

Plots at Llandre site, Llanpumsaint, Carmarthenshire Watching Brief



Report by: Trysor

For: Mr Martin Davies

November 2014



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Trysor Project No. 2012/293

For: Mr Martin Davies

November 2014

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Cover photograph: Trenches for one of the houses, looking north

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RHIF YR ADRODDIAD - REPORT NUMBER: Trysor 2012/293

DYDDIAD 12^{fed} Tachwedd 2014

DATE 12th November 2014

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.

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Croesawn unrhyw sylwadau ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn.

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

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Trysor is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists and both partners are Members of the Institute for Archaeologists, www.archaeologists.net .

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1. Summary

1.1 During April 2013, Trysor undertook a watching brief on a development site at SN41936 28988 in the village of Llanpumsaint. No significant archaeological contexts or artefacts were recorded.

2. Copyright

2.1 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 3 & 4 include other copyright material and should not be copied.

3. Introduction

3.1 Mr Martin Davies, of Llandre, Llanpumsaint, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire SA33 6BY, commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks for a housing development of four dwellings relating to planning application number: W/23691.

4. The development

4.1 The building development is in the village of Llanpumsaint, SN41936 28988 and consists of four houses.

5. Conditions on the consent

5.1 In granting approval for the application, the Local Planning Authority imposed a condition on the outline consent, which specifies the actions necessary to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.

The developer shall ensure that a professionally qualified archaeologist is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area, so that an archaeological watching brief can be carried out. The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists. The Planning Authority will be informed, in writing at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development, of the name of the said archaeologist.

6. Specification

6.1 Trysor prepared a specification for the watching brief, see Appendix A.



Figure 1: Location of the watching brief within southwest Wales.

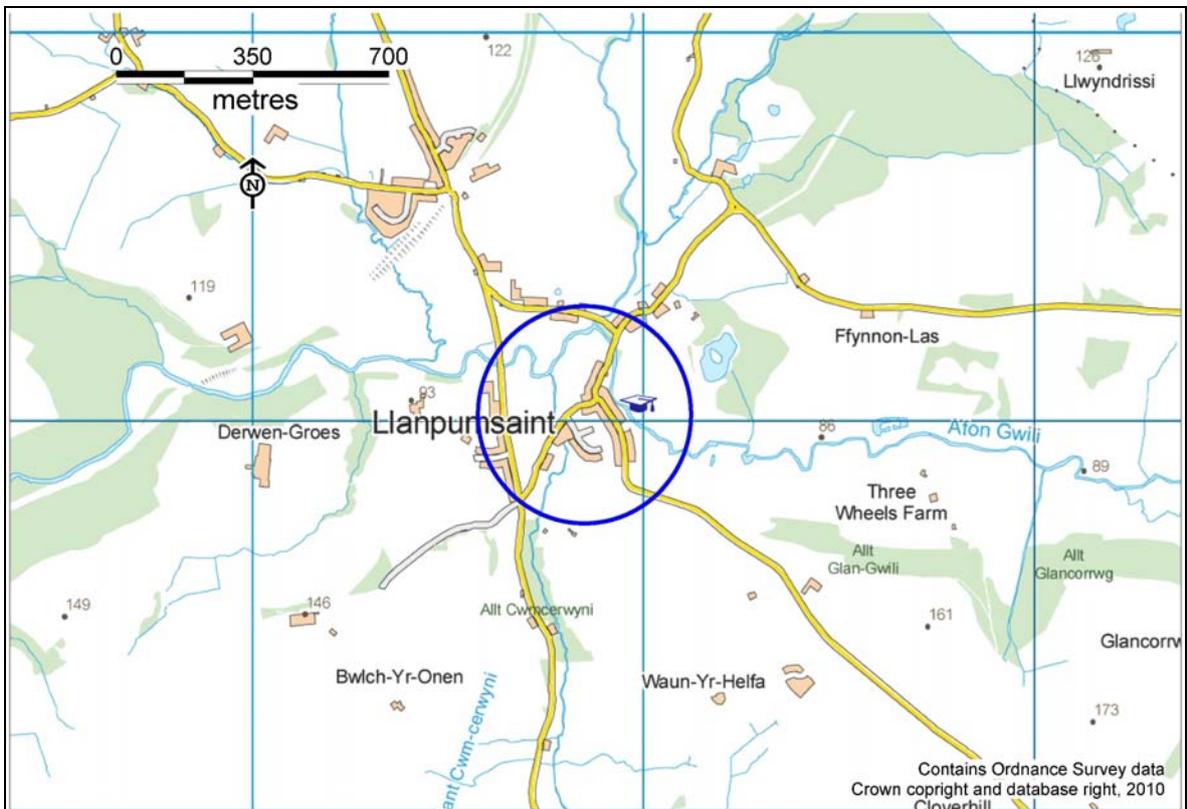


Figure 2: Location of the Llanpumsaint watching brief.

7. Historical and Archaeological Overview

7.1 A more detailed discussion of the previously recorded archaeology in the area is given in Appendix A, section 3, but the presence of Llanpumsaint church just to the north northeast of the development plot was the main reason for the watching brief.

7.2 The development area had been stripped several years previously reducing the depth of top soil slightly. A large part of Plot 4 used to be a large rectangular slurry pit covering 0.69 hectares as shown on the 1978-1980 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map.

8. Methodology

8.1 During April 2013, the development area was stripped of topsoil down to subsoil using a mechanical excavator and a grading bucket. This process was observed by Trydor. Excavations for the foundations for the house in plot 1 were also watched.

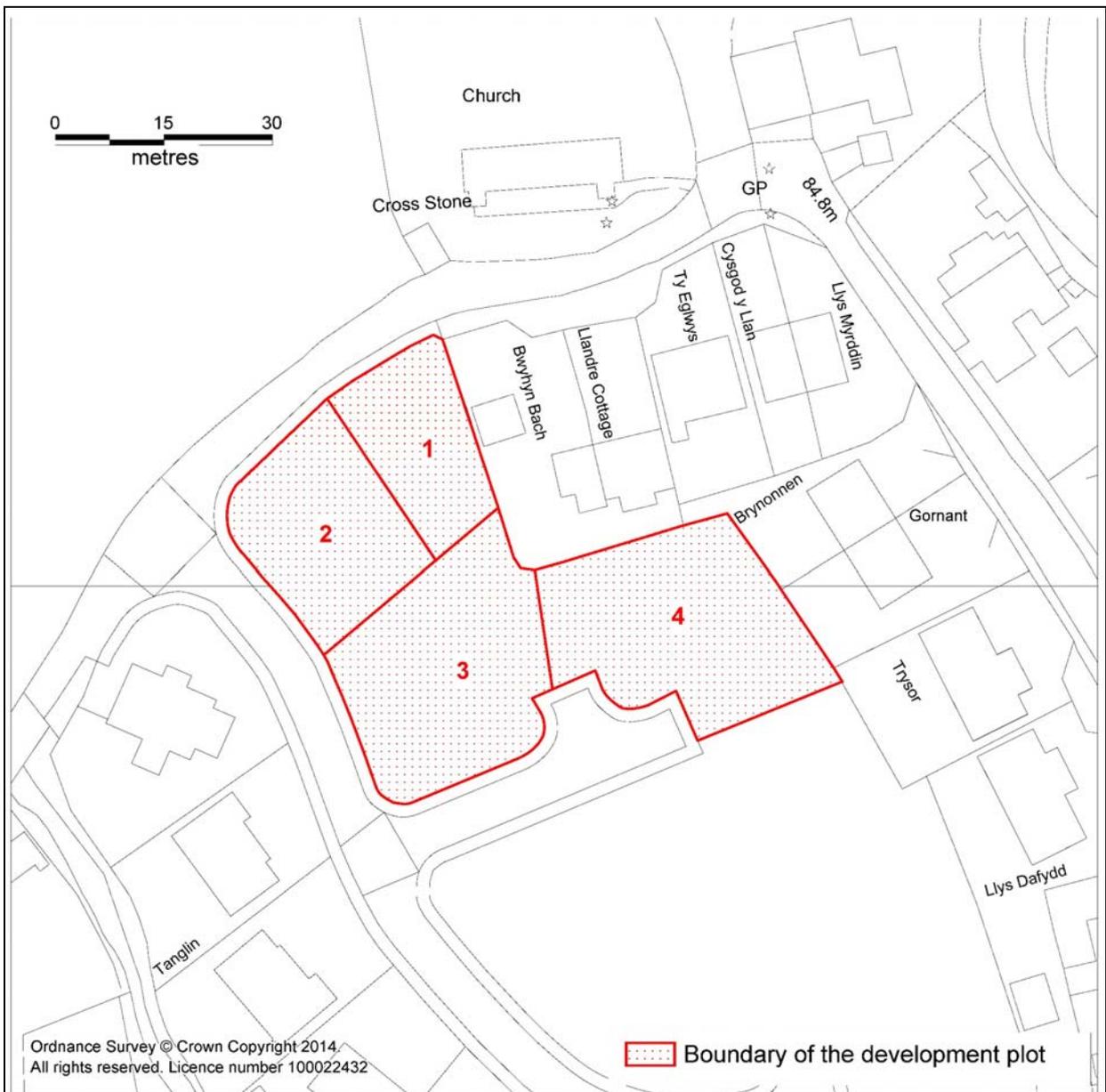


Figure 3: The development plot showing how it is divided up into individual house plots.

9. Site Stratigraphy

9.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (Institute for Archaeologists, 2008). The mechanical topsoil strip of the development area was watched by Trysor as well as the excavation for the foundations in plot 1 and the stratigraphy of the site recorded, see Figure 4.

9.2 The excavation of the foundations in plot 1 were watched in order to confirm the nature of the subsoil which was very variable from loose shale grit to clay.

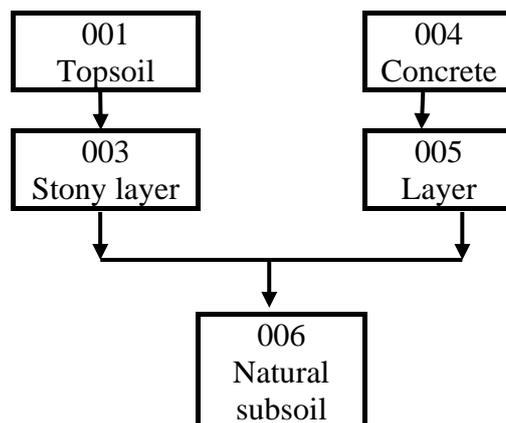
9.3 Plots 2 & 3 were machined down to subsoil 006 and no archaeological contexts were observed above or cutting into the subsoil.

9.4 A large part of plot 4 was covered by 002, the fill of a former slurry pit, shown on 1978 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map.

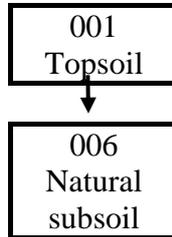
9.5 Context Catalogue

Context Number	Depth	Description	Interpretation
001	Up to 0.50 metres	Dark yellowish brown to dark greyish brown clay loam, covering most of plot 1, plot 2, plot 3 and parts of plot 4	Topsoil
002	Not known	Mixed layer or fill, including clay, stone and modern plastic	Fill of former slurry pit
003	0.10 metres	Stony layer including 20 th century pottery, seen in section only	Modern layer
004	-	Concrete slab	Base of former building
005		2.5Y4/2 dark greyish brown clay loam mixed with shale, no artefacts	Layer connected with former buildings in the area
006	-	Variable layer, from 10YR 4/3 brown shale grit/sand with little binding material to 10YR5/4 yellowish brown clay	Natural subsoil

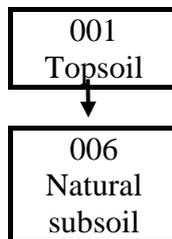
Plot 1



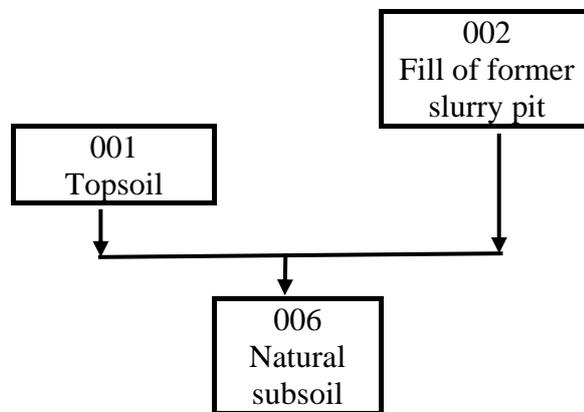
Plot 2



Plot 3



Plot 4



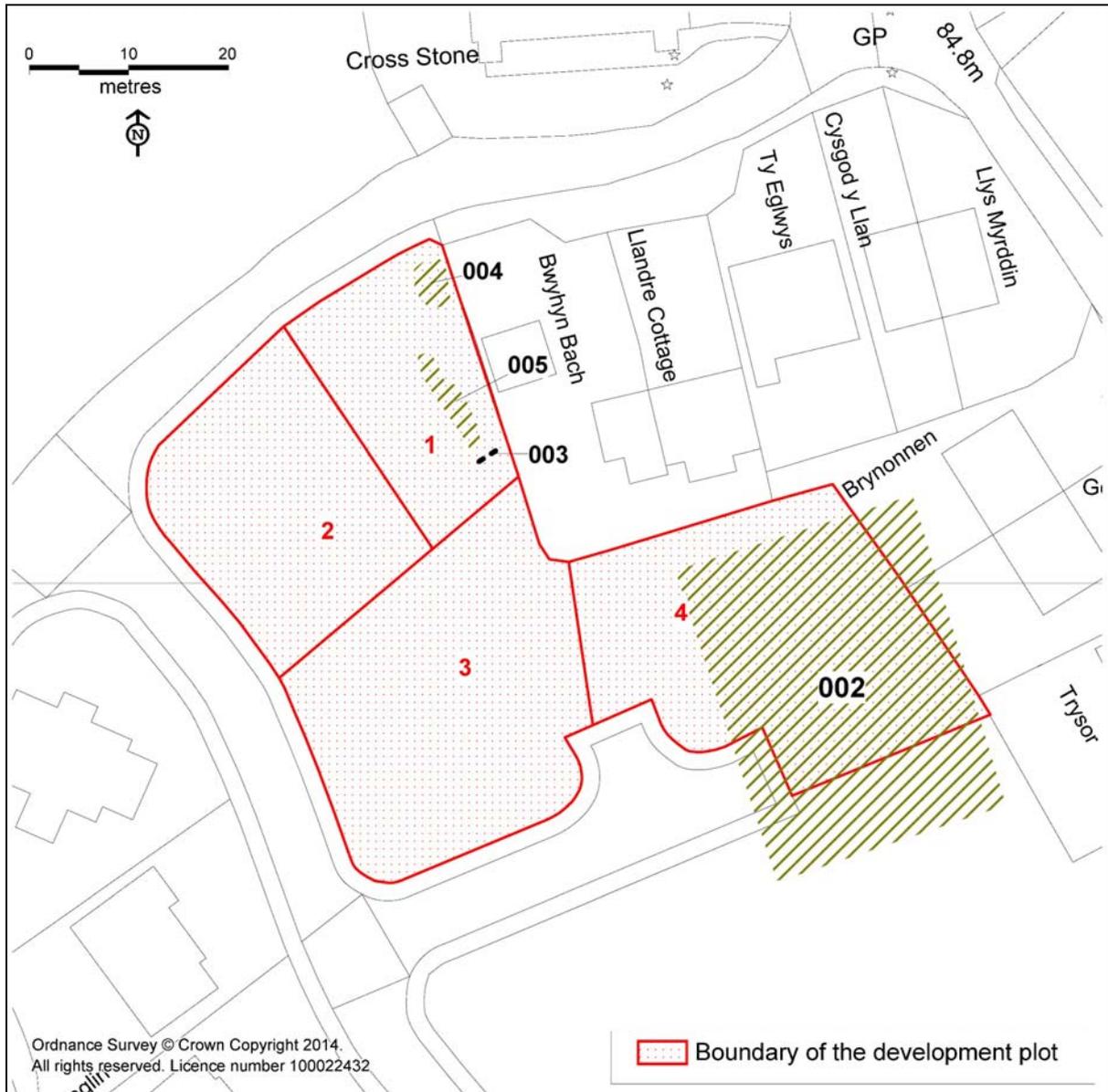


Figure 4: Location of contexts recorded. 003 and 005 are not extents of the context, but where it was noted in sections, true extent not known as material did not need to be removed.

10. Photographs

10.1 Colour digital photographs were taken of topsoil stripping and excavation of trenches 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 5. The photographs are included in Appendix B at the end of the report.

Photo Number	Description	Date Taken	Direction
LL2013_101	The development site before clearance of the topsoil started in 2013.	19/04/2013	Looking north.
LL2013_102	The development site before clearance of the topsoil started in 2013.	19/04/2013	Looking east northeast.
LL2013_103	The development site before clearance of the topsoil started in 2013.	19/04/2013	Looking northwest.
LL2013_104	Starting clearance of topsoil in plots 1 and 2 down to subsoil.	19/04/2013	Looking south.
LL2013_105	Foundation trenches for house in plot 1	30/04/2013	Looking north northwest.
LL2013_106	Topsoil removed from Plot 2.	30/04/2013	Looking west.
LL2013_107	Plot 4 cleared, site of former slurry pit.	30/04/2013	Looking north northwest.
LL2013_108	Looking across plot 4 to plots 2 and 3 beyond. The change in colours marks the edge of the former slurry pit	30/04/2013	Looking northwest.

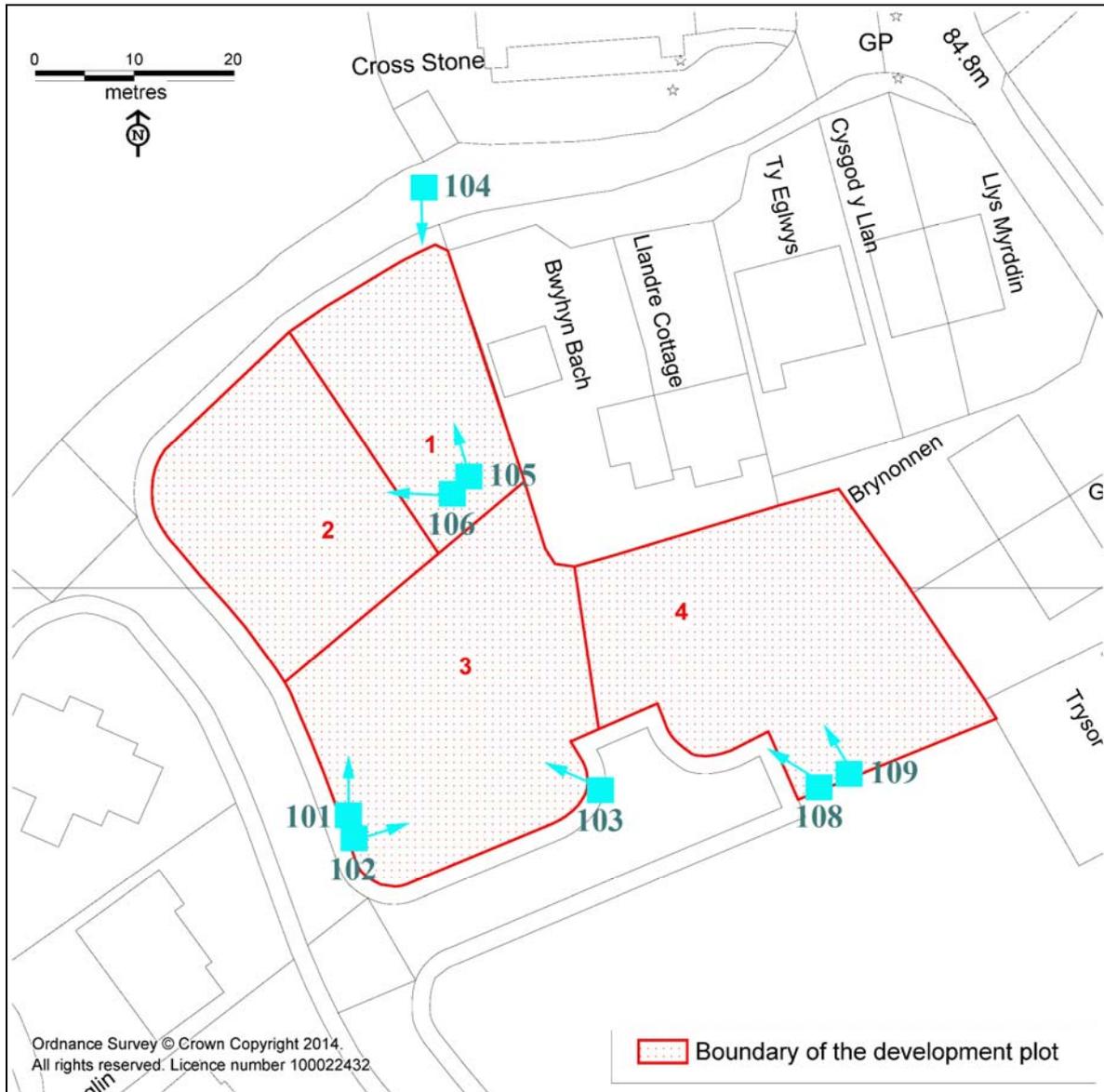


Figure 5: Location and directions of photographs

11. Conclusion

11.1 In plots 2 and 3, topsoil/ploughsoil 001 of variable depth lay above natural subsoil 006.

11.2 In plot 4 much of the area was covered by 002, a very mixed material, including modern plastic, which was filling a former slurry pit as shown on the 1978 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map. The rest of the plot was topsoil 001 above natural subsoil 006.

11.3 Plot 1 had the remains of a former building in its northeast corner. 004 was a concrete slab, presumably the floor of the building. Layer 005 was topsoil/garden soil in the vicinity of this building. The landowner said that a pigsty/cowshed had formerly stood in this area. South of this the topsoil 001 overlay a thin stony layer 003 containing 20th century pottery. The exact source of this layer was not clear but could be related to the building of the wall around the garden to the east. Elsewhere topsoil 001 overlay natural subsoil 006.

12. Archive

12.1 The 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.

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

13. Sources

13.1 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

APPENDIX A – Watching Brief Specification

PLOTS AT LLANDRE SITE, LLANPUMSAINT, CARMARTHEN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF SPECIFICATION

Planning permission – W/23691

1. Introduction

Mr Martin Davies, of Llandre, Llanpumsaint, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire SA33 6BY, has commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks for a housing development of four dwellings relating to planning application number: W/23691

The building development is in the village of Llanpumsaint, SN41936 28988

2. The development

The development consists of four houses.

3. Nature of the archaeological resource

There are no features recorded within the confines of the development plot in the online versions of the regional Historic Environment Record, the National Monuments Record, Listed Buildings or Scheduled Ancient Monuments. The mapped evidence from 19th century maps (1831 and 1889) show the plot was within a field behind the houses facing the church. On the 1889 map there is a small structure within a triangular enclosure, which may fall within the area of the development plot. On the 1811 map it may show an additional house within the development area.

Llanpumsaint church lies just to the north-northeast development plot. Llanpumsaint church as stands today is medieval in origin and parts of the existing building are thought to date back to the 13th century. It started as a chapel of ease in the parish of Abergwili and only became a parish church in the 18th/19th century and was restored in the late 19th century. It was reported in 1710 by Archbishop Tenison in his Visitation Notes, that there was a roofless chapel to the north of the church. The clerk at that time could remember a roof on the chapel previously and that it had been used for dancing on wet Sundays. A large stone was reported to be on this spot in the graveyard prior to the restoration of the church according the RCAHMW Inventory of 1917. This stone is only roughly finished on its back and ends but with a smooth finish on the top and incised with 9 equal armed crosses. The stone was moved into the church and placed beneath the communion table. It was thought to be an altar stone, probably from within the former chapel. Within the churchyard to the south of the church is a cross-incised stone thought to date to the 7th-9th centuries.

It was considered likely by Neil Ludlow in 2003 that there was an early medieval church on the site based on evidence of the former chapel to the north of the church. The date of the chapel building seen in 1710 is unknown but Neil Ludlow stated in 2003 that it may represent a "*capel-y-bedd*, that is a chapel erected over an earlier "saint's grave" or "founder's grave" and that such chapels are regarded as a good indicator of early medieval origins.

4. Conditions on the consent

In granting approval for the application, the Local Planning Authority imposed a condition on the outline consent, which specifies the actions necessary to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.

The developer shall ensure that a professionally qualified archaeologist is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area, so that an archaeological watching brief can be carried out. The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists. The Planning Authority will be informed, in writing at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development, of the name of the said archaeologist.

5. Field methodology

The watching brief will be carried out in accordance with Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA, 2008a)

A two-person team will watch the topsoil strip and examine the exposed surface. Any visible features will be recorded. If no features are visible and the strip is deemed to have gone down into the natural subsoil then the digging of the foundation trenches will not be observed. If features are visible and/or the natural subsoil has not been reached then the excavation of the foundation trenches will be watched. All ground surface and 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.

6. 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.

7. Health & Safety

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

8. Recording

A plan of the groundworks, and representative sections if appropriate, 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* (IfA, 2008b). 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.

9. 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* (IfA, 2008a, p.7) 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.

10. Dissemination

A summary of the work undertaken and its findings will be submitted to *Archaeology in Wales*, the annual review of archaeological work in Wales collated by the Council for British Archaeology Wales (CBA Wales)

11. Archive

The paper archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, including a copy of the final report in accordance with the IfA's *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (IfA, Undated). 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 for Upland Survey (RCAHMW, 2011).

12. 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.

13. Qualification of personnel

Trysor is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists and both partners are Members of the Institute for Archaeologists, www.archaeologists.net

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

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14. Insurance & Professional indemnity

Trysor has Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

15. Project identification

The project has been designated Trysor Project No. 2013/293

16. Sources

16.1 Maps

Ordnance Survey, 1811, 2" to a mile

Ordnance Survey, 1831, 1" to a mile

Ordnance Survey, 1889, 1:2500

16.2 Non-published

Central Excavation Unit, 1986, *Central Excavation Unit Manual: Part 2: Recording*, 1986

Ludlow, ND , 2004 , *Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project, Carmarthenshire, Part 2*

RCAHMW, 2011, *Form AB12: "Notes for Guidance" in the preparation of applications for Uplands Archaeology Initiative projects 2012-13*

16.3 Published

Edwards,N , 2007 , *A Corpus of Early Medieval Inscribed Stones and Stone Sculpture in Wales, Vol. 2, The South West*

IfA, 2008b, *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.*

IfA, Undated, *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*

RCAHM , 1917 , *Inventory of the County of Carmarthenshire ,*

16.4 Web based materials

Archwilio – www.archwilio.org.uk

Historic Wales Portal – www.historicwales.gov.uk

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April 2013

APPENDIX B



Plate 1: LLL2013_101, The development site before clearance of the topsoil started in 2013, looking north, across plots 3, 2 and 1.



Plate 2: LLL2013_102, The development site before clearance of the topsoil started in 2013, looking east northeast, across plots 3 and 4.



Plate 3: LLL2013_103, The development site before clearance of the topsoil started in 2013, looking northwest across plot 3.



Plate 4: LLL2013_104, Starting clearance of topsoil in plots 1 and 2 down to subsoil looking south.



Plate 5: LLL2013_105, foundation trenches for house in plot 1, looking north northwest.



Plate 6: LLL2013_106, Topsoil removed from Plot 2, looking west.



Plate 7: LLL2013_107, Plot 4 cleared, site of former slurry pit, looking north northwest



Plate 8: LLL2013_108 Looking across plot 4 to plots 2 and 3 beyond. The mixed fill 002 of the former slurry pit can be seen, looking northwest.