

# LAND AT LANDO ROAD PEMBREY



*A Programme of Archaeological Investigation  
for  
Ballantyne Homes*

Carried out by

**MONMOUTH ARCHAEOLOGY**

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LAND AT LANDO ROAD  
PEMBREY

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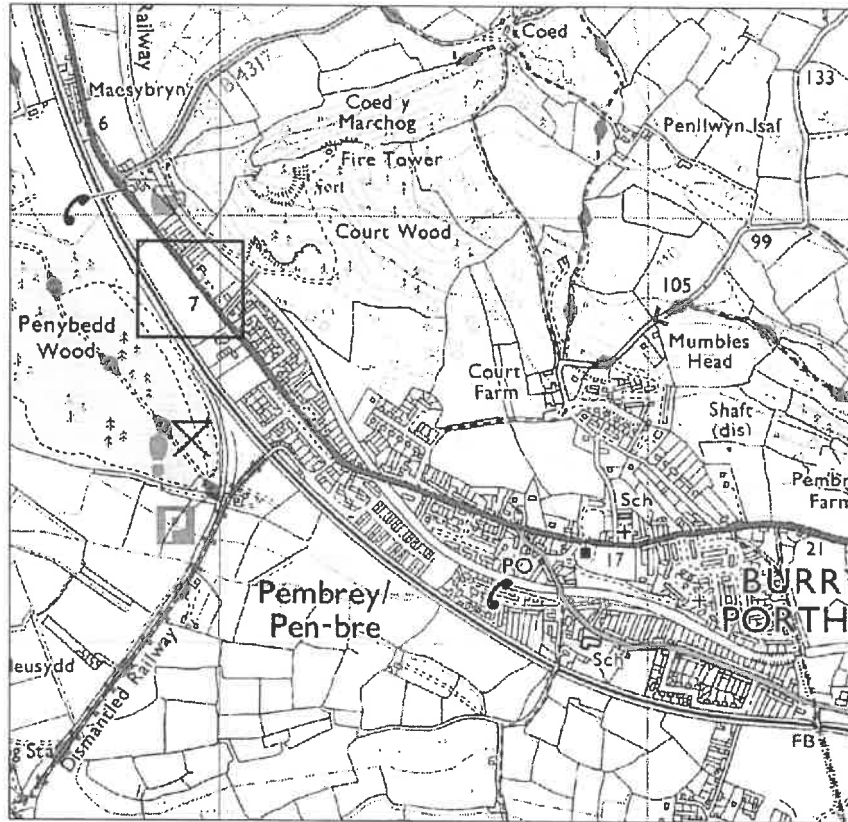
## *Summary*

Monmouth Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological investigation for Ballantyne Homes during groundworks for a new housing development on land at Lando Road, Pembrey (centred at NGR SN 425 015).

The groundworks consisted of the stripping of the topsoil from the development area and the digging of house foundation and service trenches.

There were no significant features revealed during the watching brief and the only pre-19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century finds were a tobacco clay pipe bowl and a fragment of pottery from North Devon.

The development area was covered with wind-blown sand dunes which, although not pre-dated, are thought to be very old.



# Land at Lando Road, Pembrey : Site Location

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## ***Introduction***

Monmouth Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological investigation for Ballantyne Homes during groundworks for a new housing development at Lando Road, Pembrey (centred at NGR SN 425 015).

The Programme of Archaeological Investigation was required in order to comply with a condition imposed by Carmarthenshire County Council (Planning Application S/15040) on the planning consent for the development

Monmouth Archaeology wishes to acknowledge the help given by the manager and the workmen on the site. The unit is also grateful for the help received from Mr. Charles Hill of the Council's archaeological advisers, the Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

The archaeological watching brief was carried during May 2007.

## ***Objectives***

The objectives of the watching brief were to safeguard any archaeological remains and to understand the nature, date and extent of any archaeological features and deposits which existed on the proposed development site. All remains of potential interest were recorded and finds retained.

## ***Methodology***

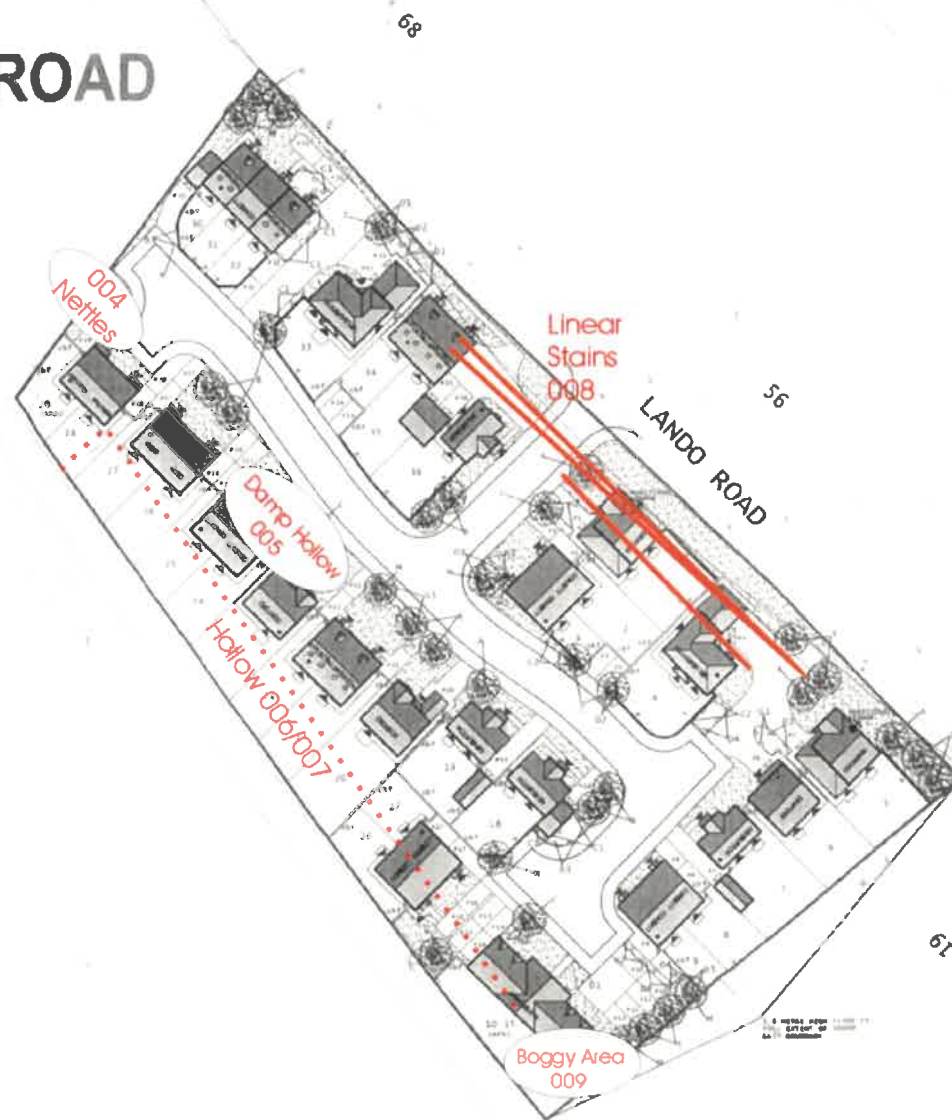
The groundworks consisted of the stripping of the topsoil from the whole development area and the digging of house foundation and service trenches; some hand digging and cleaning was carried out.

Stephen Clarke and Brian Milford of Monmouth Archaeology were present on the site during the excavation work and the watching brief was carried out to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *'Standards for Archaeological Watching Briefs'*.

A photographic record was maintained during the groundworks, while sketch plans and sections were drawn and context records were kept in accordance with normal watching brief practice.

The finds were related to the contexts in which they originated and were examined by recognised specialists.

# LAND AT: LANDO ROAD PEMBREY



## HOUSE TYPE SCHEDULE

2 BED APARTMENT	06
MARKHAM	02
CORY	02
CONSETT	09
TREDEGAR	06
ASHBURTON	04
DESFORD	01
GOSFORD	02
NORWOOD	02
MELINGRIFFITH	02
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>

INDICATOR - LANDSCAPING ONLY  
SUBJECT TO BE TAILOR PLANNING  
SUBMISSION

EXISTING FENCE & REMOVED

CLOSE BOARD FENCE 1.8  
METRE HIGH

BRICK SCREEN WALL 1.8  
METRE HIGH

8 BATS TO FENCE  
HANDS FLOT

APPROXIMATE HOUSES PLOTS

IMPRINT CONCRETE IMPROVED  
PAVING. COLOUR MULTICOLOURED

ALL ROADS AND FOOTPATHS TO BE  
BLACK BITUMAC AND SUBJECT TO A  
SECTION 10 AGREEMENT

DRIVES TO BE PAVED IN BLACK  
BITUMAC WITH HOUSE PAINT  
CORNERS TO BE PAINTED IN BLACK

IN HOUSE  
BUILDING  
DESIGN

PROJECT  
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT  
LANDO ROAD  
PEMBREY

DRAWING
SITE LAYOUT (PLANNING)
SCALE
1/500
DATE
JULY 2006
DRAWING NO
06:014:01
REVISION
C.D.

Land at Lando Road, Pembrey Site Plan

## *The Archaeology*

*Summary.* Prior to the stripping of the topsoil, a careful inspection of the development site was carried out. This included the examination of scores of mole hills and the noting of ground features and various concentrations of different plant species.

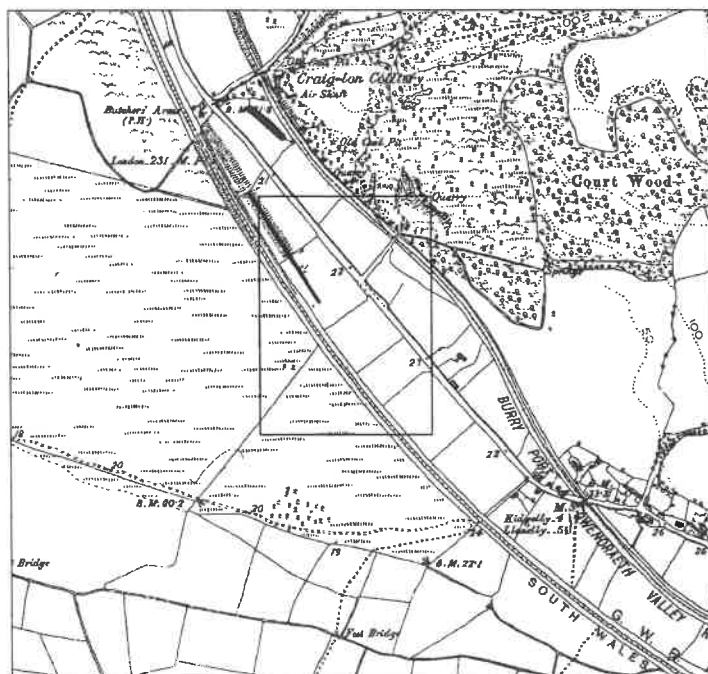
No significant archaeological features were revealed during the watching brief and the only pre-19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century finds were a 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century clay tobacco pipe bowl and a fragment of late 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century North Devon pottery.

*The site.* The examination of the mole hills were formed of dark sandy soil which had often been well-weathered produced nothing of interest, the only finds being small fragments of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century ceramics and two iron nails. Small sondages were excavated in areas where there were concentrations of various plants species. These included heavy patches of nettles on the east of the site; groups of yellow flag and bog-land species on the south-western edge, together with two damp hollows containing richer plant life and groups of rushes in the centre of the site. All of these features proved archaeologically negative.

The removal of the topsoil showed that the development area was covered with low undulating sand dunes where the small grain size of the sand suggested that it was composed of wind-blown sand from the coast. Except near to the roadside, the dunes were not dated and no earlier ground surfaces were detected. However, a substantial part of the site, coinciding with the railway line on the west, had been lowered – presumably to provide material for the construction of the railway line. As this reduced area had not filled up with the wind-blown sand since the building of the railway in the (?)19<sup>th</sup> century, it seems likely that the sand dunes were formed before that time, possibly long before and that the accumulation rate is very slow. In support of this, the only evidence of human activity, mostly in modern times, was on or just below the surface of the ground.

A linear feature, running roughly in line with the road on the north-west area of the site, is shown on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map below. The feature was not traced during the initial site examination or during the topsoil stripping and service trenching. However, it may have been linked to the concentration of nettles in that area of the site (Context 004) although nothing different to elsewhere in the field was observed during the groundworks.





1891 Ordnance Survey Map

The situation on the roadside was somewhat different and not easily explained: For the first two metres inside the boundary fence (four metres from the road) cockleshells were common; after that, they were very rare. Beyond this area for several metres, dark linear streak (?organic) and iron-stains were revealed and these were mostly in line with the road. Some of these features were securely dated by 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century bottle glass, ceramics or blue slate while the hand excavation of several showed that their edges could be vertical, slanting or even overhung.

Once the topsoil had been removed, the sun quickly dried the dunes and it became very dusty. Within a few hours, the light wind began to fill any grooves and hollows left by the machine

*The Finds.* Most of the finds were fragmentary and very small. The only things earlier than the Victorian era was an 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century tobacco clay pipe bowl and a sherd of a vessel made in North Devon, either in Barnstaple or Bideford. All the finds came from Context 001 – the topsoil.

The sandy soil was extremely destructive of metal so that several 20<sup>th</sup> century bottle tops were only recognisable as thin shells. There was a fine scatter of small fragments of Welsh blue slate, coal and coal cinder, all of which was consistent with a 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century date for the porcelain and bottle glass which was found.

There were a few pieces of drossy iron slag in the topsoil and some lumps of iron ore.

### *Contexts*

- 001 Topsoil. Grass and plant covered with occasional eroded areas. This is a dark grey colour and contains mostly 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century material. The layer averages 0.15m in depth.
- 002 'Subsoil'. This layer is sometimes slightly darker than the sand dunes below but with occasional more organic, stained patches.
- 003 The light coloured sand of the dunes.
- 004 Topsoil in the north-west of the site with rather luxuriant growth of nettles. The only difference in the soil appeared to be lots of slate-like fragments.
- 005 Damp hollow with reeds near centre of site. The soil here is slightly richer and darker and up to 0.20m in depth. Fragment of china and slate well inside the layer suggest that it is a recent accumulation, otherwise archaeologically negative.
- 006 Grey sand. Natural in the hollow area dug out for the railway bank. Slightly wetter which encourages heavier growth.
- 007 Clean grey clay. Lower parts of natural in the hollow beside the railway line; below Context 006.
- 008 Linear stains close to the roadside.
- 009 Boggy area with yellow flag and other plant species in south west corner of the site.

## ***Specialist Reports***

Stephen Clarke

### *The Pottery*

A single sherd of late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century gravel-tempered ware made in North Devon.

The only other pottery finds were fragments of Victorian and later blue and white porcelain, English Stoneware and some South Wales coarse-ware.

### *Small Finds/Other Finds*

The bowl of a 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century clay tobacco pipe bowl.

Five iron nails.

Beer, pop and other glass bottle; especially towards the road side.

Fragments of asbestos

### *Environmental*

There were no environmental remains.

### *Bones*

No bones were recovered

### *Samples*

No samples were taken.

## ***Conclusion***

No significant archaeological features were revealed during the watching brief and the only pre-19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century finds were a 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century clay tobacco pipe bowl and a sherd of late 17<sup>th</sup> / early 18<sup>th</sup> century North Devon pottery.

The site below the topsoil consisted of dunes of blown sand which are probably ancient. All the finds were confined to the topsoil.



Context 007 - Reduced area along railway line (Right)



Boggy area (009)



Linear stains close to roadside (008)



Excavations looking north

Land at Lando Road, Pembrey

## ***The Finds***

The finds are catalogued in the contexts from which they were recovered.

### ***Catalogue of pottery***

*Context 001*

*Bag 1*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
001	Fragments of Victorian and later 'china'	G	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C	10
001	Coarse ?bowls/pancheons	A	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C	5
001	English Stoneware	G	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C	2

*Context 001*

*Bag 2*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
001	Fragments of Victorian and later porcelain	G	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C	2
001	Coarse ?bowls/pancheons	A	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C	2
001	English Stoneware ink bottle	G	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C	1
001	English Stoneware	G	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C	2

*Context 001*

*Bag 3*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Fabric and Form</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Sherds</i>
001	Fragments of Victorian and later 'china'	G	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C	5
001	Coarse ?bowls/pancheons	A	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C	2
001	English Stoneware	G	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C	3

### ***Other Finds***

*Context 001*

*Bag 1*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
001	Black bottle glass fragments	19 <sup>th</sup> C	2
001	Clay pipe stems	17/19 <sup>th</sup> C	2
001	Green Bottle glass	Modern	2
001	Iron nails	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C	3

*Context 001*

*Bag 2*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
001	Glass fragments	Modern	2
001	Beer bottles	Modern	3
001	Green Bottle glass	Modern	2
001	Iron nails	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C	3
001	Iron objects (unidentifiable)	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C	4

*Context 001*

*Bag 3*

<i>Context</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>No.</i>
001	Glass fragments	Modern	5
001	Asbestos	Modern	1
001	Bottle glass	Modern	2
001	Iron nails	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C	3
001	Iron objects (unidentifiable)	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> C	4
001	Drossy iron slag	-	1
001	Blue slate	-	2

### ***Bones***

*No bones were recovered*

### ***Samples***

*No samples were taken*

*This report was compiled by  
Jane Bray, A.I.F.A. and Stephen Clarke, M.B.E., F.S.A., M.I.F.A.,  
of Monmouth Archaeology.*

*May 2007*



Appendix

LAND AT LANDO ROAD  
PEMBREY

A WRITTEN SCHEM FOR THE  
PROGRAMME OF  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

Monmouth Archaeology, May 2007

# LAND AT LANDO ROAD PEMBREY

Council Planning Application  
No. S/15040

## A WRITTEN SCHEME FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

For

BALLANTYNE HOMES

By

MONMOUTH ARCHAEOLOGY

The Town Wall, St. James Square, Monmouth, Gwent, NP5 3DN  
Telephone (01600) 714136  
Document Reference No. MAS19.07

Council Planning Application No. S/15040

LAND AT LANDO ROAD  
PEMBREY

**A WRITTEN SCHEME FOR A PROGRAMME OF  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION**

To be carried out by Monmouth Archaeology for Ballantyne Homes

**1. Introduction**

1.1 This Written Scheme for a Programme of Archaeological Investigation has been prepared by Monmouth Archaeology to meet a planning condition imposed by the planning authority to safeguard any archaeological resource that exists on the development site on land at Lando Road, Pembrey (National Grid Reference: SN 421 016). The Council have imposed the condition following information from their archaeological advisors, the Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

1.2 The developer is keen to see that any archaeological resource on the site is protected during the development. It is the aim of the archaeological contractor to outline a programme of work which will ensure that any archaeological deposits found during the development are fully recorded and reported to the standards of the Institute of Field Archaeology.

**2. The Site**

2.1 The development site is on land off Lando Road, in an area of considerable historic interest. There is evidence of archaeological remains of all periods including Mynydd Pembrey, an Iron Ages hill fort. There are lynchets and terraced field enclosures which are thought to be contemporary with the Court Wood enclosure which has produced prehistoric and Romano-British occupation.

2.2 The Council's archaeological advisors are concerned that a significant archaeological resource may have survived on the site.

**3. Objectives**

3.1 To ensure that any significant archaeological features that are found on the site, together with their associated deposits, are investigated and recorded to the standards of the Institute of Field Archaeology.

#### **4. Scope of the work**

4.1 The archaeology of the development site as a whole will be considered when any archaeological remains exposed during the site stripping, building groundworks or service excavations are examined. All remains of potential interest will be recorded and finds retained, regardless of date.

#### **5. Methodology and Contingency Arrangements**

5.1 The archaeological contractors will carry out a fully resourced archaeological watching brief, to the standards laid down in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *'Guidelines for Watching Briefs'*. Adequate resources and procedures are in place to ensure that any archaeological features of importance that are discovered will be carefully investigated and recorded.

5.2 The watching brief will entail the implementation of this Programme of Archaeological Investigation during the topsoil stripping and other ground works on the site and this will be followed by the production of an archive report and a publication of the results of the programme.

5.3 If archaeological features are discovered, work will cease in the immediate area until the archaeological contractors have been able to fully inspect the feature and determine its importance.

5.4 If, in the opinion of the archaeological contractors, the archaeological feature can be rapidly recorded, to the required standards and in accordance with the watching brief guidelines, this will be done.

5.5 If the archaeological contractors determine that the archaeological feature requires more investigation and recording than can be undertaken as part of the watching brief, the Council's Archaeological Advisors will be informed and an on-site meeting arranged as soon as possible. Until the meeting has taken place, no work will be undertaken in the vicinity of the archaeological feature.

5.6 The meeting will determine what works are required to be undertaken to ensure that the archaeological feature is fully "preserved by record." In most cases a detailed project design for this work will be prepared and submitted to Local Planning Authority, prior to the commencement of the agreed work.

5.7 Appropriate procedures under the relevant legislation will be followed in the event of the discovery of artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasure Act, 1996.

## **6. Recording**

6.1 Recording of archaeological contexts will be undertaken using a continuous numbered context system on pro-forma recording sheets.

6.2 Written and drawn records will be kept. Plans (other than site location) will be drawn to a scale of 1:20 (detailed excavation at 1:10). The photographic record will consist of b/w prints and colour of 35mm format taken throughout the project.

6.3 Drawn records will be related to the Ordnance Survey datum where reasonable and will be located as accurately as possible with respect to buildings and boundaries published on modern Ordnance Survey maps where appropriate.

6.4 All artefacts recovered during the project will be retained and be closely related to the contexts from which they originated. All typologically distinct and closely datable finds will be recorded three dimensionally where possible.

6.5 Although it is not expected that human remains will be found on the site, any occurrence will be dealt with by initially leaving them in-situ and, if their removal is found to be necessary, the appropriate Home Office permission will be obtained.

6.6 Any features containing deposits of environmental or technological significance will be sampled.

6.7 Although the requirements for conservation of artefacts is unpredictable we will undertake to ensure that the minimum standards are achieved as in the UK Institute of Conservation's *"Guidelines for the treatment of Finds from Archaeological Sites"*.

## **7. Post-Excavation**

7.1 A catalogue by context of all artefactual material recovered will be included with quantification by weight or sherd count where appropriate.

7.2 Pottery will be analysed to the standards outlined in *"Guidelines for the preparation of Pottery Archives"* as prepared by the Study Group for Roman Pottery in consultation with the IFA. All other material will be analysed following the advice given in *"The Institute of Field Archaeologists : Guidelines for Finds Work"*.

7.3 A project archive will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of *"Management of Archaeological Projects"* (English Heritage, 1991).

## **8. The Report**

8.1 The report will be fully representative of information gathered from implementation of sections 3, 4 and 5, even if the evidence is negative.

8.2 The report will contain at least one location plan showing the site in relation to local topography as well as the excavation.

8.3 The report will include all drawn sections and plans, with reference to those of archaeological significance.

8.4 A summary report on the artefactual assemblage and an assessment of potential for further study will be prepared by suitably qualified individuals and included in the report.

8.5 Once completed a copy of the report will be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for their approval. A further copy will be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). Notes of any confidentiality condition imposed by the client will be included.

8.6 A summary of the work will be submitted to an appropriate journal no later than one year after completion of the work.

8.7 The archaeological contractors will make suitable arrangements for the deposition of the archive with Carmarthenshire County Museum and Cambria Archaeology will be informed of its location.

8.8 Although there may be a period of client confidentiality, the site archive and report will be deposited with the museum within 6 months of the completion of the contract.

## **9. Monitoring**

9.1 It is understood that the Council's Archaeological Advisors may wish to monitor the archaeological watching brief and the recording work. They will be informed of the commencement of the development at least three working days in advance of the commencement of any ground disturbances and will be allowed access at all reasonable times, subject to them informing the works manager of their intended visit at least 24 hours in advance.

9.2 The Council's Archaeological Advisors are to be informed of any significant archaeological discoveries (not only those covered in section 5.3) inside 24 hours of the discovery being made.

## **10. The Contractors**

10.1 The work will be undertaken by the contractors Monmouth Archaeology under the direction of Stephen Clarke who is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and is Council Validated in '*Archaeological Field Practice*' (AFP) and '*Artefact & Environmental Study, Collections Research & Conservation*' (FES). The contractors have considerable experience and a proven track record in archaeological evaluation, excavation, recording and publication work.

10.2 Monmouth Archaeology, as archaeological contractors, will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's '*Code of Conduct*', the '*Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*' and the '*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*'.

10.3 The personnel involved in the watching brief will have had previous experience of this work and will be supervised by Stephen Clarke, who is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

10.4 Monmouth Archaeology holds Public Liability insurance through Royal Sun Alliance, 29 Newport Road, Cardiff.

10.5 The copyright for this report shall remain with the Monmouth Archaeology.