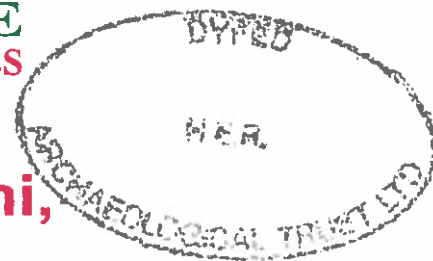


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RECORDING SERVICES **WALES**



Gelli-deg, Llanllwni, Carmarthenshire.

Archaeological Watching Brief



By
Richard Scott Jones (BA Hons, MA, MIFA)



ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Gelli-Deg, New Inn, Llanllwni, Carmarthenshire.

By
Richard Scott Jones (*BA Hons, MA, MIFA*)

Prepared for:
Mr and Mrs Jones,
Gelli Deg,
New Inn,
Llanllwni,
Carmarthenshire..

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HRSW Report No: 118



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RECORDING SERVICES **WALES**

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Plates 07-08: Foundation trenches

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Non Technical Summary

The following report is the result of archaeological work at Gelli Deg, New Inn, Llanllwni, Carmarthenshire. The work was part of a condition for an archaeological watching brief during the ground work for an extension to the existing residential dwelling.

The watching brief was designed to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

No archaeological deposits of any date were encountered during the ground-works for the new extension.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 *The following text details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales (HRSW) during the ground work for a new extension to the existing residential dwelling known as Gelli-Deg, New Inn, Llanllwni, Carmarthenshire.*
- 1.2 After being contacted by Mr and Mrs John Jones of Gelli-Deg to undertake the work, HRSW submitted a project specification to Cambria Archaeology, the regional Archaeological Trust in Llandeilo, detailing the schedule of works in February 2008. This specification was approved and the watching brief work was undertaken in the first week in February 2007.
- 1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and guidance: for an archaeological watching brief*, and current Health and Safety legislation.

Planning Background

- 1.4 Planning permission was granted by Carmarthenshire County Council (*Application number: W/15779/ZBR*) to Mr and Mrs Jones of Gelli Deg, to construct a new extension to the existing dwelling (NGR: SN 4779 3801). A condition for an archaeological watching brief was attached to this permission.

Site Location & Description (*see Figs 1, 2, & 3*)

- 1.5 Gelli Deg is located between the villages of Llanllwni and New Inn at a height of approx. 225m OD (NGR: SN 4779 3801). The site of the present single storey bungalow is located cut into a west facing slope with its front façade facing south-west.

Geology

- 1.6 The geology of the area is a sedimentary rock of Undivided Llandovery series of the Silurian period. Local geology indicates an area of grey shale and orange sands and gravels.

Brief Historical & Archaeological Background

- 1.7 The Sites and Monuments Records held in the regional archaeological trust, Llandeilo, shows that the proposed development lies in close proximity to the line of a Roman road (PRN 33948). Therefore, there is strong potential that the ground works for the proposed extension could reveal and destroy archaeological remains.
- 1.8 According to Samuel Lewis's *Topography of Wales of 1833*, "LLANLLWYNY (LLAN-LLAWNWEY), a

parish, in the union of LAMPETER, higher division of the hundred of CATHINOG, county of CARMARTHEN, SOUTH WALES, 9 miles (S.W.) from Lampeter; containing 907 inhabitants. . . It is pleasantly situated on the southern bank of the Teivy, by which it is separated from the county of Cardigan, and is intersected by the turnpike-road from Carmarthen to Lampeter; the land is inclosed and in a good state of cultivation, and the soil in most parts fertile; the surrounding scenery is pleasantly diversified, and the distant views extend over a country abounding with picturesque beauty. . . The church is romantically situated on a rocky eminence, commanding a fine view, and overlooking the river Teivy, which flows at its base. There is a place of worship for Independents: a day school, containing about 60 boys and girls, is partly supported by payments from the parents, and partly by the vicar and others; and there are two Sunday schools, of which one is of the Established Church, and the other appertains to the Independents. . ." [From *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* (S. Lewis, 1833).]

2 Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 In accordance with IFA's *Standards and guidance*, the aims of an archaeological watching brief are
- to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.
 - to provide an 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 itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.
- 2.2 A watching brief is not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.
- 2.3 The objective of a watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

3 Methodology

- 3.1 With regards the watching brief, the ground work was undertaken by the contractor using a mechanical digger with a 1 meter wide grading bucket and hand shovel, when deemed necessary, under the guidance of the qualified supervising archaeologist.

After the overburden had been stripped back the area was inspected for any potential archaeological features or finds. Once this had been done and no significant features noted the ground work continued for the foundation trenches. Once completed limited cleaning of the trenches was undertaken in order to ascertain the existence or non existence of any archaeological features.

- 3.3 Where features were present limited excavation was undertaken to establish the date, depth, preservation, extent, function and relationship to other features, but in this case no features or finds became evident.
- 3.4 Recording of the trenches was undertaken in three formats:
- i) *Photographic record* - Photographs were taken in digital format using a 5 mega-pixel camera recording in high resolution JPEG files. Where deemed necessary standard 35 mm film format in Black and White was also appropriated.
 - ii) *Drawn record* - Site drawings, plans and sections, were produced at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 on drafting film, where deemed necessary. Finished drawings have been related to Ordnance Survey

datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

- iii) *Written record* - Written records were produced using a continuous numbering sequence for all contexts.

- 3.5 An environmental sampling and sampling and processing strategy was in place should the archaeological deposits warrant it. However, in this instance it was not felt that the deposits encountered required sampling.
- 3.6 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and guidance: for an archaeological watching brief* and current Health and Safety legislation.

4 Results of Watching Brief (see Figs 3 and 4)

- 4.1 In the following, numbers contained within brackets (), refer to context numbers allocated during the watching brief. A detailed list of all contexts is given in Appendix III of this report.
- 4.2 The area of the proposed extension was located to the north, east and south of the existing bungalow. Following the removal of overburden from each of the proposed extension areas, which included the clearance of a thick concrete base at the rear (north end) of the bungalow, it was discovered that the proposed foundation trenches were to be cut into a natural shale bedrock, revealing that the former construction of the present bungalow, built at some time in the 1970's, had already removed all of the overlying deposits. As such no archaeological deposits were encountered during any of the watching brief, however a south facing section of stratigraphy did become exposed following the removal of a concrete breeze block wall (see *Figure 4 and Photo plates*). This section was recorded with the following contexts noted.
- 4.3 The uppermost deposit was a mid-brown soil/sand, approx. 50mm thick intermixed with shale (100). Below this, approx. 200mm thick, was a further mid-brown/orange soil/sand mixture intermixed with shales, gravels and occasional charcoal inclusions (1%) (101). Below this was an orange sand intermixed with small shale fragments (102). This deposit averaged approx. 200mm in depth. Below this was a natural mid grey/light grey sand and clay intermixed with coarse shales (103). This deposit averaged approx. 200mm. Below this was a further natural deposit of mid grey/light grey sand and clay intermixed with coarser shales (104).
- 4.4 All foundation trenches were approx. 1m wide and 0.60m in depth.

Summary of results

- 4.8 No archaeological deposits of any date were encountered during any of the watching brief, at Gelli Deg, New Inn, Carmarthenshire, as all ground work was cutting into natural shale bedrock.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The watching brief at Gelli Deg, New Inn, Carmarthenshire, No archaeological deposits of any date were encountered during any of the watching brief. From an exposed section of soil following removal of a small retaining wall, analysis of the local stratigraphy showed that the natural geology became exposed at approx. 0.40m. The present bungalow had already been constructed on natural geology at a depth of approx. 0.70m.

6 Acknowledgements

Thanks to; Mr and Mrs Jones for their patience during the ground work and archaeological recording work.

7 Bibliography

Samuel Lewis 1833 Topographical Dictionary of Wales.



APPENDIX I: Figs & Illustrations



Figure 1. Map showing location of Gelli-deg, New Inn, Carmarthenshire.

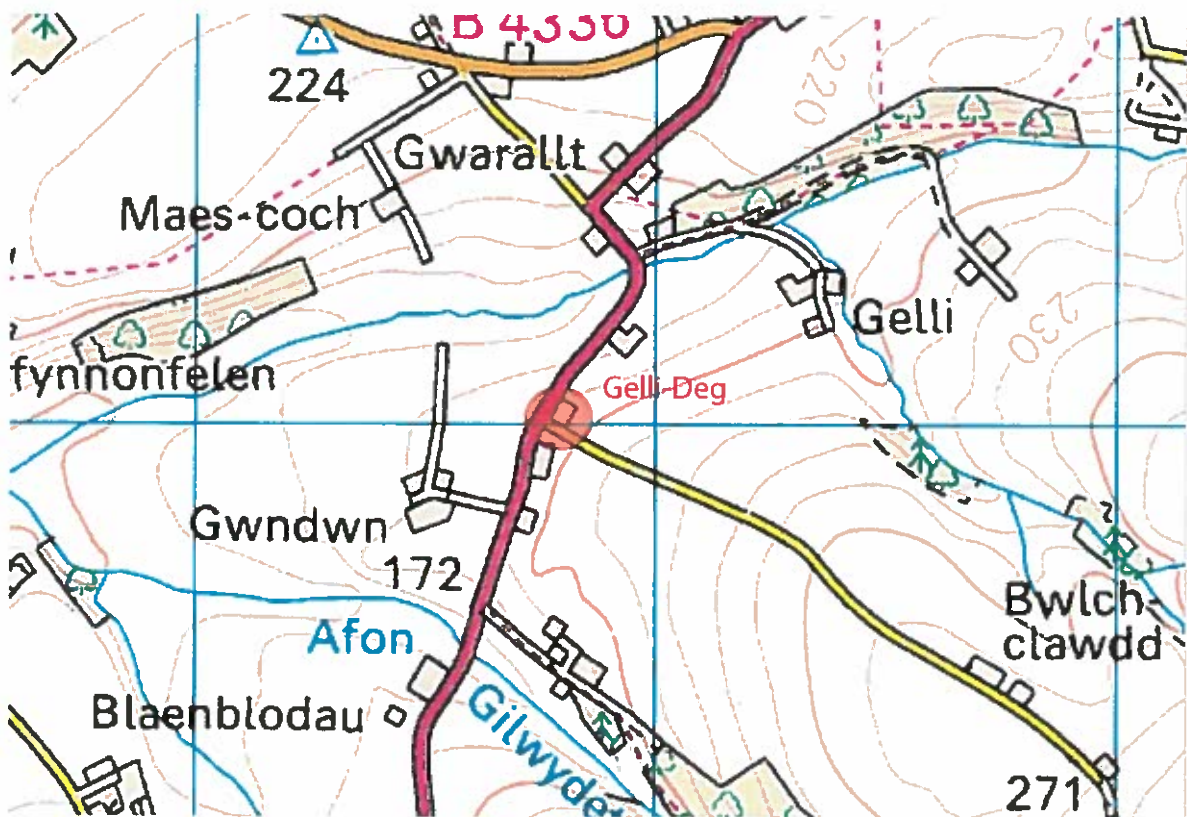


Figure 2. Map showing location of Gelli-deg, New Inn, Carmarthenshire.

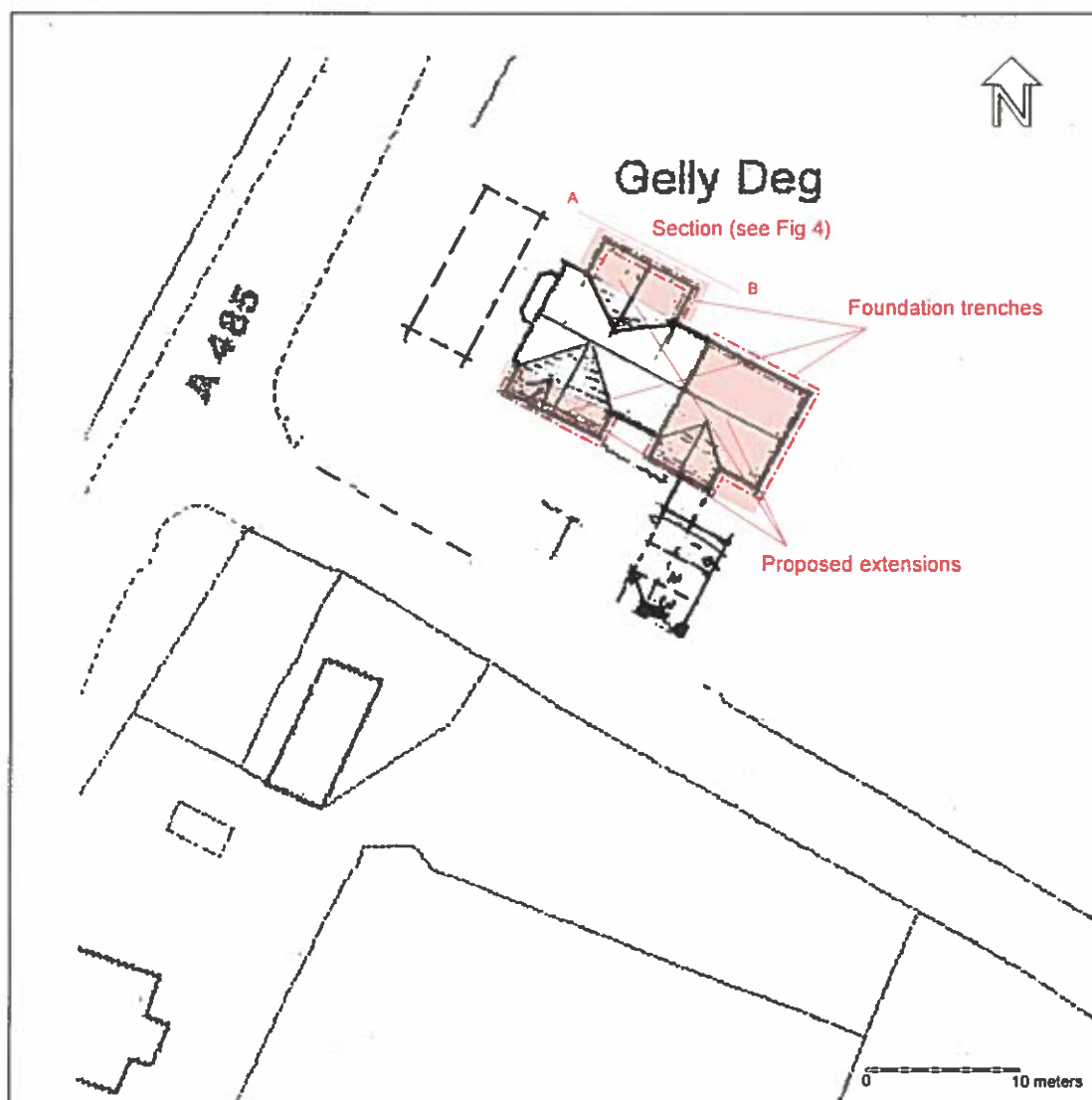


Figure 3. Proposal plan showing proposed extension with foundation trenches marked.

Contexts

- 100. Fine mid brown sandy, shaley soil.
- 101. Mid brown sandy, shale soil(charcoal inclusions 1%)
- 102. Orange sand intermixed with fine shale fragments(Natural).
- 103. Mid grey/pale orange shale intermixed with sand and fine clay(Natural).
- 104. Mid grey/light green sand and clay intermixed with coarder shales(Natural).

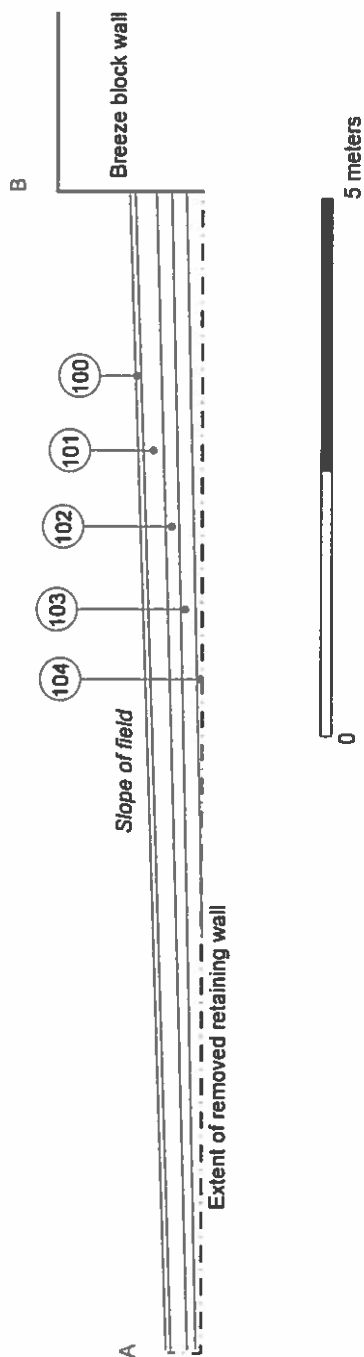


Figure 4. South facing section following removal of retaining wall.



APPENDIX II:

Photo plates



Plate 1. View of Gelli-Deg bungalow prior to extension. Looking south.



Plate 2. View of Gelli-Deg bungalow prior to extension. Looking north.



Plate 3. Area of part of proposed extension. Looking south.



Plate 4. View of Gelli-Deg bungalow (rear) prior to groundworks. Looking east.



Plate 5. Front of house following cut foundations. Looking west.



Plate 6. Front of house following cut foundations. Looking east.



Plate 7. Foundation trenches at rear of bungalow. Looking west..



Plate 8. Foundation trenches at rear of bungalow. Looking south.



Plate 9. Typical section at rear of bungalow following part removal of retaining wall. Looking south.



APPENDIX III: Context Register



APPENDIX IV: Archive Cover Sheet

SUMMARY OF CONTEXTS

Gelli Deg, New Inn, Carmarthenshire.

CONTEXTS

- 100. Grass/turf / top soil.
- 101. Orange sand/gravel intermixed with natural shale (charcoal inclusions 1%)
- 102. Orange sand intermixed with natural shales
- 103. Mid grey/orange fine sand/clay with shale (natural).
- 104. Mid grey/orange sand/clay and coarse shale (natural).

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Gelli Deg, New Inn, Carmarthenshire.

ARCHIVE DESTINATION – RCAHMW

Site Name:	Gelli Deg, New Inn, Carmarthenshire.
Site Code:	GD/08/WB
PRN:	
NPRN :	N/A
SAM:	N/A
Other Ref No:	HRSW Report No. 118
NGR:	SN 4779 3801
Site Type:	Potential Roman road
Project Type:	Watching Brief
Project Officer:	Richard Scott Jones
Project Dates:	March 2008
Categories Present:	N/A
Location of Original Archive:	RCAHMW
Location of duplicate Archives:	DAT, Llandeilo
Number of Finds Boxes:	N/A
Location of Finds:	N/A
Museum Reference:	N/A
Copyright:	HRSW
Restrictions to access:	None

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