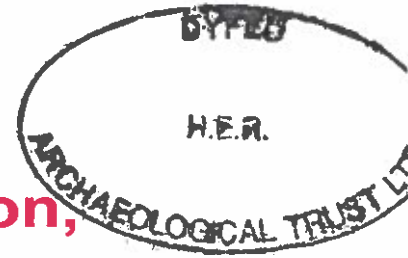


**HERITAGE**  
RECORDING SERVICES **WALES**



## **Land adjacent to Marendon, Tremain, Cardigan.**

### **Archaeological Watching Brief**



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



# ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

## **Marendon, Cardigan, Ceredigion.**

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

Prepared for:  
Dyfed Archaeological Trust  
Shire Hall  
8 Carmarthen Street  
Llandeilo  
Carmarthenshire.

On behalf of:  
David Thomas  
St. Dogmaels,  
Cardigan  
Ceredigion.

Date: July 2008

HRSW Report No: 119



**HERITAGE**  
RECORDING SERVICES WALES

Pen-y-Fan, 11 Forest Lane, Llangybi, Ceredigion, SA48 8LZ

Tel: 01570 493312 Fax: 08712 428171 E-mail: [hrrswales@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hrrswales@tiscali.co.uk)

## Contents

### i) LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY	Page 01
1. INTRODUCTION	Page 01
2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	Page 02
3. METHODOLOGY	Page 03
4. RESULTS OF WATCHING BRIEF	Page 03
5. CONCLUSIONS	Page 04
6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	Page 05
7. REFERENCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY	Page 05
APPENDIX I: Figures & Illustrations	
APPENDIX II: Photo plates	
APPENDIX III: Finds Summary	
APPENDIX IV: Context Register	
APPENDIX IV: Archive Cover Sheet	

#### Copyright Notice:

*Heritage Recording Services Wales retain copyright of this report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988, and have granted a licence to Mr D Pugh to use and reproduce the material contained within.*

## **i) List of Illustrations**

### **Figures**

Fig 01: Location map.

Fig 02: Location Map

Fig 03: Site plan

Fig 04: Proposed site plan with position of foundation trenches

Fig 05: OS 1st edition map.

Fig 06: OS 2nd edition map

### **Plates**

Plate 01-02: Area of proposed development following top soil strip.

Plates 03-04: Foundation trench

Plate 05-06: Foundation trenches completed

Plate 07: Typical section showing stratigraphy.

## Non Technical Summary

*The following report is the result of archaeological work undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales for Mr David Pugh as part of a condition for an archaeological watching brief during the ground work for a new residential dwelling on land adjacent to the property known as Marendon, Tremain, near Cardigan.*

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

*No archaeological deposits nor finds earlier than the late 19<sup>th</sup> century were recorded from the excavations for the new residential dwelling.*

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The following report is the result of archaeological work undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales for Mr David Pugh as part of a condition for an archaeological watching brief during the ground work for a new residential dwelling on land adjacent to the property known as Marendon, Tremain, near Cardigan.
- 1.2 After being contacted by Mr Pugh to undertake the work, HRSW submitted a project specification to Cambria Archaeology, the regional Archaeological Trust in Llandeilo, detailing the schedule of works in July 2008. This specification was approved and the watching brief work was undertaken in the last week in July 2008.
- 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 Ceredigion County Council (*Application numbers: A070943/A070943*) to Mr D. Pugh, for the development of a new 2-storey residential dwelling on land adjacent to property known as Marendon, in Tremain, near Cardigan (NGR: SN 2340 4868). A condition for an archaeological watching brief was attached to this permission.

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

- 1.5 The location of the proposed new dwelling lies north of Cardigan and southeast of Aberporth, within the village of Tremain (NGR: SN 9465 2871) at approximately 110m AOD. The area of land is directly adjacent to a modern dwelling known as Marendon and at the time of the watching brief was located within a formerly ploughed field that runs parallel to the A487.

#### Geology

- 1.6 The geology of the area is a mixture of sedimentary rock of Ordovician Llandeilo and Ashgill rocks of the Ordovician period. Local geology indicates grey/beige clays with fine silt and fine gravels.

#### Brief Historical & Archaeological Background

- 1.7 The proposed plot of land lies within close proximity to three important sites of archaeological interest, of which may extend into the application area. These are the medieval church of St. Michael (PRN: 5219), the medieval settlement of Tremain (PRN: 10954) and a Bronze Age standing stone (PRN: 8062). As such it

was suggested by development control at Dyfed Archaeological Trust, being advisors to the Officers and Members of Ceredigion County Council, that there is a strong probability that archaeological features associated with extended medieval settlement may exist in the application area and be adversely affected by the development.

1.8 According to Samuel Lewis's Topography of Wales of 1833,

'TREMAEN (TRÊ-MAEN), a parish, in the Lower division of the hundred of Troedryaur, union and county of Cardigan, South Wales, 4 miles (E. N. E.) from Cardigan; containing 264 inhabitants. It is thought to derive its name, signifying "the town of the stone," from the vast rude stone termed Llêch yr Ast, and the adjacent cist-vaens, situated near the village, though within the limits of Llangoedmore parish. These relics, together with a large tumulus on a farm in this parish, designated Canllevarvae, are supposed to commemorate a decisive battle that occurred here between the Welsh and the Flemings, soon after a body of the latter had effected a landing at a place called Mount, about three miles distant, on the sea-shore. The parish is situated on the summit and declivities of a hill, called, from the stone above noticed, Llêch yr Ast; and comprises about 900 acres of cultivated arable and pasture land, with a tract of 30 acres of marshy ground. Its soil is principally light, except in the lowest part. The river Arberth runs through the parish, and after turning four or five grist-mills, falls into the Teivy: the turnpike-road from Cardigan to Aberystwith also intersects the parish, within a short distance of the church. In the neighbourhood are Trê Prior, anciently a place of some note, but now a farmhouse, and Trêv Wtial Vawr, similarly converted. The living is a perpetual curacy, endowed with £200 royal bounty, and £291. 4. 10. parliamentary grant; net income, £72; patrons and impropiators, the Miles family, whose tithes have been commuted for a rent-charge of £124. Attached to the benefice is a small farm in the parish of Llansawel, Carmarthenshire, the rent of which is included in the above income. The church, dedicated to St. Michael, was rebuilt in the year 1810, with the exception of the chancel, and is a plain edifice, composed of a nave and chancel, fifty feet long, twenty-two feet wide, and thirty-five high; the height of the steeple is forty-five feet. In the parish is a ford called Rhÿdwenwynvarch, supposed to have derived that name from the water having been poisoned, to destroy the army of an invading enemy.." [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 0.75 meter wide grading bucket and hand shovel, when deemed necessary, under the guidance of the qualified supervising archaeologist.
- 3.2 After the topsoil had been stripped back the entire 15m x 10m area was inspected for any potential archaeological features or finds. Once this had been done and no significant features were evident, the groundwork continued by cutting the foundation footings. Limited cleaning of the trenches was undertaken in order to ascertain the existence or non-existence of any archaeological features and deposits.
- 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 10 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 felt that the deposits encountered required no sampling.
- 3.6 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and guidance: for an archaeological field watching brief* and current Health and Safety legislation.

### 4 Results of Watching Brief (see Figures 3-6)

- 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 Initially the entire area was marked out by the stripping off of the turf and top soil (100), which averaged approx. 0.20m deep. Once this had been done the exposed area was then inspected for any archaeological features or finds. The only dateable material recovered from the top soil strip was a handful of fragments of early 20<sup>th</sup> century glazed pottery and one small fragment of 18<sup>th</sup> century slipware. Once satisfied that there were no significant archaeological features present across the stripped area the cutting of the foundation trenches was undertaken. During the cutting of these a strict watching brief vigil was undertaken in case any archaeological features or deposits became exposed. Directly below the top soil a fairly clean sub soil became exposed made up of a mixture of fine grey/beige gravel clay and fine silt became exposed (101). This deposit covered the entire stripped area and averaged a depth of approximately 0.30m. Directly below this was a natural grey/beige clay interspersed with occasional fine

gravels and clay boulders (102). Each section of trench averaged a depth of approximately 0.75m, the required depth for the foundation trenches. No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were noted within the trenches, except for one area of trench where the east facing section of one trench had evidence for what at first appeared to be a cut approximately 1m wide and 0.60m deep with sloping sides as if a an early ditch now buried and filled. However closer inspection of the feature and the opposing next section showed that the feature was more likely the remains of a tree bowl.

### *Summary of results*

- 4.8 No archaeological features or finds were recorded in the ground work for the proposed new dwelling on land adjacent to Marendon, Tremain. Finds recovered were no earlier than the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

## **5 Conclusion**

- 5.1 The watching brief for the proposed new dwelling on land adjacent to Marendon, Tremain, exposed no significant archaeological deposits across the entire area of the site. The natural geology became exposed at approx. 0.40-50m. The only recovered finds recovered were three pottery sherds, none earlier than the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Each of these fragments were collected from the lower levels of the stripped top soil. From investigation of the Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition map of 1891 it is clear that the area of the proposed development has been agricultural land since at least the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and very likely much earlier. The field in which the development is taking place appeared to have been subjected to agricultural ploughing at least in the last 100 years as post-medieval ridges and furrows are plainly evident.

## **6 Acknowledgements**

Thanks to; Mr D Pugh for his patience during the ground work and archaeological recording work.

## **7 Bibliography**

Samuel Lewis 1833 Topographical Dictionary of Wales.





## **APPENDIX I:** Figs & Illustrations



Figure 1. Location map showing location of land at Tremain, near Cardigan, Ceredigion.  
(OS 1:50000 map)



Figure 2. Enlarged view of location map showing location of land at Tremain, near Cardigan, Ceredigion.  
(OS 1:50000 map)

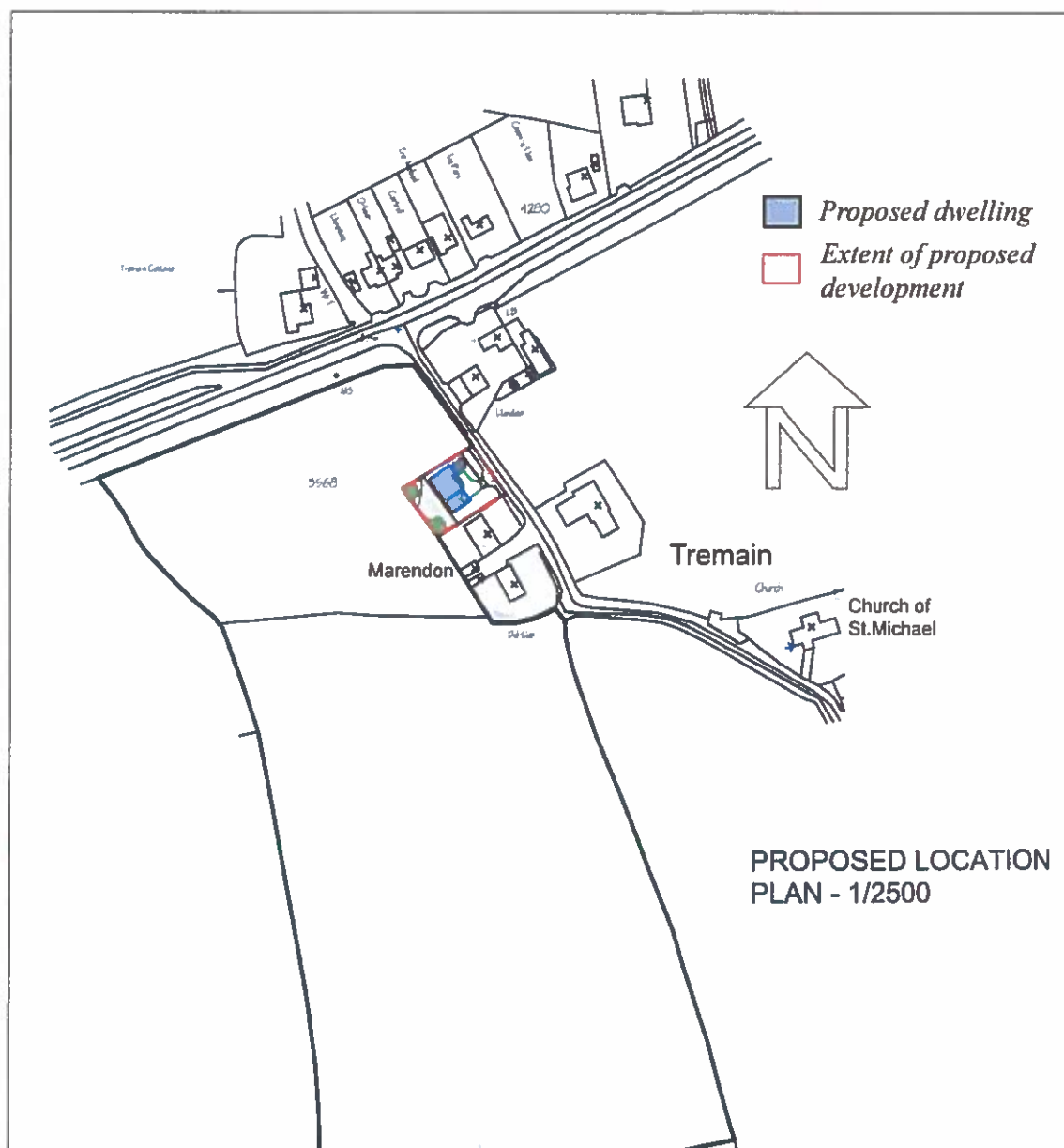


Figure 3. Site plan showing position of proposed development within village of Tremain.



Figure 4. Site plan showing position of proposed dwelling and location of proposed foundation trench.

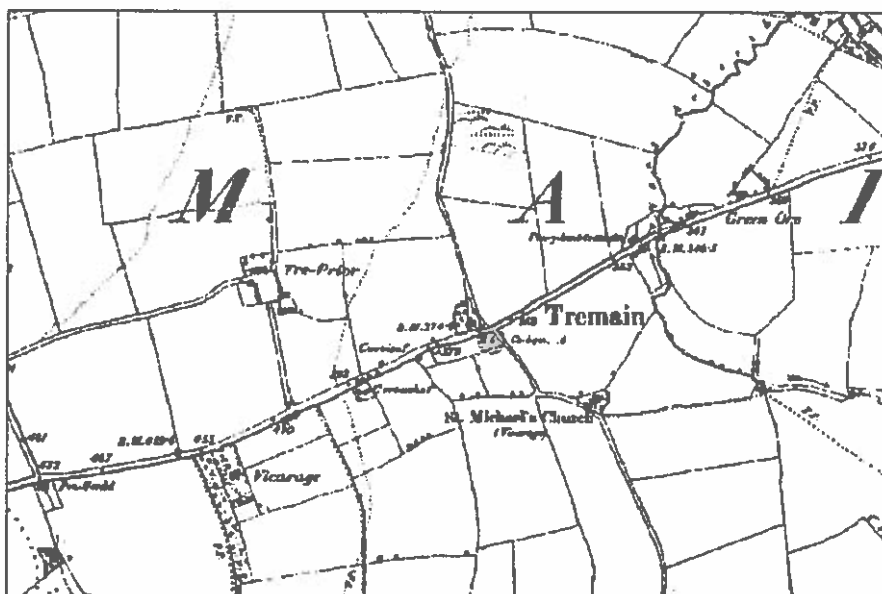


Figure 5. Part of Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1891 (1:10560) showing village of Tremain. Area of proposed development highlighted.

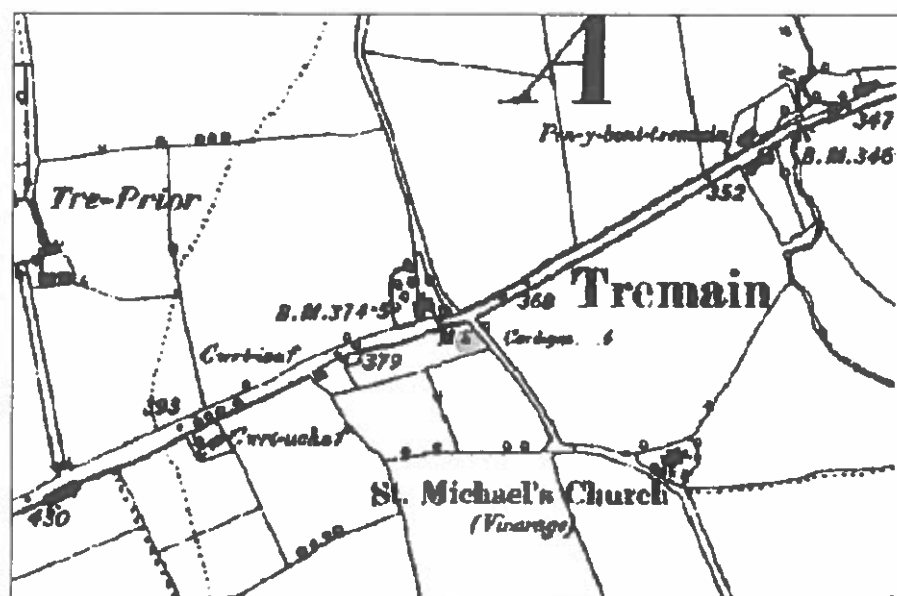


Figure 6. Enlarged view of Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1891 (1:10560) showing village of Tremain. Area of proposed development highlighted.



## **APPENDIX II:** Photo plates





*Plate 1.* Area of proposed development. Looking southwest.



*Plate 2.* Area of proposed development. Looking northeast



**Plate 3.** Working shot during cutting of foundation trenches.



**Plate 4.** Remains of tree bowl showing within section.





*Plate 5.* View of cut foundation trenches looking northeast.



*Plate 6.* View of cut foundation trenches looking southeast



**Plate 7.** General view of stratigraphy within foundation trench. Looking northwards.



## **APPENDIX III:** **Finds Summary**

## FINDS REGISTER

Land adjacent to Marendon, Tremain, Cardigan.

### Context 100

#### *Pottery*

2 x pottery fragments – Dark brown glazed local earthen ware (6 gm weight) (Late 19<sup>th</sup> century/early 20<sup>th</sup> century).

1 x pottery fragment- Light yellow/cream glaze with dark brown slip (3gm weight) (18<sup>th</sup> century slipware )



## **APPENDIX IV:** Context Register

## SUMMARY OF CONTEXTS

**Land adjacent to Marendon, Tremain, Cardigan.**

### CONTEXTS

- 100. Grass/turf / top soil.
- 101. Light grey/brown gravels and grey clay
- 102. Grey clay and gravels.



## **APPENDIX V:** **Archive Cover Sheet**

## ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

**Land adjacent to Marendon, Tremain, Cardigan.**

### ARCHIVE DESTINATION – RCAHMW

Site Name:	<b>Land adjacent to Marendon, Tremain, Cardigan.</b>
Site Code:	<b>MC/08/WB</b>
PRN:	
NPRN :	<b>N/A</b>
SAM:	<b>N/A</b>
Other Ref No:	<b>HRSW Report No. 119</b>
NGR:	<b>NGR: SN 2340 4868</b>
Site Type:	<b>Potential medieval settlement</b>
Project Type:	<b>Watching Brief</b>
Project Officer:	<b>Richard Scott Jones</b>
Project Dates:	<b>July 2008</b>
Categories Present:	<b>N/A</b>
Location of Original Archive:	<b>HRSW</b>
Location of duplicate Archives:	<b>DAT, Llandeilo</b>
Number of Finds Boxes:	<b>N/A</b>
Location of Finds:	<b>N/A</b>
Museum Reference:	<b>N/A</b>
Copyright:	<b>HRSW</b>
Restrictions to access:	<b>None</b>



