

RECEIVED

02 JUL 2009

Manorbier Newton Watching Brief



Report by: Trysor

For: Mr Terry John

November 2007



Contents

1. Summary	1
2. Introduction	2
3. The Development	2
4. Conditions on the consent	2
5. Historical Overview	4
6. Effect of Development on the Archaeological Resource	4
7. Site Stratigraphy	7
8. Photographs	11
9. Conclusion	13
10. Archive	13
11. Sources	14
Appendix: Photographs	15

2. Introduction

Mr Terry John commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks for a development on land adjacent to “Thika”, Manorbier Newton, Pembrokeshire, planning application number NP/07/288

The development site, at SS0467899947, is part of the garden plot of “Thika”, a relatively modern bungalow set back behind the houses on the south side of the main east-west road through Manorbier Newton, (Figs 1, 2 and 3)

3. The development

The development consisted of the construction of a dormer bungalow and garage on land adjoining “Thika” in the village of Manorbier Newton, Pembrokeshire.

4. Conditions on the consent

In granting approval for the application, the Local Planning Authority has imposed conditions on the consent; one condition specifies the actions necessary to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.

“The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeologist is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area, so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The Local Planning Authority will be informed in writing, at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development, of the name of the said archaeologist.”

Following the appointment of the contractor, the purpose of the watching brief was clarified by discussion with Dyfed Archaeological Trust’s Heritage Management Section, who act as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority. According to the Institute of Field Archaeologists’ *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* the purpose of a watching brief is:

- “• 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.*
- 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.*

The objective of a watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on a site.”

5. Historical Overview

The archaeological watching brief was requested due to the location of the development within the village of Manorbier Newton, which has medieval origins. The first records of the village date to 1331, and it was the third largest settlement in the manor of Manorbier (Dyfed Archaeological Trust, website accessed 2007, Manorbier Newton Strip Fields). The layout of the village was not planned and it developed as a cluster of dwellings on either side of an east-west road. The village falls within the Historic Landscape Character Area identified as *Manorbier Newton Strip Fields*. The main characteristic of this character area are sinuous linear fields, the enclosed remains of earlier open strip fields. The date of the original fields is a subject of debate but the enclosure of them began in the 17th century and was more or less complete by the time of a survey in 1774.

Prior to the development there were no previous records of archaeological discoveries being made on the land being developed, or in the immediate vicinity. There were also no indications from historic (19th century) mapping of any structures or historic features in the area concerned, which at the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1869 was a garden plot on the same alignment as a strip field to the south.

The owner of the plot provided information that within the last thirty years the area had been used as a caravan site, including a toilet block. The caravan site has since been relocated to a field further back from the road, accessed by the track running to the east of the plot. Thika was built 16 years ago, c.1992.

6. Effect of development on the archaeological resource

The development was restricted to a single land parcel, the garden plot of a recent bungalow. In order to provide a level area on which to build the new dormer bungalow and garage the ground was mechanically excavated, cutting into the north facing slope up to a depth of 1.5m. All material was removed off site.

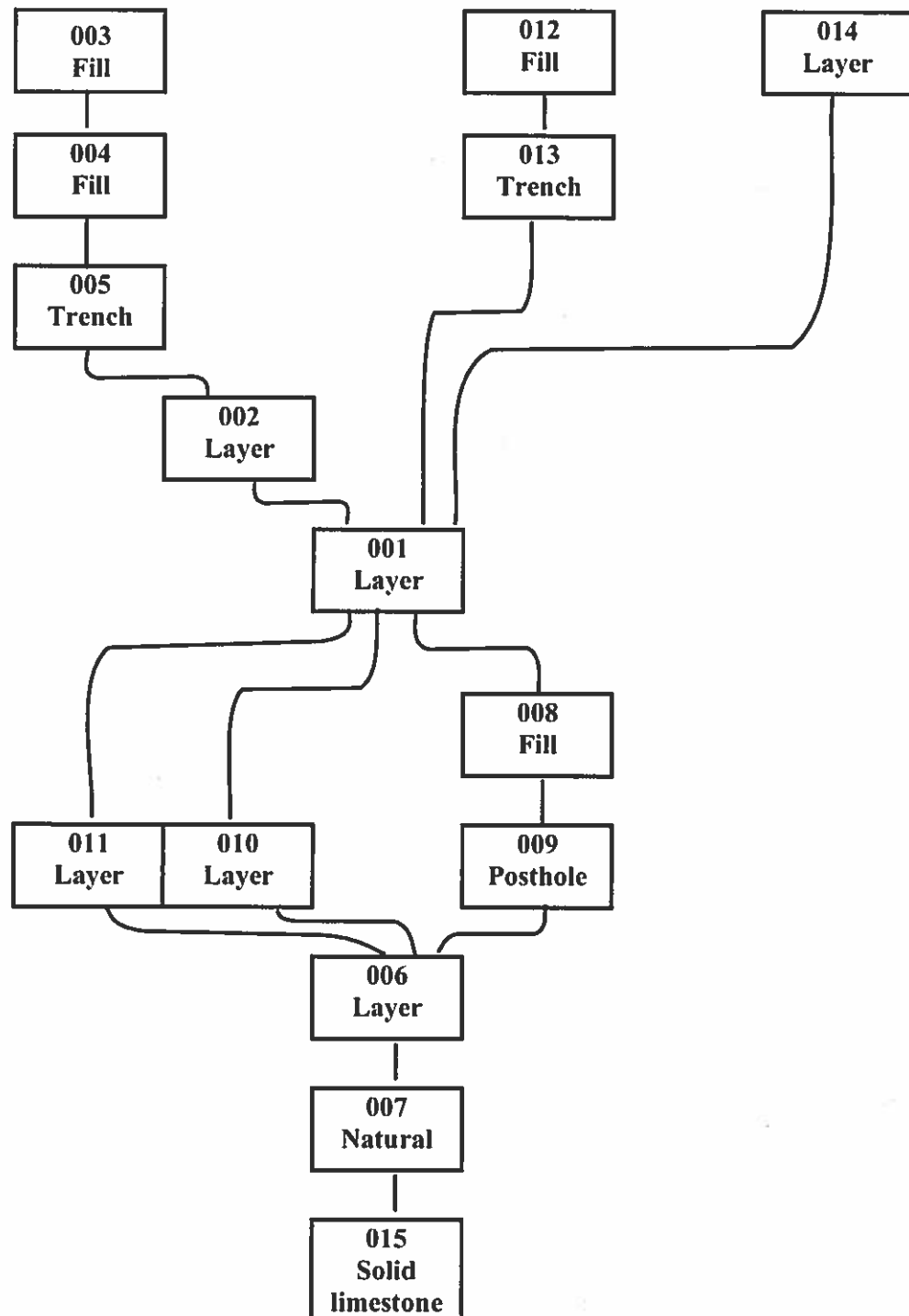
7. Site Stratigraphy

The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. All of the mechanically excavated area was watched and the stratigraphy of the site recorded.

7.1 Context Catalogue

Context Number	Depth	Description	Interpretation
1	0.10m-0.60m	A mid red-brown loam, some stone within it, below 2 and above 6, covering entire area but with varying thickness.	Garden loam
2	Up to 0.10m	Localised patches of burnt material, clay and charcoal including modern nails, within a more widespread layer containing thick glass, wiring and water pipes, covering most of the southeastern part of the trench, above 1	Layer relating to the use of the area as a caravan site.
3		Dark brown loam filling 5, above 4	Loam above 4, both within cut 5, a cable trench
4		Stone chippings filling 5, below 3	Gravel underlying 3, both within cut 5, a cable trench
5		Trench, 1.0m-1.5m, wide along the trackway on the eastern side of the site leading to the present day caravan site, filled with 3 & 4, and cuts 2, see Figure 4	Trench cut to carry pipes and cables to former caravan site, now located in a field to the rear (south) of the development site
6		Mixed, stony red brown clay, below 1 and above 7	Subsoil
7		Yellow brown, clays and sands, below 6 and above 15	Natural
8	0.50m	Limestone blocks, fill of 9, probably below 1. Also included some animal bone in good condition	Posthole packing
9		Cut hard to define but appeared to be a posthole, filled with 8. Approximately 1m east-west by 0.60m north-south, and up to 0.50m deep. Cuts 6. See Figure 5	Probable posthole with packing, date unclear but cutting layer 6, and probably sealed by layer 1
10	0.10m	Compact layer of small limestone fragments and more rounded stones, below 1, above	Yard surface? Date unknown.

7.2 Stratigraphic Matrix



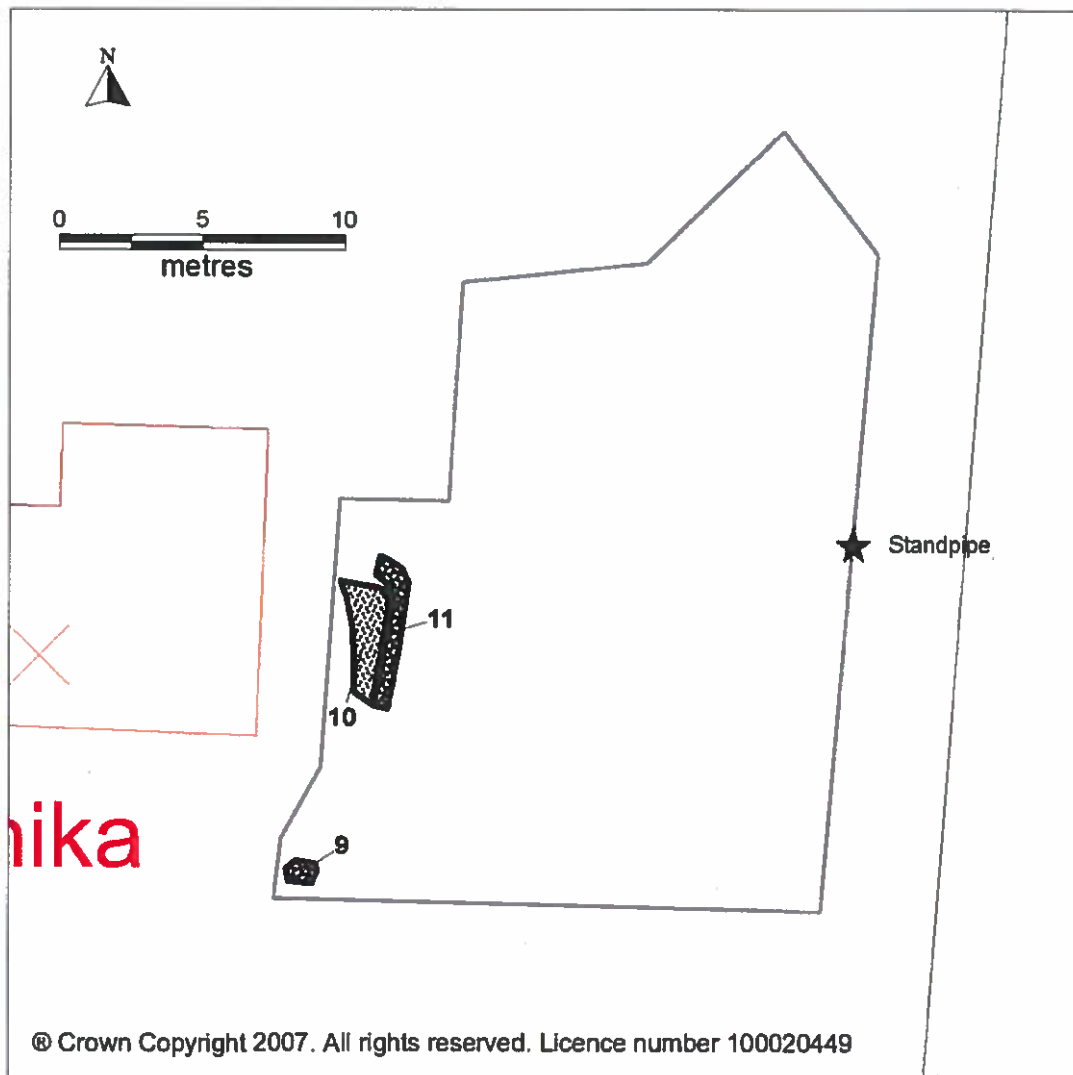


Figure 5: Earlier features, date unknown

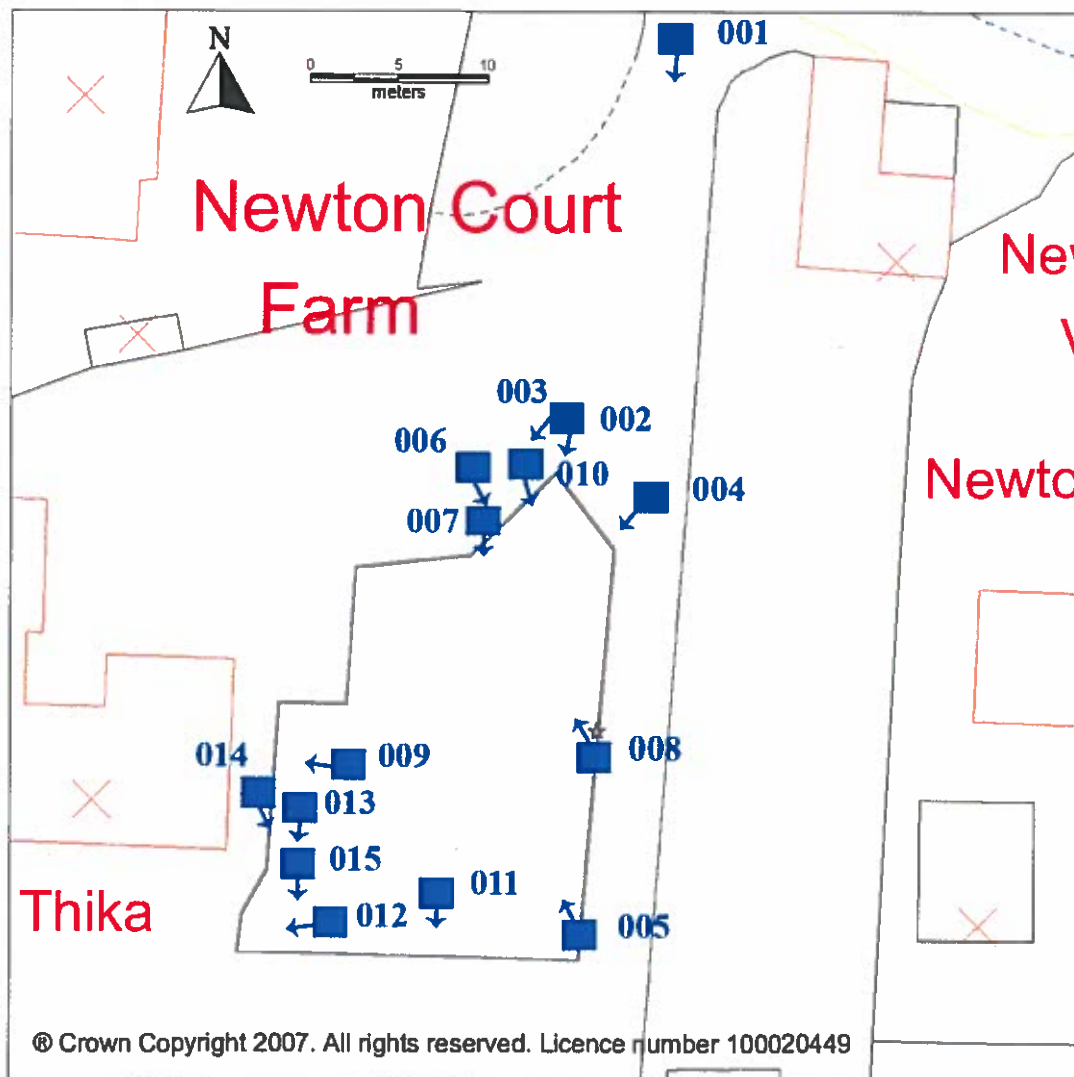


Figure 6: Location of photographs

11. Sources

11.1 Map evidence

1842 Manorbier Newton Parish Tithe Map & Schedule

1869 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:10560 map

11.2 Web sources

Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Manorbier Historic Landscape, Manorbier Newton Strip Fields Character area, see website, <http://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/>



Plate 3: MN03 – Area before work began



Plate 4: MN04 – Area before work began.



Plate 7: MN07 – Modern disturbance at north end of plot



Plate 8: MN08 –
Standpipe and
electrical cables and
trench, context 5



Plate 11: MN11 – Detail of southern section showing contexts 001 and 006



Plate 12: MN12 – Possible posthole, context 009, animal bone visible



Plate 15: MN15 – Limestone bedrock at southwestern corner of plot

8. Photographs

Colour digital photographs were taken of mechanically excavated area and of the locations where the stratigraphy was recorded using a 7M pixel camera. The following table describes the content of each photograph included in the project archive and their locations are provided in the following map, see Figure 6. The photographs are included in an appendix at the end of the report.

Photo Number	Description	Date Taken	Direction
MN001	View of the plot in the background from the roadside	12/09/2007	Looking south
MN002	View of the plot	12/09/2007	Looking south
MN003	View of the plot and bungalow "Thika" to the west	12/09/2007	Looking southwest
MN004	View of plot	12/09/2007	Looking southwest
MN005	Start of stripping	14/09/2007	Looking northwest
MN006	Detail of garden steps at north end of plot, showing subsoil starting to appear	14/09/2007	Looking southeast
MN007	Detail showing modern disturbance at the northwest corner of the plot including buried corrugated tin.	14/09/2007	Looking south
MN008	Showing the standpipe and electrical cables, remains of the former caravan site, and trench, context 5	14/09/2007	Looking northwest
MN009	Stone surface, context 10, with context 11 outside it.	14/09/2007	Looking west
MN010	Showing the plot at the end of the day 1.	14/09/2007	Looking south
MN011	Detail of southern section showing contexts 1 and 6.	14/09/2007	Looking south
MN012	Possible posthole, context 9	14/09/2007	Looking west
MN013	Showing modern disturbance down to the base level on the western edge of the plot, context 14	14/09/2007	Looking south southwest
MN014	More detail of the western edge, context 14	14/09/2007	Looking southeast
MN015	Showing limestone bedrock, context 15, encountered at the southwestern corner of the plot	14/09/2007	Looking south















