

# **A486 Improvement at Post Bach, Ceredigion Watching Brief**



Report by: Trysor

For: Alun Griffiths (Construction) Ltd

January 2013



# **A486 Improvement at Post Bach, Ceredigion Watching Brief**

By

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Trysor

Trysor Project No. 2012/280

For: Alun Griffiths (Construction) Ltd

January 2013

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**trysor**



*Cover photograph: Listed milepost just outside the development area*

# A486 improvements at Post Bach, Ceredigion Watching Brief

**RHIF YR ADRODDIAD - REPORT NUMBER:** Trysor 2012/280

**DYDDIAD** 28<sup>ain</sup> Ionawr 2013

**DATE** 28<sup>th</sup> January 2013

**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**

28/01/2013

*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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**1. Summary**

In January 2013, Trysor undertook a watching brief on a section of the road improvement of the A486, Synod Inn to Post Bach. The area had already been stripped down to or into subsoil, and no archaeological features were recorded.

**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 3, 4 & 5b include other copyright material and should not be copied.

**3. Introduction**

Neil Wall, on behalf of Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd, Waterways House, Merthyr road, Llanfoist, Abergavenny, NP7 9LN, commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to undertake an archaeological watching brief on a topsoil strip of a 200 metre section of the alteration to the route of the A486 at Post Bach, Ceredigion: planning application A090675CD (for a time extension) and A040504CD (the original application).

**4. The development**

The development consisted of the improvement to parts of the A486 between Synod Inn and Post Bach. This watching brief relates to a stretch of new road at SN3966052050.

**5. Conditions on the consent**

According to the client, in granting approval for the application the Local Planning Authority imposed a condition on the consent; the condition specifies the actions necessary to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource. In this case it was an archaeological watching brief on a stretch of new road at Post Bach. The client stated that the reason for the watching brief was PRN 1382, a record in the Historic Environment Record for the place-name Castle Hill, and the possibility that the name reflected the presence of an earlier fortification.

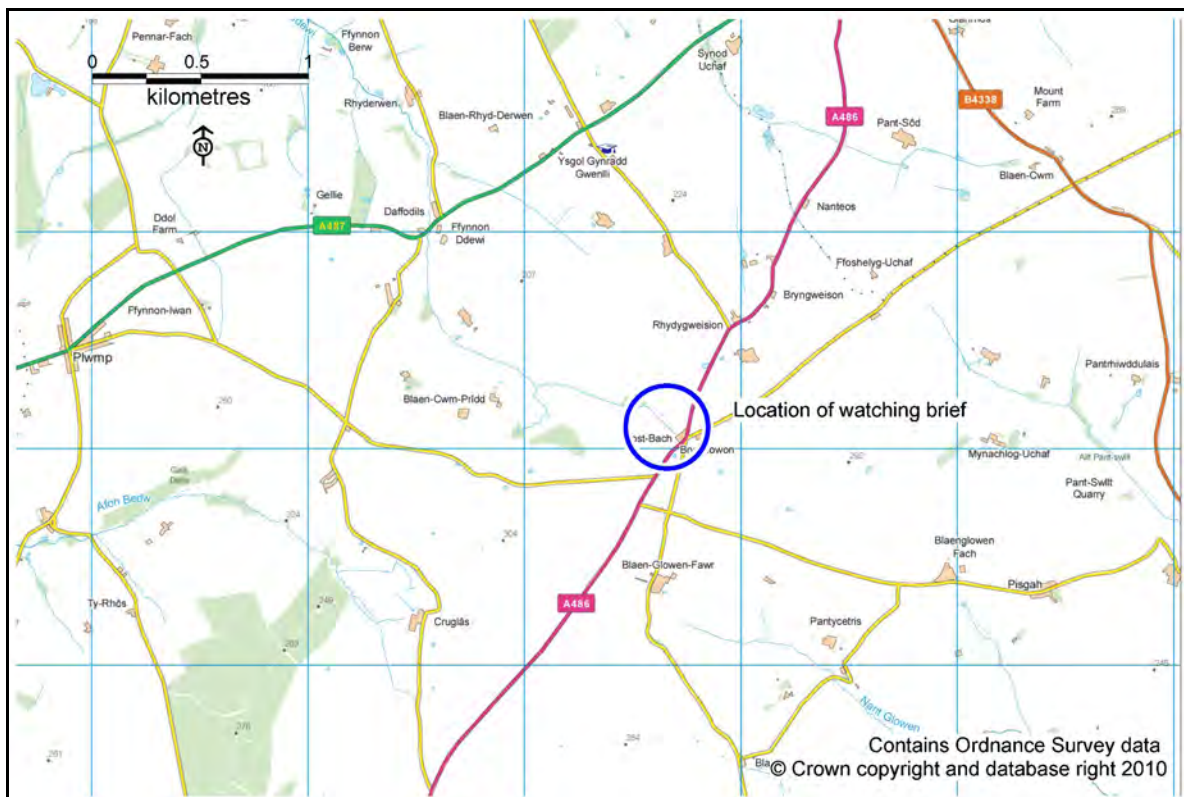
**6. The Specification**

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





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



*Figure 2:*

**7. Historical and Archaeological Overview**

A more detailed discussion of the previously recorded archaeology is given in Appendix A, section 4, but PRN 1382, a record in the Historic Environment Record for the place-name Castle Hill, was the main reason for the watching brief according to the client.

**8. Methodology**

The watching brief was undertaken on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013. The area in question had already been stripped off topsoil, and the central strip had been covered with membrane and 0.3 to 0.5 metres of stone placed on top. It was possible to observe the surface of the subsoil to the northeast and southwest of this strip and as well as the section to the northeast showing the relationship between topsoil and subsoil.

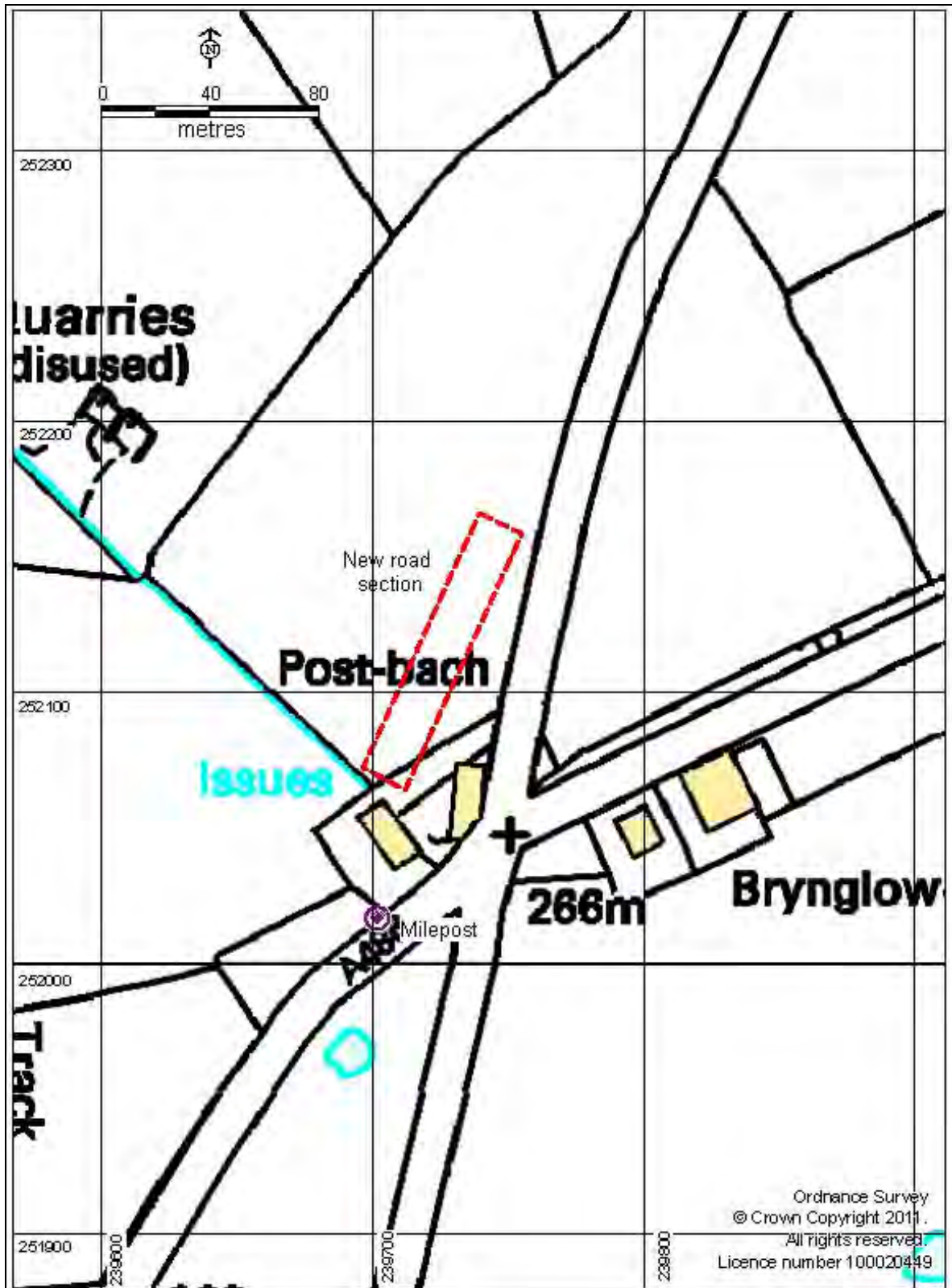


Figure 3: The area from which topsoil had been removed and was observed by Trynor.

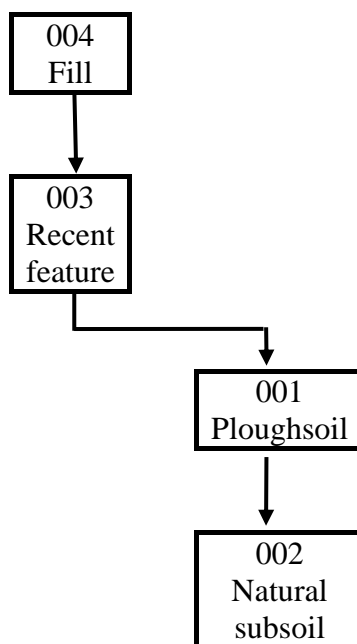


## 9. Site Stratigraphy

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 had been carried out previously and the central strip of the area covered with membrane and 0.30 to 0.50 metres of stone.

### 9.1 Context Catalogue

Context Number	Depth	Description	Interpretation
001	0.20m-0.45m	10YR 3/3, loam with very occasional small stones	Ploughsoil
002	-	10YR 5/4 Silty clay with stones	Natural subsoil
003		Cut, cut through ploughsoil, 0.60 metres wide and more than 0.30 metres deep.	Modern feature, filled by 004
004		Fill of 004, 10YR 5/4 silty, sticky clay with many small stones, very similar in character to the natural subsoil. Ploughsoil overlies it, thought to be a result of the modern feature being cut through the ploughsoil and then ploughed over.	Fill of a modern feature 003



## 10. Other Features Recorded

Site	NGR	Description	Impact
A	SN3973552062	This dwelling was built at some point between the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 and the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition map of 1905. It was called Castle Hill at that time.	The dwelling is not occupied at present but is not being directly affected by the road scheme.
B	SN3970652047	These outbuildings are not shown on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1905 but appear to be on the 1953 1:10560 Ordnance Survey edition.	The outbuildings have been completely removed either as part of the scheme or previously.
C	SN3971952062	A short boundary bank from the back of the house, Site A, to the outbuildings, Site B, is shown clearly on the 1975-76 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map. It appears to also be on the 1905 map but a later extension to the dwelling, Site A, has cut through it, creating the shorter back seen on the 1975-76 map	The boundary bank has been truncated by the road scheme.
D	SN3969752063	This boundary appears to be a later boundary, probably built when the house, Site A, was extended at its northern end.	This boundary has been removed.
E	SN3966852094	This boundary is shown in the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1889. The 1975-76 1:2500 map shows the ditch/drain that runs along the southwestern side of the boundary.	The southeast end of the boundary has been truncated by the road scheme, but the drain is being actively used to drain water.
F	SN3970252017	Listed Building, Grade II, 16684, PRN 57676. This milepost is of painted cast-iron and stands to about 60 cm high. It has a two-faced angled front, bevelled to a sloping top. The southwest face reads: "NEW QUAY 6 MILES" and the other reads "LLANDYSUL 9 MILES".	The milepost is still in situ and is located outside of the road scheme envelope.

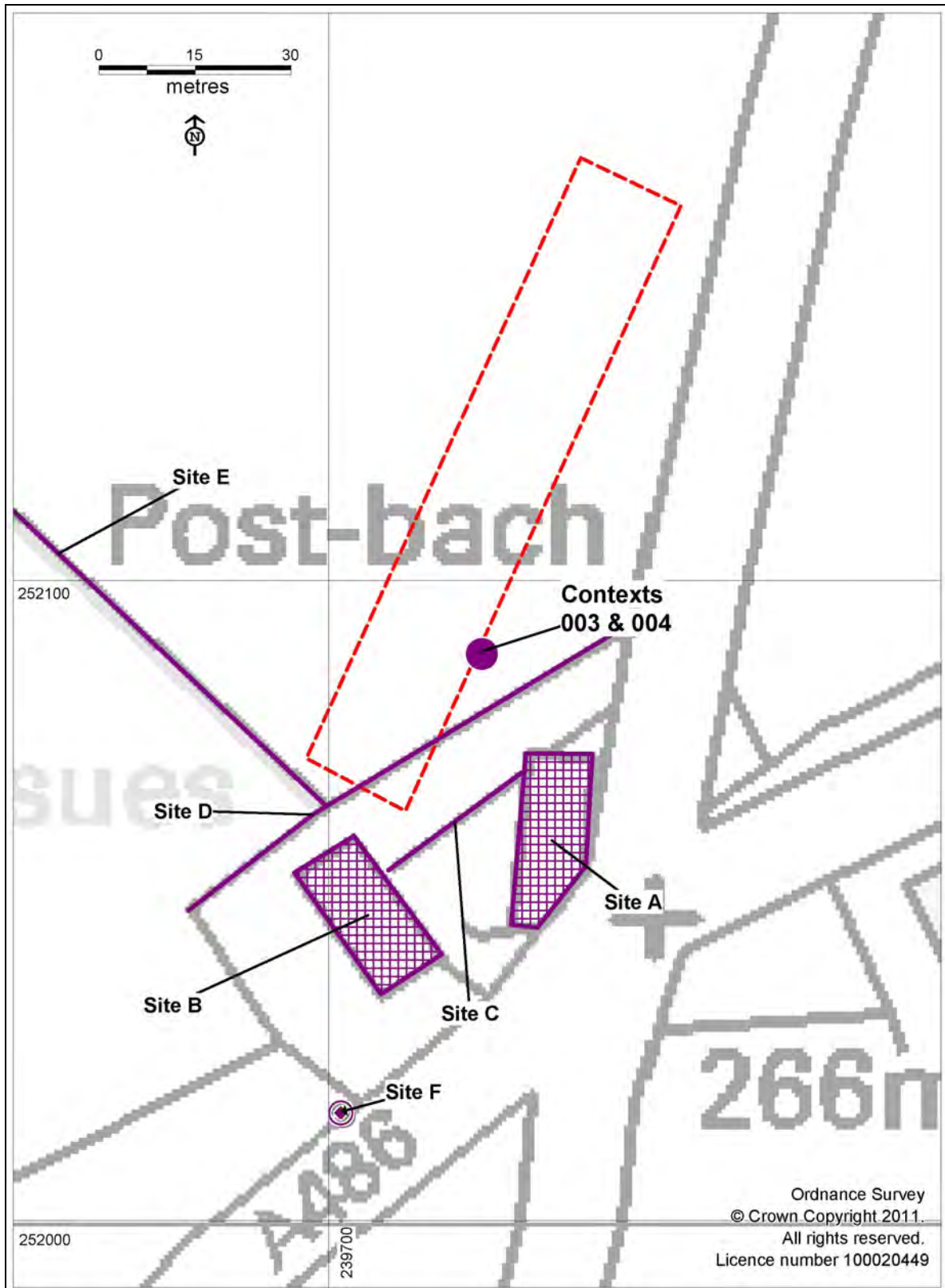


Figure 4: Location of features recorded.

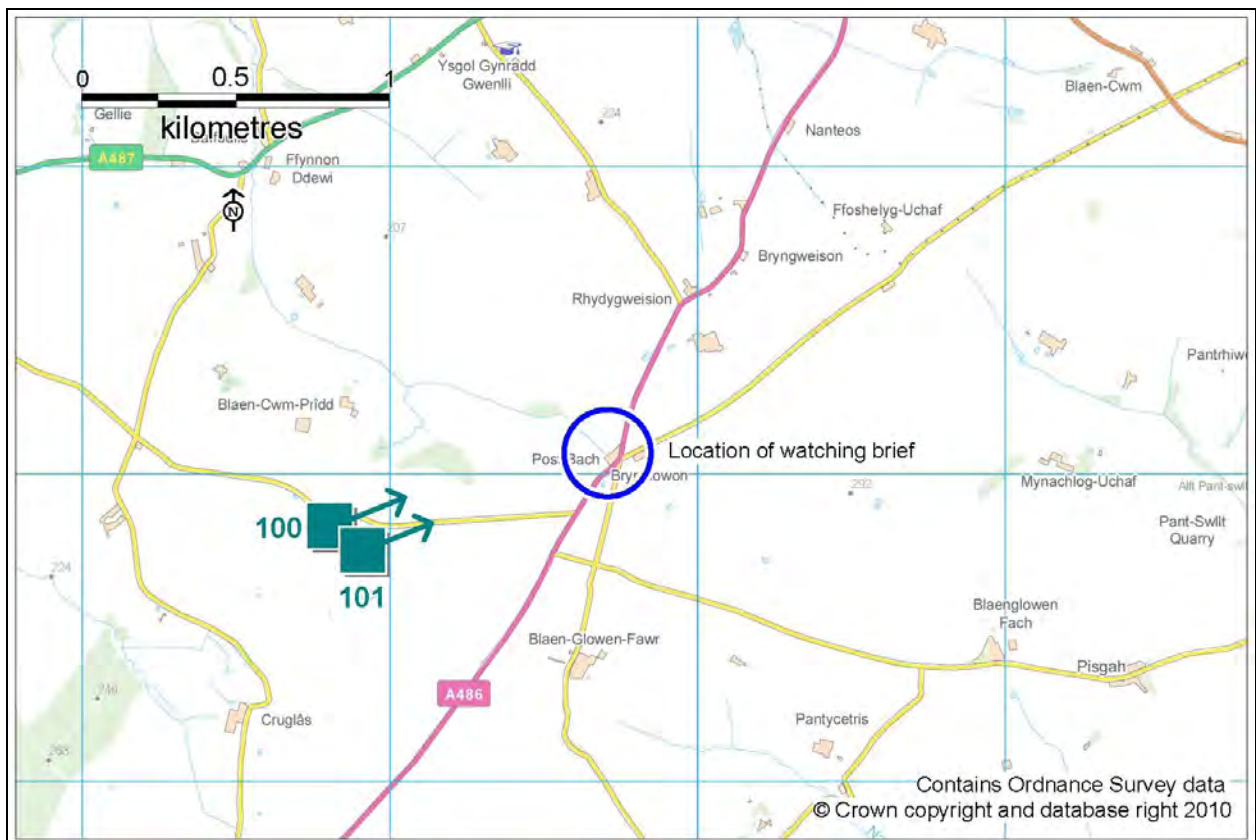
## 11. Photographs

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 5a and 5b. The photographs are included in Appendix B at the end of the report.

Photo Number	Description	Date Taken	Direction
<b>POB2013_100</b>	View of the road improvements works from the west. The white square structure in front of trees is the portacabins for the construction team which are located roughly where the outbuildings of the dwelling at Post Bach were. This photo shows the landscape with the valley falling away westwards from Post Bach.	09/01/2013	Looking east northeast.
<b>POB2013_101</b>	Zoomed in shot from same location as 100.	09/01/2013	Looking east northeast.
<b>POB2013_102</b>	The stripped area with the central section laid with membrane and stones.	09/01/2013	Looking north northeast.
<b>POB2013_103</b>	The stripped area with the central section laid with membrane and stones.	09/01/2013	Looking south southwest.
<b>POB2013_104</b>	Site E, a boundary and drain on its southwest side, with piping in place to run below road, to feed water into the existing drain.	09/01/2013	Looking west northwest.
<b>POB2013_105</b>	Site E, a boundary and drain on its southwest side, with piping in place to run below road, to feed water into the existing drain.	09/01/2013	Looking northwest.
<b>POB2013_106</b>	Recently stripped area at the northern end of the road segment.	09/01/2013	Looking northeast.
<b>POB2013_107</b>	Showing ploughsoil, 001, subsoil 002, and contexts 003 & 004. Note the ironstaining of the subsoil below the ploughsoil. It was also noted that the surface water on the site was also iron rich and produced stains where it had run.	09/01/2013	Looking east southeast.
<b>POB2013_108</b>	The southeastern section of the strip.	09/01/2013	Looking northeast.
<b>POB2013_109</b>	Site A, the rear of the house at Castle Hill/Post Bach.	09/01/2013	Looking southeast.
<b>POB2013_110</b>	The northern end of Site A, the house at Castle Hill/Post Bach.	09/01/2013	Looking east.
<b>POB2013_111</b>	The northern end of Site A, the	09/01/2013	Looking south.



	house at Castle Hill/Post Bach.		
<b>POB2013_112</b>	The front of Site A, the house at Castle Hill/Post Bach.	09/01/2013	Looking southwest.
<b>POB2013_113</b>	The front of Site A, the house at Castle Hill/Post Bach.	09/01/2013	Looking northwest.
<b>POB2013_114</b>	Site F, the listed milepost.	09/01/2013	Looking northwest.
<b>POB2013_115</b>	Site F, the listed milepost.	09/01/2013	Looking west southwest.
<b>POB2013_116</b>	Site F, the listed milepost.	09/01/2013	Looking northeast



*Figure 5a – Location of photographs*

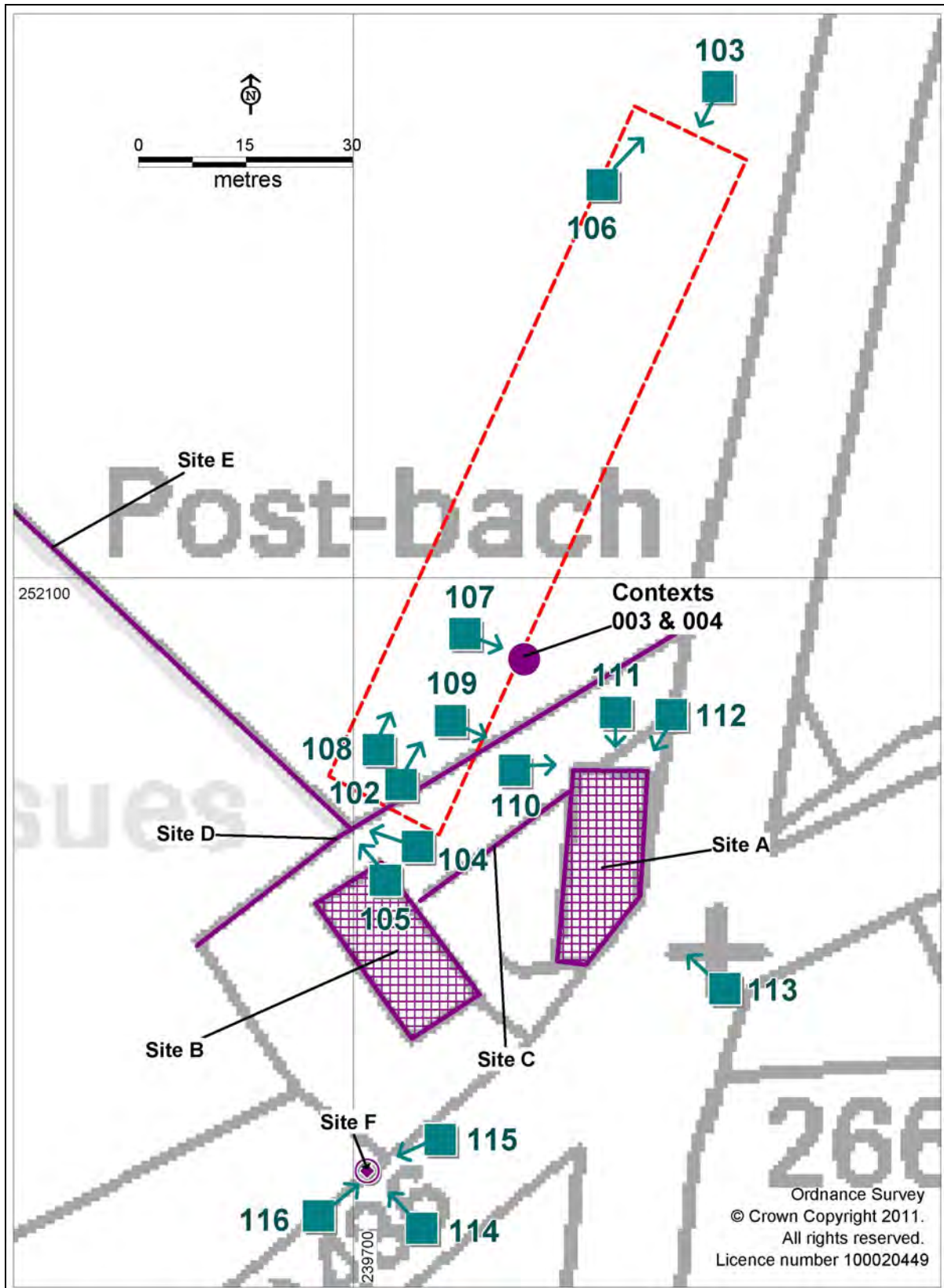


Figure 5b: Location of photographs

## **12. Conclusion**

No features of archaeological significance were recorded with the stripped area.

## **13. Archive**

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.

Further copies of the report have also been supplied to Neil Wall and Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd, and the Historic Environment Record at Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Llandeilo.

## **14. Sources**

### **14.1 Map sources**

Budgen, T, 1811, Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors drawing 2" to 1 mile survey  
Ordnance Survey, 1889, 1:2500 survey  
Ordnance Survey, 1905, 1:2500 survey  
Ordnance Survey, 1975-76, 1:2500 survey

### **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)

### **14.4 Online Sources**

Archwilio – Online access to regional Historic Environment Record (HER) for Pembrokeshire, [www.archwilio.org.uk](http://www.archwilio.org.uk) (PRN = Primary Reference Numbers of sites recorded in the HER).

Historic Wales – Online access to records from the National Monuments Record, Cadw, National Museum Artefact Records and the Historic Environment Record [www.hwr.gov.uk](http://www.hwr.gov.uk).

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook

Trysor

[www.trysor.net](http://www.trysor.net)

28<sup>th</sup> January 2013

## **APPENDIX A – Watching Brief Specification**

### **POST BACH ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF SPECIFICATION**

Planning permission – A040504CD & A090675CD

#### **1. Introduction**

Neil Wall, of Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd, Waterways House, Merthyr road, Llanfoist, Abergavenny, NP7 9LN. has commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to undertake an archaeological watching brief on a topsoil strip of a 200 metre section of an alteration to the route of the A486 at Post Bach, Ceredigion: planning application A090675CD (for a time extension) and A040504CD (the original application)

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

The development consists of the improvement to parts of the A486 between Synod Inn and Post Bach. This watching brief relates to a stretch of new road at SN3966052050.

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

In granting approval for the application, the Local Planning Authority imposed a condition.

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

The client has stated that the watching brief was asked for on the basis of a record of a place called Castle Hill at the junctions of the roads at Post Bach. There is a record in the HER, PRN 1382, for the place-name Castle Hill, as shown on the 1963 Ordnance Survey map. There is no record of a castle nearby, but there is a defended enclosure, PRN 1856, just over 1km to the east.

On the 1811 Original surveyors drawing the junction of the four roads was already in place but with an additional fifth road joining from the west. This road ran from the junction westwards, south of Pen y Cwm. The area to the southeast of this road and the road running northeast from the junction was open land at this time although the area to the northwest had been enclosed. There were no buildings shown at the junction at this time.

On the 1831 map all five roads are still use, but there appears to be two buildings on opposite sides of the junction and the name Post Bach is close to the one on the southeast side of the junction.

On the 1889 25 inch Ordnance Survey map the fifth road is no longer in use and is not shown apart from a section to the southwest of Pen y Cwm. There is no building to the northwest of the junction but there is small plot which may have contained a building. A structure is shown to the junction is shown and may be a building or a fold. The name Post Bach is shown close by.

On the 1906 map, the small plot to the northwest of the junction has a building in it called Castle Hill. To the southeast of the junction the structure is still shown but appears unroofed. A milepost is now shown to the south of the junction (New Quay 6, Llandyssul 9) as well a guide post.

Budgen, T, 1811, Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors drawing 2” to 1 mile survey



## **5. 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. The area stripped off topsoil 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*. 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* 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*.

### **11. 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.

### **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.archeologists.net](http://www.archeologists.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.

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 also undertook Tir Gofal field survey work and watching briefs. Since 2004 he has been an independent archaeologist undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desktop assessments and watching briefs.

### **14. Insurance & Professional indemnity**

Trysor has Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

### **15. Project identification**

The project has been designated Trysor Project No. 2013/280

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook  
Trysor  
January 2013

## APPENDIX B



*Plate 1: POB2013\_100, View of road improvements from the west, looking east northeast.*



*Plate 2: POB2013\_101, Zoomed-in view of road improvements from the west, looking east northeast*





Plate 3: POB2013\_102, the stripped area with the central section laid with membrane and stones laid north northeast.



Plate 4: POB2013\_103, the stripped area with the central section laid with membrane and stones laid north northeast.





Plate 5: POB2013\_104, looking at existing boundary, Site E, looking west northwest.



Plate 6: POB2013\_105, looking down existing boundary, Site E, looking northwest.





*Plate 7: POB2013\_106, recently stripped area at the northern end of the road segment, looking northeast.*



*Plate 8: POB2013\_107, detail of section showing contexts 001-004, looking east southeast.*





*Plate 9: POB2013\_108, the southeastern section of the strip. looking northeast*



*Plate 10: POB2013\_109, site A, the rear of the house at Castle Hill/Post Bach, looking southeast.*





*Plate 11: POB2013\_110, the northern end of Site A, the house at Castle Hill/Post Bach, looking east*





Plate 12: POB2013\_111, the northern end of Site A, the house at Castle Hill/Post Bach, looking south.



Plate 13: POB2013\_112, the front of Site A, the house at Castle Hill/Post Bach, looking southwest.





Plate 14: POB2013\_113, the front of Site A, the house at Castle Hill/Post Bach, looking northwest.



Plate 15: POB2013\_114, Site F, the listed milepost, looking northwest.





*Plate 16:POB2013\_115, Site F, the listed milepost, looking west southwest.*





*Plate 17:POB2013\_116, Site F, the listed milepost, looking northeast.*