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**Archaeological Watching Brief
Of
The foundations of a proposed dwelling
To the rear of Picola Calabria,
Harbour Village, Goodwick, Pembrokeshire
NGR SM9472/3898**

in
May/June/July 2006

Planning Ref: 04/1485/PA

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Planning Approval – 04/1485/PA

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Summary and Introduction

Due to the proximity of the proposed new dwelling to the scheduled Neolithic tomb cemetery of Garn Wen (PE 030; PRN 2908), archaeological reconnaissance was required prior to the building of the house. A watching brief was therefore proposed to investigate the possibility that archaeological material may extend into the application area, and that if any remains were surviving as buried archaeological features, they would be disturbed or adversely affected by the new development. Related finds could therefore still survive below ground, and/or reveal other archaeological remains.

Although the likelihood of finding archaeological material in such distant proximity but related to the Neolithic chambers appears to be improbable, due to the building of another new dwelling closer to the Neolithic chambers, investigations took the form of monitoring the stripping of the soil in the area to be built on to between 0.30-0.50m in depth. Once the area had been monitored, foundation trenches were then cut to a depth of ca.0.70-1.0m, varying slightly throughout the site depending on the northwest to southeast downward slope.

In addition, photographic observation was made of the site, and several sections were cleaned within the trenched area opened up by the JCB; the site was worked over a period of 6-8 weeks. A thorough appraisal was made ensuring that no area was left unobserved. Soil samples were taken from beneath the topsoil of the site, and inspected in closer detail off site; the upper layer was a loose, stony pale yellow/grey rubble soil mixture already disturbed during agricultural work from the 1950's onwards, when potatoes were planted on the site. The underlying somewhat reddish strata had a slight clay-like texture, which appeared throughout the foundation area.

The photographic evidence shows how stony the ground was throughout and importantly how loose the soil was possibly due to extensive agricultural work. All of the trenches were cut under the supervision of the archaeologist and observed closely as they were dug through to examine any archaeological remains that could be in evidence. This investigation showed no new discolouration in the soil, no structural remains, and no archaeological finds throughout the drop in levels.

A note to be made here is that the owner of the new neighbouring property, which lies between the proposed dwelling and the Neolithic chambers, is very interested in local history, and he observed the ground-works during the building of his property and assured me that no features or finds were uncovered. The gentleman noted that nothing came to light during the entire building period, or during the garden landscaping process, even though his structure to the rear (northeast) hit bedrock, which backs on to Garn Wen outcrop.

The main objective of the watching brief was to record any archaeological evidence during the excavation of the foundation trenches for the proposed dwelling, to a depth considered adequate for building purposes and revealing potential archaeological deposits. These levels were reached at the plot to the rear of Picola Calabria, and no archaeology was found on the site.

The proposed dwelling is an estimated 50m to the southwest of the Neolithic burial chambers, which are also shown on the 1845 Tithe Map, whereas the neighbouring dwelling is ca.25m southwest of them, and therefore closer. In light of the lack of archaeological evidence, it should also be noted here that a motorbike was buried in the centre of the proposed site several years previously, probably causing substantial disturbance to the ground prior to any building work.

During the ongoing excavation of the foundations, the upper pale yellow /grey stony rubble and lower somewhat reddish strata remained consistent throughout, confirming that no archaeology existed at these levels.

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1. The site of the proposed dwelling

1.1 To the rear of Picola Calabria

The proposed dwelling is accessed from the main Harbour Village road, turn left (north) at the telephone box and follow the lane to Pen-Rhiw Farm and at the fork in the road and it is the plot on the right, it lies in the parish of Llanwnda.

The position of Garn Wen Neolithic chambered tomb cemetery in relation to the proposed new dwelling is ca.50m southwest. The SMR (Sites and Monuments Record) has several entries for the chambers, which are aligned along the east side of the Garn Wen outcrop next to the public footpath (PRN2908, PRN2502, PRN2503). The chambered tombs have large capstones and uprights as well as outlying stones, and the middle and most southerly of the tombs have low mounds or raised areas surrounding them. Dense vegetation makes a clearer interpretation difficult.

They appear on the 1845 Tithe Map and are representative of an area steeped in archaeology, with at least 14 scheduled sites (Cambria Archaeology Archive) within a 500m radius of the cemetery. This increased the potential of archaeological finds being unearthed on the proposed new dwelling site.

The 'Historic Landscape Characterisation' of the parish of Llanwnda, is a report produced by Cambria Archaeology and provides information on the extent of these sites: "The numerous archaeological sites of all periods indicate a settled landscape for over 5000 years. Included are finds of prehistoric and Roman date, Neolithic chambered tombs (Scheduled Ancient Monument), several possible standing stones and round barrows." -

(www.cambria.org.uk/HLC/pencaer/llanwnda.htm).

The site of the proposed new dwelling is also on the edge of the parish of Goodwick, which also has an 'Historic Landscape Characterisation' of relevance to the site as recorded archaeology mostly consists of "a possible Bronze Age round barrow and a prehistoric flint working site in the area."

Once again these finds suggest that keen observation is implicit during the archaeological surveillance during JCB work as stone implements could possibly be in evidence (www.acadat.com/HLC/pencaer/goodwick.htm).

1.2 The proposed new dwelling

The new dwelling will be situated directly to the north of the dwelling Picola Calabria, ca.10m east of Pen-Rhiw Farm lane. The site is on a northwest-to-southeast slope down towards Harbour Village road, which is situated some 50m southeast from the plot.

1.3 The Field Evaluation

Archaeological works on the site included:

- Monitoring the stripping of the topsoil for the foundation trenches.
- Subsequent observation and recording of any differences within subsoil levels
- Random section cleaning within the area opened; facing south, north and east, with soil samples being taken from the same areas
- Photographic reconnaissance of the work done over a 6-8 week period

There are three main reasons for archaeological observation of this plot:

- The proximity of the proposed new development site to the Neolithic Chamber tombs of Gam Wen, and the density of other prehistoric sites in the immediate area. The possibility that related archaeological finds could still survive below ground, and/or reveal other archaeological remains that would need to be recorded.
- To allow, within resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence of which could not be established sufficiently or accurately prior to any development or building disturbance.
- To give the watching archaeologist an opportunity, if required, to inform all interested parties that an archaeological find has been made, before the disturbance or destruction of any such material occurs, at which point the watching brief will no longer be sufficient to deal with the situation to a satisfactory and proper standard.

Note: There are three crucial factors to be noted; the intensive agricultural work planting potatoes on the site from the 1950's onwards; the building works of the new dwelling situated 15m north of the proposed dwelling, closer to the cemetery where no archaeological finds were uncovered; the knowledge that a motorbike was buried on the site several years previously, therefore disturbing the ground surface area.



2. Summary of Watching Brief Results

2.1 Location

The proposed site of the new dwelling occupies the plot NGR SM 9472/3898 on a northwest-southeast downward facing slope towards Harbour Village at a height of ca.106m above Ordnance Datum.

The new dwelling is being constructed to the rear of the house Picola Calabria on Pen-Rhiw Farm lane, Harbour Village, Goodwick Pembrokeshire. A condition was attached to the consent that an archaeological watching brief was to be undertaken on the ground of the proposed extension. Archaeology on the site was hoped for based on the proximity of the site with the Neolithic chambered tomb cemetery.

The 1945 Tithe Map of the Goodwick shows the Burial Chambers on the eastern side of Garn Wen outcrop, ca.50m northeast of the proposed development site. There is also a Bronze Age round barrow to the north of Garn Wen, and prehistoric hut some 40m north-north-west of the plot, on the west side of Cw Cottage lane. In addition there is a possible medieval settlement Trefhaylyn ca.30m southwest of the development area south of Pen-Rhiw Farm lane. It appears therefore that any archaeology associated with the area could appear on this plot, despite negative observations during the building work of the neighbours' property NGR SM9478/3899. The location of the plot is therefore crucial.

2.2 Soil and Geology

The area uncovered by JCB work after the topsoil had been stripped, revealed deposits typical for this part of Goodwick; a stony pale yellow/grey rubble soil mixture with an underlying somewhat reddish strata with a slight clay-like texture, which appeared throughout the foundation area and yielded no archaeological deposits.

This area comes into the Volcanic Ordovician rock formation range within Pembrokeshire (www.pembrokeshire-online.co.uk/geolmap.htm), when there was underwater volcanic activity or eruptions causing rock formations ca.450 million years ago. The north Pembrokeshire coast has many 'sills' or 'intrusions', which illustrate this activity, as well as some inland rock outcrops such as Garn Wen, to the east of the Burial Chambers.

2.3 Methodology

The stripping of the topsoil was worked using a JCB with a standard narrow-bladed scoop measuring 1.8m wide by ca. 60cm deep. The depth of the initial

stripping of the topsoil was between 0.30-0.50m, the depths varied slightly according to the drop in ground level. Once work began on the foundation trenches, they reached depths of between 0.70-1.0m and the area was visually examined and notes were taken on soil type and any evidence. Several sections were cleaned, but the extremely hot weather conditions of June/July had turned the soil into dust making precise section cleaning a difficult procedure and some clarity was lost photographically. Two 24 print film of photographs were taken using colour print and monochrome 35mm film (see Appendix I).

2.4 Objectives

To identify and record any archaeological features and deposits of interest exposed after the opening of the areas for the foundation trenches of the dwelling.

2.5 Fieldwork Results

The soil sequences exposed by the stripping were consistent throughout the excavated area, and in general terms consisted of the upper layer represented by a pale grey rubble soil mixture with an underlying somewhat reddish strata with a slightly clay-like texture.

No archaeological features were recorded in any areas of the proposed new dwelling or adjacent to it.

2.6 Conclusions

The information gained by this observation work over 6-8 weeks left no doubt that although the area potentially held archaeological deposits, lack of any evidence meant that this interpretation could not be extended into the proposed development site to the rear of Picola Calabria.

No archaeology was found on the site to be built on and it is likely that a zone with more archaeological potential could be closer to the Burial Chambers to the rear of the Harbour Village. Although the ground was worked agriculturally from the 1950's, and some disturbance was registered during the depositing of a motorbike on the plot several years ago, the depth of the foundation trenches went below these intrusions down to a layer which would have remained intact archaeologically. Despite this no features or finds were observed.

Therefore, a recommendation can be given that building work on the new dwelling can go ahead without jeopardising any potential archaeological deposits in the plot.

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SCALE 1:200

Project PROPOSED NEW DWELLING - PROPOSED SITE PLAN			
Address LAND ADJACENT TO PICOLA CALABRIA, HARBOUR VILLAGE, GOODWICK, PEMBROKESHIRE			
Client MR & MRS WILLIAMS			
Scale: 1:200	Date FEB 05	Ref PLANNING	©
Drawing Number 4100 / 011			Rev .

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1.2 Photographs of the site



The site prior to building work

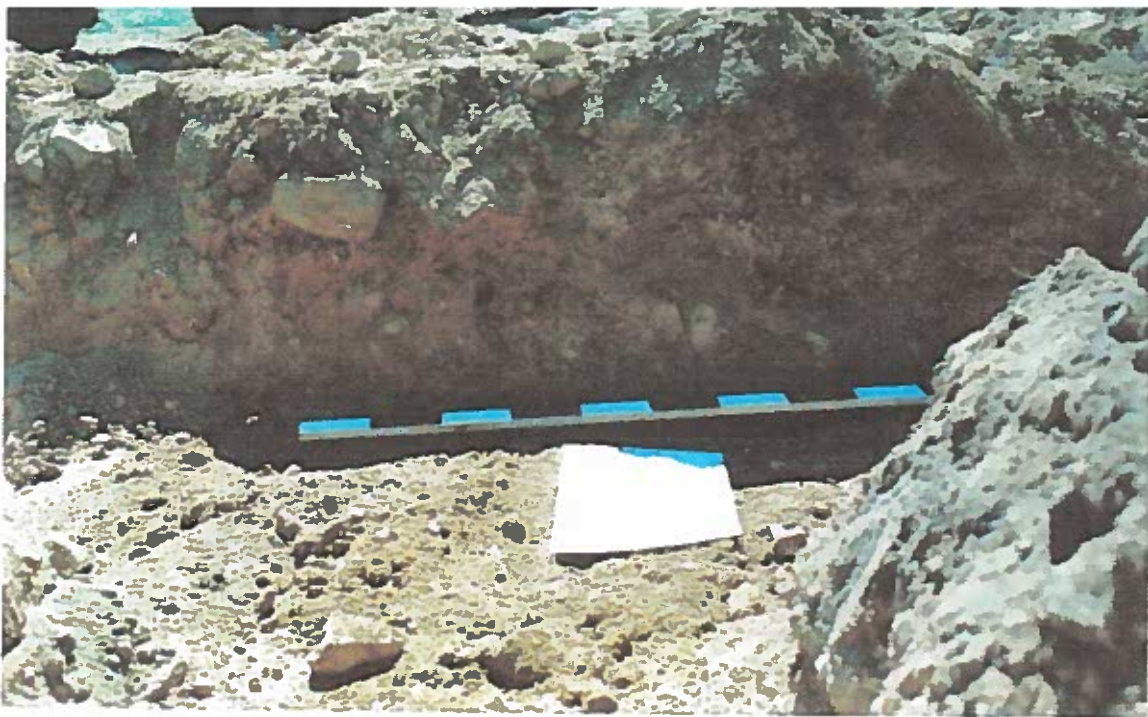




Top: Foundation trenches looking east

Bottom: Foundation trenches looking south-south-east





Top: Close up of central test section looking southwest

Bottom: Foundation trench looking northeast





Top: Test section looking northeast at southern end of site

Bottom: Foundation trenches at southern end of site





Top: Showing loose pale grey rubble layer and lower reddish strata in section looking north

Bottom: Example of lower reddish strata with light clay-like texture in centre of site looking northeast



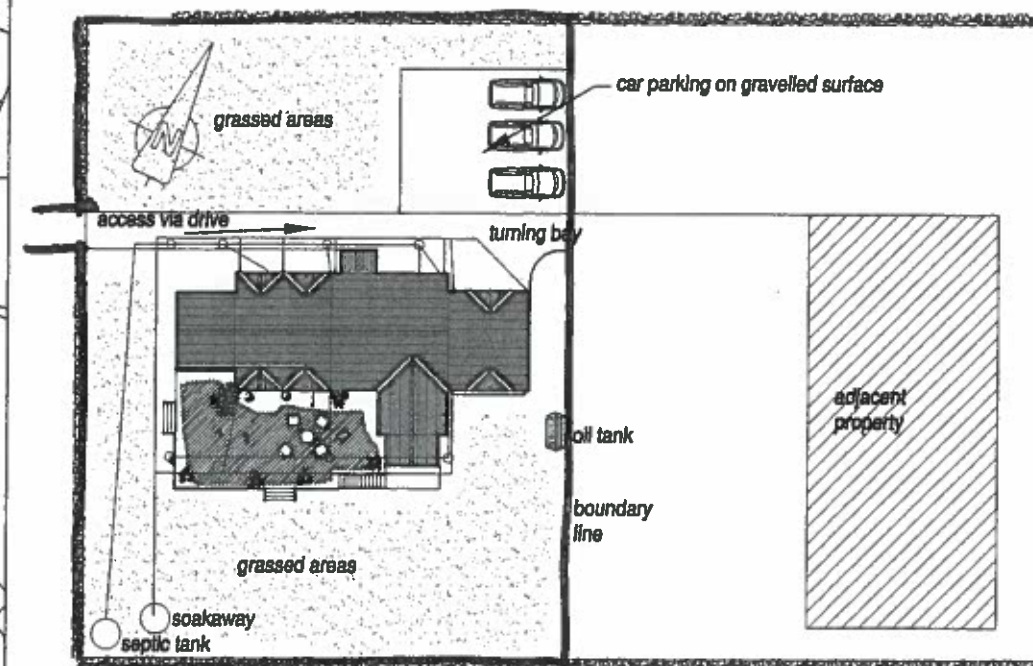
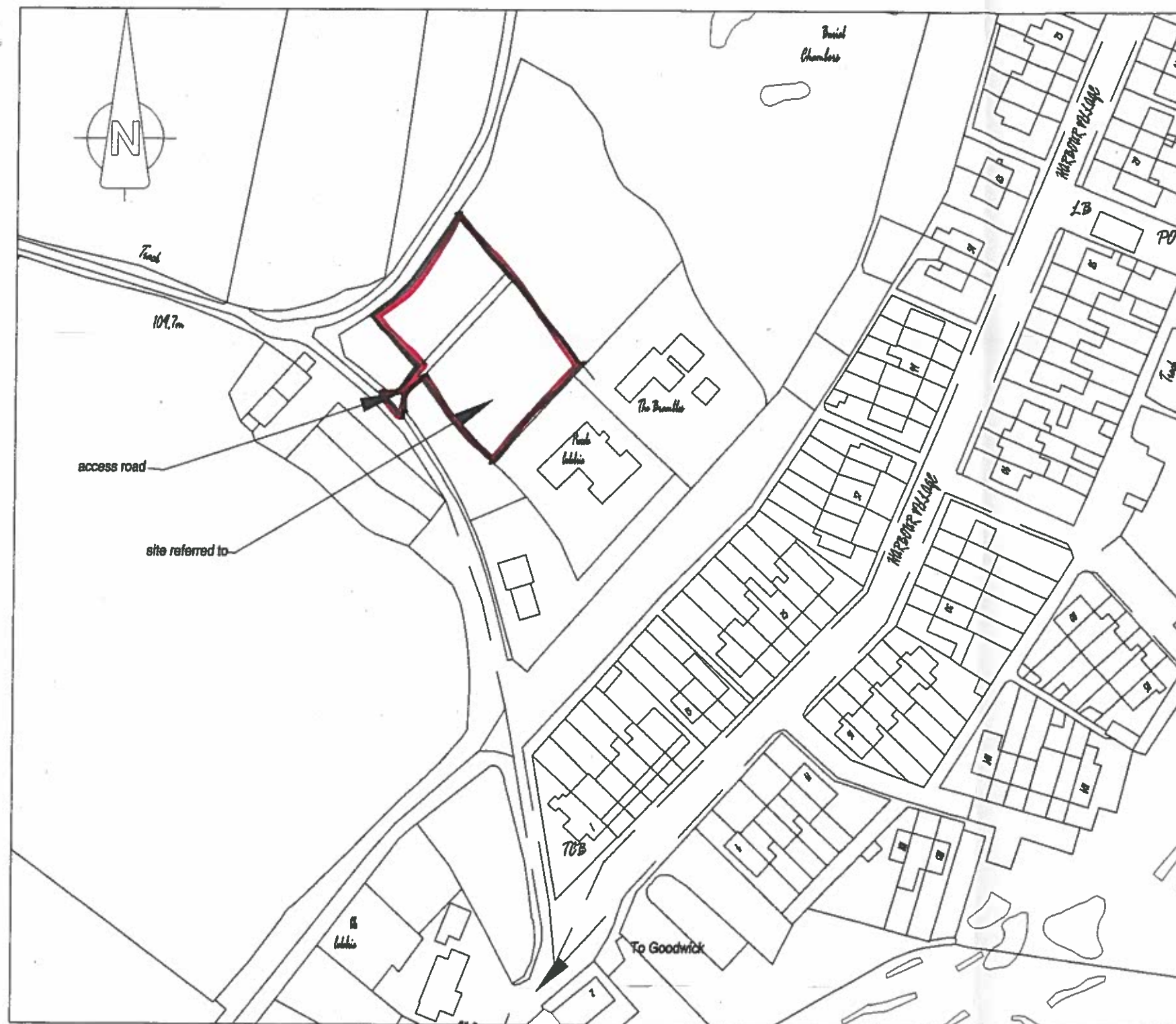


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Cambria Archaeology, *Historic Landscape Characterisation – Goodwick*,
www.acadat.com/HLC/pencaer/goodwick.htm
Howells, Sydney, *Geological Map of Pembrokeshire*,
www.pembrokeshire-online.co.uk/geolmap.htm



Special thanks to Mr and Mrs Williams for their co-operation during the watching brief and for providing a copy of the proposed house plans for the report.



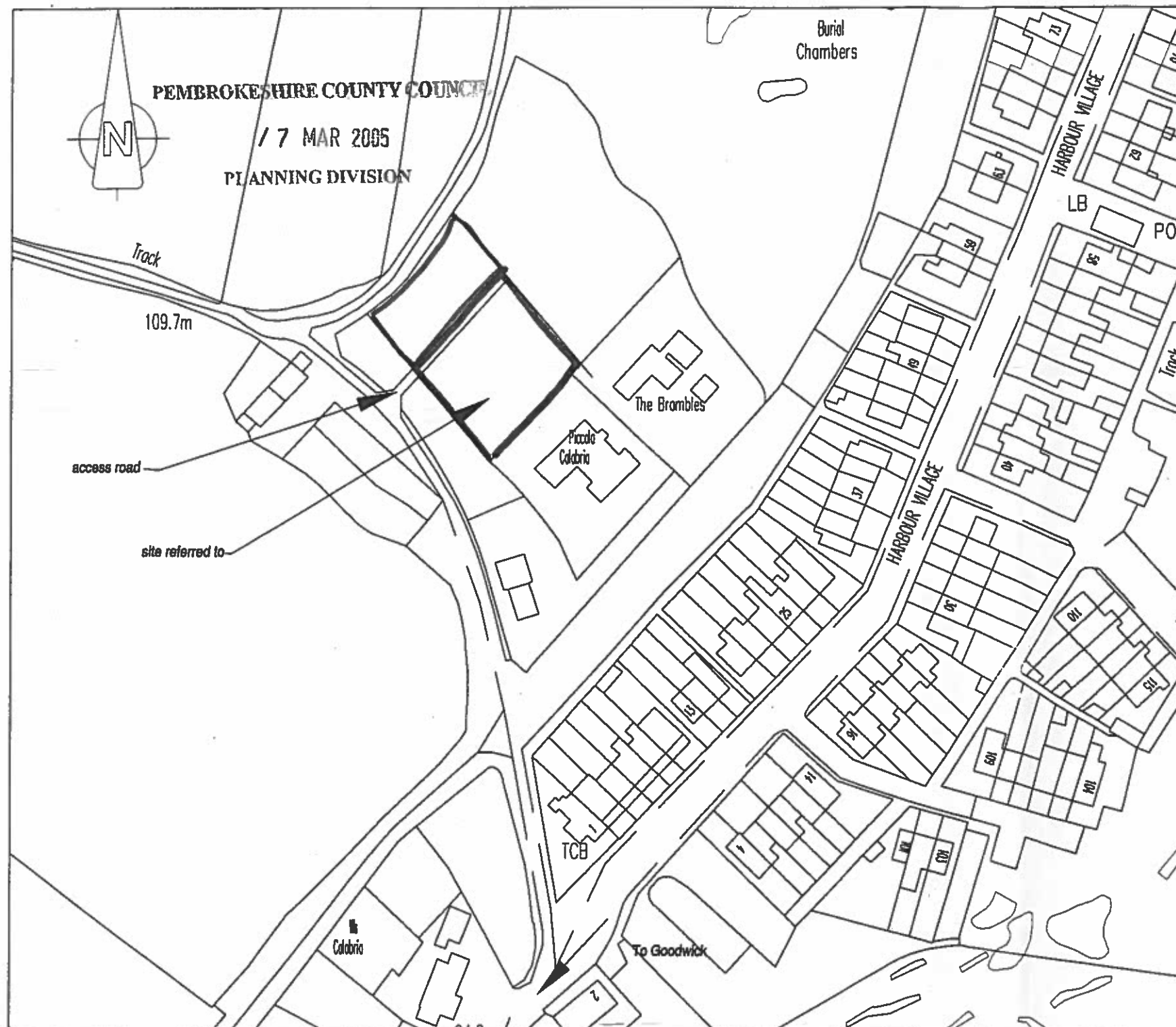
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13 MAY 2009

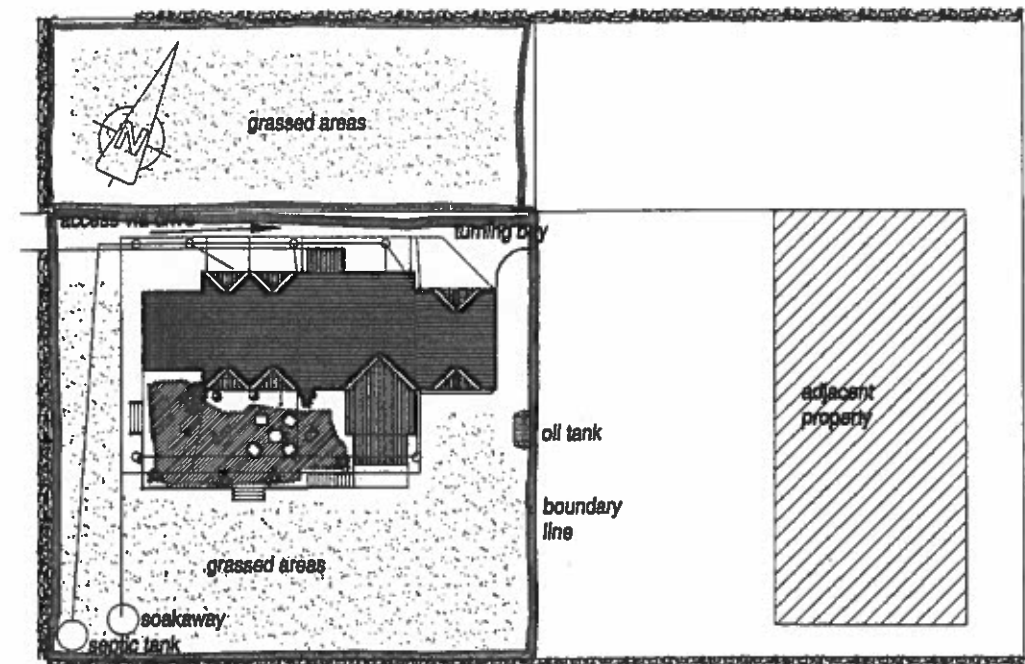
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LOCATION PLAN

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Client MR & MRS WILLIAMS			
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Drawing Number 4100 / 001			Rev A



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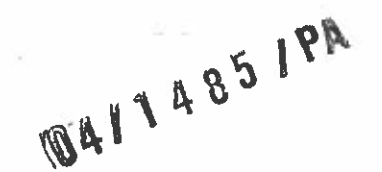


SITE PLAN

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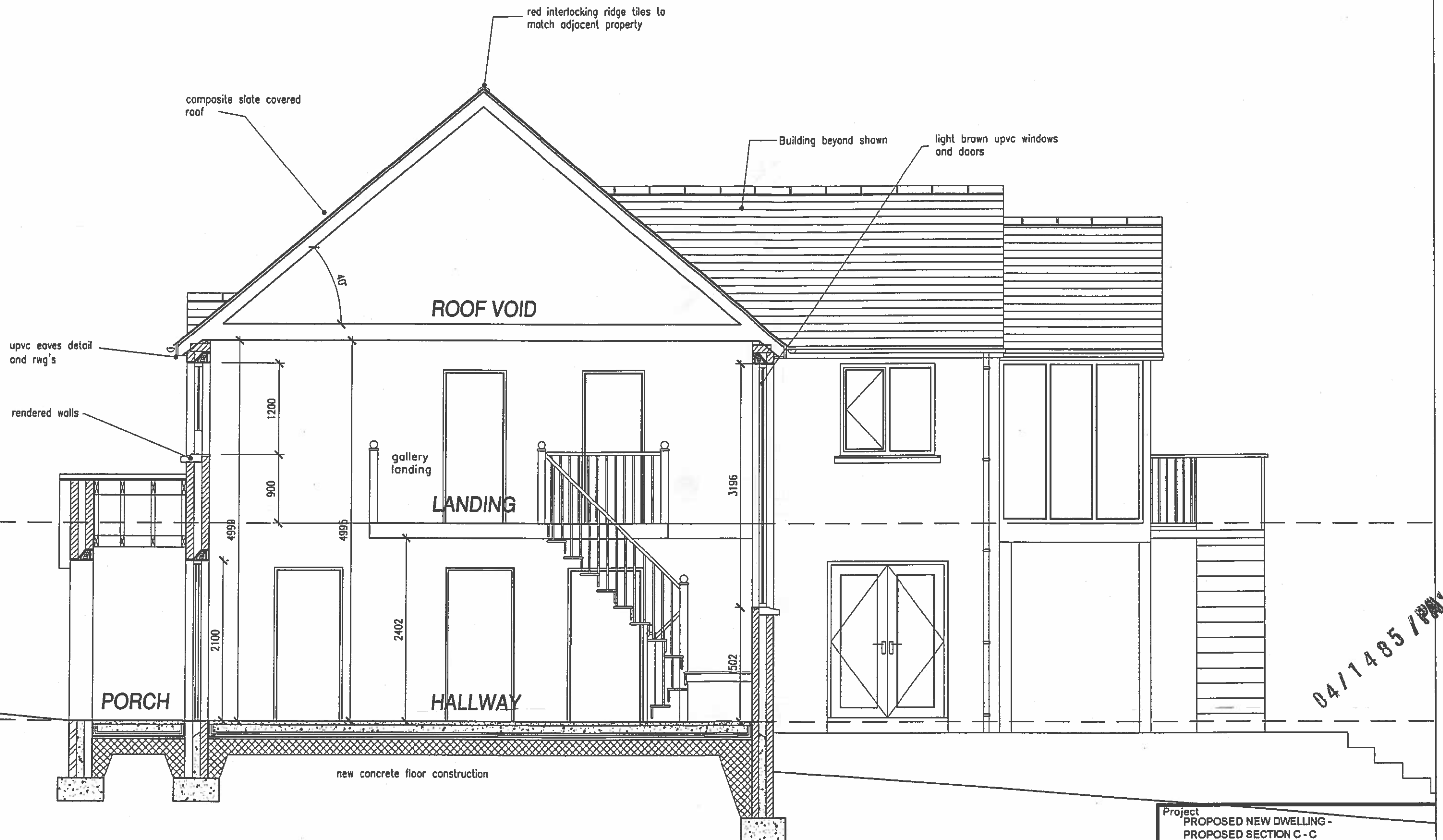
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PROPOSED SECTION C - C

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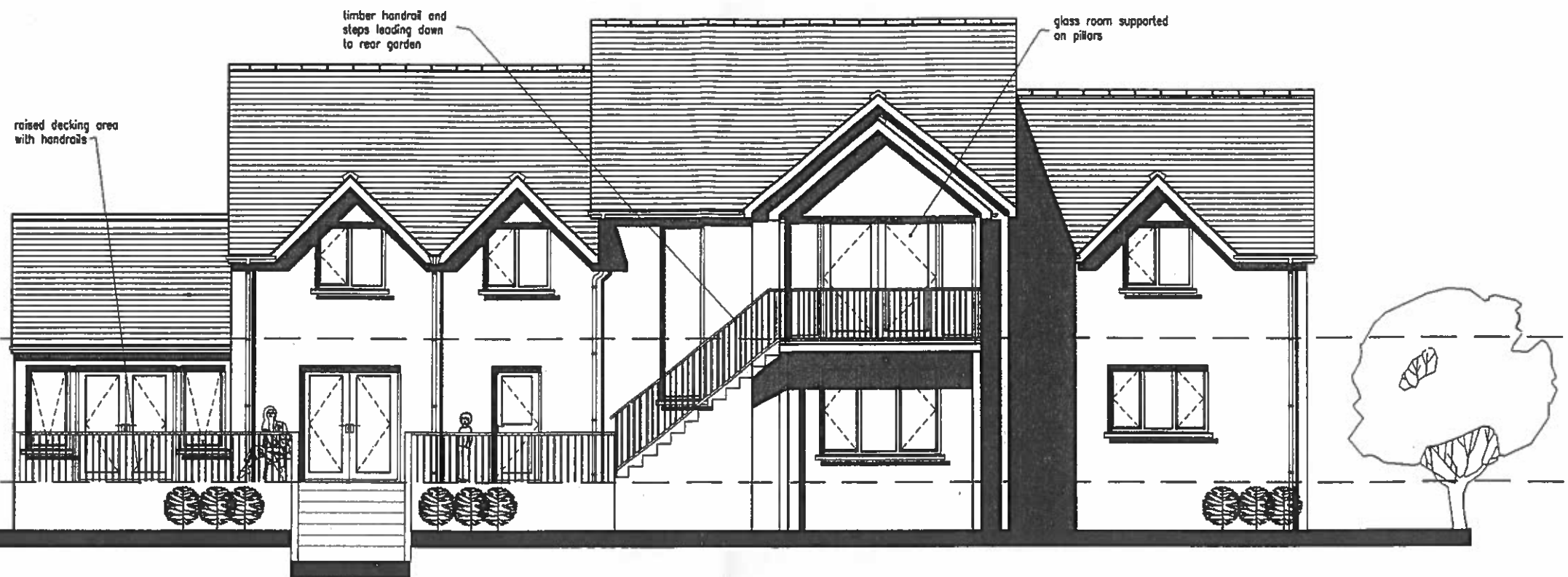


PROPOSED SECTION E - E

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PROPOSED SOUTH EAST ELEVATION



PROPOSED NORTH EAST ELEVATION

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Client MR & MRS WILLIAMS			
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