

# Heritage

Recording Services Wales



## Upper Tancredston House, Tancredston, Hayscastle, Haverfordwest.

### Archaeological Watching Brief



*By*

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August 2009

HRSWales  
Report No: 123

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

## Upper Tancredston House, Tancredston, Hayscastle, Haverfordwest.

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*Date:* August 2009

HRSW Report No: 123

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## Contents

### i) LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

### ii) IFA STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE

NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY	Page 01
-----------------------	---------

1. INTRODUCTION	Page 01
-----------------	---------

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	Page 02
-----------------------	---------

3. METHODOLOGY	Page 02
----------------	---------

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: Context Register

### APPENDIX IV: Archive Cover Sheet

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## **i) List of Illustrations**

### **Figures**

Fig 01: Location maps.

Fig 02: Aerial Photos

Fig 03: Existing site layout

Fig 04: Proposed site layout

Fig 05: Ground plan

Fig 06: Section A-B

### **Plates**

Plate 01-04: Working shots

Plate 05-16: Detail shots

## Non Technical Summary

*The following text details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales (HRSW) during ground work in preparation for the construction of a new residential dwelling at Upper Tancredston House, Tancredston, Pembrokeshire.*

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

*The watching brief showed that the entire development area had been used as an area for dumping agricultural waste, farm materials and general domestic debris from at least the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards. The depth of some of these deposits reached a maximum of 1.5m in localised areas. The ground work also exposed a series modern service trenches and a drain with a man-hole cover that had cut through this dumped material.*

*No archaeological finds, features or deposits were exposed or recorded earlier than the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.*

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The following text details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales (HRSW) during ground work in preparation for the construction of a new residential dwelling at Upper Tancredston House, Tancredston, Pembrokeshire.
- 1.2 The watching brief was designed to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.
- 1.3 After being contacted by Ken Morgan Design & Building Management Ltd, acting on behalf of Nicole Wayman of Upper Tancredston House, HRSW submitted a project specification to Dyfed Archaeological Trust, the regional Archaeological Trust in Llandeilo, detailing the schedule of works in June 2009. This specification was approved and the watching brief work was undertaken in the last week of June 2009.
- 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 Outline planning permission was granted by Pembrokeshire County Council for the proposed construction (Ref: 09/0012/PA) subject to an archaeological condition as laid out below.

### Planning Permission Condition

**Condition:** *No development shall take place until the applicant, or the agents or 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.*

**Reason:** 'To ensure the protection of items of archaeological importance'.

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

- 1.5 The location of the proposed development lies approximately 10 miles south of the village of Mathry and approximately 10 miles west of the town of Letterston in the county of Pembrokeshire. Upper Tancredston House and the land proposed to be developed is centred on NGR: SM 8813 22617. The proposed new garage and dwelling is to be constructed immediately east of the existing Upper Tancredston House on fairly level that runs down to a natural pond area.

**Geology**

- 1.6 The geology of the area is a sedimentary rock of Ordovician Llanvirn rocks of the Carboniferous period. Local geology indicates an area of gravels and clays.

**Brief Historical & Archaeological Background**

- 1.7 A preliminary search of the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) has revealed that documentary and place-name evidence suggests that the proposed development lies in the close vicinity of a deserted medieval settlement. Consequently, it has been suggested by development control at Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT), being advisors to the Officers and Members of Pembrokeshire County Council, that archaeological evidence associated with this settlement may extend into the application area. Therefore any remains surviving as buried archaeological features will clearly be adversely affected by the proposed development.
- 1.8 The village of Tancredston or 'Trebrwnallt' as it is known in Welsh is within the parish of Brawdy. According to Samuel Lewis's *Topography of Wales of 1833*, Brawdy is a

"..... parish in the hundred of DEWISLAND, county of PEMBROKE, SOUTH WALES, 7 miles (E.) from St.David's, containing 768 inhabitants. This parish, which is intersected by the turnpike road from Haverfordwest to St. David's, is, with the exception of a comparatively small portion, consisting of hills and moors, enclosed, and in a good state of cultivation. Jointly with the parish of Haycastle, it constitutes the endowment of a prebend attached to the decanal stall in the cathedral church of St.David's, the deanery being annexed to the bishoprick. The living is a discharged vicarage, with that of Haycastle annexed, in the archdeaconry and diocese of St.David's, rated in the king's books at £3.18. 9., endowed with £200 royal bounty, and £1400 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the Bishop of St. David's. The church is dedicated to St. David. There are two places of worship for Presbyterians, and one each for Independents and Methodists. It is related of the Rev. Mr. Wilcocks, the present respected vicar of this parish, that, prior to entering into holy orders, he paid two masters, during twelve years, out of his earnings by daily labour, to teach all the poor children of Brawdy and Haycastle; and that the parishioners were so impressed with a sense of his meritorious conduct and love of learning, that he was ordained at their request. On Brawdy farm there is a râth, or British encampment, defended by a triple rampart. The average annual expenditure for the support of the poor is £249.3." [From *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* (S. Lewis, 1833).]

- 1.9 Of Haycastle Samuel Lewis says,

"HAYSCASTLE (HAYS-CASTLE), a parish in the hundred of DEWISLAND, county of PEMBROKE, SOUTH WALES, 7 1/2 miles (N.W. by N.) from Haverfordwest, containing 367 inhabitants. This parish, which is of considerable extent, is for the greater part enclosed, and in a good state of cultivation. It constitutes, together with that of Brawdy, a prebend attached to the decanal stall in the cathedral church of St. David's. The living is a discharged vicarage, consolidated with that of Brawdy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of St. David's, and in the

patronage of the Bishop, as Dean. The church is dedicated to St. Mary; and at the small village of Ford, in this parish, there is a chapel of ease. There are places of worship for Independents and Methodists. Several tumuli were formerly discernible in this parish, but they have been nearly levelled. The average annual expenditure for the support of the poor amounts to £50.10." [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 0.50 meter wide grading bucket and hand shovel, when deemed necessary, under the guidance of the qualified supervising archaeologist..

3.2 Following the initial top soil stripping of the entire development area, the area was inspected for any potentially significant exposed archaeological finds, features and deposits. Following this the groundwork continued to the required depth for the footings of the proposed new dwelling.

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 exposed features was undertaken in three formats:

- i) *Photographic record* - Photographs were appropriated in digital format using a 10 mega-pixel camera and recording in SHQ resolution JPEG files.
- 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, where deemed necessary, 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 8 and 9)

- 4.1 In the following, numbers contained within brackets ( ), refer to context numbers allocated to each posthole during the watching brief.
- 4.2 Work commenced with the removal of a north to west aligned stone wall that bordered the existing driveway and partly enclosed the proposed development area. Inspection of this wall implied that it was very likely late 18<sup>th</sup> century in date. Once this has been removed the entire proposed development area was top soil stripped (100). Below this was a sub soil light brown/yellow in colour with a sandy clay texture (101). Within this deposit was 20<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century material in the form of polythene, broken glass and pottery, all general dumping material. In localised areas there was also patches of degrading organic material and ash and cinders. This material was interpreted as a landscaped dumping deposit. Below this deposit was a loose mid brown clayey soil intermixed with 19<sup>th</sup> century and 20<sup>th</sup> century material (102). Again, this material was interpreted as a dumping deposit. Areas of this deposit were also interspersed with the overlying deposit (101). Once this deposit was removed across the entire site, a further dumping deposit became exposed (103). This was a fairly loose mid brown soil intermixed with 19<sup>th</sup> century material. Directly below this in patches was a dark brown soil intermixed with charcoal and soot and more 19<sup>th</sup> century dumped material (104). Below this in areas was a dense charcoal/soot deposit intermixed with general 19<sup>th</sup> century material in the form of broken glass and pottery (105). Removal of this soil showed that the proposed development area appeared to have been dug out at some time in the 19<sup>th</sup> century thus creating a pit that had been used as a dumping area for farming and domestic waste. Once all of this dumped material was cleared away a natural yellow sand/gravel became exposed at a depth of approximately 1.50m (106). Cutting through the site on a north to south alignment this ground work also exposed a series of modern drainage services with inspection cover in the central area. It is believed that these were put in at sometime in the 1970s/80s.
- 4.3 Throughout the entire watching brief no material culture was exposed earlier than the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

##### *Summary of results*

- 4.8 No features or finds were recorded in the ground work for the proposed new dwelling at Upper Tancredston House, Tancredston, Pembrokeshire. No archaeological deposits encountered were earlier than the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The watching brief at Upper Tancredston House, Tancredston, Pembrokeshire, exposed no significant archaeological deposits or finds during any of the groundwork. The encountered deposits during the groundwork implied that the entire area appears to have been used as a dumping area since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, subsequently followed by landscaping and further dumping.



## **6 Acknowledgements**

Thanks to; Nicole Wayman for her patience during the ground work and archaeological recording work.

## **7 Bibliography**

Samuel Lewis 1833 Topographical Dictionary of Wales.

## **APPENDIX I:**

### **Figs & Illustrations**



**Project Title:**  
Upper Tancredston House,  
Tancredston, Pems.

**Date:** July 21st 2009

**Scale:** OS 1:50000

**Figures 01:**  
Location maps

**Heritage**  
Recording Services Wales



Project Title:  
Upper Tancredston House,  
Tancredston, Pembro.

Date: July 21st 2009

Scale:

Figures 02:  
Aerial photos of  
development site (2006)

**Heritage**  
Recording Services Wales



**Project Title:**  
Upper Tancredston House,  
Tancredston, Pems.

Date: July 21st 2009

**Scale: 1:200**

**Figure 03:**  
**Existing Site plan**

**Heritage**  
**Recording Services Wales**





**Project Title:**  
Upper Tancredston House,  
Tancredston, Pems.

Date: July 21st 2009

Scale: 1:200

**Figure 04:**  
Proposed site plan

Heritage  
Recording Services Wales



- Extent of excavated area
- Position of proposed buildings
- Extent of proposed walking area and drive

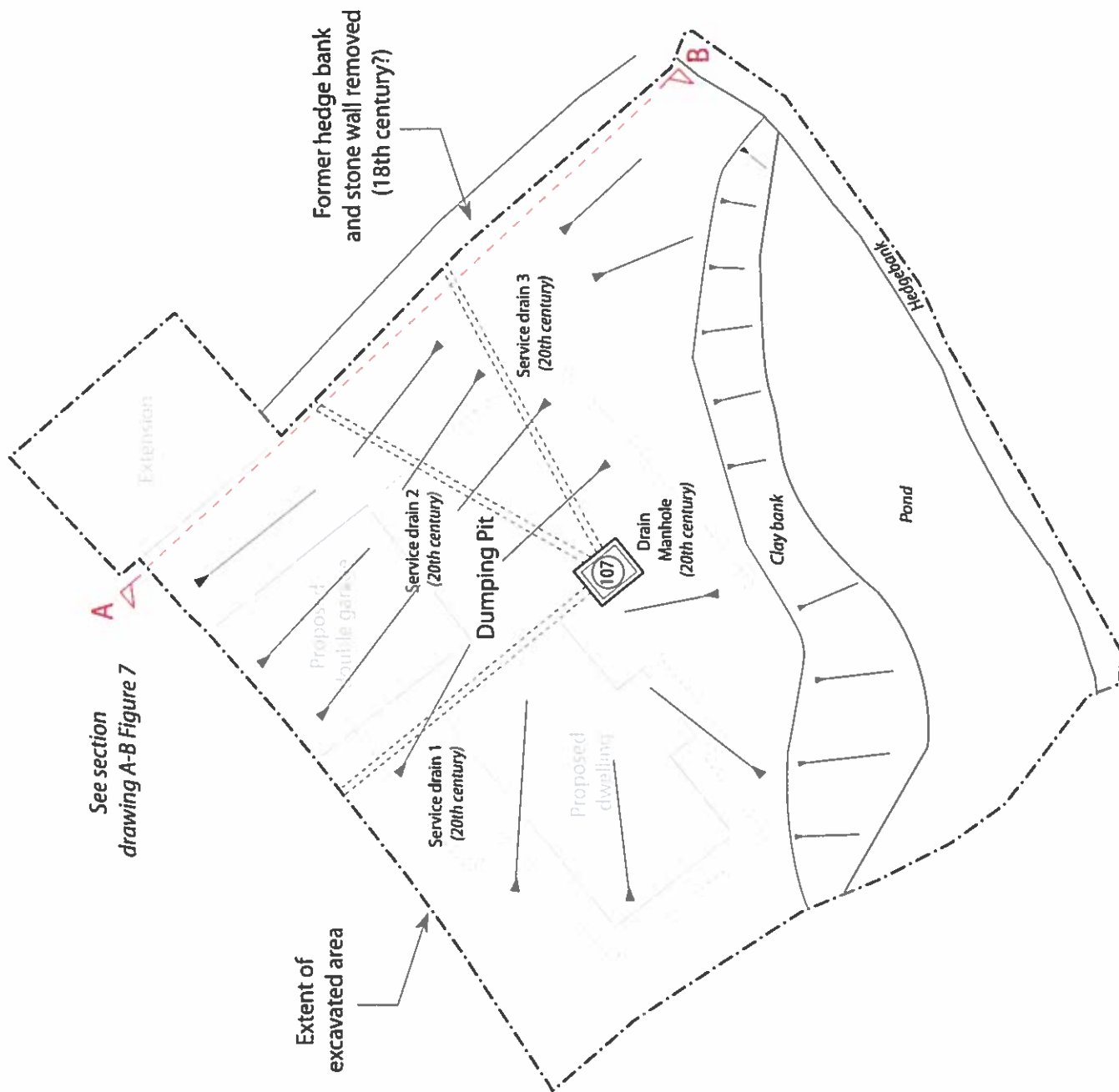
Project Title:  
Upper Tancredston House,  
Tancredston, Pembro.

Date: July 21st 2009

Scale: 1:200

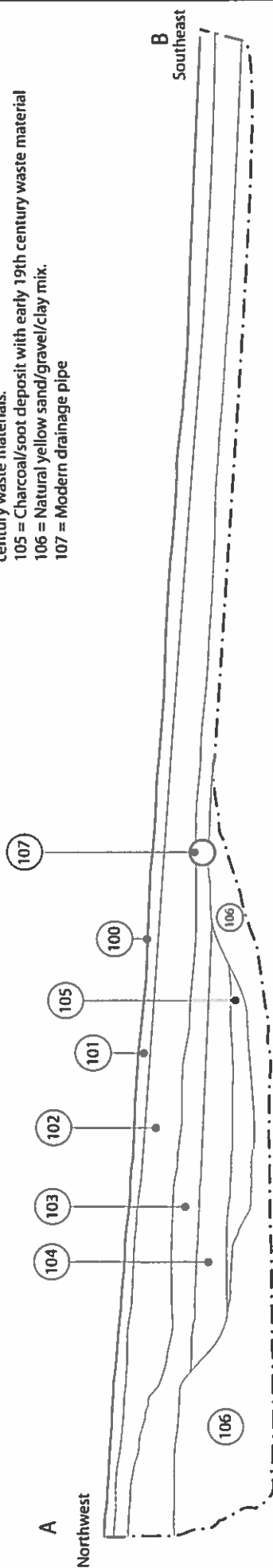
Figure 06:  
Ground plan of archaeological  
results

Heritage  
Recording Services Wales



## Contexts

- 100 = Grass/Top soil.
- 101 = Sub soil (light brown/yellow sandy clay with 19th material)
- 102 = Loose mid brown clayey soil intermixed with 19th century and modern material.
- 103 = Fairly loose mid brown soil intermixed with 19th century and modern material.
- 104 = Dark brown soil intermixed with charcoal and soot and 19th century waste materials.
- 105 = Charcoal/soot deposit with early 19th century waste material
- 106 = Natural yellow sand/gravel/clay mix.
- 107 = Modern drainage pipe



<b>Project Title:</b> Upper Tancredston House, Tancredston, Pembrokeshire.
<b>Date:</b> July 21st 2009
<b>Scale:</b> Drawn at 1:50 scale
<b>Figure 06:</b> Southwest facing section A-B
<b>Heritage</b> Recording Services Wales



## **APPENDIX II:**

### Photo plates



Plate 1. View of proposed development area prior to groundwork. Looking west.



Plate 2. View of proposed development area prior to groundwork. Looking east.



Plate 3. Working shot during top soil strip. Looking west.



Plate 4. Working shot during top soil strip. Looking west.

Job Title: Upper Tancredston House  
Archaeological Watching Brief

Drawing Title:

Date: June 2009

Drawn By:

Scale:

Photo plates : 1-4

**Heritage**  
Recording Services Wales



Plate 5 Working shot during soil strip. Looking westward.



Plate 6 Working shot during removal of overburden. Looking southeast.



Plate 7 Extent of excavation for footings in south east area.



Plate 8 Working shot during top soil strip. Looking south west.

Job Title:	Upper Tancredston House Archaeological Watching Brief
Drawing Title:	
Date:	June 2009
Drawn By:	
Scale:	
Photo plates :	5-8
<b>Heritage</b> Recording Services Wales	





Plate 9. Part of east facing section. Looking east.



Plate 10. East facing section. Looking southeast.



Plate 11. East facing section. Looking southeast.



Plate 12. Working shot during during groundwork. Looking south west.

Job Title:

Upper Tancredston House  
Archaeological Watching Brief

Date: June 2009

Photo plates : 9-12

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