

Ashcroft, Scurlage Evaluation



Report by: Trysor

For: Stephen Kissick

October 2009



Ashcroft, Scurlage Evaluation

By

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Trysor Project No. 2009/152

For: Mr Stephen Kissick

October 2009



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Cover photograph: Evaluation trenches, looking south

ASHCROFT, SCURLAGE EVALUATION REPORT

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ASHCROFT, SCURLAGE EVALUATION REPORT

1. Summary

Trysor undertook an evaluation at Ashcroft, Scurlage, Swansea in September 2009. Four trenches were excavated mechanically under archaeological supervision. No archaeologically significant contexts were recorded. It is concluded that the proposed development will not affect archaeological deposits

2. Acknowledgements

Trysor would like to thank the staff of the Historic Environment Record at Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust for provision of historic environment data and the landowner for providing facilities. The evaluation was undertaken and report written by Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook.

3. Copyright and license

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4. Introduction

Mr Stephen Kissick, on behalf of clients, commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to submission of a planning application for three detached dwellings in the former market garden plot to the south of the house at Ashcroft, Scurlage, Swansea, SA3 1BA. Ashcroft lies in the village of Scurlage at SS46378777 towards the western end of the Gower peninsula, in the historic county of Glamorganshire, see figures 1 & 2.



Figure 1: Location of Scurlage in south Wales

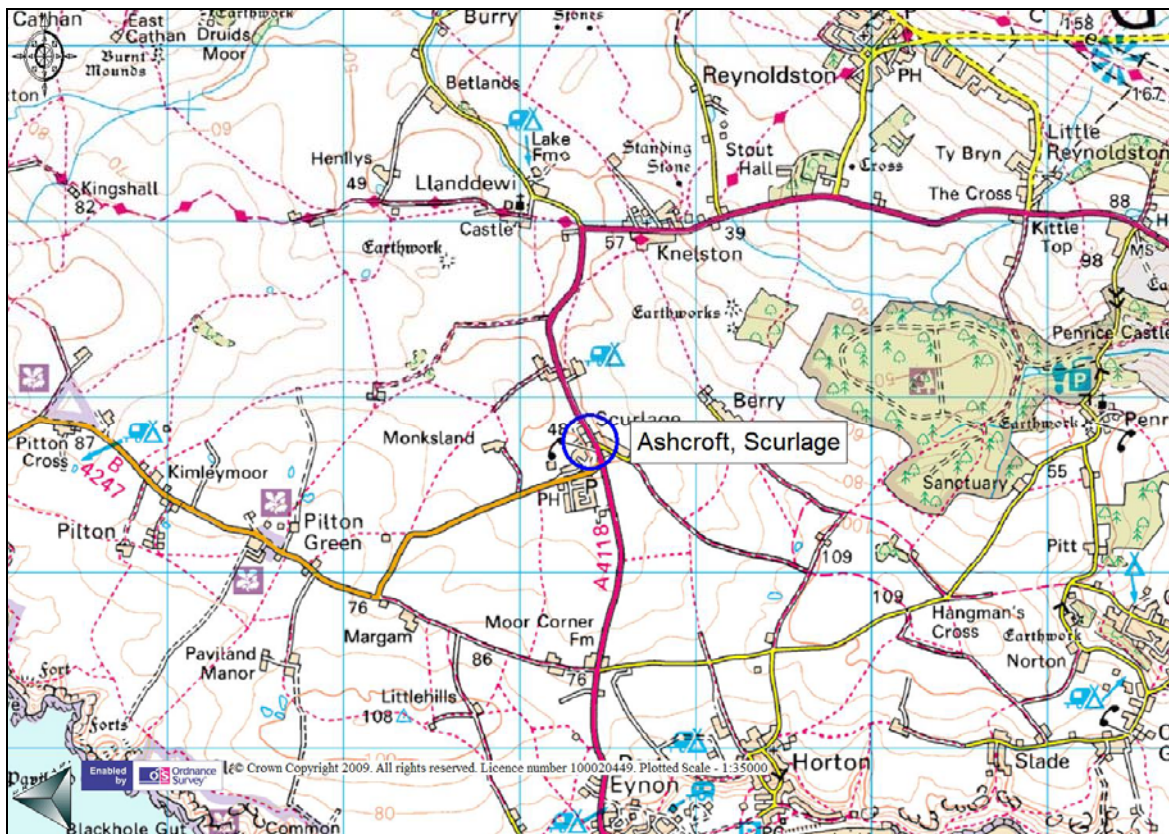


Figure 2: Location of development plot within the village of Scurlage

5. The Proposed Development

The proposed development consists of three detached properties parallel to the main road line with access from Monksland Road to the west. It stands to the west of the A4118 road and comprises a single rectangular plot, see figure 3. It measures approximately 48m by 22m, covering 0.113 hectares in extent. It is bounded by Ashcroft house to the north, the A4118 to the east, Hawthorn House to the south, and Monksland Road to the west. The area was fallow having been a market garden plot for over 30 years until 2008.

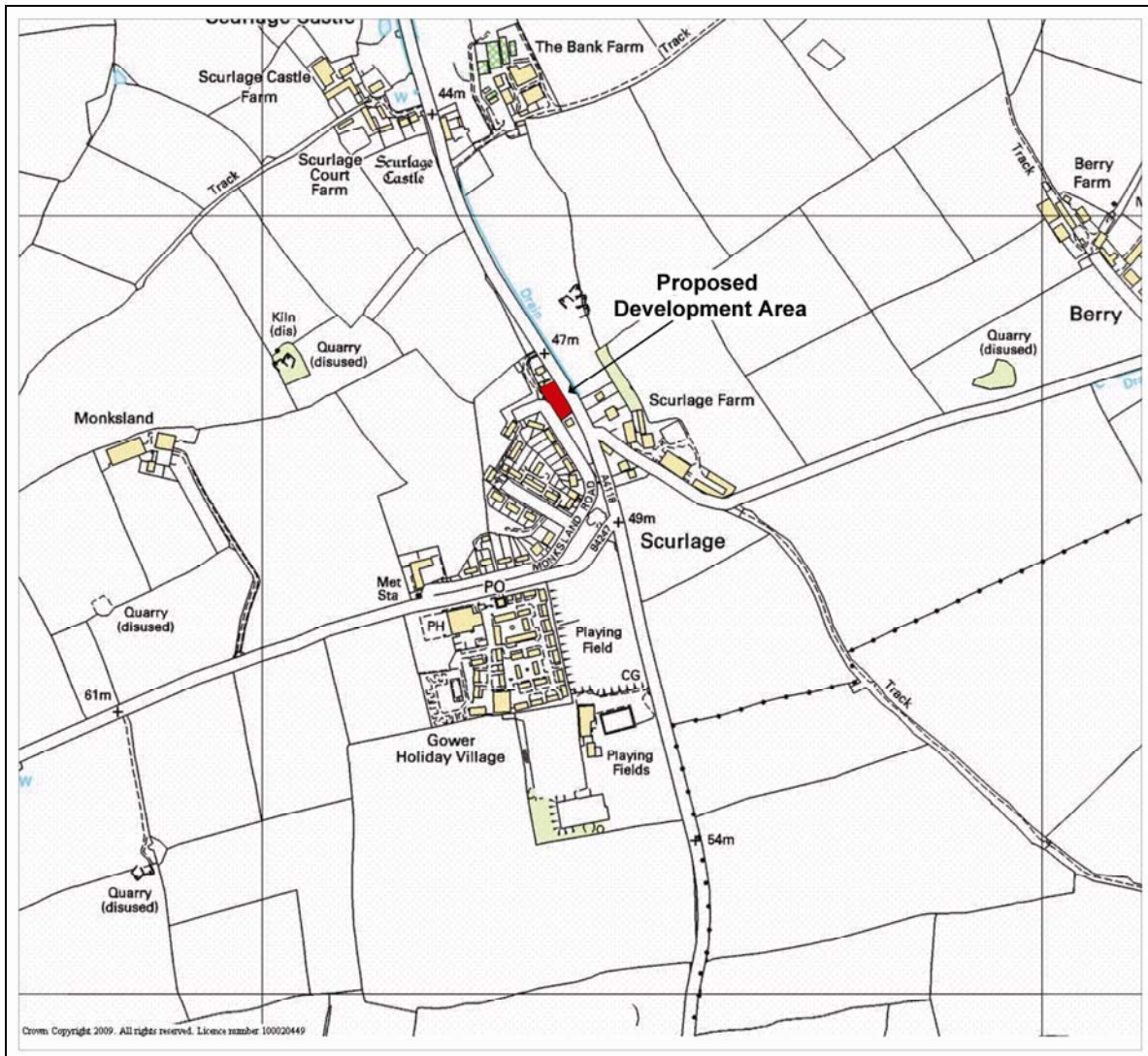


Figure 3: Location of proposed development area

6. Planning History

In 2008 an application for six semi-detached houses was submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) application number 2008/0208. The application was refused, one of the grounds being that it was necessary to know more about the archaeological resource prior to planning permission being given.

The applicants wished to develop a revised plan for three dwellings, carrying out an archaeological evaluation prior to submitting the planning application in order to fully inform the LPA about the effect the development would have on the archaeological resource.

7. Topographical and Geological Overview

Scurlage village lies on a broad, lowland plateau of Lower Carboniferous (Dinantian) limestones covered with boulder clay. The immediate area of the proposed development plot, and the village of Scurlage itself, is generally level and around 48m OD. There are no major topographical features, such as rivers, streams or prominent hills in close proximity to the village.

8. Archaeological and Historical Overview

The modern village of Scurlage lies within the Historic Character Area Scurlage and Berry (HLCA 040), part of the Gower Historic Landscape but there are no sites recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HER) maintained by Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust within the proposed development area or within 100m of it. The nearest records are for two medieval finds, a metal buckle and a signet ring from Bank Farm at SS46408790, 110m to the north northwest of the plot, PRNs 03225w & 03219w.

The Gower is well known for its prehistoric archaeology and in recent years a local amateur has been fieldwalking accessible fields in the Scurlage area. The finder has worked with Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust and the National Museum and a plot of fields walked and finds assessment by field was made available to Trysor. These finds are not currently recorded in the Historic Environment Record. Some of them may be recorded under the Portable Antiquities Scheme database, www.finds.org.uk ; however the deliberate degrading of locational information for public access makes it difficult to assess which, if any, of these finds are included in the PAS database. The finds date from Palaeolithic to Neolithic and form dense concentrations in fields within 500m to the south of the development plot, beyond the village Sports Ground. In this area many hundreds of flint flakes, blades, cores, scrapers, knives and arrowheads have been found. However, other fields which are much closer to the proposed development plot, which have also been fieldwalked, have yielded negligible amounts of flint artefacts.

Jonathan Kisson has recently undertaken geophysical survey and excavation in Black Marles field at Bank Farm, c.350m to the northeast of the development plot (Kisson, 2006, no PRN yet assigned to the fieldwork event or archaeological features). Fieldwalking had uncovered two possible Roman finds, part of a quernstone and part of a roof tile. It is not clear what finds of other periods were found, as the focus of the work was on locating Roman settlement in western Gower. Geophysical surveys revealed up to 10 complete or partial circular features, c. 5m-8m in diameter. Test pitting apparently revealed clay floors, one of which had the remains of a hearth. Radio-carbon dates gave a date of 3960-3770 BC although the excavator questions this date suggesting that it is at odds with finds found whilst fieldwalking.

Another recent excavation was carried out by Gareth Dowdell on the land of the South Gower Sports Club, Scurlage (Dowdell, 2008). This evaluation established that the land immediately to the south of the A4118 & B4247 road junction in Scurlage village had been levelled c.1966 to extend and improve the sports ground. Between 0.60m and 1.10m of soil had been spread across the field. Beneath this, a layer of brown, sandy silt, up to 20cm thick, was found, which was overlying natural boulder clay and limestone bedrock. No archaeologically significant deposits were reported by the excavator. Comments made by

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GGAT in a letter to Swansea City Council suggested that a U-shaped linear cut, possibly a ditch, had been seen during a monitoring visit. This caused the area of excavation to be extended, but no finds or further evidence of the postulated ditch were reported.

Scurlage village is a relatively recent phenomenon in many respects. It has been postulated that a medieval settlement was focused on the cluster of cottages and farms around Scurlage Court Farm and Scurlage Castle, several hundred metres to the north of the proposed development plot. This cluster of dwellings is given the name Scurlage Castle on the 1884 1:10560 Ordnance Survey map, although it presently demonstrates no evidence of being a medieval castle site nor evidence to support the theory that a medieval village existed here. The village of Scurlage, as it currently exists, is focused on the junction of the A4118 and B4247 roads, some 400m south of Scurlage Castle. The modern village has only developed during the second half of the twentieth century. Ashcroft was one of the earliest properties erected during the drift of settlement southwards away from Scurlage Castle, apparently being constructed during the 1920s.

The proposed development area is shown on all editions of the Ordnance Survey maps since the 1st edition of 1884 as part of a small plot alongside the road. Ashcroft was built within this plot of land, which subsequently became its garden.

The recent history of the plot is as a market garden and car park. The client has said that from the 1930s the plot was used as a market garden growing various crops including root crops. In the 1970s it was used as a car parking area for a tea rooms in Ashcroft house. It reverted to being used as a market garden but ceased use for this purpose in 2007.

9. The Specification (Aims and Purpose)

The archaeological evaluation was requested based on the concentration of prehistoric worked flint implements being found in the general area as discussed above, and ditches reportedly observed during the aforementioned evaluation at the South Gower Sports Club, c.200m to the south (no PRN yet assigned).

It was considered by Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Curatorial Division that this evidence might point towards evidence of prehistoric settlement being present in the proposed development area and it was the objective of this evaluation to determine whether there are such remains in the proposed development area.

Trysor prepared a specification for the evaluation which was submitted to the Planning Archaeologist at Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust, who are the LPA's archaeological advisor. The specification was approved, see Appendix A.

Three trenches 20m x 2m were to be mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision. If a buried soil horizon was encountered, mechanical excavation was to cease and five 2m x 2m pits dug by hand.

10. Methodology

A quick walkover of the plot with some weed growth on it but with the topsoil visible revealed no finds other than those of 20th century date, e.g. china pottery, plastic.

The size and location of the trenches were originally agreed between Trysor and Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Curatorial Division and the client, to be located as shown in Figure 4. However once on site, a second overhead cable was noted, the risk assessment revised and the trenches moved accordingly, see figure 5. The trenches were originally to be 2m wide to allow for stepping-in if deep deposits were encountered but a revision was made once it was established that the trenches would be no more than 0.70m deep and mostly 0.50m, and the bucket of the mechanical excavator was 1.5m wide. The section was clear.

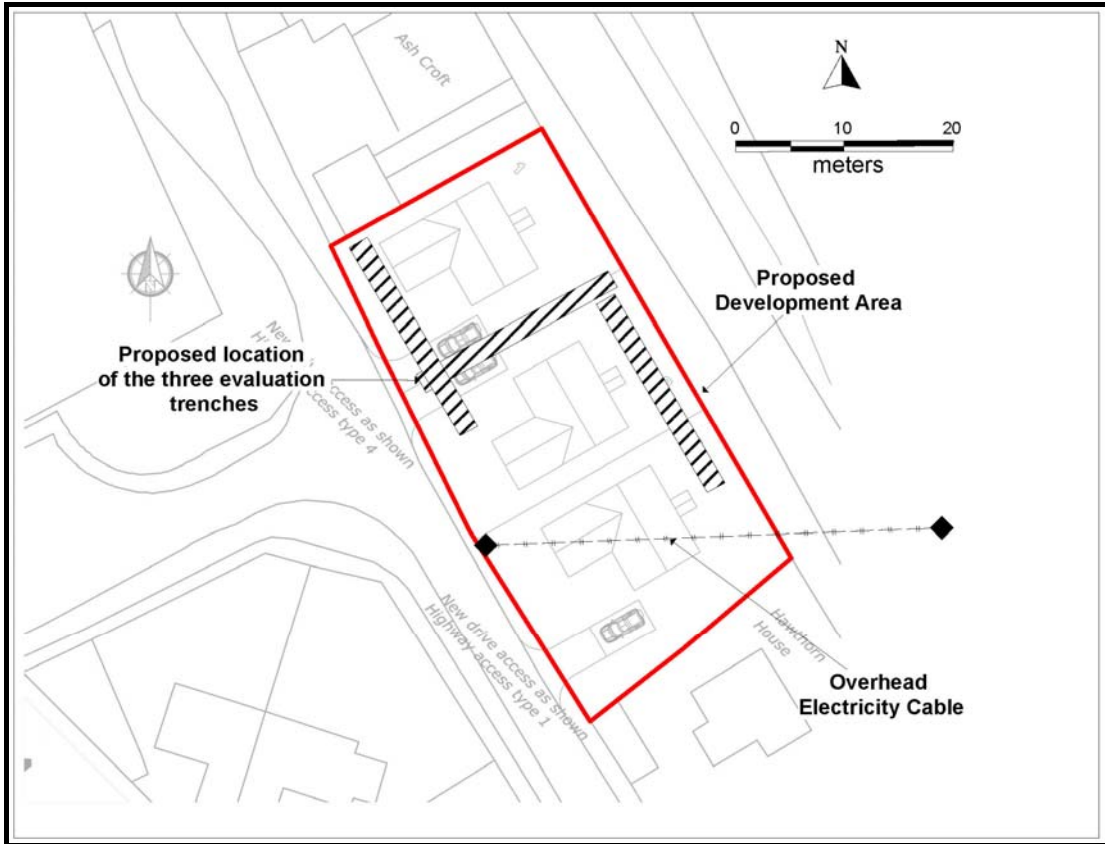


Figure 4: Original location of trenches overlaid over architects plan supplied by client (centred on NGR SS 46375)

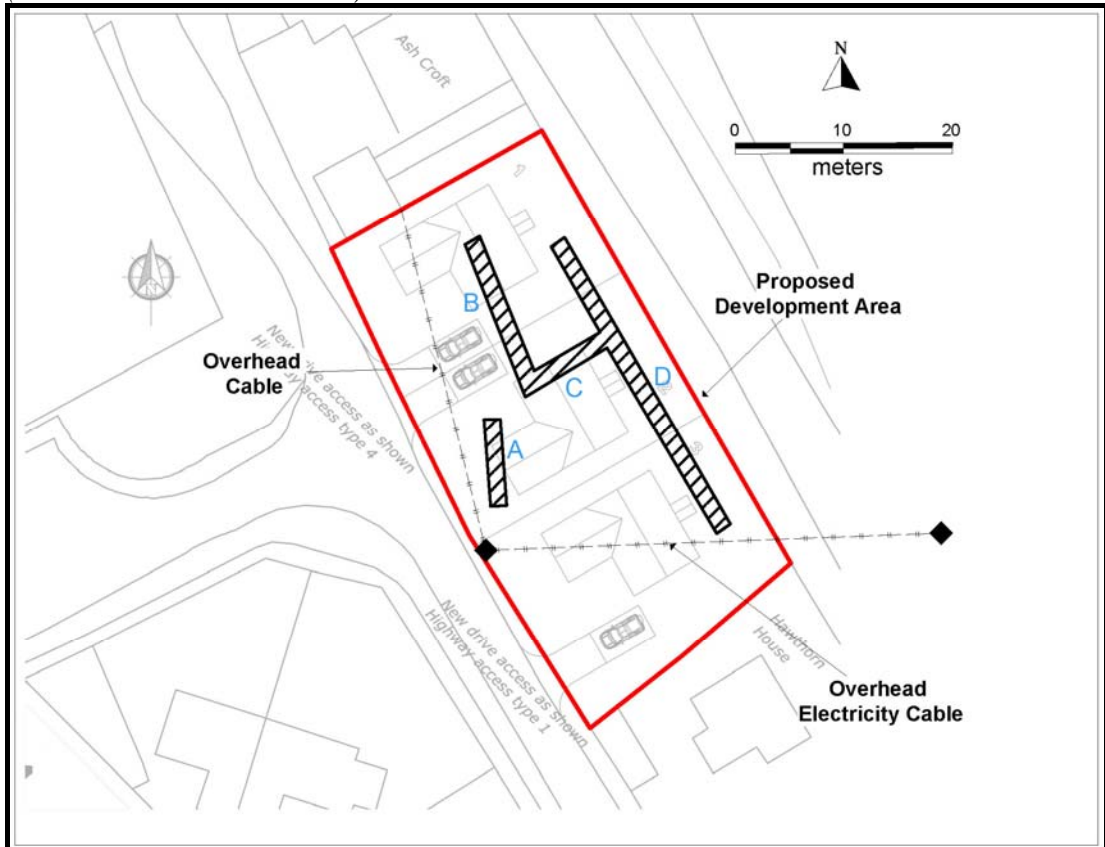


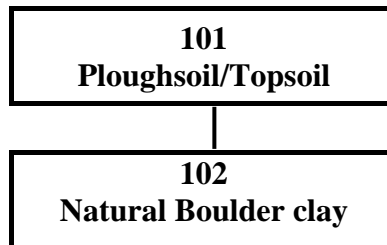
Figure 5: Revised location of trenches overlaid over architects plan supplied by client

11. Site Stratigraphy

The location of the four trenches, A-D is shown in Figure 5.

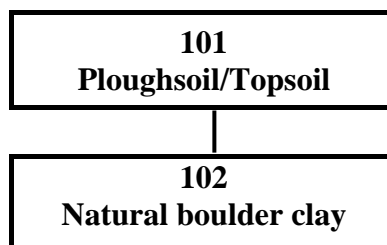
11.1 Trench A

Context Number	Depth	Description	Interpretation
101	0.40m	Dark brown clay/loam (Munsell colour 10YR3/2)	Ploughsoil/Topsoil, created by use of the area as a market garden for several decades
102	–	Orange clay/sand	Boulder clay



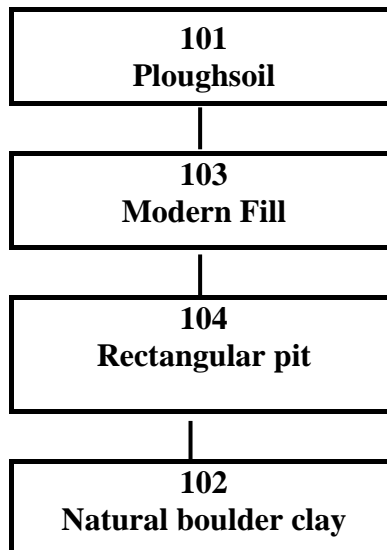
11.2 Trench B

Context Number	Depth	Description	Interpretation
101	Up to 0.55m	Dark brown clay/loam (Munsell colour 10YR3/2)	Ploughsoil/Topsoil, created by use of the area as a market garden for several decades
102	–	Orange clay/sand	Boulder clay



11.3 Trench C

Context Number	Depth	Description	Interpretation
101	0.40m-0.45m	Dark brown clay/loam (Munsell colour 10YR3/2)	Ploughsoil/Topsoil, created by use of the area as a market garden for several decades
102	–	Orange clay/sand	Boulder clay
103	>0.10m	Fill of Context 004. Excavated to a depth of 0.10m at which level a 20 th century synthetic tile fragment (c.0.15m width) was found.	Fill of pit, modern
104		Cut, Rectangular feature 1.2m wide northeast-southwest by at least 0.7m. Feature seen in section	Modern pit, cut through modern ploughsoil but ploughed again truncating the cut



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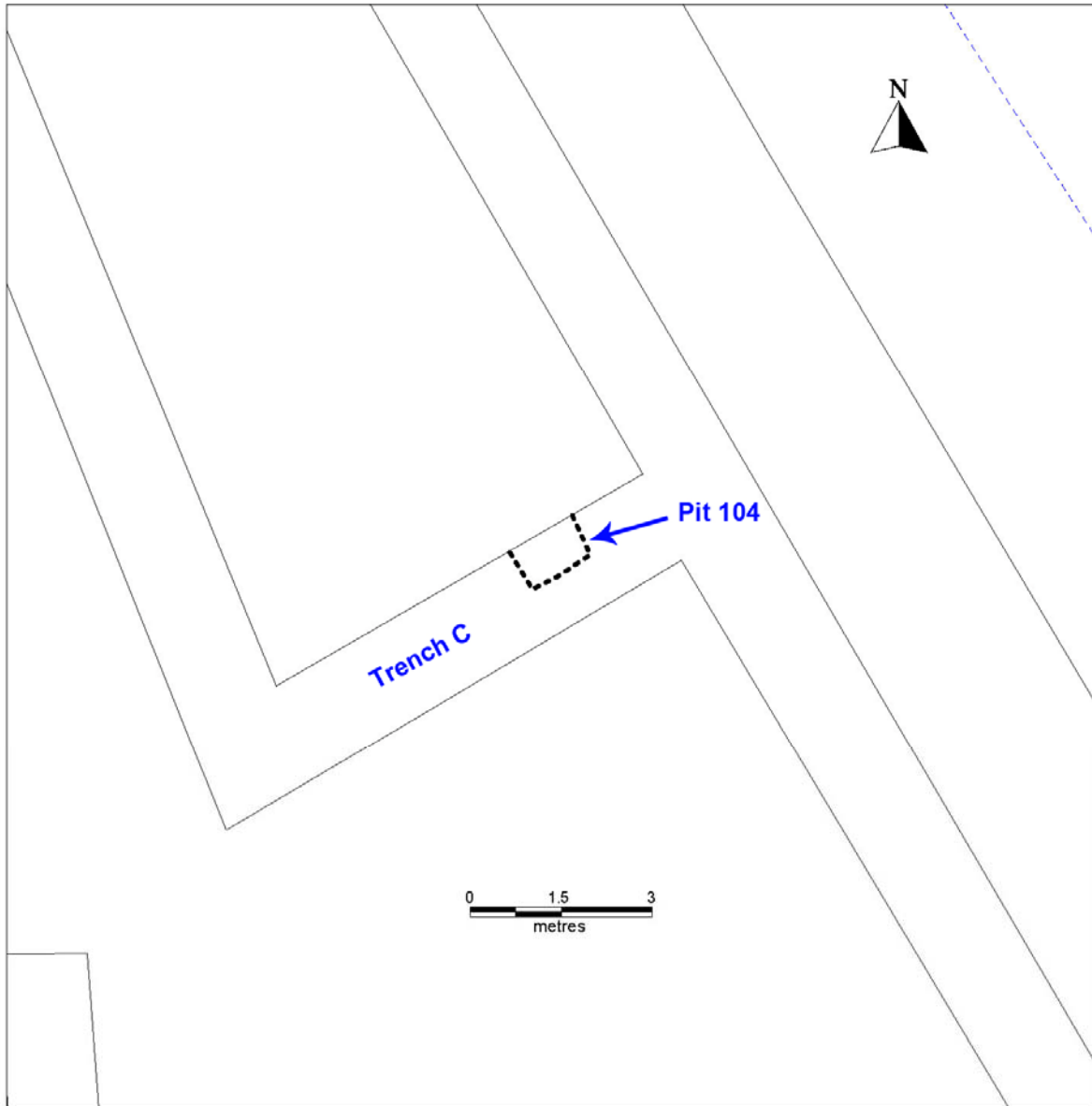
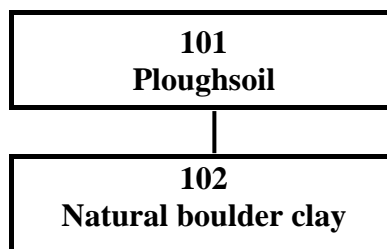


Figure 6: Location of Pit 104. This feature was sketched in plan only, and the section not drawn, once it was established that it was a 20th century feature of no significance. See Plate 10.

11.4 Trench D

Context Number	Depth	Description	Interpretation
101	0.50m-070m	Dark brown clay/loam (Munsell colour 10YR3/2)	Ploughsoil/Topsoil, created by use of the area as a market garden for several decades
102	–	Orange clay/sand	Boulder clay



11.4.1 Section A-B

Table 1 provides the details of a section recorded in the field along the northeastern side of Trench D. This section is not illustrated in this report as it no archaeologically significant layers or features were exposed. The section simply revealed that the ploughsoil overlays the natural boulder clay and maintains a fairly constant depth along the section.

The Ordnance Datum at point B was taken to be 48m at the ground surface.

Distance from A End closest to Ashcroft House	Height from line level to ground surface	Height from line level to base of ploughsoil	Height from line level to base of trench
0	0.20m	0.50m	0.55m
3	0.20m	0.50m	0.50m
6	0.18m	0.50m	0.52m
9	0.17m	0.50m	0.55m
12	0.18m	0.48m	0.55m
15	0.18m	0.45m	0.50m
18	0.15m	0.45m	0.45m
21	0.13m	0.45m	0.55m
24	0.10m	0.50m	0.55m
27	0.10m	0.50m	0.70m
30	0.16m	0.60m	0.70m

Table 1: Details of Section A – B, along the northeastern side of Trench D.

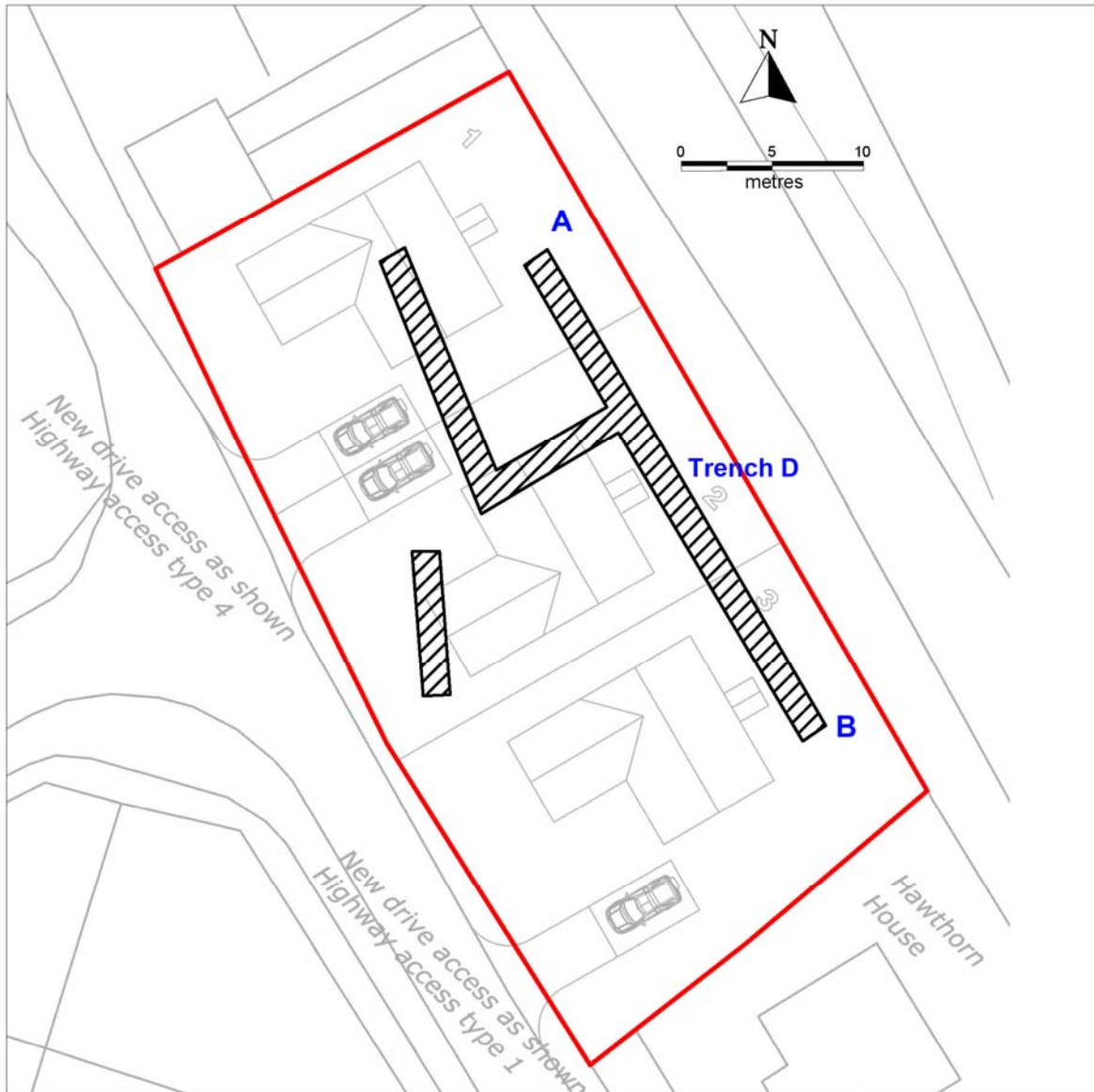


Figure 7: Location of Trench D, showing section line A-B, as described in Table 1.

12. Photographs

Colour digital photographs were taken of mechanically excavated area and of the locations where the stratigraphy was recorded using a 12M 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 Appendix A at the end of the report.

Photo Number	Description	Date Taken	Direction
AS01	The development plot from across the other side of the A4118	28/07/2009	Looking south
AS02	Plot before excavation with Ashcroft at the far end	28/07/2009	Looking northwest
AS03	Plot before excavation with Hawthorn House at the far end	28/07/2009	Looking south
AS04	Mechanically excavated trenches	03/09/2009	Looking south southeast
AS05	The existing house at Ashcroft	03/09/2009	Looking west southwest
AS06	Trench A	03/09/2009	Looking north
AS07	Trench D	03/09/2009	Looking southeast
AS08	Trench C	03/09/2009	Looking northeast
AS09	Trench B	03/09/2009	Looking south southeast
AS10	Detail of cut 104 and fill 103 in trench C	03/09/2009	Looking northwest

Table 2: Details of photographs included in Appendix A and the project archive.

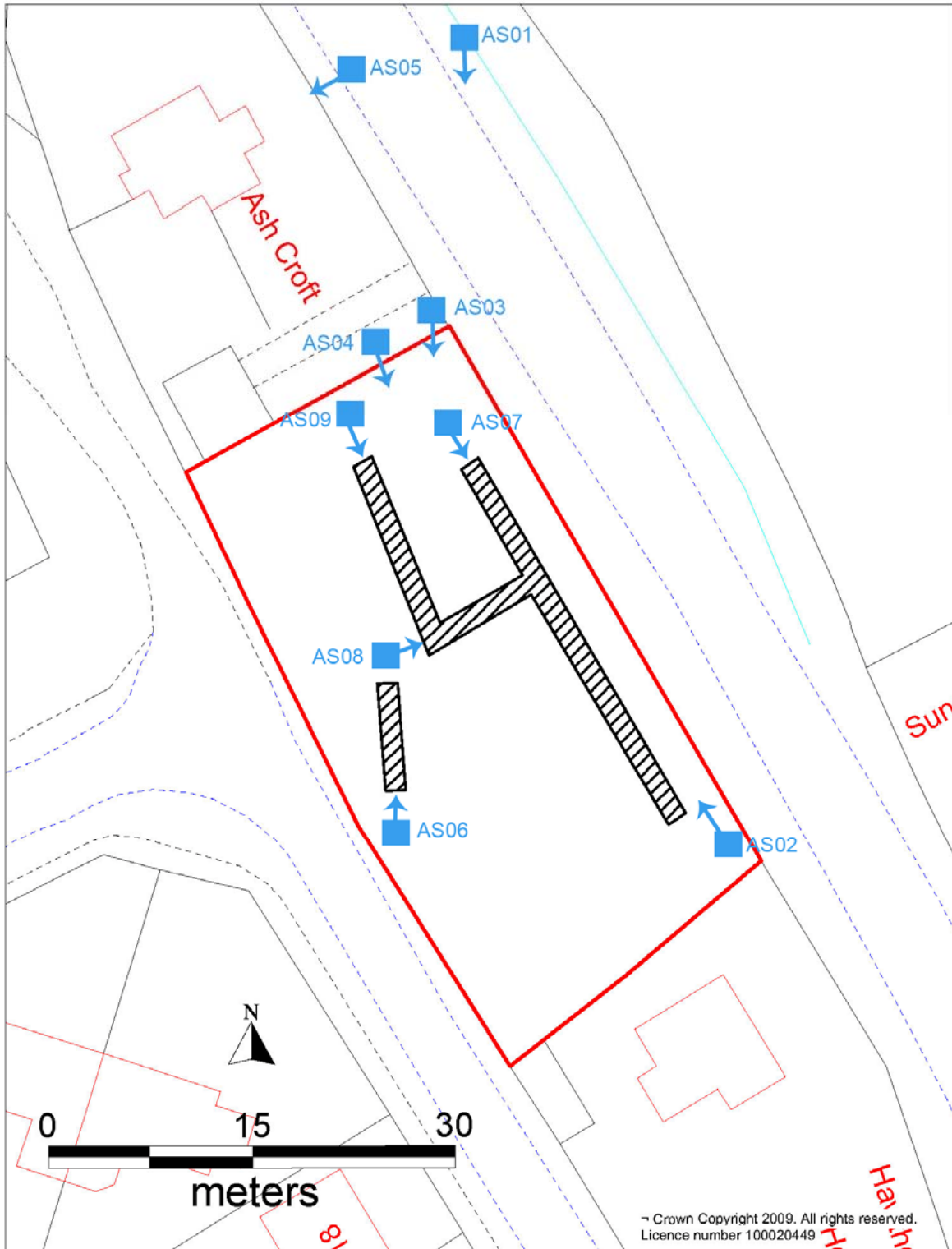


Figure 7: Location of photographs

13. Conclusion

The development will have no significant impact on the archaeological resource. The single feature recorded related to the 20th century and was of no significance.

14. Archive

A paper archive has been deposited with the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth including a copy of this report. The archive includes all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. Photographs are in TIFF format, following the standard required by the RCAHMW.

Further copies of the report have also been supplied to Stephen Kissick, and Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust.

15. Sources

15.1 Map evidence

1884 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:10560 map

15.2 Web sources

Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust, Historic Landscape Character Area 040 Surlage and Berry, www.ggat.org.uk/cadw/historic_landscape/gower/maps/Gower_040_map.htm

15.3 Unpublished sources

Dowdell, G, 2008, *Proposed housing at South Gower Sports Club, Surlage, Gower, Swansea.*

GGAT, undated, *Hand annotated map of areas fieldwalked for prehistoric flints in the Surlage area, including a table showing the types and quantities of flints found.*

15.4 Published sources

Kissock, J, 2006, The Roman Settlement Pattern in Western Gower Landscape: A Preliminary Report, *Archaeology in Wales*, Vol 46, pp.118-120



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APPENDIX A

PHOTOGRAPHS



Plate 1: AS01 - The development plot from the other side of the A4118, looking south



Plate 2: AS02 - Plot before excavation with Ashcroft at the far end, looking northwest



Plate 3: AS03 - Plot before excavation with Hawthorn House at the far end, looking south



Plate 4: AS04 - Mechanically excavated trenches, looking south southeast



Plate 5: AS05 - The existing house at Ashcroft, looking west southwest



Plate 6: AS06 – Trench A, looking north



Plate 7: AS07 – Trench D, looking southeast



Plate 8: AS08 - Trench C, looking northeast



Plate 9: AS09 – Trench B, looking south southeast



Plate 10: AS10 - Detail of cut 104 and fill 103 in trench C, looking northwest



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APPENDIX B

ARCHIVE INDEX

Index to Archive

1. The project specification

- 1.1 Trysor specification, including brief from GGAT Curatorial
- 1.2 Plan of site provided by client

2. Original Records

- 2.1 Notes written on site
- 2.2 Context sheets

3. Photographic Record

- 3.1 Index to photographs
- 3.2 Plan of location of photographs
- 3.3 Printed version of photos
- 3.4 Digital version of photographs

4. Written Report

- 4.1 Paper copy of report
- 4.2 Digital pdf version of report



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APPENDIX C

ASHCROFT, SCURLAGE

EVALUATION SPECIFICATION

Trysor August 23rd 2009

**(this Specification includes a full copy of the Brief
issued by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust)**

**ASHCROFT, SCURLAGE
EVALUATION SPECIFICATION**

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**Appendix A – The brief set by the Curatorial Division of Glamorgan Gwent
Archaeological Trust**

Appendix B – Risk Assessment

ASHCROFT, SCURLAGE EVALUATION SPECIFICATION

1. Introduction

Mr Stephen Kissick on behalf of his clients of Ashcroft, Scurlage, Swansea, SA3 1BA has commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to a planning application for three detached dwellings in the former market garden plot to the south of the house at Ashcroft.

Ashcroft, Scurlage lies in the village of Scurlage village at SS46378777 towards the western end of the Gower peninsula, near Swansea, in the historic county of Glamorganshire. The proposed development area stands to the west of the A4118 road and comprises a single plot, see figure 1.

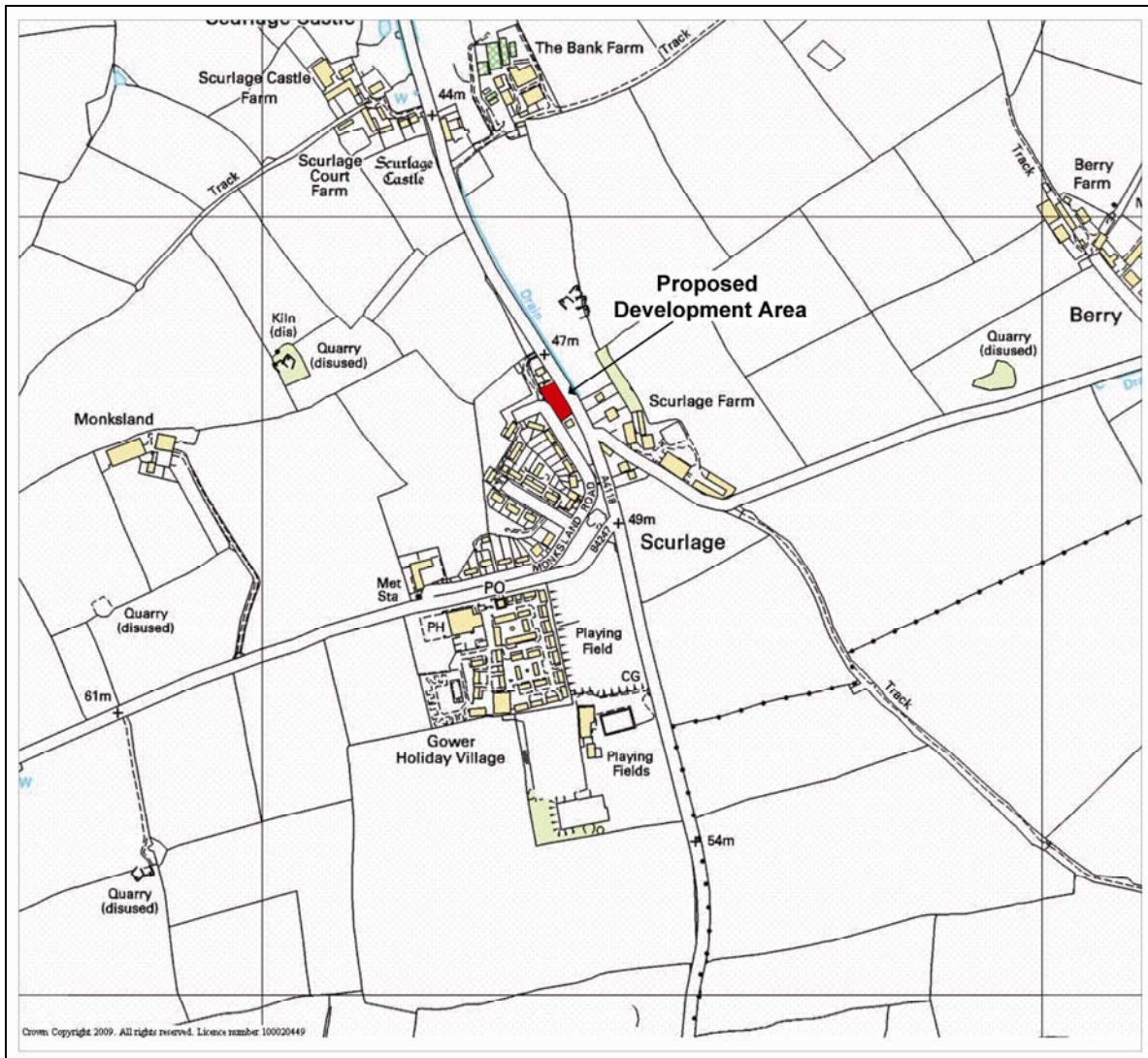


Figure 1: Location of proposed development area within Scurlage village

2. Location of the evaluation plot

The application area is rectangular piece of land, approximately 48m by 22m, covering 0.113 hectares in extent. It is bounded by Ashcroft house to the north, the A4118 to the east, Hawthorn House to the south, and Monksland Road to the west. The area is currently fallow having been a market garden plot until 2008. An overhead electricity cable runs across the southern end of the site at a height of c.4m, see figure 2

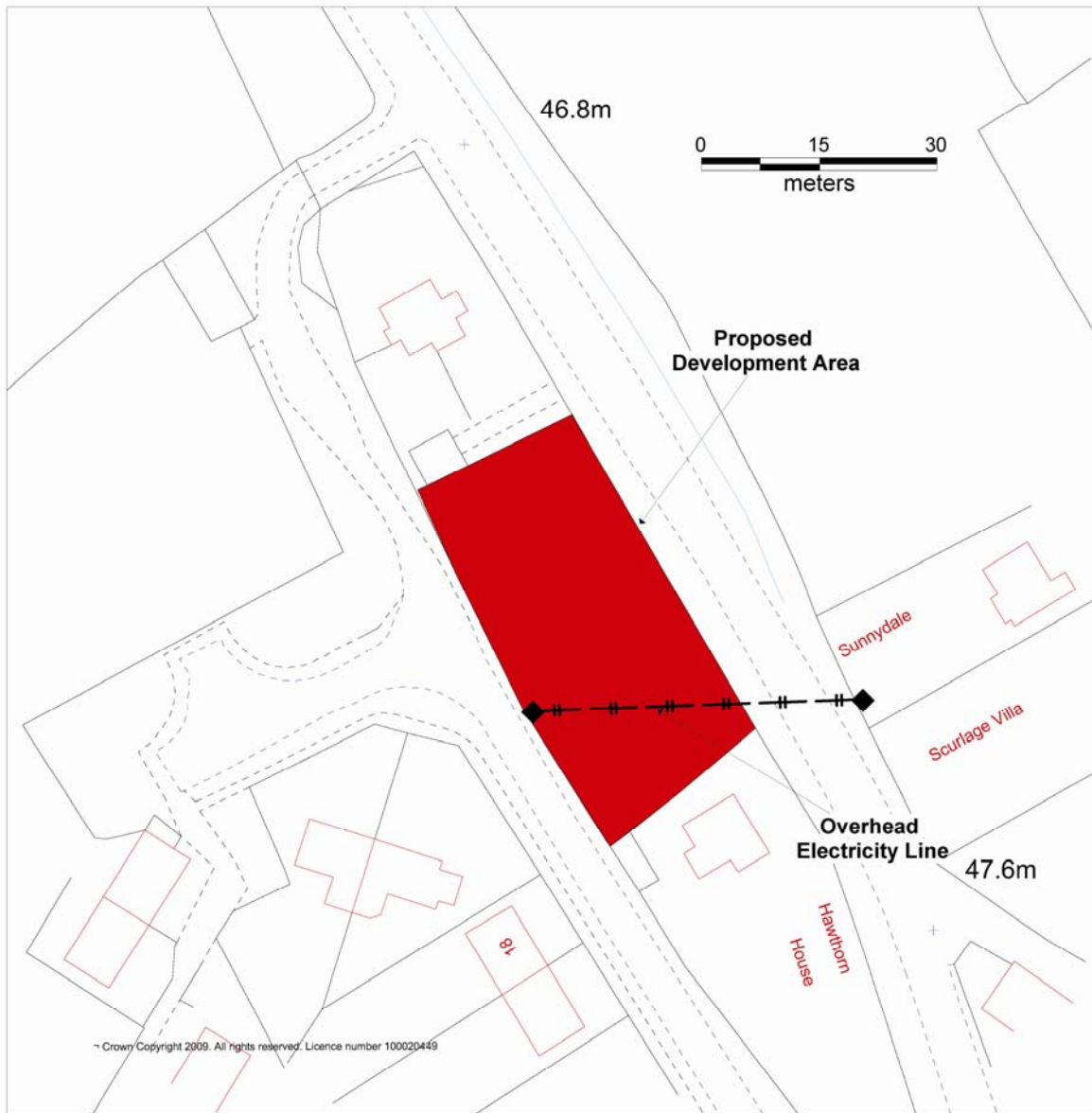


Figure 2: Proposed development area and location of overhead power line

3. The proposed development

The proposed development consists of three detached properties parallel to the main road line with access from Monksland Road to the west.

4. Planning History

In 2008 an application for six semi-detached houses was submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) application number 2008/0208. The application was refused, one of the grounds being that it was necessary to know more about the archaeological resource prior to planning permission being given.

The applicants wish to develop a revised plan for three dwellings, carrying out an archaeological evaluation prior to submitting the planning application in order to fully inform the LPA about the effect the development would have on the archaeological resource.

According to the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*:

“an archaeological field evaluation will determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practises. These will satisfy the stated aims on the project, and comply with the Code of Conduct, Code of approved practise for the regulation of contractual arrangements in archaeology, and other relevant by-laws of the IfA (Institute for Archaeologists).

Definition of field evaluation

The definition of archaeological field evaluation is a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

Purpose of field evaluation

The purpose of field evaluation is to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following:

- The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource*
- The formulation of a strategy to mitigate a threat to the archaeological resource*
- The formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research*

Following the appointment of the contractor, the purpose of the evaluation was discussed with Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust's Curatorial Division who act as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority.

5. Legal Status of the development area

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Listed Buildings within the proposed development area, as recorded on Historic Wales Portal, the online resource for the historic environment in Wales. There are no SSSI's, SAC's, SPA's within the proposed development area according to the Countryside Council for Wales online resource showing current designations.

6. Nature of the known archaeological resource

The archaeological evaluation was requested based on the concentration of prehistoric worked flint implements being found in the general area, and ditches reportedly found during an evaluation at the South Gower Sports Club, c.200m to the south. It is considered by Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Curatorial Division that these two items might point towards evidence of prehistoric settlement being present in the proposed development area and it is the objective of this evaluation to determine whether there are such remains in the proposed development area.

There are no sites recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HER) maintained by Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust within the proposed development area or within 100m of it.

The proposed development area is shown on all editions of the Ordnance Survey maps since the 1st edition as part of a small plot alongside the road.

The recent history of the plot is as a market garden and car park. The client has said that from the 1930s the plot was used as a market garden growing various crops including root crops. In the 1970s it was used as a car parking area for a tea rooms in Ashcroft house. It reverted to being used as a market garden but ceased use for this purpose in 2008.

A quick walkover of the plot with some weed growth on it but with the topsoil visible revealed no finds other than those of 20th century date, e.g. china pottery, plastic.

7. Health & Safety

Trysor has undertaken a risk assessment in accordance with their health and safety policy and a copy supplied to the archaeological advisors to City and County of Swansea no less than 3 working days prior to the commencement of the work, see Appendix B. The risk assessment will be reviewed if a buried soil horizon is encountered, or if conditions on site alter.

8. Field methodology

The evaluation will be carried out in accordance with Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

Three trenches, 20m by 2m, will excavated in accordance with the brief supplied by the Curatorial Division of Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust, see figure 3. The location

of the trenches has been placed to avoid the overhead power cables to the south of the proposed development area so some overlay has been inevitable. However the trenches still represent approximately 10% sampling of the total development area.

A two-person team will oversee the mechanical excavation of the trenches which will be excavated down to the natural subsoil. The ploughsoil/topsoil will be discarded, and no artefacts kept from this layer, in accordance with the brief set by the Curatorial Division of Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust. The trenches will be excavated with a toothless bucket.

If a buried soil horizon is encountered whilst excavating the trenches, mechanical machining will cease, and five 2m x 2m trenches will be hand dug down to natural subsoil. Any archaeological features will be fully investigated and recorded in accordance with the brief set by the Curatorial Division of Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust.

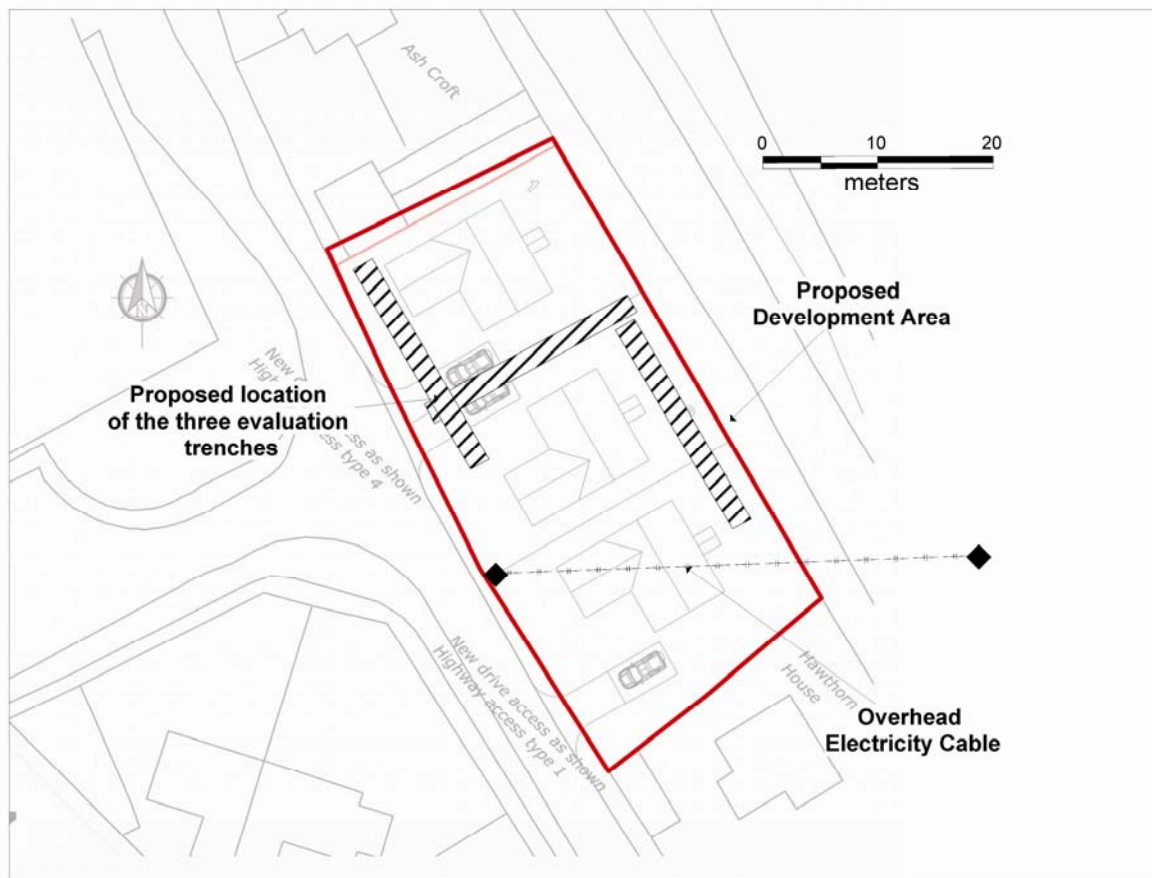


Figure 3: Location of three trenches overlaid over architects plan supplied by client

9. Recording – Excavation and Post Excavation

A written record of all activity will be kept as well as context records on pro-forma sheets for all archaeological contexts, based on the CEU recording manual. The notes and context sheets will form part of the project archive.

A plan of the location of the trenches and representative sections of the trenches will be drawn, at an appropriate scale. If any archaeological features are observed, they will be excavated and recorded, photographed, and planned at an appropriate scale. All plans will be related to boundaries shown on Ordnance Survey Mastermap data. Levels will be taken from a site datum which will be cross referenced to an Ordnance Survey datum.

Any artefacts will be dealt with in accordance with the guidance provided in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*. Artefacts from the ploughsoil/topsoil will be discarded. Any other artefacts will be retained, cleaned and stored. They will be catalogued by context, including dimensions, weight, number, and description as relevant. Significant artefacts will be drawn at an appropriate scale.

Deposits of environmental or technological significance will be sampled according to *A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* published in 2002 as one of the Centre for Archaeology Guidelines by English Heritage.

Should any human remains be encountered, the Coroner and Regional Archaeological Trust will be immediately informed and the remains left *in situ*.

Colour digital photographs will be taken, as appropriate, using a 12M pixel camera. A written record will be made on site of the photographs taken. Appropriate photographic scales will be used. The photographs will be archived with a full catalogue showing location of photographs and direction taken. Photographs will be archived in TIF format.

10. Reporting

Following the completion of the on-site work, a report on the evaluation will be prepared according to the requirements of Annexe 1 of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* and Section 7 of *Land at Ashcroft, Scurlage, Gower, Brief For Archaeological Evaluation* prepared by the Curatorial Division of GGAT, see Appendix A

The report will address the aims and purposes of the evaluation and be fully representative of the information gained including negative evidence. It will contain at a minimum:

- A non-technical summary of the evaluation
- Introductory statement
- Aims and purposes of the evaluation
- Methodology
- Results including documentary research and structural data and associated finds and/or environmental data recovered.
- Interpretation
- Discussion/Conclusion
- Index to Archive and location of archive

The report will contain at least two plans, one showing the site's location in respect to the wider geography of the area, and a second showing the position of the excavated trenches in relation to the surrounding boundaries.

The report will also contain supporting plans and sections showing recorded archaeological features at appropriate scales as well as supporting photographs.

A summary report on the artefactual and environmental assemblage and an assessment of its potential for further study, prepared by suitably qualified individuals, will be included in the main report. Supporting data, tabulated or in appendices, including as a minimum a basic quantification of all artefacts and ecofacts (number and weight), and structural data will also be included.

Copies of the report will be provided to the client, the Regional Sites and Monuments Record and the National Monuments Record.

11. Dissemination

A summary of the work undertaken and its findings will be submitted to the relevant volume of Archaeology in Wales

12. Archive

The project archive will be compiled according to the Institute for Archaeologists' *"Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives"*

The paper archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, including a copy of the final report. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. Photographs will be supplied in TIFF format in a file size greater than 11MB, following the standard required by the RCAHMW.

If there is an artefact archive a copy of the paper archive will be deposited with the artefacts at a suitable location, to be negotiated once the nature of the artefact resource has been established.

13. Resources to be Used

Two members of staff will undertake the evaluation. They will be equipped with standard field equipment, including recording equipment, digital cameras, GPS and first aid kits.

Trysor have access to the computer hardware and software required to deliver the completed final report and archive to a professional standard.

14. Qualification of personnel

Jenny Hall (BSc Joint Hons, Geology and Archaeology, MifA) has over 10 years excavation experience, which included undertaking watching briefs. She also has 10 years experience as a Sites and Monuments Record Manager for a Welsh Archaeological Trust.

Paul Sambrook (BA Joint Hons, Archaeology and Welsh, PGCE) has extensive experience as a fieldworker in Wales. He was involved with Cadw's pan-Wales Deserted Rural



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Settlements Project for 7 years. He has also undertaken Tir Gofal field survey work and watching briefs.

Dee Williams (BA Archaeology and Classical Studies) graduated from the University of Wales, Lampeter. After University she pursued a career in field archaeology. Her first supervisory post was with Wessex Archaeology (Manpower Service Commission 1984-5) as the Finds Officer on a large multi-period urban excavation in Dorchester. From 1986 to 1994 she was employed as the Finds Officer with the Dyfed Archaeological Trust. From 1994 to the present she has worked as an administrator in the Department of Archaeology at Lampeter but continues her research interests in finds with specialisms in ceramics and glass.

Martin Locock (BA, MIfA) – Martin worked has undertaken many bone reports and can also do first stage identification of flint artefacts. Advice on flint artefacts would also be sought from Elisabeth Walker, NMGW, who has previously looked at other material from the general area.

15. Insurance & Professional indemnity

Trysor has Public Liability Insurance and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

16. Project identification

The project has been designated Trysor Project No. 2009/152.

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook
Trysor

38, New Road,
Gwaun-cae-Gurwen
Ammanford
Carmarthenshire
SA18 1UN

August 23rd 2009



August 23rd 2009

APPENDIX A

LAND AT ASHCROFT,
SCURLAGE, GOWER

BRIEF FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Prepared for
City and County of Swansea
By
The Curatorial Division
Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust

LAND AT ASHCROFT, SCURLAGE, GOWER**BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION****SUMMARY**

The South Gower Sports Club has submitted a planning application to the City and County of Swansea for consent to construct eight houses in the northern part of their sports ground. The application area is located in an area where a considerable quantity of prehistoric flint artefacts have been discovered, suggesting that evidence of prehistoric activity may survive in the area. Consequently, the City and County of Swansea require the results of an archaeological evaluation of the area to be presented before the application is determined. This brief therefore provides details of the work that will need to be undertaken for this evaluation. It will require the excavation by qualified archaeologists of three areas 20m by 2m,. The fieldwork will be followed by the production of a report containing an analysis of the results.

INTRODUCTION

Mr & Mrs Aprea applied for planning application for outline consent for the construction of six semidetached houses in the garden of Ashcroft at Scurlage (NGR SS 4637 1877) from the City and County of Swansea in 2008 (pl.app.no. 2008/0208). In response to the application the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, the archaeological advisors to the Council, noted that a considerable quantity of prehistoric flint artefacts has been recovered from the vicinity of the application area indicating that significant prehistoric activity had taken place there. Consequently, they indicated, following National advice given in Planning Policy Wales 2002 section 6.5.2 and Welsh Office Circular 60/96, section 14 that there was a need for more information on the archaeological resource to be provided by the applicant prior to the positive determination of the planning application. Subsequently, the planning application was refused and one of the reasons for refusal was the failure of the applicant to provide information on the archaeological resource.

Mr & Mrs Aprea, through their agent Gwyn Evans (Building Consultants) Ltd¹, now wish to make a new application for the development to the City and County of Swansea; but wish to include the results of an archaeological evaluation with the submitted application so that the Members of the City and County of Swansea LPA are fully informed about the effect of the development on the archaeological resource. Consequently, this brief has been prepared by GGAT (Curatorial) to ensure that a suitable evaluation of the archaeological resource meeting the Institute for Field Archaeologist's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* and their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Artefact and Environmental Collection, Documentation Conservation and Research* is undertaken. The results of this work should be sufficiently detailed so that the importance of the archaeological features in the application area can be determined and that an appropriate mitigatory strategy can be devised from the findings if required.

¹ Agent is Gwyn Evans Gwyn Evans (Building Consultants) Ltd, 3 Poplars Avenue, Cimla, Neath SA11 3NS Tel: 01639 639231

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST

The Gower Peninsula is noted for its' prehistoric funerary monuments, such as Arthur's Stone, hill forts, such as Old Castle Fort, and occupied caves, such as Paviland Cave. Little is known of undefended settlement sites on the lower ground. Recent field walking in the fields surrounding Scurllage has located more than 2877 flint artefacts covering all periods of prehistory commencing with a very rare Lower Palaeolithic flake, but with the greatest concentration being of Bronze Age date. This concentration of flints clearly indicates significant prehistoric activity in the area and the mixture of artefacts including working debris, demonstrates that flint knapping was occurring in the area and it is assumed that some form of settlement also occurred. The area is clearly of great importance, although as yet no structures relating to settlement have been located in the area, the concentration of the amount of flints and the range of tool types and age shows that it was a centre utilising what may be material deposited by the retreat of the ice sheets c10,000 BC. More recently, finds from the Iron Age immediately preceding the Roman occupation have been located in the vicinity. As the application area is central to the known areas of flints, which in the main have been found by walking ploughed areas, it is probable that such material will be located during any development in the area. A recent archaeological evaluation c.200m to the south of the application site found evidence of ditches that appear to suggest pre-historic activity in the area.

PRESENT USE OF SITE AND PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The application area is rectangular shaped piece of land bounded by Ashcroft to the north, the A4118 to the west and Hawthorn House the south, and Monksland Road to the east covering 0.113 hectares in extent. The area currently the garden to Ashcroft. The position of services in the area are not known² it is therefore recommended that the site is visited prior to the final position of evaluation areas being determined.

The current proposals are in outline but are for 6 semidetached dwellings in three blocks.

SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS

The Curatorial Division of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust understands that there are no scheduled ancient monuments within the area of the proposed development. However, **it is the archaeological contractors responsibility to check with Cadw³ on the current legal status of the area before they commence operations.**

WILDLIFE

The Curatorial Division of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust are not aware of any protected natural habitats or protected species in the evaluation area however it is the

² A search of the utility companies records has not taken place. It is the archaeological contractors responsibility to check the utility companies records for services in the area before the commence operations.

³ Cadw, Plas Carew, Unit 5/7 Cefn Coed, Parc Nantgarw, CF15 7QQ Tel: 01443 336000

archaeological contractors responsibility to check with the Countryside Council for Wales⁴ on the current legal status of the area before they commence operations.

MONITORING⁵

The archaeological advisors to City and County of Swansea (GGAT Curatorial) will monitor the work. It is essential that notice of the start date, a projected timetable and a copy of the Health and Safety Risk Assessment for the evaluation will be submitted to them, **no less than 3 working days prior to the commencement of the work.**

GGAT Curatorial will be responsible for monitoring, to ensure compliance with the brief, until the deposition of the site archive and finds (see 7.8 below).

No area will be back-filled, until it has been inspected by GGAT Curatorial, unless written permission is granted in advance.

SPECIFICATIONS⁶

The detailed specifications for the archaeological work and the positions of the evaluation areas (see 5.2 below) must be submitted by the applicant to, and approved by GGAT Curatorial before the work commences.

It is expected that the detailed specifications will have regard to and provide detailed information on the following:

1. Objectives

1.1 The objectives of the archaeological work may be summarised as follows; the work should elucidate the character, distribution, extent and importance of the known and potential archaeological remains, which exist in the development area.

1.2 The evaluation report should provide information, which is sufficiently detailed to allow informed decisions to safeguard the archaeological resource to be taken on the basis of its contents.

2. Scope of the Work

The archaeology of the application site as a whole, in its wider local or regional context, should be considered, although the evaluation will be confined to those areas which will be directly affected by the development or some aspect of it. Any remains of potential interest should be considered, whatever their date.

3. Methodology⁷

3.1 The evaluation will initially consist of the excavation of a series of trenches in the application area to identify if the original ground surface survives, if so parts of the area will be excavated by hand to natural soil horizon. The fieldwork will be followed by post-excavation analysis, production

⁴ Contact information for local CCW offices can be found on their web site www.ccw.gov.uk

⁵ See Appendix A for details of monitoring procedures.

⁶ A specification is a schedule of works in sufficient detail to be quantifiable, implemented and monitored.

⁷ This brief contains a suggested methodology for the evaluation of the archaeological resource in the application area. Other methods may well be equally viable and Contractors may wish to propose alternative evaluation techniques. In such cases it is recommended that the Contractor discuss the proposed method with the archaeological advisors to the LPA, before submitting a detailed specification.

of a report on the results of this work and the compilation of an ordered archive that will be deposited in an appropriate repository.

4. Documentary

4.1 The information already retrieved by the initial documentary research will be collated and presented in the evaluation report in order to place the results of the evaluation in their historic context.

5. Trial Excavation

5.1 The evaluation area will be positioned, to maximise the retrieval of archaeological information and to ensure that the archaeological resource is understood. It is envisaged that three areas each being 20m by 2m will be opened.

5.2 The exact positioning of the evaluation area will depend on the position of any extant services, any requirements of the applicant. It is recommended that a site visit should be made prior to the final determination of the evaluation areas. The precise position of these areas and a rationale for this layout will be submitted, to the Curatorial Division of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust for approval, prior to the commencement of the excavation.

5.3 The trial area may initially be excavated to the top of any buried soil horizon by machine using a toothless bucket. If no buried soil horizon is encountered machine excavation will continue to the natural soil horizon which will be cleaned to an appropriate standard to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features and if necessary to determine their significance. If a buried soil horizon is revealed machine excavation will cease and five areas each being 2m square will be excavated by hand to the natural soil horizon and any archaeological features located will be fully investigated.

5.4 All archaeological contexts will be recorded using a continuous numbered context system on *pro-forma* recording sheets⁸.

5.5 Written, drawn and photographic records (b&w and colour slides) of an appropriate level of detail will be maintained throughout the course of the project. Plans (other than excavation location plans) should be drawn at either 1:20 or 1:50 depending on the complexity of features uncovered; section drawings should be drawn at a minimum scale of 1:10. Photographic records will be at a minimum 35mm format. If digital photography is to be undertaken this should be at a minimum resolution of 4mp (preferably 6mp+) with all final images saved as TIFF. files.

5.6 Drawn records will be related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

6. Artefact and Environmental Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research

6.1 The specification will include a recovery policy for archaeological material from the evaluation work. This policy will include information on the amount and type of material expected to be found; any sampling strategies that will be employed and what conservation arrangements are in place. It is expected that this policy will include information ensuring that:-

⁸ Details of the recording system to be used should be stated. If this is not a readily available system a copy of the manual should be sent to the LPA when the detailed specification is submitted.

- all artefacts recovered during the project will be retained and be related to the contexts from which they derived.
- that all typologically distinct and closely datable finds are recorded three-dimensionally.
- that any features containing deposits of environmental or technological significance are sampled. The advice given in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology Guidelines *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation* should be followed.
- that at least minimum acceptable standards for the conservation of artefacts and samples are achieved (the UK Institute of Conservation's *Guidelines for the Treatment of Finds from Archaeological Sites* should be used as guidance).
- that any human remains that are discovered will initially be left in situ and if removal is necessary, this will comply with the relevant Ministry of Justice regulations.

6.2 The specification will also include a policy statement regarding the post-excavation processing, cataloguing, analysis and reporting of the artefacts and samples recovered during the evaluation. It is expected that this statement will confirm the standards that will be reached in the analysis of the artefacts⁹ and include confirmation that:-

- a catalogue by context of all artefactual material found, quantified by number, weight, or both, and containing sketches of significant artefacts will be compiled.
- any environmental or technological samples that were taken are assessed in order to determine their significance and value for further investigation.

6.3 The specification will also list the personnel (and their relevant qualifications and expertise) who will analyse and report on the artefactual and environmental assemblages.

6.4 A project archive will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Brown, 2007 **Archaeological Archives: A Guide To Best Practice In Creation, Compilation, Transfer And Curation**.

7. The Report

7.1 The report should be fully representative of the information gained from 4, 5 and 6 above, even if there should be negative evidence, addressing the aims and purposes of the project design and/or specification.

7.2 The report should be written in a clear, concise and logical style. Consideration should be given during the preparation of the report to the requirements of public inquiries or courts of law if appropriate.

7.3 The report should contain at a minimum:

⁹ It is recommended that pottery should be analysed to the standards outlined in "Guidelines for the Preparation of Pottery Archives" as prepared by the Study Group for Roman Pottery in consultation with the IFA. All other material will be analysed following the advice given in the Institute of Field Archaeologists: *Guidelines for Finds Work*.

- A non-technical summary of the evaluation
- Introductory statements
- Aims and purposes of the evaluation
- Methodology
- Results (These should describe structural data and associated finds and/or environmental data recovered. Descriptive material should be clearly separated from interpretative statements).
- Discussion/Conclusion

7.4 The report will contain at least two plans, one showing the site's location in respect to the wider geography of the area, and a second showing the position of the excavated trenches in relation to the surrounding boundaries.

7.5 The report will also contain supporting plans and sections showing recorded archaeological features at appropriate scales as well as supporting photographs.

7.6 A summary report on the artefactual and environmental assemblage and an assessment of its potential for further study, prepared by suitably qualified individuals, will be included in the main report. Supporting data, tabulated or in appendices, including as a minimum a basic quantification of all artefacts and ecofacts (number and weight), and structural data should also be included.

7.7 A copy of the report should be submitted, as completed by the archaeological contractor, to the LPA for their approval. A further copy of the evaluation report should also be deposited with the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER)¹⁰. If necessary a note on any conditions of confidentiality that the client may wish to impose should be attached (see 7.8).

7.8 A summary report of the work should be submitted for publication to a national journal (such as Archaeology in Wales) no later than one year after the completion of the work.

7.7 Before work commences, arrangements should be made with an appropriate organisation, such as the Swansea Museum, for the deposition of the archive. Wherever the archive is deposited, this information should be relayed to the HER

7.8 Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality should be maintained, the report and the archive should be deposited in the appropriate repository not later than six months after completion of the work¹¹.

¹⁰ As well as the bound report, the HER would be grateful, if an electronic version of the report (preferably IBM compatible and in Word) could be submitted for inclusion on the computerised database.

¹¹ Any document submitted to the LPA as part of a planning application will be treated as a public domain document.

8. Suitable Archaeological Contractors

8.1 The work will be undertaken by the staff of a competent and professional archaeological body (hereafter the archaeological contractor) preferably an Institute of Field Archaeologists' Registered Archaeological Organisation.

It is essential that the detailed specifications submitted to the LPA contain details of how the following four sections will be met.

8.2 The archaeological contractor will have considerable experience of archaeological field evaluation, be preferably managed by a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and also have a proven track record of archaeological excavation and publication. The name of the project manager (giving qualifications and if necessary experience) will be stated in the specification.

8.3 The archaeological contractor will adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and the Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.

8.4 The personnel involved in the fieldwork and post-excavation work should preferably be corporate members of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and shall be identified to GGAT Curatorial in advance with, where requested, details of their qualifications and experience. Arrangements for the maintenance of professional standards should also be stated

8.5 The body commissioning the report will satisfy themselves of the ability of the archaeological contractor to undertake the necessary work¹².

SWA0384/1/2008023/CNM

GGAT Curatorial 2008

As part of our desire to provide a quality service to all of our clients we would welcome any comments you may have on the contents or presentation of this document.

¹² It is recommended that, in the best interest of those commissioning archaeological work, that they ensure that potential contractors have professional indemnity insurance

Appendix A

In general the purposes of monitoring by the regional archaeological curator on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, may be summarised as follows: -

To ensure the maintenance of high archaeological standards and best practice based on the Standards in British Archaeology issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (copies available on request).

To ensure compliance with planning regulations and requirements.

To ensure compliance with the brief provided by the archaeological curator and the Specifications submitted by the applicant for the approval of the Local Planning Authority.

To ensure the relevance of the further information gained by the work to the on-going planning process.

To ensure that any recommendations made by the archaeological contractor are reasonable in planning terms.

To ensure that any further recommendations resulting from the work that are made by the Local Planning Authority (based on the advice of their curatorial archaeological advisers) are founded on detailed knowledge and are reasonable in planning terms.

To help formulate, where required, an archaeological mitigation strategy, which could protect the archaeological resource whilst enabling the permitted development.

Monitoring is carried out by the Curatorial Division of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, in their recognised role as the archaeological advisors to all the regional Planning Authorities. All of its work is carried out to the Welsh Archaeological Trusts' *Curator's Code of Conduct* (copies of which are available on request). The Division's officers have considerable field experience and are available to discuss any aspect of monitoring.

Monitoring will normally consist of a site visit by one of the Division's Officers, who will inspect the on-going work and the exposed archaeological resource. The visit will enable them to provide local knowledge to the archaeological contractor and discuss any additional evaluation work or variances to the specification that may be required.

In normal circumstances a report on the monitoring, copied to the Local Planning Authority, will be sent to the developer inside 48 hours of the visit. This report will give a short summary of the exposed archaeological resource and recommend any additional works or variations from the specifications which should be carried out whilst the archaeological contractor is still on site. The applicant will be informed of any breaches to the specification, which may invalidate the results of the evaluation at that time, so that the matter can be raised and resolved prior to the completion of the fieldwork.

Appendix B

Glossary of Terms

Archaeological Contractor

A professionally qualified individual or an organisation containing professionally qualified archaeological staff, able to offer an appropriate and satisfactory treatment of the archaeological resource, retained by the developer to carry out archaeological work either prior to the submission of a planning application or as a requirement of the planning process. A list of Archaeological Contractors available for work in Wales, has been prepared by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts and this is available on request from any of the regional archaeological curators.

Archaeological Curator

A person, or organisation, responsible for the conservation and management of archaeological evidence by virtue of official or statutory duties. In Wales the archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authorities are the Curatorial Divisions of the Regional Archaeological Trusts, all of whom work to the Welsh Archaeological Trust's *Curators' Code of Practice*. In south-east Wales the 12 Unitary Councils are served by The Curatorial Division of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust.

Archive

An ordered collection of all documents and artefacts from an archaeological project, which at the conclusion of the work should be deposited at a public repository, such as the local museum.

Appraisal

An appraisal is a rapid reconnaissance of site and records to identify whether a development proposal has a potential archaeological dimension requiring further clarification.

Assessment

A desk-based assessment is a detailed consideration of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area or site (land-based, intertidal or underwater), consisting of a collation of existing written and graphic information in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource in a local, regional or national context as appropriate.

Brief

An outline framework of the archaeological situation which has to be addressed, together with an indication of the scope of the works that will be required.

Bronze Age

A chronological division of the prehistoric period, which sees the introduction of copper and the eventual widespread adoption of bronze for use in weapons, jewellery etc. In Britain it is dated between circa 2300 and 700 BC.

Cadw

A Directorate of the Welsh Assembly; Cadw are responsible for the planning issues which affect statutorily protected ancient monuments and buildings. They also grant aid repairs to historic buildings and monuments and manage ancient monuments which are in direct State care.

Early Medieval

The period after the break down of Roman rule and the Norman invasion (circa 410 to 1070 AD).

Evaluation

A limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site; ad, if present, defines their character and extent, and relative quality. It enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate. The programme of work will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive

Historic Environment Record (HER)

A documentary record of known sites in a given area. In south-east Wales the HER is curated by the Curatorial Division of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust.

Medieval

The period after the Norman invasion nominally finishing at the Battle of Bosworth and the commencement of the reign of Henry VII (1066 to 1485 AD).

Mesolithic

A chronological division of the prehistoric period spanning the period from the end of the last ice age to the introduction of farming. It is dated between circa 10,000 and circa 4,000 BC.

Modern

The period since 1900 AD

Natural

Archaeological term for undisturbed natural geology on a site.

Neolithic

A chronological division of the prehistoric period during which agriculture and domestic animals area introduced to Britain. It is dated circa 4,500 to circa 2,300 BC.

NGR

National Grid Reference

Palaeolithic

The earliest division of the prehistoric period, from the first evidence of tool making by humans to the final retreat of glacial ice from Britain. It is dated circa 500,000 to circa 10,000 BC.

Post-Medieval

Period between 1485 and 1900 AD.

Risk Assessment

A document prepared to meet the requirements of *The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992* assessing all risks to the health and safety of employees and others arising from a work activity.

Roman

Period when Britain was ruled by Rome circa 45 - 410 AD

Romano-British

Term used to describe a fusion of indigenous late Iron Age traditions with Roman culture

Specification



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A written schedule of works required for a particular project (by a curator, planning archaeologist or client), set out in sufficient detail to be quantifiable, implemented and monitored. Normally prepared by or agreed with the relevant curator.

Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as a programme of observation, investigation and recording conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area or site, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme of work will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.

Welsh Archaeological Trusts

There are 4 Welsh Archaeological Trusts, Clwyd-Powys, Dyfed, Gwynedd and Glamorgan-Gwent. The Trusts were established between 1974 and 1975 in order to carry out rescue archaeological work in Wales. The Trusts are now divided into Contracts and Curatorial Divisions. They are all charities but are also limited companies.