

Archaeology Wales

Long Barn Test Pits, Newton Farm Llanfaes, Brecon

Archaeological Watching Brief



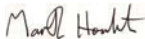
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Report No. 1337


Archaeology Wales

Long Barn Test Pits, Newton Farm Llanfaes, Brecon

Archaeological Watching Brief

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CONTENTS

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Location and scope of work	1
1.2	Geology and topography	1
1.3	Archaeological and Historical Background	1
2	Aims and Objectives	2
3	Methodology	2
3.1	Watching Brief	2
3.2	Finds	3
3.3	Palaeo-Environmental Evidence	3
4	Watching Brief Results	3
4.1	Deposits	3
4.2	Ground Conditions	3
4.3	Watching Brief Areas	3
4.4	Description (Plates 1-8, Figs 2-3).....	3
5	Discussion and Interpretation.....	4
5.1	Overall interpretation	4
6	Bibliography and references.....	4

List of Figures

- Figure 1 General location map
Figure 2 Plan showing test pit locations

List of Plates

- Plates 1-8 Example views of test pits

List of Appendices

- Appendix 1 Figures
Appendix 2 Plates
Appendix 3 Specification
Appendix 4 Archive Cover Sheet

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Non-Technical Summary

This report results from work undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) for Andrew and Angela Burton at Newton Farm, Llanfaes, Brecon. It draws on the results of an archaeological Watching Brief carried out during the excavation of 16 test pits within the outbuildings complex prior to proposed redevelopment of the site.

No finds or features of archaeological or historical significance were located during the watching brief.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In April 2015 Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) carried out an archaeological watching brief on a series of test pits excavated within the outbuildings complex at Newton Farm, Llanfaes, Powys (NGR SO 03374 28659 - Fig 1). The work was undertaken at the request of Andrew & Angela Burton in order to satisfy a planning condition set by the Brecon Beacons National Park planning authority.
- 1.1.2 A total of 16 test pits were manually excavated as part of the ground investigations prior to proposed redevelopment of the structures on site (Fig 2). The watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a number of test pits within the Long Barn and adjacent open shed in order to test the structural integrity of the major walls.
- 1.1.3 A Specification (Appendix 3) for the work was drawn up by Chris E Smith (MCifA) and subsequently approved by Natalie Ward (BBNP). The AW Project Number for the work is 2306 and the Site Code NFB/15/WB. A planning condition (14/11351/PAYPRE) has been attached to a previous planning consent (08/01839/LBC).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The underlying solid geology of the area is comprised of Palaeozoic Old Red Sandstone (Geological Survey Map, 2001). The solid geology is overlain by freely draining, slightly acid, loamy soils of relatively low fertility.
- 1.2.2 The site is located to the west of the outskirts of Brecon to the north of the A470 at Llanfaes. The course of the river Usk flows to the north of the site and the river Tarell to the south. The assessment area is located at approximately 135m above ordnance datum.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 1.3.1 The Long Barn (PRN97583) and the open faced barn, within which the test pits were excavated, are part of a post-medieval outbuildings complex associated with Newton Farmhouse (PRN605). Newton Farmhouse is a Grade I listed building built in 1582 by the John Games, High Sheriff of Breconshire and descendant of Sir David Gam who was knighted at Agincourt. Documentary references suggest a house was present on the site by 1326 (named as Trenewydd). The present house (Date stone above fireplace of 1582) is built to a square, double-pile, plan with a stack in the centre. A storeyed porch is incorporated into the projecting south wing. The hall rises through two storeys. An inventory conducted in 1614 suggests changes to the initial plan were carried out. Further additions c1700 and in the 19th century are evident. The pyramidal roof dates from c1700 (Haslam, 1979) (Parry, 1984).
- 1.3.2 The Long Barn is a late 17th century barn (Grade II listed), bearing a date stone of 1697 and early 17th century window openings suggest that at least part of the barn has been used for accommodation at some point in its history.
- 1.3.3 The open faced barn lies adjacent to the Long Barn though is not listed. It is likely to be of 19th century date and is shown on the 1889 25 Inch Ordnance Survey map.

2 Aims and Objectives

2.1 Watching Brief

- 2.1.1 The aims and objectives of a watching brief, as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014), 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 had been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.
 - The main objective of a watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on a site.

3 Methodology

3.1 Watching Brief

- 3.1.1 Excavation of all 16 test pits, each measuring 1x1m, was undertaken manually under close archaeological supervision.

3.1.2 The site work was undertaken by Chris Smith (MCIfA) and the project was managed by Mark Houlston (MICfA). All areas were photographed using high resolution (16mp+) digital photography

3.1.3 All site illustrations were made on drafting film using recognised conventions and scales (1:10, 1:20, 1:50).

3.2 Finds

3.2.1 No finds were located during the watching brief.

3.3 Palaeo-Environmental Evidence

3.3.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered.

4 Watching Brief Results

4.1 Deposits

4.1.1 Overburden deposits varied between test pits with some having a concrete/cement overburden and some being composed of older cobbled surfaces.

4.1.2 No subsoil deposits were located in any of the test pits. In each case the overlying surface, concrete or cobbles, had been overlain directly on top of the natural deposits.

4.1.3 Natural was thus reached in all of the test pits at a depth of between 0.2m and 0.4m.

4.2 Ground Conditions

4.2.1 The watching brief was undertaken within a single day in sunny, warm and bright weather conditions.

4.3 Watching Brief Areas

4.3.1 The area of the watching brief consisted of sixteen trial pit areas. Each test pit was 1x1m in size. Depths varied from 0.2 to 0.4m.

4.4 Description (Plates 1-8, Figs 2-3)

4.4.1 As mentioned above, all of the test pits showed the same stratigraphic sequence of an upper surface being overlaid directly on the natural deposits.

4.4.2 The upper surface in test pits 1-6 was composed of a firmly compacted cobblestone surface. The cobbles were un-bonded, relying on compaction to maintain stability.

4.4.3 The upper surface in test pits 7 – 10 & 12 – 16 was composed of modern concrete poured onto the natural deposits. Concrete thicknesses varied between 0.05m and 0.1m.

- 4.4.4 The upper surface in test pit 11 was composed of large flag stones, again overlaid on top of levelled natural deposits.
- 4.4.5 The natural deposits in each of the 16 test pits were composed of a firmly compacted red sandy gravel with occasional rounded cobblestone inclusions.
- 4.4.6 No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed in any of the excavated areas.

5 Discussion and Interpretation

5.1 Overall interpretation

- 5.1.1 The watching brief on the 16 trial pits showed no evidence for any archaeological deposits existing below the current floor levels.
- 5.1.2 Each test pit showed that the floor surface had been laid on levelled natural deposits.
- 5.1.3 The keyhole nature of the watching brief does not, however, preclude the possibility of archaeological features being located within the assessment area.

6 Bibliography and references

- British Geological Survey. 2001, 4th Edition. Solid Geology Map, UK South Sheet
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014, *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*
- Haslam, R. 1979. *The Buildings of Wales: Powys*. University of Wales Press, Cardiff
- Parry, E, G. 1984. Newton and its Owners, 1582-1725. *Archaeologia Cambrensis*: **133**. pp136-46

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APPENDIX I: Figures



Newton Farmhouse

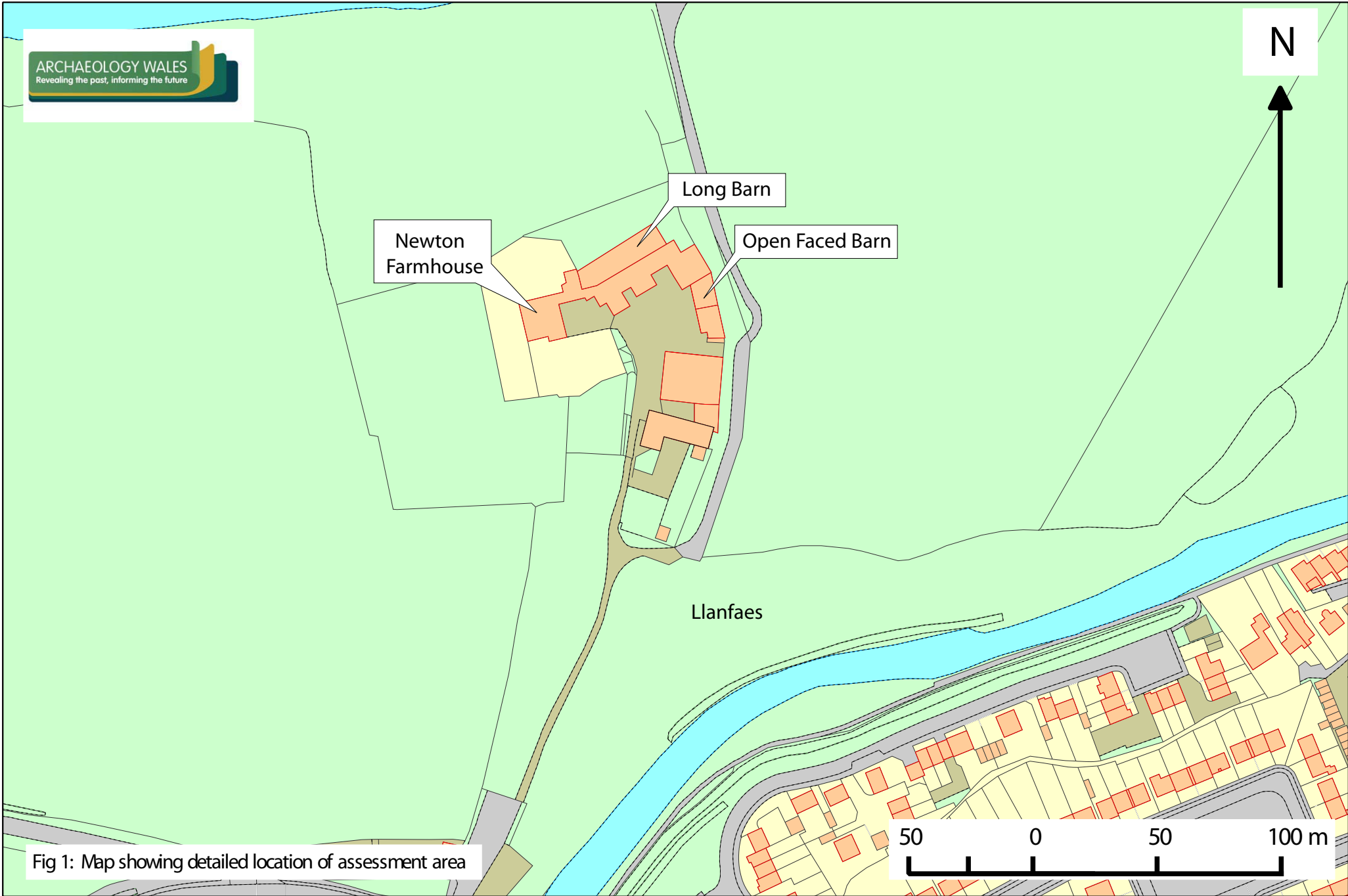
Long Barn

Open Faced Barn

Llanfaes



Fig 1: Map showing detailed location of assessment area



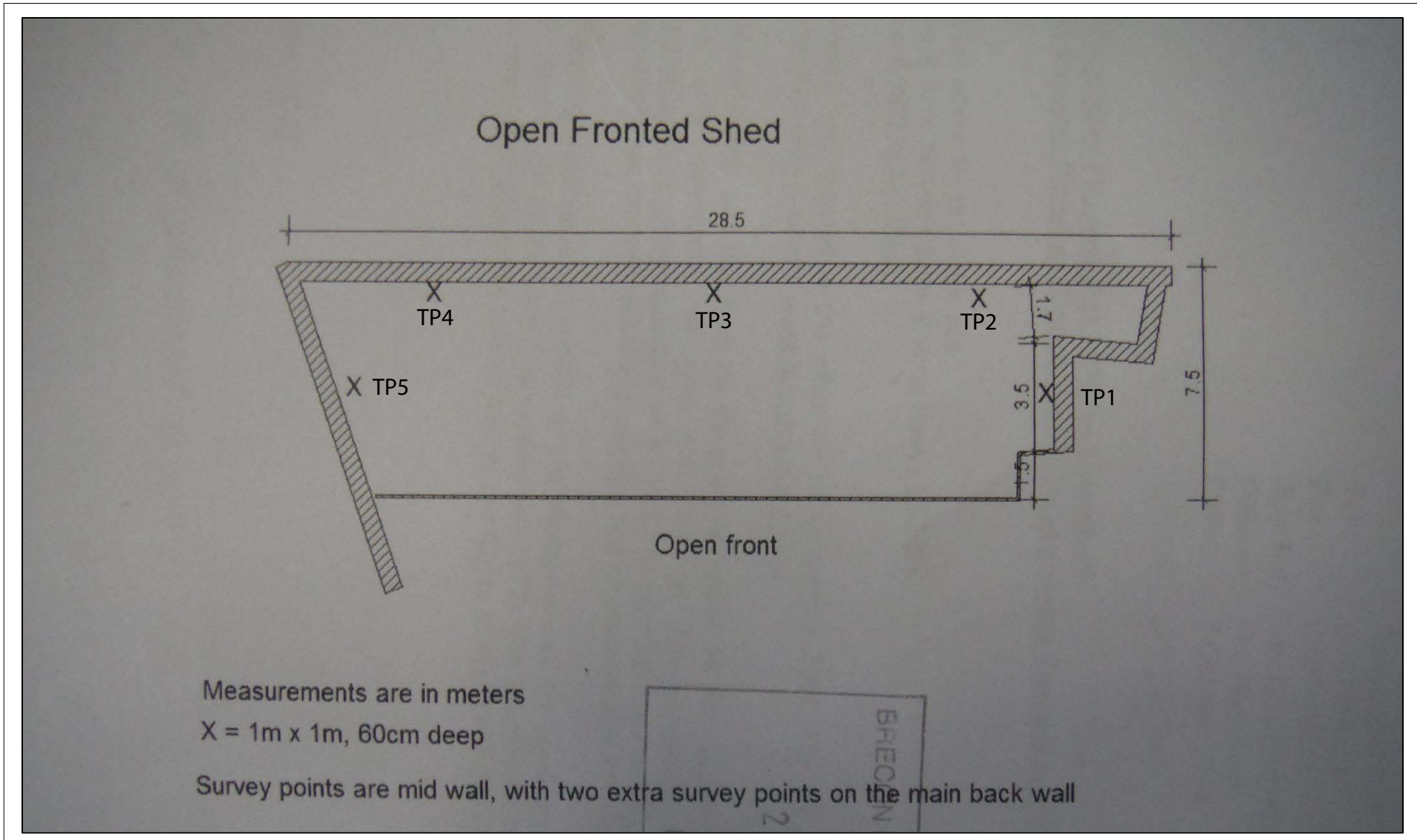


Fig 2: Location of test pits 1-5 within open faced barn

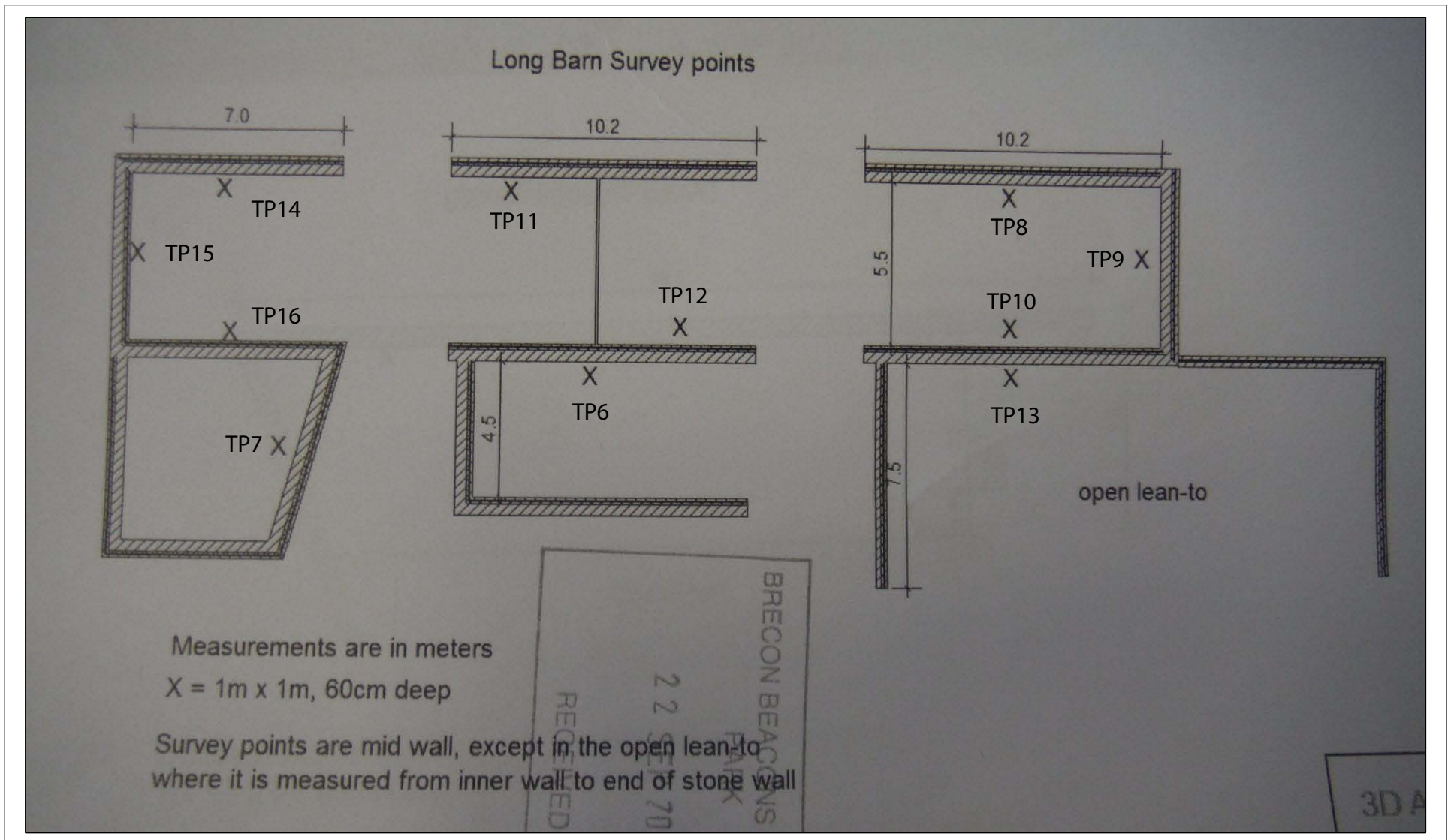


Fig 3: Locations of test pits within Long Barn

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APPENDIX II: Plates



Plate 1: Pre-excitation shot of test pit 1 showing cobbled surface
Scales 1x1m & 1x0.5m



Plate 2: Post excavation shot of test pit 1 showing natural gravel beneath cobbles
Scales 1x1m & 1x0.5m



Plate 3: Pre-excitation view of test pit 4. Scales 1x1m & 1x0.5m



Plate 4: Post excavation view of test pit 4. Scales 1x1m & 1x0.5m



Plate 5: Pre-excitation view of test pit 6. Scales 1x1m & 1x0.5m



Plate 6: Post excavation view of test pit 6. Scales 1x1m & 1x0.5m



Plate 7: Post excavation view of test pit 12. Scales 1x1m & 1x0.5m



Plate 8: Post excavation view of test pit 14. Scales 1x1m & 1x0.5m

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APPENDIX III: AW Specification

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SPECIFICATION

for an

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

at

Long Barn, Newton, Llanfaes, Powys

Prepared for:

Andrew & Angela Burton

26th January 2015

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Summary

This Specification details the proposal for an archaeological Watching Brief at Long Barn, Newton Farm, Llanfaes, Powys. It has been drawn up by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) on behalf of Mr and Mrs Burton.

1. Introduction

The application area is located at Long Barn, Newton Farm, Llanfaes, Powys (SO 03374 28659). This specification details the work to be undertaken by AW prior to the conversion of a former stone barn for residential use.

The Long Barn is a late 17th century barn, bearing a date stone of 1697 and early 17th century window openings suggest that at least part of the barn has been used for accommodation at some point in its history.

The applicants are Mr & Mrs Burton. A planning condition (14/11351/PAYPRE) has been attached to a previous planning consent (08/01839/LBC). All work will be carried out according to a brief (2014) drawn up by Natalie Ward (BBNP).

A photographic survey of the structure has previously been carried out. This specification covers a watching brief which will be undertaken during the excavation of a number of test pits within the Long Barn and adjacent open shed in order to test the structural integrity of the major walls. The watching brief will allow the archaeological potential and sensitivity of different areas of the site to be assessed, established and used to inform future work and an appropriate mitigation strategy where required.

This specification has been prepared by Chris E Smith (MCIfA) for Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of Mr & Mrs Burton. It provides information on the methodology which will be employed by AW during the archaeological watching brief.

The methodology set out in this specification has been agreed with Natalie Ward (BBNP).

All work will be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

2. Aims & Objectives

The aims of the watching brief, as defined by the CfA (2014) are:

- To allow a rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features that are uncovered during the proposed groundworks within the application area.
- To provide the 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 are not sufficient to support the treatment to a satisfactory or proper standard

3. Methodology

Watching Brief - General

The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice.

All work will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist with relevant level membership of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and will follow the CIfA Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (2014).

Detailed

The Watching Brief will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist during the excavation of the test pits to assess structural integrity. Any mechanical excavation will be undertaken by a machine using a toothless ditching bucket. Hand excavation will also be undertaken where mechanical excavation is deemed inappropriate.

A total of 11 test pits measuring 1x1m and upto 0.6m deep are proposed for the Long Barn whilst a total of 5 (of the same dimensions) are proposed for the open fronted shed. A total of 16 test pits will be excavated and recorded. The locations are shown on the attached plans.

If archaeological features, finds or deposits are uncovered, work will be stopped in the area of the exposed feature in order that the supervising archaeologist can clean and identify the extent and nature of the feature and for excavation and recording to take place.

All archaeological deposits that are identified will be mapped, cleaned, recorded and fully excavated. The developer will provide a safe working area and sufficient time to record and excavate all features to the satisfaction of AW and BBNP. Full excavation of identified features will not be compromised by the construction programme.

Contingency Arrangements

In the event of significant archaeological features being discovered all activities in this area of the site can be temporarily suspended. This will allow a period of consultation with BBNP and if required the opinion of specialists.

Following such consultation, recommendations will be presented to the Developer and the Local Planning Authority.

The methodology and timescale of additional archaeological work to investigate such features will be presented and included in the Developers Programme; the feature will be fenced off and secured thus allowing the site programme to continue

Recording

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc), using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

All features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries and related to the developer's site plan. The location of all

features will also be recorded using a Topcon GTS725 total station.

Photographs will be taken in digital format, using a 14MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format. Should significant remains be identified that require excavation, photographs will also be taken in black and white and colour slide (35mm film).

The archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will have access to the AW metal detector and be trained in its use.

Artefacts

Archaeological artefacts recovered during the course of the watching brief will be cleaned and labelled using an accession number, which will be obtained from the Brecknock Museum & Art Gallery. A single number sequence will be allocated to all finds. The artefacts will be stored appropriately until they are deposited with the Brecknock Museum.

All finds of gold and silver will be removed to a safe place and GGAT, the regional Portable Antiquities Scheme finds officer (Mark Lodwick) and the local coroner informed, within the guidelines of the Treasure Act 1996.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (Phil Parkes at Cardiff University).

Human remains

In the event of burials or cremations being found all work will be halted in the area of the burials and their extent and nature established. The client, BBNP and the Ministry of Justice will be informed and a methodology of excavation agreed which will adhere to Ministry of Justice Guidelines.

Environmental and technological samples

Environmental samples will be taken where necessary when significant deposits are located. Technological samples will be taken where necessary when significant deposits are located.

Specialists

In the event of certain finds/features etc. being discovered, the site archaeologist may have to seek specialist opinion for assistance. Such specialists will be accessed either internally within AW itself or from an external source. A list of external specialists is given in the table below.

Type	Name
Flint	Amelia Pannett
Animal bone	Jen Kitch
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall
Clay pipe	Hilary Major
Glass	Andy Richmond
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy

Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby
Post Roman pottery	Mr Stephen Clarke
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers

4. Monitoring

BBNP will be contacted at least one week prior to the commencement of site works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

Any changes to this specification that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to BBNP for approval.

Representatives of BBNP will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the watching brief. BBNP will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during the post-fieldwork programme.

5. Post Field-work programme

Conservation

After agreement with the landowner arrangements will be made for the long term conservation and storage of all artefacts in the Brecknock Museum and Art Gallery.

Archive

The site archive will be prepared in accordance with Morphe (English Heritage 2006). It will comprise all the data recovered during the fieldwork and shall be quantified, ordered and indexed and will be internally consistent. The archive will be deposited with the finds in a suitable local museum.

Reporting

A draft report will be submitted to Mr & Mrs Burton and to BBNP for comments within 4 weeks of the survey being completed.

A full client report of the results of the archaeological work will be prepared within 6 months of the end of the survey. Copies of the report will be sent to Mr & Mrs Burton, BBNP and for inclusion in the Clwyd-Powys regional HER. Digital copies will also be provided in pdf format.

Terminology will be consistent with the English Heritage Thesaurus.

The results of the watching brief will be submitted in an illustrated and bound report, which will include the following material:

- Non-technical summary

- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the watching brief, all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- Written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate.
- An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development
- Statement of local, regional and national context of the remains
- A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples finds and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.

Archive Format & Deposition

The full site archive will be deposited within one month of the completion of the client report.

The paper/drawing/digital archive will be deposited at the offices of RCAHMW, Plas Crug, Aberystwyth, and the finds will be deposited with the appropriate local museum (Brecknock Museum & Art Gallery). AW will agree the location and timing of the deposition of the archive before the contract commences.

The archive will include all site notes, finds, documents, drawings, photographs, digital data and a copy of the final report and any prior draft versions. All of these items will be clearly quantified in tabular form in an 'archive deposition statement' located at the rear of the clients report, and their ultimate location and proposed date of deposition stated in accordance with the ClfA Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (2009).

6. Resources and timetable

Standards

Archaeology Wales Ltd is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the ClfA. As such, all work will be undertaken to the standard of the ClfA as defined in the ClfA Standards and Guidelines for an archaeological watching brief (2014).

Staff

The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified AW staff. Overall management of the project will be undertaken by Mark Houlston (MCIfA).

Equipment

The project will use existing AW equipment.

Timetable of archaeological works

The work will be undertaken at the convenience of the client. No start date has yet been agreed.

Insurance

AW is an affiliated member of the CBA, and holds both Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance through Towergate up to the value of £10M.

Health and safety

All members of staff will adhere to the requirements of the *Health & Safety at Work Act, 1974*, and the Health and Safety Policy Statement of AW.

If AW has sole possession of the site then a full risk assessment will be drawn up on behalf of AW by a CIEH competent risk assessor (Chris Smith) and distributed to all members of staff. In all other circumstances AW will adhere to the risk assessment of the principal groundworks contractor on the site.

Arbitration

In accordance with the CIfA's arbitration scheme, the following is applicable to the project:

In the event of any dispute arising out of this Agreement (including those considered as such by only one of the parties) either party may forthwith give to the other notice in writing of such a dispute or difference and the same shall be and is hereby referred for decision in accordance with the Rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' Arbitration scheme for the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists applying at the date of this Agreement.

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APPENDIX IV: Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Long Barn, Newton Farm, Llanfaes, Brecon

Site Name:	Llanfaes
Site Code:	NFB/15/WB
PRN:	97583
NPRN:	31234 (Newton, Farmhouse, Outbuildings)
SAM:	-
Other Ref No:	-
NGR:	NGR SO 03374 28659
Site Type:	Post-medieval agricultural outbuildings
Project Type:	Watching Brief
Project Manager:	Mark Houliston
Project Dates:	March 2015
Categories Present:	None
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of duplicate Archives:	RCAHMW
Number of Finds Boxes:	-
Location of Finds:	-
Museum Reference:	-
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to access:	None

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