

# Land adjacent to Hen Ysgol, Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire Evaluation Report



Report by: Trysor

For: David Williams

May 2016



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By

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Trysor Project No. 2016/508

For: David Williams

May 2016

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*Cover photograph: Trenches 1 and 3 with Hen Ysgol in the background and the Golden Grove Arms (Wrights Emporium)*

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Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan bartneriad Trysor. Mae wedi ei gael yn gywir ac yn derbyn ein sêl bendith.

This report was prepared by the Trysor partners. It has been checked and received our approval.

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*Croesawn unrhyw sylwadau ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn.*

*We welcome any comments on the content or structure of this report.*

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## **1. Summary**

1.1 In April 2016, Trysor undertook an evaluation in advance of groundworks for a single dwelling at SN5338620221 on land adjacent to the old school in Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire, W/32733.

1.2 Three trenches were opened at the development site. Only evidence of post-medieval activity was found, including pottery dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and a significant quantity of coal fragments which had been deposited over time on the former land surface. A ditch and two gullies of unknown purpose were revealed in Trench 1, filled with the coal-rich material which had been spread over the land during the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. A rubbish pit was also exposed in Trench 1, which included evidence associated the adjacent 19<sup>th</sup> century village school, including writing slates, inkpots, glass and pottery.

1.3 The proposed house to be built on the plot would largely occupy the site where a Nissan Hut stood in the mid- to late-20<sup>th</sup> century. The land here had evidently been levelled prior to the erection of the Nissan Hut, with shallow foundations laid down, further disturbing the stratigraphy of the site.

1.4 No further archaeological mitigations are though necessary in respect of the proposed development.

## **2. Copyright**

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## **3. Introduction**

3.1 Mr David Williams of Mynachdy, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6RT, commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to provide a Written Scheme of Investigation as part of a condition on consented planning application W/32733.

3.2 Trysor produced a written scheme of investigation for the evaluation, see Appendix A, and it was approved by the planning archaeologist at Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

## **4. The development**

4.1 The development is a single dwelling at SN5338620219 on the southern side of the B4300 in Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire. The front of the plot is to the northeast alongside the road. The dwelling will lie to the centre and southwest of the plot.

## **5. Planning context of the proposed development**

5.1 An archaeological condition was imposed on the granting of the planning application.

*No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority'.*

*Reason: To protect historic environment interests whilst enabling development*

5.2 Trydor produced a written scheme of investigation for the evaluation, see Appendix A, and this was approved by the planning archaeologist at Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

## **6. Scope of Work**

6.1 The written scheme of investigation (Appendix A) said that the evaluation would consist of a walkover the site to look for artefacts and a single trench 25 metres by 1.8 metres wide parallel to the front of the plot.

6.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).

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Figure 1: Location of proposed development



## 7. The Development Site

7.1 The development site lies on an east facing slope on the western side of the Afon Gwynon in the village of Llanarthne. The plot of land was formerly used by the village school which lies to its northwest. The school closed in 1958 but the base of a Nissan hut which was still used as a school canteen until 1970 is still present, as well as a former toilet block. These occupy the southeastern corner of the plot on a level area created by cutting into the slope.

7.2 The underlying strata at the development site consist of Arenig Series Tetragnostus Beds. These mudstones were formed in deep seas in the Ordovician Period, approximately 467 to 479 million years ago.

7.3 Glacial till laid down over 2 million years ago in the Quaternary period overlies the mudstones.

## 8. Historical and Archaeological Overview

8.1 There is nothing shown in the area of the development plot on the 1813, 2 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Surveyors Original Drawing (Llanon sheet) nor on the 1831 1 inch to 1 mile survey.

8.2 On the Llanarthne parish tithe map of 1848, the development plot lies in a large field, parcel number 1606, *Gwaun y Felyn*, through which the Afon Gwynon ran. There are no features shown on the west side of the stream where the development plot lies. On the east side of stream, a watercourse is shown running adjacent and parallel to the road from a building down to the stream. The building is presumably the mill in the field name *Gwaun y Felyn*.



Figure 2: Parish tithe map, showing approximate location of development plot.

8.3 By the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888, the National School (Listed Building number 21740, HER PRN 61167), had been built in the northwest corner of the field. The National School was built in 1856 and remained in use as the village school till 1958 when it was replaced by a modern school to the west at SN5328820211. This school itself was closed in the 2008 and has been demolished, the site having been sold for residential development.

8.4 On the 1975 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map a rectangular building is shown in the southeast corner of the development plot with a smaller building to its east.

8.5 A foundation base in the southeastern part of the plot was for the Nissan hut that served as a dining hall for the former National School. There was also an outdoor toilet block. These structures are the buildings shown on the 1975 Ordnance Survey map.

8.6 The landowner has also said that there is an earthenware drainage pipe, c. 0.50 metres wide that runs along the front of the school and down the slope through the development area to the stream. This is corroborated in a story in *Llanarthne Ddoe a Heddiw*, (Jones, 2002, page 139-140) of some boys crawling up the pipe from the Afon Gwynon.

## 9. History of School Buildings in Llanarthne

*Table 1: History of School Buildings*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Source</b>
1807	A schoolroom built by the church authorities.	Jones, 2002, page 133
1846	Inquiry into the state of education in Wales. Llanarthne was surveyed by William Morris in November 1846, the schoolroom was not in good repair, with few amenities. The schoolroom was used as a day school and also for a Sunday School which was described as being in a wretched hovel abutting on the churchyard wall. Its location is not known but it maybe a building shown on the tithe map, a roughly contemporary source, on the south side of the churchyard.	Jones, 2002, page 134-6
1856	A new school building was built	Jones, 2002, page

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	on the ground to the northwest of the development plot at a cost of £153	137
1884	The school was extended at a cost of £82 11s 5d.	Jones, 2002, page 138
1929/30	New area added to the school playground in 1929, formally opened in 1930. This was area that is now the development plot in question	Jones, 2002, page 185-186
1938	Inspection report stated that the school had no water supply and toilet facilities were not adequate	Jones, 2002, page 188
1949	Work commenced on erecting a kitchen and dining room in the new playground, first meals cooked and served in the new facilities in September 1949. This dining room was the Nissan hut and photos can be seen of it in <i>Llanarthne Ddoe and Heddiw</i>	Jones, 2002, page 191
1953	Electricity was installed in the canteen	Jones, 2002, page 191
1956	Water supplied to the canteen	Jones, 2002, page 192
1957	Building work begun on the new school opposite the Golden Grove Arms	Jones, 2002, page 192
1958	New school building opened, old school closed but canteen in Nissan Hut continued to be used	Jones, 2002, page 193
1970	New school kitchen built and canteen in Nissan hut ceased to be used	Jones, 2002, page 194

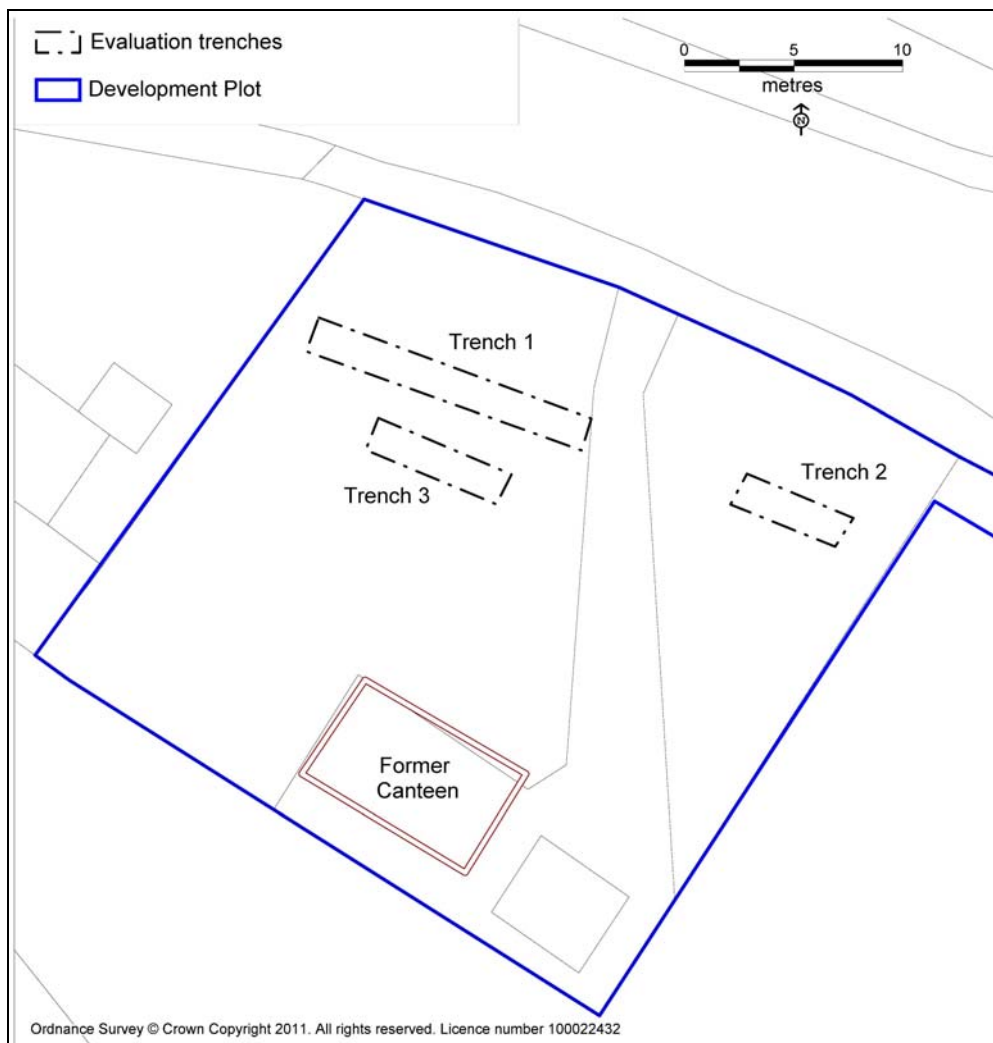
## 10. Fieldwork Methodology

10.1 Fieldwork was carried out over three days in April 2016.

10.2 The site code used was LNE2016.

10.3 Trydor informally fieldwalked the development area before the trenches were excavated. Most of the plot was covered by grass, brambles, buildings, remains of building, or rubble so there were very limited opportunities to retrieve artefacts.

10.4 Three trenches with a total length of 25.5 metres long were excavated, representing approximately 5% of the evaluation area, see Figure 3. The trenches were excavated by machine using a 1.6 metre wide flat grading bucket. Trench 1 was originally intended to be 25 metres long but in order to avoid the remains of a gravel pathway across the site, this was divided into two trenches, Trench 1 and Trench 2. An additional trench, 6.6 metres long was excavated in order to further investigate a feature picked up in Trench 1.



*Figure 3: Location of evaluations trenches*

Table 2: Dimensions of evaluation trenches

Trench Number	NGR	Trench description
Trench 1	SN5338520229	13.5 metre by 1.6 metre trench aligned northwest to southeast
Trench 2	SN5340020224	5.4 metre by 1.6 metre trench aligned northwest to southeast
Trench 3	SN5338420226	6.6 metres by 1.6 metre trench aligned northwest to southeast

## 11. Site Stratigraphy

11.1 The stratigraphy in each of the three trenches was recorded.

11.2 Context Catalogue

Table 3: Context catalogue

Context Number	Trench	Depth	Description	Interpretation
001	1	0.10 to 0.15m	10YR 3/2 very dark greyish brown friable clay	Topsoil across the site, maybe connected with the site being used as a grassed school playground.
002	1	0.20 to 0.25m	10YR 3/1 very dark grey clay loam with gravel, contains a mixture of artefacts from medieval/post medieval period through to 19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century. The artefacts include lead glazed earthenware, clay pipe, bottle glass, animal bone and whitewares.	An upper fill of a partially excavated negative feature, 012, the range of artefacts and nature of them suggests this was material from elsewhere dumped to fill hollow, maybe during renovation work in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century

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<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
	1	0.10 to 0.15m	10YR 4/3 brown friable clay, including very few coarse components. Artefacts range in date from a medieval or post medieval lead glazed earthenware, 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century ink well, window glass and a 19 <sup>th</sup> century transfer printed whiteware	A former topsoil across the site, on the basis of the artefacts within it dating to the 19 <sup>th</sup> century
<b>004</b>	1	>0.40m	10YR 4/2 dark greyish brown friable clay loam with gravel and occasional stones. Artefacts range in date possible 18 <sup>th</sup> century to 19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century, but include parts of school writing slates, clay pipe and coal, as well as 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century ink well. Most recent artefacts date to 19 <sup>th</sup>	This is the fill of a partially excavated feature, 012. During excavation, and in section, it was seen as a similar context to 003, although the finds within it are maybe slightly later 19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century. Like 002, they seem to represent some dumping of material into a negative feature, the material in particular being related to one of the schools.

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
<b>05</b>	1	Up to 0.5m	10YR 3/1 very dark grey friable clay with many anthracite coal fragments between 0.05m and 0.1m in size. It includes burnt stone, pieces of ironwork, 17/19 <sup>th</sup> century black glazed earthenware and yellow brown glazed earthenware as well as possible medieval/post medieval coarseware, probably Dyfed Gravel Tempered ware. This thick layer is built up to 0.50 metres across the northwestern part of the site and seen in Trenches 1 and 3 but not in Trench 2. The layer appeared homogenous when excavated by machine and trowelling, but the section seems to show many fine layers and lenses.	This layer seems to have built up over time with material being spread over the ground. The high coal content, suggests either coal storage or dumping of ashes. There are some burnt stones. The artefacts are of a mixed date range but dating of layer likely to be 17 <sup>th</sup> /19th century

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<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
<b>006</b>	1		10YR 3/3 dark brown friable clay loam with anthracite coal fragments. Artefacts include 17 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century glazed red earthenware, 17 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century black glazed earthenware, and 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century glazed red earthenware with a metallic internal glaze and external yellow green glaze	Fill of 007, probably dates to 17 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century
<b>007</b>	1	Up to 0.37 m	Linear cut aligned northeast to southwest and is up to 1.3m wide and at least 0.37m deep. It is filled by 006. It is not clear where this gully is cut from. It certainly cuts 014 but may cut 005 or part of it. Fill 006 is very similar to 005 above.	Linear gully of 17 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century date, purpose unknown
<b>008</b>	1		10YR 4/2 clay loam, friable with anthracite coal fragments. No other artefacts.	Fill of 009, probably 17 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> century date similar to 005 and other coal rich layers.



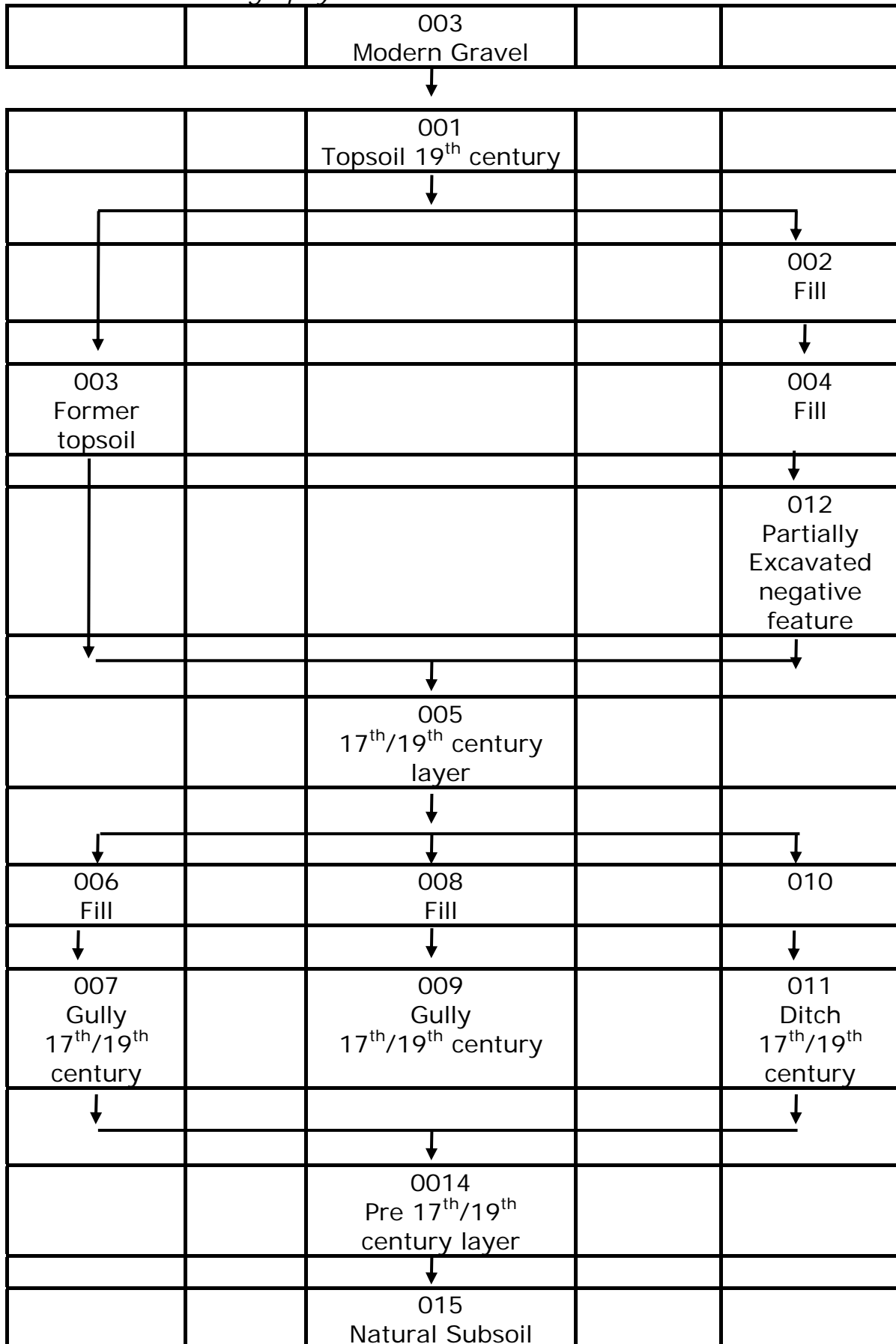
*Land Adjacent to Hen Ysgol, Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire, Evaluation*

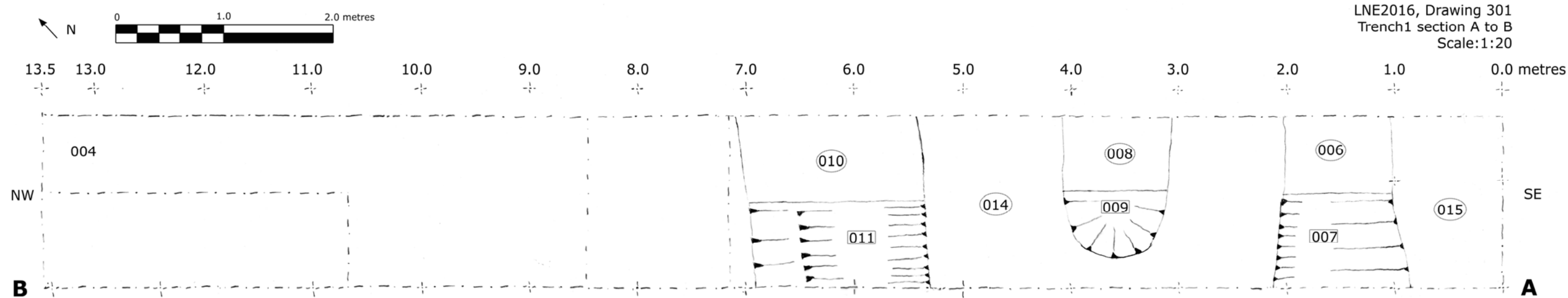
<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
<b>009</b>	1	0.11m	The southwestern butt end of a linear gully aligned northeast to southwest and up to 0.8m wide and at least 0.12 m deep. It is filled by 008. It is not clear where this gully is cut from. It certain cuts 014 but may cut 005 or part of it. Fill 008 is very similar to 005 above.	Linear gully of 17 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century date, purpose unknown
<b>010</b>	1		10YR 4/2 dark greyish brown plastic clay with anthracite coal fragments. It also includes burnt stone, fired clay, animal bone (unburnt) and a shred of medieval/post medieval unglazed earthenware	Fill of 011, probably 17 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> century date similar to 005 and other coal rich layers.
<b>011</b>	1	0.80m	A linear ditch aligned northeast to southwest and up to 1.6m wide and at least 0.80 m deep. It is not clear where this gully is cut from. It certain cuts 014 but may cut 005 or part of it. Fill 008 is very similar to 005 above.	Linear gully of probable 17 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century date, purpose unknown

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<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
<b>012</b>	1	> 0.40m	A negative feature at the northeastern end of Trench 1 that cuts 005. It was filled by 004 and 002. The feature was not fully excavated and probably dates to 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century	A partially excavated feature of probable 19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century date
<b>013</b>	1	Maximum of 0.10m	Layer of loose gravel	Gravel layer, overlying topsoil
<b>014</b>	1		7.5YR 4/3 brown plastic clay with charcoal, no artefacts recorded within it.	A layer that predates the 17 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century features, probably former ground surface before the activities of the 17 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> centuries
<b>015</b>	1,2,3	-		Natural Subsoil

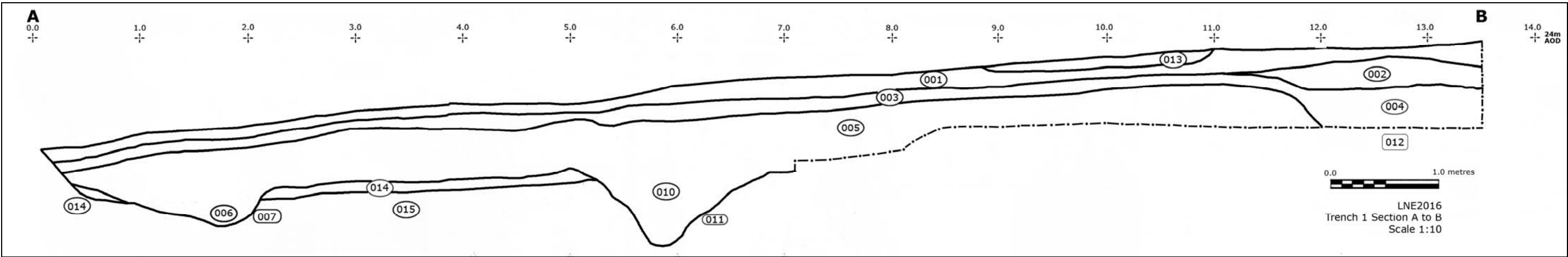
Table 4: Site Stratigraphy





LNE2016, Drawing 301  
Trench1 section A to B  
Scale:1:20

Figure 4: Plan of Trench 1



LNE2016  
Trench 1 Section A to B  
Scale 1:10

Figure 5: Drawing of section A to B, Trench 1

## 12. Photographs

12.1 Colour digital photographs were taken of topsoil stripping and excavation of trenches using a 16M pixel camera. The following table describes the content of each photograph included in the project archive and their locations are provided in the following map, see Figure 4 & 5. The photographs are included in Appendix C at the end of the report.

*Table 5: Photographs*

<b>Photo Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date Taken</b>	<b>Direction</b>
LNE2016_101	A general view of the development plot.	18/04/2016	Looking southeast
LNE2016_102	The development area from the western edge of the original playground of the school	18/04/2016	Looking east
LNE2016_103	General view of part of the development area, towards the former school and the Golden Grove Arms	20/04/2016	Looking northwest
LNE2016_104	Trench 2, no features visible	20/04/2016	Looking southeast
LNE2016_105	Section of Trench 2 showing 001, 003 and 014	20/04/2016	Looking northeast
LNE2016_106	Trench 3, showing contexts 001, 003 005 and 014 in section	18/04/2016	Looking east northeast
LNE2016_107	Trench 3 showing fill 010 in base of trench, the fill of a ditch 011 that continues from Trench 1	20/04/2016	Looking southwest
LNE2016_108	Excavation of trench 1 beginning, showing context 004 in the foreground and context 005, the darker layer, beyond	18/04/2016	Looking southeast
LNE2016_109	Trench 1 with 006 clearly visible in the foreground and 008 and 010 beyond, not so clear	18/04/2016	Looking northwest
LNE2016_110	Trench 1, section A to B, southeastern end at A, part 7 of sequence of	18/04/2016	Looking southwest

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<b>Photo Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date Taken</b>	<b>Direction</b>
	photos.		
LNE2016_111	Trench 1, section A to B, part 6 of sequence of photos. Contexts 001, 003, 005 and 014 visible, with 010 on the right of the photo in the base of the trench.	18/04/2016	Looking southwest
LNE2016_112	Trench 1, section A to B, part 5 of sequence of photos. Contexts 001, 003, 005 and 014 visible, with 010 on the right of the photo in the base of the trench.	18/04/2016	Looking southwest
LNE2016_113	Trench 1, section A to B, part 4 of sequence of photos. Contexts 001, 003 and 005 visible, with 010 in the base of the trench.	18/04/2016	Looking southwest
LNE2016_114	Trench 1, section A to B, part 3 of sequence of photos. Contexts 001, 003 and 005 visible, with 010 in the base of the trench to the left of the photo.	18/04/2016	Looking southwest
LNE2016_115	Trench 1, section A to B, part 2 of sequence of photos. Contexts 001, 003, 005 and 013 are visible in section	18/04/2016	Looking southwest
LNE2016_116	Trench 1, section A to B, part 1 of sequence of photos. Contexts 001, 003, 005 and 013 are visible in section	18/04/2016	Looking southwest
LNE2016_117	Trench 1 showing excavated section of gully 007	19/04/2016	Looking northwest
LNE2016_118	Trench 1 showing excavated section of gullies 007 and 009, and ditch 011	20/04/2016	Looking northwest

<b>Photo Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date Taken</b>	<b>Direction</b>
LNE2016_119	Trench 1, the excavated end of gully 009	20/04/2016	Looking northeast
LNE2016_120	Trench 1 showing excavated section of ditch 011 and gullies 009 and 007.	20/04/2016	Looking southeast
LNE2016_121	Trench 1 showing excavated section of gully 007	20/04/2016	Looking southwest
LNE2016_122	Trench 1 showing excavated section of the end of gully 009	20/04/2016	Looking northeast
LNE2016_123	Trench 1 showing excavated section of the end of ditch 011, and contexts 005 and 010 in section	20/04/2016	Looking southwest
LNE2016_124	Trench 1, partially excavated feature 012, filled by 004 and 002 with 001 above	20/04/2016	Looking southwest

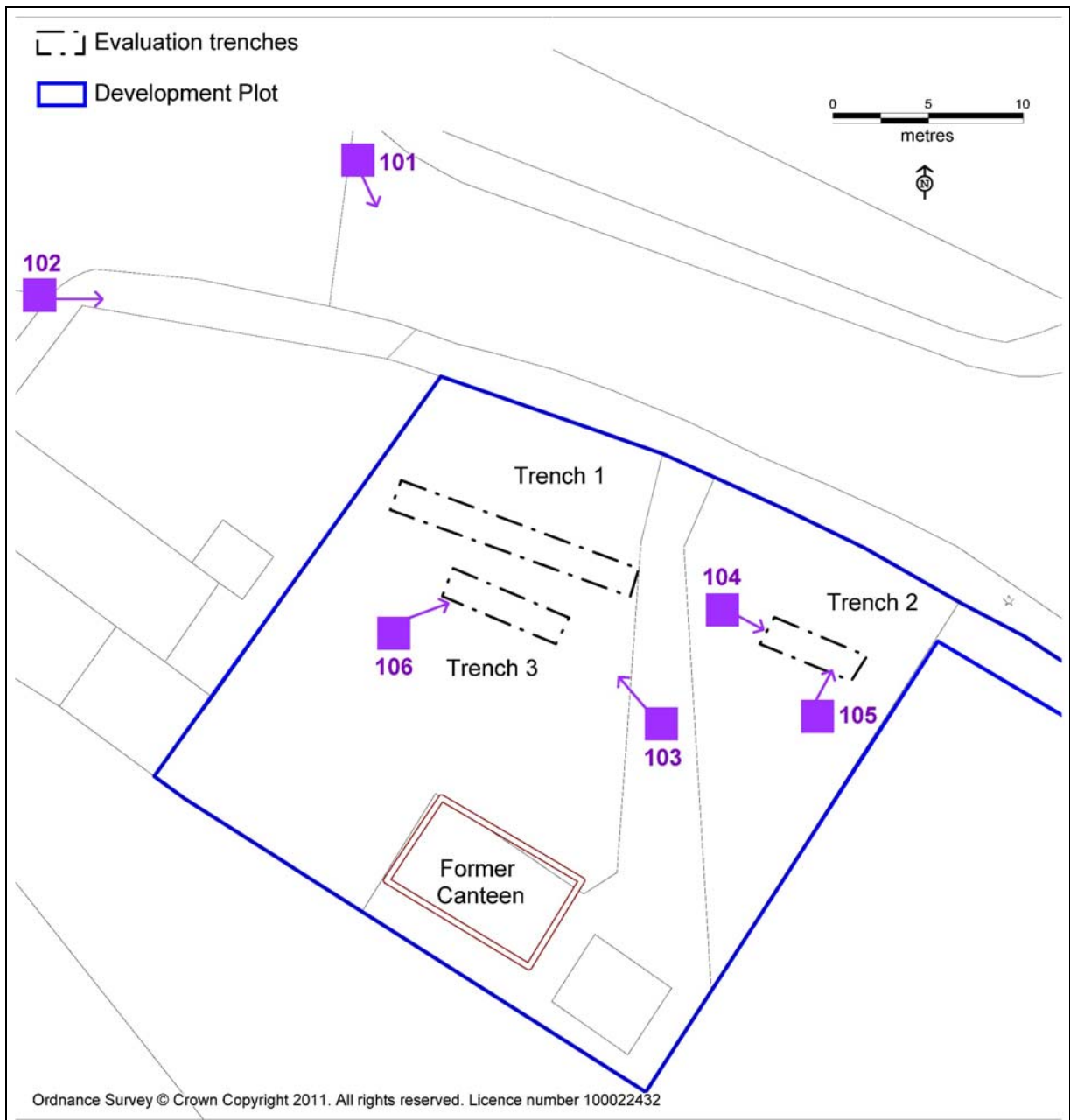


Figure 6: Location of photographs, see Figure 7 for photographs of Trench 1



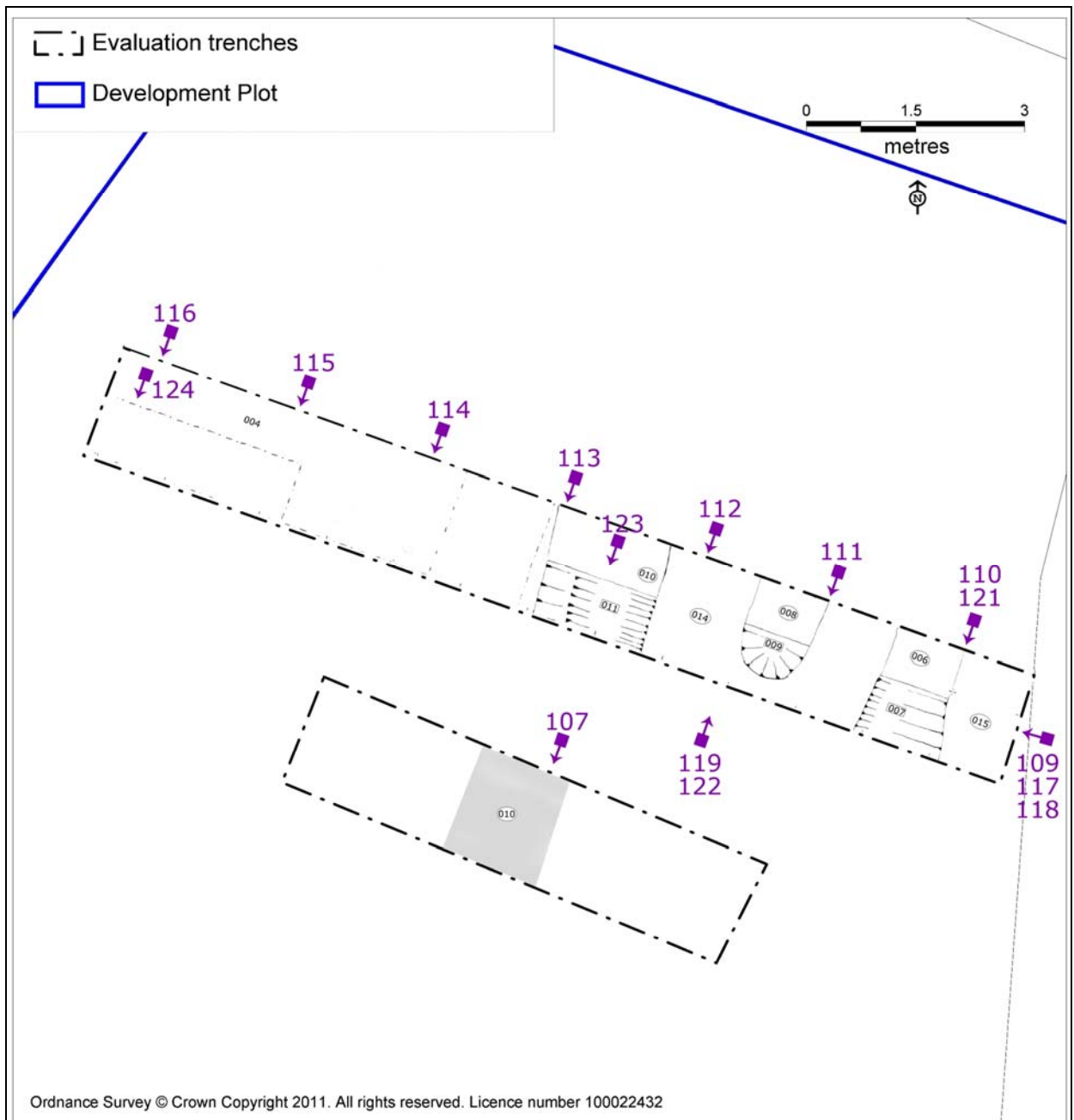


Figure 7: Location of photographs, Trenches 1 and 3

### **13. Discussion**

13.1 There was an unexpected depth to the stratigraphy revealed by the three trenches opened at this site. The bottom of the deepest feature, Ditch 011, was 1.3 metres below the land surface. Despite this all the contexts were of post-medieval date.

13.2 Four features were recorded in Trench 1 (Ditch 011, Gully 007, Gully 009 and cut 012). The first three of these features all date to the 17<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> centuries, based on pottery evidence from their fills. Feature 012 was cut through 005 and is evidently of 19<sup>th</sup> century date, again based on the pottery and other artefacts found in its fill (004).

13.2.1 Context 005 was a significant feature in the section of Trench 1, being up to 0.50m thick. It was characterised by a high concentration of coal fragments, which upon close inspection appeared to have been deposited in thin bands, mixed with thin bands of soil. Some burnt stone was also present, in small quantities, and it was not clear whether the coal fragments represented coal being stored on the site or ashes being dumped on the surface. Either, or both, scenarios are possible. The depth of the coal deposit suggests that the material accumulated over time. It is possible that it was associated with the storage and or burning of coal for fires at the adjacent school, an unspecified adjacent property (i.e. the Golden Grove Arms) or the parish church on the opposite side of the road to the northwest.

13.2.2 The fills of Ditch 011 and the Gullies 007 and 009 was similar in content to context 005, but varied in their appearance. Whereas context 005 was clearly stratified, the fills (contexts 006, 008 and 010) were unstratified and coarser, suggesting that the material had been dumped into the still-open ditch and gullies quite rapidly.

13.2.3 The purpose of Ditch 011 and the Gullies 007 and 009 is not apparent. It can only be surmised that they were still open cuts when the process of dumping coal waste or ash began on the surface of the field and that they became quickly infilled, and that this occurred at some point between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, based on the evidence of the pottery sherds found in the fills of each feature.

13.2.4 The fourth feature in Trench 1, context 012, was cut through context 005 and its own fill, context 004 included pottery and other artefacts of 19<sup>th</sup> century date. These included broken writing slates and inkpots which evidently originated from the adjacent village school, which first opened in 1856. Context 012

appears to be a rubbish pit, as its fill (context 004) included clay pipe fragments, window glass and coal.

13.3 No archaeological features were noted in Trench 2.

13.4 It appears that Ditch 011 continues from Trench 1 into Trench 3. This feature was revealed in the floor of Trench 3 but was not further excavated. Context 005 was still present in section in Trench 3 but was notably thinner than in Trench 1, between 20cm to 30cm thick.

## **14. Conclusion**

14.1 Three trenches were opened at the development site. Only evidence of post-medieval activity was found, including pottery dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and a significant quantity of coal fragments which had been deposited over time on the former land surface.

14.2 A ditch and two gullies revealed in Trench 1, the ditch also appearing in Trench 3, were clearly filled with the coal-rich material which had been spread over the land during the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The ditch and gullies appeared to have been open cuts when they were infilled, with no evidence of silting or any secondary deposits noted within their fills. It is thought that the ditch and gullies therefore also date to the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Their purpose is not known.

14.3 A probable rubbish pit at the northwestern end of Trench 1 produced evidence associated adjacent with the 19<sup>th</sup> century village school, including writing slates, inkpots, glass and pottery. As the school was first opened in 1856, this deposit must post-date the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

14.4 The proposed house to be built on the plot would largely occupy the site where a Nissen Hut stood in the mid- to late-20<sup>th</sup> century. The land here had evidently been levelled prior to the erection of the Nissen Hut, with a cut being made into the slope and material removed. Shallow foundations appear to have been laid down for the Nissen Hut, further disturbing the stratigraphy of the site.

14.5 No further archaeological mitigations are though necessary in respect of the proposed development.

## **15. Archive**

15.1 The archive and a copy of the report and photographs will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth. Photographs are in TIFF format, following the standard required by the RCAHMS.

15.2 A further copy of the report will be supplied to the Historic Environment Record at Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Llandeilo.

## **16. Sources**

### **16.1 Maps**

Ordnance Survey, 1813, Original Surveyors Drawing, 2 inches to a mile, Llanon sheet

Ordnance Survey, 1831, 1" to 1 mile

Llanarthne tithe map, 1848, and accompanying apportionment

### **16.2 Published**

Jones, Delyth & Tom, 2002, *Llanarthne, Ddoe a Heddiw*

### **16.3 Standards and Guidance**

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014a, *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014b, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014c, *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*

**APPENDIX A**  
**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION**

**LAND ADJACENT TO THE OLD SCHOOL,  
LLANARTHNEY, CARMARTHEN  
WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION**

Planning Application W/32733

**1. Introduction**

1.1 Mr David Williams of Mynachdy, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6RT, has commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to provide a Written Scheme of Investigation as part of a condition on consented planning application W/32733.

1.2 The development is a single dwelling at SN5338620219 on the southern side of the B4300 in Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire.



Figure 1: Location of the development site in Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire

## **2. The proposed development**

2.1 The development is a single dwelling. The front of the plot is to the northeast alongside the road. The dwelling will lie to the centre and southwest of the plot.

## **3. Location of the Development.**

3.1 The approximate centre of the plot is at SN5338620219, on the southern side of the B4300 in Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire. It lies to the southeast of the former National School, a Listed Building now converted into a dwelling. The parish church, St David's, stands on the opposite side of the road to the north of the road.

## **4. Conditions on the consent**

4.1 An archaeological condition was imposed on the granting of the planning application.

*No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority'.*

*Reason: To protect historic environment interests whilst enabling development*

## **5. Objective of the Written Scheme of Investigation**

5.1 The objective of this written scheme of investigation (WSI) is to specify the method to be used for the evaluation.

5.2 The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CifA, 2014a) was used to write this Written Scheme of Investigation. They define field evaluation as:

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

5.3 The purpose of field evaluation is described as gaining:

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

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

5.4 This evaluation should establish whether any features can be identified as of possible archaeological significance within the footprint of the proposed development.

5.5 Once the nature of the features has been established further mitigation may be required.

## **6. Nature of the archaeological resource**

6.1 Dyfed Archaeological Trust Planning Services advised that as the development site lies in the historic core of medieval Llanarthne, and in close proximity to the parish church of St David's (PRN 728) and early-medieval churchyard (PRN 49261), that they considered that the site could contain buried archaeological remains associated with medieval occupation and activity.

6.2 No historic asset within the development area was identified by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Planning Services

6.3 There is nothing shown in the area of the development plot on the 1813, 2 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Surveyors Original Drawing (Llanon sheet) nor on the 1831 1 inch to 1 mile survey.

6.4 On the Llanarthne parish tithe map of 1848, the development plot lies is a large field, 1606, *Gwaun y Felyn*, through which the Afon Gwynon ran. There are no features shown on the west side of the stream. On the east side of stream a watercourse is shown running adjacent and parallel to the road from a building to the stream, presumably the mill in the field name *Gwaun y Felyn*.



*Figure 2: Parish tithe map, showing approximate location of development plot.*



6.5 By the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888, the National School (Listed Building number 21740, HER PRN 61167), had been built in the northwest corner of the field. The National School was built in 1856 and remained in use as the village school till 1958 when it was replaced by a modern school to the west at SN5328820211. This school itself was closed in the 2008 and has been demolished, the site having been sold for residential development.

6.6 On the 1975 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map a rectangular building is shown in the southeast corner of the development plot with a smaller building to its east.

6.7 The landowner has said that there is concrete base in the plot that is the remains of a Nissan hut that served as a dining hall for the former National School. There was also an outdoor toilet block. These structures may be the buildings shown on the 1975 Ordnance Survey map.

6.8 The landowner has also said that there is an earthenware drainage pipe, c. 0.50 metres wide that runs along the front of the school and down the slope through the development area to the stream.

## **7. Scope of work**

7.1 In advance of development, the development area will be searched for artefacts and an evaluation trench, 25 m x 1.7 m will be excavated. This will be carried out in accordance with Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA, 2014a)

## **8. Proposed methodology**

8.1 The development plot will be fieldwalked in advance of trenching as some ground surface is currently exposed. All artefacts will be collected.

8.2 An evaluation trench will be excavated along the front (northeast) of the development plot, see figure 3. It will be 25 metres northwest to southeast by 1.8 metres. This is a total of 45 square metres of the 911 square metres of the plot, approximately 5 %.

8.3 A two-person team will oversee the mechanical removal of the ploughsoil from the trench. The ploughsoil will be removed in spits until natural subsoil or significant archaeological layers are reached. The ploughsoil/topsoil will be discarded, but will be scanned for artefacts. The trench will be excavated with a toothless bucket.

8.4 If a buried soil horizon is encountered whilst excavating the trench, mechanical machining will cease, and the trench will be hand dug down to natural subsoil. Any archaeological features will be fully investigated and recorded.

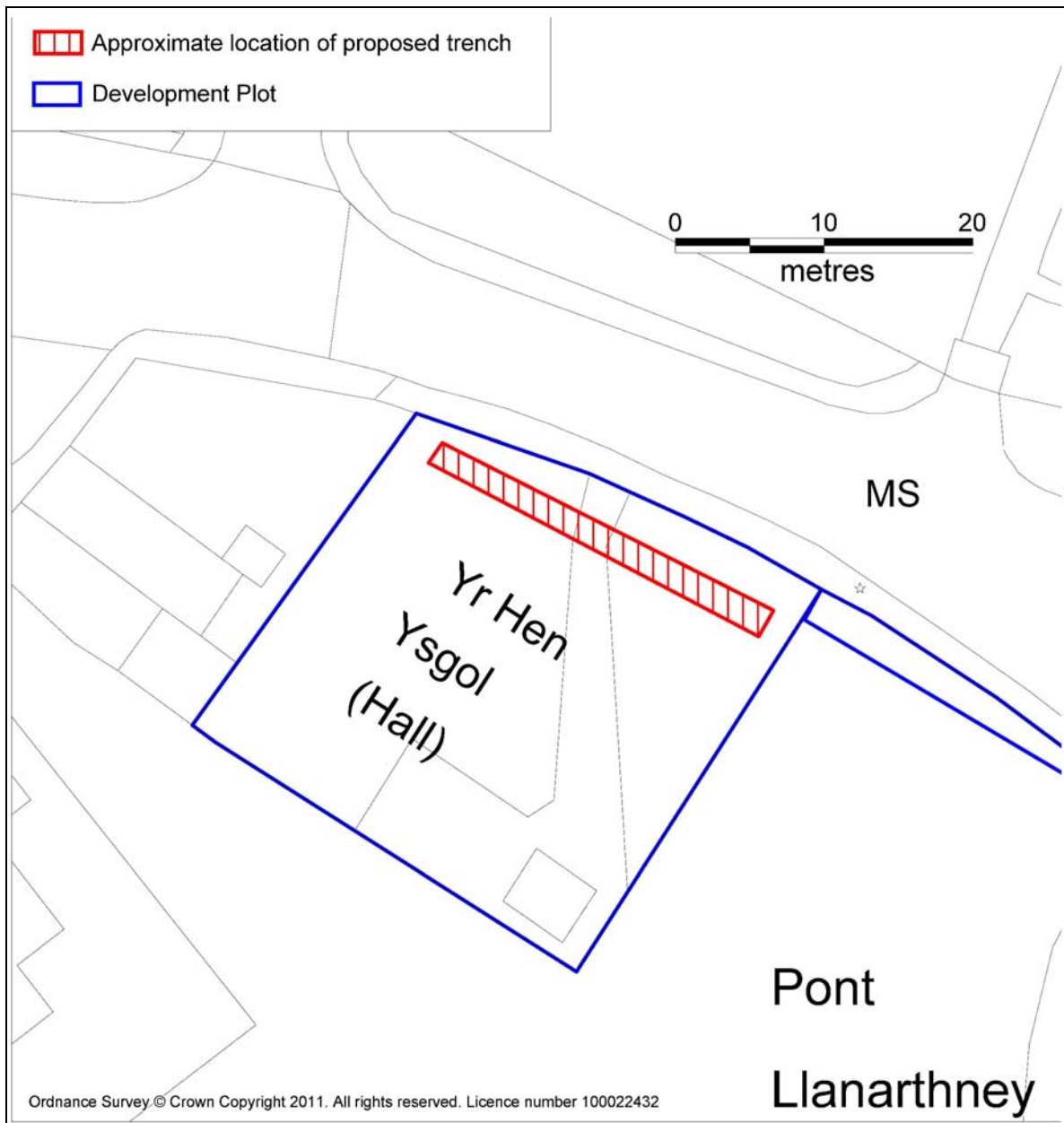


Figure 3: Approximate location of proposed evaluation trench

## **9. Recording – Excavation and Post Excavation**

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

9.2 A plan of the location of the trenches and representative sections of the trenches will be drawn, at an appropriate scale. If any archaeological features are observed, they will be excavated and recorded, photographed, and planned at an appropriate scale. Plans will be drawn on permatrace to a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate.

All plans will be related to boundaries shown on 1:10000 Ordnance Survey mapping. Levels will be taken from a site datum which will be cross referenced to an Ordnance Survey datum.

9.3 Any artefacts will be dealt with in accordance with the guidance provided in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA, 2014b)*. All artefacts will be retained, cleaned and stored. They will be catalogued by context, including dimensions, weight, number, and description as relevant. Significant artefacts will be drawn at an appropriate scale.

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

9.5 In the event of human burials being discovered the Ministry of Justice will be informed. The remains will initially be left *in situ*, and if removal is required, a Ministry of Justice licence will be applied for under the Burial Act 1857.

9.6 Colour digital photographs will be taken, as appropriate, using a 18M pixel camera. A written record will be made on site of the photographs taken. Appropriate photographic scales will be used. The photographs will be archived with a full catalogue showing location of photographs and direction taken. Photographs will be archived in TIF format.

## **10. Reporting**

10.1 Following the completion of the on-site work, a report on the evaluation will be prepared according to the requirements of section 3.4 of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA, 2014a)*

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

- A non-technical summary of the evaluation
- Introductory statement
- Aims and purposes of the evaluation
- Methodology
- Results including documentary research and structural data and associated finds and/or environmental data recovered, details will be included in appendices as appropriate

## *Land Adjacent to Hen Ysgol, Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire, Evaluation*

- Interpretation
- Discussion/Conclusion
- Index to Archive and location of archive
- Illustrations, including a location plan
- Bibliography

10.3 Copies of the report will be provided to the client and the Dyfed Historic Environment Record.

### **11. Health & Safety**

11.1 Trysor will undertake a risk assessment in advance of the fieldwork in accordance with their health and safety policy.

### **12. Dissemination**

12.1 A summary of the work undertaken and its findings will be submitted to *Archaeology Wales*

### **13. Archive**

13.1 The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record and Historic Environment Record, including a copy of the final report in accordance with the CIfA's *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CIfA, 2014c). This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. Digital archives will follow the standard required by the RCAHMW (RCAHMW, 2015).

13.2 Any artefacts will be returned to the landowner after recording and reporting.

### **14. Resources to be used**

14.1 Jenny Hall, BSC, MCIfA and Paul Sambrook, BA, PGCE, MCIfA of Trysor will undertake the fieldwork outlined and reporting and archiving. During the fieldwork they will be equipped with standard field equipment, including digital cameras, GPS and first aid kit. Trysor have access to the computer hardware and software required to deliver the completed final report and archive to a professional standard.

### **15. Qualification of personnel**

15.1 Trysor is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and both partners are Members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, [www.archaeologists.net](http://www.archaeologists.net)

15.2 Jenny Hall (BSc Joint Hons., Geology and Archaeology, MCIfA) had 12 years excavation experience, which included undertaking area and trench excavation, watching briefs and post excavation work. She worked on the extensive Stanwick Roman villa project in Northamptonshire for several seasons and undertook a year of postexcavation work with the project. In 1993 she became the Sites and Monuments Record Manager for a Dyfed Archaeological Trust for 10 years. She has been a partner in Trysor since 2004 undertaking a variety of work that includes upland field survey, desk-based appraisals and assessments, watching briefs and evaluations as well heritage interpretation and community-based projects.

## *Land Adjacent to Hen Ysgol, Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire, Evaluation*

15.3 Paul Sambrook (BA Joint Hons., Archaeology and Welsh, MCifA, PGCE) has extensive experience as a fieldworker in Wales. He was involved with Cadw's pan-Wales Deserted Rural Settlements Project for 7 years. He also undertook Tir Gofal field survey work and watching briefs. He has been a partner in Trysor since 2004 undertaking a variety of work including upland field survey, desk-based appraisals/assessments, watching briefs and evaluations as well as community-based, non-intrusive projects and community heritage interpretation.

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

15.5 Martin Locock (BA, MCifA) – Martin has undertaken many bone reports for Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust and others. He has also undertaken studies of bricks and mortar.

15.6 Dr Ian Brooks (PhD, BA, MCifA, FSA) - Flint assemblages of any size from a single artefact to many thousands of artefacts can be analysed. Recent projects have varied from a few artefacts recovered during the excavation of a late medieval house in North Wales to over 16,000 Mesolithic artefacts from Bath. In addition to standard typological studies Ian Brooks has developed specialist techniques to investigate the original source of the flint and the deliberate heat treatment of flint by the use of micropalaeontology.

15.7 Wendy Carruthers (BSc, MSc) has worked as a freelance archaeobotanist for over 30 years, mainly analysing plant macrofossils from sites in southern and central England and Wales. After graduating in Manchester she worked as a field botanist for a year, followed by a couple of years on archaeological excavations as a digger and planner. I then took the Masters course in Plant Taxonomy at Reading, and started working as a freelance archaeobotanist after I graduated. In the early 1990s she was the English Heritage Archaeobotanist at the Ancient Monuments Laboratory for four years. Over the years she has analysed charred, waterlogged, mineralised, silicified and desiccated plant remains. She is particularly interested in preservation by mineralisation.

## **16. Insurance & Professional indemnity**

16.1 Trysor has Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

## **17. Project identification**

17.1 The project has been designated Trysor Project No. 2016/508. Identifying site code will be LNE2016.

## **18. Monitoring**

18.1 Staff from Carmarthenshire County Council and the planning archaeologists at Dyfed Archaeological Trust will be welcome to visit the site and monitor the work. They will be informed as to when work will start on site and contact details given.

## **19. Sources**

### **19.1 Maps**

Ordnance Survey, 1813, 2" to 1 mile Original Surveyors Drawing, Llanon Sheet

Ordnance Survey, 1831, 1" to 1 mile

Llanarthne parish tithe map, 1848, and apportionment

Ordnance Survey, 1888, Carmarthenshire, scale 1:2500,

Ordnance Survey, 1906, Carmarthenshire, scale 1:2500,

Ordnance Survey, 1973, Carmarthenshire, scale 1:2500

### **19.2 Non-published**

Central Excavation Unit, 1986, *Central Excavation Unit Manual: Part 2: Recording*, 1986

RCAHMW, 2015, RCAHMW Guidelines for Digital Archives Version 1

### **19.3 Published**

CIfA, 2014a, *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

CIfA, 2014b, *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*.

CIfA, 2014c, *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*

### **19.4 Web based materials**

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook

Trydor

April 2016

## APPENDIX B – FINDS CATALOGUE

Martin Locock BA MCIFA FHEA

The excavation recovered a small assemblage of material, mostly post-medieval pottery, with some brick fragments, iron objects, window, vessel and bottle glass, and clay pipe stems and a bowl. Several fragments of ruled writing slate were found and stoneware ink wells. Also recovered were animal bone, stone, coal fragments, and lumps of fired clay, perhaps from an oven or chimney.

Context	Material	Number	Weight	Comment	Date
002	Transfer-printed whiteware	5	99		19/20thC
	Whitewares	2	42g		19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
	Mocha ware	1	3g		19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
	Lead-glazed earthenware	2	6g	One fabric with numerous stones	Med/post-med
	Floor tile	1	53g	Unglazed, 20mm thick	Med/post-med
	Clay pipe	1	2g	Stem 2mm bore	18/19 C
	Bottle glass	1	73g	Neck of onion bottle	18/19 C
	Animal bone	2	10g	Sheep/goat tooth, M3, unworn; large mammal	
003	Lead-glazed earthenware	3	63g	Parts of a single large vessel with internal glaze	Med/post-med
	Stoneware	1	31g	Ink well	18/19 C
	Transfer-printed whiteware	1	9g		19 C

*Land Adjacent to Hen Ysgol, Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire, Evaluation*

Context	Material	Number	Weight	Comment	Date
	Black glazed earthenware	1	7g	Buff fabric	17-19 C
	Animal bone	1	23g	Rib, large mammal	
	Window glass	1	3g		18/19 C
	Stone	2	20g		
004	Porcelain	1	1g		19/20thC
	Brick	1	18g		
	Fired clay	1	7g		
	Animal bone	7	8g	Inc 1 ?fowl	
	Mocha ware	2	2g		19/20thC
	Slate	6	171g	Parts of school slates with scored lines	
	Coal	1	121g		
	Clay pipe	2	10g	Bowl, decorated; stem bore 1mm	19thC
	Stoneware	2	85g	Ink wells, 45mm diameter	18/19 C
	Window glass	5	19g	3mm – 1mm thick	18-20 <sup>th</sup> C
	Vessel glass	2	5g	clear	
	Iron	4	83g		
	Whiteware	4	16g		19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
	Transfer-printed whiteware	2	2g		19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
005	Coal	6	20g		
	Stone	3	36g	burnt	
	Iron	3	10g		
	Black glazed earthenware	2	16g		17/19 <sup>th</sup> C
	coarseware	2	6g	Stone inclusions in fabric	Med/post-med



*Land Adjacent to Hen Ysgol, Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire, Evaluation*

Context	Material	Number	Weight	Comment	Date
	Yellow-brown glazed earthenware	2	15g		17/19 <sup>th</sup> C
006	Glazed red earthenware with large stone inclusions	1	19g		17/19 <sup>th</sup> C
	Glazed red earthenware	3	8g	Metallic internal glaze; part yellow green external glaze	18/19 <sup>th</sup> C
	Fired clay	3	7g		
	Stone	1	55g		
	Coal	4	27g		
	Black glazed earthenware	1	1g		17/19 <sup>th</sup> C
008	Coal	3	13g		
010	Stone	2	52g	burnt	
	Coal	1	44g		
	Fired clay	2	1g		
	Animal bone	1	1g		
	Unglazed earthenware	1	21g		Med/post-med

**APPENDIX C**  
**PHOTOGRAPHS**

**APPENDIX C Photographs**



*Plate 1: LNE2016\_101. A general view of the development plot, looking southeast.  
The machine is opening Trench 1*



*Plate 2: LNE2016\_102. Looking east towards the development area from the western edge of the original playground of the school.*



*Plate 3: LNE2016\_103. General view of part of the development area, looking northwest, towards the former school and the Golden Grove Arms*



*Plate 4: LNE2016\_104. Trench 2, looking southeast. No features were seen in this trench*



*Plate 5: LNE2016\_105. Section of Trench 2, looking northeast, showing contexts 001,003 and 014.*



*Plate 6: LNE2016\_106. Trench 3, looking east northeast, showing contexts 001, 003, 005 and 014 in section*



*Plate 7: LNE2016\_107. Trench 3, looking southwest, showing fill 010, the fill of a ditch 011, that was excavated in Trench 1.*



Plate 8: LNE2016\_108. Starting excavating Trench 1 with 004 visible in the foreground and 005, the darker layer starting to be revealed beyond, looking southeast



*Plate 9: LNE2016\_109. Trench 1, looking northwest, showing context 006 clearly in the foreground with 008 and 010 beyond but not so defined.*



Plate 10: LNE2016\_110. Trench 1, section A to B, part 7, at southeastern end, looking southwest



Plate 11: LNE2016\_111. Trench 1, section A to B, part 6, looking southwest, ranging poles 2 metres apart. Contexts 001, 003, 005 and 014 are visible in section. Fills 006 (to the left) and 008 (to the right)





Plate 12: LNE2016\_112. Trench 1, section A to B, part 5, looking southwest, ranging poles 2 metres apart. Contexts 001, 003, 005 and 014 are visible in section. Fill 010 visible on the right of photo in the base of the trench.



Plate 13: LNE2016\_113. Trench 1, section A to B, part 4, looking southwest, ranging poles 2 metres apart. Contexts 001, 003 and 005 are visible in section. Fill 010 visible in the base of the trench.



Plate 14: LNE2016\_114. Trench 1, section A to B, part 3, looking southwest, ranging poles 2 metres apart. Contexts 001, 003 and 005 are visible in section. Fill 010 visible in the base of the trench on the left



Plate 15: LNE2016\_115. Trench 1, section A to B, part 2, looking southwest, ranging poles 2 metres apart. Contexts 001, 003, 005 and 013 are visible in section.



Plate 16: LNE2016\_116. Trench 1, section A to B, part 2, looking southwest, ranging poles 2 metres apart. Contexts 001,002, 003/004 and 005 are visible in section. 004 and 005 visible in the base of the trench



Plate 17: LNE2016\_117. Trench 1, looking northwest, showing excavated section of gully 007 in the foreground



Plate 18: LNE2016\_118. Trench 1 showing excavated sections of gullies 007, 009 and ditch 011, looking northwest.



Plate 19: LNE2016\_119. Trench 1, the excavated end of gully 009, looking northeast



*Plate 20: LNE2016\_120. Trench 1, looking southeast, showing excavated section of ditch 011 and gullies 009 and 007.*



*Plate 21: LNE2016\_121. Trench 1, excavated section of gully 007, looking southwest.*



Plate 22: LNE2016\_122. Trench 1, looking northeast, showing excavated section of the end of gully 009



Plate 23: LNE2016\_123 Trench 1, looking southwest, showing excavated section of ditch 011, and contexts 005 and 010 in section



*Plate 24: LNE2016\_124. Trench 1, looking southwest, partially excavated feature 012, filled by 004 and 002, with 001 above.*