

Excavations at Land Adjacent to Long Entry, Llansadurnen, Carmarthenshire

Watching Brief Report

NGR: SN 28166 10226

Planning #: W/30800

Project #: AD003

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Watching Brief, Land Adjacent to Long Entry, Llansadurnen, Carm

Watching Brief Report

Summary

ArchaeoDomus Archaeological & Heritage Services was commissioned by Andrew and Susan Arthur to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation and undertake a Watching Brief during excavations for a single dwelling house at Land Adjacent to Long Entry, Llansadurnen.

Planning permission (W/30800) was granted on 9th October 2014 for the 'Siting of a detached dwelling house'. With permission Archaeological Conditions were set by Carmarthenshire Planning Authority for a programme of archaeological work, with a minimum requirement of a watching brief.

The Watching Brief was undertaken on 25th February and 20th October 2015, and completing on 19th May 2016, where the excavation of the raft foundation, service trenches and septic tank were monitored for archaeological deposits. Field scatter in the form of small pieces of pot, clay pipe and china were found across the site, which are likely to have been disbursed through ploughing or harrowing. No archaeological deposits were found during the course of excavation.

Acknowledgements

With thanks to Andrew and Susan Arthur for commissioning this report and being so accommodating during the course of this work.

Abbreviations used in this report

DAT-DM	- Dyfed Archaeological Trust Development Management
HER	- Historic Environment Record; sites recorded and held by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts.
LPA	- Local Planning Authority.
NGR	- National Grid Reference.
NMR	- National Monuments Record.
NPRN	- National Primary Record Number; sites recorded by the Royal Commission and Ancient Monuments of Wales
OS	- Ordnance Survey.
RCAHMW	- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

All other abbreviations will be referred to in text.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project

1.1.2 ArchaeoDomus was commissioned by Andrew and Susan Arthur to undertake watching brief during groundworks to erect a single dwelling house.

1.1.3 All groundworks were observed by a qualified archaeologist and amounted to:-

- Foundation raft excavation
- Service trenches
- septic tank
- Site levelling and clearance

1.1.4 The site lies opposite St Sadwrn Church (**NPRN 300152; PRN 3910 / 17352**) and churchyard (**PRN 49304**). The church, rebuilt in 1859, occupies the site of an older Medieval church.

1.1.5 Development was granted on 9th October 2014, under planning number **W/30800**, with condition for a programme of archaeological works, to include an archaeological watching brief.

1.1.6 The fieldwork was commenced on 25th February 2015 and concluded on 19th May 2016, in accordance with the guidance given by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* and the methodology as specified in the WSI.

1.2 Site and Location

1.2.1 The site sits c.124m above sea level and is located on the south facing slope of a hill rising from sea level, overlooking Laugharne Marsh, and surmounted by Ordnance Survey Trig Point SN41/4. Land Adjacent to Long Entry is bounded on to the north by an unnamed road, the opposite side of which lies St Sadwrn church and churchyard. The east and west of the site are bounded by dwellings and the south by enclosed pasture.

1.2.2 The plot for development is situated in the north-west corner of the c. 2 acre field, with access provided by the existing entry. (**Appendix 1**)

1.2.3 The local bedrock is a Devonian and Silurian sandstone deposit known as the Milford Haven Group (BGS) with no superficial Quaternary deposits recorded (BGS), and a soil layer of a medium silty loam (UKSO).



Fig. 1 - Llansadurnen. Ordnance Survey 1:15,000 to 1:30,000 VectorMap District.
 Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2016



Fig. 2 - Site Location. Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 Street View.
 Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2016

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.2 A historic environment search to a radius of 1.5km was undertaken and showed there to be 1 Scheduled Ancient Monument, 6 Listed Buildings, plus 49 sites registered by the National Monuments Record and 67 by the Regional Historic Environment Record.

2.2 Designated and Undesignated Sites

2.2.1 Land Adjacent to Long Entry occupies a site across an unnamed road from St Sadurnen Church and Churchyard, which is Grade II Listed (**23849; Appendix 3**) as a 19th century church retaining evidence of pre-Conquest and Medieval origins.

Parc-y-Cerrig Sanctaidd, a cross-incised Early Medieval stone (**NPRN 275687; PRN 9941; Cadw CM136**), was uncovered c. 1.2km to the north east in 1890, contained within a small stone walled enclosure. A well preserved Medieval Open Field System (**NPRN 308928**) lies c. 700 metres to the east, with around 1 square kilometre surviving. To the south the fortified hilltop of Coygan Camp (**NPRN 107373; PRN 3853**), was once the location of a Roman Defensive position and later 6th century settlement, which has now been destroyed through quarrying. The hilltop has also been the location of Mesolithic small finds.

2.2.2 No previous archaeological remains or deposits have been excavated within 1km of the site. However, within 1.5km Coygan Camp was excavated before mining operations commenced in 1963-4.

2.2.3 Heritage Assets identified within the immediate area are:
St Sadurnen Church and Churchyard - PRN: 49304 - SN 28160 10260
Parc-y-Cerrig Sanctaidd - PRN: 9941 - SN 26966 10627
Robin Leys - PRN: 22339 - SN 2813 1018
Longhill - PRN: 22338 - SN 2775 0995
Broadway - PRN: 22346 - SN 2868 0973
Rectory Farm - PRN: 15036 - SN 2816 1030

2.3 Archaeology and History

2.3.1 Land Adjacent to Long Entry has been identified by DAT-DM as a site with archaeological potential due to its relationship to St Sadurnen Church and Churchyard, and its central location within the village of Llansadurnen. The site shows no obvious signs of previous development or dwelling, with local memory suggesting it has always been a field, however the potential for archaeological deposits remains unknown.

2.3.2 The field now known as Long Entry, is first shown and undeveloped, although not named, on the Ordnance Survey Surveyors Map of 1811. The surrounding field system was established sometime between 1811 when the Ordnance Survey map was drafted and the Tithe Map of 1842. Between 1811 and 1842 the north-west corner of Long Entry has been created as a garden (Tithe Number 155) associated with an unnamed Cottage and Garden, rented by John Beynon and from by Morrice Hughes, at a rent of £0. 2s 6d. This boundary is still present by into the late 19th century, where it appears on the on the First Edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1888 (fig. 3.), but is gone by the 1907 revision.

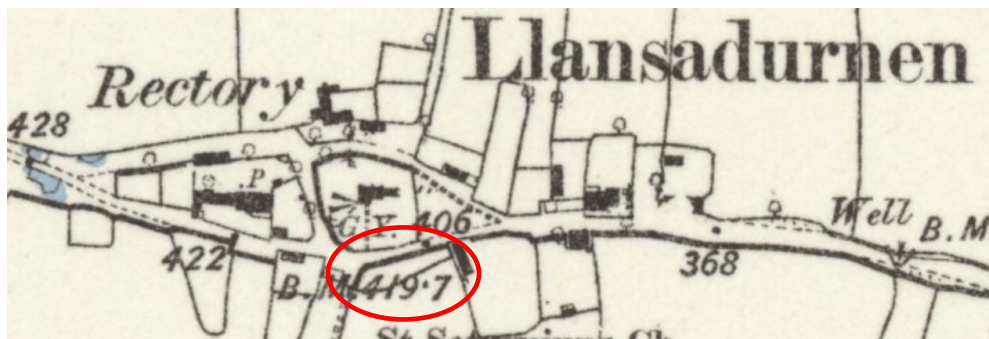


Fig. 3 - OS Six-inch to One Mile Map, First Edition - Carmarthenshire XLV.SW
National Library of Scotland. All rights reserved 2016.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 Undertake a watching brief during all groundworks and excavations for the development of the plot to provide a single dwelling house, as specified in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ArchaeoDomus 2015):-
- To identify and record any potential archaeological remains during the excavation of a service trench.
 - Determine the significance of any archaeological remains present.
- 3.1.2 To compile any findings into a report for submission to the client and LPA to fulfil their planning obligations.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 All archaeological works has been conducted by a qualified archaeologist in accordance with the methodology set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ArchaeoDomus 2015) and in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for a Watching Brief* from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

4.2 Fieldwork

- 4.2.1 During the watching brief the following excavations were monitored for archaeological deposits (**Appendix 1**):-
- Foundation pad.
 - Service trenches for electricity and water.
 - Ground levelling.
 - septic tank and associated trenches.
- 4.2.2 All excavations were undertaken using a 3, 8 or 13 tonne 360° excavators with a toothless bucket until parent material reached.
- 4.2.3 The excavation was carried out under archaeological supervision until it was apparent that the required level had been reached. Excavated material was inspected for finds.

4.3 Recording

- 4.3.1 A digital photographic record was maintained throughout with a Canon EOS 500D 15.1 megapixel digital camera, with a Canon EFS 18-200mm lens.
- 4.3.2 Any finds record will be recorded and stored with the site archive, unless otherwise specified.

4.4 Health and Safety

- 4.4.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work Act 1974* and Health and Safety Advice in Archaeology (BAJR 2005).

5 FIELDWORK RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.2 In this section the results of the watching brief are presented. The location of the excavations is shown in **Appendix 1** and the photographic archive in **Appendix 2**.

5.2 Stratigraphy

- 5.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence has been disturbed by ploughing, causing the loss of distinctive boundaries between the top and subsoil layers in areas. In recent years the field has been used as pasture, allowing a layer of humus to form. Soil depth varied across the site, with an average depth of 40cm.
- 5.2.2 Resulting from the, the sequence comprises a thin humus layer, partial topsoil, subsoil, weathered rock, and a bedrock red Silurian/Devonian sandstone, with copper ore (malachite) inclusions.

5.3 Archaeological Result

- 5.3.1 The watching brief was undertaken on 25th February 2015, 10th October 2015 and 19th May 2016, during all excavations in as outlined 4.2.1.
- 5.3.2 The area of the watching brief comprised Land Adjacent to Long Entry, an open field to the south of St Sadurnen Church and Churchyard, measuring approximately 2 acres. The topsoil was stripped by machine (**101**) before the removal of the subsoil (**102**) and weathered rock layers (**103**).
- 5.3.3 *No archaeological deposits, features or remains* were observed during the watching brief.
- 5.3.4 A small finds assemblage was recovered from the excavated topsoil (**101**). These finds have been rapidly assessed and recorded by ArchaeoDomus and presented in the table below.

Context	Material	No.	Wt (g.)	Comments
101	Animal Bone	2	36	Fragments of animal bone, unidentifiable
101	China	42	169	19 th and early 20 th century china, largely blue and white ware.
101	Glass	4	65	19 th and 20 th century glassware, inc. Bovril pot.
101	Clay Pipe	5	30	Early 19 th century clay pipe, inc. complete pipe bowl.
101	Pottery	20	530	Medieval, Medieval coarseware, early post-medieval and post medieval.

5.3.5 Given the unstratified nature of the finds, no further work has been taken on them. The finds will be retained and form a part of the Project Archive.

5.3.4 No evidence for the garden boundary shown on the 1842 Tithe Map or 1888 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map was found during the course of excavation, which has been lost through ploughing.

5.4 Environmental

5.4.1 No environmental deposits for sampling were identified during the watching brief.

6 CONCLUSION

6.1 The watching brief demonstrated that, although the topsoil in Land Adjacent to Long Entry contained low levels of medieval and post-medieval material, no archaeological features or deposits were present on site.

6.1.2 This demonstrates that Land Adjacent to Long Entry has not been a developed or inhabited site, despite its proximity to St Sadurnen Church and Churchyard. It is likely that the field has been used for cultivation and pasture, with the field scatter and abrasion of finds demonstrating that the field had been ploughed, harrowed and manured; confirmed by memory within the village.

7 ARCHIVING

7.1 The results of the watching brief is a written report and a photographic archive. This will be held by ArchaeoDomus Archaeological & Heritage Services and will be deposited with the regional HER with DAT-DM and a further copy to the RCAHMW for archiving. Field notes will be stored by ArchaeoDomus. A PDF copy of the report will be made available from www.archaeodomus.co.uk.

8 SOURCES

8.1 Online Sources

British Geological Survey: www.bsg.ac.uk

Accessed: November 2015

UK Soil Observatory: www.ukso.org.uk

Accessed: November 2015

RCAHMW: www.coflein.gov.uk

Accessed: May 2016

Historic Wales: www.historicwales.gov.uk

Accessed: May 2016

Cynefin Project - The Tithe Maps of Wales: www.cynefin.archiveswales.org.uk

Accessed: May 2016

British Listed Buildings: www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk

Accessed: May 2016

Archwilio: www.cofiadurcahcymru.org.uk

Accessed: January 2015 & May 2016

8.2 Map

OS Six-inch to One Mile Map, First Edition 1888 - Carmarthenshire XLV.SW

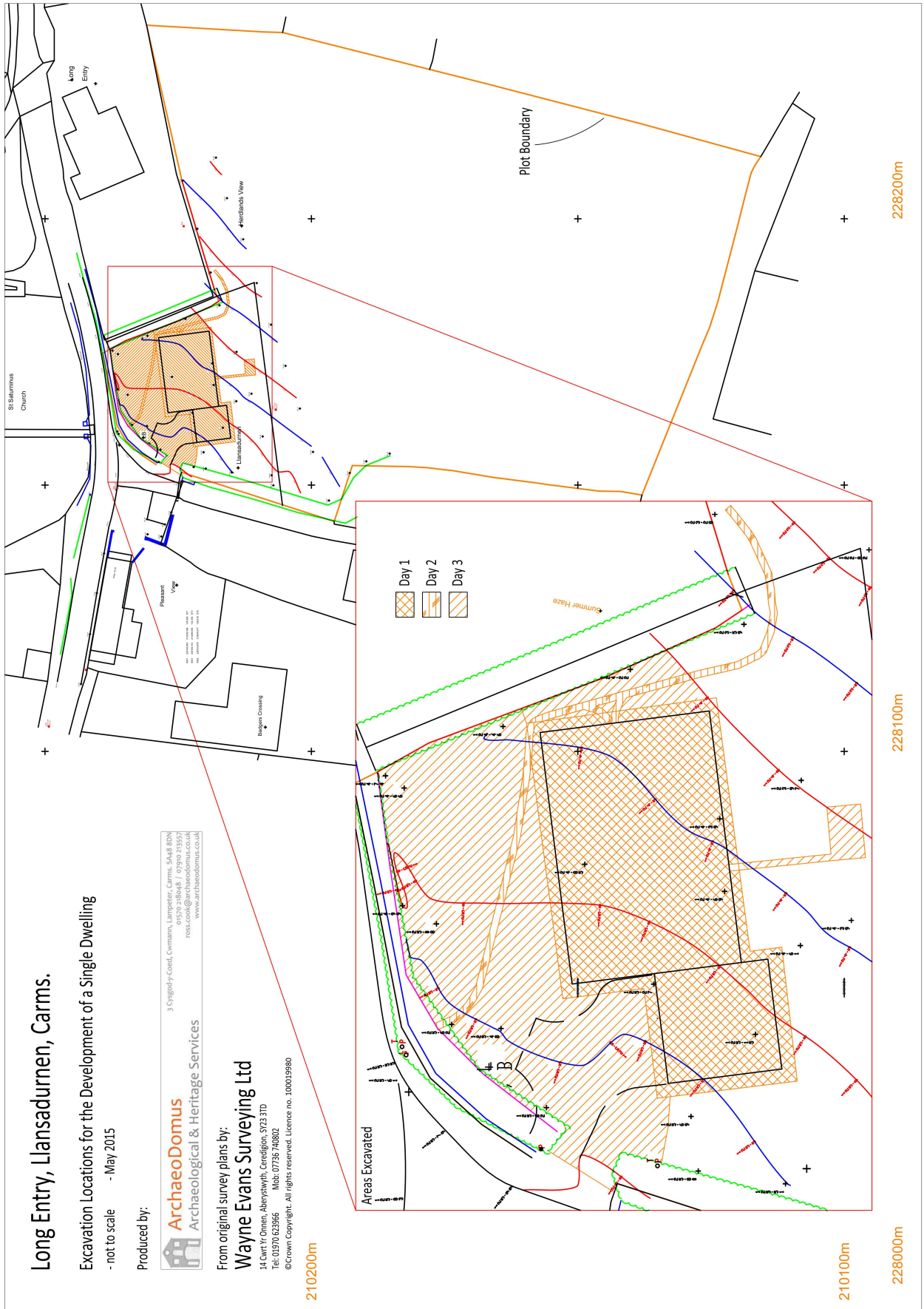
OS Six-inch to One Mile Map, Second Edition 1907 - Carmarthenshire XLV.SW

OS Six-inch to One Mile Map, Provisional Edition 1953 - Carmarthenshire XLV.SW

Ordnance Survey Surveyors Drawing, 1811

Source: www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/ordsurvdraw

Appendix 1 - Plan



Appendix 2 - Photographic Archive



Plate 1 - AD003-D1-001 - Site on arrival, view toward the south-east.



Plate 2 - AD003-D1-002 - After humus and topsoil removal, view toward the east.



Plate 3 - AD003-D1-003 - Section through soil layers at west end of the site.



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Plate 17 - AD003-D3-017 - Service trench to septic tank, running south.



Plate 18 - AD003-D3-018 - Completed septic tank excavation.



Plate 19 - AD003-D3-019 - Completed levelling and landscaping at front of house.

Appendix 3 - Listed Buildings

Building Description	Church of St Sadwrnen	Cadw ID	25849
Grade	II	Locality	Laugharne Township
Date Listed	11 th February 2001	County	Carmarthenshire
NGR	SA 228164 210269	Postcode	SA33 4RH
Listing Text:			
Location Prominently sited in historic churchyard high above Carmarthen Bay, about 2 km west of Laugharne.			
History Rebuilt in 1859, on site of its medieval predecessor, possibly retaining some core fabric of predecessor. North vestry added 1919.			
Interior Arch-braced roofs to nave and chancel; in E wall, medieval (C14?) niche with cinquefoiled ogee head and flanking pinnacles. The unusual round window low down in tower lights the old vestry which contains an Early Christian inscribed pillar-stone with inscription "TOTAVAL-/ FILIUS DOTHO/RANTI".			
Exterior Church in Decorated Gothic Style. Red-brown stone with bathstone dressings, and relieving arches in blue-grey stone, stepped buttresses, slate roofs. Aisleless nave, chancel, SW tower, S porch, N vestry. Three bay nave with 2-light Decorated windows. South gabled porch which links (to L) with tower with steep pyramidal roof, parapet, single-light belfry windows; unusual round window with cusped tracery near ground level. Chancel with 3 single-light windows to N and S; 2-light E window. Three-light W window with quatrefoils in head. Lean-to vestry with prominent chimney on N side of nave.			
Reason for Listing: C19 church retaining evidence of pre-Conquest and Medieval origins.			

Appendix 4 - Misc

Period	Approximate Dates
Palaeolithic	<i>circa</i> 225,000 BCE - 10,000 BCE
Mesolithic	<i>circa</i> 10,000 BCE - 3500BCE
Neolithic	<i>circa</i> 3500 BCE - 2000 BCE
Bronze Age	<i>circa</i> 2000 BCE - 600 BCE
Iron Age	<i>circa</i> 600 BCE - 43 CE
Roman	43 CE - 410 CE
Early Medieval	410 CE - 1066 CE
Medieval	1066 CE - 1485 CE
Post Medieval	1485 CE - 1750 CE
Early Modern	1700 CE - 1900 CE
Modern	1900 CE - Present

Table 1 - British Archaeological and Historical Time Periods.