

Services Trench at Trefynys Farm Ltd, Bronwydd, Carmarthenshire

Watching Brief Report

NGR: SN 4235 2458

Planning #: W/31788

Project #: AD007-1

10th August 2015



Prepared for:

Wyn Evans, Trefynys Farm Ltd, Bronwydd, Carmarthenshire
Project No: N/A

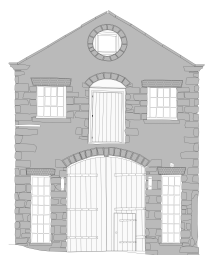
By:

ArchaeoDomus Archaeological & Heritage Services
3 Cysgod-y-Coed, Cwmann, Lampeter, Carmarthenshire, SA48 8DN

Tel: +44 (0) 1570 218048 +44 (0) 7910 213557

Email: ross.cook@archaeodomus.co.uk

www.archaeodomus.co.uk



ArchaeoDomus
Archaeological &
Heritage Services



ArchaeoDomus
Archaeological & Heritage Services

Project Team

Ross Cook - a buildings archaeologist with a background in archaeology and buildings conservation. I have worked for the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales as a Historic Buildings Investigator (Archaeology) and within the restoration/conservation of historic buildings, both in Wales and England. Currently I am involved with project work with Cadw, Picton HLF Bid, Oxford Dendrochronological Laboratory and *The Buildings of Medieval and Ottoman Palestine* (publication).

ArchaeoDomus Archaeological & Heritage Services is the trading name of Ross Cook. An affiliate member of the ClfA, with application currently in process for a full membership, and adhere to the ClfA codes of conduct. I hold a valid CSCS card.

Cert. in Buildings Archaeology - University of Sussex, CCE.

PGCert. Social Anthropology - University of Wales, Lampeter

BA Joint Honours Archaeology & Anthropology - University of Wales, Lampeter



CONTENTS

Summary	-	1
1 - Introduction	-	3
1.1 - Project		
1.2 - Site and Location		
2 - Archaeological Background	-	4
2.1 - Introduction		
2.2 - Designated and Undesignated Sites		
2.3 - Archaeology and History		
3 - Aims and Objectives	-	5
3.1 - General		
4 - Methodology	-	5
4.1 - Introduction		
4.2 - Fieldwork		
4.3 - Recording		
4.4 - Health and Safety		
5 - Fieldwork Results	-	6
5.1 - Introduction		
5.2 - Stratigraphy		
5.3 - Archaeological Results		
5.4 - Environmental		
6 - Conclusion	-	7
7 - Archiving	-	7
9 - Sources	-	7
<u>Appendix</u>	-	8
Appendix 1 - Site Plan	-	8
Appendix 2 - Photographic Archive	-	9

LIST OF FIGURES & PLATES

Figures

Fig. 1 - Location. Contains Ordnance Survey data

Fig. 2 - OS Six-inch to One Mile Map First Edition - Carmarthenshire XXXI.SE

Plates

Plate 1 - AD007-1_001 - Initial trench to expose existing services.

Plate 2 - AD007-1_002 - Excavation towards milking parlour.

Plate 3 - AD007-1_003 - View south-east, showing clayey subsurface with stone scalping cover.

Plate 4 - AD007-1_004 - View north-west, showing clayey subsurface with stone scalping cover.

Plate 5 - AD007-1_005 - Cut of existing, disused service conduit.

Plate 6 - AD007-1_006 - Cut of existing, disused service conduit.

Service Trench, Trefynys Farm Ltd, Bronwydd, Carm

Watching Brief Report

Summary

ArchaeoDomus Archaeological & Heritage Services was commissioned by Wyn Evans to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation and undertake a Watching Brief during the excavation of a service trench to carry power lines from a single wind turbine to the farmyard.

The farmyard was the site of a medieval settlement, which was identified during a Historic Environment Assessment (AD007-1 - Feb 2015) and is where recommendations were made for a watching brief to be undertaken should disturbances be made.

Planning permission (W/31788) was granted on 26th March 2015 for the 'Erection of a single wind Turbine measuring 41.1 metres to the tip 29 metres to the hub'. With permission Archaeological Conditions were set by the Local Planning Authority, for a watching brief during the undertaking of any ground works in the area of Trefynys farmyard.

The Watching Brief was undertaken on 10th August 2015, where the excavation of the service trench was observed. The groundworks consisted of the excavation of a trench measuring approximately 3m long, 0.40m wide and 0.60m deep. No archaeological features or finds were recovered during the works.

Acknowledgements

With thanks to Wyn Evans and Bill Jackson for commissioning this report. And to the Evans family for being so accommodating during this works.

Abbreviations used in this report

DAT-HM	- Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage 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 Wyn Evans to undertake watching brief for a service trench to be excavated into the farmyard at Trefynys Farm.
- 1.1.3 The service trench will carry below ground power cabling from a single wind turbine located in the adjacent field to a transformer located in the farmyard.
- 1.1.4 The site lies within an area identified as a medieval settlement (PRN 10999; NGR SN42352458), which was redeveloped as a post-medieval farmstead (PRN 25668; NGR SN42352458).
- 1.1.5 Development was granted on 26th March 2015, under planning number W/31788, with condition an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during excavations within the farmyard.
- 1.1.6 The fieldwork was commenced and concluded on 10th August 2015, in accordance with the guidance given by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.

1.2 Site and Location

- 1.2.1 The site sits c.104m above sea level and is located on the south-west projecting slope of an a hill surmounted by Cerig Fawr (NPRN 401918; PRN 10733; NGR SN42602545). The trench will enter the farmyard on its east and run for c.3m to a transformer unit. The turbine will be located in the field immediately east of the farmyard, which comprises a c.6.47 acre (2.62ha) ploughed field, laying approximately 122m north-east of Trefynys farmhouse/yard and otherwise bounded by fields. The site slopes from north to south.
- 1.2.2 The local bedrock is a Ordovician mudstone deposit known as the Nantmel Mudstone Formation (BGS) with no superficial Quaternary deposits recorded (BGS), and a soil layer of a freely draining slightly acidic loam (UKSO).



Fig. 1 - Location plan showing Trefynys Farm, area of excavation (green) and proposed location of wind turbine (red).
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2015



Fig. 2 - OS Six-inch to One Mile Map First Edition - Carmarthenshire XXXI.SE.
National Library of Scotland 2015

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.2 A regional HER search undertaken for the *Historic Environment Assessment* (ArchaeoDomus 2015) confirmed 60 designated and undesignated sites within a 5km search radius.

2.2 Designate and Undesignated Sites

2.2.1 The site lays within the area identified as Trefynys medieval settlement (PRN 10999) and on a spur of a hill shared with Cerig Fawr iron age enclosure (PRN 10733) and within c.500m of Pentre Ynys Bronze Age standing stone (PRN 1733).

2.2.2 No previous archaeological remains or deposits have been excavated within 1km of the site.

2.2.3 Sites identified within the immediate area are:

Trefynys Medieval Settlement - PRN: 10999 - SN42352458

Trefynys Farm - PRN: 25668 - SN42352458

Cerig Fawr - PRN: 10733 - SN42602545

Pentre Ynys - PRN: 1733 - SN4288324789

2.3 Archaeology and History

2.3.1 The farmyard at Trefynys has been identified as the site of a medieval settlement (Rees 1932) (PRN 10999) and the site is now largely occupied by a post-medieval house and modern farmyard (PRN 25668). The extent of archaeological deposits under the farmyard is currently unknown and no previous archaeological investigations have previously been undertaken.

2.3.2 Trefynys is first shown on the Ordnance Survey Surveyors map of 1811, where the name Bronwydd is not yet shown. The present surrounding field system had been



established by 1811, and a small cluster of buildings in the current farmyard area having been established by the same date. The 1888 First Edition Ordnance Survey Six-inch map shows further farm building, remaining the same on the 1898, 1907 and 1955 editions. Larger sheds were erected after this period, creating the farmyard as seen today.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 Undertake a watching brief during excavations of a service trench in the north east corner of Trefynys Farmyard 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 The watching brief monitored the excavation of a c. 3m long trench (Appendix 1) to provide sub-surface power cables to run from a single wind turbine to a transformer unit. The excavation was undertaken by mini digger equipped with a 0.40m toothless bucket.
- 4.2.2 No topsoil remained on site, a result of a milking parlour development some years previously, which has left a surface layer of stone scalplings with clay beneath. Within the area excavated, armoured power cable, 1.5inch water pipe and a drain have been run, through trenches to supply the milking parlour adjacent.
- 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 using the ROMFA system.

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 service trench 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 the erection of a milking parlour immediately to the north. Cut and scrape has been used to level the site and some remnants of the topsoil has been banked up to the east.
- 5.2.2 Resulting from this, the sequence is a layer of brown clay, with small stone inclusions and a layer of compacted limestone scalplings, the latter of which has been laid to provide a stable surface.

5.3 Archaeological Result

- 5.3.1 The watching brief was undertaken on 10th August 2015 during the excavation of the service trench.
- 5.3.2 *No archaeological deposits, features or remains* were observed during the watching brief. *No small finds* were observed in the trench or in the resulting spoil heaps.
- 5.3.3 The level of the farmyard has been altered through cut and scrape to enable the construction of a milking parlour.
- 5.3.4 A modern cable and water trench was observed running north-south, approximately 0.30m below ground level.
- 5.3.5 The cut of a modern drain was observed running east-west down to a level of c. 0.60m.



5.4 Environmental

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

6 CONCLUSION

6.1 Although groundworks were undertaken in an area associated with an identified medieval settlement, no archaeological deposits or features were identified during the course of the watching brief.

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-HM 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

Online Sources

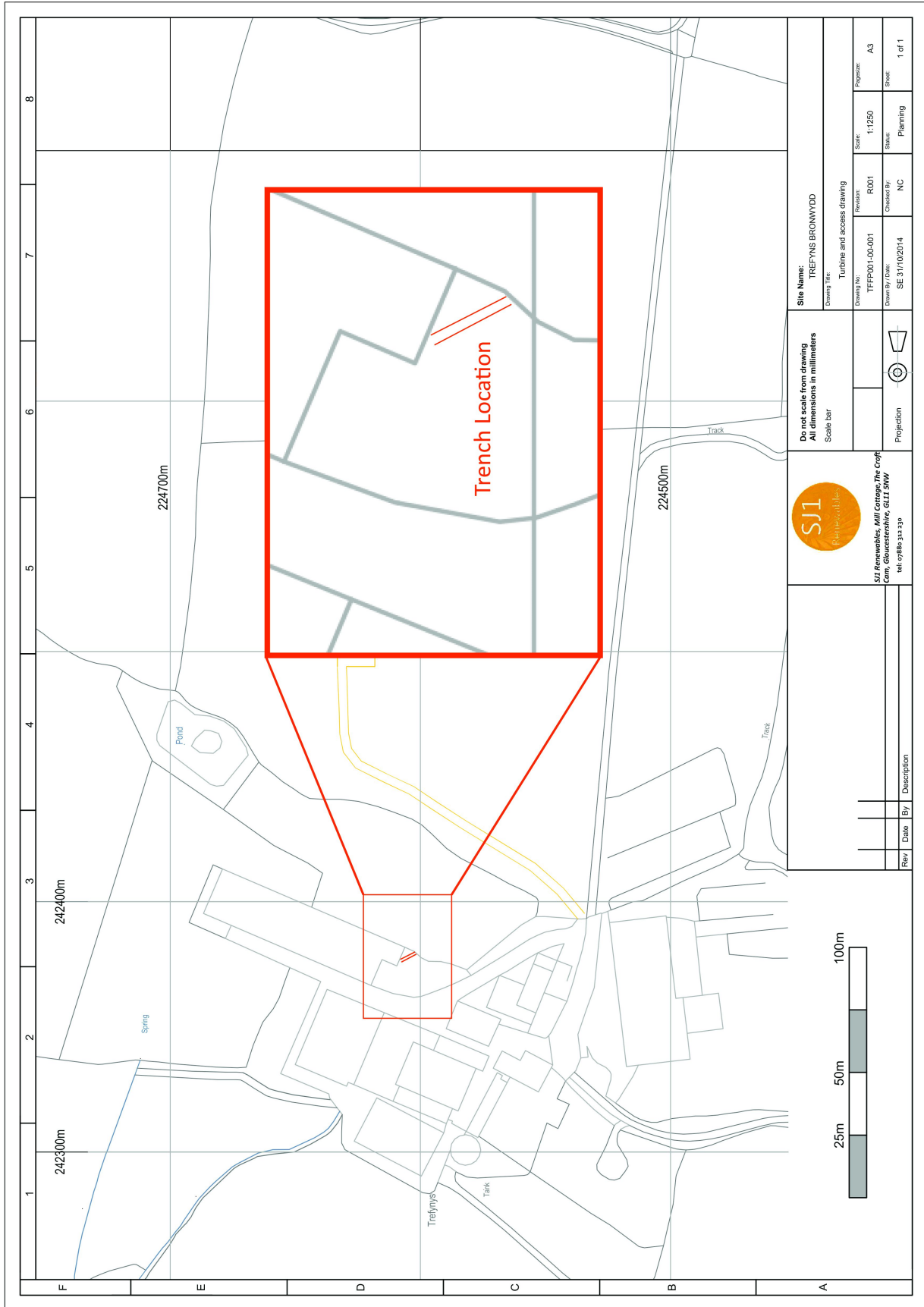
British Geological Survey: www.bsg.ac.uk

UK Soil Observatory: www.ukso.org.uk

RCAHMW: www.coflein.gov.uk



Appendix 1 - Plan





Appendix 2 - Photographic Archive



Plate 1 - AD007-1_001 - Initial trench to expose existing services.



Plate 2 - AD007-1_002 - Excavation towards milking parlour.



Plate 3 - AD007-1_003 - View south-east, showing clayey subsurface with stone scalping cover.



Plate 4 - AD007-1_004 - View north-west, showing clayey subsurface with stone scalping cover. Milking parlour behind.



Plate 5 - AD007-1_005 - Cut of existing, disused service conduit.



Plate 6 - AD007-1_006 - Cut of existing, disused service conduit.