

Archaeology Wales

Written Scheme of Investigation
For an Archaeological
Watching Brief on Road Access Splay Widening
Land Adjacent to Upper House Farm
Paincastle, Powys

Prepared for:
Mr Kevin White

Project No: 2093

9th April 2014

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NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This Written Scheme of Investigations details the proposal for an archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to Upper House Farm, Painscastle, Powys. It has been prepared by Archaeology Wales Ltd for their client, Mr Kevin White.

1. Introduction

A proposed development for new dwellings with access, parking and landscaping (Powys CC Planning Applications PR481204 & P2008/0930) has been submitted to Powys County Council by AB Planning on behalf of Kevin White. The development site is located on a brown field site adjacent to the properties known as Cruck Barn and Upper House Farm (Henceforth – the site), NGR SO 1678 4614. The area of the watching brief is shown on Fig 1.

This Written Scheme of Investigations has been prepared by Chris E Smith (MIFA), Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (Henceforth - AW) at the request of Mr Kevin White. It provides information on the methodology that will be employed by AW during a watching brief on road access widening.

The purpose of the proposed watching brief is to provide Powys County Council with the information they have requested in respect of the proposed development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy WALES, March 2002, Section 6.5, and Welsh Office Circular 60/96.

The details set out in this specification follow a Brief (CPAT INV 749) prepared by Mark Walters of the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (henceforth CPAT). CPAT, in its capacity as archaeological adviser to Powys County Council, has recommended that a watching brief is undertaken. Whilst other aspects of archaeological recording work have also been recommended (field evaluation and excavation elsewhere though part of the same application) this document pertains only to the watching brief. The field evaluation was carried out, with negative results, in December 2012.

All work will conform to Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (IfA 2008) and be undertaken by suitably qualified staff to the highest professional standards.

2 Site description

Information held with the Historic Environment Record indicates that the development is located within the medieval historic core of Painscastle. Upper House is a grade II* listed mid fifteenth century hall-house and its western boundary abuts the scheduled ancient monument known as Painscastle Castle. The stone barns form part of the curtilage of the listing and date to the early 1800s although there have been later alterations and the two original structures have been amalgamated into one. The 1970s steel framed barns have now been demolished to their terraced concrete foundations.

It is not known whether the lane fronting the barns on the north side is original to the medieval layout of the village, but the first edition OS does show a building (now demolished, ruinous and covered in trees) in the north eastern corner of the development boundary for the four new dwellings. There may be a remnant of a street

frontage here which ran west along the frontage up to Castle farm.

3 Site specific objectives

The aims of the watching brief, as defined by the IfA (2008; revised 2011) 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

4 The proposed archaeological work

The aim of the work will be to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site. The work will include the following elements:

- A watching brief (Stage 1)
- The production of an illustrated report and the deposition of the site archive (Stage 2)

5 Method statement for watching brief (Stage 1)

General

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

All work will be carried out by a suitable qualified archaeologist with relevant level membership of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and will follow the IfA Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (2008; revised 2011).

Detailed

The Watching Brief will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist during the removal of topsoil and all other associated work (levelling, foundation excavation) where the sub-soil is likely to be exposed or cut into. The mechanical excavation will be undertaken by a machine using a toothless ditching bucket wherever possible.

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 CPAT. 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 the CPAT 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 excavation will be cleaned and labelled using an accession number, which will be obtained from the local museum. A single number sequence will be allocated to all finds. The artefacts will be stored appropriately until they are deposited with a suitable local museum.

All finds of gold and silver will be removed to a safe place and the Environment Agency, CPAT 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, CPAT 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	Tel No.
Flint	Dr Amelia Pannett	02920 899509
Animal bone	Jen Kitch	07739 093712
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall	01305 259751
Clay pipe	Hilary Major	01376 329316
Glass	Andy Richmond	01234 888800
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst	01759 368483
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy	01652 658261
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson	Bradford University
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby	01453 882851
Post Roman pottery	Mr Stephen Clarke	
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot	01388 772167
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling	University of Wales (Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham	01992 552256
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers	01443 233466

4 Post-Fieldwork Programme

Conservation

After agreement with the landowner arrangements will be made for the long term conservation and storage of all artefacts in an appropriate local or county museum.

Archive

The site archive will be prepared in accordance with MAP 2, Appendix 3 (English Heritage 1991). 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

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.

Monitoring

Any changes to the specification that the contractor may wish to make after approval will be communicated to CPAT for approval on behalf of the Planning Authority.

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

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 CPAT with the finds will be deposited with the appropriate local museum. 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.

5 Resources and timetable

Standards

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

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidelines of the IFA.

Staff

The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified AW staff.

Equipment

The project will use existing AW equipment.

Timetable of archaeological works

The watching brief will be undertaken at the convenience of the client.

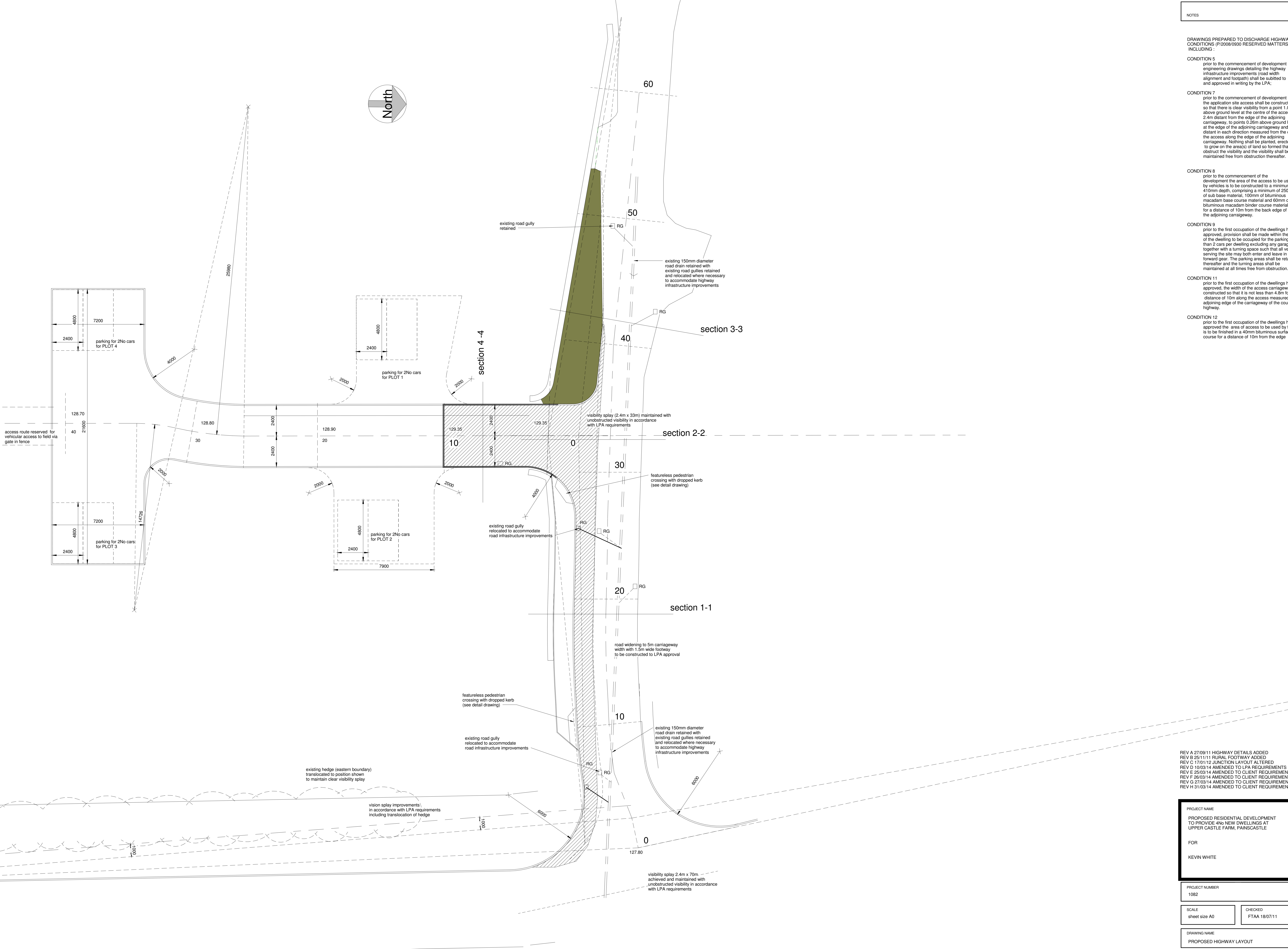
Insurance

AW is an affiliated member of the CBA, and holds Insurance through the CBA insurance service.

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.



NOTES

DRAWINGS PREPARED TO DISCHARGE HIGHWAY CONDITIONS (P/2008/0930 RESERVED MATTERS) INCLUDING:

CONDITION 5
prior to the commencement of development engineering drawings detailing the highway infrastructure improvements (road width alignment and footpath) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA.

CONDITION 7
prior to the commencement of development the application site access shall be constructed so that there is clear visibility from a point 1.05m above ground level at the centre of the access and 2.4m distant from the edge of the adjoining carriageway, to points 0.25m above ground level at the edge of the adjoining carriageway and 33m distant in each direction measured from the centre of the access along the edge of the adjoining carriageway. Nothing shall be planted, erected or allowed to grow on the area(s) of land so formed that would obstruct the visibility and the visibility shall be maintained free from obstruction thereafter.

CONDITION 8
prior to the commencement of the development the area of the access to be used by vehicles is to be constructed to a minimum 410mm depth, comprising a minimum of 250mm of sub base material, 100mm of bituminous macadam base course material and 60mm of bituminous macadam binder course material for a distance of 10m from the back edge of the adjoining carriageway.

CONDITION 9
prior to the first occupation of the dwellings hereby approved, provision shall be made within the curtilage of the dwelling to be occupied for the parking of not less than 2 cars per dwelling excluding any garage spaces provided together with a turning space such that all vehicles serving the site may both enter and leave in a forward gear. The parking areas shall be retained thereafter and the turning areas shall be maintained at all times free from obstruction.

CONDITION 11
prior to the first occupation of the dwellings hereby approved, the width of the access carriageway shall be constructed so that it is not less than 4.5m for a distance of 10m along the access measured from the adjoining edge of the carriageway of the county highway.

CONDITION 12
prior to the first occupation of the dwellings hereby approved the area of access to be used by the vehicles is to be finished in a 40mm bituminous surface course for a distance of 10m from the edge

REV A 27/09/11 HIGHWAY DETAILS ADDED
REV B 25/11/11 RURAL FOOTWAY ADDED
REV C 17/01/12 JUNCTION LAYOUT ALTERED
REV D 10/03/14 AMENDED TO LPA REQUIREMENTS
REV E 25/03/14 AMENDED TO CLIENT REQUIREMENTS
REV F 25/03/14 AMENDED TO CLIENT REQUIREMENTS
REV G 27/03/14 AMENDED TO CLIENT REQUIREMENTS
REV H 31/03/14 AMENDED TO CLIENT REQUIREMENTS

PROJECT NAME
PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE 4NO NEW DWELLINGS AT UPPER CASTLE FARM, PAINCASTLE

FOR
KEVIN WHITE

PROJECT NUMBER
1082

SCALE
sheet size A0

CHECKED
FTAA 18/07/11

DRAWING NAME
PROPOSED HIGHWAY LAYOUT

FTAA LTD
ROGER A FIELD DIP ARCH RIBA ARB
6 HIGH STREET
CRICKHOWELL
POWYS NP23 5BA
01873 812580
roger.ftaa@btinternet.com

DRAWING NUMBER
1082HIGHWAY01

REVISION NUMBER
A B C D E F G H

1 Drafting 2 vehicle turning area
1 : 100