

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **Fenton Home Farm, Crundale, Haverfordwest**

Archaeological Watching Brief



By  
**Philip Poucher**

Report No. 1221




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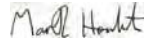
# *Archaeology Wales*

## **Fenton Home Farm, Crundale, Haverfordwest**

### Archaeological Watching Brief

Prepared For: Stephen Morgan

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Report No. 1221

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## Non – Technical Summary

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out during an initial topsoil strip ahead of the construction of an agricultural shed at Fenton Home Farm, Crundale, Haverfordwest (SM 9923 1743). The work was carried out by Archaeology Wales Ltd at the request of Stephen Morgan. The work was set as a condition of planning permission (Pembrokeshire County Council planning reference no. 12/0491/PA).*

*The groundworks revealed a relatively consistent deposit of dark brown peaty-loam topsoil up to 0.3m thick, overlying naturally occurring subsoils. One linear feature was recorded, which was interpreted as a former field boundary drainage ditch of relatively modern origins. No finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were noted within any of the recorded deposits revealed by the groundworks.*

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 In November 2013 Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) was commissioned by Stephen Morgan of Fenton Home Farm to undertake an archaeological watching brief during an initial topsoil strip associated with the construction of an agricultural shed to accommodate free range laying hens, with associated egg collection and packing facilities and feed bins, at Fenton Home Farm, Crundale, near Haverfordwest (NGR SM 9923 1743, Figures 1 & 2).
- 1.2 The requirements for an agreed scheme of archaeological investigation was placed as a condition on the planning permission for the development (planning application number 12/0491/PA) by Pembrokeshire County Council, on the advice of Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Planning Services (DAT-PS), in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority. This condition stated that:

*No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. This shall be in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Reason: To ensure the recording of any items of archaeological interest to accord with Policy 84 of the Joint Unitary Development Plan for Pembrokeshire (adopted 13 July 2006).*

- 1.3 After consultation with DAT-PS it was agreed that a three-stage approach should be adopted. Stage one comprised the removal of topsoil deposits under archaeological supervision. Stage two allowed for sample excavation of any identified archaeological features. This was to be followed by a period of consultation with DAT-PS and the developer prior to any further development works being undertaken. This consultation could have resulted in Stage 3 - full excavation of identified archaeological features if necessary.

- 1.4 An approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by AW in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IfA 1994, revised 2011) and was designed to provide an approved scheme of archaeological work to be implemented during the construction works (Appendix II).
- 1.5 The watching brief was undertaken in March 2014. The AW project number for the work is 2192.

## **2 Site Description**

- 2.1 The site itself lies just over 2.2km to the east of Crundale, near Haverfordwest in Pembrokeshire. It is situated at approximately 50m OD and is centred on SM 9923 1743.
- 2.2 The development area covers an area of approximately 86m by 31m and occupies the northwest corner of a pasture field to the east of Fenton Home Farm. There is a gradual slope to the south, which begins to get slightly steeper roughly halfway down the field. There is also a shallow, wide, channel that runs south-southeast down the centre of the field as the ground begins to get steeper. The field was, until recently, partially under a beet crop, and was being grazed, but is clearly regularly ploughed for arable agriculture. The field is bounded on all sides by hedgerows. A farm track runs immediately to the north of the field, and Fenton Brook lies to the south. There is a small fenced enclosure in the northwest corner, close to which lies a metal circular cattle feeder. The extent of the site being developed is indicated in Figure 3.
- 2.3 The underlying geology comprises Ashgill shales and Llandovery conglomerates overlain by freely draining slightly acid loamy soils.

## **3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 3.1 A short distance to the east, within the northeast corner of the same field, a recent archaeological study (Wessex 2013) identified a possible Iron Age defended enclosure, visible as a cropmark from aerial photographs. A subsequent geophysical survey (Poucher 2013) across this area, undertaken in association with an adjacent proposed development, confirmed the presence of this enclosure (Figure 4). This geophysical survey also extended across the area covered by the current proposed development. Although no discernable archaeological remains could be detected within the immediate area of the proposed development, due to its proximity to the enclosure, there is a potential for archaeological remains to survive below-ground, not detectable by the geophysical survey.
- 3.2 More recently, an archaeological evaluation (Poucher 2014) was undertaken of the area around the enclosure previously identified by the geophysical survey. It identified *in situ* remains of the main enclosure, internal features and an outer enclosure ditch, below the ploughsoil at depths of between 0.15m and 0.3m below

the current ground levels. These features did not extend into the area of development associated with the proposed agricultural shed.

## **4 Aims and Objectives**

4.1 The watching brief was undertaken:

- To allow a rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features uncovered during the proposed groundworks.
- To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself were not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

The main objective of the watching brief was to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

## **5 Methodology**

The methodology for the watching brief followed that set out in the approved WSI (Appendix II). This methodology proposed a staged approach. Stage one comprised a watching brief carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist during the initial removal of topsoil across the site. Stage two allowed for sample excavation of any identified archaeological features, followed by a period of consultation with DAT-PS and the developer prior to any further development works being undertaken. This consultation could have resulted in Stage 3 - full excavation of identified archaeological features if necessary.

In brief, stage one and stage two of this work included the following key elements:

### **5.1 *Watching Brief***

- 5.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the initial topsoil stripping across the whole proposed development area, to accommodate the agricultural shed, with egg collection and packing facilities and feed bins.
- 5.1.2 Groundworks were undertaken by a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket under archaeological observation.
- 5.1.3 The exposed deposits were subsequently recorded by detailed, measured, sketch drawings, high resolution digital photographs (using a 14MP camera) and written records using AW recording systems.
- 5.1.4 The on-site archaeological work was undertaken by Andrew Shobbrook (AW). Andrew also supervised the adjacent archaeological evaluation and was therefore very familiar with the appearance of archaeological remains and subsoil deposits in the area. The overall management of the project was undertaken by Philip Poucher.

- 5.1.5 All works were undertaken in accordance with the IfA's *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2011) and current Health and Safety legislation.

## **5.2 Finds**

- 5.2.1 No finds were recovered during the course of the works.

## **5.3 Palaeo-Environmental Evidence**

- 5.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered during the course of the excavation.

# **6 Watching Brief Results**

- 6.1 An area measuring approximately 86m north to south, by 31m east to west, was stripped by mechanical excavator, using a toothless bucket, under archaeological observation.
- 6.2 A consistent topsoil deposit (1000) of friable, dark-brown, silty-clay containing abundant small to medium sub-angular stone inclusions was revealed across the area. This deposit was between 0.25m and 0.35m thick and appears to represent well-ploughed topsoil, with the stone inclusions clearly deriving from disturbed underlying fragmented bedrock deposits. No finds were recovered from this deposit.
- 6.3 Underlying the topsoil was a subsoil deposit (1001) of compact, light orange-brown, sandy silty-clay with abundant small to medium, sub-angular stone inclusions. Towards the northern end of the area stripped, the deposit became light yellow in colour, although the composition remained the same. Patches of fragmented grey bedrock were revealed intermittently throughout the area.
- 6.4 Only one small feature (cut 1003) was noted cutting into this subsoil deposit (1001). This was an irregular, sub-circular, cut, 0.1m in diameter, with irregular sides and a pointed base, 0.08m deep. It contained a single fill (1002) of mid grey-brown silty-clay with the occasional charcoal fleck. This feature was fully excavated, a process which demonstrated that the infilling material extended into the surrounding subsoil deposit at an angle, indicating the feature was likely to be the result of root activity.
- 6.5 No finds, features or deposits of archaeological were noted within the stripped site area.



## **7 Conclusions**

- 7.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken in March 2014 during an initial topsoil strip ahead the proposed construction of an agricultural building at Fenton Home Farm, Crundale, near Haverfordwest. The site lies close to a probable Iron Age enclosure. This enclosure was the subject of an archaeological evaluation (Poucher 2014), which was carried immediately prior to the watching brief taking place. The archaeologist undertaking the watching brief had also been supervising the evaluation, and was therefore familiar with the site and the character of the sub-surface deposits.
- 7.2 The topsoil strip revealed a relatively uniform sequence of deposits across the site, consisting of a dark-brown, silty-clay, ploughsoil, up to 0.35m thick, overlying a naturally occurring, orange-brown and yellow, sandy, silty-clay subsoil with occasional fragmented bedrock exposures. Only one small sub-circular feature was recorded cutting into the natural subsoils, which excavation indicated was the result of root activity.
- 7.3 No finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were noted during the topsoil strip across the site area. The only feature to be revealed, that formed by root activity, was fully excavated. No further excavation was required at the site.
- 7.4 The work comprised Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Watching Brief as laid out in the agreed WSI, and it is concluded that there is no requirement for the Stage 3 works, the 'further excavation of identified features', to be carried out.



## 8 Sources

- Institute for Archaeologists 2011 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*
- Poucher, P 2013 *Fenton Home Farm, Crundale, Haverfordwest; Geophysical Survey* Archaeology Wales Report No.1170
- Poucher, P 2014 *Fenton Home Farm, Crundale, Haverfordwest; Archaeological Evaluation* Archaeology Wales Report No. 1219
- Wessex Archaeology 2013 *Fenton Farm, Crundale, Pembrokeshire; Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* Project No. 89230.02

### **Maps**

- Ordnance Survey 1889 *1<sup>st</sup> edition 1:2500 map, Pembrokeshire*
- Ordnance Survey 1907 *2<sup>nd</sup> edition 1:2500 map, Pembrokeshire*
- British Geological Survey 1994 *The Rocks of Wales: Geological Map of Wales 1:250 000*

### **Online resources**

- Bluesky. Infoterra Ltd & COWI A/S 2013 *Digital imagery*
- British Geological Survey 2014 online viewer  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014)

### **Databases**

- Regional Historic Environment Record (HER), held and maintained by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
- National Monuments Record (NMR), held and maintained by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales





Fig. 1: Site location, based on the Ordnance Survey 1:50000 map.

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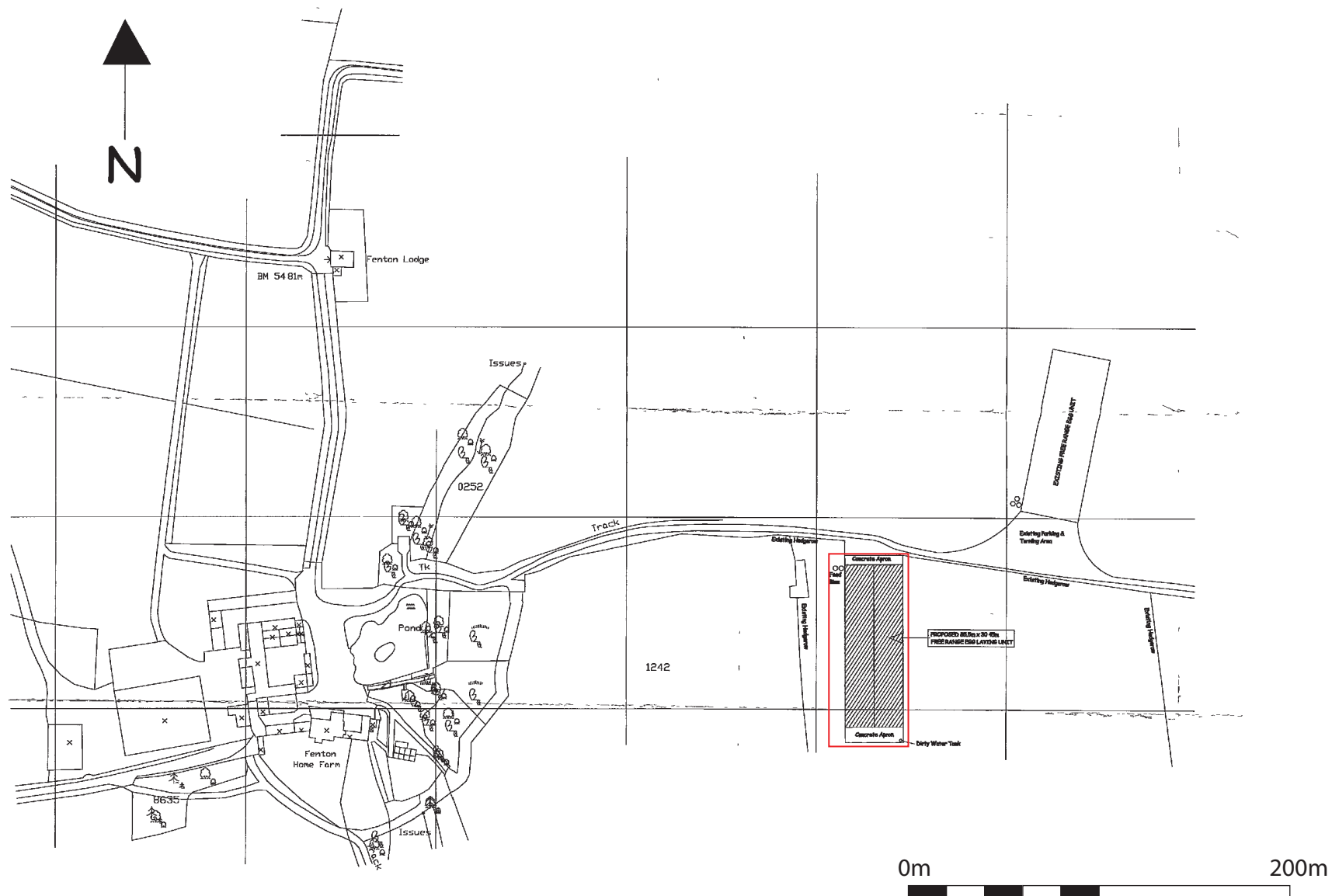


Fig. 2: Site location in relation to Fenton Home Farm. Original plan drawn by Ian Pick Associates (Dwg No. IP/SM/02)

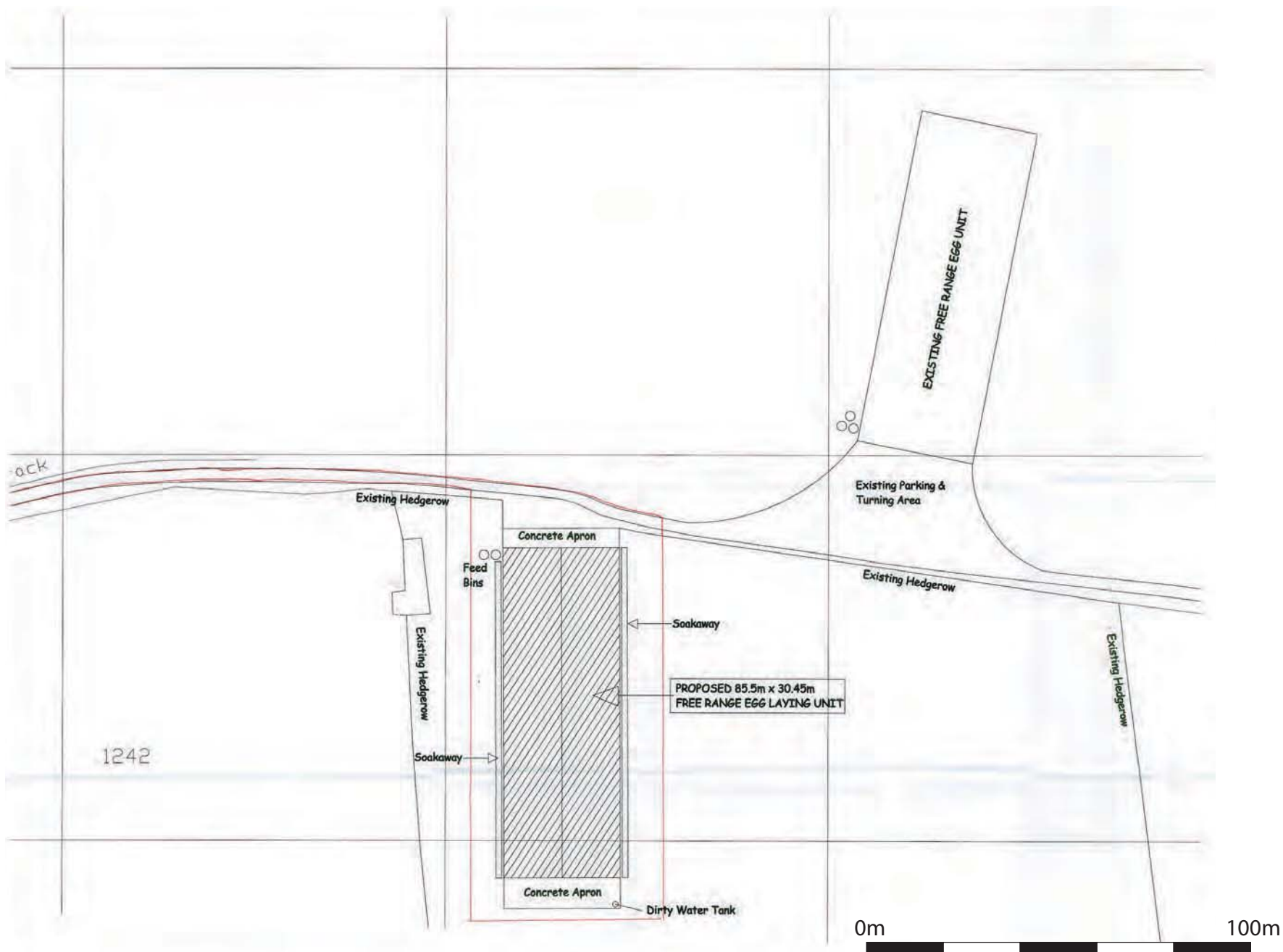
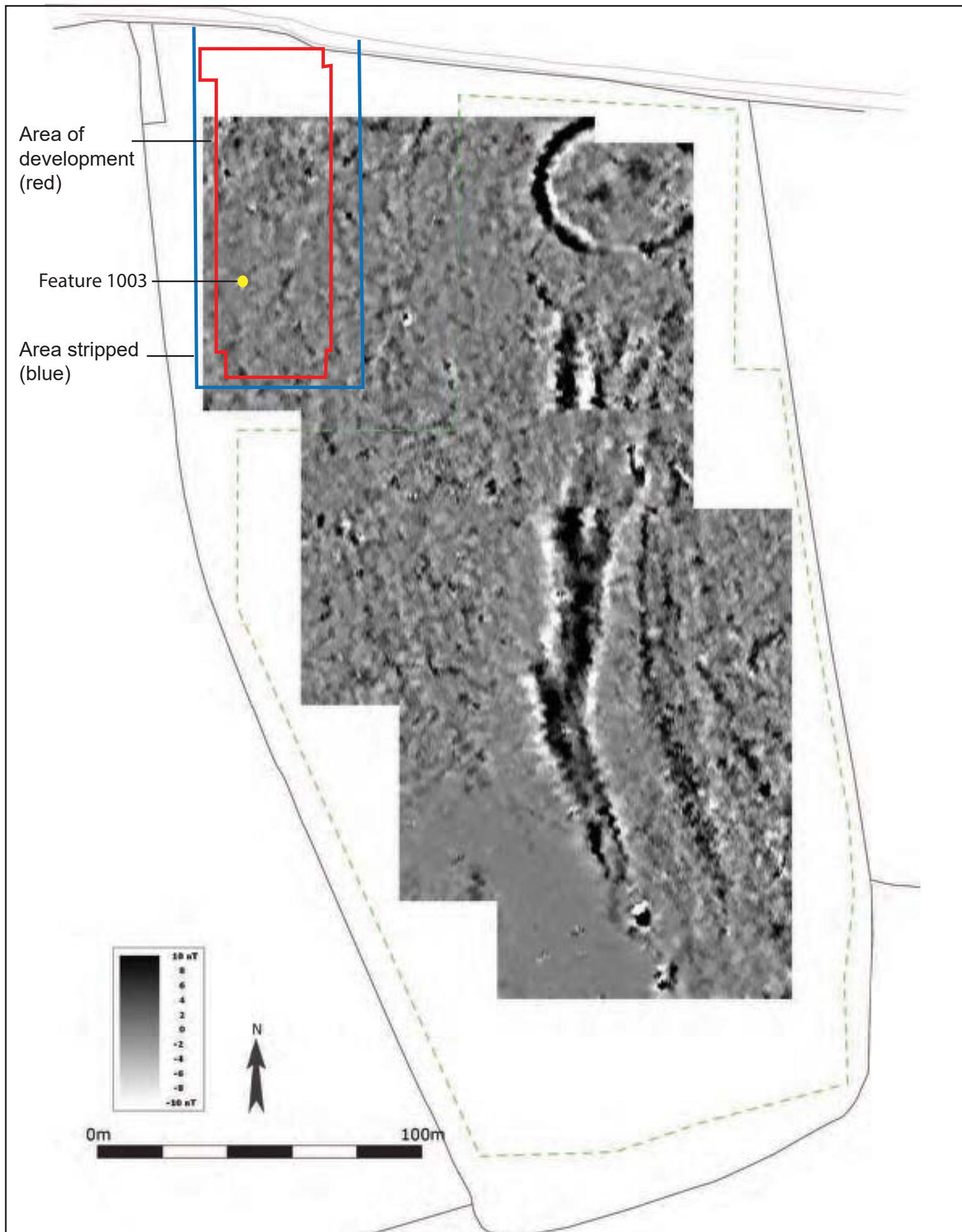


Fig. 3: Site location detail.  
Original plan drawn by Ian Pick Associates (Dwg No. IP/SM/02A)



**Fig. 4:** The area stripped of topsoil under archaeological supervision (in blue) overlaid on the results of the geophysical survey (Poucher 2013). Feature 1003 is marked in yellow.





Photo 1: View west across site area prior to topsoil strip commencing.



Photo 2: View south during topsoil strip





Photo 3: View northeast across partially stripped area with existing agricultural building (free-range chicken shed) in the background.



Photo 4: View northeast across the stripped area.





Photo 5: View north across the stripped area



Photo 6: View south across the stripped area.





Photo 7: View east of a typical section, unfortunately affected by the strong sunlight. 1m scale.



Photo 8: View east of the half-sectioned feature (1003), shown on excavation to be the result of root action.

# *Archaeology* *Wales*

## **APPENDIX I: Context Descriptions**

## Context Descriptions

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Dimensions (Length x width x thickness)
1000	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topsoil</li> <li>• Moderate, dark brown, silty-clay (loam) with abundant small - medium sub-angular stone inclusions</li> <li>• No finds</li> </ul>	86m x 31m (extends beyond investigated area), 0.25m – 0.35m thick
1001	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subsoil</li> <li>• Fairly compact, light orange-brown to light brown-yellow, sandy silty-clay with abundant small-medium, sub-angular stone inclusions.</li> <li>• No finds</li> </ul>	86m x 31m (extends beyond investigated area)
1002	Fill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fill of 1003</li> <li>• Moderate, mid grey-brown, silty-clay with rare small sub-angular stone and rare charcoal flecks.</li> <li>• No finds</li> </ul>	0.1m x 0.1m x 0.08m
1003	Cut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Root activity</li> <li>• Sub-circular in plan, irregular sides with a moderate break of slope on to a pointed base</li> <li>• Single fill (1002). Cuts subsoil 1001</li> </ul>	0.1m in diameter, 0.08m deep

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## **APPENDIX II: Written Scheme of Investigation**

# *Archaeology Wales*

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION  
FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**AT**

**Fenton Home Farm, Crundale,**

**Prepared for:**

Stephen Morgan

**3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013**

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## NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

*This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details the proposal for an archaeological Watching Brief during groundworks associated with the construction of an agricultural shed at Fenton Home Farm, Crundale, near Haverfordwest. The proposed scheme of works involves a three stage methodology. Stage one comprises the removal of topsoil deposits under archaeological supervision. Stage two allows for sample excavation - adequate time will be allowed to provide the supervising archaeologist time to clean and identify the extent and nature of any archaeological features and for excavation and recording to take place. This will be followed by a period of consultation with Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Planning Services and the Developer prior to any further development works being undertaken. This consultation may result in Stage 3 - full excavation of identified archaeological features if necessary. It has been prepared by Archaeology Wales Limited for Stephen Morgan.*

### 1. Introduction and archaeological background

The scope of the construction work to be undertaken at the site (NGR SM 9923 1743, Figure 1) includes the construction of an agricultural shed to accommodate free range laying hens, with associated egg collection and packing facilities and feed bins (Figure 2). The planning application number is 12/0491/PA and the planning authority is Pembrokeshire County Council.

This WSI has been prepared by Philip Poucher, Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of Stephen Morgan. It provides information on the methodology that will be employed by AW during an archaeological watching brief and sample excavation at the site.

The methodology set out in this WSI will be agreed with the planning services division of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust (henceforth - DAT-PS) prior to the commencement of groundworks due to be carried out on the site. An agreed scheme of archaeological investigation has been set as one of the conditions of the planning permission for the site, it states:

**No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. This shall be in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Reason: To ensure the recording of any items of archaeological interest to accord with Policy 84 of the Joint Unitary Development Plan for Pembrokeshire (adopted 13 July 2006).**

All work will be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Institute for Archaeologists (2011).



## 2. Site description and historic background

The development area covers an area of approximately 86m by 31m and occupies the northwest corner of a pasture field to the east of Fenton Home Farm, Crundale (SM 9923 1743, Figure 1). There is a gradual slope to the south which begins to get slightly steeper roughly halfway down the field. There is also a shallow wide channel that runs SSE down the centre of the field as the ground begins to get steeper. The field is currently partially under a beet crop, and is being grazed. The field is bounded on all sides by hedgerows. A farm track runs immediately to the north of the field, and Fenton Brook lies to the south. There is a small fenced enclosure in the northwest corner, close to which lies a metal circular cattle feeder.

A short distance to the east, within the northeast corner of the same field a recent archaeological study (Wessex 2013) identified a possible Iron Age defended enclosure, visible as a cropmark from aerial photographs. A subsequent geophysical survey (Poucher 2013) across this area, in association with an adjacent proposed development, confirmed the presence of this enclosure (Figure 3). This geophysical survey also extended across the area covered by the current proposed development. Although no discernable archaeological remains could be detected within the immediate area of the proposed development, due to its proximity to the enclosure there exists the potential for archaeological remains to survive below-ground, not detectable by the geophysical survey.

## 3 Site specific objectives

The aims of the watching brief, as defined by the IfA (2011) are:

- To allow a rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features that are uncovered during the proposed groundworks within the application area.
- To provide the opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief are not sufficient to support the treatment to a satisfactory or proper standard.

## 4 Watching Brief Methodology

### General

A three stage approach to the archaeological watching brief is proposed.

The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice.

All work will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist with relevant level membership of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and will follow the IfA Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (2011).

### Detailed

**Stage one:** A Watching Brief will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist during the initial removal of topsoil across the site. The mechanical excavation will be undertaken by a machine using a toothless ditching bucket wherever possible.

**Stage two:** Following the topsoil strip no further development will take place until the supervising archaeologist has had adequate time to clean and identify the extent and nature of any archaeological features and for sample excavation and recording to take place.

All archaeological deposits that are identified will be mapped, cleaned, recorded and sample excavated. The developer will provide a safe working area and sufficient time to record and excavate all features to the satisfaction of AW and DAT-PS. The sample excavation of identified features will not be compromised by the construction programme.

No further development will take place until sufficient time has been allowed for further consultation with DAT-PS and if required the opinion of specialists.

**Stage three:** Following such consultation, if deemed necessary recommendations for further archaeological study will be presented to the Developer, DAT-PS and the Local Planning Authority. The methodology and timescale of any additional archaeological work to fully investigate archaeological features will be presented and included in the Developers Programme, and an appropriate Written Scheme of Investigation will be produced detailing the methodology for full excavation on the site, to be agreed with DAT-PS prior to any further archaeological excavation or development on the site.

#### 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 and 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. The location of all features will also be recorded using a Topcon GTS725 total station.

Photographs will be taken in digital format, using a 14MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format. Should significant remains be identified that require excavation, photographs will also be taken in black and white and colour slide (35mm film).

The archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will have access to the AW metal detector and be trained in its use.

#### Artefacts

Archaeological artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be cleaned and labelled using an accession number, which will be obtained from the local museum. A single number sequence will be allocated to all finds. The artefacts will be stored appropriately until they are deposited with a suitable local museum.

All finds of gold and silver will be removed to a safe place and Natural Resources Wales, Cadw and the local coroner informed, within the guidelines of the Treasure Act 1996.

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

#### Human remains

In the event of burials or cremations being found all work will be halted in the area of the burials and their extent and nature established. The client, DAT-PS and the Ministry of Justice will be informed and a methodology of excavation agreed which will adhere to Ministry of Justice Guidelines.

#### Environmental and technological samples

Environmental samples will be taken where necessary when significant deposits are located. Technological samples will be taken where necessary when significant deposits are located.

#### Specialists

In the event of certain finds/features etc. being discovered, the site archaeologist may have to seek specialist opinion for assistance. Such specialists will be accessed either internally within AW itself or from an external source. A list of external specialists is given in the table below.

Type	Name	Tel No.
Flint	Dr Amelia Pannett	02920 899509
Animal bone	Jen Kitch	07739 093712
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall	01305 259751
Clay pipe	Hilary Major	01376 329316
Glass	Andy Richmond	01234 888800
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst	01759 368483
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy	01652 658261
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson	Bradford University
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby	01453 882851
Post Roman pottery	Mr Stephen Clarke	
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot	01388 772167
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling	University of Wales (Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham	01992 552256
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers	01443 233466

## 5 Post-Fieldwork Programme

### Conservation

After agreement with the client/landowner and DAT-PS arrangements will be made for the long term conservation and storage of all artefacts in an appropriate local or county museum.

### Archive

The site archive will be prepared in accordance with MAP 2, Appendix 3 (English Heritage 1991). It will comprise all the data recovered during the fieldwork and shall be quantified, ordered and indexed and will be internally consistent. The archive will be deposited with the finds in a suitable local museum.

### Reporting

The results of the watching brief will be submitted in an illustrated and bound report, which will include the following material:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the watching brief, all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- 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
- Statement of local, regional and national context of the remains
- 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.

### Monitoring

Any changes to the specification that the contractor may wish to make after approval will be communicated to DAT-PS for approval on behalf of the Planning Authority.

Representatives of DAT-PS will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the watching brief. DAT-PS will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during any potential post-excavation.

### Archive Format & Deposition

The full site archive will be deposited within one month of the completion of the client report.

The paper/drawing/digital archive will be deposited at the appropriate regional archival store with the finds will be deposited with the appropriate local museum. AW will agree the location and timing of the deposition of the archive before the contract commences.

The archive will include all site notes, finds, documents, drawings, photographs, digital

data and a copy of the final report and any prior draft versions. All of these items will be clearly quantified in tabular form in an 'archive deposition statement' located at the rear of the clients report, and their ultimate location and proposed date of deposition stated.

## **6 Resources and timetable**

### Standards

The watching brief will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice.

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidelines of the IFA.

### Staff

The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified AW staff.

### Equipment

The project will use existing AW equipment.

### Timetable of archaeological works

The watching brief will be undertaken at the convenience of the client.

### Insurance

AW is an affiliated member of the CBA, and holds Insurance through the CBA insurance service.

### Health and safety

All members of staff will adhere to the requirements of the *Health & Safety at Work Act*, 1974, and the Health and Safety Policy Statement of AW.

# *Archaeology Wales*



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