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Gilfach-y-berthog, Abergwilli, Carmarthenshire.

Archaeological Watching Brief

By

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Gilfach-y-berthog, Abergwilli, Carmarthenshire.

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In summary, the ground reduction work in the Lower Parlour Room of the main house exposed the remains of an early 17th century cobbled floor with extensive repair at its eastern end. Following full recording of this exposed floor, initial removal of the apparent repair work exposed the remains of a small 19th century slack lime processing pit, with structural evidence suggesting that the feature may have had some kind of chimney flue arrangement that took generated smoke and fumes to the outside through a hole in the north wall alongside the 17th century inglenook fireplace. Again, following full recording of this structure and the complete removal of the damaged cobbled floor, a network of stone cut drainage culvert channels became exposed, entirely covered by a series of stone capstones. Inspection revealed that this complex of culverts once took excessive run-off water away from the rear of the house and guided it beneath the house foundations to the south of the property, where upon it would have once travelled to a large pond at the far south-western end of the farmstead complex. Removal of a number of capping stones from the culvert channels showed that much of the culvert was blocked from silt. This work managed to recover the remains of several fragments of early 17th pottery sherds. No pottery remains encountered from this groundwork were earlier than this date.

The watching brief during the demolition of the early 20th century red brick kitchen extension revealed that the extension had been built directly onto the natural shale bedrock. No finds earlier than the early 20th century were recovered from the demolition work. Following demolition of the 20th century kitchen extension and the full exposure of the east facing elevation, the only architectural feature that became exposed was the position of a former first floor window positioned directly above the ground floor doorway.

With regard the watching brief during the ground work for the pier supports in the western barn, southwest of the main house, this work exposed a cobbled surface in each trench. The earliest finds recovered from one of these trenches were all pottery fragments and all were dateable to the 17th century, suggesting that the cobbled surface is probably contemporary to the cobbled floor exposed in the main house in the lower parlour room.

Regarding the ground work for the service trenches at the rear, side and front of the property, the watching brief found no archaeological finds, features or deposits of any significance.

1 Introduction

1.1 The following report presents the results of a programme of archaeological works undertaken at the Grade II* Listed 18th century welsh gentry house of Gilfach-y-Berthog, Abergwilli, Carmarthenshire, during proposed restoration and renovation works of the main house and stable, both Grade II Listed Buildings. It details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during ground reduction works in the Lower Parlour Room in the main house, during the demolition of the early 20th century kitchen extension attached to the east of the house, groundwork during the excavation for a series of pier supports in one of the outbuildings, and the ensuing ground reduction works for the proposed new kitchen extension, and a watching brief during groundwork for a number of service trenches within the farmstead complex.

Site Location and Description

1.2 The farmstead of Gilfach-y-Berthog is located approximately 5.5km east of Carmarthen town and approximately 1km northwest of the village of Nantgaredig, within the community of Abergwilli in Carmarthenshire (National Grid Reference: SN4813022955). The farmstead consists of a 17th century minor gentry *mansion* house (Grade II* Listed), an associated 17th century barn/byre building (Grade II Listed), a 19th century stone barn and other outbuildings.

Planning Background & Development Proposals

1.3 Following submission of a planning application (Ref: W/23376) detailing the development proposals at Gilfach-y-Berthog, to Carmarthenshire County Council (henceforth CCC) on 29th October 2010, full planning permission was granted by CCC, with condition 5 stipulating that,

> "No development shall take place until the applicant, or their 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. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved scheme".

1.4 As part of the planning application, listed building consent was also granted by CCC for the demolition of the extension to the stable barn and its replacement with a timber clad barn extension (LBC Ref: W/24022). The restoration and extension of the main house was granted separate listed building consent (LBC Ref: W/24008).

1.5 It had been agreed during discussions with the local planning authority that specialist interpretative building survey information was not required. A comprehensive recording of the standing buildings had been provided by *Davies Sutton Architects* to the local authority. This was to be confirmed as acceptable by the local planning authority prior to being deposited with the RCAHMW.

1.6 Development proposals aimed to:

- restore the Grade II Listed house
- to demolish an existing lean-to kitchen extension and replace with a modern vernacular kitchen extension
- demolish a modern brickwork extension to the stable barn and replace with a timber clad barn extension

- carry out landscaping

1.7 It is anticipated that an archaeological watching brief will be undertaken during the following works:

- ground excavations to the proposed kitchen extension
- lifting of floor and excavation in existing basement to existing house
- external excavations to enable waterproofing to the rear of the house
- service and drainage trenches
- trial holes and excavations for pad foundations to the timber clad barn extension.

Brief Historical & Archaeological Background

1.8 The existing main house of Gilfach-y-Berthog (PRN: 11095) is a late seventeenth century minor gentry house of 'T' shaped plan. It is a stone-built building, two and a half storey's high with an end-chimney. The RCAHMW database entry for the house describes the house thus:

> *"The house consists of a central entry and passage with flanking main rooms and open well stair in rear wing, which has earlier ceiling-beams to kitchen. The parlour retains a finely plastered ceiling, a fireplace with pillasters to an overmantel and a 1692 date inscription within oval strapwork. This strap-work is echoed in a similar vein in the external stucco decoration. The room over the parlour has a high quality plaster moulded chimney piece with ionic columns of same period. The first-floor front rooms retain original 2-light timber mullion and transom windows. They have 'ogee' internal mouldings, formerly with leaded glazing. There are some simple 2-light windows at landing in rear wing" (RCAHMW database entry NPRN: 17364).*

1.9 The associated Grade II Listed barn and byre building (PRN: 25466) is a 17th century stone built threshing barn with opposed cart entries. It features three pairs of scarfed crucks that could be contemporary with the house. The north gable wall differs from the side walls, though all are stone rubble, and it is possible that the sides were originally timber framed. The south end of the building was the byre or cow house (RCAHMW database entry NPRN: 31600).

1.10 The associated Grade II Listed 19th century stone built stable is a single storey lofted building with limewashed rubble walls and a slate roof (NPRN: 31601).

1.11 The farmstead of Gilfach-y-Berthog is described in Francis Jones' 'Historic Carmarthenshire Homes and their families' (1987), with further mention of the site in 12th century manuscripts.

1.12 On 23rd April 2011 Dyfed Archaeological Trust (Field Services), observed the excavation of a series of 5 geo-technical test pits in the area of the main house, ahead of proposals for the construction of a swimming pool. The archaeological presence on site was to observe whether any archaeological features, finds or deposits may become exposed, damaged or destroyed by the proposed development. Dyfed Archaeological Trust's subsequent report (DAT Ref: FS10-008-JM-170510) concluded that, "No archaeological deposits were recorded in any of the five test pits. The majority of trenches comprised topsoil directly overlying the natural bedrock.....The results indicate that further archaeological investigation would be unnecessary, as it is considered that the swimming pool would have no impact on any buried archaeological resource. If any such remains

had existed prior to the house being constructed, they would have been destroyed when the ground was terraced. No indication of any archaeological remains associated with the house, other than garden soils and terracing, was observed" (DAT Report ref: FS10-008-JM-170510 - *23/04/11*).

2 Aims & Objectives

2.1 The aims of the watching brief, as defined by the IfA (2001) are:

- To allow a rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features that are uncovered during the proposed groundwork.

- To provide the 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 are not sufficient to support the treatment to a satisfactory or proper standard.

3 Methodology

3.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by HRS Wales staff using current best practice from January 2012.

3.2 All work was carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist with relevant level membership of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and followed the IfA Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (IfA 2001).

3.3 All proposed groundwork was undertaken under close and constant archaeological supervision.

3.4 All archaeological deposits or features encountered were cleaned, recorded and excavated. When external render and internal plasterwork was removed from elevations, then the exposed fabric was inspected and any exposed features were photographically recorded.

3.5 Recording was carried out using HRS Wales recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc), using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

3.6 Plans and sections were drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

3.7 All features identified were tied in to the both the OS National Grid and all local site and ground plans.

3.8 Photographs were appropriated in digital format, using both a 10 mega-pixel Olympus DSLR camera and a 14 mega-pixel Canon Powershot G10, with photographs stored in both RAW and JPEG formats.

4 Results of Watching Brief

4.1 All numbers in brackets (), refer to archaeological contexts encountered during the watching brief.

General Description

4.2 Archaeological work included a watching brief during ground reduction work in the Lower Parlour Room of the main house, the demolition of the existing Kitchen extension and ground reduction work at the east end of the house, ground work for the cutting of a series of six pier supports in the barn building to the west of the complex, and a watching brief during the cutting of a series of new services trenches.

Lower Parlour Room (see Figures 10 and 11; Photo plates 49-73)

4.3 The Lower Parlour Room is located at the northern end of the ground floor off the main house. It can be accessed either from the former front door of the earlier 17th century house, or via a series of steps down from the main ground floor hallway in the late 17th century part of the house. This room is characterised by exposed timber ceiling and a large inglenook fireplace in the north wall, complete with a former bread oven within each side wall.

4.4 Proposed groundwork in this room entailed the reduction of the floor level by approximately 0.30m to install modern under-floor heating.

4.5 At the time of the watching brief the entire floor of the Lower Parlour Room was surfaced in large modern stone floor tiles (100). All of these stone tiles were lifted and removed from the room. These stone tiles had been bedded onto a mixture of sand and pea-grit (101), which averaged approximately 0.20m in depth. Directly below this was a polyurethane plastic membrane (102). Directly below this membrane was a stone and earth levelling deposit (103), which averaged approximately 0.10m in depth. Once this loose deposit was removed, a pitched or cobbled floor became exposed (104). This floor was composed of river cobbles of various sizes, from 0.05 – 0.20m in size. This cobbled surface covered approximately 70% of the lower parlour room floor, with areas alongside both doorways at the west end of the room being absent of any cobbles, suggesting that these areas probably once held large slate slabs, since robbed or removed prior to the covering of floor in the later centuries. There was also evidence of major cobbled floor repair at the east end of the room, with areas of former cobbles having been replaced with fragments of black slate and red brick. Further damage to the cobbled floor was evident in the centre of the room, where the insertion of a 20th century electric cable had once dug a cut (108).

4.6 Once the overlying levelling deposit (103) had been completely removed from the cobbled floor (104), the exposed surface was cleaned by trowel and eventually brushed in order that the exposed floor could be recorded photographically and recorded in plan. During this cleaning process no finds earlier than the 19th century were recovered.

4.7 Once this recording work had been completed, because the cobbled floor had been significantly damaged in many areas in the past, the remaining cobbles were lifted in order that the proposed ground reduction work could continue to the required proposed level. However, prior to the cobbles being removed, it was decided that initially the areas of the floor that had seen significant repair work were investigated by removing the areas of repair.

4.8 At the far east end of the room, the removal of a large outline of red brick, black slate and other stones, which were not river cobbles, exposed the remains of a former slaked lime processing pit (106). This feature obviously post-dated the cobbled surface as its original construction had caused the removal of part of the cobbled floor.

Remnants of slaked lime in the pit were identical to the remains of slaked lime that was found at the base of the east, north and southern walls (107), overlying the cobbled surface. This suggested that the processing pit had probably been constructed for the production of slaked lime for building use as well as to coat the interior walls of parts of the house in either the late 17th century or the 18th century.

4.9 Careful excavation of the lime pit revealed that it had been constructed by digging a shallow 'kidney' shaped hole through the cobbled surface, with a small rectangular structure of red brickwork, only one course high remaining, forming an apparent hearth and flue at its northern end. These remaining bricks had no makers stamps on them and had been mortared together with lime mortar. Their character and fabric suggested that they were either 18th century or early 19th century in date.

4.10 Once the surface parts of this feature had been fully exposed and recorded, the lifting and removal of the cobbled floor (104) continued across the entire floor area. Lifting of the remaining cobbled floor revealed that the cobbles had been bedded into a deposit of dark earth and small stones (109). This deposit averaged approximately 0.05m – 0.10m in depth. Dateable material recovered from this cobble bedding deposit included several fragments of 17th century Glazed Dyfed Gravel Tempered ware.

4.11 Complete removal of the underlying cobbled bedding deposit (109) from the entire room exposed a network of stone capped rain drainage culverts (110). In total, three main culvert channels became exposed, each meeting approximately in the centre of the room at a junction channel. From here this culvert continued southwards towards the internal doorway that leads to the small basement/cellar part of the house. Further investigation of these culvert channels revealed that the main channels entered the house from beneath the north wall, one to the east, one to the west and one central to the room within the base of the inglenook fireplace. Each of these channels had been deliberately cut into the natural bedrock (111) to divert run-off rain water away from the rear of the house. In order to try and date the construction of these culvert channels, a number of culvert capping slabs were lifted, in the hope that some datable material could be recovered from inside the channels themselves. The lifting of these capping stones revealed that none of the channels were silted up to the point of being blocked, but were fairly clear. Datable material, in the form of pottery fragments, recovered from the base of the culverts in the inspected areas, were all early 17th century in date. This would suggest that the cutting of the culverts, the cobbled surface and very likely this part of the house is early 17th century in date and no earlier.

4.12 Once the layout of the culvert channels had been photographed and recorded in plan, further inspection was made of the slaked lime processing pit (106), which had been left in situ in order to fully record its character.

Slaked Lime processing Pit

4.13 Natural Lime is calcium oxide. The word lime originates with its earliest use as building mortar and has the sense of 'sticking or adhering'. When lime is crushed up and then heated and burnt in a lime kiln, it converts into a highly caustic material, known as quicklime. When water is added to this quicklime the product becomes less caustic and becomes calcium hydroxide, otherwise known as slaked lime. This process is called slaking of lime. Slaked lime is mixed into thick slurry with sand and water to form various kinds of mortar and render for building purposes. Also often made was lime putty used in the creation of stucco and fresco work.

4.14 Further investigation of the slaked lime pit in the lower parlour room, following the

removal of the cobbled floor and its associated bedding deposit from around the feature, revealed that the red brick structure at the northern end of the pit had remnants of soot and charcoal at the base of its internal opening, implying that this part of the structure was most probably used as a stoke hole or a grate to collect burnt ashes from a fire that had been lit from above in another now absent structure, perhaps even a very small lime kiln. Fumes from this burning were probably extracted from the room through a chimney flue arrangement that had once been punctured through a hole in part of the north wall alongside the eastern side of the inglenook fireplace.

4.15 Following removal of plasterwork from this wall as part of the restoration proposals, thus exposing the fabric, revealed that there had indeed once been an opening here, which had since been blocked in. This former opening would help explain the presence of an apparent stone built and roofed bread oven built against the external north wall at the rear of the house. This 'oven' likely made use of the already existing 'hole' in this wall.

4.16 Another interesting feature of the slaked lime processing pit, was the fact that the shallow end of the slaked lime collecting basin, at the northern end directly adjacent to the red brick structure, appeared to lead into a gap between two of the culvert capping stones on which the feature rested, which suggested that some slaked lime slurry or lime water may have been deliberately expelled down the culvert. If this was the case then it may suggest that there had originally been some kind of small sluice between the basin and the red brick stoke hole, to allow excess lime water to be expelled easily during the cleaning of the basin following the end of any processing.

4.17 One puzzling question still remains however, why was this lime processing undertaken inside the house and not outside?

4.18 One answer to this question may be that, given that the feature most certainly does appear to have been used for the creation of slaked lime, keeping the initial powdered lime dry would have been crucial to the first stage of processing and the creation of slaked lime would have had to have been a carefully monitored process in order to create the perfect product required for building purposes.

4.19 So, given that the southern part of Gilfach-y-berthog house had become the main living area in the late 17th century, the lower parlour room had now become less important in terms of social display and had become more of a domestic space, a kitchen area, which was conveniently close to the proposed building area and also offered shelter from the welsh rain.

4.20 This above interpretation does however suggest that the slacked lime pit was constructed in the late 17th century as part of the building work for the late 17th century house. However, the bricks used in the brick stoking structure of the lime pit suggest that the feature is early to mid 18th century in date. This would imply that the slaked lime pit was constructed for later building purposes during 18th century improvements and not late 17th century ones.

4.21 Also, the manner in which the pit was covered over again with only a hap-hazard repair of the cobbles using black slate and red brick suggests that there was little concern about the appearance of the repaired cobbled floor in this room at this time.

Kitchen Demolition and New Extension (see Figs 12, 14; Photos 6, 7, 10, 25-30 & 76-84)

4.22 Prior to the demolition work of the existing kitchen extension built against the northeast wall of the house, a photographic record was made of both the exterior and interior.

4.23 The kitchen extension appears to be mid-late 19thth century in construction, built of red brick with cement and sandstone rendered window frames. All existing windows are later 20th century in date. With regards to the kitchen interior, at the time of the site visit, apart from a 1950s Rayburn range built into the north wall, all other fixtures and fittings were modern in date.

4.24 The floor surface of the existing kitchen was constructed from 6 inch square quarry tiles, each laid at a diagonal across the entire floor.

4.25 Complete demolition and lifting of the quarry tiled floor revealed that the foundations had been built directly onto the natural bedrock (114). With the quarry tiled floor removed, no dateable finds earlier than the 19th century were recovered.

4.26 With regards to the investigation of the exposed standing fabric, a feature of interest that became exposed was a former window opening in the east facing wall of the earlier early 17th century house at first floor level, which was unblocked and had once given light into the roofing space of the former kitchen extension.

4.27 Another exposed feature was an apparent line in the plasterwork and fabric in both the newly exposed east and north facing walls, that appeared to mark the position of an earlier but lower building extension, perhaps a slightly earlier kitchen extension or lean-to building.

4.28 Other features exposed were the position of several put-logs in both the north and east facing walls.

4.29 The cutting of the ground for the new kitchen extension, which was to now extend much further eastwards, revealed that the overlying top soil and sub soil contained 19th century material only. Directly below these 20th century deposits, the groundwork exposed natural shale bedrock (114), suggesting that this area had already been heavily landscaped and disturbed in more recent years.

Pier Supports in western Barn

4.30 In order that a new garage had been proposed as part of the proposed development, an existing unlisted building at the west end of the complex was demolished and the excavation of 6 small trenches through a modern concrete floor was necessary to install six new concrete pier supports. Each of these trenches was to be measure approximately 0.50m x 0.50m.

4.31 The cutting of each of these small trenches through modern concrete revealed that the concrete was only approximately 0.10m-0.15m in depth (115). This concrete base had been laid over a sub base of earth, stone and sand (116). This averaged approximately 0.20m in depth in each trench. Directly below this sub base was a dark earth deposit intermixed with ash and soot, approximately 0.05m in depth (117). Directly below this deposit, in three of the trenches, No's 1, 2 and 4, excavation exposed a cobbled floor, similar to that already exposed in the Lower Parlour Room of

the main house, suggesting that it was at the latest early 17th century in date.

4.32 With regards to the other trenches, the area of the trench for support pier No. 3 had already been disturbed from a modern brick built feature. No cobbled surface was exposed in this trench and the ground work down to the required level only exposed the natural bedrock here (119). Both trenches 5 and 6 were positioned at the edge of the modern concrete floor at its eastern end. The trenches for each of these pier supports exposed the natural shale bedrock only (119).

Service Trenches

4.33 Service trenches within the complex had been proposed in five main areas:

- *i)* ST1 – service trench at the rear of the house at the far north end in order to redirect water run-off away from the main house.
- *ii)* ST2 – service trench at the eastern side of the house in the area of the new kitchen extension
- *iii)* ST3 – service trench at the front of the house where a foul drain and a new inspection cover had been proposed.
- *iv)* ST4 – service trench from front of house running southwards toward the main sewer which lay in the field north of the farm complex.
- *v)* ST5 – series of service trenches in courtyard area between stone barn and west of main house.

4.34 The results from the watching brief during the cutting of each of these service trench areas is given below in the order listed above.

i) ST1 - Service trench at rear of house

4.35 This trench was positioned at the rear of the house at the northern end. Proposals were to reduce the ground at the rear of the house in order to lay a series of drainage pipes to help direct water away from the house, which was suffering fairly severely from rain water that was running off the slope at the rear of the house and causing flooding, which was being detrimental to the foundations.

4.36 At the time of the ground work, the existing ground at the rear of the house was modern concrete (120), which had been acting as a base for an oil tank and boiler house. At the north-western corner a small flight of concrete steps (121) allowed access to and from the rear of the house from the western side entrance of the house (the original entrance to the early 17th century house).

4.37 Following the complete removal of the concrete and steps (120 + 121), a sub base material became exposed (122). This consisted of sand and gravel with core rubble of stone and brick, all late 20th century in date. This deposit averaged approximately 0.15m in depth. Below this deposit was natural grey clay and shale bedrock (123). At the point between the side wall of the house and the edge of the modern concrete steps several fragments of 18th century North Devon or glazed Dyfed Gravel Tempered Ware were recovered (these were not retained). No pottery fragments or any other dateable material was recovered earlier than the 18th century in this area. This would suggest that this area had already been disturbed previously, given that this end of the house appears to be early 17th century in date.

4.38 Once the natural bedrock was exposed ground reduction work continued to the

necessary depth, cutting into the bedrock, to lay the series of required drainage pipes.

ii) ST2 - Service trench alongside proposed Kitchen extension – ST2 (see Figure 15)

4.39 This fairly long trench, approximately 8m in length x 0.50m wide, was positioned along the line of an existing water issue, which diverted water from the upward slope away from the house. Looking at the early OS map of 1889, this issue is marked and it is very likely that this small water course had been taking water away from the house for several centuries. Development proposals intended to widen this course to insert an appropriate drainage pipe, presently absent, to a maximum depth of 1.30m in the deepest area below the present surface in order to allow a steep angle for drainage.

4.40 Groundwork initially removed the turf and top soil (113) along the existing water course route. This deposit averaged approximately 0.20m in depth. Dateable finds from this context were all 20th century and late 19th century in date and included glass bottle shards and pottery fragments (not retained). Removal of the top soil exposed a dark earth sub deposit (124), which appeared to have been previously disturbed, given that it included a mixture of 19th and 20th century midden material. The depth of this deposit varied, from between 0.40m -1.00m. Below this context, groundwork exposed a natural grey clay and shale bedrock (119/123).

4.41 However, toward the northern end of this trench, lying immediately above the natural bedrock and below the deposit of 19th/20th century midden material, was the remains of a low dry stone garden wall (125) that appeared in the side of the trench in the east facing section. This low wall, approximately 0.75m high x 0.40m wide, bordered the covered remains of a garden path consisting of square quarry tiles (138), identical to those that had existed within the earlier kitchen extension interior. This path appears to have once led toward the former 19th century kitchen extension entrance, the wall also having acted as a retaining wall for a lawn or flower bed area to the north. Directly lying on top this footpath was a deposit of late 19th and 20th century rubbish material, which further suggested that this area had been extensively landscape in recent years.

iii) ST3 - Service trench at front of house (see Figure 16)

4.42 The service trench in front of the house entailed groundwork for the insertion of a foul drain with an inspection cover and linking up with existing drains.

4.43 Initial work in this area entailed the cutting back and removal of the existing front entrance steps in order to expose the existing foul drain. This work revealed that the foul pipe from the upstairs toilet has been cleverly hidden within the hollow decorative pilaster on the east side of the front entrance. This drain pipe was plastic, which suggested that this work had been done at some time in the late 20th century. Further removal of the side steps arrangement on the west side of the front entrance revealed that these side steps were also a later addition, which had been constructed from modern concrete blocks with a rubble core, which suggests that the original late 17th century step arrangement had most likely been central to the house entrance, as they were now to be constructed as per the development proposal.

4.44 Removal of this modern step arrangement also revealed that the front of the house had received several different colours of paint over the years, the earliest being a rose or pale red, followed by a dark cream or biscuit coloured paint.

4.45 Once the greater part of the step arrangement had been removed and the foul pipe was adequately exposed, the groundwork for the service trench began.

4.46 Once the turf and top soil (127) was removed, which reached a depth of only 0.15m, a beige/pale orange clay, intermixed with grit, charcoal fragments and lumps of processed lime (128) became exposed. This deposit averaged approximately 0.10m in depth. The character of this deposit suggested that it was a construction layer. All dateable finds recovered from this deposit were 19th and 20th century in date.

4.47 Directly below this deposit was a compacted pale green/grey clay intermixed with crushed grey shale (129), suggestive of a former path or track, likely an earlier footpath that led to the former entrance of the house in the 19th and 18th centuries. This compacted layer averaged approximately 0.10m in depth. From observation of an exposed section following the removal of part of the walling at the front of the house, this deposit also appeared to be bowed in its central area, again suggestive of a former footpath.

4.48 Below this deposit was a layer of crushed dark slate/shale intermixed with grey clay and ash and charcoal fragments with lime mortar (130). This deposit averaged approximately 0.20m in depth. This deposit was interpreted as a construction deposit and very likely late 17th century in date laid down during the construction of the late 17th century house. No dateable finds were recovered from this deposit.

4.49 Below this deposit was a natural beige/pale orange clay (131).

iv) ST4 - Service trench from front of house running southwards toward the main sewer (see Figure 17)

4.50 This service trench extended from the front of the house, alongside the front garden enclosure wall, then southward toward the entrance to the farmstead enclosure, with the intention being to link up with the main sewer in the field to the south. The average depth of this trench was to be approximately 0.75m deep x 0.75m wide.

4.51 Across the entire length of this trench, the only significant feature that became exposed was the position of an east to west culvert (132), with the exposed section positioned alongside the entrance to the red brick built barn. The angle of this exposed section of culvert inferred that the culvert continued onwards toward the pond in the southwest part of the walled enclosure.

4.52 With regard the stratigraphy in this trench, a typical section comprised approximately 0.20m of compacted earth and shale (133). This deposit averaged approximately 0.20m in depth. Finds recovered from this deposit included occasional 19th century pottery fragments (not retained). Below this context was a deposit of loose earth and shale (134) with the occasional lens of ash intermixed with earth. This deposit averaged approximately 0.20m in depth. Below this deposit was a natural pale grey and iron stained shale grit (135).

v) ST5 - Service trenches in courtyard area

4.53 The stratigraphy for this network of proposed service trenches was identical to that observed in Service Trench 4. No finds earlier than the 19th century were recovered, suggesting that the courtyard area had been landscape or cleared in either the 19th century.

Standing Building Investigation

4.54 Following the removal of plasterwork from parts of the interior of the house, two significant features became exposed.

4.55 The first of these features was an apparent blocked in window on the first floor landing, within the west wall in the old part of the house (see Photo Plate 30). This former window opening would once have been part of the early 17th century house prior to the construction of the new extension house in the late 17th century. This is evident by the existence of the same fabric and mortar used as blocking in as the stone used in the main fabric of the later build.

4.56 The second significant feature exposed following the removal of plasterwork from the interior of the house is evidence for a blocked in 'bread oven' in the Lower Parlour Room, already mentioned in section 4.15. This feature appears to have been associated with the stone built roof tiled structure at the rear of the house in the north wall. Its character and form suggests that it was an extension bread oven. However, with the discovery of a slaked lime processing pit in the Lower Parlour Room, which appears to have had an association with this blocked in feature, that being to dispel lime processing fumes from the room, it is also possible that this structure also served another unknown function.

4.57 Regarding the exterior of the building, the investigation of the standing fabric, following the removal of external render and examination of existing exposed fabric at the rear of the house, exposed only a few interesting features associated with the early 17th century house and its incorporation into the late 17th century construction and changing architectural fashions.

4.58 Unsurprisingly, the majority of these features exist in areas where the two phases of building exist, particularly in the west wall of the early 17th century house and the join between the early and later 17th century house. Features here include; a blocked in window at first floor level adjacent to the joint between the west wall of the early 17th century house and the north wall of the late 17th century house; evidence for a former slit window at ground floor level in the west wall of the early 17th century house, south of the main entrance in this wall; evidence in the standing fabric that all of the window openings in the west wall of the early 17th century house have been altered to accommodate a change in window styles.

4.59 Other architectural features exposed in other parts of the house, include an unblocked window in the first floor of the east wall of the early 17th century house. This former window had been previously obscured by the kitchen roof and had been used at one time to allow light into the roof attic space, but had at one time more recently been panelled up.

4.60 Removal of the render from the external elevation of the front façade of the house revealed no new hidden features.

5 Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 The watching brief during the groundwork for the external services at Gilfach-y-berthog exposed only a few new interesting features that help shed some light on parts of the former 17th - 19th century farm complex.

5.2 The earliest of these features was the discovery of the partial remains of a cobbled floor in the area of the former stone barn at the north-western part of the complex. This cobbled surface is likely early 17th century in date, contemporary with the early 17th century house.

5.3 Other external features included a the partially exposed remains of a preserved low dry-stone built garden wall and a quarry tiled footpath that once led toward the back door of the 19th century kitchen extension. Groundwork revealed that this footpath and wall had been covered over and the ground landscaped at some time in the 20th century.

5.4 Service groundwork at the front of the house revealed that the existing entrance step arrangement was 20th century in date, as was evident from the use of modern concrete blocks. Evidence for an earlier step arrangement however was evident within the core rubble of this later step, in the form of several rose/pale red painted block stones, which suggested that the original late 17th-19th century step arrangement was most probably only a very simple two or three step arrangement.

5.5 Also, it was discovered that both pilasters that flanked the front entrance were also 20th century in date, one of which had been cleverly put in place to conceal a foul pipe from the upstairs toilet.

5.6 Groundwork in this area also revealed that in the 17th and 18th centuries and perhaps the 19th century, the boundary wall in front the house had once been made up of compacted crushed grey shale, with evidence for a former footpath directly opposite the front door, which continued through the stone boundary wall.

5.7 The groundwork for the demolition of the existing 19th century kitchen and the cutting of new footings for the new extension exposed no archaeological features or deposits, revealing only that the 19th century kitchen extension appeared to have caused extensive landscaping of the immediate area and its walls had been built directly onto thee natural shale bedrock.

5.8 Groundwork within the house was confined to the Lower Parlour Room. The proposed floor reduction work revealed that this room had once had a cobbled floor in the early 17th century, which was covering a network of stone capped drainage culverts, each having been cut into the natural shale bedrock. Investigation and planning of these culverts revealed that they had probably been constructed in the early 17th century to direct water away from the rear of the house at its northern side.

5.9 Investigation and recording of the cobbled surface in the Lower Parlour Room revealed the remains of what has been interpreted as a slaked lime processing pit, which appeared to be 18th century in date, given that it post dated the cobbled floor and the red bricks used in its construction appeared to be early 18th century in character type. Examination of the walls in the Lower Parlour revealed that the slaked lime remains in the lime pit were identical to the slaked lime existing at the base of the lower parlour room walls, which would suggest that the slaked lime pit was used to produce slaked lime for use on the interior walls of the house in the 18th century.

5.10 One further feature exposed in the Lower Parlour Room was an apparent block-in in the fabric of the northern wall, on the eastern side of the inglenook fireplace. This opening was unblocked temporarily, which revealed that the opening led directly to a small external stone built structure at the rear of the house, which has been interpreted

as an extension bread oven, which appears to have also been used to help direct lime processing fumes out of the room during times of slaked lime production. The reason why this lime processing was undertaken inside the house was probably for several reasons, firstly, to keep the slaked lime close to the location of its proposed use and secondly, to avoid the lime processing getting too wet from the welsh rain.

5.11 With regards to the investigation of the standing fabric following internal and external render removal, there were only a small number of architectural features that became exposed that helped inform the chronology and development of the house. These features were predominantly in the west facing elevation of the early 17th century house. Features included a blocked in window, a former window slit and the apparent reduction in window sizes in the first and second floor windows.

5.12 In conclusion, the watching brief and the investigation of the standing fabric at Gilfach-y-berthog revealed that the earliest part of the existing house is early 17th century in date. This earlier house is at the northern end of the main house and occupies the lower level and basement area. This earlier house appears to have been extended in the late 17th century with the addition of an east to west aligned front facade, built in the 1690s, as is evident from the date of 1692 in the front parlour room. This construction work retained the original south facing external wall of the earlier house, which now forms part of the upper parlour room.

5.13 As there is apparently mention of a house at Gilfach in 12th century manuscripts, the footings of this medieval house were either completely removed in the early 17th century during construction of the first 17th century house, or else, medieval foundations are positioned in another area of the walled farmstead complex. However, given that the existing house is built directly onto the natural shale bedrock, it is very possible that the medieval footings were completely removed during preparation work for construction and stone re-used. Again, however, if this were the case, then you would still expect to have found some archaeological evidence, such as pottery fragments, somewhere within the complex to confirm this medieval identity. There were no pottery fragments recovered from any of the ground work earlier than the early 17th century.

6 Acknowledgements

Thanks to; Davies Sutton Architects and Welsh Heritage Construction Ltd for allowing access to the house for recording and investigation works.

7 Bibliography and References

Jones, F. 1987. *Historic Carmarthenshire Homes and their families.*

Dyfed Archaeological Report - DAT Ref: FS10-008-JM-170510

OS Maps

Ordnance Survey First Edition map of 1889 (1:2500)

Ordnance Survey Second Edition map of 1906 (1:2500)

APPENDIX I:
Figures

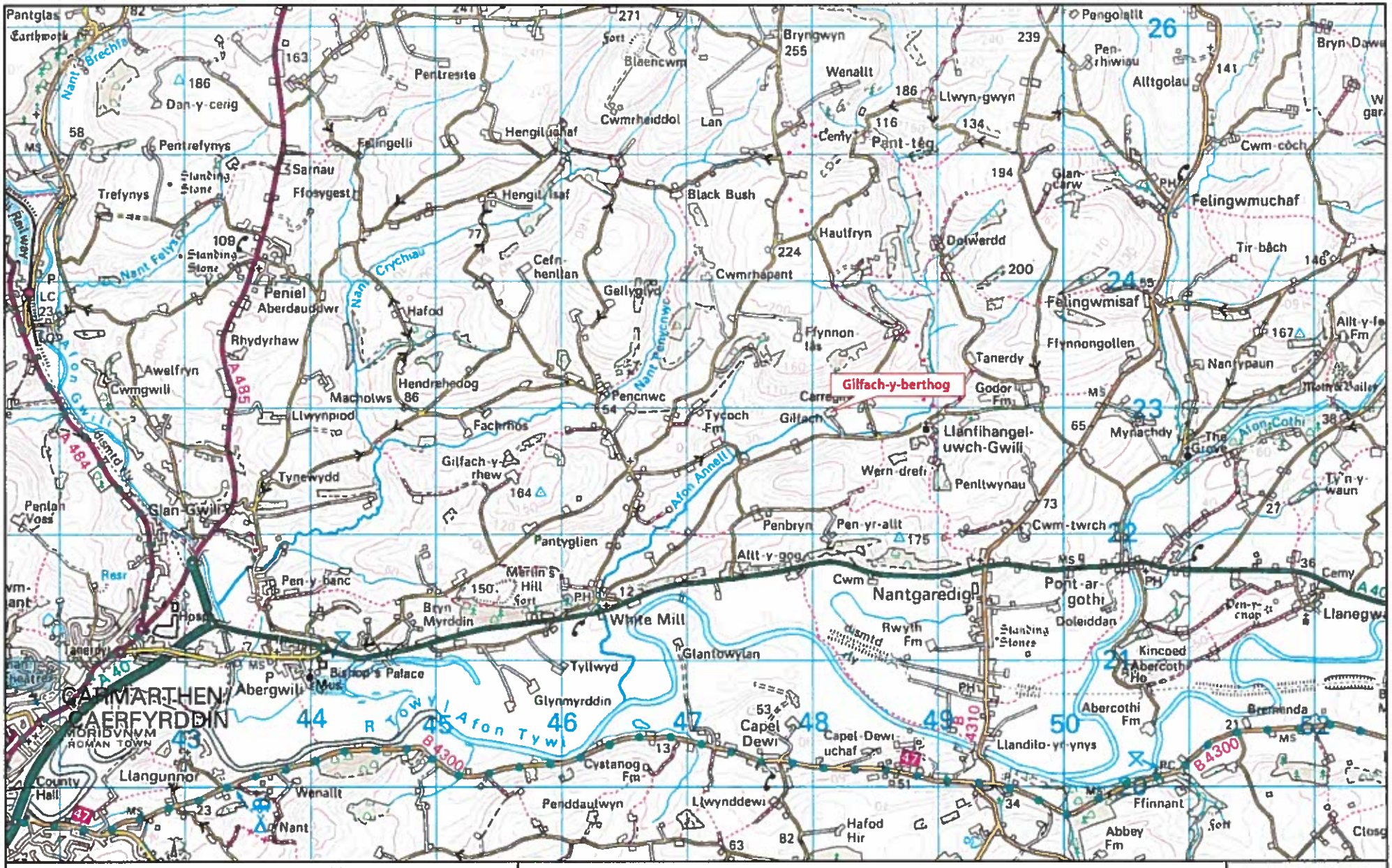


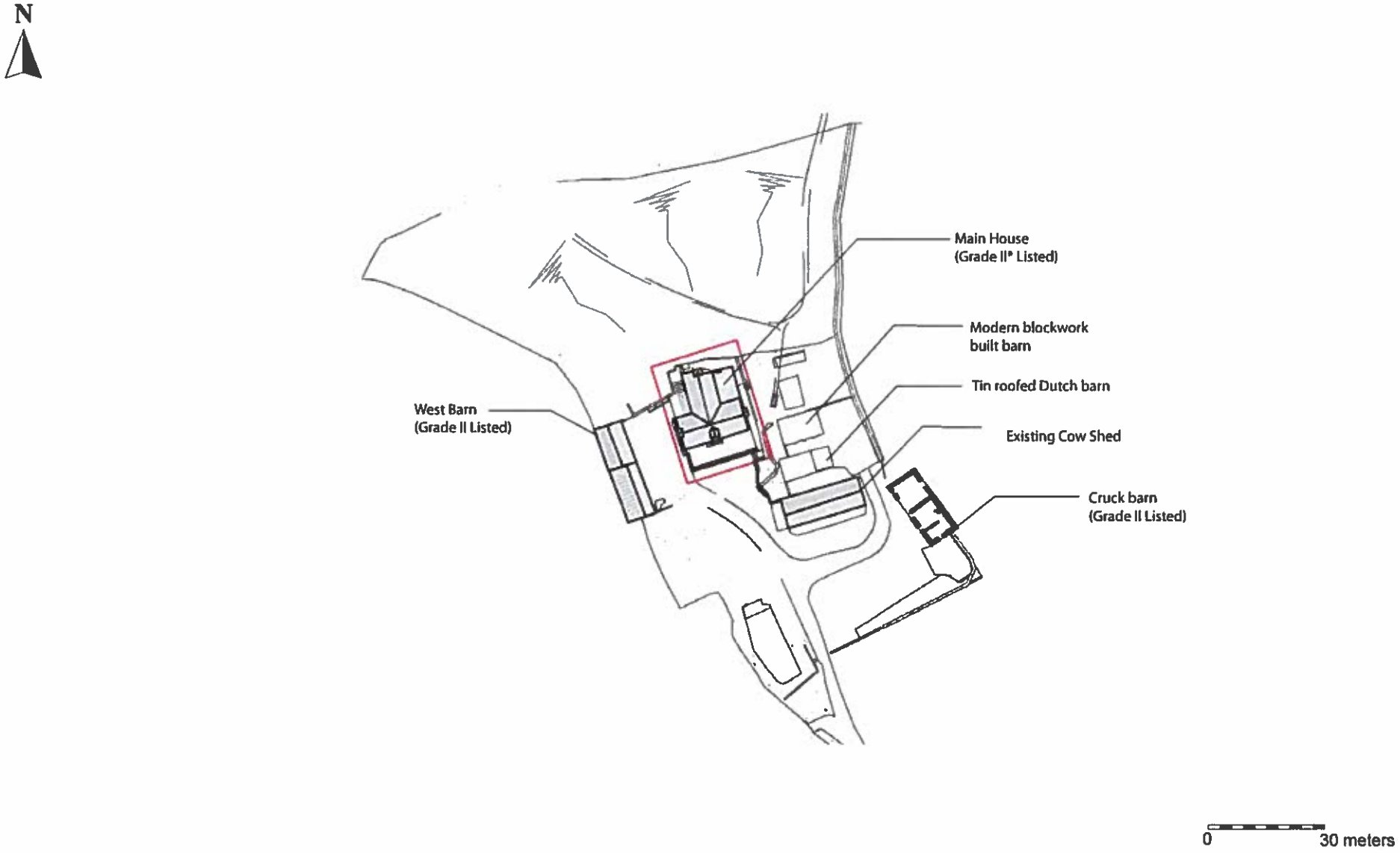
Figure 1.
Location map showing position of Gilfach-y-berthog, Carmarthenshire

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog, Carmarthenshire	
Date: 30th July 2013	**Scale:** 1:50,000
Drawn by:	**Drawing No.**

Heritage
Recording Services Wales

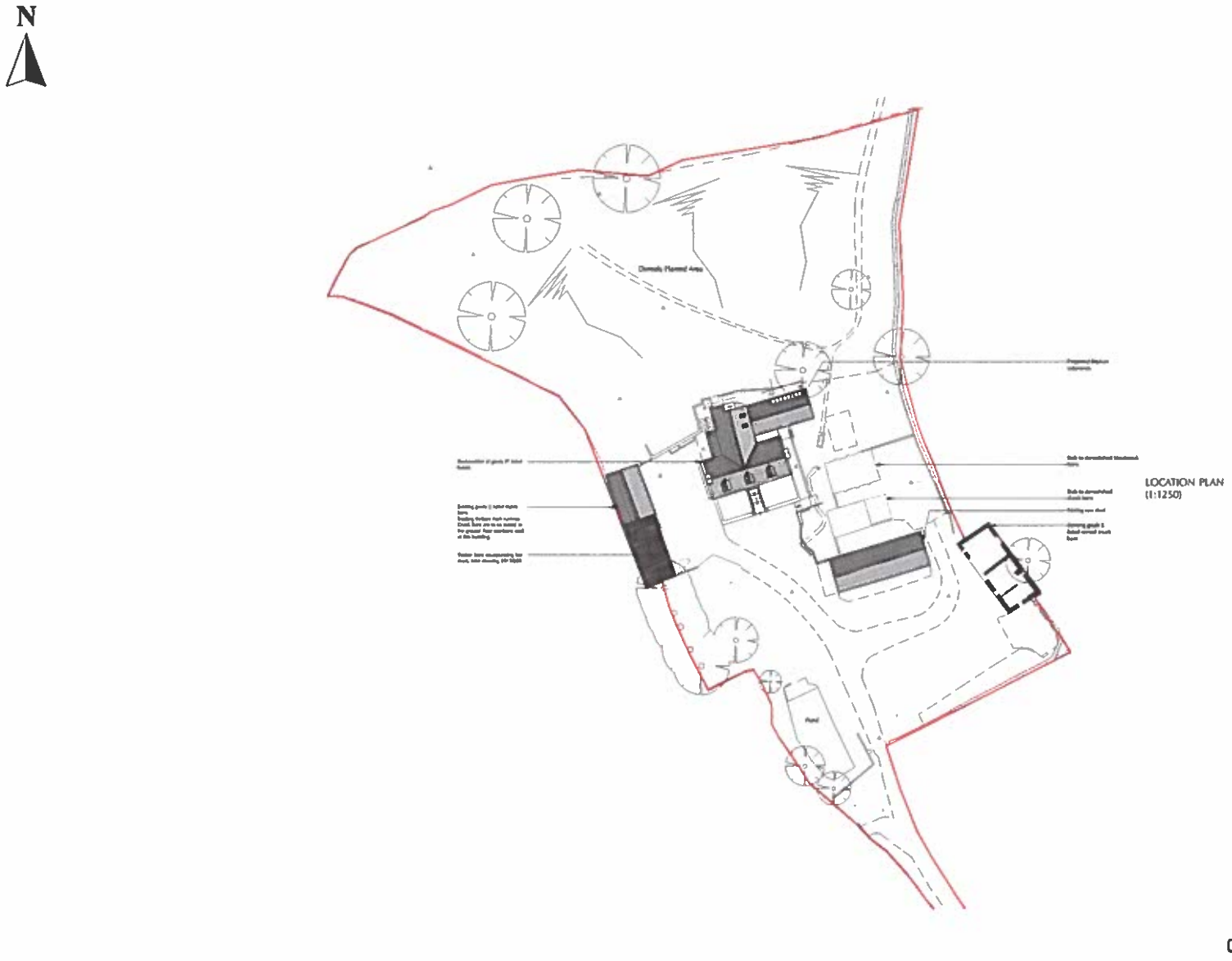
Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog, Carmarthenshire		**Figure 2.** Aerial Photo showing farmstead of Gilfach-y-berthog
Date: 30th July 2013	**Scale:**	
Drawn by:	**Drawing No.**	

Heritage
Recording Services Wales



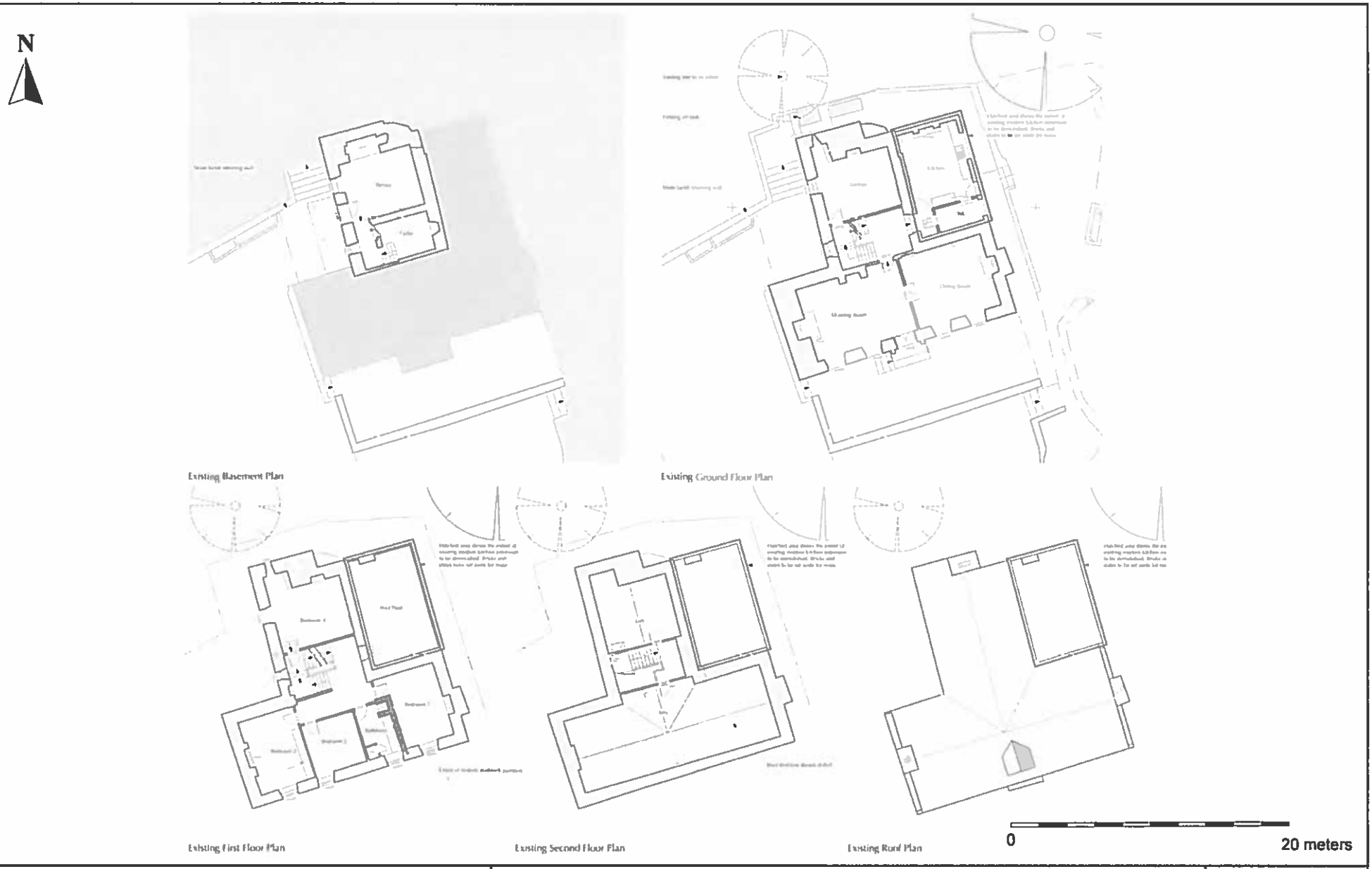
Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog, Carmarthenshire		**Figure 3.** General Site Plan of Gilfach-y-berthog farmstead complex, with main house highlighted
Date: 30th July 2013	Scale:	
Drawn by:	Drawing No.	

Heritage Recording Services Wales



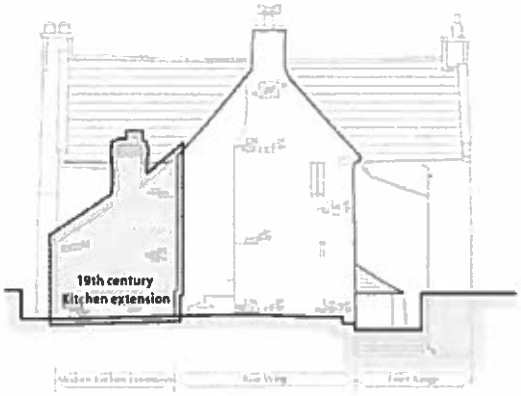
Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog, Carmarthenshire		**Figure 4.** Proposed general site plan *(adapted from architects plans)*
Date: 30th July 2013	**Scale:**	
Drawn by:	**Drawing No.**	

Heritage Recording Services Wales



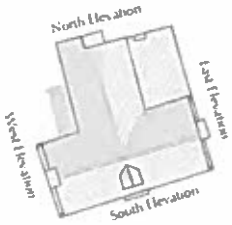
Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog, Carmarthenshire		**Figure 5.** Floor plans of existing main house *(adapted from architects plans)*
Date: 30th July 2013	**Scale:**	
Drawn by:	**Drawing No.**	

Heritage Recording Services Wales



Existing North Elevation

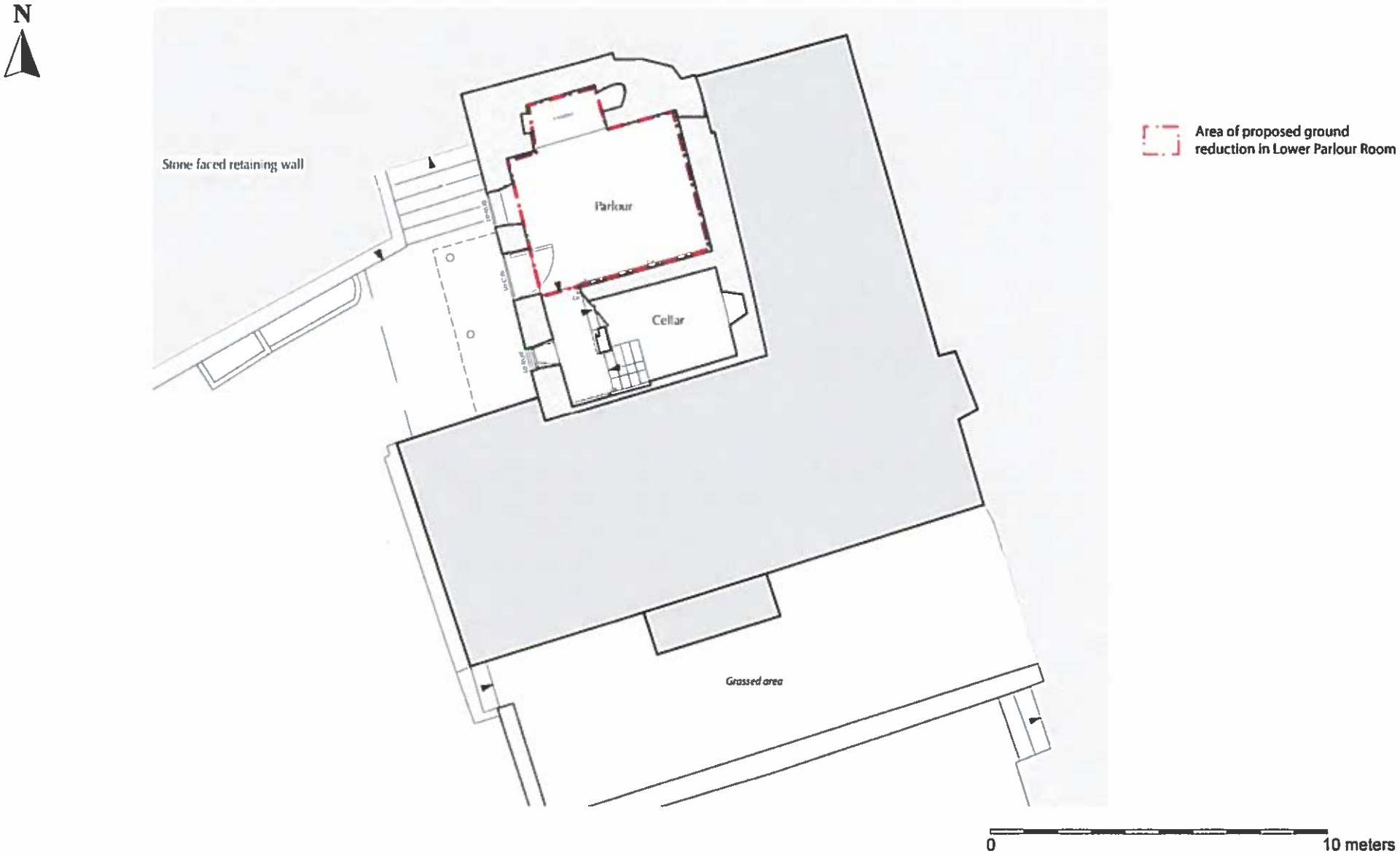
Existing East Elevation



Existing South Elevation

Existing West Elevation

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog, Carmarthenshire	**Figure 6.** Main House - Existing external elevatiions *(adapted from architects plans)*	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date: 30th July 2013 / **Scale:**		
Drawn by: / **Drawing No.**		

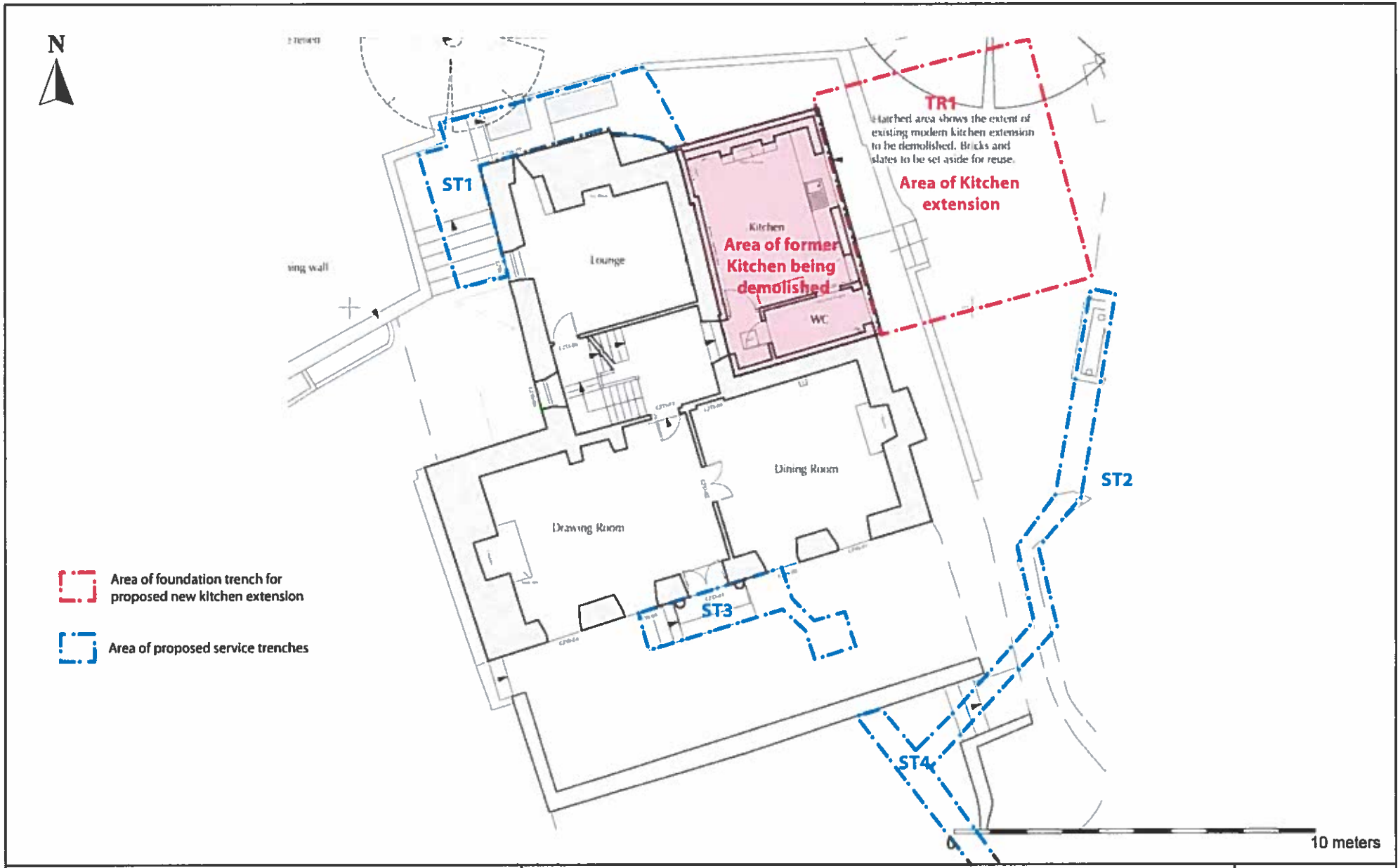


Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog, Carmarthenshire		**Figure 7.** Ground plan of Lower Parlour Room and cellar/basement room, showing area of proposed ground reduction work within the interior of the house *(adapted from original architects plans)*.
Date: 30th July 2013	**Scale:**	
Drawn by:	**Drawing No.**	

Heritage Recording Services Wales

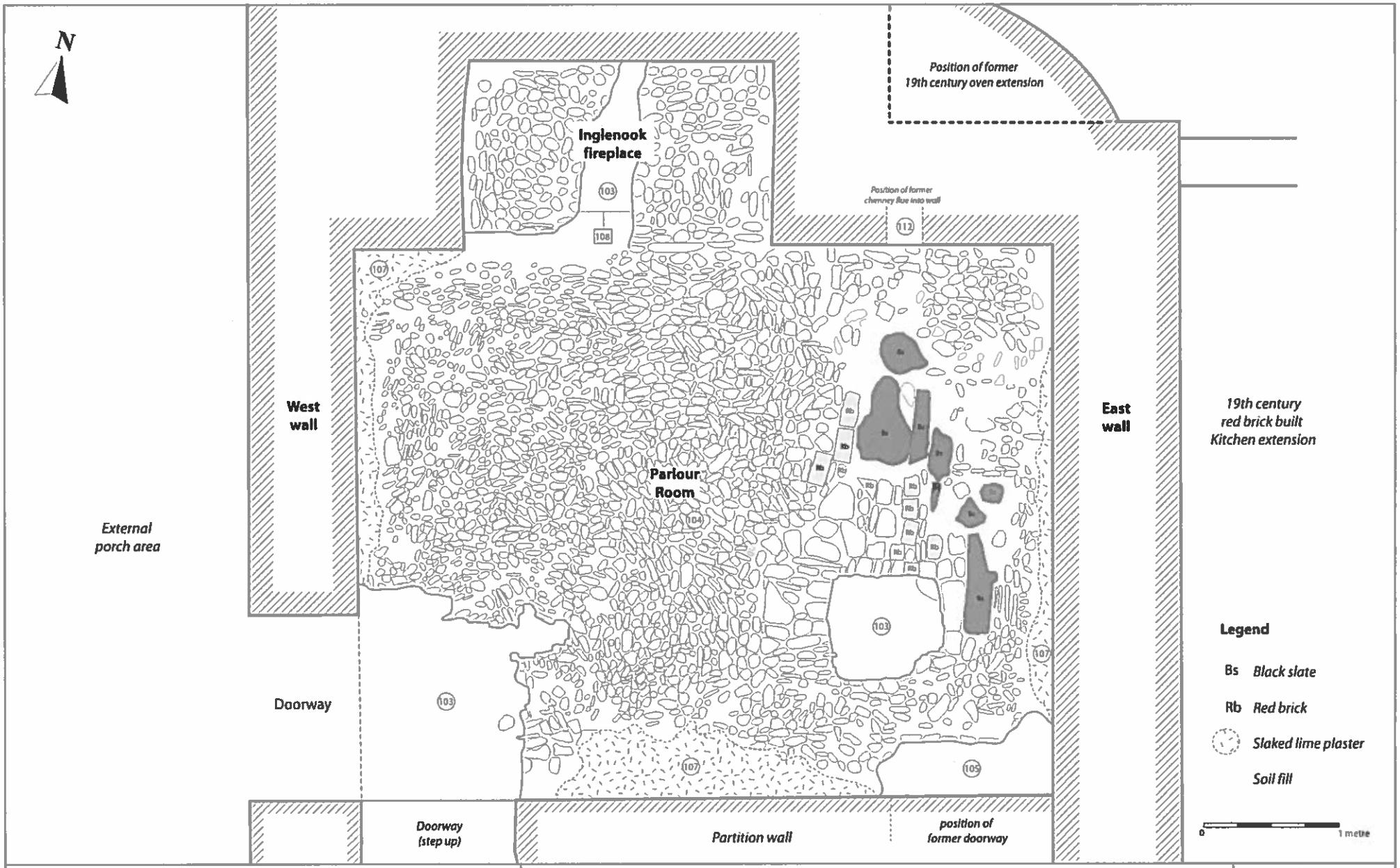
Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog, Carmarthenshire		**Figure 8.** General site plan showing position of external groundworks and service trenches *(adapted from original architects plans).*
Date: 30th July 2013	**Scale:**	
Drawn by:	**Drawing No.**	

Heritage Recording Services Wales



Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog, Carmarthenshire		**Figure 9.** Ground plan showing area of proposed foundation trench for proposed new kitchen extension and position of service trenches ST1-ST4 *(adapted from original architects plans)*.
Date: 30th July 2013	**Scale:**	
Drawn by:	**Drawing No.**	

Heritage Recording Services Wales

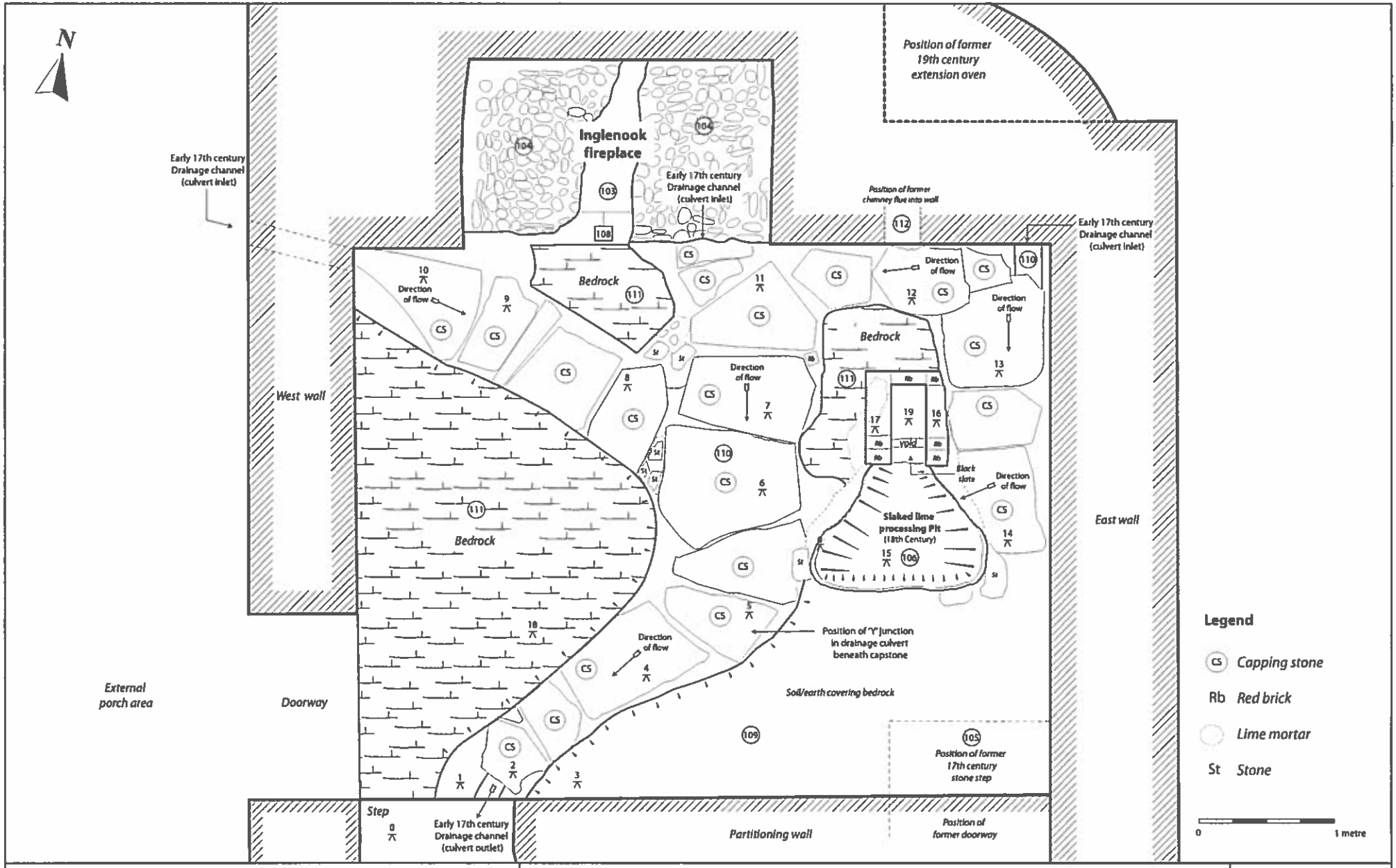


Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog, Carmarthenshire	
Date: 30th July 2013	**Scale:** Approx. 1:35 @A3
Drawn by: RS Jones	**Drawing No.**

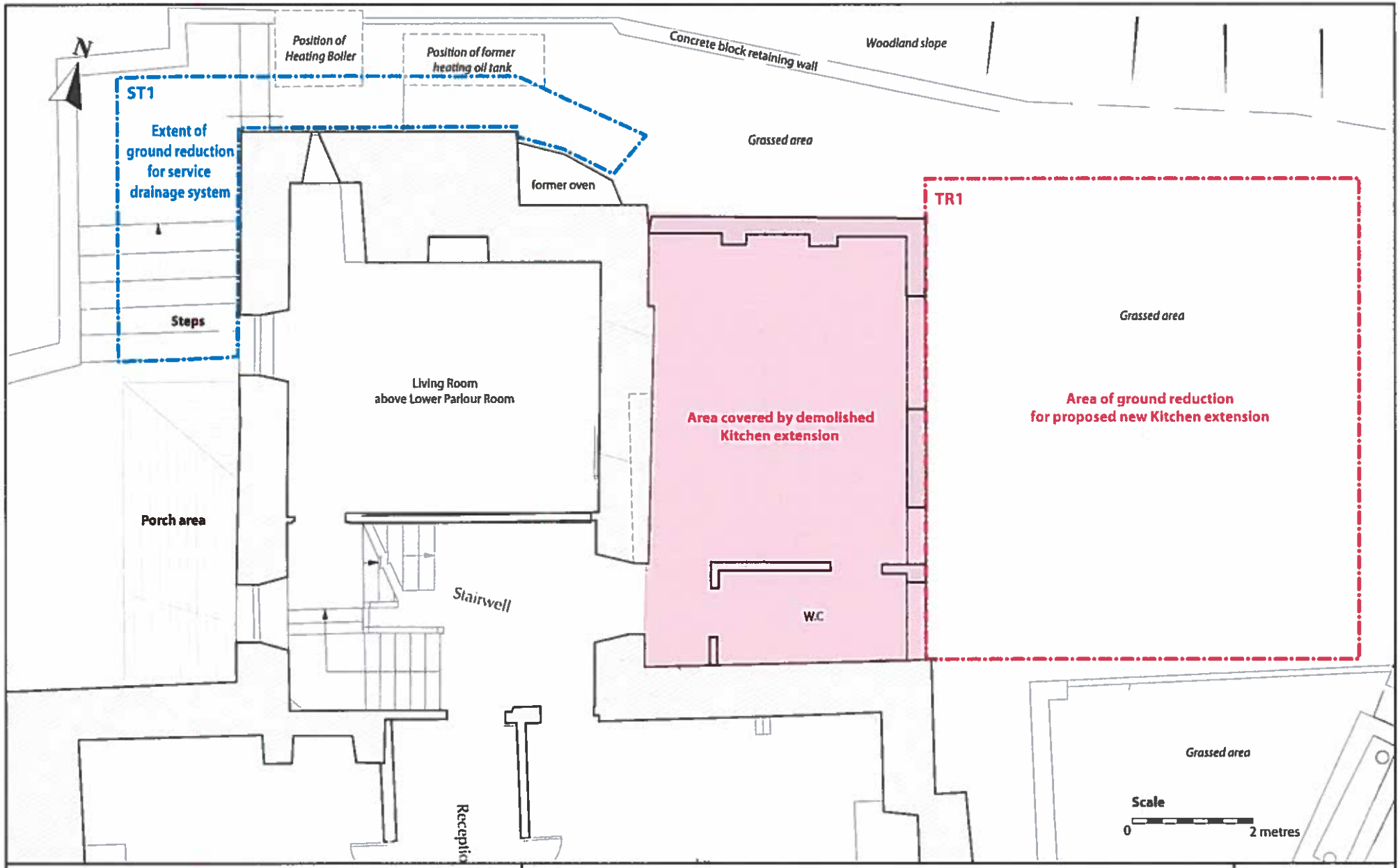
Figure 10.

Main House - Lower Parlour Room - Ground Plan showing early 17th century cobbled floor (104), with 18th century repair at east end covering former 18th century slaked lime processing pit (106)

Heritage Recording Services Wales



Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog, Carmarthenshire		**Figure 11.** Main House - Lower Parlour Room - Ground Plan showing early 17th century drainage culverts (109) and remains of 18th century slaked lime processing pit (106)
Date: 30th July 2013	**Scale:** Approx. 1:35 @A3	
Drawn by: RS Jones	**Drawing No.** 1	Heritage Recording Services Wales

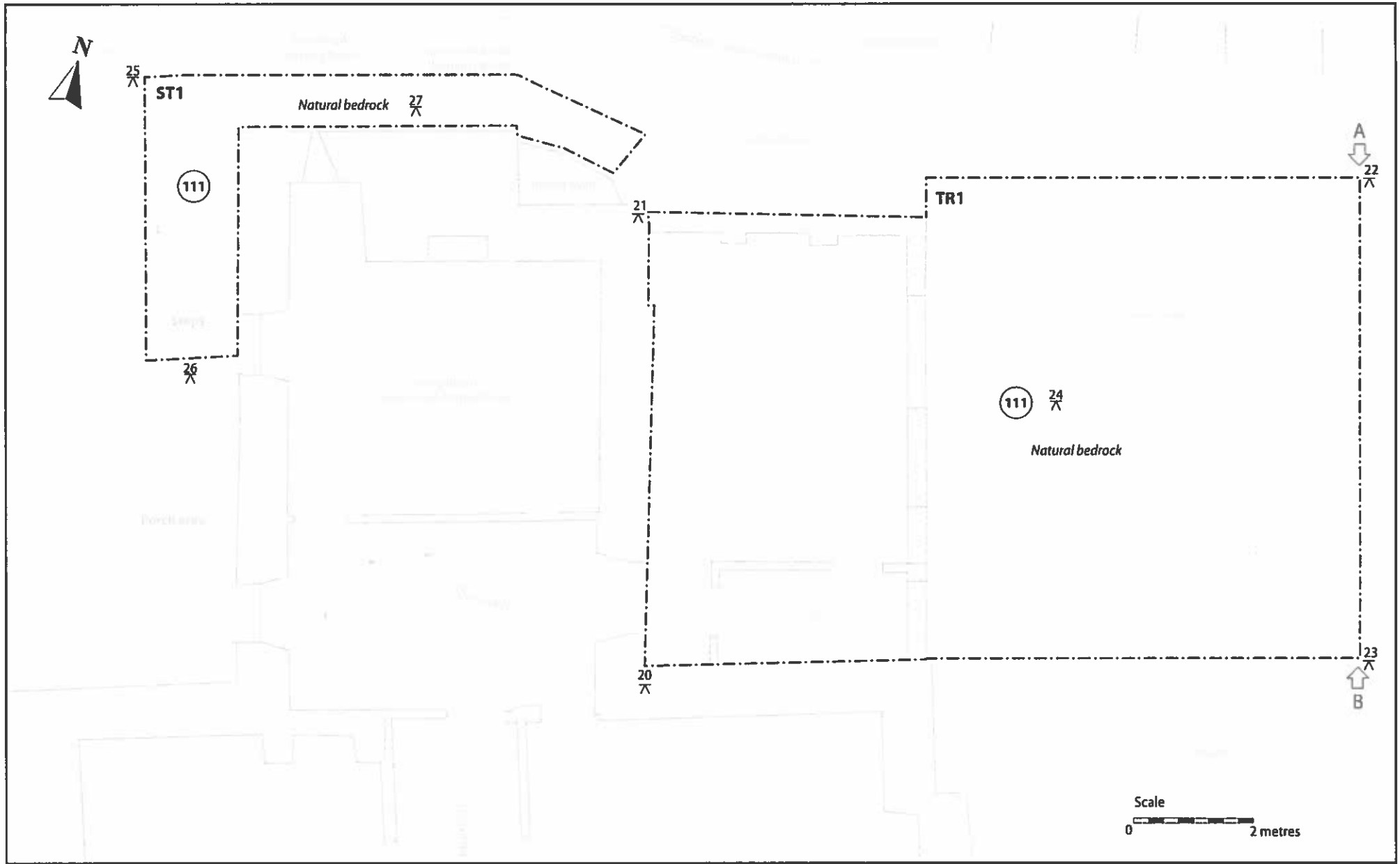


Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog, Carmarthenshire	
Date: 30th July 2013	**Scale:** Approx. 1:100 @A3
Drawn by: RS Jones	**Drawing No.**

Figure 12.

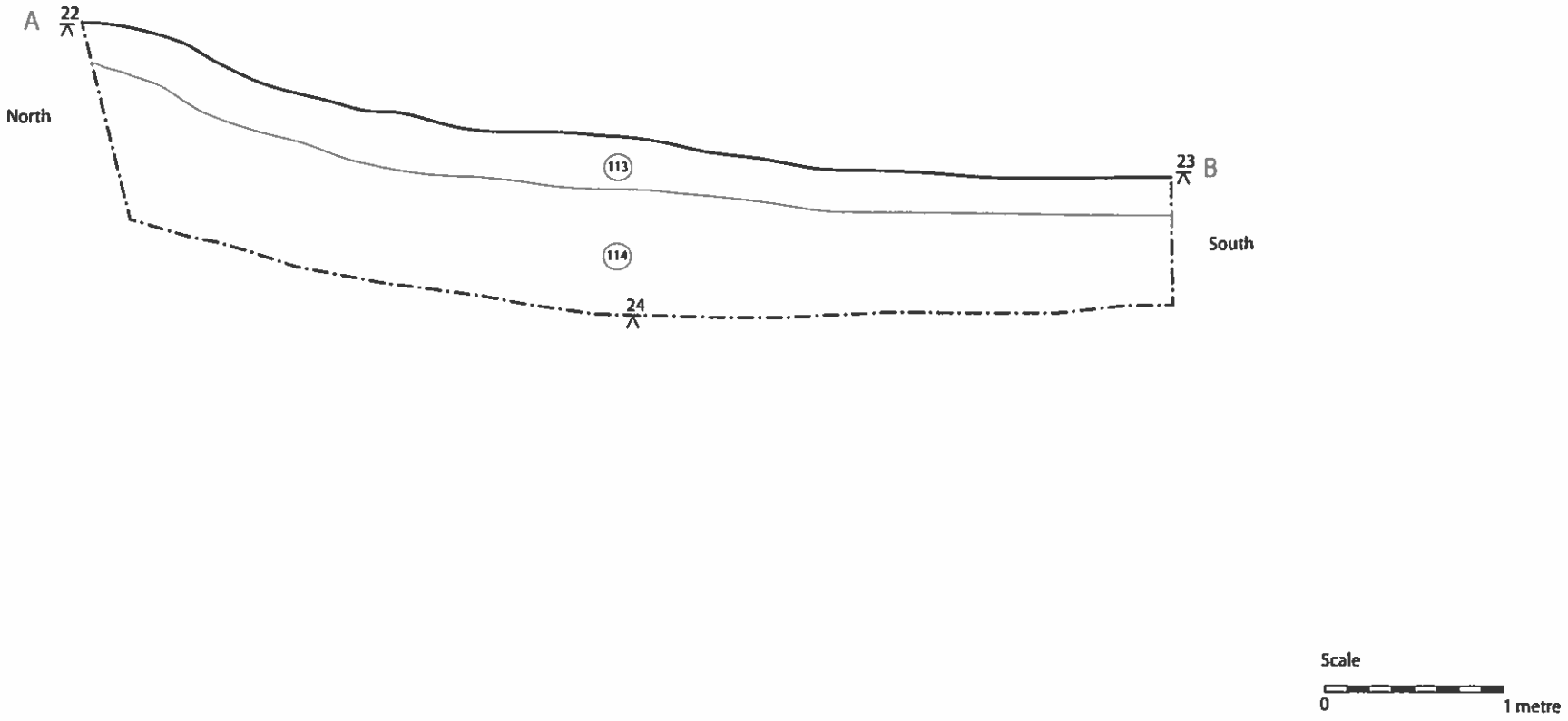
Main House - Kitchen Extension - Ground Plan showing extent of demolition of existing kitchen extension and excavation extent for new Kitchen extension at east end of house.

Heritage Recording Services Wales



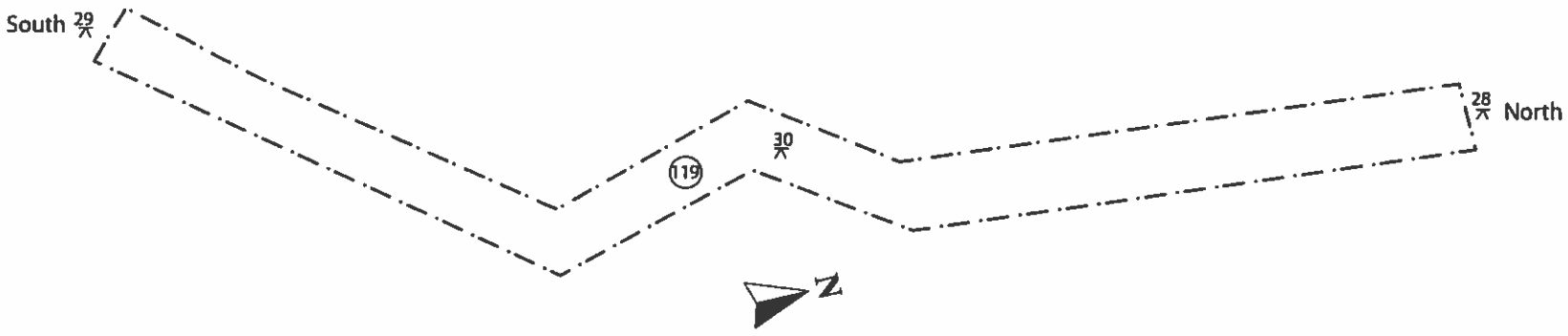
Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog, Carmarthenshire		**Figure 13.** Ground plan showing Service Trench No.1 (ST1) and Trench 1 (TR1) for new kitchen extension foundation
Date: 30th July 2013	**Scale:** Approx. 1:100 @A3	
Drawn by: RS Jones	**Drawing No.**	

Heritage Recording Services Wales

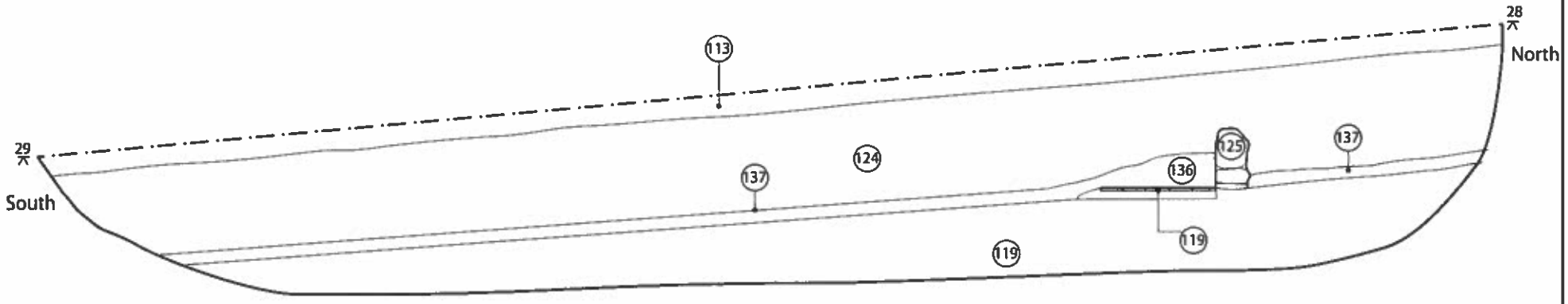


Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog, Carmarthenshire		**Figure 14.** Main House - West facing section drawing A-B in Trench 1 (kitchen extension)
Date: 30th July 2013	**Scale:**	
Drawn by: RS Jones	**Drawing No.**	

Heritage Recording Services Wales



Ground plan of Service trench 2 (ST2)

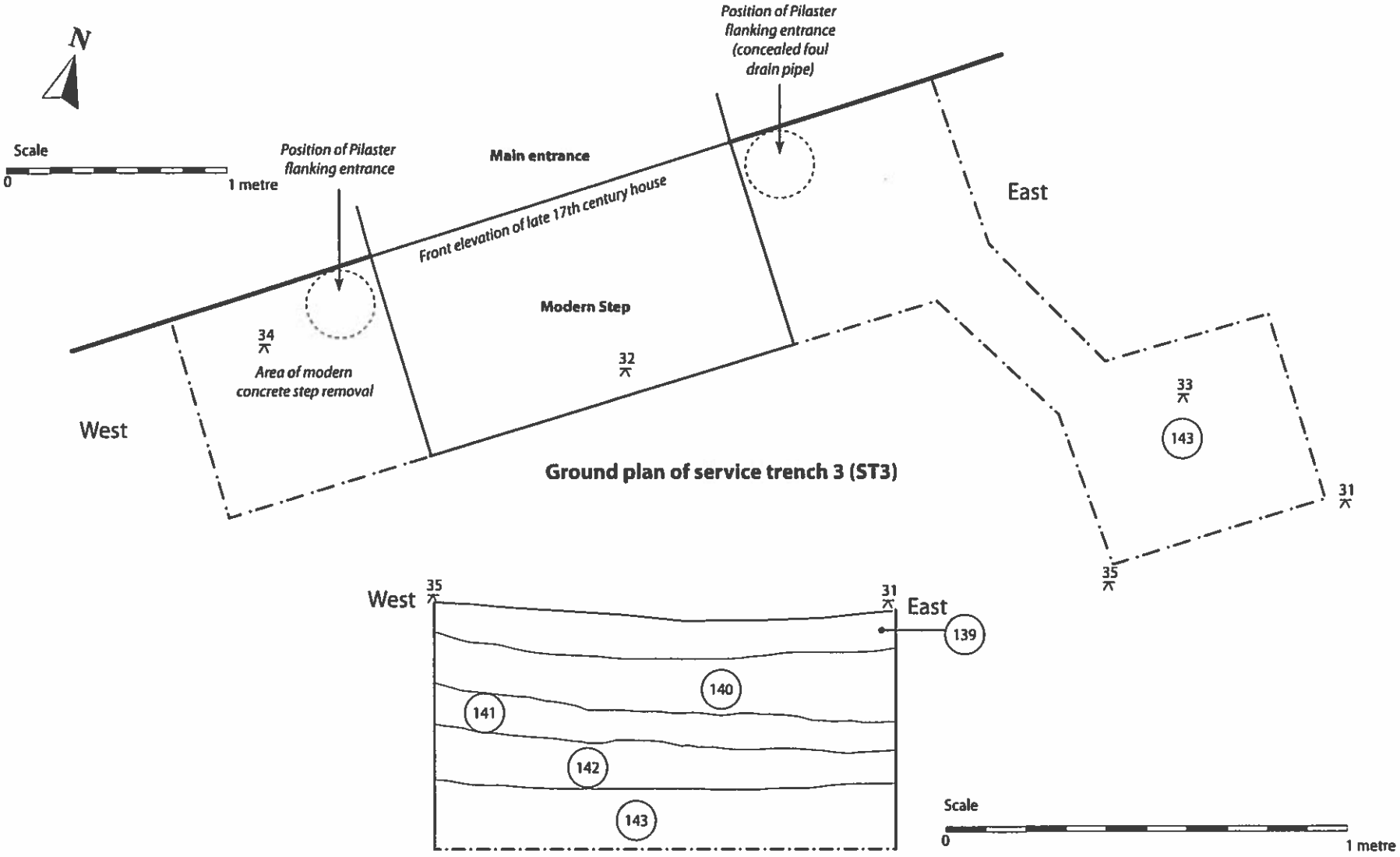


East facing section of service trench 2 (ST2)

Scale
0 1 metre

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog, Carmarthenshire		**Figure 15.** Gilfach-y-berthog - Ground plan and east facing section of Service Trench No.2 (ST2)
Date: 30th July 2013	**Scale:**	
Drawn by: RS Jones	**Drawing No.**	

Heritage Recording Services Wales



Typical section showing stratigraphy in walled area in front of house

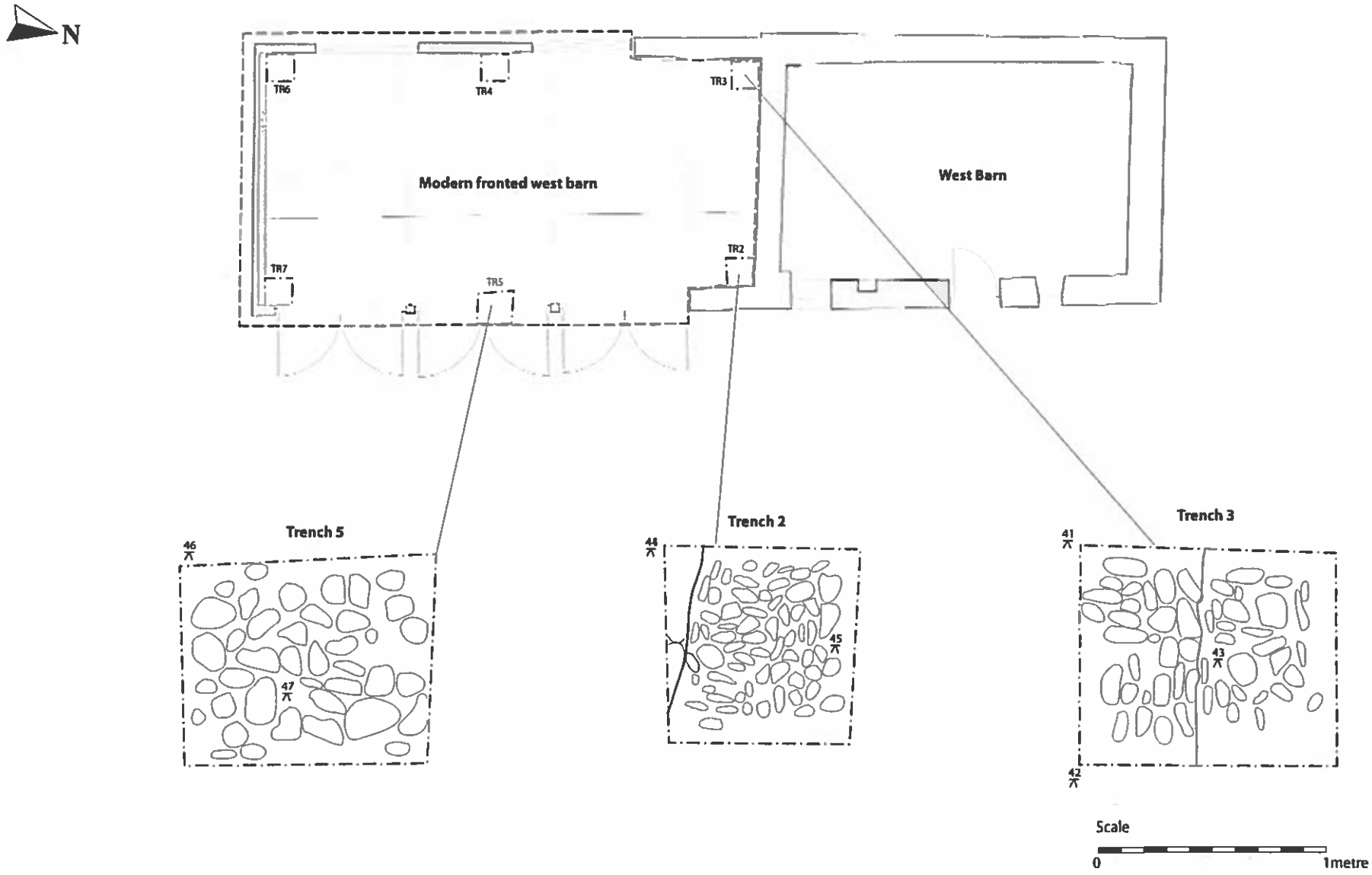
Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog, Carmarthenshire		**Figure 16.** Gilfach-y-berthog - Ground plan and south facing section of Service Trench No.3 (ST3)
Date: 30th July 2013	Scale:	
Drawn by: RS Jones	Drawing No.	

Heritage Recording Services Wales

Ground plan of service trench 4 (ST4)

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog, Carmarthenshire		**Figure 17.** Gilfach-y-berthog - Ground plan and typical east facing section of Service Trench No.4 (ST4)
Date: 30th July 2013	**Scale:**	
Drawn by: RS Jones	**Drawing No.**	

Heritage Recording Services Wales



Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog, Carmarthenshire		**Figure 18.** Gilfach-y-berthog - Ground plan showing position of trenches 2-7 within former timber barn at southwestern end of farm complex, with trenches 2, 3 and 5 ground plans showing early 17th centurycobbled surface.
Date: 30th July 2013	**Scale:**	
Drawn by: RS Jones	**Drawing No.**	

Heritage Recording Services Wales

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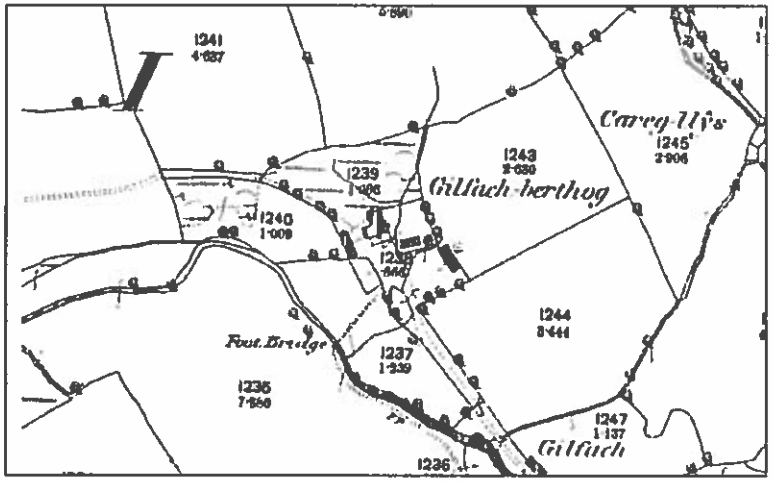
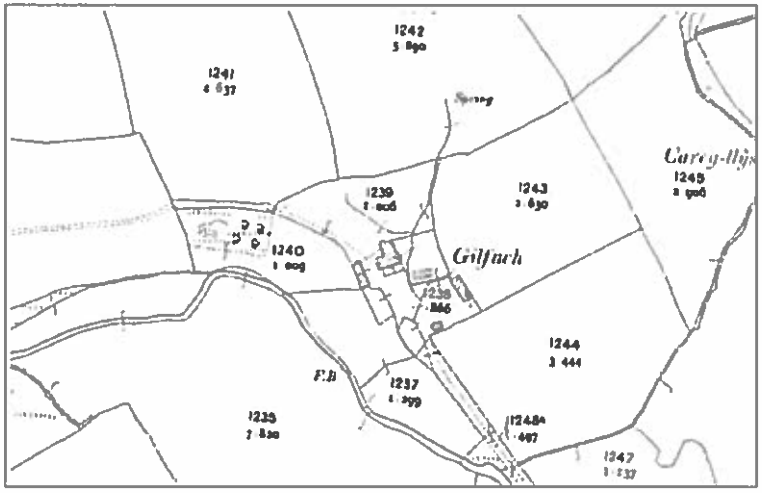


Ordnance Survey First Edition map (1:2500) of 1889



Ordnance Survey Second Edition map (1:2500) of 1906

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog, Carmarthenshire		**Figure 19.** Gilfach-y-berthog - Portions of Ordnance Survey First and Second Edition Maps of 1889 and 1906
Date: 30th July 2013	**Scale:**	
Drawn by:	**Drawing No.**	

Heritage Recording Services Wales

APPENDIX II:
Photo plates

Plate 1. View of Gilfach-y-berthog. Looking south.

Plate 2. Gilfach-y-berthog. Looking south-east.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 1 and 2	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: February 2013		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 3. View of Gilfach-y-berthog. Looking west.

Plate 4. Gilfach-y-berthog. Front of house. Looking north.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 3 and 4	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: February 2013		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 5. View of Gilfach-y-berthog. Southwest facing elevation. Looking northeast.

Plate 6. Gilfach-y-berthog. Northeast facing elevation. Looking southwest.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 5 and 6	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: February 2013		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

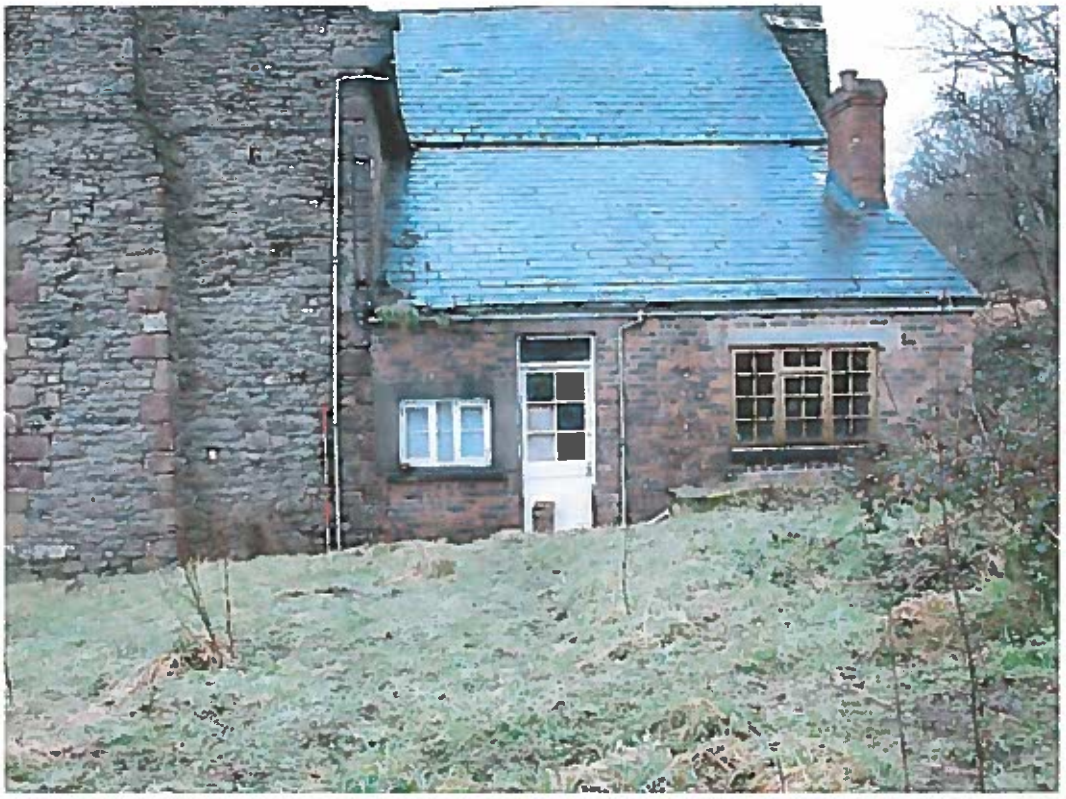


Plate 7. Gilfach-y-berthog - Existing 19th century kitchen extension. Northeast facing elevation. Looking southwest.

Plate 8. Gilfach-y-berthog - View of rear entrance porch. Early 17th century house. Looking north.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 7 and 8	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: February 2013		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 9. Gilfach-y-berthog - View of rear entrance porch. Looking southeast.

Plate 10. Gilfach-y-berthog - Northeast facing elevation. Looking northwest.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 9 and 10	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: February 2013		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 11. Gilfach-y-berthog - Detail of front entrance porch in south facing elevation. Looking north.

Plate 12. Gilfach-y-berthog - Oven feature attached to rear northeast facing elevation. Looking west.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 11 and 12	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: May 2013		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 13. Gilfach-y-berthog - Interior view of ground floor Front Room (Parlour). Looking southwest.

Plate 14.Gilfach-y-berthog - Interior view of ground floor Front Room (Parlour). Looking west.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 13 and 14	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: 1st June 2013		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 15. Gilfach-y-berthog - Northeast facing internal elevation of Front Room (Parlour). Looking southwest.

Plate 16.Gilfach-y-berthog - Stone fireplace in Front Room (Parlour). Looking south.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 15 and 16	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: May 2013		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 17. Gilfach-y-berthog - Front Room (Parlour). Detail on fireplace.

Plate 18. Gilfach-y-berthog - Front Room (Parlour). Southeast facing elevation. Looking northeast.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 17 and 18	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: May 2012		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 19. Gilfach-y-berthog - Front Room (Dining Room). Looking southwest.

Plate 20. Gilfach-y-berthog - Front Room (Ding Room). Looking northeast.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 19 and 20	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: May 2013		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

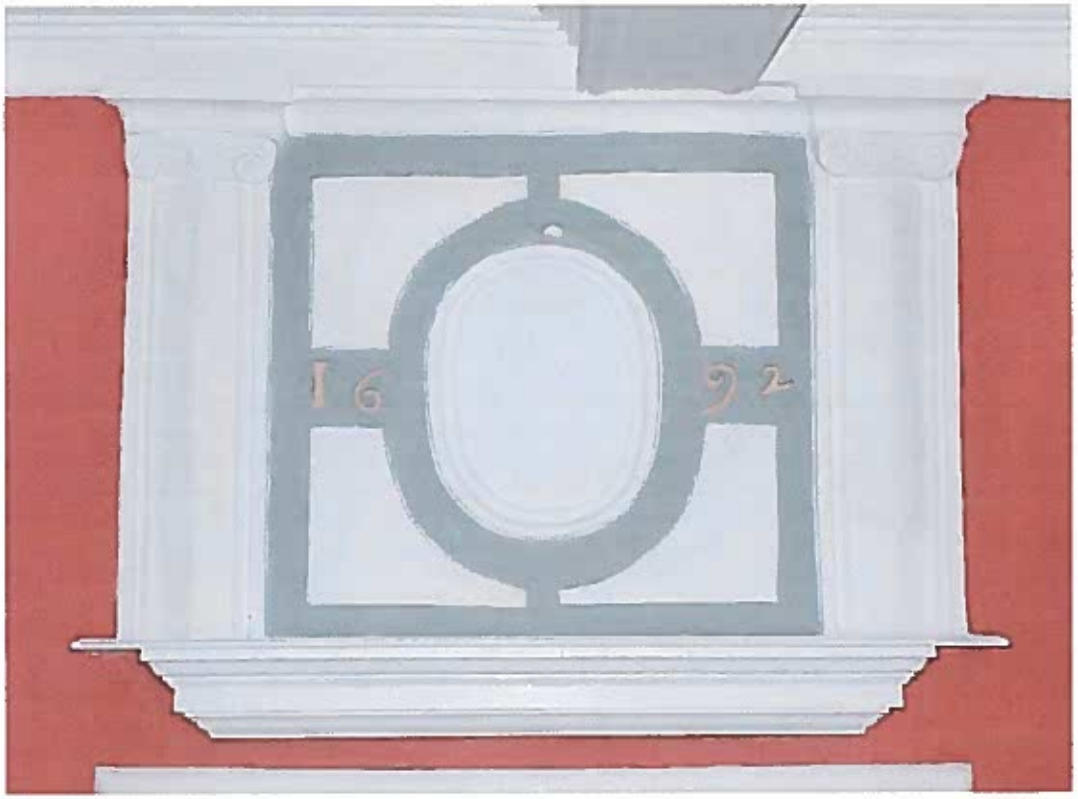


Plate 21. Gilfach-y-berthog - Front Room (Dining Room). Detail of plasterwork and blank cartouch and date of 1692. Looking southeast.

Plate 22. Gilfach-y-berthog - Lower Parlour rRoom prior to groundwork. Looking north.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 21 and 22	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: May 2013		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 23. Gilfach-y-berthog - Basement Room. Looking west.

Plate 24. Gilfach-y-berthog - Basement Room. Looking east.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 23 and 24	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: May 2013		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 25. Gilfach-y-berthog - Existing kitchen extension at east end of house. Looking north.

Plate 26. Gilfach-y-berthog - Existing kitchen extension at east end of house. Looking southeast.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 25 and 26	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: May 2012		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 27. Gilfach-y-berthog - Existing kitchen extension at east end of house. Looking south.

Plate 28. Gilfach-y-berthog - Downstairs toilet at east end of house. Looking east.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 27 and 28	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: May 2012		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 29. Gilfach-y-berthog - Downstair hall. Looking west.

Plate 30. Gilfach-y-berthog - Evidence for blocked in1st floor window in west wall of former early 17th century house. Looking west.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 29 and 30	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: May 2012		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 31. Gilfach-y-berthog - First floor bedroom.. Looking west.

Plate 32. Gilfach-y-berthog - First floor bedroom. Looking north.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 31 and 32	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: May 2012		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 33. Gilfach-y-berthog - First floor landing. Looking east.

Plate 34. Gilfach-y-berthog - Second floor bedroom. Looking northwest.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 33 and 34	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: May 2012		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 35. Gilfach-y-berthog - Second floor landing. Looking north.

Plate 36. Gilfach-y-berthog - Second floor bedroom. Looking southwest.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 35 and 36	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: May 2012		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 37. Gilfach-y-berthog - First floor Bedroom 2. Front of house. Looking east.

Plate 38. Gilfach-y-berthog - First floor Bedroom 2. Front of house. Detail of plasterwork fireplace. Looking northeast.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 37 and 38	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: May 2012		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 39. Gilfach-y-berthog - Landing area to attic room. Looking north.

Plate 40. Gilfach-y-berthog - 'A' frame in 1st floor attic room. Northern range. Looking northwest.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 39 and 40	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: May 2012		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 41. Gilfach-y-berthog - 'A' frame in 2nd floor attic room. Southern range. Looking east.

Plate 42. Gilfach-y-berthog - Detail of 'A' frame in 2nd floor attic room. Looking west.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 41 and 42	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: May 2012		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 43. Working shot during removal of modern concrete steps for drainage services (ST1). Looking northeast.

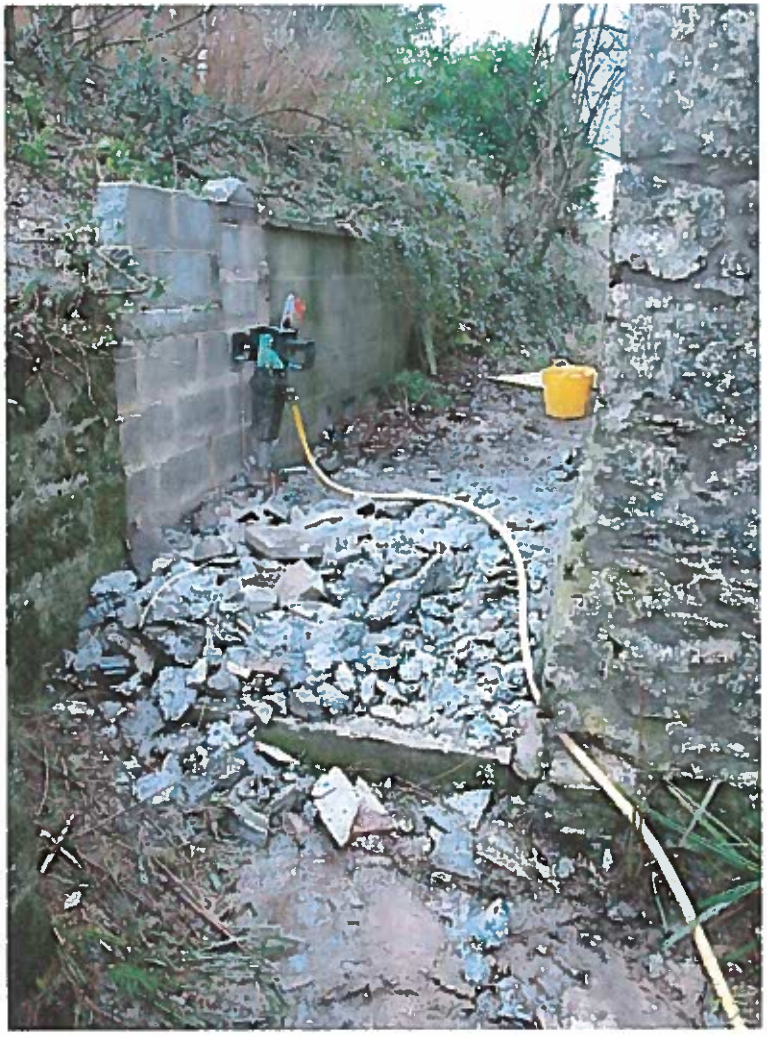


Plate 44. Working shot following removal of modern concrete base at rear of house (ST1). Looking east.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog		Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: February 2012	**Photo Plates No's.** 43 and 44	
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 45. Gilfach-y-berthog - Northwestern corner of rear of house following removal of modern steps and concrete (ST1). Looking east.

Plate 46. Gilfach-y-berthog - Rear of house following removal of modern concrete base and ground reduction for drainage (ST1). Looking west.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 45 and 46	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: February 2012		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 47. Gilfach-y-berthog - Floor surface in Lower Parlour Room prior to floor reduction. Looking northeast.

Plate 48. Gilfach-y-berthog - Floor surface in Lower Parlour Room prior to floor reduction. Looking west.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 47 and 48	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: February 2012		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 49. Gilfach-y-berthog - Working shot during removal of modern stone floor tiles from Lower Parlour Room during ground reduction. Looking southwest.

Plate 50. Gilfach-y-berthog - Floor surface in Lower Parlour Room following removal of modern stone floor tiles. Looking northwest.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 49 and 50	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: February 2012		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 51. Gilfach-y-berthog - Floor surface in Lower Parlour Room following removal of modern stone floor tiles. Looking southeast.

Plate 52. Gilfach-y-berthog - Floor surface in Lower Parlour Room following removal of modern stone floor tiles and underlying earth and mortar deposit, showing partial remains of former cobbled floor. Looking southwest.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 51 and 52	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: February 2012		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 53. Gilfach-y-berthog - Remains of former early 17th century cobbled floor in Lower Parlour Room following ground reduction work. Looking west.

Plate 54. Gilfach-y-berthog - Remains of former early 17th century cobbled floor in Lower Parlour Room following ground reduction work. Looking southeast.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 53 and 54	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: February 2012		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 55. Remains of early 17th century cobbled floor beneath modern stone floor tiles in Lower Parlour Room. Looking northwest.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog		Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: June 2013	**Photo Plates No.** 55	
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 56. Remains of early 17th century cobbled floor beneath modern stone floor tiles in Lower Parlour Room. Looking north.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog		Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: June 2013	**Photo Plates No.** 56	
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 57. Remains of early 17th century cobbled floor beneath modern stone floor tiles in Lower Parlour Room. Looking northwest.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog		Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: June 2013	**Photo Plates No.** 57	
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 58. Remains of early 17th century cobbled floor beneath modern stone floor tiles in Lower Parlour Room. Slaked Lime pit in foreground covered by cobble repair. Looking northeast

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog		Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: June 2013	**Photo Plates No.** 58	
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 59. View of area of repaired cobbled floor covering slaked lime pit. Looking south.

Plate 60. View of area of repaired cobbled floor covering slaked lime pit. Looking north.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog		Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: June 2013	**Photo Plates No.** 59 and 60	
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 61. Gilfach-y-berthog - Southern edge of repaired area of cobbled floor covering lime pit. Looking north.

Plate 62. Gilfach-y-berthog - Exposed slaked lime pit following removal of cobbled floor. Looking north.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 61 and 62	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: June 2013		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 70. Gilfach-y-berthog - Exposedslaked lime pit following removal of cobbled floor and exposing of culvert channels. Looking northeast.

Plate 71. Gilfach-y-berthog - Fireplace opening with exposed cobbled floor at base. Looking northwest.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 70 and 71	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: June 2013		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 72. Gilfach-y-berthog - Cobbled surface in area of fireplace and bread oven in fireplace side wall. Looking east.

Plate 73. Gilfach-y-berthog - Remains of cobbled surface in fireplace opening. Looking northwest.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 72 and 73	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: June 2013		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 74. Gilfach-y-berthog - TR2 - Exposed cobbled floor in area of stone barn during concrete pier support trenches.

Plate 75. Gilfach-y-berthog - TR3 - Exposed cobbled floor in area of stone barn during concrete pier support trenches.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 74 and 75	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: June 2013		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 76. Gilfach-y-berthog - Working shot during groundwork for proposed kitchen extension. Looking northeast.

Plate 77. Gilfach-y-berthog - Stratigraphy in area of proposed kitchen extension following groundwork. Looking east.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 76 and 77	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: April 2013		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 78. Gilfach-y-berthog - Working shot during groundwork for proposed kitchen extension. Looking north.

Plate 79. Gilfach-y-berthog - Former 19th century kitchen extension demolished in preparation for new proposed kitchen extension.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 78 and 79	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: April 2013		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 80. Gilfach-y-berthog - Former 19th century kitchen extension demolished in preparation for new proposed kitchen extension. East facing elevation.

Plate 81. Gilfach-y-berthog - Former 19th century kitchen extension demolished in preparation for new proposed kitchen extension. East facing elevation.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 80 and 81	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: April 2013		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 82. Gilfach-y-berthog - Former 19th century kitchen extension demolished in preparation for new proposed kitchen extension. Note earlier extension outline. North facing elevation.

Plate 83. Gilfach-y-berthog - Former 19th century kitchen extension demolished in preparation for new proposed kitchen extension. Detail at base of north facing rear wall of late 17th century house. Looking southeast.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 82 and 83	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: April 2013		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 84. Gilfach-y-berthog - Service trench (ST2) alongside new kitchen extension. Looking south.

Plate 85. Gilfach-y-berthog - Service trench (ST2) alongside new kitchen extension. Looking south.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 84 and 85	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: September 2013		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 86. Gilfach-y-berthog - Service trench at front of house (ST4). Looking northwards.

Plate 87. Gilfach-y-berthog - Detail showing stratigraphy along length of service trench in front of house and red brick barn (ST4). Looking soutwards.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 86 and 87	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: September 2013		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 88. Gilfach-y-berthog - Route of service trench in front of house (ST4). Looking northwards.

Plate 89. Gilfach-y-berthog - Service trench (ST4) following groundwork. Looking northwards.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 88 and 89	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: September 2013		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 90. Gilfach-y-berthog - Stratigraphy in service trench (ST4). East facing section. Looking northwards.

Plate 91. Gilfach-y-berthog - Stratigraphy in service trench (ST4). East facing section. Looking southwards.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 90 and 91	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: September 2012		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 92. Gilfach-y-berthog - Stratigraphy in front of house alongside former entrance steps (ST3). Looking northwards.

Plate 93. Gilfach-y-berthog - Working shot during groundwork for services (ST3) in front of house. Looking west.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 92 and 93	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: February 2012		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

Plate 94. Gilfach-y-berthog - Demolition of former steps at front of house. Looking eastwards.

Plate 95. Gilfach-y-berthog - Exposed stratigraphy in raised area alongside front of house. Looking eastwards.

Project Title: Gilfach-y-berthog	**Photo Plate No's.** 94 and 95	Heritage Recording Services Wales
Date taken: September 2012		
Photographer: Richard Scott Jones		

APPENDIX III:
Contexts Register

Gilfach-y-Berthog

CONTEXTS REGISTER

All contexts start at 100

CONTEXTS

A) Internal Ground Work

Ground Floor Lower Parlour Room

100 = Modern flagstone floor

101 = Modern flagstone bedding deposit, consisting of sand and pea-grit. Approximately 0.02m in depth

102 = Modern polyurethane plastic membrane

103 = Stone and earth levelling and core deposit for modern flagstone floor (100). Approximately 0.10m in depth.

104 = Early 17th century cobbled floor. River cobbles vary in size from 0.05 – 0.20m. Cobbled floor covers approximately 70% of the parlour room floor, with areas alongside both doorways at the west end being absent of any stones, suggesting that these areas once held large slate slabs since robbed or removed prior to covering of floor in the later centuries. Evidence of cobbled floor repair at east end with replacement black slate and red brick.

105 = Position of former early 17th century stone slab that must have once invited access to a former doorway in the southern partition wall of the early 17th century house, now blocked.

106 = Remains of former 19th century slaked lime processing pit

107 = Remains of slaked lime on floor covering cobbles, having dripped down from walls.

108 = Cut through cobbled floor (104) for insertion of 20th century electric cable trench. Filled by (103).

109 = Cobbled floor bedding deposit, consisting of dark earth and small stones. Averaged approximately 0.05 – 0.10m in depth.

110 = Early 17th century drainage culverts. Consists of large capping stones covering narrow drainage channels cut into natural bedrock. Drainage water flowed from north to south. Helped direct rain water away from house.

111 = Natural grey coloured shale/slate bedrock

112 = Position of 19th century former chimney flue in north wall, associated with former slack lime processing pit. Helped to extract smoke and fumes during slaked lime processing.

B) External Ground Work

Kitchen Extension

113 = Top soil, averaging 0.20m in depth. Finds recovered from this deposit included 20th century and late 19th century material (pottery, glass sherds etc).
114 = Natural grey shale/slate bedrock (same as context 111 exposed in Lower Parlour Room in house).

Pier Supports in Barn for new Garage

115 = Modern concrete floor

116 = Sub base beneath modern concrete floor, consisting of earth, stones and sand.

117 = Dark earth deposit, intermixed with soot and ash.

118 = Cobbled floor. Likely early 17th century in date.

119 = Natural shale bedrock.

Service trenches

120 = Modern concrete support base at rear of house. Originally constructed to support heating oil tank and boiler house.

121 = Modern concrete paving slab steps at side of house at rear.

122 = Sub base below contexts 120 and 121.

123 = Natural shale bedrock (same as 111 and 114).

124 = Dark earth deposit intermixed with 19th and 20th century midden material.

125 = Low dry-stone garden wall. Likely 19th century in date.

126 = Garden path constructed from 6 inch square quarry tiles (19th century in date).

127 = Turf and top soil in service trench 3.

128 = Deposit of beige/pale orange clay intermixed with grit, ash, charcoal fragments and lumps of processed lime in service trench 3.

129 = Deposit of pale green/grey clay intermixed with crushed grey shale. Likely former 19th and 18th century footpath in service trench 3.

130 = Deposit of crushed dark slate/shale intermixed with grey clay and ash and charcoal fragments with lime mortar. Interpreted as a construction deposit and very likely late 17th century in date in service trench 3.

131 = Natural beige/pale orange clay.

132 = Culvert (covered in modern concrete), exposed in service trench 4.

133 = Deposit of compacted earth and shale in service trench 4.

134 = Compacted earth with shale inclusions (50%) in service trench 4.

135 = Natural pale grey shale grit with iron staining in service trench 4.

136 = Deposit of late 20th century midden material in service trench 2

137 = Former 19th century top soil or sub soil

138 = 19th century footpath constructed from 6 inch red quarry tiles. Appears to have formerly led to the 19th century kitchen. Service Trench 2.

139 = Turf and top soil in service trench 3 (ST3)

140 = Deposit of clay, sand, grit and shale with 19th century pottery fragments (ST3).

141 = Deposit of compacted beige/grey clay intermixed with crushed shale. Likely former late 17th and 18th century footpath (ST3).

142 = Deposit of crushed grey shale, intermixed with clay, ash, charcoal and lime fragments. Construction deposit (ST3).

143 = Natural beige/pale orange clay (ST3).

APPENDIX IV:
Levels Register

Gilfach-y-Berthog

LEVELS REGISTER

Levels (in meters)

Lower Parlour Room
0. 0.00
1. -1.00.
2. -0.95
3. -0.75
4. -0.85
5. -0.80
6. -0.76
7. -0.68
8. -0.70
9. -0.62
10. 0.54
11. 0.50
12. 0.42
13. -0.53
14. -0.60
15. -0.35
16. -0.26
17. -0.25
18. -0.22
19. -0.38

Trench 1 and Service Trench 1
20. 0.00
21. 0.05
22. 1.12
23. 0.05
24. -1.25
25. 0.00
26. -1.46
27. -0.46

Service Trench 2
28. 0.00
29. -1.00
30. -1.75

Service Trench 3
31. 0.00
32. 0.65
33. -0.70
34. -0.10
35. 0.02

Service Trench 4
36. 0.00
37. -0.23
38. -0.88
39. -0.70
40. -0.20

Trenches 2-7 in former timber barn

41. 0.00
42. 0.00
43. -0.28
44. 0.00
45. -0.26
46. 0.00
47. -0.28

APPENDIX V:

Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Gilfach-y-berthog
Abergwelli, Carmarthenshire

ARCHIVE DESTINATION – RCHAMW

Site Name:	Gilfach-y-berthog, Abergwelli, Carmarthenshire
Site Code:	GYB/2012/WB
PRN:	
NPRN :	N/A
SAM:	N/A
Other Ref No:	HRSW Report No. 131
NGR:	SN4813022955
Site Type:	17th Century Welsh Gentry House
Project Type:	Watching Brief
Project Manager:	Richard Scott Jones
Project Dates:	Feb 2012 - Oct 2013
Categories Present:	N/A
Location of Original Archive:	HRS Wales
Location of duplicate Archives:	Dyfed Archaeological Trust
Number of Finds Boxes:	None
Location of Finds:	NA
Museum Reference:	
Copyright:	HRS Wales
Restrictions to access:	None

Heritage
Recording Services Wales
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