

**Land adjacent to Windy Ridge,  
7, Station Road, Letterston,  
Pembrokeshire  
Planning Application  
11/0008/PA  
Watching Brief**



Report by: Trysor

For: Mr C Thomas  
Windy Ridge, Letterston

January 2012



Land adjacent to Windy Ridge,  
7, Station Road, Letterston,  
Pembrokeshire  
Planning Application  
11/0008/PA  
Watching Brief

By

Jenny Hall MIfA & Paul Sambrook, MIfA  
Trysor

Trysor Project No. 2012/229

For: C. Thomas  
Windy Ridge, Letterston

January 2012



38, New Road,  
Gwaun-cae-Gurwen  
Ammanford  
Carmarthenshire  
SA18 1UN

*Cover photograph: The development plot after topsoil stripping*

# Windy Ridge Letterston

**RHIF YR ADRODDIAD - REPORT NUMBER:** Trysor 2012/229

**DYDDIAD** 11<sup>eg</sup> Ionawr 2012

**DATE** 11<sup>th</sup> January 2012

**Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan bartneriad Trysor. Mae wedi ei gael yn gywir ac yn derbyn ein sêl bendith.**

**This report was prepared by the Trysor partners. It has been checked and received our approval.**

**JENNY HALL MifA**

*Jenny Hall*

**PAUL SAMBROOK MifA**

*Paul Sambrook*

**DYDDIAD**

**DATE**

11/01/2012

***Croesawn unrhyw sylwadau ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn.***

***We welcome any comments on the content or structure of this report.***

## **Contents**

1. Summary	1
2. Copyright	1
3. Introduction	1
4. The Development	1
5. Conditions on the consent	1
6. The Specification	1
7. Historical and Archaeological Overview	3
8. History of the development plot	4
9. Methodology	5
10. Site Stratigraphy	7
11. Photographs	11
12. Conclusion	13
13. Archive	13
14. Sources	13
Appendix A: Watching Brief Specification	14
Appendix B: Photographs	18
Appendix C: Index to the Archive	25

## **1. Summary**

In January 2012, Trysor undertook a watching brief in the garden behind Windy Ridge, 7, Station Road, Letterston, centred on SM9471729857. Whilst being observed by Trysor, the topsoil was stripped down to natural subsoil, an average depth of 0.30m. No archaeological contexts were encountered, other than modern features associated with recent domestic and gardening activity.

## **2. Copyright**

Trysor hold the copyright of this report and of the paper and digital archive. Further paper copies may be made of this report without gaining permission to reproduce but it must be noted that Figure 4, 5 & 6 include other copyright material and should not be copied.

## **3. Introduction**

Mr Carwyn Thomas of Windy Ridge, 7, Station Road, Letterston, Pembrokeshire, SA62 5RZ commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to write a Written Scheme of Investigation on groundworks for a single dwelling relating to planning application number: 11/0008/PA

Outline planning permission for three dwellings had been given in 2008, planning permission number 07/1545/PA, and the conditions on the current development refer back to this.

The location of the proposed dwelling lies behind the house at Windy Ridge, 7, Station Road, Letterston, at SM9472429864, 128m AOD.

## **4. The development**

The development consists of a single dwelling and garage, with a short access drive, set back from the main road behind existing houses.

## **5. Conditions on the consent**

In granting approval for the outline planning application 07/1545/PA, the Local Planning Authority imposed 14 conditions on the consent; condition number 14 specifies the actions necessary to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.

*“No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agent or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local planning Authority.”*

*Reason: To protect historic environment interests whilst enabling development*

## **6. Specification**

Trysor prepared a written scheme of investigation which proposed a watching brief on the work to be undertaken. This was submitted to the LPA and was approved on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011, see Appendix A for approved written scheme which includes the definition of a watching brief.



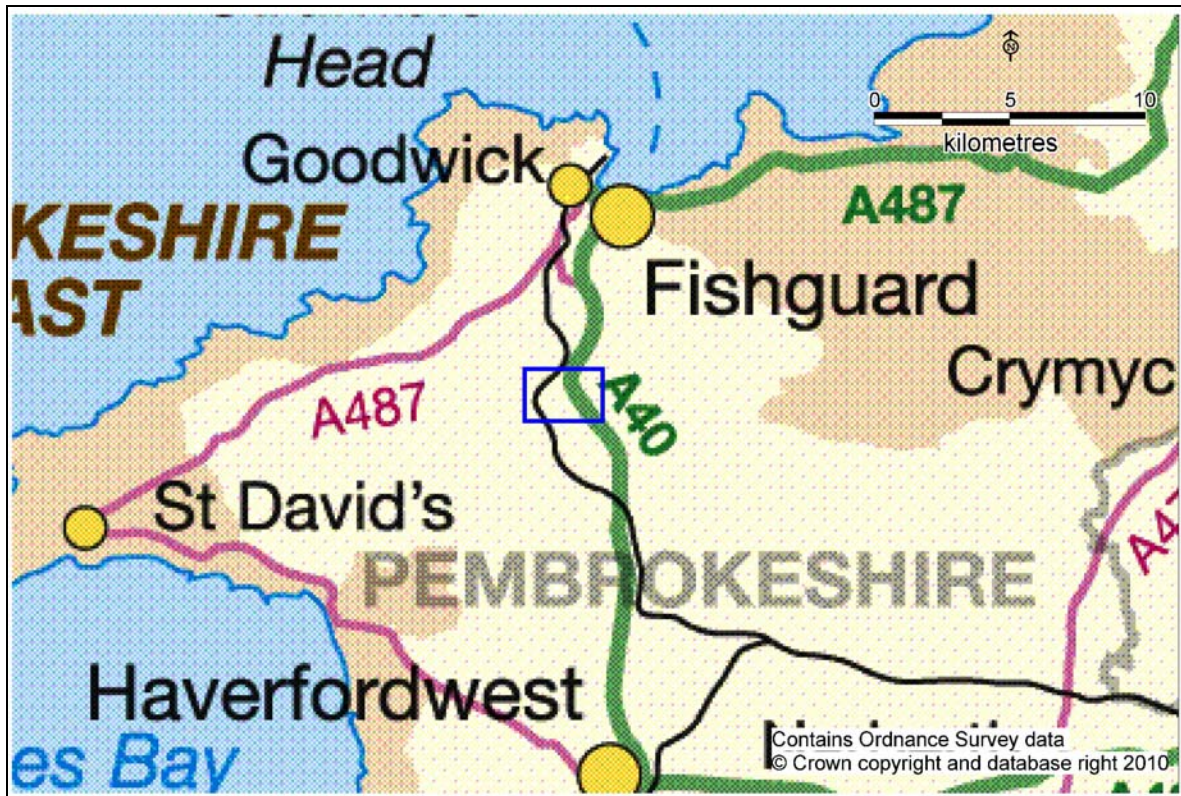


Figure 1: Location of Letterston in Pembrokeshire



Figure 2: Location of the development site in Letterston

## **7. Historical and Archaeological Overview**

The archaeological interest in the area immediately around the development plot at Windy Ridge is chiefly concerned with three Bronze Age round barrows (burial mounds) which were recorded nearby in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The three barrows were arranged along a roughly southwest to northeast alignment just to the south and east of the proposed development site. The closest (PRN 2379) being just 50m away and now beneath the house at 15, Station Road. Another barrow (PRN 2380) lay in what is now the garden of 23, Station Road, whilst the third barrow (PRN 2381) is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument and survives in the garden boundary between 18 and 20, Station Road. Two of the barrows were excavated by Richard Fenton in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and all three were later excavated by H.N. Savory in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. Further details of the individual barrows are given below;

**PRN 2381**, NPRN 300421, SAM PE062, SM9473829764. This round barrow was excavated by the antiquarian Richard Fenton in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. He describes the event in his "Historical Tour Through Pembrokeshire" (p.341-342). Fenton dug into the centre of the mound without success, but eventually found cremated bone and charcoal close to the edge of the mound. The monument was again excavated by H.N. Savory in 1961. He interpreted the site as originating in the Neolithic, when the initial phase, an embanked stone circle, 12 metres in diameter, was built. The stone circle was then incorporated into a much larger round barrow during the Bronze Age. The barrow was defined by a stone kerb, 32 metres in diameter, around an earth and turf mound which was still 1.5 metres high in 1961. Savory found evidence of cremated bone and a collared urn beneath two large slabs on the eastern side of the barrow as well as some charcoal. The barrow is now divided between two garden plots to the rear of private houses in Station Road and has been denuded as a result of the previous excavations and later landscaping within the gardens.

**PRN 2379**, NPRN 305219, SM9475629822. This was one of three Bronze Age round barrows described by Richard Fenton in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and may be one of the two he excavated. Fenton failed to find evidence of a burial, but noted that a turf-cutter had uncovered a funerary urn and cremated bone from the edge of the mound some years previously. It was excavated by H.N. Savory in 1946 but no finds of note were made, apart from evidence of the postholes for an irregular wooden palisade, circa 18 metres in diameter, beneath the barrow. This barrow was destroyed by house building after the 1946 excavation.

**PRN 2380**, SM9479129872. This is the northernmost of three round barrows which once stood on Letterston common. It was excavated by H.N. Savory in 1946 and was found to contain a number of cremation burials. The primary burial was discovered beneath the mound, consisting of cremated bone in an inverted urn, within a stone cist. A flint knife was also found in the cist. Three secondary burials had been inserted into the mound at a later date. Two of these were also of cremated bone contained in funerary urns, both put into poorly made cists; the cremated bone in the third was of the secondary burials was again in an inverted urn, accompanied by a pygmy cup. Beneath the barrow, evidence for a wooden palisade, 16 metres in diameter, was noted. The barrow was destroyed by house building after the 1946 excavation. The finds are kept at the National Museum of Wales.



There have also been other prehistoric monuments described in the area, but their exact nature and, in some cases, location is questionable. Richard Fenton mentioned three closely set upright stones, PRN 2414, and a standing stone, PRN 2398, when he excavated the round barrows. Fenton did not see the three upright stones himself but referred to them having been taken down a few years before his visit. His description was not precise enough to plot the position of this now lost site but he described a setting of three large, upright stones (the longest being 10 feet or 3 metres long), which had stood in a triangular arrangement, on a "pavement". When the RCAHMW visited in 1914, they found no trace of this feature, nor any tradition of their removal (RCAHMW, 1925, p.145). The large standing stone (PRN 2398) described by Fenton stood at the extreme south-eastern corner of Letterston Common, near Longstone Farm. The 1889 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map depicts the site of the stone at SM9523029755 which tallies with Fenton's description. Some confusion appears to have arisen more recently as to the location of the stone, maybe in part due to the fact that Longstone Farm in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century was some 300 metres further to the southeast from its present location, to where it was moved at some point later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. By the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the construction of the railway line to Fishguard and consequent realignment of the road network affected the site of the stone.

One final site, not mentioned by Fenton, is recorded in the HER. This is a possible henge, PRN 2393, at SM94822996, approximately 130m northeast of the proposed development. As part of an evaluation, PRN 37104, in advance of building work adjacent to 47, Station Road in 1999, the site was described as an earthwork up to at least 0.50m high with a possible external ditch. Examination of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map shows a curvilinear field boundary through the field in which the henge is recorded. It seems likely that the henge is a misinterpretation of an old boundary bank, shown on 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century maps, which has been levelled, but survives as a curving earthwork in the field.

Where a PRN is quoted above this refers to the unique number given to the site in the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Llandeilo. NPRN is the unique number given to the site in the National Monuments Record maintained by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

## **8. History of the Development Plot**

The history of the development plot through the 19<sup>th</sup> century and into the 20<sup>th</sup> century can be traced through historic Ordnance Survey mapping. The 1814 Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors Drawings shows that the land here was part of Letterston common. This map was surveyed shortly after Richard Fenton excavated the round barrows near the development plot. Most of Letterston common including the area around the development plot was enclosed and improved for agricultural use after the parliamentary enclosure award of 1864. The previously open moorland was turned into a series of enclosed fields which continued to be farmed into the 20<sup>th</sup> century before housing development began to spread to the east of the historic centre of Letterston. Undoubtedly this trend was influenced by the opening of the North Pembrokeshire and Fishguard railway in 1895 as far as Letterston, where a new station was constructed circa 600 metres to the east of the development plot. Throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century there was a gradual drift of settlement eastwards initially focused around the railway station but by the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup>



century there was increasing infill of settlement between the old village core and the railway station. This process rapidly accelerated from the 1960s onwards and by the mid 1970s there had been considerable development including Windy Ridge and many of its adjacent properties.

The more detailed history of the development plot is tied directly to the history of the enclosure of the common and the subsequent use of the land for housing. Post enclosure, the land now occupied by Windy Ridge and its attached garden to the rear, Tyrrells and No. 13, Station Road formed a single field parcel. The first development within the field was Windy Ridge and No. 13 which both appear for the first time on the 1974 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map. By this time the field had been divided into a series of plots including an empty plot owned by Windy Ridge which later became the site of Tyrrells. Windy Ridge also owned all of the northern end of the original field and is now the area of the current development.

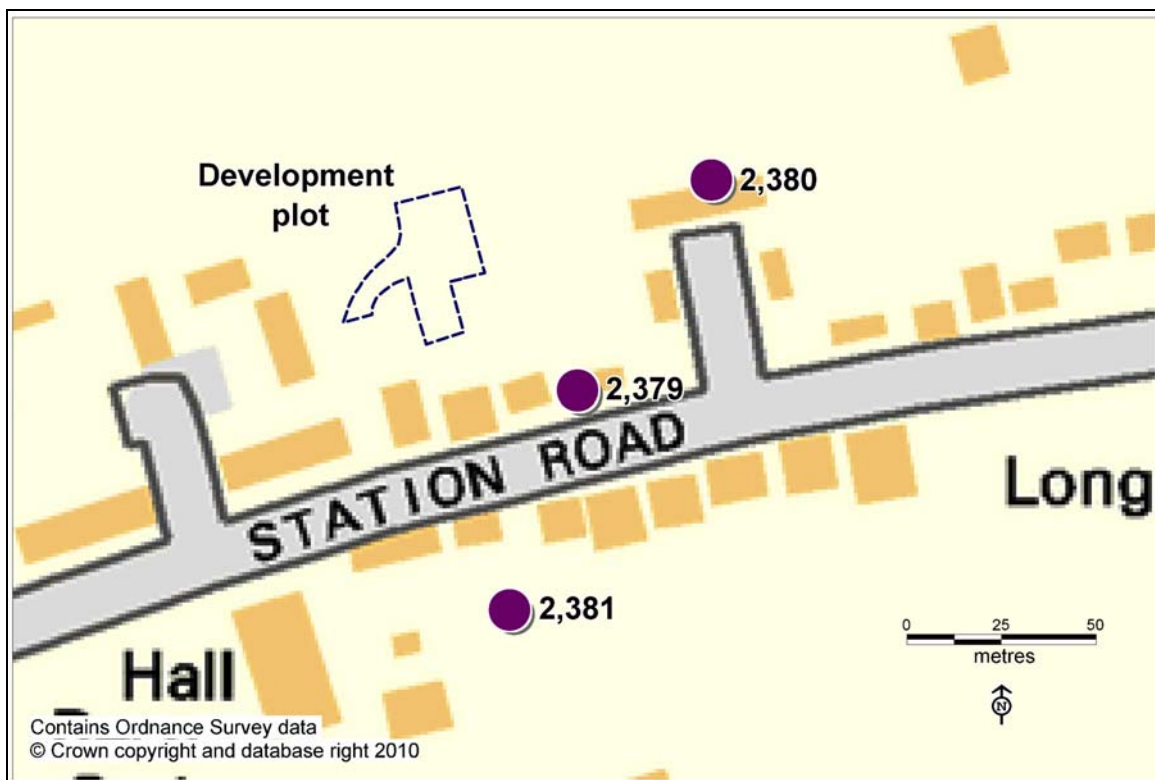


Figure 3: Location of the development site in Letterston

## 9. Methodology

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2012, the area shown in Figure 4 was stripped of topsoil down to subsoil using a mechanical excavator and a flat bucket. As the entire area to be affected by the development had been stripped down to subsoil, without revealing any features of archaeological significance, it was deemed unnecessary to watch the excavation of the foundation trenches.

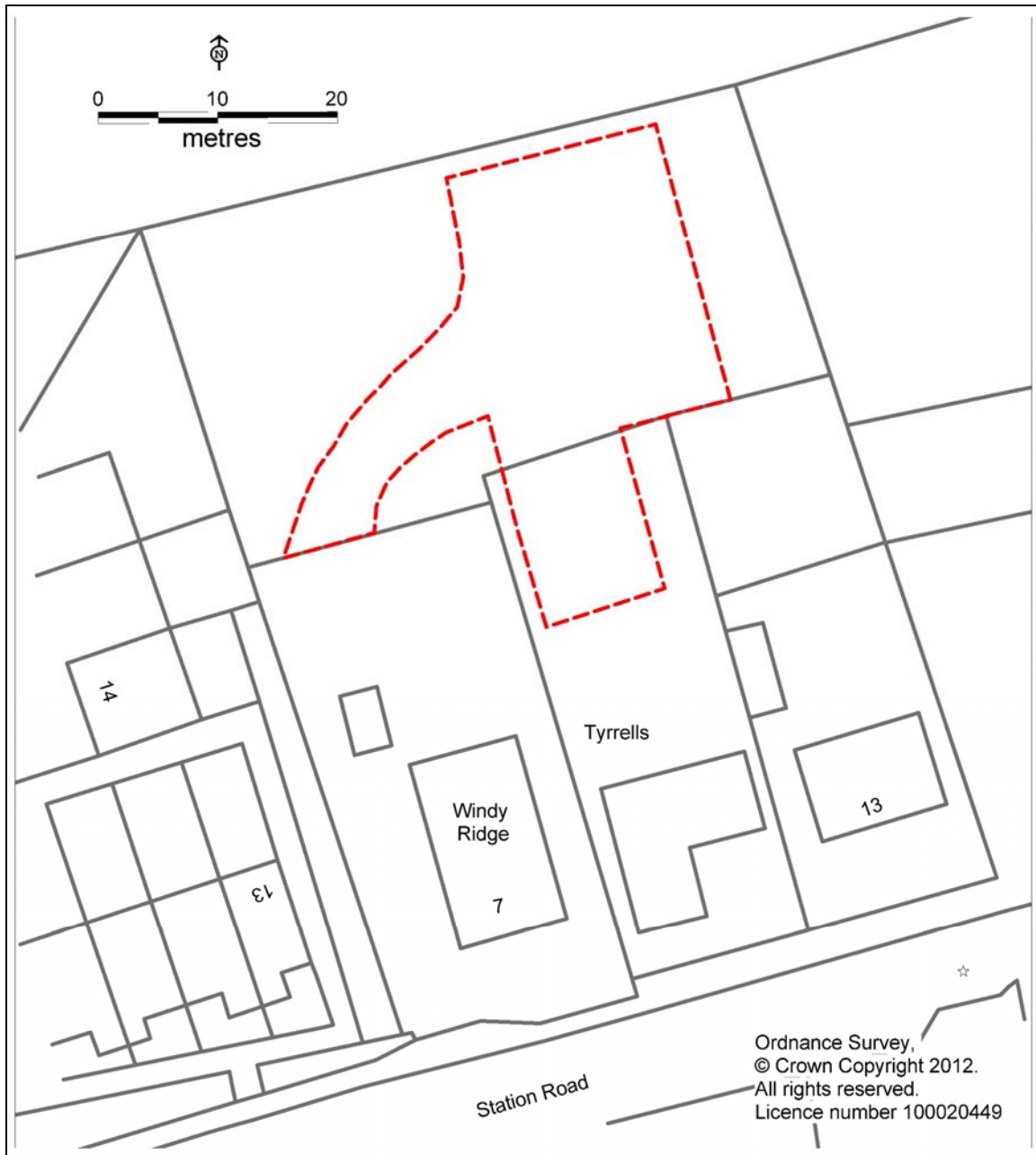


Figure 4: Location of the area that was topsoil stripped, based on measurements taken on site and the clients plan.

## 10. Site Stratigraphy

The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. The topsoil was stripped from the area and the stratigraphy of the site recorded.

All features included in the following Context Catalogue from 003 to 040 are believed to have been cut through 001, which is a garden soil which has been subjected to frequent reworking due to gardening activity such as the erection of fences, sheds or greenhouses as well as the planting of shrubs and other plants. This indicates that they are all related to modern activity and they all contained coal flecks, concrete fragments, wood fragments or even plastic. These features were all recorded at the level of the subsoil 002, into which they had been cut, through the garden soil. The location of the features is shown in figure 5.

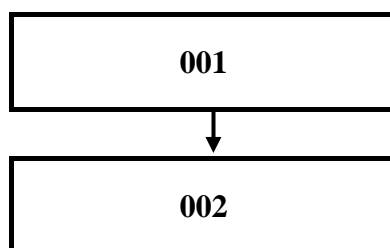
### 10.1 Context Catalogue

Context Number	Depth	Description	Interpretation
001	0.22m to 0.35m	Brown clay soil, 10YR4/3	Improved garden soil
002	-	Colouring varying between yellow to orange, gravel content	Natural subsoil
003	0.09m	Fill of context 004, brown clay soil, 10YR4/3, with small fragments of coal within it. Fill half sectioned.	Fill of posthole, or planting hole related to modern garden features.
004		Cut, cut into 2, seen once context 1 removed, but believed to have been cut from higher up. Circular feature in plan, 0.09m deep and 0.50m in diameter, filled by context 003.	Posthole, or planting hole related to modern garden features.
005	0.13m	Fill of context 006, a loose brown clay soil, 10YR 4/3 with a few fragments of coal within it. Fill half sectioned.	Fill of posthole, or planting hole related to modern garden features.
006		Cut, cut into 2, seen once context 1 removed, but believed to have been cut from higher up. Circular feature in plan, 0.13m deep and 0.45m in diameter, filled by context 005.	Posthole, or planting hole related to modern garden features.
007	0.12m	Fill of context 008, a brown clay soil, 10YR 4/3 with a few fragments of coal within it. Fill half sectioned.	Fill of posthole, or planting hole related to modern garden features.
008		Cut, cut into 2, seen once context 1 removed, but believed to have been cut from higher up. Circular feature in plan, 0.12m deep and 0.42m in diameter, filled by context 007	Posthole, or planting hole related to modern garden features.
009	0.025m	Fill of context 010, brown clay, very stony, with coal within it. Small section dug across feature. The feature may run under the southern	Fill of linear cut

		boundary of the garden plot at its southern end but is disturbed by the later concrete block wall.	
<b>010</b>		Linear cut, cut into 2, seen once context 1 removed, but believed to have been cut from higher up. Linear feature in plan, 0.12m deep and 0.42m in diameter and 18.45m in length, filled by context 009. Parallel to context 012, that lay 2.5m to the west, and also the eastern boundary of the garden plot.	Gardening feature
<b>011</b>		Fill of context 010, brown clay, very stony, with coal within it. Not sectioned.	Fill of linear cut
<b>012</b>		Linear cut, cut into 2, seen once context 1 removed, but believed to have been cut from higher up. Linear feature in plan, 0.12m deep and 0.42m in diameter, filled by context 009. Parallel to context 012, that lay 2.5m to the west, and also the eastern boundary of the garden plot.	Gardening feature
<b>013</b>		Concrete filling context 014	Fill of posthole
<b>014</b>		Cut, cut into 1. Roughly circular feature in plan and 0.40m in diameter, filled by context 013.	Modern Posthole
<b>015</b>		Concrete filling context 014	Fill of posthole
<b>016</b>		Cut, roughly circular feature in plan, filled by context 015.	Modern Posthole
<b>017</b>		Concrete filling context 018	Fill of posthole
<b>018</b>		Cut, roughly circular feature in plan, filled by context 017.	Modern posthole
<b>019</b>		Fill of context 020, a soil 5YR 4/2 in colour. Some wood within it.	Fill of planting hole related to modern garden features.
<b>020</b>		Cut, cut into 2, seen once context 1 removed, but believed to have been cut from higher up. Rather irregular feature in plan, filled by context 019.	Planting hole related to modern garden features.
<b>021</b>		Fill of context 022, clay soil and remains of wooden post. Not sectioned.	Fill of posthole
<b>022</b>		Cut, cut into 2, seen once context 1 removed, but believed to have been cut from higher up. Rather irregular feature in plan, filled by context 021.	Modern posthole
<b>023</b>		Concrete filling context 024	Fill of posthole
<b>024</b>		Cut, roughly circular feature in plan, filled by context 023.	Modern posthole
<b>025</b>		Concrete filling context 026	Fill of posthole



<b>026</b>		Cut, roughly circular feature in plan, filled by context 025	Modern posthole
<b>027</b>		Concrete filling context 028	Fill of posthole
<b>028</b>		Cut, roughly circular feature in plan, filled by context 027	Modern posthole
<b>029</b>		Concrete filling context 030	Fill of posthole
<b>030</b>		Cut, roughly circular feature in plan, filled by context 029	Modern posthole
<b>031</b>		Concrete filling context 032	Fill of posthole
<b>032</b>		Cut, roughly circular feature in plan, filled by context 031	Modern posthole
<b>033</b>		Concrete filling context 034	Fill of posthole
<b>034</b>		Cut, roughly circular feature in plan, filled by context 033	Modern posthole
<b>035</b>		Fill of context 036, composed of stone and concrete	Fill of posthole
<b>036</b>		Filled by context 035	Modern posthole
<b>037</b>		Fill of context 038, clay 5YR4/2	Fill of posthole
<b>038</b>		Filled by context 037	Modern posthole
<b>039</b>		Fill of context 040, clay 5YR4/2	Fill of posthole
<b>040</b>		Filled by context 039	Modern posthole



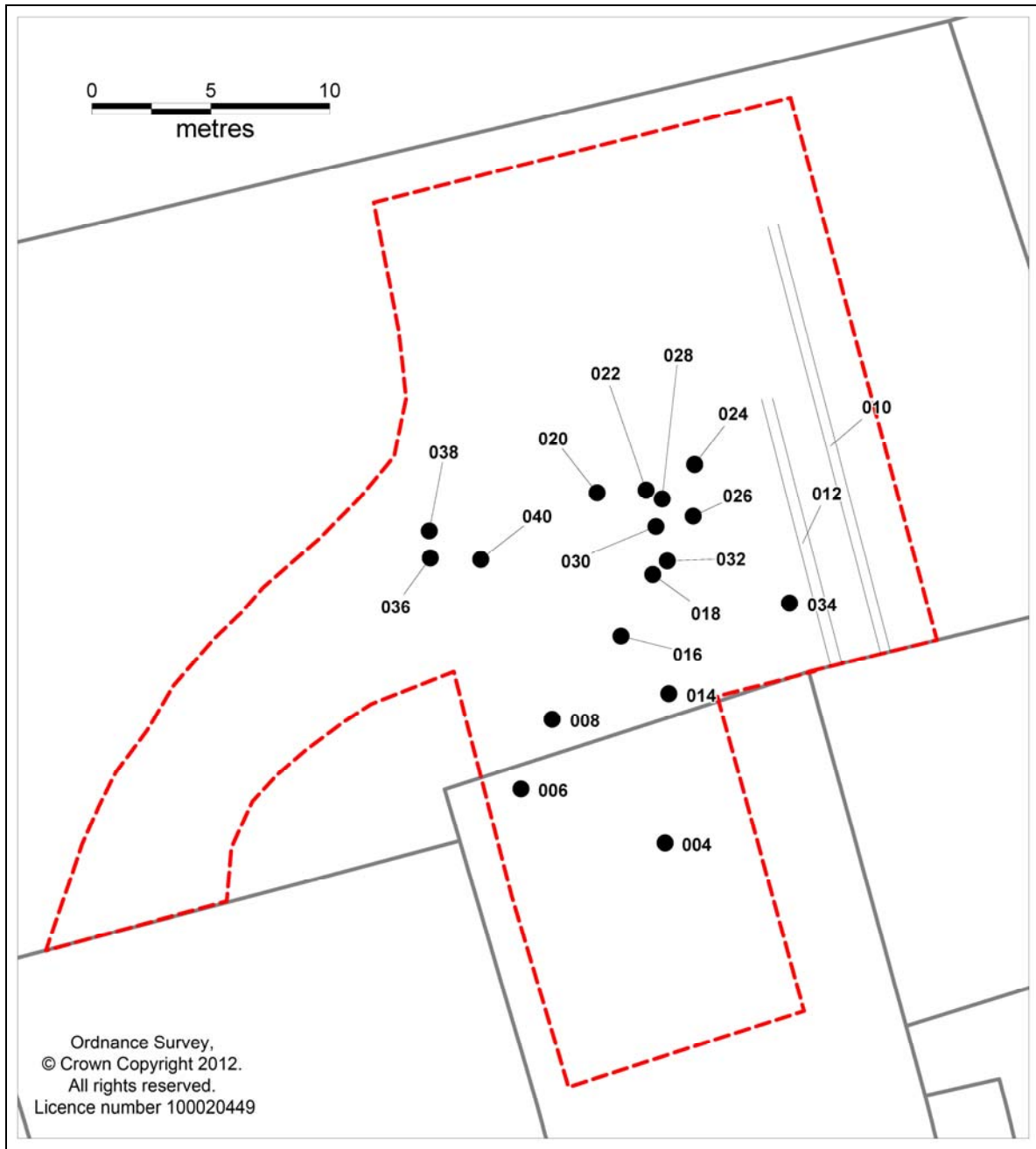


Figure 5: Plan showing the location of features recorded during watching brief.

## 11. Photographs

Colour digital photographs were taken using a 14M pixel camera. The following table describes the content of each photograph included in the project archive and their locations are provided in the following map, see Figure 6. The photographs are included in Appendix B at the end of the report.

Photo Number	Description	Date Taken	Direction
<b>WRL_001</b>	The southern part of the development plot after context 1, the garden soil, had been removed exposing context 2, the natural subsoil.	04/01/2012	Looking north northwest
<b>WRL_002</b>	Detail of posthole 004, after half sectioning.	04/01/2012	Looking north northwest
<b>WRL_003</b>	Detail of posthole 006, after half sectioning.	04/01/2012	Looking north northwest
<b>WRL_004</b>	Detail of posthole 008, after half sectioning.	04/01/2012	Looking north northwest
<b>WRL_005</b>	The southern part of the development plot after context 1, the garden soil, had been removed exposing context 2, the natural subsoil and postholes 004, 006 and 008 had been half sectioned.	04/01/2012	Looking north northwest
<b>WRL_006</b>	Feature 010	04/01/2012	Looking south southeast
<b>WRL_007</b>	Section across feature 010	04/01/2012	Looking north northwest
<b>WRL_008</b>	One of the concrete fills from the modern postholes after removal by machine	04/01/2012	Looking north northwest
<b>WRL_009</b>	The development plot after context 1, the garden soil, had been removed exposing context 2, the natural subsoil.	04/01/2012	Looking southwest
<b>WRL_010</b>	The southern part of the development plot after context 1, the garden soil, had been removed exposing context 2, the natural subsoil and postholes 004, 006 and 008 had been half sectioned.	04/01/2012	Looking southeast
<b>WRL_011</b>	The eastern part of the development plot after context 1, the garden soil, had been removed exposing context 2, the natural subsoil and postholes 004, 006 and 008 had been half sectioned.	04/01/2012	Looking east northeast
<b>WRL_012</b>	The development plot after context 1, the garden soil, had been removed	04/01/2012	Looking north northwest

	exposing context 2, the natural subsoil and postholes 004, 006 and 008 had been half sectioned.		
<b>WRL_013</b>	Detail of the mixed subsoil on the northern part of the site, with some gleyed clays, thought to have formed in wet hollows when the ground was open moorland.	04/01/2012	Looking northwest

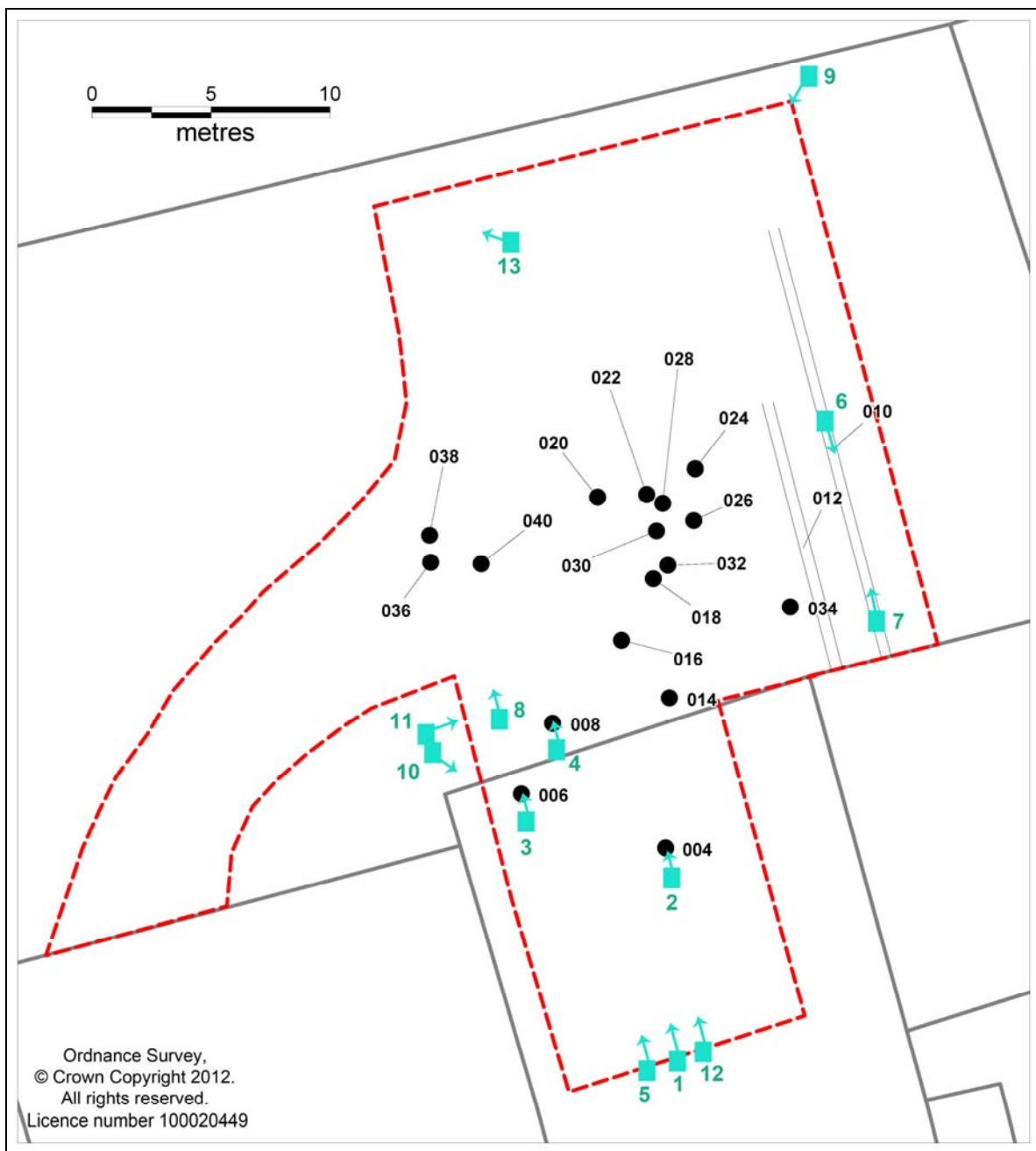


Figure 6: Location of photographs (shown in blue) and features shown in black



## **12. Conclusion**

The features that were identified are all believed to be recent relating to the plot being used as a garden in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The development had no impact on the archaeological resource.

## **13. Archive**

The paper archive and a copy of the report and photographs will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth. Photographs are in TIFF format, following the standard required by the RCAHMW.

Further copies of the report have also been supplied to Mr Thomas, and the Historic Environment Record at Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Llandeilo.

## **14. Sources**

### **14.1 Map evidence**

Budgen, T, 1814, Original Surveyors Drawings 2" to a mile  
Ordnance Survey, 1831, 1" to 1 mile  
Ordnance Survey, 1889, 1:12500  
Ordnance Survey 1907, 1:2500  
Ordnance Survey, 1953, 1:10560  
Ordnance Survey, 1974, 1:2500

### **14.2 Published sources**

Fenton, R, 1810, A Historical Tour Through Pembrokeshire  
Savory, HN, 1948, Bulletin of the Board of Celtic studies  
Savory, HN, 1963, Bulletin of the Board of Celtic studies

### **14.3 IfA Standard and Guidance**

Institute for Archaeologists, 2008 (revised), Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief, available online from the IfA website, [www.archaeologists.net](http://www.archaeologists.net)

## **APPENDIX A – Written Scheme of Investigation submitted to the LPA and approved on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011**

### **LAND ADJACENT TO WINDY RIDGE, 7, STATION ROAD, LETTERSTON WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION**

#### **1. Introduction**

Mr C Thomas of Windy Ridge, 7, Station Road, Letterston, Pembrokeshire, SA62 5RZ has commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to write a Written Scheme of Investigation on groundworks for a single dwelling relating to planning application number: 11/0008/PA

Outline planning permission for three dwellings had been given in 2008, planning permission number 07/1545/PA, and the conditions on the current development refer back to this.

The location of the proposed dwelling lies behind the house at Windy Ridge, 7, Station Road, Letterston, at SM9472429864, 128m AOD.

#### **2. The development**

The development consists of a single dwelling, and garage, set back from the main road behind existing houses.

#### **3. Conditions on the consent**

In granting approval for the outline planning application 07/1545/PA, the Local Planning Authority imposed 14 conditions on the consent; condition number 14 specifies the actions necessary to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.

*“No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agent or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local planning Authority.”*

*Reason: To protect historic environment interests whilst enabling development”*

#### **4. Nature of the archaeological resource**

Further to the condition imposed by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Charles Hill of Dyfed Archaeological Trust, the LPA’s archaeological advisers, gave the nature of the historic environment interest, which in this case was a round barrow cemetery to the southeast of the development plot.

Three Bronze Age round barrows aligned southwest to northeast lie just to the southeast of the proposed development site, the closest being 50m away. Two of the barrows were excavated by Richard Fenton in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and all three were later excavated by H Savory in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. The south-western round barrow is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Further details of the individual barrows are given below.

There have also been other prehistoric monuments described in the area, but their exact nature and in some cases location is questionable. Richard Fenton mentioned three closely set upright stones, PRN 2414, and a standing stone, PRN 2398, when he excavated the round barrows. Fenton did not see the three upright stones himself but referred to them having been taken down a few years before his visit. His description was not precise enough to plot the position of this now lost site but he described a setting of three large, upright stones (the longest being 10 feet or 3 metres long), which had stood in a triangular arrangement, on a “pavement”. When the RCAHMS visited in 1914, they found neither trace of this feature nor a tradition of their removal (RCAHMS, 1925, p.145).

The large standing stone Fenton described as standing at the extreme south-eastern corner of Letterston Common, near Longstone Farm. The 1889 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map depicts the site of the stone at SM9523029755 which tallies with this. Some confusion appears to have arisen more recently as to the location of the stone, maybe in part due to the fact that Longstone Farm in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century was some 300 metres further to the southeast and was moved at some point during the 19<sup>th</sup> century to its present location. By the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the railway line to Fishguard had cut through the former site of the standing stone as shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map

*Land adjacent to Windy Ridge, 7, Station Road, Letterston, Watching Brief*

One final site, not mentioned by Fenton, is recorded in the HER. This is a possible henge, PRN 2393, at SM94822996, approximately 130m northeast of the proposed development. As part of an evaluation, PRN 37104, in advance of building work adjacent to 47, Station Road in 1999, the site was described as an earthwork up to at least 0.50m high with a possible external ditch. Examination of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map shows a curvilinear field boundary through the field in which the henge is recorded. It seems likely that the henge is a misinterpretation of an old boundary bank, shown on 19th and early 20th century maps, which has been levelled, but survives as a curving earthwork in the field.

Where a PRN is quoted above this refers to the unique number given to the site in the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Llandeilo. NPRN is the unique number given to the site in the National Monuments Record maintained by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

**PRN 2381**, NPRN 300421, SAM PE062, SM9473829764. This round barrow was excavated by the antiquarian Richard Fenton in the early 19th century. He describes the event in his "Historical Tour Through Pembrokeshire" (p.341-342). Fenton dug into the centre of the mound without success, but eventually found cremated bone and charcoal close to the edge of the mound. The monument was again excavated by H.N. Savory in 1961. He interpreted the site as originating in the Neolithic, when the initial phase, an embanked stone circle, 12 metres in diameter, was built. The stone circle was then incorporated into a much larger round barrow during the Bronze Age. The barrow was defined by a stone kerb, 32 metres in diameter, around an earth and turf mound which was still 1.5 metres high in 1961. Savory found evidence of cremated bone and a collared urn beneath two large slabs on the eastern side of the barrow as well as some charcoal. The barrow is now divided between two garden plots to the rear of private houses in Station Road and has been denuded as a result of the previous excavations and later landscaping within the gardens.

**PRN 2379**, NPRN 305219, SM9475629822. This was one of three Bronze Age round barrows described by Richard Fenton in the early 19th century and may be one of the two he excavated. Fenton failed to find evidence of a burial, but noted that a turf-cutter had uncovered a funerary urn and cremated bone from the edge of the mound some years previously. It was excavated by H.N. Savory in 1946 but no finds of note were made, apart from evidence of the postholes for an irregular wooden palisade, circa 18 metres in diameter, beneath the barrow. This barrow was destroyed by house building after the 1946 excavation.

**PRN 2380**, SM9479129872. This is the northernmost of three round barrows which once stood on Letterston common. It was excavated by H.N. Savory in 1946 and was found to contain a number of cremation burials. The primary burial was discovered beneath the mound, consisting of cremated bone in an inverted urn, within a stone cist. A flint knife was also found in the cist. Three secondary burials had been inserted into the mound at a later date. Two of these were also of cremated bone contained in funerary urns, both put into poorly made cists; the cremated bone in the third was of the secondary burials was again in an inverted urn, accompanied by a pygmy cup. Beneath the barrow, evidence for a wooden palisade, 16 metres in diameter, was noted. The barrow was destroyed by house building after the 1946 excavation. The finds are kept at the National Museum of Wales.

## **5. Sources**

Fenton, R, 1811, Historical Tour Through Pembrokeshire  
RCAHM, 1925, Inventory of Pembrokeshire

Ordnance Survey, 1889, 1:2500

Budgen, T, 1814, Original Surveyors Drawings, Sheet 184, Scale 2" to a mile

## **6. Effect of development on the archaeological resource**

The development lies within a large garden plot, which up until the 1974-75 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map had been a field. On the Original Surveyors drawings of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the field was shown as part of the unenclosed common lands.

Although there are currently no recorded archaeological features in the garden plot, the possibility remains that unrecorded, buried features may occur in the area affected by groundworks. The Bronze Age round barrows 50m to 100m to the southeast and suggestions of a more extensive burial and/or ritual landscape indicate the possibility of other features in the locality.

## **7. Proposed archaeological intervention**

## *Land adjacent to Windy Ridge, 7, Station Road, Letterston, Watching Brief*

There is no archaeological resource currently recorded within the garden plot and the evaluation and watching briefs that have been undertaken recently have recorded no features of significance. However as the closest known monument, Letterston I Round Barrow, PRN 2379, is only 50 metres southeast of the centre of the house footprint, it is proposed that a watching brief on groundworks for the development is undertaken.

According to the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* the purpose of a watching brief is:

*“• to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works  
• 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 are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard*

*A watching brief is not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.*

*The objective of a watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on a site.”*

Trysor propose that whilst the foundations for the dwelling are excavated that Trysor will be present and watching the process until such time that excavation is complete or subsoil has been reached to the point where archaeological features would no longer be present. Any top soil stripping to level the land elsewhere will also be observed again until removal is complete or subsoil has been reached to the point where archaeological features would no longer be present.

### **8. Field methodology**

The watching brief will be carried out in accordance with Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.

A two-person team will examine the exposed stratigraphy of the groundworks undertaken in association with the development. All trenches will be examined and features of archaeological interest recorded. Excavation of any features will be limited to that necessary to establish their extent and character, unless their excavation is required to allow the development to proceed.

### **9. Contingency arrangements if archaeological features are discovered**

In the event that archaeological remains are encountered, where appropriate investigation falls outside the scope of this watching brief specification, a meeting between Trysor, the applicant, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management Section and the Local Planning Authority case officer will be convened in order to agree a course of action. The applicant will be responsible for paying for any further work necessary.

### **10. Health & Safety**

Trysor will undertake a risk assessment in accordance with their health and safety policy.

### **11. Recording**

A plan of the groundworks, and representative sections of the trenches, will be drawn, at an appropriate scale, recording all features of archaeological interest. The plan will be based on the applicants' survey drawings of the development area.

A written record of all activity will be kept in a project specific notebook. If archaeological contexts are encountered they will be recorded following the *Central Excavation Unit Manual: Part 2: Recording*, 1986, using a consecutive numbering system.

Any artefacts will be dealt with in accordance with the guidance provided in the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*. Any artefacts will be retained, cleaned and stored. Following reporting they will be returned to the applicant.



Should any human remains be encountered, the Coroner and Regional Archaeological Trust will be immediately informed and the remains left *in situ*.

Colour digital photographs will be taken, as appropriate, using a 14M pixel camera. A written record will be made on site of the photographs taken. Appropriate photographic scales will be used.

## **12. Reporting**

A report on the watching brief will be prepared according to the requirements of Annexe 1 of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* following the completion of the work. Copies of the report will be provided to the client, the Regional Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record.

## **13. Dissemination**

A summary of the work undertaken and its findings will be submitted to Archaeology in Wales.

## **14. Archive**

The paper archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, including a copy of the final report. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. Photographs will be supplied in TIFF format in a file size greater than 11MB, following the standard required by the RCAHMW.

## **15. Resources to be used**

Two members of staff will undertake the watching brief. They will be equipped with standard field equipment, including digital cameras, GPS and first aid kits.

Trysor have access to the computer hardware and software required to deliver the completed final report and archive to a professional standard.

## **16. Qualification of personnel**

Jenny Hall (BSc Joint Hons., Geology and Archaeology, MifA) has 12 years excavation experience, which included undertaking watching briefs. She also has 10 years experience as a Sites and Monuments Record Manager for a Welsh Archaeological Trust. She has been an independent archaeologist since 2004 undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desktop assessments and watching briefs.

Paul Sambrook (BA Joint Hons., Archaeology and Welsh, MifA, PGCE) has extensive experience as a fieldworker in Wales. He was involved with Cadw's pan-Wales Deserted Rural Settlements Project for 7 years. He has also undertaken Tir Gofal field survey work and watching briefs. He has been an independent archaeologist since 2004 undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desktop assessments and watching briefs.

## **17. Insurance & Professional indemnity**

Trysor has Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

## **18. Project identification**

The project has been designated Trysor Project No. 2011/229.

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook  
Trysor  
October 2011

## APPENDIX B



Plate 1: WRL\_001,



Plate 2: WRL\_002,





**Plate 3: WRL\_003**



**Plate 4: WRL\_004**





**Plate 5: WRL\_005**



**Plate 6: WRL\_006**





**Plate 7: WRL\_007**



**Plate 8: WRL\_008**





**Plate 9: WRL\_009**



**Plate 10: WRL\_010**





**Plate 11: WRL\_011**



**Plate 12: WRL\_012**



**Plate 13: WRL\_013**



## **APPENDIX C: INDEX TO THE ARCHIVE**

### **1. The project specification**

- 1.1 Trysor specification
- 1.2 Plan of site provided by client

### **2. Original Records**

- 2.1 Notes written on site

### **3. Photographic Record**

- 3.1 Index to photographs
- 3.2 Plan of location of photographs
- 3.3 Printed version of photos
- 3.4 Digital version of photographs

### **4. Written Report**

- 4.1 Paper copy of report
- 4.2 Digital pdf version of report