

# Land at Hill Crest, Wiston, Pembrokeshire, SA70 7SG

# Archaeological Evaluation



By

Richard Scott Jones (BA, MA, MCIfA)

October 2023

HRSWales Report No: 276

### Archaeological Evaluation

# Land at Hill Crest, Wiston, Pembrokeshire, SA70 7SG

#### By

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On behalf of:

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Date:

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HRSW Report No: 276



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#### Non Technical Summary

The following short report presents the results of a small archaeological evaluation on land immediately adjacent to the property known as Hill Crest, Wiston, Pembrokeshire SA70 7SG (NGR: SN 00098 16742)

This evaluation entailed the excavation by machine of three trenches, each approximately 10m in length x 1.6m in width in a field immediately east of the property known as Hill Crest, to help inform a planning application for a new garage/tractor shed and improvements to the main house.

The three evaluation trenches in the field east of Hill Crest revealed no archaeological finds or features of any significance and indeed no dateable finds or features whatsoever, There are probably several reasons for this, firstly, as modern aerial photos show, this field has been repeatedly ploughed over the decades and was also very likely also ploughed in the 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries as well. The tithe map and apportionment show the field as being enclosed in 1843 and describes the area as mountain pasture. Secondly, the top of the field, the area of the proposed development, marks the area where the topography of the land suddenly drops away to the south, the public road to the north running along the ridge of crest of the mountain, hence the name of the property Hill Crest. As such, the position of the Iron Age Defended Enclosure, on the north side of the hedge-line of the road, was also positioned on the crest of this hill, with the land to the south dropping fairly steeply to the south, making the possibility of any habitation or activity unlikely. This suggests that any activity associated with the defended enclosure would likely have been confined to the north, east and west rather than to the south. Thirdly, the complete absence of dateable finds recovered from the evaluation trenches can be explained by the fact that the property of Hill Crest wasn't built until 1958 and the closest farm is that of Merryborough which lies some 500m to the NW.

Given the complete lack of finds and features exposed within the evaluation trenches in the field adjacent to Hill Crest and the nature of the topography of the immediate landscape, the chances of any significant archaeology becoming exposed during any groundwork for the construction of the garage and other services is considered to be extremely slim. As such, given these results, any further archaeological work is not considered necessary at the site.

#### Crynodeb Annhechnegol

Mae'r adroddiad byr a ganlyn yn cyflwyno canlyniadau gwerthusiad archeolegol bach ar dir yn union gerllaw'r eiddo a elwir Hill Crest, Wiston, Sir Benfro SA70 7SG (NGR: SN 00098 16742).

Roedd y gwerthusiad hwn yn golygu cloddio tair ffos â pheiriant, pob un tua 10m o hyd x 1.6m o led mewn cae yn union i'r dwyrain o'r eiddo a elwir Hill Crest, i helpu i hysbysu cais cynllunio am garej/sied tractor newydd a gwelliannau i y prif dŷ.

Ni ddatgelodd y tair ffos werthuso yn y cae i'r dwyrain o Hill Crest unrhyw ddarganfyddiadau na nodweddion archeolegol o unrhyw arwyddocâd ac yn wir ni chafwyd unrhyw ddarganfyddiadau na nodweddion dyddiadwy o gwbl. aredig dros y degawdau ac roedd hefyd yn debygol iawn o gael ei aredig yn y 18fed – 19eg ganrif hefyd. Mae'r map degwm a'r rhaniad yn dangos bod y cae wedi'i amgáu ym 1843 ac yn disgrifio'r ardal fel tir pori mynydd. Yn ail, mae pen y cae, ardal y datblygiad arfaethedig, yn nodi'r ardal lle mae topograffi'r tir yn disgyn yn

sydyn i'r de, y ffordd gyhoeddus i'r gogledd yn rhedeg ar hyd crib crib y mynydd, a dyna pam yr enw. o'r eiddo Hill Crest. O'r herwydd, roedd lleoliad y Lloc Amddiffynnol o'r Oes Haearn, ar ochr ogleddol clawdd y ffordd, hefyd wedi'i leoli ar gopa'r bryn hwn, gyda'r tir i'r de yn disgyn yn weddol serth i'r de, gan wneud y posibilrwydd o unrhyw drigfan neu weithgaredd yn annhebygol. Mae hyn yn awgrymu y byddai unrhyw weithgaredd sy'n gysylltiedig â'r clostir amddiffynedig yn debygol o fod wedi'i gyfyngu i'r gogledd, dwyrain a'r gorllewin yn hytrach nag i'r de. Yn drydydd, mae'r ffaith na chafodd eiddo Hill Crest ei adeiladu tan 1958 a'r fferm agosaf yw Merryborough sydd tua 500m i'r gogledd orllewin yw esbonio'r diffyg llwyr o ddarganfyddiadau y gellir eu dyddio o'r ffosydd gwerthuso.

O ystyried y diffyg llwyr o ddarganfyddiadau a nodweddion a amlygwyd yn y ffosydd gwerthuso yn y cae gerllaw Hill Crest a natur topograffi'r dirwedd gyfagos, mae'n debygol y bydd unrhyw archeoleg arwyddocaol yn dod i'r amlwg yn ystod unrhyw waith sylfaen ar gyfer adeiladu'r garej ac eraill. ystyrir bod gwasanaethau yn hynod denau. Felly, o ystyried y canlyniadau hyn, ni ystyrir bod angen unrhyw waith archeolegol pellach ar y safle.

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The following short report presents the results of a small archaeological evaluation on land immediately adjacent to the property known as Hill Crest, Wiston, Pembrokeshire SA70 7SG (NGR: SN 00098 16742)
- 1.2 This evaluation entailed the excavation by machine of three trenches, each approximately 10m in length x 1.6m in width in a field immediately east of the property known as Hill Crest, to help inform a planning application for a new garage/tractor shed and improvements to the main house.
- 1.3 The Technical Appendices for this report contains the following information:

Appendix I: Figures;

Appendix II: Photographs

Appendix III: Context Register

Appendix IV: Archive Cover Sheet

#### **Site Location & Description** (see Figures 1 - 4)

- 1.4 The proposed application site lies approximately 3.5km east of Haverfordwest and 2.5km southwest of the village of Wiston in the county of Pembrokeshire (NGR: SN 00098 16742). The property of Hill Crest is positioned on the south side of a minor road that links the main A40 road with the village of Wiston. The property is set within a rural area alongside a field at a height of approximately 50m AOD.
- 1.5 The application is for alterations and extension to the dwelling and change of use of part of the adjacent field for the erection of garage/tractor shed, and incidental parking/turning areas. This is located just to the south (within 40m) of an Iron Age defended enclosure (PRN 35768) identified as a crop-mark through aerial photography. As such it has been considered that there is the potential for the proposed development to damage or destroy significant archaeological deposits associated with this feature.
- The property of Hill Crest is a modern late 1950s single storey building with a garden to the rear and front. The field in which the proposed garage/tractor shed is to be erected is enclosed by a hedge and bank and slopes from 50m to 5m whereupon it reaches a small stream that adjoins the watercourse known as Millin Brook.

#### **Development Proposals**

1.7 Proposed extensions to front and rear of existing single storey dwelling to improve living accommodation and change of use of part of adjacent field for erection of garage / tractor shed, and incidental parking / turning areas. Re-location of existing field gate. New boundary hedges incorporating post and wire stock fencing.

#### **Planning Background**

1.8 On the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023 an application was submitted to the Pembrokeshire County Council for the proposed alterations and extension to the dwelling and change of use of part of the adjacent field for the erection of garage/tractor shed, and incidental parking/turning areas. In view of the fact that the

proposed development lies immediately adjacent (within 40m) to an Iron Age defended enclosure (PRN 35768) identified as a crop-mark through aerial photography, the Development Management section of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust (henceforth DAT-DM) considered there to be potential for the proposed development to damage or destroy significant archaeological deposits associated with this feature.

- 1.9 Accordingly, DAT-DM recommend that an *archaeological evaluation* was required, with the resulting report supplied prior to the determination of the planning application and the results used to inform the need, if any, for further mitigation.
- 1.10 A project specification was submitted to and approved by DAT-DM on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023.
- 1.11 HRS Wales were commissioned by Mr and Mrs Bennett of Hill Crest to undertake the archaeological work. This was undertaken on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

#### 2 Proposed Archaeological Works and Mitigation

- 2.1 In accordance with Planning Policy Wales, Edition 11- February 2021 Chapter 6 Distinctive and Natural Places, DAT Development Management section recommended that the results of an intrusive archaeological field evaluation of the proposed development area is required in order that the Members of the Authority are fully informed about the affect of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.
- 2.2 The purpose of the field evaluation was to gain information about the archaeological resource within the given area or site (including presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following:
  - the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource.
  - the formulation of a strategy to initiate a threat to the archaeological resource.
  - the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.

- 2.3 The resulting report provides information which is sufficiently detailed to protect archaeological interests and allow informed decisions to be made when working toward the eventual groundwork for the proposed development.
- 2.4 The field evaluation provides a predictive model of surviving archaeological deposits detailing zones of relative importance against known development proposals.
- 2.5 The archaeological field evaluation determined, as far as it is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource within the specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These satisfy the stated aims of the projects, and comply with the Code of Conduct, Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology, and other relevant by-laws of the CIfA.
- 2.6 Prior to groundwork, all on-site constraints were identified, including the siting of live services, Tree Preservation Orders, public footpaths and all other environmental constraints that could be adversely affected by the archaeological work.
- 2.7 In total, three trenches, each approx. 10m by 1.5m, were excavated, two within the footprint of the proposed garage/tractor shed, and the other in the area immediately north of the proposed garage/tractor shed within the area of the proposed parking and access track. These trenches were carefully positioned to provide maximum information with minimum disturbance to archaeological deposits (see Figure 5 in Appendix I)
- 2.8 With regard to the proposed small extensions to the house front and rear, both these extensions were considered to be too close to the existing house to position an evaluation trench, for which the ground in these areas has already been heavily disturbed during earlier construction of the existing house of Hill Crest in 1958. As such, all evaluation trenches were focused on the area to the east within the adjacent field.

### 3 Historical & Archaeological Background

3.1 As part of a large survey of Iron Age defended enclosures within Wales as a whole, the Dyfed Archaeological Trust undertook a survey of Pembrokeshire in 2006. As part of this survey, the defended enclosure (PRN 35768) at Hill Crest was identified from aerial photographs, which show a crop-marked ditch defining an oval area c.53m E-W and 42m N-S - a defended enclosure. There is no obvious entrance. The enclosure is located on a gentle south-facing slope at 60m above sea level. There is no earthwork or other surface evidence for this site. In 2006, the site was under improved pasture.

#### 4 Cartographic Sources (Figures 6 - 9)

Tithe Map and Apportionment Details for Wiston Parish (1843)

4.1 Given that the dwelling of Hill Crest was not constructed until 1958, the area of the proposed development is shown on the Tithe map of Wiston parish as being an enclosed field only with the existing public road also in existence at this time. The field (1078) in which Hill Crest is positioned was known as 'The Mountain' and was used in 1843 as pasture land. The field (1079) to the east, the area of the proposed new garage, is marked as 'Middle Mountain' and was also used as pasture. Both fields

were once part of the Merryborough estate, an existing farm to the NW. This farm was owned by the Honourable Robert Fulkes Greville who tenanted the fields out to one Joseph Tombs.

OS First Edition Map (1887/1888)

- 4.2 The OS First edition map of 1887 shows much the same story as the Tithe Map of 1843, given that Hill Crest wasn't built until 1958.
  - OS Second Edition Map (1906)
- 4.3 The OS Second edition map of 1906 shows much the same story as the first edition map of 1887, given that Hill Crest wasn't built until 1958.
  - OS 1953 Edition Map)
- 4.4 The OS 1953 edition map again shows much the same story as the earlier edition map, given that Hill Crest wasn't built until 1958.
- 4.5 Aerial Photos (see Figure 10)
- 4.6 The Iron Age Defended Enclosure (NPRN309513) immediately NE of Hill Crest, was first identified as a cropmark by Chris Musson of the RCAHMW in 1996 and is shown in an oblique slide as an oval ditched enclosure north-east of Hill Crest measuring 54m E-W by 44m, and is set on ground falling to the south, having a south facing entrance.
- **5** Results of Evaluation (see Photos 01 20)
- 5.1 All numbers in ( ) refer to contexts encountered during the excavation.

#### Trench 1

5.2 Trench 1 (TP1) was positioned within the footprint of the proposed garage/tractor shed on the western side. It measured 10m in length x 1.6m in width and was orientated N-S. At the time of the evaluation it was clear to see that the field had recently been ploughed and a grass crop was evident on the surface. Once this grass crop turf had been removed (100), a fairly loose mid brown/orange soil became exposed (101) across the length of the trench. This exposed soil deposit was inspected and no finds or features became evident. This soil deposit was then removed across the length of the trench and averaged a depth of approximately 0.20m – 0.30m. Directly below this soil was a natural shale shingle deposit (102). This exposed natural deposit was walked over and inspected for finds and features. None were identified. Following a further scrape of this natural deposit, it was concluded that no further excavation was required.

#### Trench 2

5.3 Trench 2 (TP2) was again positioned within the footprint of the proposed garage/tractor shed on the eastern side, running parallel with Trench 1 and some 4m east. As with Trench 1, this trench also measured 10m in length x 1.6m in width and was orientated N-S. Once the grass crop turf had been removed (200), a fairly loose mid brown/orange soil became exposed (201) across the length of the trench. This exposed soil deposit was inspected and no finds or features became evident. This soil deposit was then removed across the length of the trench and averaged a depth of approximately

0.20m – 0.30m. Directly below this soil was a natural shale shingle deposit (202). This exposed natural deposit was walked over and inspected for finds and features. None were identified. Following a further scrape of this natural deposit, it was concluded that no further excavation was required.

#### Trench 3

5.4 Trench 3 (TP3) was positioned north of Trenches 1 and 2, within the area of the proposed driveway and parking area. As with Trenches 1 and 2, this trench also measured 10m in length x 1.6m in width and was orientated E-W. Once the grass crop turf had been removed (300), the same fairly loose mid brown/orange soil became exposed (301) across the length of the trench. This exposed soil deposit was inspected and no finds or features became evident. This soil deposit was then removed across the length of the trench and averaged a depth of approximately 0.20m – 0.30m. Directly below this soil was the same natural shale shingle deposit (302) already exposed in Trenches 1 and 2. This exposed natural deposit was walked over and inspected for finds and feature, such as post-holes and ditches etc. None were identified. Following a further scrape of this natural deposit, it was concluded that no further excavation was required.

#### 6 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 6.1 The three evaluation trenches in the field east of Hill Crest revealed no archaeological finds or features of any significance and indeed no dateable finds or features whatsoever, There are probably several reasons for this, firstly, as modern aerial photos show, this field has been repeatedly ploughed over the decades and was also very likely also ploughed in the 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries as well. The tithe map and apportionment show the field as being enclosed in 1843 and describes the area as mountain pasture. Secondly, the top of the field, the area of the proposed development, marks the area where the topography of the land suddenly drops away to the south, the public road to the north running along the ridge of crest of the mountain, hence the name of the property Hill Crest. As such, the position of the Iron Age Defended Enclosure, on the north side of the hedge-line of the road, was also positioned on the crest of this hill, with the land to the south dropping fairly steeply to the south, making the possibility of any habitation or activity unlikely. This suggests that any activity associated with the defended enclosure would likely have been confined to the north, east and west rather than to the south. Thirdly, the complete absence of dateable finds recovered from the evaluation trenches can be explained by the fact that the property of Hill Crest wasn't built until 1958 and the closest farm is that of Merryborough which lies some 500m to the NW.
- 6.2 Given the complete lack of finds and features exposed within the evaluation trenches in the field adjacent to Hill Crest and the nature of the topography of the immediate landscape, the chances of any significant archaeology becoming exposed during any groundwork for the construction of the garage and other services is considered to be extremely slim. As such, given these results, any further archaeological work is not considered necessary at the site.

#### 7 Acknowledgements

Thanks to Mr and Mrs Bennett for their help during the groundwork at the site.

### 8 Bibliography

MURPHY,K; RAMSEY,R; POUCHER,P; PAGE,M. 2007. A Survey of Defended Enclosures in Pembrokeshire, 2006-2007: Gazetteer of Ordnance Survey Grid Square SN01 – DAT Report No, 2007/1 / Project Record No. 54269

#### Cartographic Sources

- Tithe Map and Apportionment details for Wiston Parish (1843)
- Ordnance Survey First Edition Map (1887/88)
- Ordnance Survey Second Edition Map (1906)
- Ordnance Survey 1953 Edition Map

#### Aerial Photos

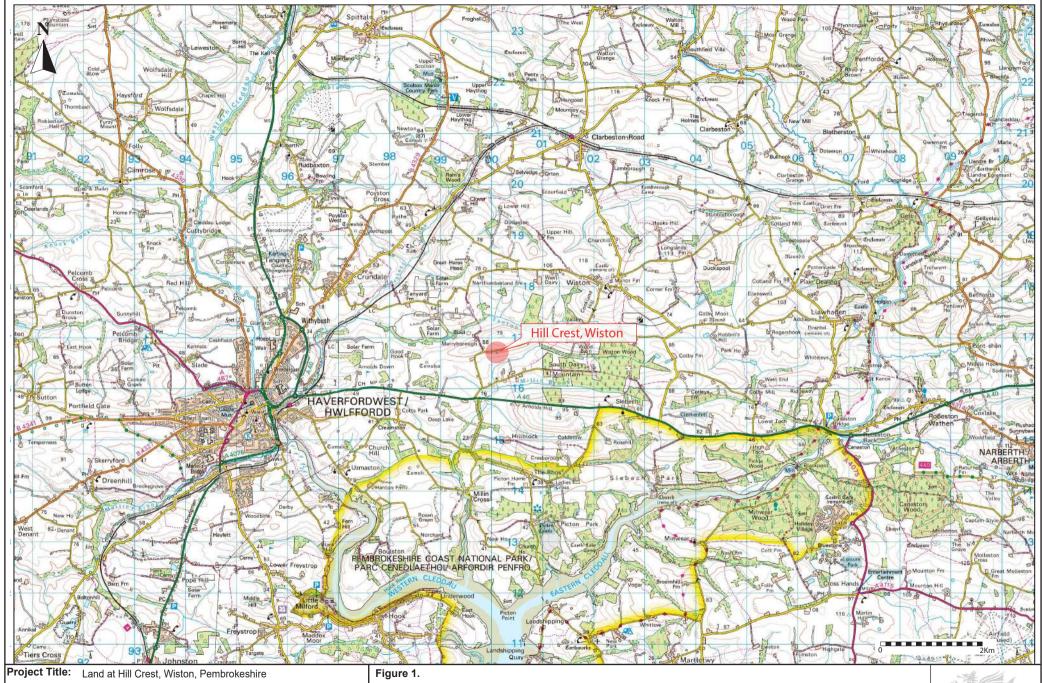
RCAHMW AP965115/55

#### Other References

Soils of England and Wales 1983. Sheet 2: Wales, 1:25000

# **APPENDIX I:**

**Figures** 

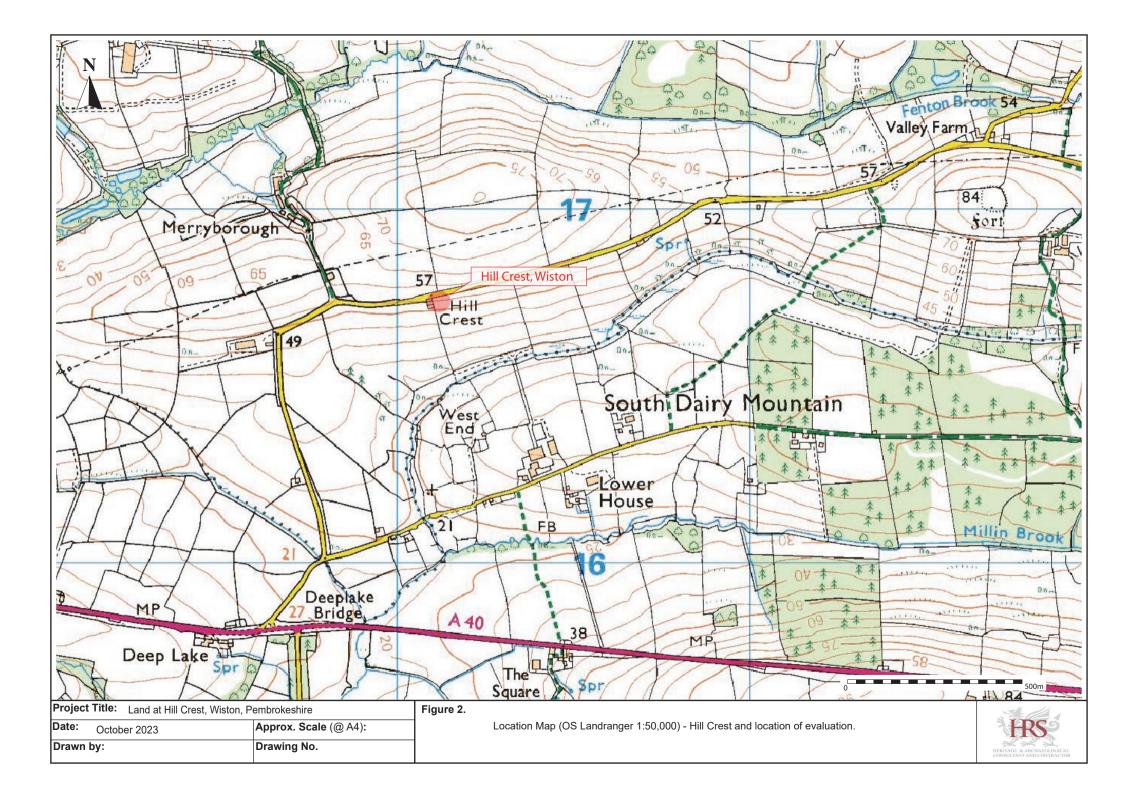


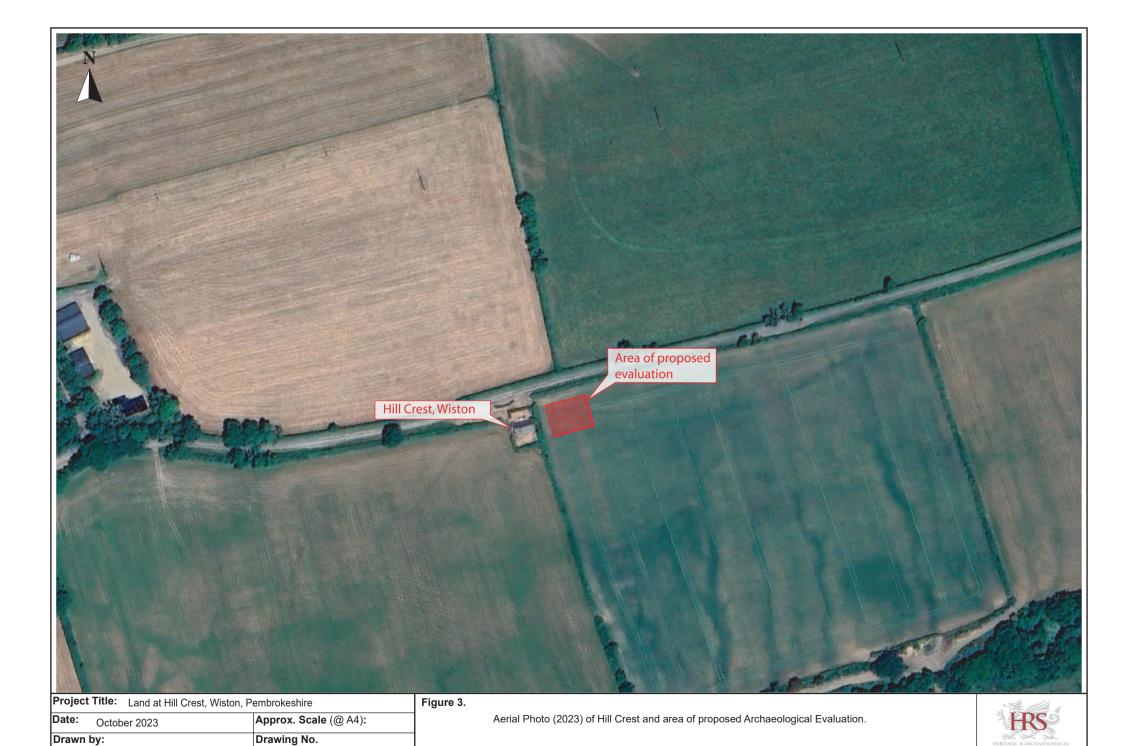
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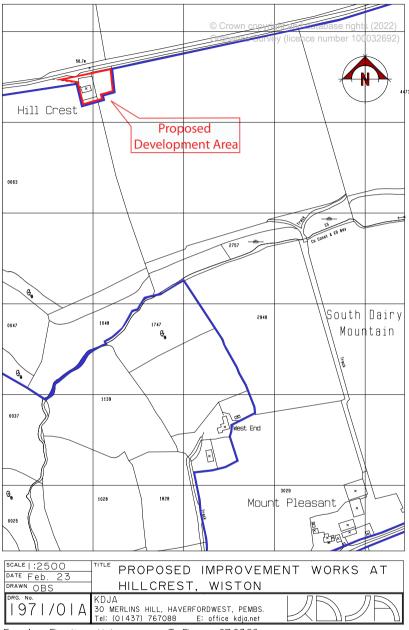
Drawn by: Drawing No.

Location Map (OS Landranger 1:50,000)







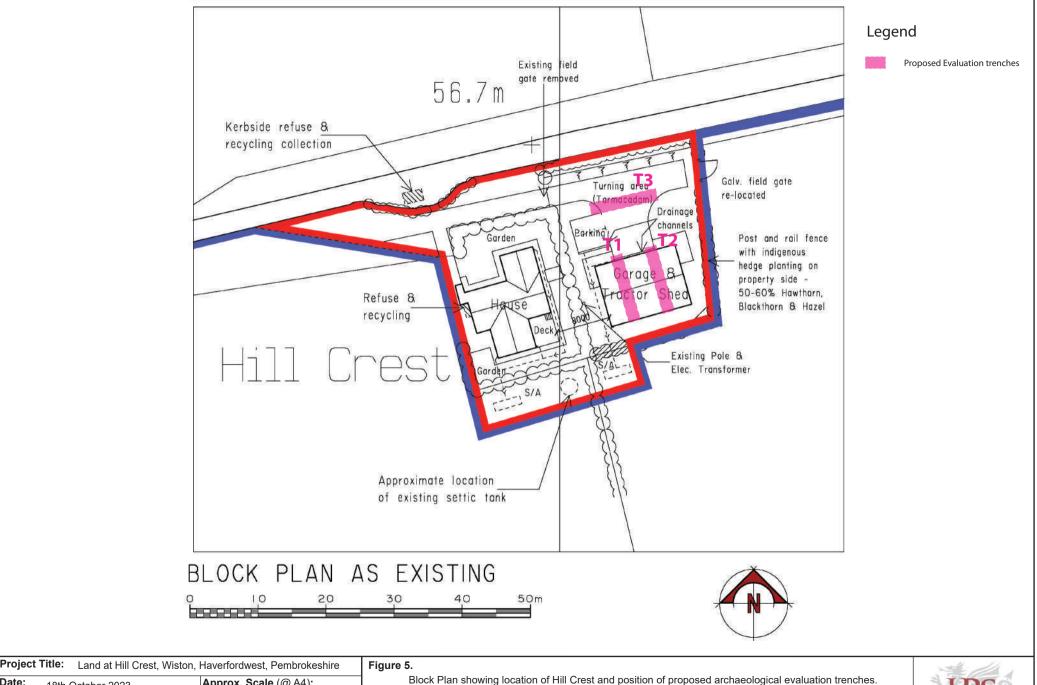


Rev. A - Blue line added to request T. Planner. 07.09.23

Project Title: Land at Hill Crest, Wiston, P	embrokeshire	Figure 4.
Date: October 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):	
Drawn by:	Drawing No.	

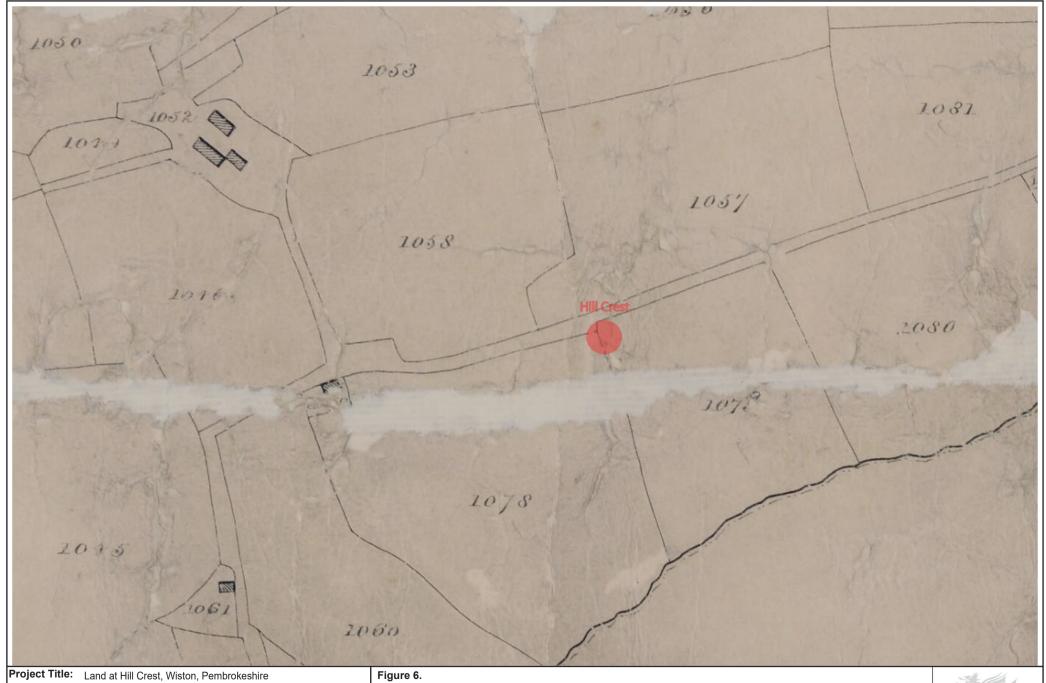
Block Plan showing location of Hill Crest and proposed improvement works.





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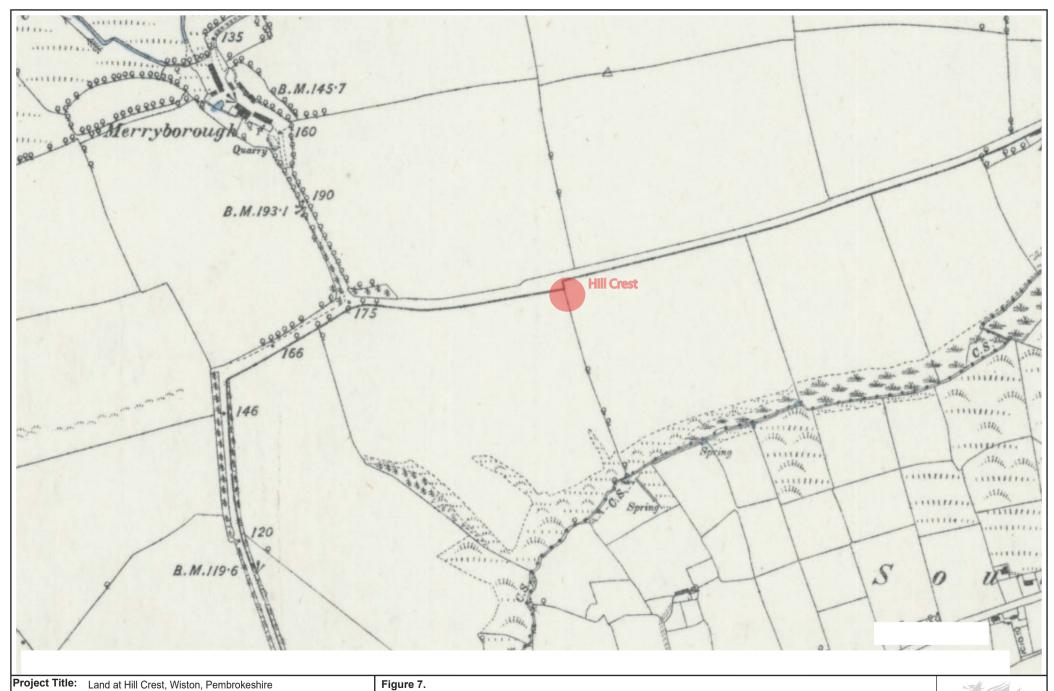
Date: October 2023

Drawn by:

Drawing No.

Tithe Map (1843) for Wiston Parish showing position of Hill Crest.

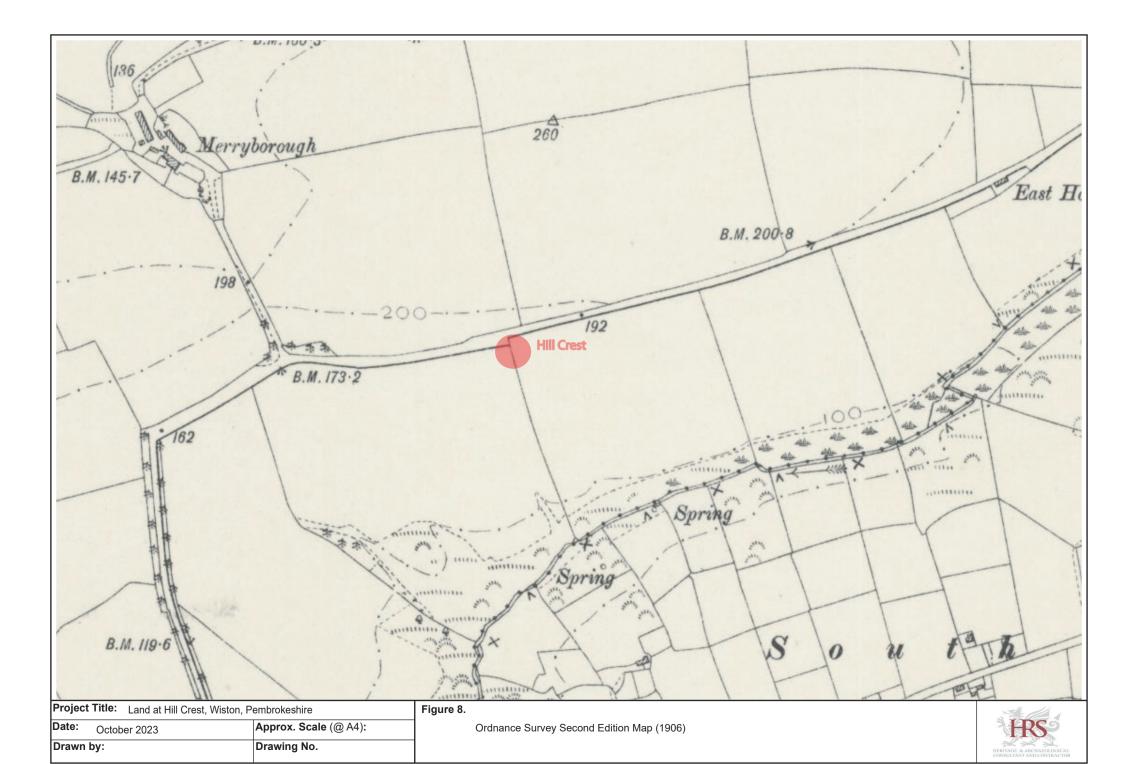




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Date:	Octob	er 2023		Approx. Scale (@ A4):
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Ordnance Survey First Edition Map (1887)





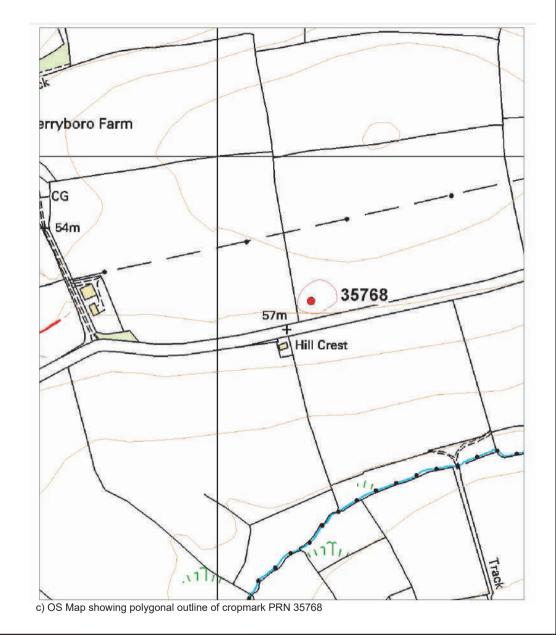




a) Aerial view of cropmark

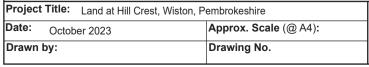


b) View of cropmark area in field. Looking NE.

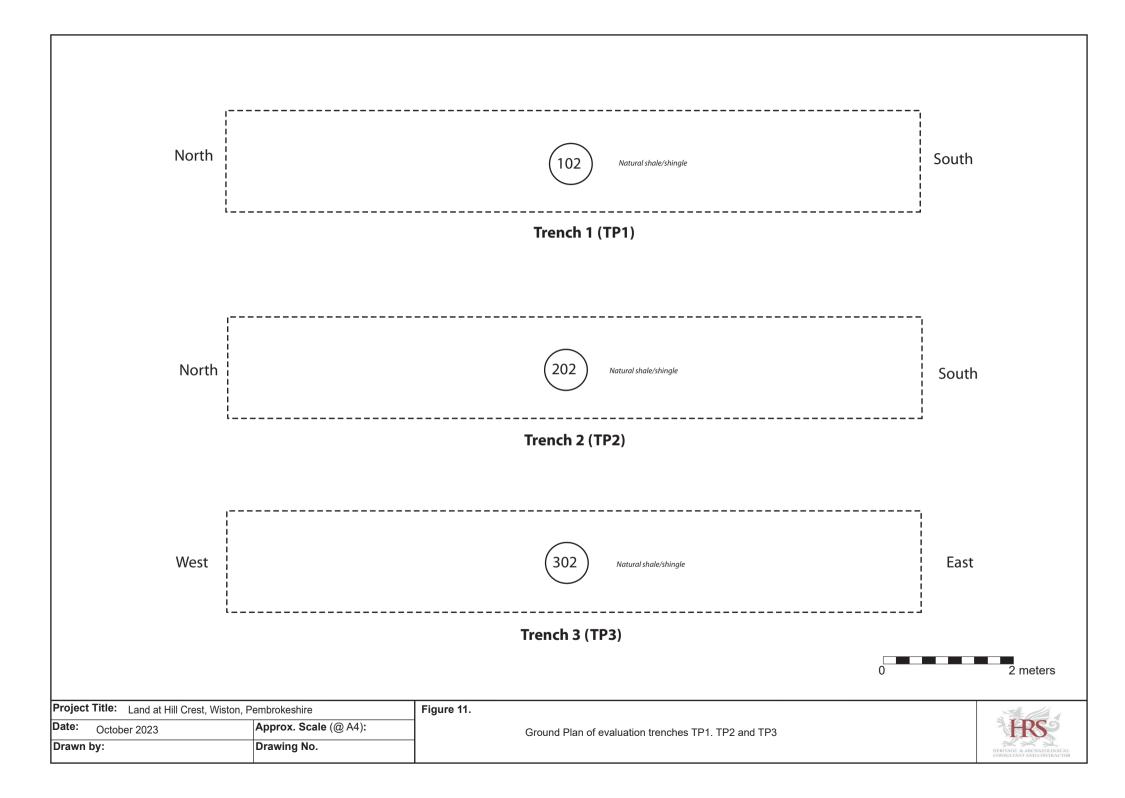


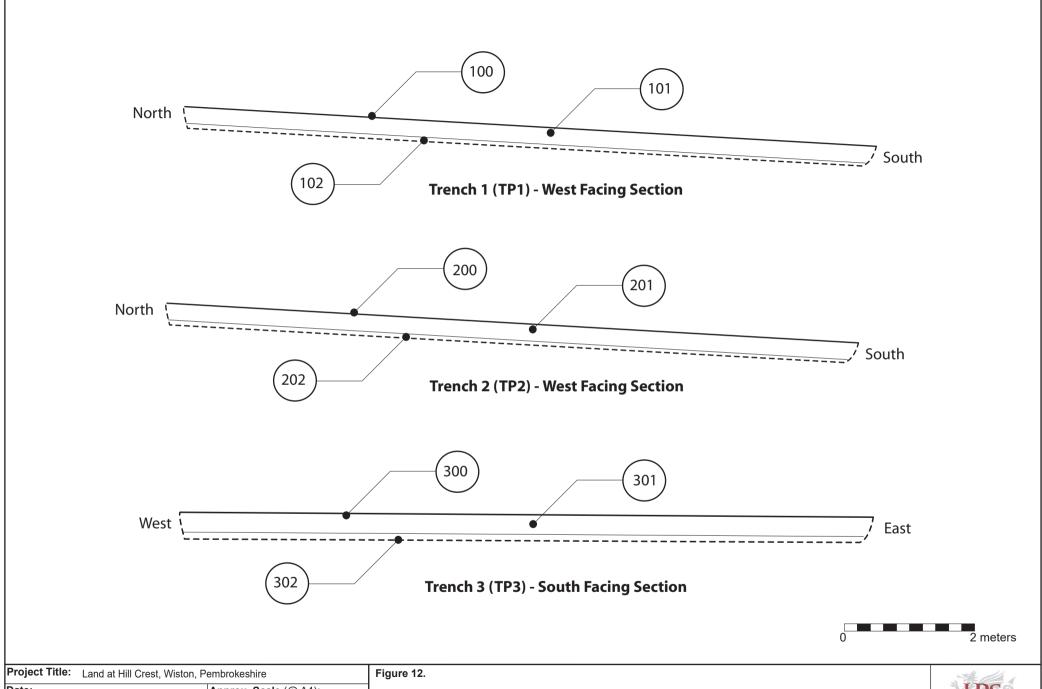
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Photos and map from 2006-2007 DAT Survey of Defended Enclosures of Pembrokeshire - Grid square SN01









Project	Title: Land at Hill Crest, Wisto	on, Pembrokeshire
Date:	October 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):
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Typical sections within evaluation trenches TP1 - TP3



# **APPENDIX II:**

**Photo plates** 



Plate 01. View of property of Hill Crest on south side of public road. Looking E.



Plate 02. View of property of Hill Crest on south side of public road. Looking E.

Project Title: Land at Hill Crest, Wiston, Pemb	rokeshire	Photo Plates
Date Taken: Sept 2022	Approx. Scale (@ A4):	0
Appropriated by:	Drawing No.	





Plate 03. View of entrance gate into field at the side of Hill Crest on southern side of road. Looking E.



Plate 04. View looking toward Hill Crest from the east. Looking W.

Project Title:			F
Land a	t Hill Crest, Wiston, Pembi	rokeshire	ľ
Date Taken:	Sept 2022	Approx. Scale (@ A4):	
Appropriated	by:	Drawing No.	







Plate 05. View of area of proposed new garage/tractor shed in field adjacent to house. Looking N.



Plate 05. View of area of proposed new garage/tractor shed in field adjacent to house. Looking S.

Appropriated by:	RSJ	Drawing No.	
Date Taken:	12th October 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):	
Project Title:	Land at Hill Crest, Wiston, Pembrokeshire		F







Plate 07. Working shot during cutting of Trench 1. Looking S.



Plate 08. Working shot during cutting of Trench 1. Looking S.

Project Title:		Photo Plates
Land at Hill Crest, Wiston, P	embrokeshire	1
Date Taken: 12th October 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):	0
Appropriated by:	Drawing No.	





Plate 09. Completed evaluation Trench 1. Looking S.



Plate 10. Completed evaluation Trench 1. Looking N.

Project Title: Land at Hill Crest, Wiston, Pem	brokeshire	Photo Plates
Date Taken: 12th October 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):	j c
Appropriated by:	Drawing No.	





Plate 11. Typical section in Trench 1. Looking W.



Plate 12. Working shot during cutting of evaluation Trench 2. Looking S.

Project Title: Land a	at Hill Crest, Wiston, Pen	nbrokeshire	Photo Plates
Date Taken:	12th October 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):	1
Appropriated	by:	Drawing No.	





Plate 13. Completed evaluation Trench 2. Looking S



Plate 14. Completed evaluation Trench 2. Looking N.

Project Title: Land at Hill Crest, Wiston, Pembrokeshire		Photo Plates
Date Taken: 12th October 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):	1
Appropriated by:	Drawing No.	





Plate 15. Typical section in Trench 2. Looking E.



Plate 16. Working shot during cutting of Trench 3. Looking E.

Project Title: Land at Hill Crest, Wiston, Pembrokeshire		Photo Plates	
Date Taken:	12th October 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):	1
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Plate 17. Completed evaluation Trench 3. Looking E.



Plate 18. Completed evaluation Trench 3. Looking W.

Project Title: Land at Hill Crest, Wiston, Pem	brokeshire	Photo Plates
Date Taken: 12th October 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):	1
Appropriated by:	Drawing No.	





Plate 19. Typical section in evaluation Trench 3. Looking N.



Plate 20. Completed evaluation Trenches 1. 2 and 3. Looking SE.

Project Title: Land at Hill Crest, Wiston, Pembrokeshire		Photo Plates
Date Taken: 12th October 2023	Approx. Scale (@ A4):	1
Appropriated by:	Drawing No.	



# **APPENDIX III:**

**Context Register** 

# **Appendix III**

# **Context Register**

### Trench 1 (TP1)

Depth – approx.0.35m Dimensions – 10m x 1.6m

#### **Contexts**

100. Deposit - Turf to depth of 0.05m

101 Deposit - Mid brown/Orange soil to depth of 0.30m

102. Natural Deposit – Shale shingle/rab

#### Trench 2 (TP2)

Depth – approx.0.35m Dimensions – 10m x 1.6m

#### **Contexts**

200. Deposit - Turf to depth of 0.05m

201 Deposit - Mid brown/Orange soil to depth of 0.30m

202. Natural Deposit - Shale shingle/rab

#### Trench 3 (TP3)

Depth – approx.0.35m Dimensions – 10m x 1.6m

#### **Contexts**

300. Deposit - Turf to depth of 0.05m

301 Deposit - Mid brown/Orange soil to depth of 0.30m

302. Natural Deposit - Shale shingle/rab

# **APPENDIX IV:**

**Archive Cover Sheet** 

## **ARCHIVE COVER SHEET**

# Land at Hill Crest, Wiston, Pembrokeshire SA70 7SG

## ARCHIVE DESTINATION - RCAHMW

Site Name:	Land at Hill Crest, Wiston, Pembrokeshire SA70 7SG
Site Code:	HC/2O23/EV
PRN:	
NPRN:	
SM No.	
LB No.	
Other Ref No.	HRSW Rpt No. 276
NGR:	SN 00098 16742
Site Type:	N/A
Project Type:	Archaeological Evaluation
Project Date(s):	12th October 2023
Categories Present:	None
Location of Original Archive:	RCAHMW
Location of Duplicate Archive:	Dyfed Archaeological Trust
Number of Find Boxes:	None
Location of Finds:	-
Museum Ref:	-
Copyright:	HRS Wales
Postrictions to Access:	None



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