

**Bryn Hyfryd  
Carmarthen  
Carmarthenshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**



*for*  
**Lovell Partnerships Limited**


CA Project: 4125  
CA Report: 13377

June 2013

Bryn Hyfryd  
Carmarthen  
Carmarthenshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 4125  
CA Report: 13377

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Bryn Hyfryd  
**Location:** Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire  
**NGR:** SN 4185 1908  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 19-20 March and 3-4 April 2013  
**Planning Reference:** W/16134 and W/25937  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Carmarthenshire County Museum  
**Site Code:** BYY 13

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with residential development at Bryn Hyfryd, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire.

A possible post-medieval ditch was observed in the northern third of the site. This contained 17th – 18th century pottery and brick fragments and could be related to land management, drainage or division. The ditch also contained a residual Mesolithic microlith point. No further features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March and April 2013 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Lovell Partnerships Limited at Bryn Hyfryd, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire (centred on NGR: SN 4185 1908; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent granted by Carmarthenshire County Council for residential development (Planning ref: W/16134 and W/25937). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a recommendation from Zoe Bevans-Rice (Planning Archaeologist, Dyfed Archaeological Trust), the archaeological advisor to Carmarthenshire County Council, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2013) and approved by the LPA acting on the advice of Zoe Bevans-Rice. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The development area encloses an area of approximately 1.2ha, and comprises a single grassed field. The site is bordered to the north by housing and in all other directions by open fields (Fig. 2). The site lies at between approximately 11.8m and 12.3m AOD, undulating between these heights across the area before rising to the east. Groundworks were undertaken in two areas within the site (Fig. 2). Area 1, which was located in the southern part of the site, was rectangular in shape and measured approximately 520m<sup>2</sup>. Area 2 ran around the northern, eastern and southern periphery of the site and measured approximately 1320m<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as being Tetragraptus Beds of the Ordovician period (British Geological Survey 2013). No detail of superficial deposits was noted from the BGS data. The natural geological substrate comprising mid yellow grey clay with occasional patches of gravel was observed in all excavated areas.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.5 The following background information has been compiled from data held by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust, historic landscape assessments curated by Cadw and pre-existing archaeological work within the surrounding area.
- 1.6 The site lies at the border of the Historic Landscape Character Areas of Carmarthen and Croesyceilog – Cwmffrwd. In terms of dominant landscape influence, the site tends to conform to the trends of the Croesyceilog – Cwmffrwd HLC Area in comprising undulating open fields. Both areas have the potential to contain a range of archaeological assets, with Carmarthen itself being the site of a Roman settlement which has influenced phases of subsequent development.
- 1.7 Records from a Historic Environment Record search accord with this general summary. Pre medieval evidence on the HER is limited. The flint fabricator dated to the Bronze Age (recorded approximately 0.47km to the northeast) being the only record of this phase.
- 1.8 Medieval records are more prevalent with 14th century settlement noted to the northwest at Peynora (HER reference 10980), alongside a holy well at Pistyll Gynwr (HER reference 102351) and mill at Llangunnor to the northeast (HER reference 12758). Post medieval records mainly reflect 19th and 20th century activity, such as the dwelling at Mount Hill which lies to the west of the site (HER reference 23452) and Mount Pleasant (HER reference 8920) to the south. Of note is the feature at Parc Y Gwn (HER reference 196; 0.43km to the north) which has been subject to a range of interpretations including a Civil War ‘intrenchment’ and quarry.
- 1.9 The Roman Road (to the west of the site) has been subject to a series of modern archaeological interventions. During observations in 2003 evidence of a fragmented cobbled surface was located directly beneath materials identified as being of modern origin.

## **Archaeological objectives**

1.10 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

## **Methodology**

1.11 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2013). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising, topsoil stripping for a site compound and access road (Fig. 2).

1.12 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).

1.13 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Carmarthenshire County Museum, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## **2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)**

2.1 The natural geological substrate, 102 and 202, comprising mid yellow grey clay with occasional patches of gravel, was revealed at a typical depth of 0.45m below present ground level in both Areas 1 and 2. This was overlain by a grey brown silt clay subsoil (101 and 201) averaging 0.2m in thickness, which was in turn sealed by 0.2m of greyish brown silt clay topsoil (100 and 200). No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed within Area 1.

- 2.2 North-west/south-east aligned ditch 204/206 was identified in the north of Area 2. It measured up to 4.30 in width, had a maximum depth of 0.32m, and had an irregular asymmetric profile. Quantities of post-medieval ceramic building material, 17th to 18th-century pottery and a single piece of Mesolithic worked flint were recovered from the single fill, 205/203 of this ditch.

### **3. FINDS**

- 3.1 The small finds assemblage recovered is listed in Appendix B and came from the single fill of ditch 204/206. Dating in the post-medieval period is indicated by a single sherd of glazed earthenware pottery and a brick fragment. Fragments of slate and coal were also recovered from this fill along with a residual flint microlith. The microlith is made from good quality pale grey flint, and is broken along one edge. This is identifiable as an obliquely-blunted form, a tool type occurring throughout the Mesolithic period (10,000 – 4,000 BC) in Britain.

### **4. DISCUSSION**

- 4.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the development area the watching brief only identified a single post-medieval ditch 204/206 within the area of observed groundworks. The Mesolithic point indicates activity of this period in the vicinity. Due to the isolated nature and limited exposure of this ditch (cutting across the north-east of the development area) its exact function remains unclear, although it may relate to land management, drainage or division.
- 4.2 No further features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no further artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

### **5. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Rebecca Riley and Steven Sheldon. The report was written by Jamie Wright. The finds report was by Ed McSloy and the illustrations were prepared by Dan Bashford. The archive has been compiled by Jamie Wright, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.



## 6. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2012 Geology of Britain Viewer.  
[http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html) Accessed 25 May 2013

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Bryn Hyfryd, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*



**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grey brown sand clay			0.34	modern
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Light grey brown silt clay			0.12	
1	102	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid yellow grey clay with occasional patches of gravel.			>0.1	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey silt clay			0.2	modern
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Light brown silt clay			0.26	
2	202	Layer		Natural substrate	Mid yellow grey clay with occasional patches of gravel.			>0.1	
2	203	Fill	204	Fill	Dark grey brown silt clay	>18	3.44	0.31	
2	204	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE ditch	>18	3.44	0.31	
2	205	Fill	206	Fill	Dark grey brown silt clay	>18	4.30	0.32	
2	206	Cut		Ditch	NW/SE ditch	>18	4.30	0.32	

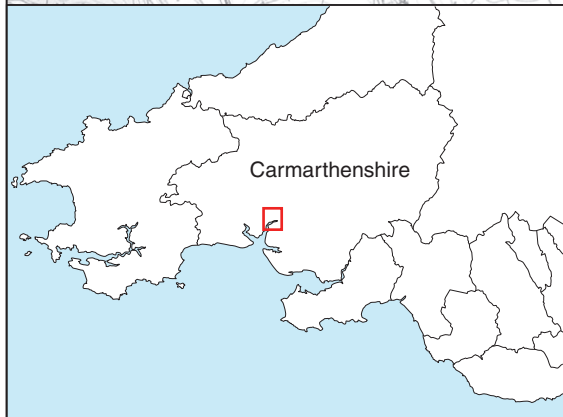
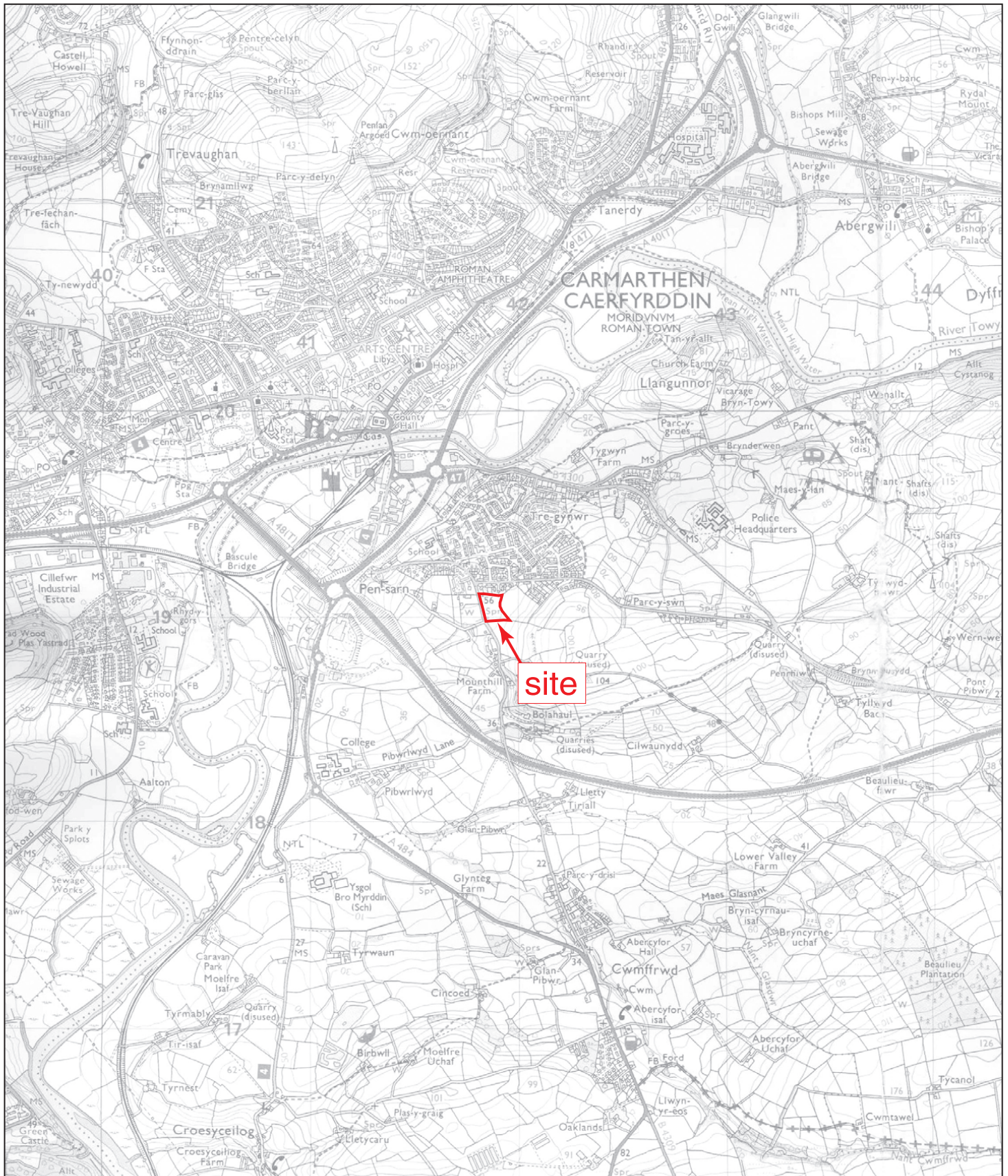
**APPENDIX B: THE FINDS**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Weight(g)</b>	<b>Spot-date</b>
203	Post-medieval pottery: North Devon gravel-free glazed earthenware	1	4	C17-C18
	Burnt slate	1	7	Meso
	Worked flint: microlith	1	<1	
	Coal	1	2	
205	Ceramic building material: brick	1	278	Pmed

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Bryn Hyfryd, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with residential development at Bryn Hyfryd, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>A possible post-medieval ditch was observed in the northern third of the site. This contained 17th – 18th century pottery and brick fragments and could be related to land management, drainage or division. The ditch also contained a residual Mesolithic microlith point. No further features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks.</p>	
Project dates	19-20 March and 3-4 April 2013	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Bryn Hyfryd, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	c. 1.2ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SN 4185 1908	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Dyfed Archaeological Trust	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Steven Sheldon and Rebecca Riley	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	Yes	
Paper	Yes	
Digital	Yes	Digital photographs-Yes
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 <i>Bryn Hyfryd, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>13377</b>		





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**PROJECT TITLE**

**Bryn Hyfryd, Carmarthen  
Carmarthenshire**

**FIGURE TITLE**

**Site location plan**

0 1km

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PROJECT NO. 4125 DATE 21-05-2013  
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FIGURE NO.

**1**





- site
- observed areas
- area of exposed natural clay
- archaeological feature



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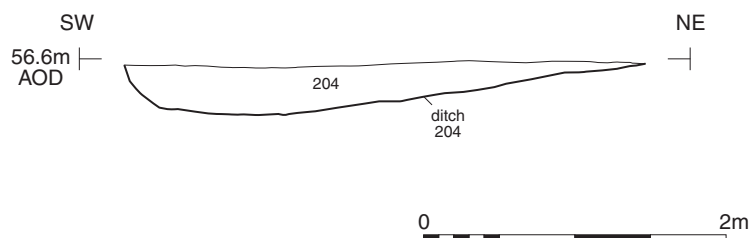
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PROJECT TITLE  
Bryn Hyfryd, Carmarthen  
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FIGURE TITLE  
The site, showing location of  
groundworks

PROJECT NO.	4125	DATE	21-06-2013	FIGURE NO.
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# Section AA



Ditch 204, looking north-west (scale 1m)



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## PROJECT TITLE

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## FIGURE TITLE

Section and photograph of ditch 204

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APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:50

FIGURE NO.

3