

# GLASTIR ADVANCED POST VISIT ASSESSMENT

**DAT 105839**

**Site Name: St Clears, ruined brickworks**

**CRN A0024773**

<b>PRN 21537</b>	<b>NGR SN</b>	
<b>REF</b>	<b>UID 304, 833</b>	

## **Introduction and background**

The Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT) was consulted by Glastir contract manager Peter Jones, 28/05/2014 regarding the management and repair of part of a ruined brick works under the GA Historic environment objective layer. In particular the owner was concerned about the stability and thus safety of the standing remains, as the site is subject to unauthorised visits by local children. The site was visited by Huw Pritchard from DAT and Peter Jones on 24/06/2014 to discuss with the owner the best options for the positive management of the site under Glastir.

## **Historic Environment Issues**

The brick works is located on the east bank of the river to the south of the town. It is marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1888 called Brick Works and set within an irregular rectangular enclosure. The maps shows a pair of rectangular buildings and a small separate square structure, independently named as kiln. To the east of the boundary is a large area marked as clay pit presumably a source of materials. By the second edition OS map the layout of the brick works is unaltered although the clay pit is now shown as marshy ground suggesting it has been abandoned and colonised by nature.

The above ground surviving remains of the brick works are limited to one of the buildings marked on the OS map and shown as A on the attached map. The remains

include upstanding masonry of the south and eastern sides which survive up to 1m high on the S and E sides and the SE corner which stands some 2.5m high. The western wall survives as a rubble covered bank. No sign of the north wall was identified. The walls are stone with some brick at the corners but at the surviving corner pillar the upper part above c.1.5m is all brick built. The footprint of the building is covered with vegetation.

The boundary to the works shown on the map still survives a prominent earthwork. In the enclosed area the footings for the other building can be identified as a raised platform.

### **Statement of Significance.**

This site is one of four brick works shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of which only one other has any upstanding remains (PRN 21536). In addition below ground remains of the wider brick works are likely to survive. As such the upstanding remains are an important survival of a once widespread significant industry in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in St Clears. A scheme of works to maintain the future of the brick works is to be welcomed. Once repaired and cleared of vegetation the site of the brickworks will be a visually prominent structure clearly seen from the road into St Clears from the south and from the adjacent public footpath which is the route of the Welsh Coastal Path. Thus the Glastir works here have an added public benefit.

### **Condition**

The surviving corner pillar is in a poor condition. The upper part is covered with thick ivy which is destabilising the structure through the invasive nature of the roots and the weight of vegetation bearing down. The eastern wall return narrows into a thinner waist half way down the structure leaving a stepped overhang. At this point the brick work is loose and in poor condition. This leaves it vulnerable to over balance as the damaged area acts as a potential tipping point. The corner of the pillar has missing bricks and poor pointing. The remaining wall lengths are in fair condition although the tops are loose and have been heavily disturbed by root action.

### **Management options**

The desired management is to repair and maintain the standing masonry and clear vegetation from the remainder of the building in order to make the remains safe, stable and visible.

## **Management actions**

The following management actions were agreed during the site visit and are necessary for the positive management of the brick work remains;

### Repairs to the SE corner pillar.

The SE corner was assessed on site and it was agreed that the preferred option of full repair should be undertaken. Technical note 677 Historic-Repair of Masonry needs to be followed. Also the following specific recommendations need to be included the specification.

- 1) When erecting scaffolding around the structure only move the minimum of fallen material within the structure to set the scaffolding securely.
- 2) Remove ivy from the upper part of the structure carefully by hand. Leave roots in position and spot treat to prevent re-growth.
- 3) Re-point all jointing exposed under the ivy.
- 4) Rebuild the narrow section to the point indicated on the attached photo
- 5) Rebuild the external corner
- 6) Use reinforcement bars if required.
- 7) Where possible use bricks re-claimed from the top of the rubble piles on the interior. Do not dig into the piles to find bricks.
- 8) Repoint the whole of the wall return to the west

### Clearance of vegetation around the remains of the building.

The vegetation needs to be cleared from the footprint of the building as the roots of the large trees are intruding into the brick work and causing damage.

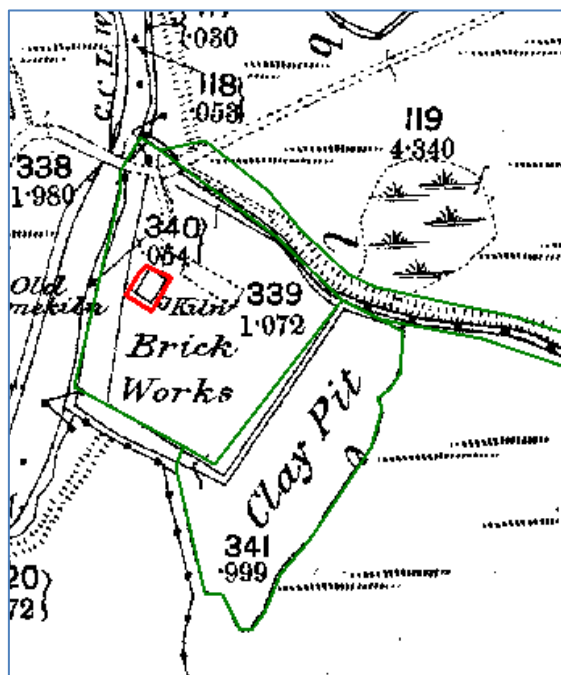
- 1) Clear all the scrub vegetation on the footprint of the building as shown on the attached map.
- 2) Cut down all the trees growing on the site. Avoid damaging the exposed walls during this operation. All cuttings and brash to be cleared from the site and disposed of accordingly.
- 3) Spot treat all remaining stumps with appropriate herbicide.

## **Glastir Whole Farm Code**

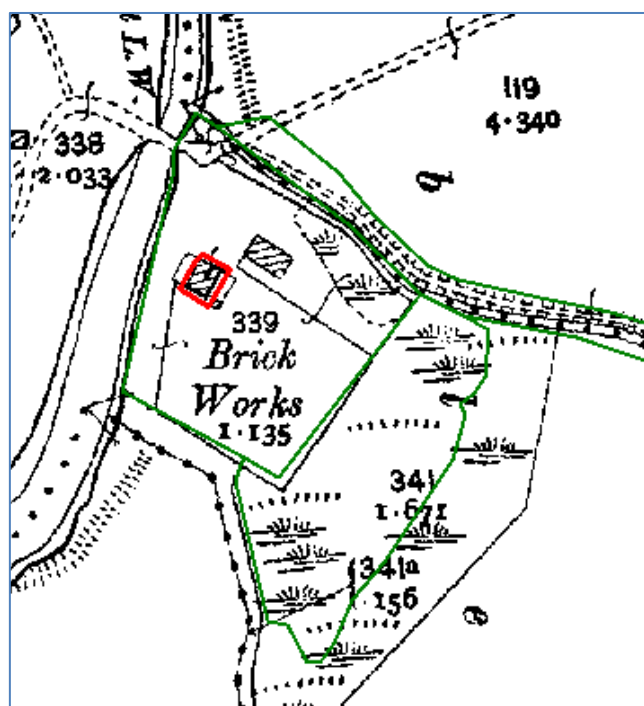
Please also remember that, unless indicated otherwise, the Glastir Whole Farm Code should be observed for all historic features on the farm. The Whole Farm Code states that there must be no damage to any historic feature identified on the agreement map.

Definitions of damage to a historic feature include ANY of the following:

- Ground disturbance or excavation especially extending beneath topsoil.
- Dumping or storage of material, including temporary storage.
- Removal of any material, including stones, soil or subsoil.
- Visible signs of active erosion (loss and disturbance of topsoil) caused by livestock and vehicles or other agricultural practice.
- Planting trees.
- Allowing scrub to develop.
- Ploughing or reseeded.
- Displacing individual stone features.



Detail from the Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition map (1888) © and database right Crown copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (All rights reserved 08/05/2012)

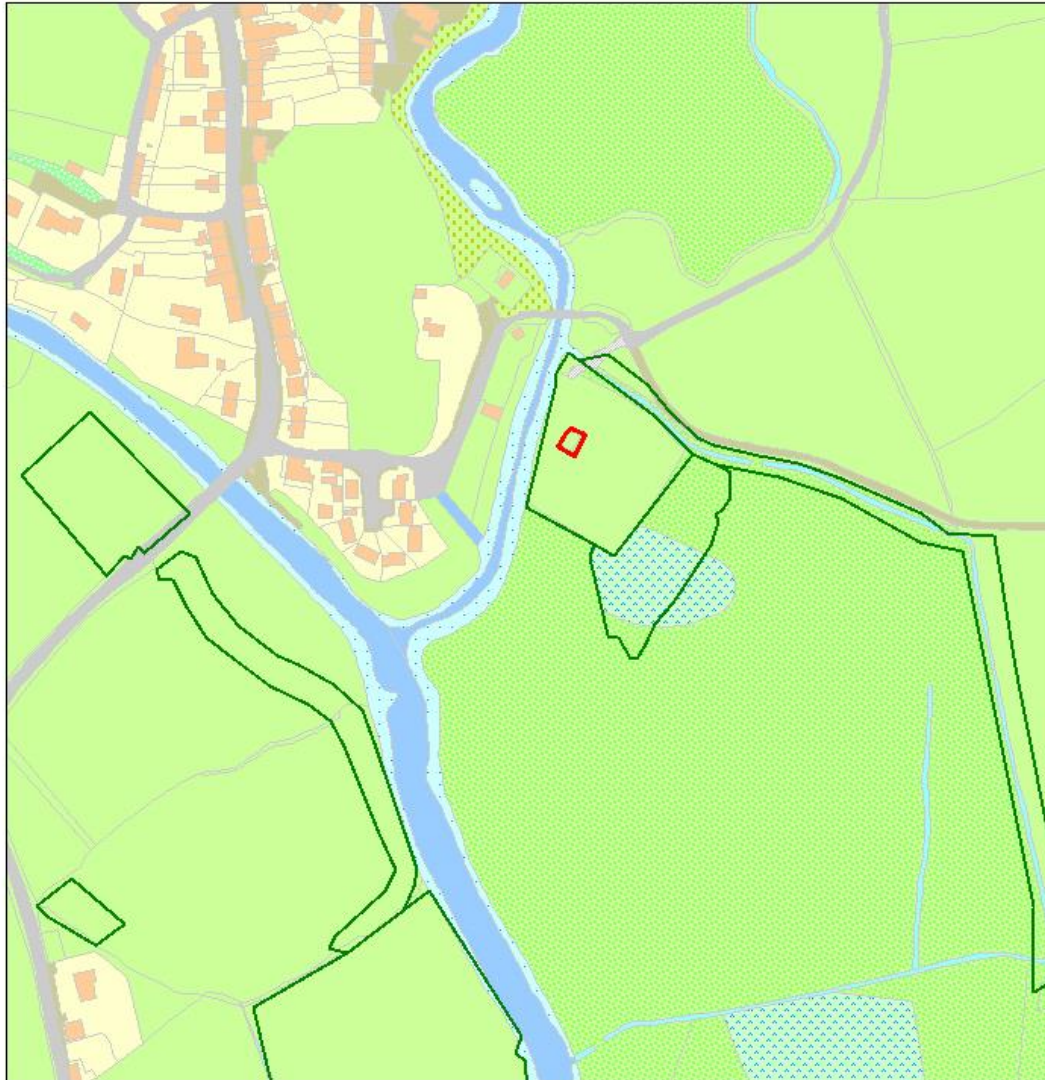


Detail from the Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> edition map (1907) © and database right Crown copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd (All rights reserved 08/05/2012)



Building A

## LOCATION MAP



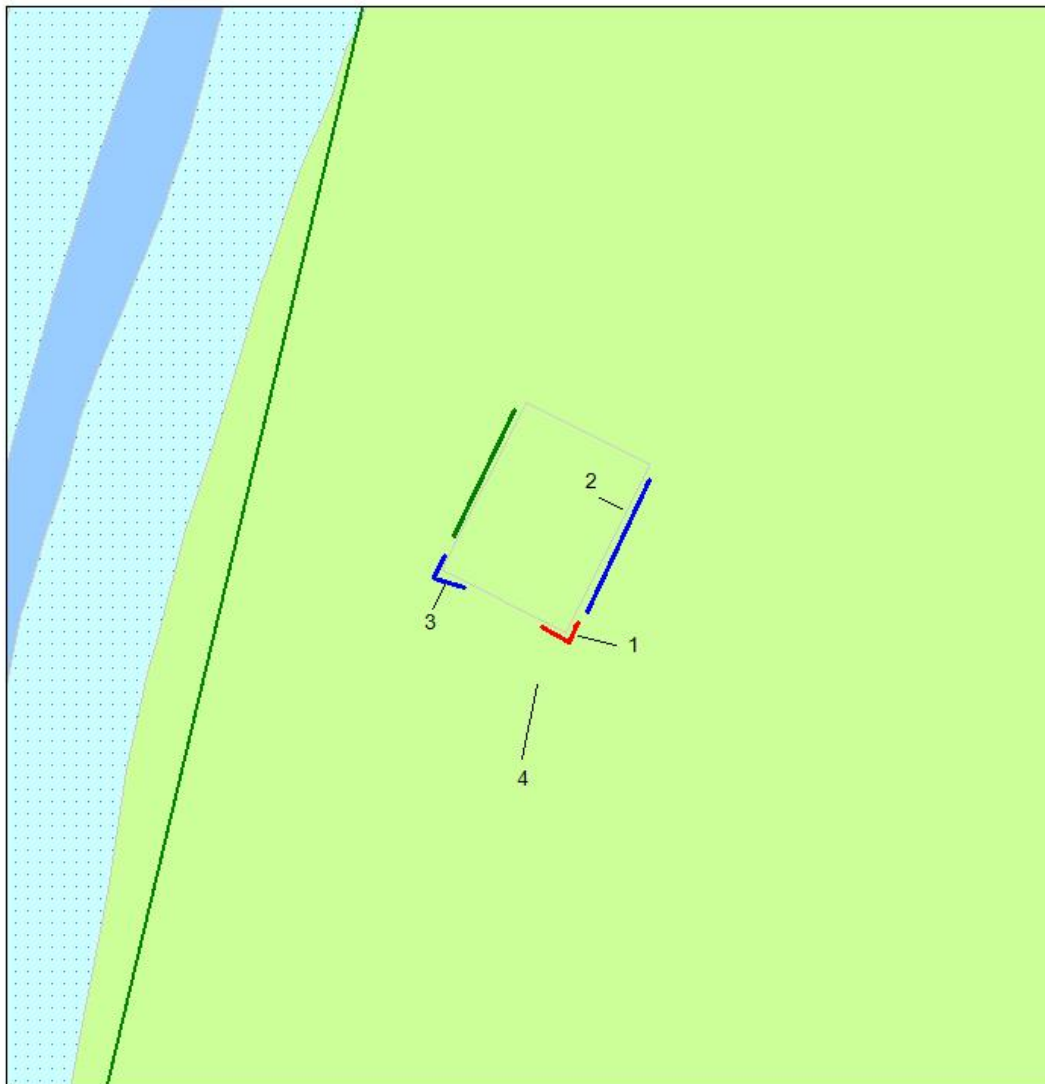
Building A



UID Polygon

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## MAP OF MANAGEMENT AREAS



Corner to be rebuilt



Wall tops to be re-set



Wall survives as rubble bank

1

Photo location



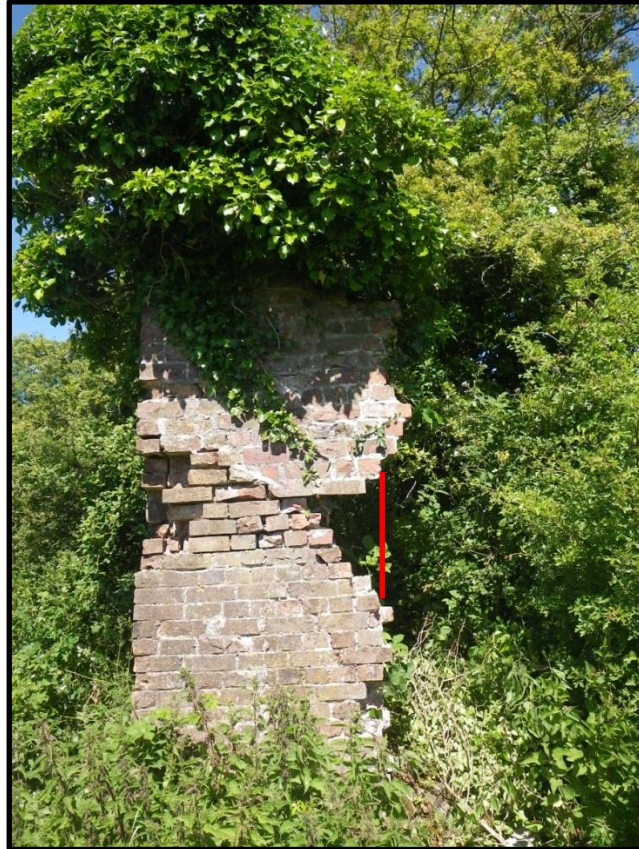


Photo 1. SE corner of Building A. Red line shows edge of area to be re-built.



Photo 2 Inner face of NW Corner



Photo 3 outer face of SW corner



Photo 4 General view from south

Huw Pritchard

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26/06/2014