar anomalies throughout the field. These were interpreted as the result of modern disturbance. There were no anomalies characteristic of archaeological features (Muller 2023).

- 2.2.3 The earliest evidence for activity in the area lies about 650m to the west of the site with the remains of a Neolithic chambered tomb (PRN2182) called Fron Ucha Burial Chamber, which is also a Scheduled Monument (CM058). The chamber lies on a slope which runs steeply down towards the village of Llansteffan. It consists of two uprights and a large capstone which is dislodged and lying to one side (Cadw, 2023). Another, possible Neolithic burial chamber called Waun Y Felin (PRN2210) may have been located 370m north/north-west of the site, though modern records show no evidence of remains (Dyfed HER, 2023).
- 2.2.4 An Iron Age promontory hillfort (PRN2198) sits 640m to south and lies underneath the medieval Llansteffan Castle (CM004, PRN2197). The double bank and ditch of the hillfort were created in the 6th century BC. Another ringwork and earth and timber bailey were built within the hillfort in the twelfth century (Cadw, 2023). The castle went through subsequent additions and refortifications until the fifteenth century. The main surviving feature of the mostly ruined small inner ward is the 3-storey square inner gate. Evidence of several domestic buildings survive at foundation level. The spacious outer ward features a 3-storey thirteenth century gatehouse with pair of D-plan flanking towers (Dyfed HER, 2023).
- 2.2.5 Further evidence for medieval settlement in the village lies with the Llansteffan Parish Church (PRN2208), which has a possible 12th century date of origin. However, most of the buildings within the village date to the late 18th- and early 19th-century. Along the estuary, 19th century structures have been supplemented with late 20th-century. Linking the two historic nuclei are small estates of 20th century housing, individual dwellings, sports fields and other low-key services.

3 Methodology

3.1 Objectives

- 3.1.1 The objective of the intrusive trial trench evaluation was to locate and describe archaeological features present within the development area. In addition, it was intended to elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition, and relative significance. A further objective of the work was to include an assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and to highlight any relevant research issues within national and regional research framework.
- 3.1.2 This resulting report provides information which is sufficiently detailed to allow the archaeological resource to be better understood and to inform whether further archaeological work should be undertaken in association with the proposed development.

3.2 Methodology

Overview

- 3.2.1 The work was undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2020).

Trenched Evaluation Methodology

- 3.2.2 All works were carried out in accordance with the Code of Conduct as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. Sample excavation of archaeological deposits was undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in the WSI.
- 3.2.3 All trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator equipped with a flat bladed, toothless ditching bucket, under archaeological direction.
- 3.2.4 Machine excavation was undertaken down to the surface of the first significant archaeological deposits or to the surface of natural undisturbed ground, whichever was uppermost. This was monitored by a qualified field archaeologist.
- 3.2.5 Two trenches were excavated. These were to each measure 6m in length and 1.8m wide. The exact positioning of the trenches depended on the position Tree Preservation Orders, and of an extant services or other obstructions identified during the initial phase of groundworks.
- 3.2.6 Examination and cleaning of deposits was undertaken by hand using appropriate hand tools. Any archaeological deposits were examined and recorded both in plan and section. Any features were excavated to ascertain their extent, form, function and if possible, date. Where appropriate a representative sample, sufficient to meet the objectives of the evaluation, of identified features was investigated and all features were recorded. The stratigraphy of each trench was recorded in full.
- 3.2.7 All archaeological features revealed were planned and recorded in accordance with industry standards. Each context was recorded on a pro-forma context sheet by written and measured description; principal deposits recorded by drawn plans (scale 1:20) or electronically using GPS as appropriate and drawn sections (scale 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate). Photographs (digital colour) were taken as appropriate. Finds and samples were bagged separately and related to the context record. All artefacts recovered were retained for processing and analysis.

4 Archaeological Trenched Evaluation Results

4.1 Overview

- 4.1.1 The evaluation consisted of 2 machine dug trenches that targeted 2 possible field boundaries, identified from LiDAR. The trenches measured 6m in length, 1.8m wide. Trench 1 and Trench 2 had depths of 0.41m and 0.89m, respectively.

Table 1: Trench Summary

Tr No	Dimensions	Orientation	Plan	Section	Content
1	L:6m x W:1.8m x D:0.41m	N-S	Fig.5	Fig. 5	No Archaeology
2	L:6m x W:1.8m x D:0.89m	NE-SW	Fig.5	Fig. 5	No Archaeology

4.2 Trench 1 (Figures 2-3; plates 1-2)

- 4.2.1 Trench 1 measured 6m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.41m. It was orientated N-S and located along the eastern side of the site, amongst woodland undergrowth (including brambles).
- 4.2.2 Basal deposit (102) was interpreted as natural deposit. It comprised a mid-pinkish brown silty clay with inclusions of frequent sub-rounded stones <0.1m in diameter and rooting. The deposit was encountered 0.37m below ground level and measured more than 6 in length, 1.8m in width and 0.08 m in thickness. Deposit (102) was overlaid by deposit (101).
- 4.2.3 Deposit (101) was a mid-reddish brown silty clay subsoil with inclusions of moderately frequent sub-rounded stones <0.1m in diameter and rooting. The deposit was encountered 0.24m below ground level and measured more than 6m in length, 1.8m in width, and was 0.13m thick. Deposit (101) was overlaid by deposit (100).
- Deposit (100) was a mid-blackish brown loam topsoil with inclusions of frequent sub-rounded stones <0.1m in diameter and rooting, overlain by woodland undergrowth, including nettles and brambles. The deposit measured more than 6m in length, 1.8m in width and was 0.24m thick.

4.3 Trench 2 (Figures 2-3; plates 3-4)

- 4.3.1 Trench 2 measured 6m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.89m. It was NE-SW orientated and located towards the southern side of the site, amongst woodland undergrowth.

- 4.3.2 Basal deposit (202) was interpreted as a natural deposit. It comprised a mid-pinkish brown clayey silt with inclusions of frequent sub-rounded stones <0.1m in diameter and rooting. The deposit was encountered 0.76m below ground level and measured more than 6m in length, 1.8m in width and 0.13m in thickness. Deposit (202) was overlaid by deposit (201).
- 4.3.3 Deposit (201) was a mid-reddish brown clayey silt subsoil with inclusions of frequent sub-rounded stones <0.1m in diameter and rooting. It was encountered 0.37m below ground level and measured more than 6m in length, 1.8m in width and was 0.39m thick. Deposit (201) was overlaid by deposit (200).
- 4.3.4 Deposit (200) was a mid-greyish brown loam topsoil with inclusions of moderately frequent sub-angular stones <0.1m in diameter and rooting, overlain by woodland undergrowth. The deposit contained modern detritus, including plastic and metal, that was not retained. The deposit measured more than 6m in length, 1.8m in width and was 0.37m thick.

5 Discussions and Conclusions

- 5.1.1 The evaluation revealed no features or finds of archaeological interest. No evidence was recovered for sub-surface remains relating to the two 19th century field boundaries visible on the Tithe map that were targeted in the trenches. LiDAR imagery suggests that these boundaries may have taken the form of lynchets or hedge banks rather than ditched boundaries. Although no clear evidence for lynchets were visible in the trench sections, possible post medieval cultivation terraces were visible on the ground elsewhere on site. All finds were modern and contained in the topsoil.

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National Library of Scotland Maps:

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/find/marker/#zoom=15&lat=51.8513&lon=-4.3486&f=0&z=1&marker=51.8495,-4.3454&from=1550&to=1971&i=189230508> (accessed 30/10/2023)

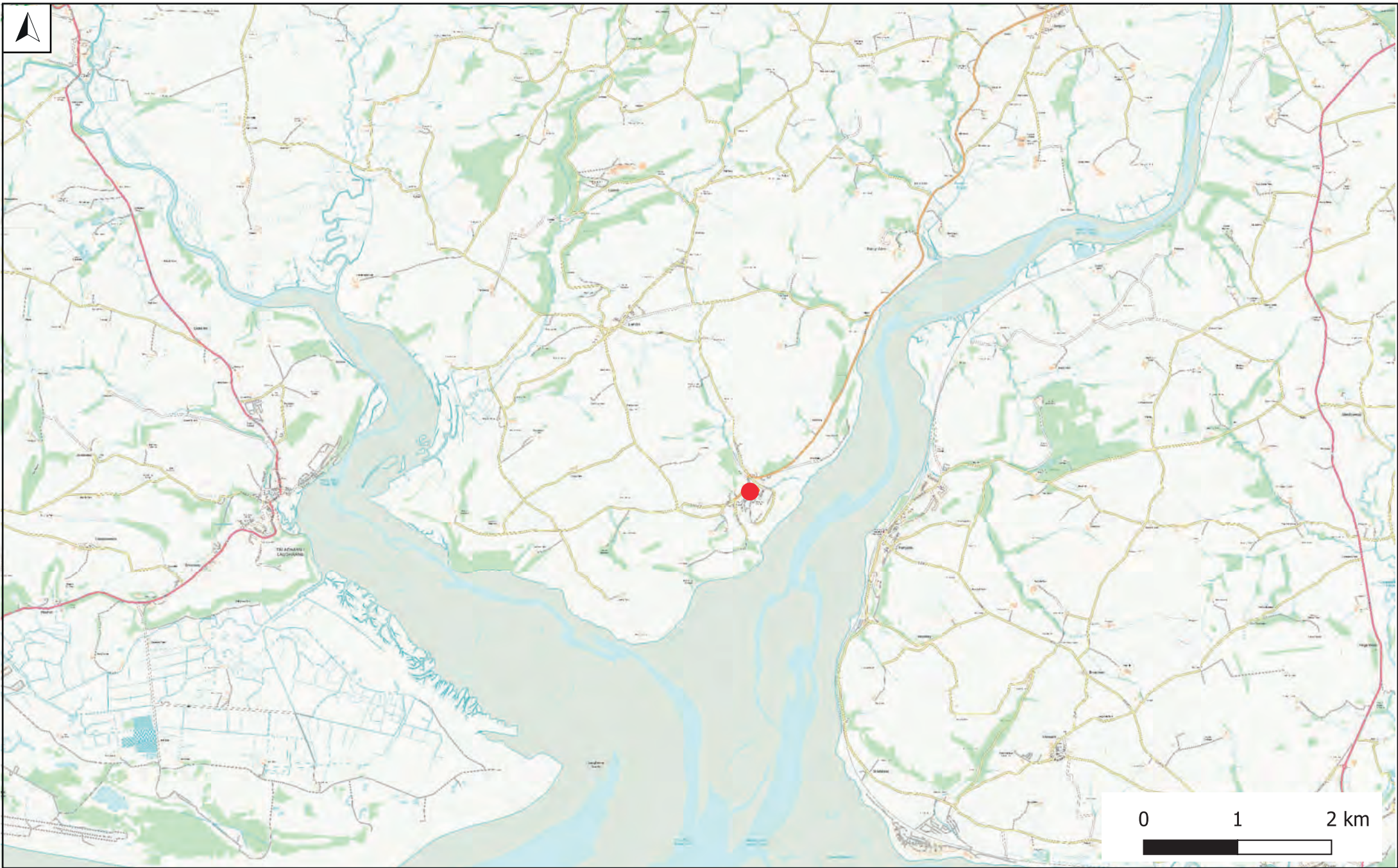


Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Proposed development area (in red) with area covered by previous geophysical survey (in orange)



Figure 3: Proposed Trench Plan overlaid on Llansteffan Tithe Map and OS Mastermap layer.
Showing the approximate locations of possible burgage boundaries.

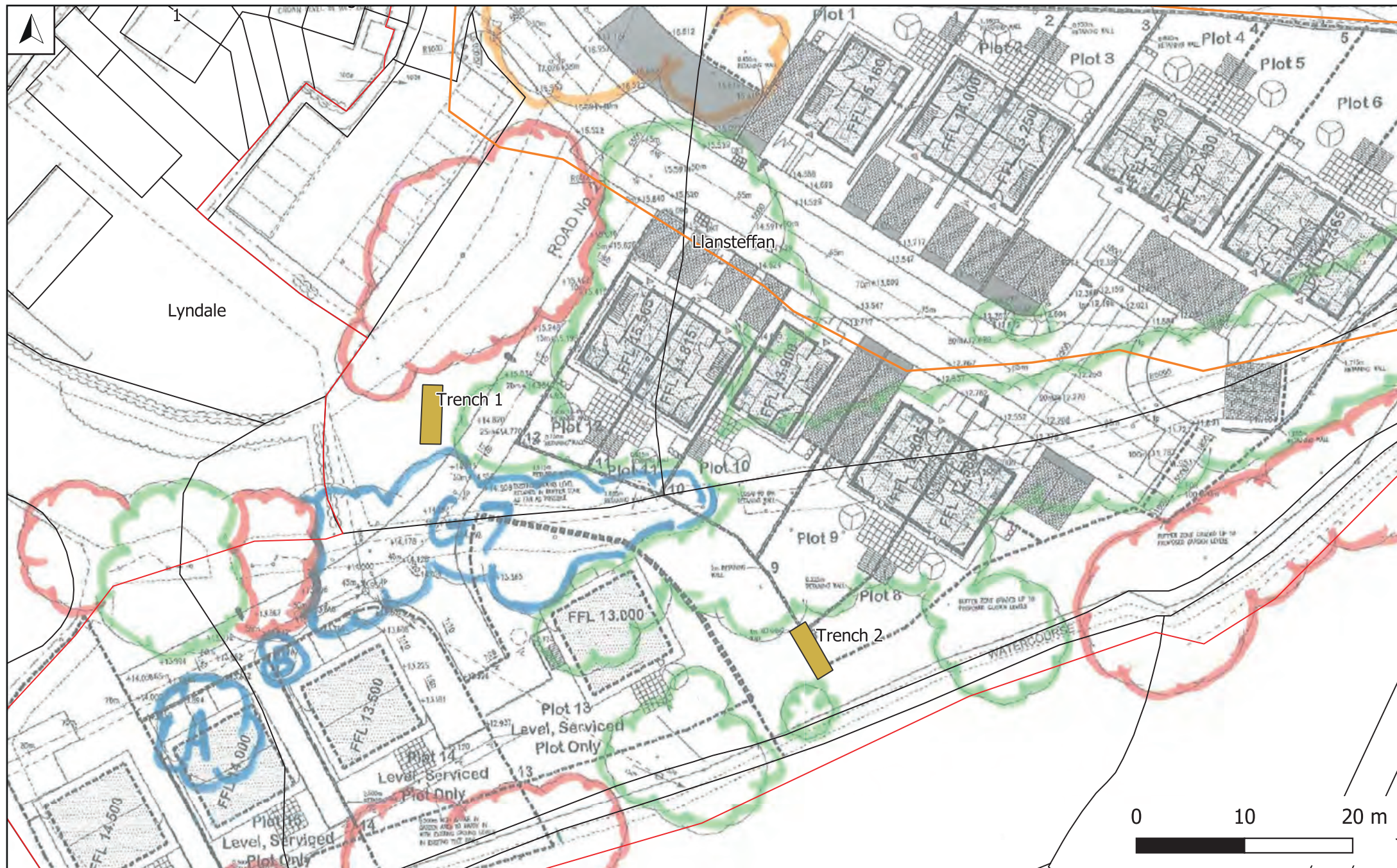


Figure 4: Proposed Trench Plan overlaid on Proposed Development Plan. Showing constraints (trees).

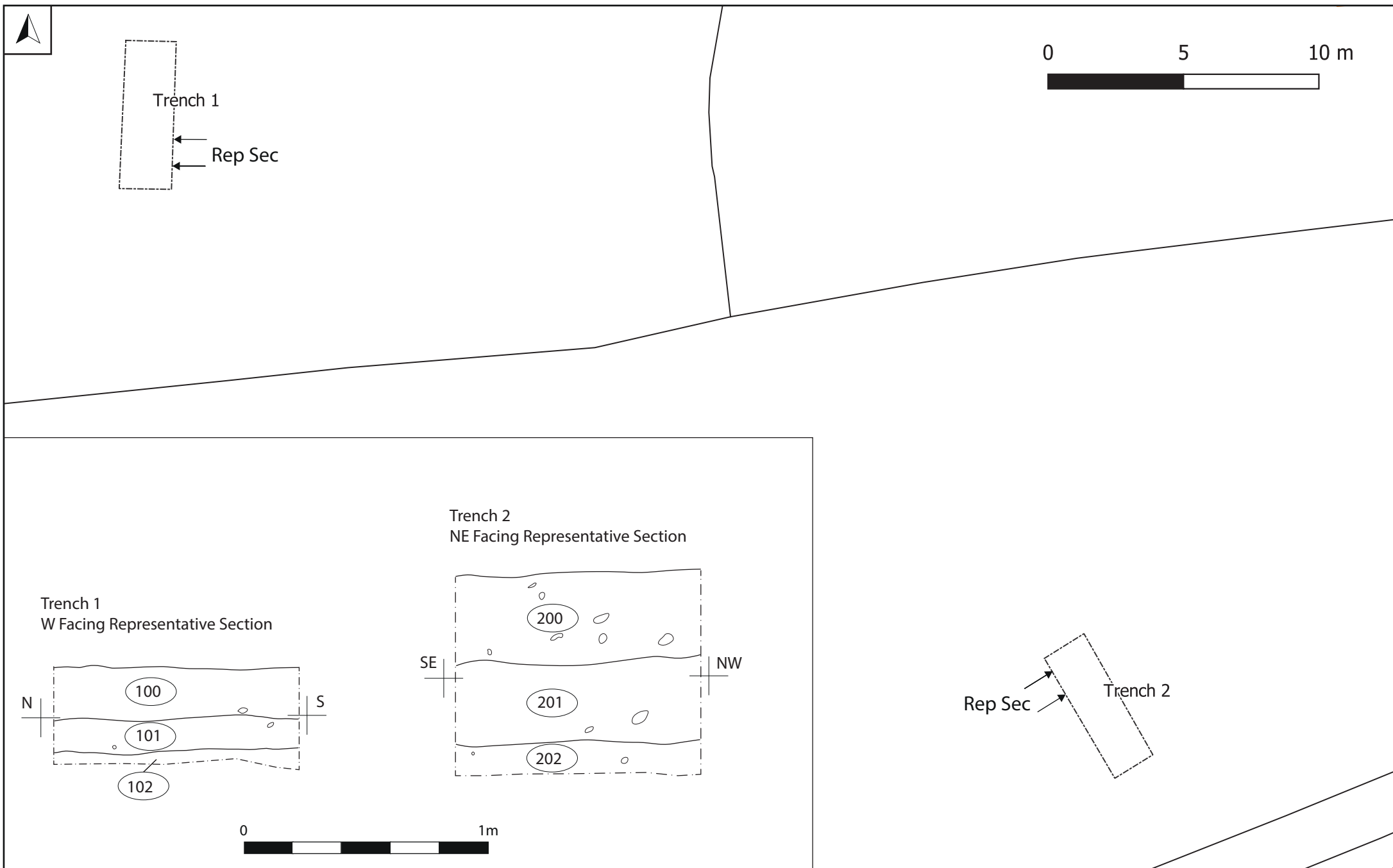


Figure 5: Trench Plans and Sections.

7 Plates



Plate 1: Trench 1 fully excavated, view to the north. 2x1m scale.



Plate 2: West facing representative section of Trench 1. 1m scale.



Plate 3: Trench 2 fully excavated, view to the southeast. 2x1m scale.



Plate 4: Northeast facing representative section of Trench 2. 1m scale.

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APPENDIX I: Context Inventory

Trench	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1	100	Deposit	Topsoil	Mid-black brown, loam. Containing frequent small, sub-rounded stone inclusions measuring <0.1m in diameter. Heavy rooting throughout, overlain by woodland undergrowth.	6m	1.8m	0.24m
1	101	Deposit	Subsoil	Mid-red brown, silty clay. Containing frequent small, sub-rounded stone inclusions measuring <0.1m in diameter.	6m	1.8m	0.13m
1	102	Deposit	Natural	Mid-pink brown, silty clay. Containing frequent small, sub-rounded stone inclusions measuring <0.1m in diameter.	6m	1.8m	0.8m
2	200	Deposit	Topsoil	Mid-grey brown, loam. Containing frequent small, sub-rounded stone inclusions measuring <0.1m in diameter. Heavy rooting throughout, overlain by woodland undergrowth. The deposit contained modern materials, including plastic and metal.	6m	1.8m	0.37m
2	201	Deposit	Subsoil	Mid-red brown, silty clay. Containing frequent small, sub-rounded stone inclusions measuring <0.1m in diameter.	6m	1.8m	0.39m
2	202	Deposit	Natural	Mid-pink brown, silty clay. Containing frequent small, sub-rounded stone inclusions measuring <0.1m in diameter.	6m	1.8m	0.13m

Archaeology Wales

APPENDIX II: Written Scheme of Investigation

**Written Scheme of Investigation for an
Archaeological Field Evaluation
At Land at the rear of Maes Griffith,
High Street, Llansteffan,
SA33 5JW**

Project No: 3092

Carmarthenshire County Council Planning Application Ref: W/38547

September 2023



Contents

1. Introduction and Planning Background	3
2. Site Description	4
3. Archaeological Background	5
4. Objectives	6
5. Timetable of Works	6
6. Methodology	6
7. Post-Fieldwork Programme	10
8. Staff.....	13
9. Health and Safety.....	13
10. Quality Control.....	13
11. Arbitration	14
12. References	15
Appendix I Data Management Plan.....	20

Figure 1. Site Location

Figure 2. Detailed Site Location Plan

Figure 3. Trench Location Plan

Figure 4. Trench Location Plan with Constraints

1. Introduction and Planning Background

- 1.1. This Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI) details the methodology for an Archaeological Trenched Evaluation to be undertaken at the site. The proposed development comprises plans for the changes to the external finishes of the approved dwellings, and amendments to the roof pitch/design of the dwellings on plot no. 13-16 to create the additional attic accommodation, together with the installation of Velux windows, on the land rear of Maes Griffith, High Street, Llansteffan, SA33 5JW, (henceforth – the site), centred on SN 35211 10845 (Figures 1 & 2). The local planning authority is the Carmarthenshire County Council (henceforth – CCC), and the planning application number is W/38547.
- 1.2. This WSI has been prepared by Einir Smith, Site Assistant at Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth- ‘AW’) on behalf of Terry Lewis and at the request of Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management (henceforth- DAT-DM).
- 1.3. The methodology set out in this WSI has been agreed with the Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT-DM) in its capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority (Carmarthenshire County Council). The purpose of the proposed archaeological evaluation is to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts, and their research potential, within the development area (CIfA 2020) and to provide the local planning authority with the information they are likely to request in respect of the proposed development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy Wales Revised Edition.11, Section 6.1 (2021) and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017).
- 1.4. The recommendations for pre-commencement mitigation on the site have been proposed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management (henceforth – DAT-DM), in their capacity as archaeological advisors to CCC. These recommendations are stated in a letter dated 8th October 2014 from DAT-DM to CCC in response to an earlier planning application (W/31230). Within this letter DAT-DM recommend a pre-determination evaluation of the site is undertaken, in the first instance comprising a Geophysical Survey of the application site. As a result, a Condition was attached to the outline planning permission for the development which states:

“Accordingly, we recommend that historic environment interests be protected through the attachment of a suitable condition, should planning consent be forthcoming. This condition should be in line with Section 23 of Welsh Office Circular 60/96 ‘Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology’, which reads:

‘No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a program 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’.

Reason: to protect historic environment interests whilst enabling development.”

- 1.5. Following the submission of a revised planning Application W/38547, further consultation was undertaken with DAT-DM. In an email response dated 23rd May 2023 DAT-DM advised that:

Ideally, the site would be evaluated pre-commencement of development works but I’m unsure how suitable it is for geophysics. This would leave sample evaluation. Alternatively, as the perceived impact is only potential, we could be okay with a WB, if the applicant is happy with the inherent risk of possible delay/rising cost etc.

- 1.6. The larger part of the site proved unsuitable for geophysical survey due to the presence of mature trees. Ecological mitigation work is also currently in progress in this area. However, the northern part of the site was clear of trees and available for geophysical survey (Figure 2). This part of the site was subject to a geophysical survey conducted by Archaeology Wales (AW) on 13th June 2023 (Muller, 2023).
- 1.7. Following further consultation between AW and DAT-DM, it was agreed that an archaeological trenched evaluation comprising 2 trenches measuring 6m x 1.8m each (Figure 2), would be appropriate pre-commencement archaeological mitigation for the remaining part of the site that could not be subject to the geophysical survey (Figures 3-4).
- 1.8. The work is to highlight and assess the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.
- 1.9. All work will conform to the Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2020) and be undertaken by suitably qualified staff to the highest professional standards. AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

2. Site Description

- 2.1. The site comprises a single plot of unused land covered mostly with rough grass and trees. It is bounded by the backs of houses in every direction except to the north-east, where it is bounded by a walking path running roughly east/north-east and another walking path running north-east/south-west. To the west and north-west the houses are mostly post-medieval, two

of which are Grade II-listed and all of which sit on the south-east side of the High Street. The houses bounding the land to the south are a modern development.

The field encloses an irregular parcel of land, approximately 0.9 hectares in area. The ground slopes gently down to the east, from approximately 17m AOD at the west end to 12m AOD at the east end.

The field lies somewhat central in the village of Llansteffan, though to the north-east of the medieval centre. Just 250m to the east/south-east is Llansteffan Beach on the River Towy, while to the north, west and south-west lie agricultural fields.

- 2.2. The underlying bedrock of the area comprises argillaceous rocks with subordinate interbedded sandstone and conglomerate of the Milford Haven Group. Overlying superficial deposits of Devensian Diamicton (BGS 2023).

3. Archaeological Background

The area immediately south of the site was subject to an Archaeological Evaluation, undertaken by Archaeology Wales in 2011 (Pannett 2011). In summary, the evaluation uncovered a shallow posthole and a modern cut. The posthole contained no dating material, though was believed to possibly relate to the use of the area in the medieval period, as the site lies close to the medieval centre of Llansteffan.

The northern part of the current site was subject to a geophysical survey undertaken by AW in June 2023. The survey identified numerous dipolar anomalies throughout the field. These were interpreted as the result of modern disturbance. There were no anomalies characteristic of archaeological features (Muller 2023).

The earliest evidence for activity in the area lies about 650m to the west of the site with the remains of a Neolithic chambered tomb (PRN2182) called Fron Ucha Burial Chamber, which is also a Scheduled Monument (CM058). The chamber lies on a slope which runs steeply down towards the village of Llansteffan. It consists of two uprights and a large capstone which is dislodged and lying to one side (Cadw, 2023). Another, possible Neolithic burial chamber called Waun Y Felin (PRN2210) may have been located 370m north/north-west of the site, though modern records show no evidence of remains (Dyfed HER, 2023).

An Iron Age promontory hillfort (PRN2198) sits 640m to south and lies underneath the medieval Llansteffan Castle (CM004, PRN2197). The double bank and ditch of the hillfort were created in the 6th century BC. Another ringwork and earth and timber bailey were built within the hillfort in the twelfth century (Cadw, 2023). The castle went through subsequent additions and refortifications until the fifteenth century. The main surviving feature of the mostly ruined small inner ward is the 3-storey square inner gate. Evidence of several domestic buildings survive at foundation level. The spacious outer ward features a 3-storey thirteenth century

gatehouse with pair of D-plan flanking towers (Dyfed HER, 2023).

Further evidence for medieval settlement in the village lies with the Llansteffan Parish Church (PRN2208), which has a possible 12th century date of origin. However, most of the buildings within the village date to the late 18th- and early 19th-century. Along the estuary, 19th century structures have been supplemented with late 20th-century. Linking the two historic nuclei are small estates of 20th century housing, individual dwellings, sports fields and other low-key services.

4. Objectives

Field Evaluation

- 4.1. The objective of the intrusive trial trench evaluation will be to locate and describe archaeological features that may be present within the development area as suggested. The work will elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition, and relative significance. The work will include an assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within national and regional research frameworks.
- 4.2. A report will be produced that will provide information which is sufficiently detailed to allow the archaeological resource to be better understood. The information could then be used to help inform further archaeological work undertaken in association with the proposed development.

5. Timetable of Works

- 5.1. DAT-DM will be informed in advance of the start date and any subsequent changes to the schedule.
- 5.2. 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 the local planning authority. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional Historic Environment Record.

6. Methodology

Field Evaluation

- 6.2. The work will be undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2020).
- 6.3. The archaeological project manager in charge of the work will satisfy himself that all constraints to ground works have been identified, including the siting of live services and Tree Preservation Orders.

- 6.4. The agreed evaluation trenches will be positioned to maximise the retrieval of archaeological information within accessible areas, and to ensure that the archaeological resource is understood.
- 6.5. It is proposed that 2 trenches are machine excavated within the development area (Figure 2). All the trenches will be cut to 1.8m in width. Both will be 6m in length, equalling 12m in total.
- 6.6. The exact positioning of the trenches will depend on the position of an extant services or other obstructions that come to light during the initial phase of ground works.
- 6.7. The locations and dimensions of the trenches have been agreed with DAT-DM.
- 6.8. The evaluation trenches will be excavated to the top of the archaeological horizon by a 360 excavator or similar machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under close archaeological supervision.
- 6.9. All areas will be subsequently hand cleaned using pointing trowels and/or hoes to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features and to determine their significance. The excavation of the minimum number of archaeological features will be undertaken, to elucidate the character, distribution, extent and importance of the archaeological remains. As a minimum, small discrete features will be fully excavated, larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated) and long linear features will be sample excavated along their length – with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature and to investigate terminals, junctions and relationships with other features. Should this percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined full excavation of such features/deposits may be required.
- 6.10. Sufficient excavation will be undertaken to ensure that the natural horizons are reached and proven, where this can be practically and safely achieved. If safety reasons preclude manual excavation to natural, a hand auger may be used to try to assess the total depth of stratification within each area. The depth of the excavation will conform to current safety requirements. If excavation is required below 1m the options of using shoring will be discussed with the client and DAT-DM, but the intention would be to stop at safe depths.

Contingency

- 6.11. Should potentially significant archaeological features be encountered during the course of the evaluation then DAT-DM and the client will be informed at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 6.12. DAT-DM may subsequently request that further archaeological work is undertaken in order to fully evaluate areas of significant archaeological activity. Such work may require the provision of additional time and resources to complete the archaeological investigation. The scope of

such work will be agreed with DAT-DM and the client prior to any extended works being undertaken.

Recording

- 6.13. Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets, etc.) using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.
- 6.14. 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.
- 6.15. All features identified will be tied into 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.

Finds

- 6.16. The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation, and research of archaeological (2020) will form the basis of finds collection, processing, and recording.
- 6.17. 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.
- 6.18. In most cases all finds will be recovered from site, quantified and assessed by specialist. Finds retention and discard policies will be drawn up in conjunction with specialist advice and the requirements of the receiving archive or regional/national guidelines (NPAAW 2019) in conjunction with the ClfA Selection Strategy Tool Kit (ClfA 2019). If large quantities of material are identified, an onsite discard policy may be implemented under the guidance of relevant finds specialists and the local authority archaeologists.
- 6.19. Retained finds will be suitably bagged, boxed and marked. Following cataloguing and initial analysis finds of low archaeological significance may be discarded.
- 6.20. Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under The Treasure Act 1996 will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.
- 6.21. 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).

Environmental Sampling Strategy

- 6.22. Deposits with a significant potential for the preservation of paleoenvironmental 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 English Heritage's Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology (2nd Edition 2011).

Human remains

- 6.23. In the event that human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established, the client, DAT-DM and the coroner informed.
- 6.24. 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.
- 6.25. 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.
- 6.26. 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.

Specialist advisers

- 6.27. 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
Lithics	Dr Julie Birchenall (Freelance)
Animal bone	Dr Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University) Dr Hannah Russ (Freelance)
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Dr Siân Thomas (Archaeology Wales) Dr Phil Mills (Freelance) Sandra Garside Neville (Freelance)
Clay pipe	Charley James Martin (Archaeology Wales)
Glass	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst (University of York) Dr Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
Metalwork	Dr Rhiannon Philp (Archaeology Wales) Dr Kevin Leahy (PAS/University of Leicester) Quita Mould (Freelance)
Metal work and metallurgical residues	Dr Tim Young (GeoArch)
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson (Bradford University)

Artefact type	Specialist
	Dr David Mullin (Freelance)
IA/Roman pottery	Dr Jane Timby (Freelance)
Roman Pottery	Dr Siân Thomas (Archaeology Wales) Dr Peter Webster (Freelance)
Medieval and Post Medieval Pottery	Paul Blinkhorn (Freelance)
Charcoal (wood ID)	Dana Challinor (Freelance)
Waterlogged wood	Professor Nigel Nayling (University of England – Lampeter) Damian Goodburn (MOLA) Mike Bamforth (Freelance)
Marine Molluscs	Dr Rhiannon Philp (Archaeology Wales)
Pollen	Dr Rhiannon Philp (Archaeology Wales)
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers (Freelance) Kath Hunter Dowse (Freelance)

- 6.28. Specialist finds and paleoenvironmental reports will be written by AW specialists, or sub-contracted to external specialists when required.

Monitoring

- 6.29. DAT-DM will be contacted prior to the commencement of archaeological site works, and subsequently once the work is underway.
- 6.30. Any changes to the WSI that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to DAT-DM for approval on behalf of the Planning Authority.
- 6.31. 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.

7. Post-Fieldwork Programme

Site Archive

- 7.1. An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (2015) upon completion of the project.
- 7.2. The site archive – including all artefacts, soil samples, paper, and digital records – will be subjected to selection in order to establish those elements that will be retained for long term curation. The selection strategy will be agreed with all stakeholders and will be detailed in the Selection Strategy and Data Management Plan (CIfA 2020). It will be developed taking into

consideration the aims and objectives of the project and will be informed through a detailed consideration of the Research Agenda of the Archaeology of Wales and other relevant research frameworks. The manner in which the records will be prepared for long time storage will be guided by the requirements established by the repositories. A detailed justification for the disposal of both records and materials will be written and included within the Data Management Plan.

- 7.3. 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 ClfA Guidelines (Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives, 2014). It will also conform to the guidelines set out in The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales (National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017). The legal landowner's consent will be gained for deposition of finds. The project will adhere to the Welsh Archaeological Trust's joint Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (2018).

Analysis

- 7.4. Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of analysis and reporting will be undertaken.
- 7.5. This will result in the following inclusions in the report:
- A bilingual 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 the trenched evaluation, 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.

Report to Client

- 7.6. 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 the Local Planning Authority.

Additional Reports

- 7.7. After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of all reports will be deposited with the relevant county Historic Environment Record, 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).

Summary Reports for Publication

- 7.8. 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.

Notification of Important Remains

- 7.9. 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.

Archive Deposition

- 7.10. 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. 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.
- 7.11. 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.
- 7.12. Copies of all reports, the digital archive and an archive index will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth. A full Data Management Plan for this

project is included in Appendix I.

- 7.13. 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 GGAT-APM.

Finds Deposition

- 7.14. 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 landowners.

8. Staff

- 8.1. The project will be managed by John Davey MCIfA (AW Project Manager) and the assessment undertaken by suitably trained and experienced AW staff. Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of DAT-DM and the client.

9. Health and Safety

- 9.1. Prior to the commencement of the site visit AW will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with the Management of Health and safety Regulations 1999. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request.
- 9.2. 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.

Other Guidelines

- 9.3. 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).

Insurance

- 9.4. 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.

10. Quality Control

Professional standards

- 10.1. 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.

- 10.2. 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.

Project tracking

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

11. Arbitration

- 11.1. 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.

12. References

British Geological Survey: Geology of Britain viewer:

www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2019. Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. Standards and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. Standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. Standard and Guidance for Geophysical Survey
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Muller, J. 2023. *Geophysical Survey Report on Land at the Rear of Maesgriffith, High Street, Llansteffan, SA33 5JW. Archaeology Wales Report No. 2202.*

National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales (NPAAW), 2019. The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales

Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2018. Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs).

Appendix I Data Management Plan

Appendix 1 – Data Management Plan

Project Name and ID
3092 - Maes Griffith, Llansteffan, Carmarthenshire MGL/23/EV
Project description
Archaeological Trenched Evaluation undertaken in association with the variation to planning approval for the construction of a new housing development at Land at Rear of Maesgriffith, High Street, Llansteffan, SA33 5JW centred on NGR SN 35211 10845. Two 6m x 1.8m targeted trenches will be excavated in the southern part of the site because it was unsuitable for geophysical survey due to tree cover. The purpose of the archaeological mitigation is to elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition, and relative significance.
Funder of client
William Jones
Project Manager
John Davey – AW Senior Project Manager john@arch-wales.co.uk
Principal investigator and contact
Same as above
Date DPM created and subsequent amendments
Created on 25/09/23
Related Data Management policies
Project Brief, ClfA Standards and guidance, trusted digital repository guidelines (ADS and RCAHMW), or other best practice guidance (see brief for details)

Data type
.pdf: final report, WSI, all the paper archive generated onsite. .jpeg: Digital photographs .xlsx: spreadsheets including registers, context inventory, finds quantification, environmental sample quantification. All site drawings that are selected during the DMP will be stored as AI and PDF files

The survey data will be stored both as raw data (text file/csv) and as shapefiles (shp). This will include a polygon showing the limits of the development area. The database generated with GIS will be stored so it is accessible by future users

How will data be generated?

Project Brief will determine the nature of data collection. The project brief has been produced taking into consideration guidance offered by ClfA, and by relevant repositories.

While the data selection strategy may change during the course of the watching brief attending to the demands of the findings, an initial methodology is outlined in the brief which includes advice offered by specialists (e.g environmental specialist). A list of specialists that can be contacted to seek for advice is included in the brief.

Data generated during the site work will be regularly updated to the server and stored within well-defined folder. The folder hierarchy and organisation devised will be understood by all members of staff involved in the project. The data stored will be checked by the project manager regularly as a means of quality assurance. The survey data will also be plotted regularly to assure that it is correct and that the instruments on site are working properly.

Further documentation accompanying the resulting archive

Data collected will include standard formats which maximise opportunities for use and reuse in the future.

The archive will be associated to metadata summary which outlines details of all data types, quantities and all archive components

Data documentation will meet the requirement of the Project Brief, Museum Deposition Guidelines, Digital Repository Guidelines and the methodology described in the Project Design methodology. These details are checked and taken into consideration prior the start of the project.

Data protection

We have a GDPR compliant Privacy Policy. Sensitive data is never retained in the project folder.

Copyright permission is sought from all specialists and other providers outside the organisation. Data sharing is also subjected to license agreements.

Storage

The project manager is responsible to the regular inspection of the data produced and stored in the server. The data produced is uploaded regularly as a way of backing up the information. Time and resources are given to the site staff to be able to back up the data. Alternatively, laptops are issued to use during the time onsite.

Data retention
<p>The DMP will be updated in light with the findings. This process will also inform any possible future project designs and further work associated with the project. The data selection plan will take into consideration the research agenda for Wales and any other local frameworks.</p> <p>At the deposition stage, the DMP will be finalised in agreement with all project stakeholders.</p> <p>The project results will be included in the Historic Environment Record.</p>
Long term preservation plan
<p>The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service, which is a certified repository with Core Trust Seal.</p>
Data repository and costs
<p>The digital archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth. Estimated cost for deposition with ADS have also been included in the project budget.</p>
Data sharing and accessibility
<p>A summary of the project will be provided for the museum and digital archive repositories once the work begins. Regular updates will be carried out to fit the emerging needs of the project. The documents expected for this project include a WSI and Evaluation Report, although this is dependent on the results of the fieldwork, which may warrant a Post Excavation Assessment, Updated Project Design and possibly Final Report.</p> <p>The final report is expected to be completed within 3 months of the completion of fieldwork. Should the work reveal significant archaeology and therefore, specialists are required during the post-ex process, then the report might take up to twelve months to be submitted</p> <p>A final version of the project report will be supplied to the Historic Environment Record along with any further data they request.</p>
DMP responsibility
<p>The Project Manager will be responsible for implementing the DMP</p> <p>Data capture, metadata production and data quality are the responsibility of the Project Team, assured by the Project Manager.</p>

Storage and backup of data in the field is the responsibility of the field team.

Once data is incorporated into the organisations project server, storage and backup is managed by the project manager

Data archiving is undertaken by the Archives Officer, who is responsible for the transfer of the Archaeological Project Archive to the agreed repository.

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