

Archaeology Wales

Little Wern-Y-Pentre, Clyro, Powys

Archaeological Watching Brief



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Report No. 1441

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Archaeology Wales


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Archaeological Watching Brief

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Non-Technical Summary

This report results from work undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd for Mr & Mrs Mackay-Lewis, Little Wern-Y-Pentre, Clyro, Powys, HR3 5SN. It draws upon the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out during the excavation of floor levels within Little Wern-Y-Pentre farmhouse. The work necessitated the lifting of flagstones within the farmhouse and the removal of a cobbled floor within the adjacent barn. Little Wern-Y-Pentre is Grade II listed. The stone farmhouse and barn date from the eighteenth century but originated as a fifteenth century timber-framed hall-house.

The deposits encountered during the investigation significantly included layers of disturbed natural (103 & 203) within the main farmhouse and a layer of compacted natural (207) within the former hall passage-way. Layers 103 & 203 did not appear to represent former floor levels associated with the hall-house or the later farmhouse. The compacted natural (207) identified in the cross-passage may be associated with farmhouse, but is unlikely to be associated with the fifteenth century hall-house.

A small truncated pit (205) [206] was identified adjacent near the centre of the building. This may be the remains of the central hearth of the original hall-house. Alternatively, this feature is associated with the seventeenth century fireplace.

In the barn, two phases of floor were encountered; an upper floor of compacted earth and stone (304), and a lower cobbled surface (305). The floors overlay compacted natural (303) and disturbed subsoil (306) deposits. The cobbled area only extended across the eastern side of the barn, with the western boundary defined by a possible stone-lined gully. A layer of compacted natural (303) was recorded within the western part of the barn (there was no evidence to suggest this area had once been cobbled). It seems probable that the eighteenth century cow-house was located in this western part of the existing barn. The upper floor (304) has been interpreted as a later nineteenth or early/mid twentieth century levelling deposit. This appears to have provided a compacted floor for a single barn to the east of the cross-passage of the farmhouse.

1. Introduction

1.1 Location and Scope of Work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief has been carried out by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) during groundworks associated with the restoration of the historic building Little Wern-Y-Pentre (also Lower Wern-Y-Pentre), Clyro, Powys, HR3 5SN (Figures 1 & 2). The development will affect the Grade II listed farmhouse (Plate 1) and attached barn (Plate 2), which date from the eighteenth century (and originated as a fifteenth century timber-framed hall-house).
- 1.1.2 A watching brief is required during groundworks in order to record any exposed archaeological features or deposits and, in particular, to record evidence for occupation levels associated with the fifteenth century hall-house.
- 1.1.3 The scope of the development with regard to ground disturbance includes monitoring the lifting of existing floor slabs in the farmhouse. The floor level is then to be reduced in order to lay a breathable limecrete floor slab (upon which the original flags will be reset). The ground level within the adjacent barn will also be reduced;

the stone and earth floor is to be replaced with a limecrete floor. The partition subdividing the cross-passage from the former barn is to be removed (replaced by an oak timber plate, incorporated in the new floor, to physically mark where the original cross-partition would have existed). In addition, foundations are proposed to support a ceiling beam/ tie-beam in the barn and for partition walls either side of the replacement staircase.

- 1.1.4 The local planning authority is Powys County Council. The application reference for Listed Building Consent is P/2013/1036.
- 1.1.5 Archaeological work has been recommended for this scheme by Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) in its capacity as archaeological adviser to the planning authority, Powys County Council. A Specification (Appendix D) for the archaeological work was drawn up by Adrian Hadley (AW). This was subsequently approved by Mark Walters (CPAT).
- 1.1.6 The archaeological investigation was carried out at the request of Mr & Mrs Mackay-Lewis, Little Wern-Y-Pentre, Clyro, Powys, HR3 5SN.
- 1.1.7 The AW project number is 2330 and the site code is LWP/14/WB.

1.2 Topography

- 1.2.1 Little Wern-Y-Pentre is situated on the lower slopes of Clyro Hill, approximately 1.5km north of Clyro village (Figure 1). The site is located in an elevated position, set back some 40m (north) from the public road (Figure 2).
- 1.2.2 From the road to the south, the site slopes up to the house, with the ground around it and to the east is broadly level. The land rises gently behind the property to the north and west within the adjacent paddock.
- 1.2.3 The development area is located at NGR 321335, 245480 (SO 2134 4548) and is situated at approximately 245m above Ordnance Datum.

1.3 Mapped Geology

- 1.3.1 The regional geology as mapped by the British Geological Survey (1:50,000 scale) indicates that the bedrock geology is composed of interbedded mudstones and siltstones of the Raglan Mudstone Formation, dating from the Pridoli Epoch (423 +/- 1.5 to 419.2 +/- 2.8 million years ago). The superficial geology consists of glacial till of Devensian Age, the most recent glacial period of the Pleistocene (*circa* 110,000 – 12,000 BCA).
- 1.3.2 During the fieldwork, the natural subsoil was determined to be silt, derived from the Raglan Formation. No glacial deposits (clay, sand and gravel) were identified: it should be noted that the development site is located near the edge of mapped till deposits.

1.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 1.4.1 Little Wern-Y-Pentre is recorded as a Grade II listed building which originated as a cruck-framed hall-house dating from the fifteenth century (Cadw: 15333; NPRN 82253; PRN 36546 & 42380). This was converted to a stone-built farmhouse with stone tile roof and attached barn/byre in the late eighteenth century. The farmhouse is oriented on an east-west axis, the front of the house facing due south. The stone barn

is attached to the east gable of the house, and is of broadly matching depth and height. The barn is built in stone rubble with a corrugated iron roof and comprises two bays.

- 1.4.2 The hall-house was originally of four bays and five cruck-couples, consisting of a two-bay open hall with inner and outer rooms, and a cross-passage at the lower end of the hall (Figure 3). The upper portions of four substantial cruck trusses survive, defining the hall and upper room of the original house. The central arch-braced cruck-couple to the hall has a moulded soffit, cranked collar with chamfered quatrefoil and trefoils cusps. The other trusses have notched and halved collars and portions of substantial infill framing. Both the closed cruck-couples at each end of the hall are open above the collar (and smoke-blackened). This appears to have provided draught for smoke through the high window in the truncated upper-end cruck-couple or through a gablet opening.
- 1.4.3 Although the lower end cruck-couple is missing, the inside length of the present stone barn appears to repeat the original bay length when compared to other complete cruck structures. This would have formed the fourth bay of the original hall-house. The outer-room contained a first floor, as indicated by joist holes as well as a step in stonework visible internally. The cross-passage appears to be within the barn in the current configuration; however, this area would historically have formed part of the domestic space, being part of the original hall.
- 1.4.4 The existing cruck-couple partitions under the tie-beams are not original, but retain evidence of doorways related to the absence of stave holes. The present doorway through to the inner-room is clearly on the line of an early doorway.
- 1.4.5 In the seventeenth century a floor and chimney appear to have been inserted against the lower face of the ornate central arch-braced cruck-couple. The original space of the cross-passage entry was retained.
- 1.4.6 In the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century a doorway and stair were inserted at the upper end of the hall. During the same period, the north cross-passage doorway was blocked and replaced with a window (this doorway is to be reinstated). The outer room, which may have been a cow-house, also appears to have been converted to a stable (and the cross-passage entry used for storage or animals).

2. Aims and Objectives

The watching brief was undertaken to:

- Allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence or nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works to the archaeological resource;
- 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 investigate and record the archaeological remains to a satisfactory or proper standard;
- To establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

3. Methodology

3.1 Watching Brief

- 3.1.1 Prior to the work commencing, the position of the floor slabs (in the kitchen, living room and passageway) were recorded by the contractors, Jones and Fraser Limited. These were then lifted, individually numbered and stored at the rear of the building (Plate 3). The slabs were subsequently reset in their original positions over a new limecrete floor slab.
- 3.1.2. Following removal of the flagstones, the internal floor levels were excavated using a one tonne tracked mechanical excavator (Kubota K008-3) fitted with a toothless bucket. Foundations within the building for new supporting piers and internal partitions were hand excavated. The cobbled and compacted floors within the former barn were hand excavated and recorded prior to excavation by machine.
- 3.1.3. The archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with the CIfA's Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2014) and current Health and Safety legislation.
- 3.1.4 All identified deposits and features were examined and recorded during the watching brief. The sections of the excavated footings and foundation bases were photographed using a high resolution digital camera. The on-site illustrations were drawn on drafting film using recognised conventions and scales (1:10, 1:20, 1:50 and 1:100, as appropriate).
- 3.1.5 Context numbers 1-399 were allocated during the fieldwork. They were ascribed to the soil deposits and features identified during the watching brief. These contexts are summarised in Appendix C.
- 3.1.6 The fieldwork was undertaken by Adrian Hadley.
- 3.1.7 The excavation levels were related to the ceiling beam in the central living room. The site datum of 100m has been taken from the underside of this beam adjacent to the seventeenth century fireplace (the underside of the fireplace bressumer was recorded as 99.24m Site Datum).

3.2. Finds

- 3.2.1. The finds retrieved during the watching brief were bagged by context.

3.3. Palaeo-environmental Samples

- 3.3.1. No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered during the archaeological fieldwork.

4. Watching Brief Results

4.1 Area A (Figures 3 & 4)

- 4.1.1 Area A encompassed the westernmost bay of the fifteenth century hall-house. This space probably formed an inner-room adjacent to the main hall (which appears to be defined by the present timber partition for the later staircase). The room was used as

a kitchen prior to the restoration works.

- 4.1.2 The flagstones (100) within Area A were bedded on lime mortar (101), over a thin layer of redeposited subsoil (102). The latter deposit comprised a soft mid brown-orange and mid grey silt with inclusions of charcoal and clinker. This deposit was interpreted as a blinding layer. Disturbed natural (103) was encountered below the construction layers for the slab floor (Plates 4-6).
- 4.1.3 The artefacts retrieved from the blinding layer (102) largely comprised nineteenth and twentieth century glass, pottery & china. The earliest find was a clay pipe stem. In addition, two undated ferrous artefacts and modern steel objects (such as nails and screws) were recovered by metal detecting. The quantity and distribution of finds within this layer indicate that the present flagstone floor was laid or reset in the later 1900s.
- 4.1.4 The floor deposits were hand excavated down to disturbed natural (103); the latter extended across the entire area of the former kitchen (the inner-room of the fifteenth century hall-house). The deposit comprised a stiff mottled light mid brown-orange and mid grey silt with inclusions of lime mortar and charcoal. The disturbed natural was encountered at approximately 97.80m Site Datum. This deposit was cleaned and sample excavated by hand. The layer was determined to be approximately 0.05m thick.
- 4.1.5 The boundary with the underlying natural (104) was recorded as diffuse; the disturbed subsoil (103) had a similar composition and compaction. This appears to suggest that layer (103) does not represent a former earthen floor associated with the hall-house or the later farmhouse.
- 4.1.6 The subsoil (104) within Area A was excavated by some 0.20m to allow for a new floor slab. The excavation depth was recorded at approximately 97.60m Site Datum.

4.2 Area B (Figures 3, 4 & 5)

- 4.2.1 This area encompassed the central and eastern end of the eighteenth century farmhouse, which was built around the two central bays (the hall) of the fifteenth century house. The monitoring area notably included the staircase (dating from the late 1700s) and the cross-passage of the original hall (located beyond the eastern gable of the later farmhouse). This space was used as a living room and lobby prior to the restoration works. The flag floor covered this entire area.
- 4.2.2 It should be noted that the ground level within this part of the house is some 0.15m lower than Area A (Plate 7). This indicates that the floor has been partly reduced from the original level of the fifteenth century hall (and possibly the eighteenth century farmhouse).
- 4.2.3 The construction layers for the stone floor were noted to be similar to those encountered in Area A. The flagstones (200) were bedded on lime mortar (201), over a thin layer of redeposited subsoil (202). This overlay disturbed natural (203) in the former sitting room and a compacted 'dirty' natural (207) in the cross passage.
- 4.2.4 The blinding layer (202) comprised a soft mid brown-orange and mid grey silt with inclusions of charcoal and clinker, the same composition as layer (102). This deposit was thickest in the cross-passage, where the excavation depth was 0.12m. The artefacts retrieved from this layer included numerous fragments of nineteenth and twentieth century glass, pottery & china. Five ferrous artefacts as well as modern

objects (such as an aluminium ring-pull) were recovered by metal detecting. In addition, a halfpenny dating from 1945 was found below the staircase.

- 4.2.5 The floor deposits were hand excavated down to disturbed natural (203); this layer extended across the entire area of the former living room, the central area of the fifteenth century hall (Plates 8-10). The deposit comprised a stiff mottled light mid brown-orange and mid grey silt with inclusions of lime mortar and charcoal, similar to layer (103). The disturbed natural was encountered at approximately 97.70m Site Datum. This deposit was cleaned and sample excavated by hand. The layer was determined to be approximately 0.05m thick.
- 4.2.6 At the level of the disturbed subsoil (203), an irregular feature (205) [206] was identified adjacent to the large central fireplace (Plates 11-14). This feature was interpreted as a shallow pit, with a small slot at the base. The latter probably marked the position of a stone slab that measured some 0.07m wide and 0.40m long. The fill comprised redeposited natural, with inclusions of lime mortar and charcoal. The central position of the pit (205) [206] indicates this could be associated with the central hearth of the original hall-house. The reduced floor level within this part of the farmhouse would suggest this feature has been truncated; this may explain why there was no evidence for *in situ* burning. It should also be noted that the feature is positioned centrally within the later fireplace, and may in fact be near contemporary, or post-date, the construction of the seventeenth century chimney.
- 4.2.7 Within the cross passage, hand excavation of layer 202 (Plate 18) exposed a surface of compacted subsoil (207). This comprised a mid brown-grey silt, interpreted as 'dirty' natural, that was much darker than the compacted natural (203) in the adjacent living room. The compacted subsoil was encountered at approximately 97.70m Site Datum. This layer (207) potentially represents an earthen floor that once extended along the cross-passage (Plate 20). The boundary with the underlying natural (204) was diffuse, as was the boundary with the compacted natural in the adjacent room of the farmhouse (203). This layer was sample excavated by hand, but contained no finds. The compacted surface was approximately 0.05m thick.
- 4.2.8 The underlying subsoil (204), the natural, comprised a stiff mottled light-mid brown-orange and mid grey silt. The subsoil (204) was excavated some 0.25m to allow for a new floor slab (Plate 17). Foundation trenches were also excavated for renewed timber partitions supporting the staircase (Plates 15 & 16). The excavation depth for the floor slab was recorded at approximately 97.45m Site Datum.

4.3 Area C (Figures 3 & 5)

- 4.3.1 This was originally the outer-room of the fifteenth century hall-house, which was demolished when the barn was built (Plate 19). It is thought to have been used as a cow-house before being converted into stables in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century.
- 4.3.2 The barn contained an area of disturbed ground (300) [301] along the southern wall and was elsewhere covered by a modern soil layer (302), a mid brown-grey silt, some 0.1m thick, with numerous sandstone slabs and cobbles. The ground level within the former barn was up to 0.15m higher than the flagstones in the adjacent passage.
- 4.3.3 The made ground (302) was excavated by machine to expose a floor level (304) consisting of loose flags and cobbles (Plate 21) and compacted earth, a firm mottled dark grey-orange silt, derived from the subsoil. The earth floor (304) extended across the entire barn at approximately 97.80m to 97.85m Site Datum. A number of

nineteenth and twentieth century artefacts were retrieved during the hand excavation of this layer. The stone and earth floor also contained rubble from Victorian 2½ inch bricks.

- 4.3.4 A cobbled floor (305) was encountered some 0.10m below the largely earthen floor (304), at approximately 97.70m Site Datum. The floor (305) was largely incomplete and generally laid in a somewhat irregular pattern of cobbles, boulders and flagstones (Plates 22, 26 & 27). The cobbled area only extended across the eastern side of the barn, with the western boundary defined by a possible stone-lined gully. The latter appeared to be marked by a broken line of pitched stones (Plates 23-25). The 'cobbled' floor (305) was underlain by a layer of compacted and disturbed subsoil (306).
- 4.3.5 Another layer of compacted natural (303) was recorded within the western side of the barn. There was no evidence to suggest this area had been once been cobbled. This deposit (303) comprised a firm light-brown-orange and mid grey silt with charcoal inclusions. The compacted natural (303) was recorded at approximately the same height as the cobbled floor (305).
- 4.3.6 It was noted that the compacted subsoil (303) within the barn was a relatively 'clean' deposit in comparison to the compacted natural (207) within the former cross-passage (Plates 20 & 21). The compacted layer in the barn (303) does not appear to represent a floor surface associated with the eighteenth century barn (or the fifteenth century hall-house).
- 4.3.7 The compacted subsoil layers in Area C (303 & 306) were sample excavated by hand, but contained no finds. The boundary with the underlying natural (307) was noted to be diffuse.
- 4.3.8 The underlying subsoil (307) comprised a stiff mottled light-mid brown-orange and mid grey silt. The subsoil within Area C was excavated by some 0.20m to allow for a new floor slab (Plate 28). A foundation base was also excavated along the northern barn wall for a pier to support a tie-beam / ceiling beam (Plates 20 & 21). The excavation depth was recorded as approximately 97.45m Site Datum.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The soil sequence encountered during the watching brief has been related to the historic development of the property. Area A encompassed the westernmost bay of the fifteenth century hall-house. This space probably formed an inner-room adjacent to the main hall. Area B encompassed the central and eastern end of the eighteenth century farmhouse, which was built around the two central bays (the hall) of the fifteenth century house. The monitoring area included the staircase (dating from the late 1700s) and the cross-passage of the original hall. Area C originally formed the outer-room of the fifteenth century hall-house, which was demolished when the barn was built.
- 5.2 The watching brief was undertaken during the lifting of stone floors within the farmhouse and the removal of a cobbled floor within the adjacent barn. The construction layers for the floor slabs comprised flagstones (100 & 200), bedded on lime mortar (101 & 201), over a layer of redeposited subsoil (102 & 202). The floor deposits were hand excavated down to disturbed natural (103 & 203) and a layer of compacted natural (207) within the former hall passage-way. In the barn, two phases

of floor were encountered; an upper of floor of compacted earth and stone (304), and a lower cobbled surface (305). The floors overlay compacted natural (303) and disturbed subsoil (306) deposits.

- 5.3 The artefacts retrieved from the layers 102 and 202 comprised nineteenth and twentieth century glass, pottery & china as well as a number of metal objects and a halfpenny dating from 1945. The quantity and distribution of finds within this layer indicate that the present flagstone floor was laid or reset in the later 1900s. However, the residual material suggests the deposit derives from post eighteenth century activity; this is probably associated with an earlier floor.
- 5.4 Disturbed natural (103 & 203) was encountered below the construction layers for the slab floor, stratigraphically below redeposited natural (102 & 202). Layers 103 & 203 did not appear to represent former floor levels associated with the hall-house or the later farmhouse. The redeposited subsoil (202) also overlay a compacted 'dirty' natural (207) in the cross- passage. The latter may be associated with the farmhouse, pre-dating the flag floor, but is unlikely to be associated with the fifteenth century hall-house.
- 5.5 At the level of the disturbed subsoil (203), an irregular feature (205) [206] was identified adjacent to the large central fireplace. This feature was interpreted as a shallow pit, with a small slot at the base. The latter probably marked the position of a stone slab. The location of the pit (205) [206] within the building indicates this could be associated with the central hearth of the original hall-house. However, this feature could also be contemporary with the seventeenth century fireplace, within which it is centrally positioned. This pit appears to have been severely truncated, no doubt resulting from the reduction in ground level within this part of the house. The modification to floor levels is perhaps contemporary with the seventeenth century fireplace or the construction of the eighteenth century stone farmhouse.
- 5.6 Two phases of floor were encountered within the barn that once formed the outer-room of the hall-house. The upper floor comprised compacted earth and stone (304). A number of nineteenth and twentieth century artefacts were retrieved during the hand excavation of this layer. A cobbled floor (305) was encountered some 0.10m below the earthen floor (304). The cobbled area only extended across the eastern side of the barn, with the western boundary defined by a possible stone-lined gully. The 'cobbled' floor (305) was underlain by a layer of compacted and disturbed subsoil (306).
- 5.7 There was no evidence to suggest the western side of barn had once been cobbled. Here, a layer of compacted natural (303) was recorded at approximately the same height as the cobbled floor (305). This indicates that the original ground level in the eastern site of the barn had been reduced by approximately 0.10m in order to lay the cobbled surface (305). It seems probable that the eighteenth century cow-house was located in this western part of the existing barn. This may have been partitioned off from the eastern side of the barn, where the compacted natural (303) does not appear to have been significantly disturbed. The upper floor (304) has been interpreted as a later nineteenth or early/mid twentieth century levelling deposit. This appears to have been laid over a disturbed and uneven cobble floor (305), in order to create a single barn to the east of the cross-passage of the farmhouse.

6. Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance provided by the contractor, Jones and Fraser Limited (Bronllys, Powys).

7. References

Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (Archwilio):
<http://www.cofiadurcahcymru.org.uk/cpat/> (Accessed 04/05/15)

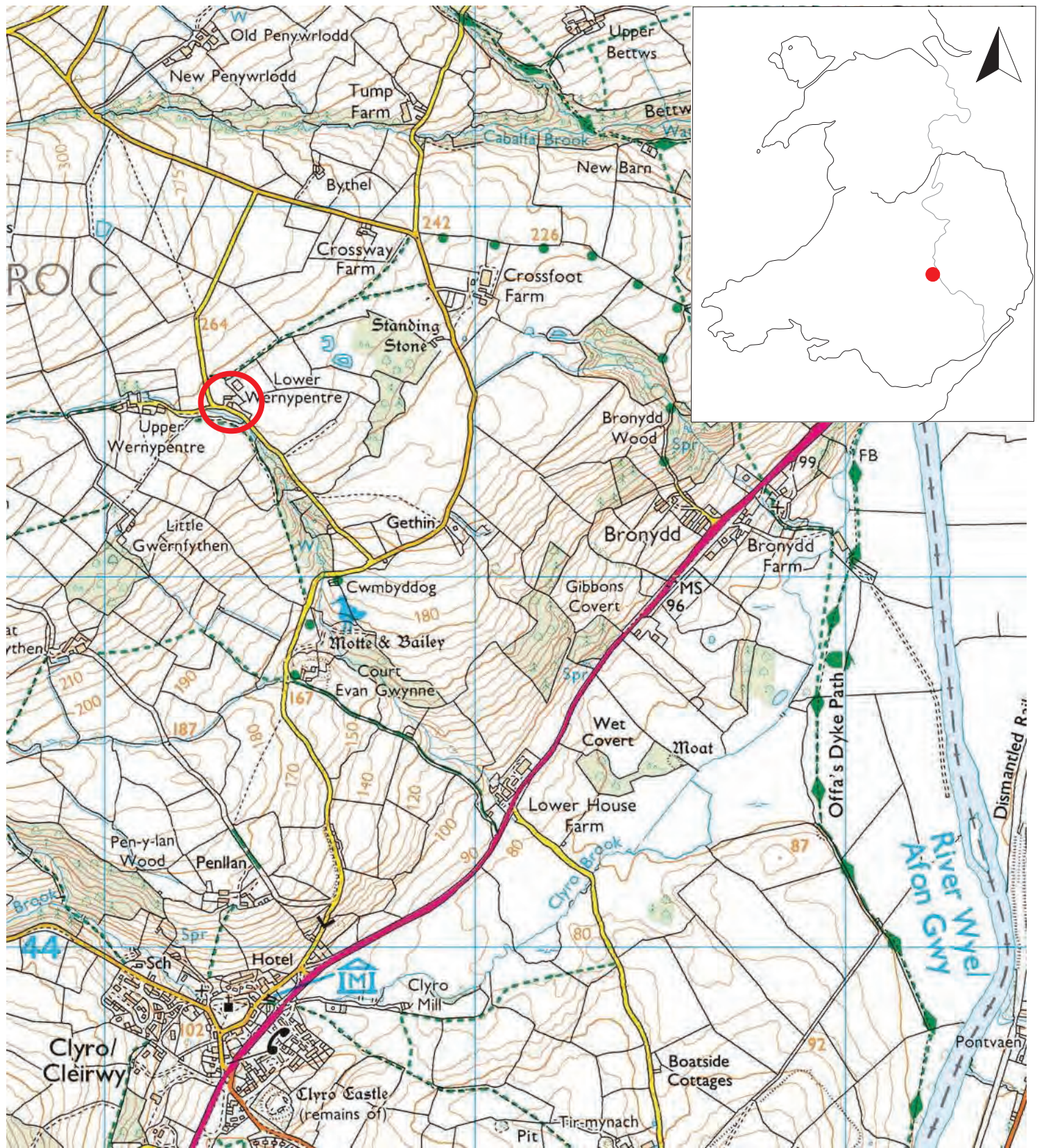
Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (Reports):
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National Monuments Record of Wales (Coflein):
<http://www.coflein.gov.uk/> (Accessed 04/05/15)

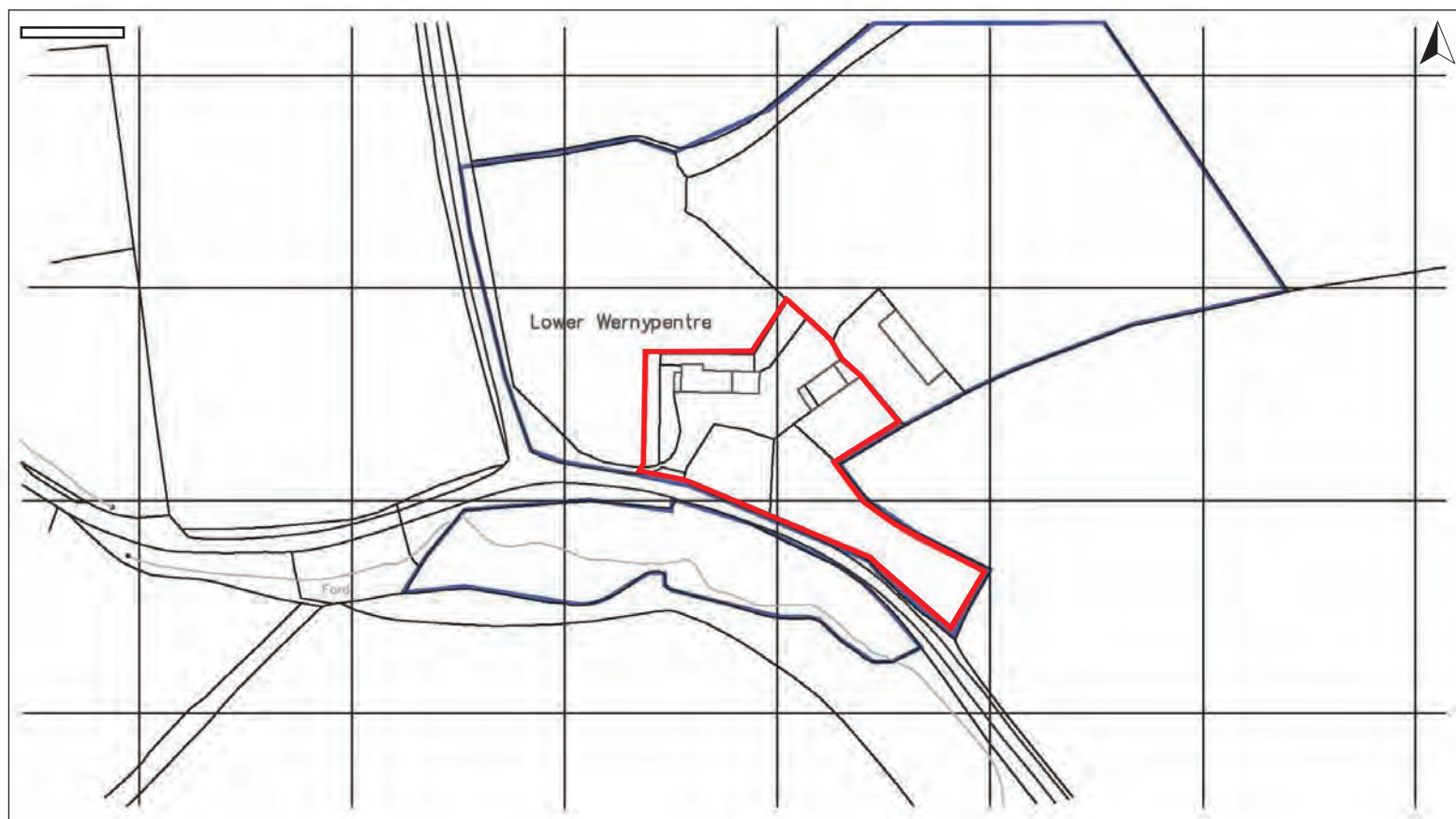
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Appendix A: Figures



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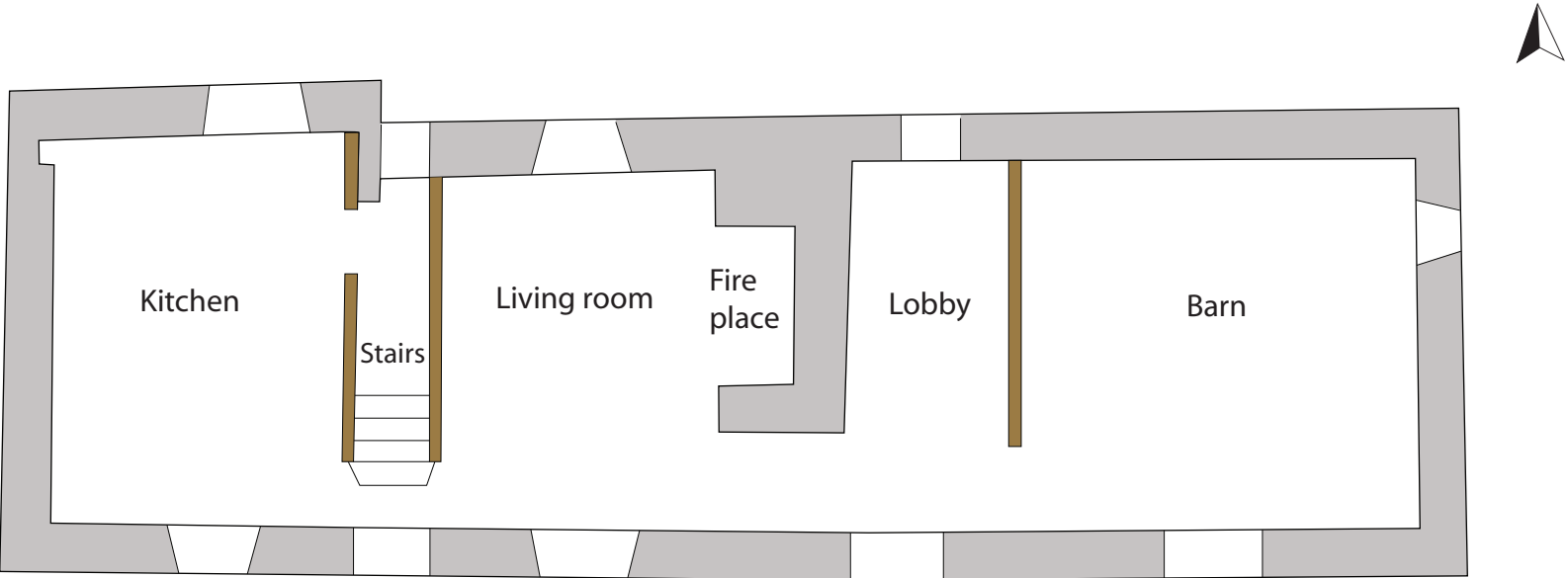
Figure 1. Location of Site



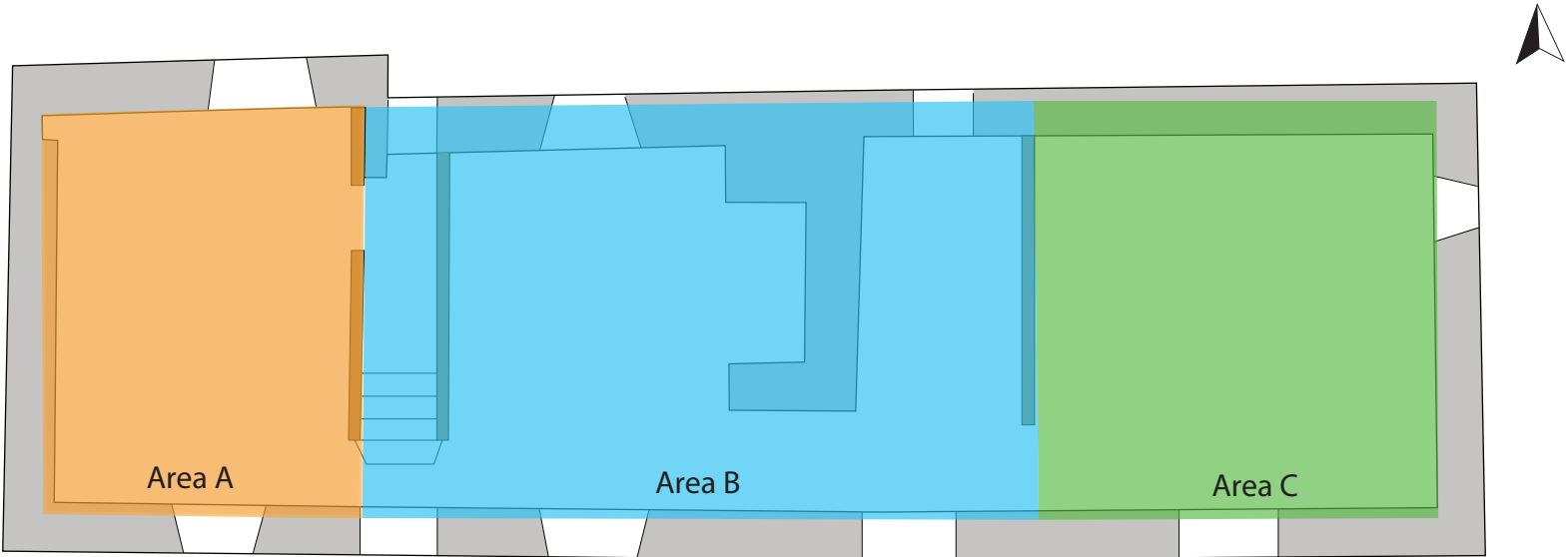
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Figure 2
Map of Development
Area

Ground floor plan of Hall-House prior to renovations



Ground floor plan showing Watching Brief Areas



Key

- Area A
15th Century Inner Room
- Area B
15th Century Hall
- Area C
15th Century Outer Room & 18th Century Barn
- Timber partitions

Job Title: Little Wern-Y-Pentre, Clyro

Drawing Title: Ground Floor Plan

Date: January 2016

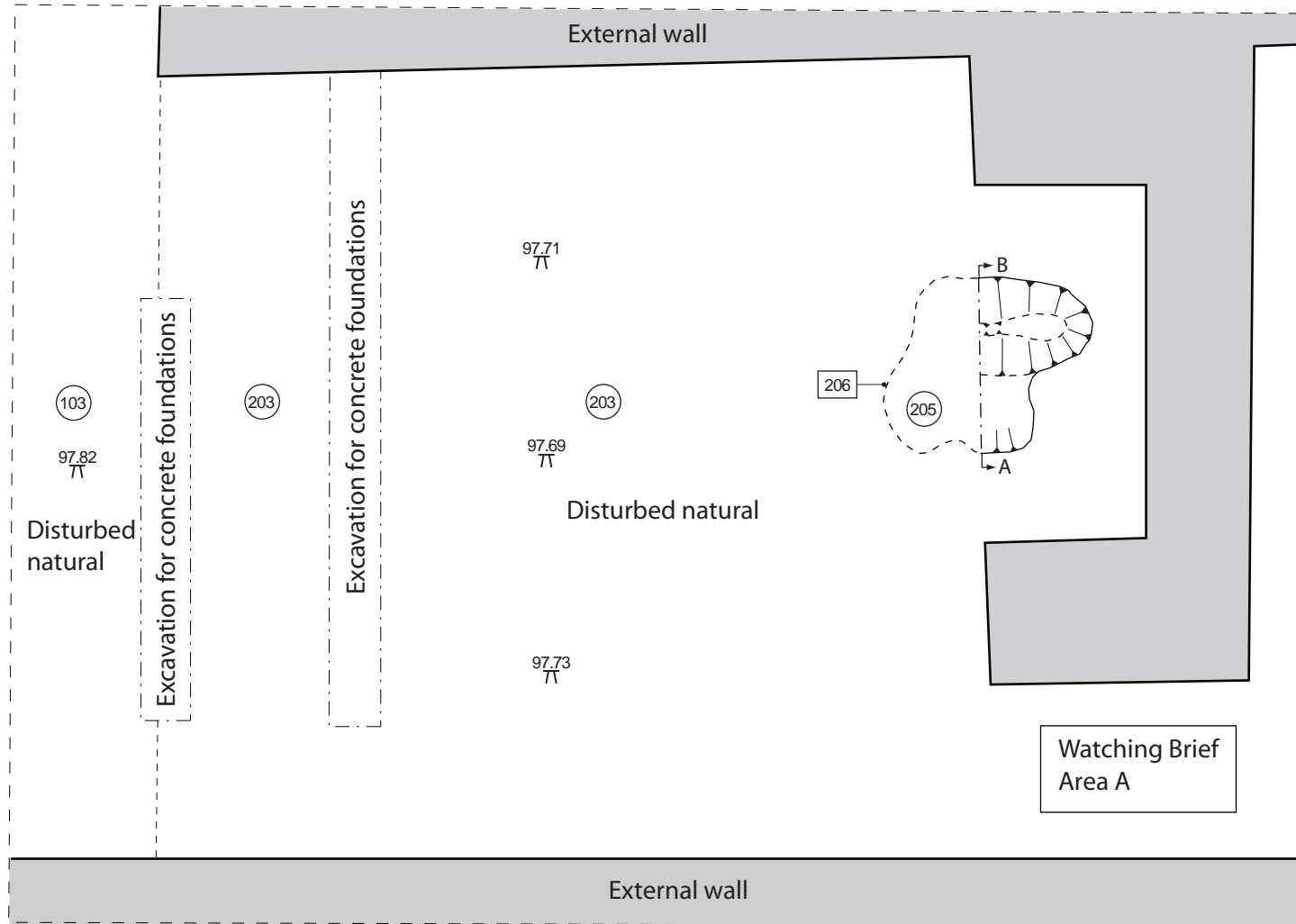
Drawn By: ILB

Scale: 1 : 100 @ A3

Figure 3



Plan of 15th Century Hall-House



East facing section of feature [206]

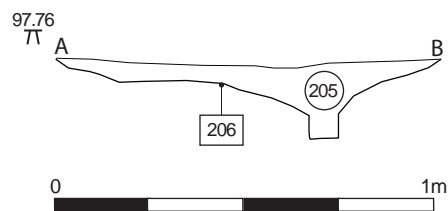
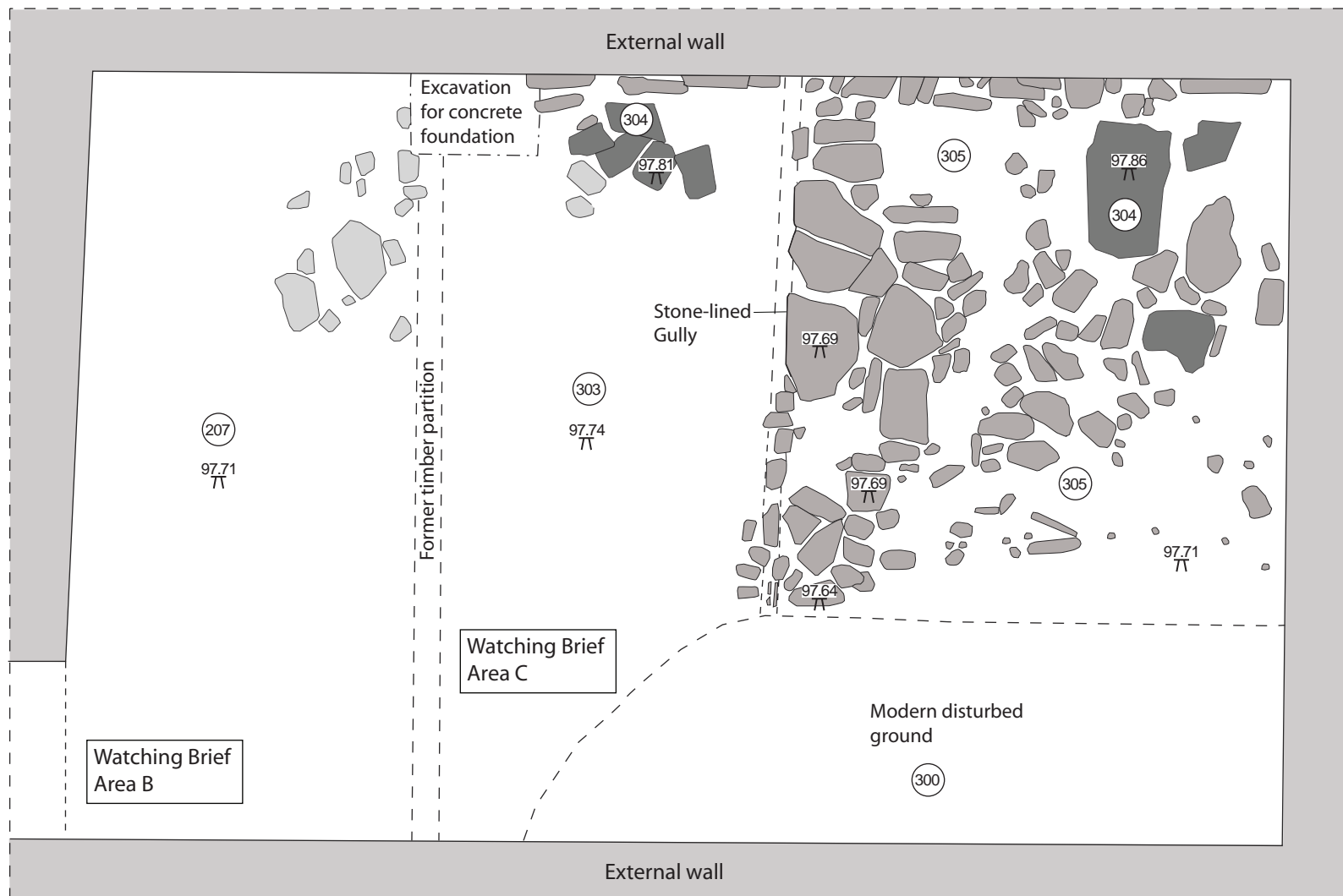


Figure 4
Plan of 15th Century
Hall-House



Plan of 15th Century cross passage and 18th Century barn



Key

- Earth and stone floor of 19th Century Barn (304)
- Stone floor of 18th Century Cowhouse (305)
- Stone within compacted natural (207) (303)

Figure 5
Plan of 15th Century cross passage and 18th Century barn

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Appendix B: Plates



Plate 1. General view of Little Wern-y-Pentre. The 18th century (or earlier) stone-built farmhouse originated as a late 15th century timber-framed hall-house. Looking North.



Plate 2. View of the 18th century (or earlier) stone barn to the east of the farmhouse. This replaced the 'outer-room' of the 15th century hall-house. Looking NW.



Plate 3. Working shot of the stone flags being lifted within the 'inner-room' (west wall) of the former hall-house. The flagstones (100) were bedded on lime mortar (101), above blinding material (102). Looking North.



Plate 4. The south-west corner of the 'inner-room', showing a layer of disturbed natural (103) encountered below the blinding material (102). Looking West.



Plate 5. The layer of disturbed natural (103) within the north-west corner of the 'inner-room'. Looking North-West.



Plate 6. View along the northern wall of the 'inner-room', showing layer 103. Looking North-North-West.



Plate 7. Looking across the (reinstated) 18th or 19th century entrance to the farmhouse (on the south elevation). Looking West.



Plate 8. A deposit of disturbed natural (203) located across the (former) north-west corner of the 15th century hall. This was encountered below the slab floor (200), mortar bedding (201) and uncompact blinding material (202). The 17th century ceiling beams of the farmhouse as well as the (later) stud partition to the stairs are also shown on the photograph. Looking North-West.



Plate 9. General view of layer (203) within the former hall. Looking North.



Plate 10. The layer of disturbed natural (203) recorded at the north-east corner of the 17th century farmhouse (located within the area of the 15th century hall). Looking North-East.



Plate 11. The 17th century fireplace located on the eastern side of the former hall. Looking East.



Plate 12. Pre-excavation shot of an irregular feature (205) [206] located directly to the west of the fireplace. Looking East.



Plate 13. Post-excavation shot of feature (205) [206]. Looking East.

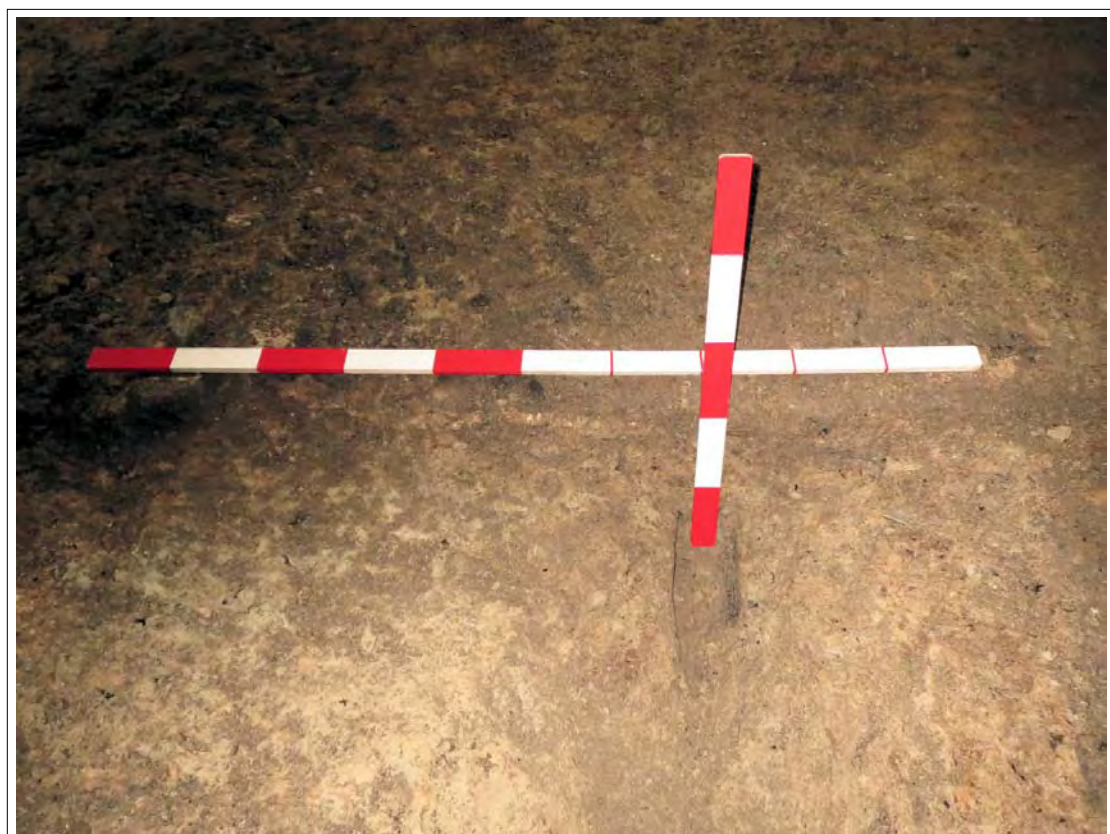


Plate 14. East-facing section of feature [206], with shallow sides leading to an off-centre slot that potentially marks the former position of a stone slab. Looking West.



Plate 15. Foundations for the western timber partition supporting the staircase (as located within the 18th century farmhouse). A partition at this location formerly divided the 15th century hall and the 'inner-room'). Looking South-East.



Plate 16. Foundations for the eastern timber partition supporting the staircase (as located within the 18th century farmhouse). This area was formerly located within the 15th century hall. Looking South-East.



Plate 17. Excavation of internal floor levels (203) (204) within the former hall to allow for a new floor slab. Looking East.



Plate 18. Working shot of excavations within the former cross passage of the hall-house. The deposits below the slab floor (200) comprised mortar bedding (201), blinding material (202) and a compacted floor surface of 'dirty' natural (207). Looking North.



Plate 19. Pre-excavation shot of the barn interior, east of the farmhouse. The barn was formerly separated from the hall cross-passage by a timber partition. Looking North-East.



Plate 20. Compacted floor layers associated with the former cross passage (207) and barn (303), shown to the left and right of the photograph, respectively. Looking North.



Plate 21. The northern wall of the 18th century (and later) barn, showing two potential phases of stone and earth floors (304) (305) above compacted natural (303). Looking North.



Plate 22. Overall post-excavation shot of the remains of stone and earth floors (304) (305) associated with the former barn. Looking East.



Plate 23. The western edge of the (eastern) barn floor (305). This may have been defined by a stone-lined gully, which is potentially marked by a broken line of pitched stones. Looking North.



Plate 24. General view of the edge of the 'cobbled' floor (305), set within/above a layer of disturbed natural (306). Looking North.



Plate 25. Detail of the 'cobbled' floor (305) towards the southern barn wall. Looking North



Plate 26. Post-excavation shot of the stone floors (304) (305) at the centre of the barn. Looking North.



Plate 27. Post-excavation shot of the stone floors (304) (305) along the eastern edge of the barn. Looking North.



Plate 28. Excavation of internal floor levels (306) (307) within the former barn to allow for a new floor slab. Looking South-South-East.

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Appendix C: Context Summary Table

CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE					
Context	Identifier	Type	Description	Depth	Interpretation
100	Structure	Floor	Sandstone flag stones.	0.025m – 0.06m	Stone Floor (20 th Century)
101	Deposit	Layer	Hard lime mortar containing mid-dark brown-orange sand. Inclusions of cinder fragments.	0.01m – 0.04m	Mortar Bedding for Flags (20 th Century)
102	Deposit	Infill	Soft mid brown-orange and mid grey silt with some fine and medium subangular to subrounded sandstone gravel (redeposited subsoil). Inclusions of charcoal and clinker fragments and lime mortar. Finds of animal bone and 19 th / 20 th century glass, stoneware & china, a single 18 th / 19 th century clay-pipe stem (residual) as well as two iron artefacts.	0.01m – 0.04m	Blinding for Stone Floor (20 th Century)
103	Deposit	Layer	Stiff mottled light-mid brown-orange and mid grey silt with much fine gravel and occasional medium gravel. Gravel is subangular to subrounded sandstone. Inclusions of lime mortar, and some fine and medium charcoal fragments.	< 0.05m	Disturbed Subsoil (17 th - 20 th Century)
104	Deposit	Layer	Stiff mottled light-mid brown-orange and mid grey silt with much fine gravel and occasional medium gravel. Gravel is subangular to subrounded sandstone. No inclusions.	> 0.30m	Natural Subsoil (Geological Deposit)
200	Structure	Floor	Sandstone flag stones.	0.025m – 0.06m	Stone Floor (20 th Century)

Context	Identifier	Type	Description	Depth	Interpretation
201	Deposit	Layer	Hard lime mortar containing mid-dark brown-orange sand. Some 'short-mix' soft mortar comprising lime and mid brown-orange silt (subsoil).	0.01m – 0.04m	Mortar Bedding for Flags (20 th Century)
202	Deposit	Infill	Soft mid brown-orange and mid grey silt with some fine and medium subangular to subrounded sandstone gravel (redeposited subsoil). Some sand and soot within fireplace. Inclusions of charcoal and clinker fragments and lime mortar. Finds of animal bone and 19 th / 20 th century bottle glass, window glass, stoneware & china, as well as five iron artefacts. Finds also include a 1945 halfpenny and a modern aluminium ring-pull.	0.02m – 0.12m	Blinding for Stone Floor (20 th Century)
203	Deposit	Layer	Stiff mottled light-mid brown-orange and mid grey silt with much fine gravel and occasional medium gravel. Gravel is subangular to subrounded sandstone. Inclusions of lime mortar, and some fine and medium charcoal fragments.	< 0.05m	Disturbed Subsoil (17 th - 20 th Century)
204	Deposit	Layer	Stiff mottled light-mid brown-orange and mid grey silt with much fine gravel and occasional medium gravel. Gravel is subangular to subrounded sandstone. No inclusions.	> 0.30m	Natural Subsoil (Geological Deposit)
205	Deposit	Fill	Firm mottled mid brown-orange and mid grey silt with much fine gravel and occasional medium gravel. Gravel is subangular to subrounded sandstone. Inclusions of lime mortar, charcoal and flat irregular sandstone cobbles (up to 0.10m).	0.22m	Fill of Feature [205] (15 th - 17 th Century)

Context	Identifier	Type	Description	Depth	Interpretation
206	Cut	Irregular Pit	Recorded as approximately 1.02m (N-S) and 1.20m (E-W). Sides are convex / irregular at 20-30 degrees to north and south, and <i>circa</i> 70 degrees to the east. Base contained slot some 0.07m wide and 0.06m deep, extending east-west over 0.4m.	0.22m	Construction for Possible Hearth (15 th - 17 th Century)
207	Deposit	Floor	Stiff mid brown-grey silt with some fine and medium subangular to subrounded sandstone. Occasional sandstone cobbles and boulders.	< 0.05m	Compacted Subsoil (17 th - 20 th Century)
300	Deposit	Infill	Uncompact mid brown-grey silt with some sandstone cobbles.	< 0.20m	Infill of Intrusion [301] (20 th Century)
301	Cut	Intrusion	Recorded as approximately 1.4m (north-south) and 4.8m (east-west). Modern intrusion along southern side of barn.	< 0.20m	Intrusion into Barn Floor (20 th Century)
302	Deposit	Layer	Uncompact mid brown-grey silt with some sandstone cobbles. Soil layer overlying stone floors of former barn.	< 0.10m	Made Ground (20 th Century)
303	Deposit	Layer	Firm mottled light-mid brown-orange and mid grey silt with some fine and medium subangular to subrounded sandstone. Inclusions of charcoal.	< 0.10m	Compacted Subsoil (17 th - 20 th Century)
304	Structure	Floor	Subangular and subrounded cobbles, boulders and flags of sandstone (up to 0.85m) within a soil matrix of firm mottled dark grey-orange silt with occasional fine and medium subangular to subrounded sandstone. Occasional 19 th and 20 th brick fragments and rubble. Finds of 19 th / 20 th century stoneware & china.	< 0.10m	Stone & Earth Floor (19 th - 20 th Century)

Context	Identifier	Type	Description	Depth	Interpretation
305	Structure	Floor	Irregular pattern of subangular and subrounded cobbles, boulders and flags of sandstone (up to 0.65m).	< 0.10m	Cobble Floor (17 th - 19 th Century)
306	Deposit	Layer	Stiff mottled light-mid brown-orange and mid grey silt with occasional fine and medium gravel. Gravel is subangular to subrounded sandstone. Inclusions of charcoal fragments.	< 0.05m	Disturbed Subsoil (17 th - 19 th Century)
307	Deposit	Layer	Stiff mottled light-mid brown-orange and mid grey silt with much fine gravel and occasional medium gravel. Gravel is subangular to subrounded sandstone. No inclusions.	> 0.20m	Natural Subsoil (Geological Deposit)

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Appendix D: Specification

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SPECIFICATION
FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT
Little Wern-Y-Pentre, Clyro,
Powys

Prepared for:

Mr & Mrs Mackay-Lewis
Little Wern-Y-Pentre, Clyro, Powys, HR3 5SN

5th May 2015

Archaeology Wales Limited
Rhos Helyg, Cwm Belan, Llanidloes,
Powys, SY18 6QF
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Non Technical Summary

This Specification details the proposal for an archaeological Watching Brief during groundworks associated with the excavation of internal floor levels at Little Wern-Y-Pentre, Clyro, Powys. The specification has been prepared by Archaeology Wales Ltd on behalf of the property owners, Mr & Mrs Mackay-Lewis

1. Introduction and Archaeological Background

The application area is located within the buildings complex at Little Wern-Y-Pentre, Clyro, Powys (NGR SO 2134 4548).

The development will affect a Grade II listed house and barn which dates from the 15th century and originated as a cruck-framed hall-house (Cadw Ref: 15333; NPRN 82253; PRN 42380).

Little Wern-Y-Pentre is situated on the lower slopes of Clyro Hill, approximately 1.5km north of Clyro village. This building originated as a hall-house, but has been re-fronted, and appears to have been converted to a cottage with an attached barn or byre in the late 18th century. The upper portions of four substantial cruck trusses survive, defining the two-bay hall and upper room of the original house. The roof is covered in stone tiles. There was probably a further bay at the lower end which was demolished when the adjoining barn was built (some of the roof timbers of the adjoining barn may be re-used crucks from this portion. The barn is built in stone rubble with a corrugated iron roof and comprises two bays.

Listed Building Consent has been granted in order to restore and extend this building subject to a programme of archaeological work (Application Ref: P/2013/1036).

The schedule of works to be undertaken at Little Wern-Y-Pentre includes lifting the existing flagstones in the house (and any floor/surface in the adjacent barn). The internal ground level is to be reduced in order to install insulation and a breathable limecrete slab (upon which the original flags will be reset). A Watching Brief is required during groundworks in order to record any exposed archaeological features or deposits, and in particular evidence for occupation levels associated with the medieval hall-house.

This Specification has been prepared by Adrian Hadley of Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of Mr & Mrs Peter Mackay-Lewis, Little Wern-Y-Pentre, Clyro, Powys, HR3 5SN. This document provides information on the methodology which will be employed by AW during the archaeological Watching Brief at the site.

The methodology set out in this Specification has been agreed with Mark Walters, Development Control Officer with the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT).

2 Site Specific Objectives

The aims of the Watching Brief, as defined by the ClfA (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 Watching Brief Methodology

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 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 during the excavation of the existing internal floors. The excavation will be undertaken by hand or by a machine using a toothless ditching bucket. All excavation will be controlled and under the supervision of the attending archaeologist.

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 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. The site plan will be tied in to the OS survey grid.

Photographs will be taken in digital format, using a high-resolution digital camera (greater than 10MP) with photographs stored in Tiff format. Should significant remains be identified that require excavation, photographs will also be taken in black and white 35mm film or 35mm colour slide, as appropriate, to the requirements of CPAT.

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 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 and/or 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 MORPHE, (Historic England, 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 local museum.

Reporting

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

- 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 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 recorded contexts, samples, finds, 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 post-excavation work.

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 CIfA.

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. No start date has yet been set.

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.

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Appendix E: Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Little Wern-Y-Pentre, Clyro, Powys, HR3 5SN

Site Name:	Little Wern-Y-Pentre
Site Code:	LWP/15/WB
Grade II Listed Building:	Cadw: 15333
NPRN:	82253
PRN:	36546 & 42380
NGR:	321335, 245480
Site Type:	Historic Building
Project Type:	Watching Brief
Project Manager:	Mark Houliston
Project Dates:	June 2015
Categories Present:	Post-Medieval / Modern
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of duplicate Archives:	-
Number of Finds Boxes:	-
Location of Finds:	-
Museum Reference:	-
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to access:	None

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