

Penybanc Loughor Watching Brief



Report by: Trysor

For: Dr J Tang

February 2016



Penybanc Loughor Watching Brief

By

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Trysor Project No. 2016/498

For: Dr J Tang

February 2016

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Cover photograph: Eastern foundation trench, looking northeast.

Penybanc, Loughor Watching Brief

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DATE 3rd March 2016

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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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 .

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1. Summary

1.1 In February 2016, Trysor undertook a watching brief on foundations for a double garage to the rear of Penybanc, Loughor.

1.2 No archaeologically significant features or artefacts were recorded. The area to the north of the house at Penybanc had been levelled at some point in the later 20th century, cutting into the slope to the south and pushing material northwards to create a level area on what would have been a slope.

1.3 If the possible Roman kiln lay in this area it likely to have been removed or buried under material dumped further to the north during the process of levelling the ground north of the house.

2. Copyright

2.1 Trysor holds the copyright of this report and of the paper and digital archive. Further paper copies may be made of this report without gaining permission to reproduce but it must be noted that Figures 2, 3 & 4 include other copyright material and should not be copied.

3. Introduction

3.1 Mr James Tang, of Penybanc, Castle Street, Loughor, Swansea SA4 6TS has commissioned Trysor heritage consultants on behalf of his client to prepare an archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) on groundworks for a consented detached double garage to the north of the dwelling at Penybanc, Castle Street, Loughor, relating to planning application number: **2015/1364**.

4. The development

4.1 The development is at SS5657898142. It consists of a detached double garage that will lie to the northeast of the house at Penybanc and to the southeast of an existing garage or store room.

5. Conditions on the consent

5.1 In granting approval for the application, the Local Planning Authority imposed a condition on the consent; the condition specifies the actions necessary to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.

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 to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To identify and record any features of archaeological interest discovered during the works, in order to mitigate the impact of the works on the archaeological resource

6. Specification

6.1 Trysor prepared a specification for the watching brief, see Appendix A, which was approved on 26th October 2015 by an Archaeological Planning Officer at Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust, GGAT reference number SWA1010.

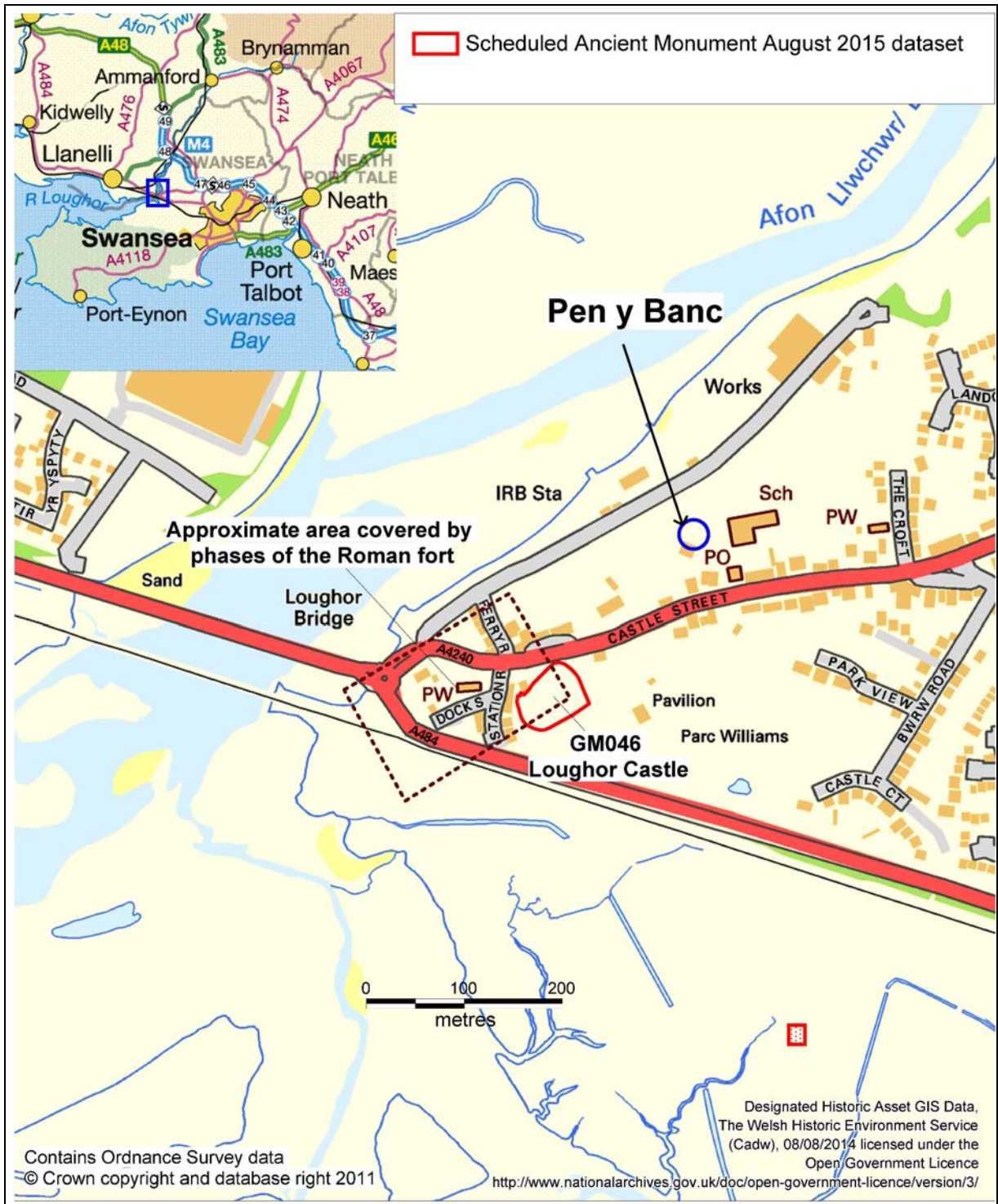


Figure 1: Location of Penybanc in Loughor, Swansea

7. Historical and Archaeological Overview

7.1 The site of a possible pottery kiln (ID Number 4, PRN 00220w) lies somewhere in the vicinity of Penybanc, Loughor. The record of what was found is rather confused. The HER records a “great deal of pottery”, dating probably to the late 1st to mid 2nd century, being found in 1934. The RCAHMW in 1976 said this consisted “bowls, jars and mortaria”

4.4 A stone-built feature was also found, probably in 1934, although again this is not clear. It was certainly reinvestigated in 1955, probably by Bernard Morris, after Emery in 1954 suggested that the northern side of the Roman fort lay close by (Emery, 1954) and that Bernard Morris was undertaking a survey. Whatever was found in 1955 was unpublished. The RCAHMW, citing the Ordnance Survey card, described the structure as “a roughly built ring of stone-work, 2.5m in diameter and up to 0.30m high about 200m NE of the fort (5658 9814) (RCAHMW 1976). The HER record describes this feature as “A circular stone structure 6'x8' in diameter looking like the foundation or outline of a kiln or oven or some kind of firing place has been found. The stone structure is 2'-3' below the ground surface in the layers of Roman pottery and was probably contemporary (OS card SS 59 NE 25)” It is unclear why these discrepancies in description have occurred.

4.5 The RCAHMW say that the structure was left exposed and that the pottery was given to the Secondary Modern School. Ling & Ling say that the unpublished 1934 coarseware was in the Royal Institution of South Wales, Swansea, along with a photograph of the 1955 excavation.

4.5 Similarly the location of the possible kiln has been given different NGRs, The HER gives NGR SS 5658 9815, the RCAHMW gives SS 5658 9814 and Ling and Ling in 1973 gave NGR SS 5659 9817, see Figure 2.

4.6 The conclusion of Ling & Ling was that there was no real evidence that the 1934/1955 site was a kiln.

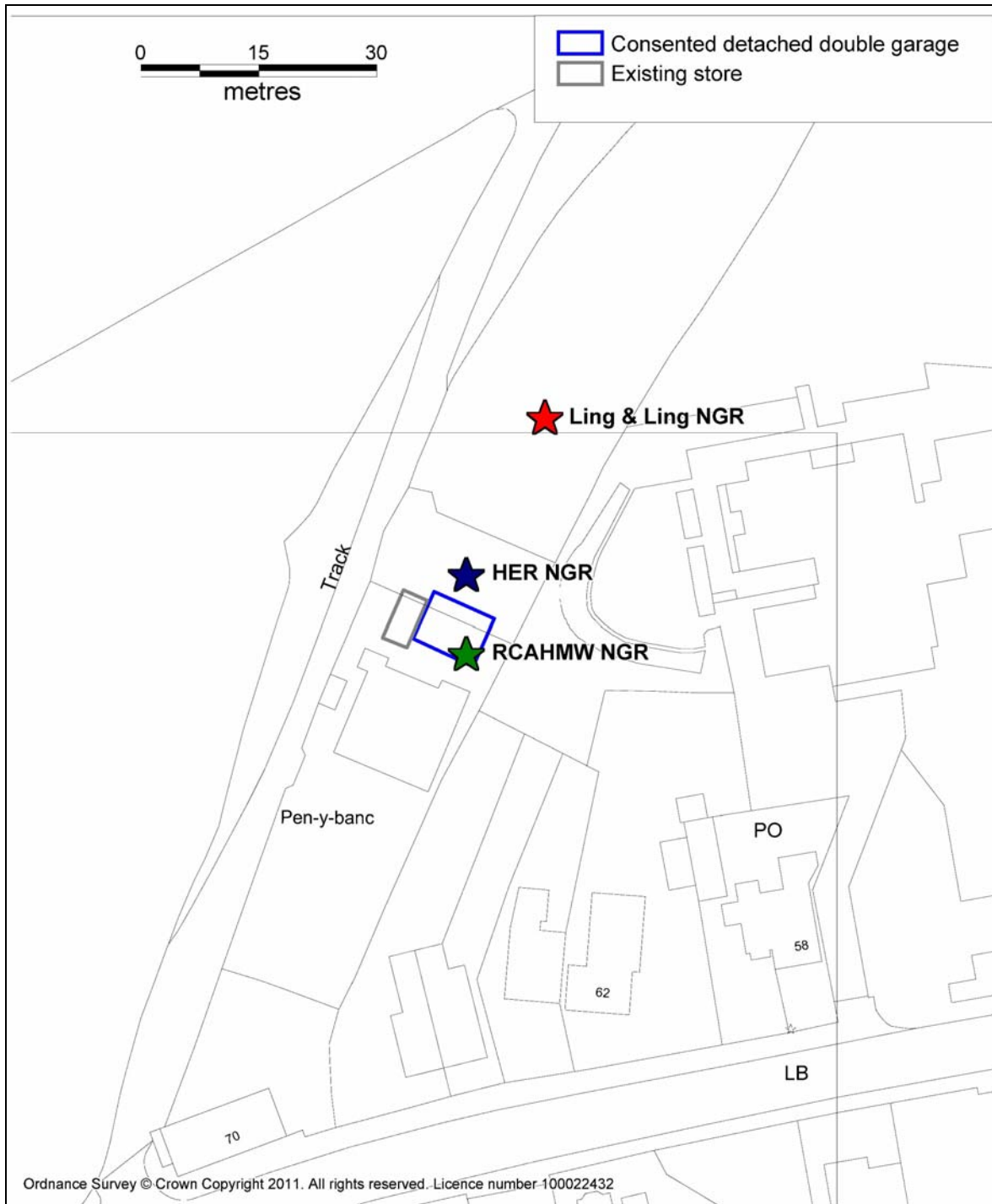


Figure 2: Approximate location of the development site and the locations of the possible kiln given by different sources.

8. Methodology

8.1 On Monday 1st February 2016, Trysor observed the excavation of the foundation trenches for the garage.

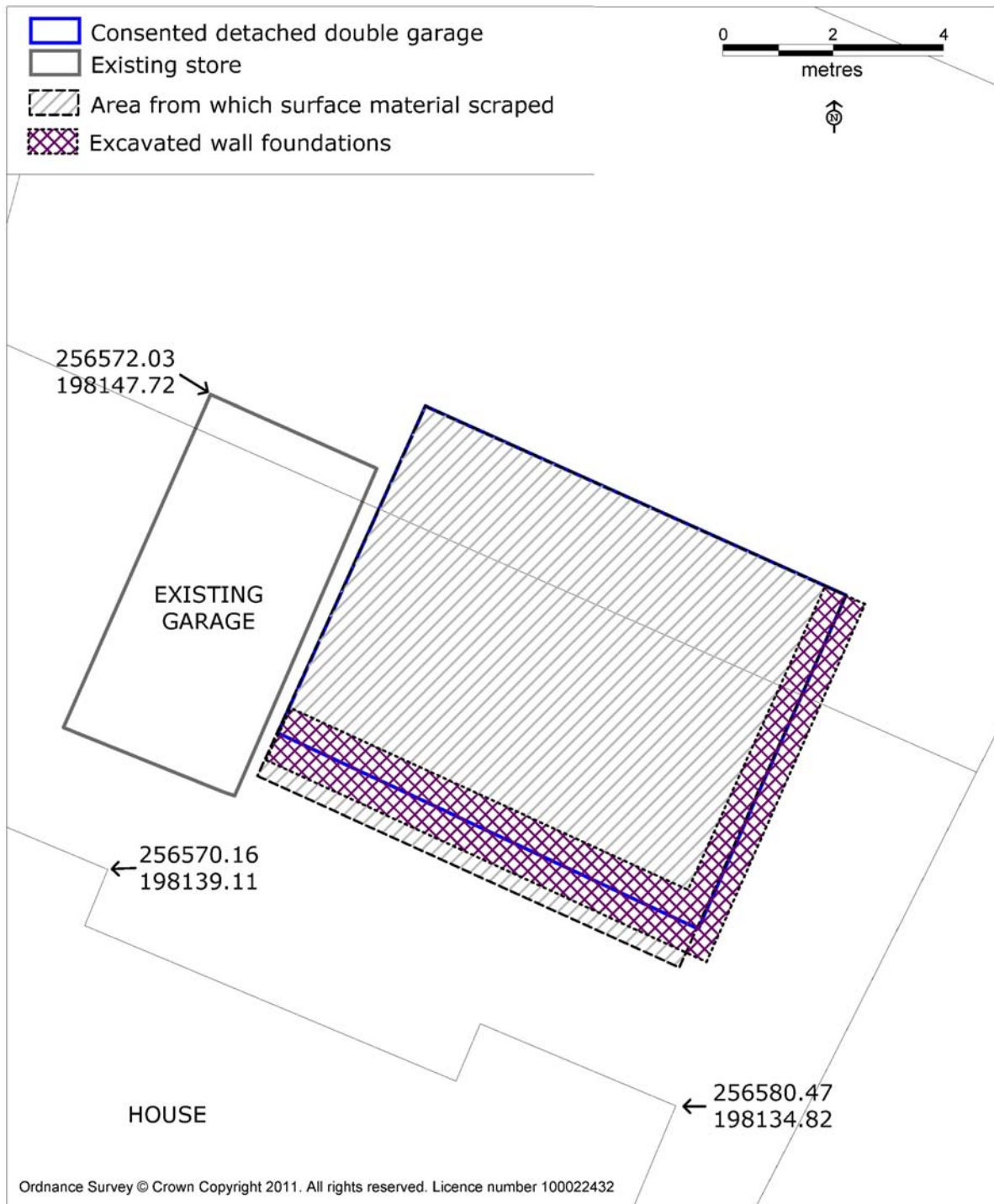


Figure 3: The area from which material was stripped and the foundation trenches.

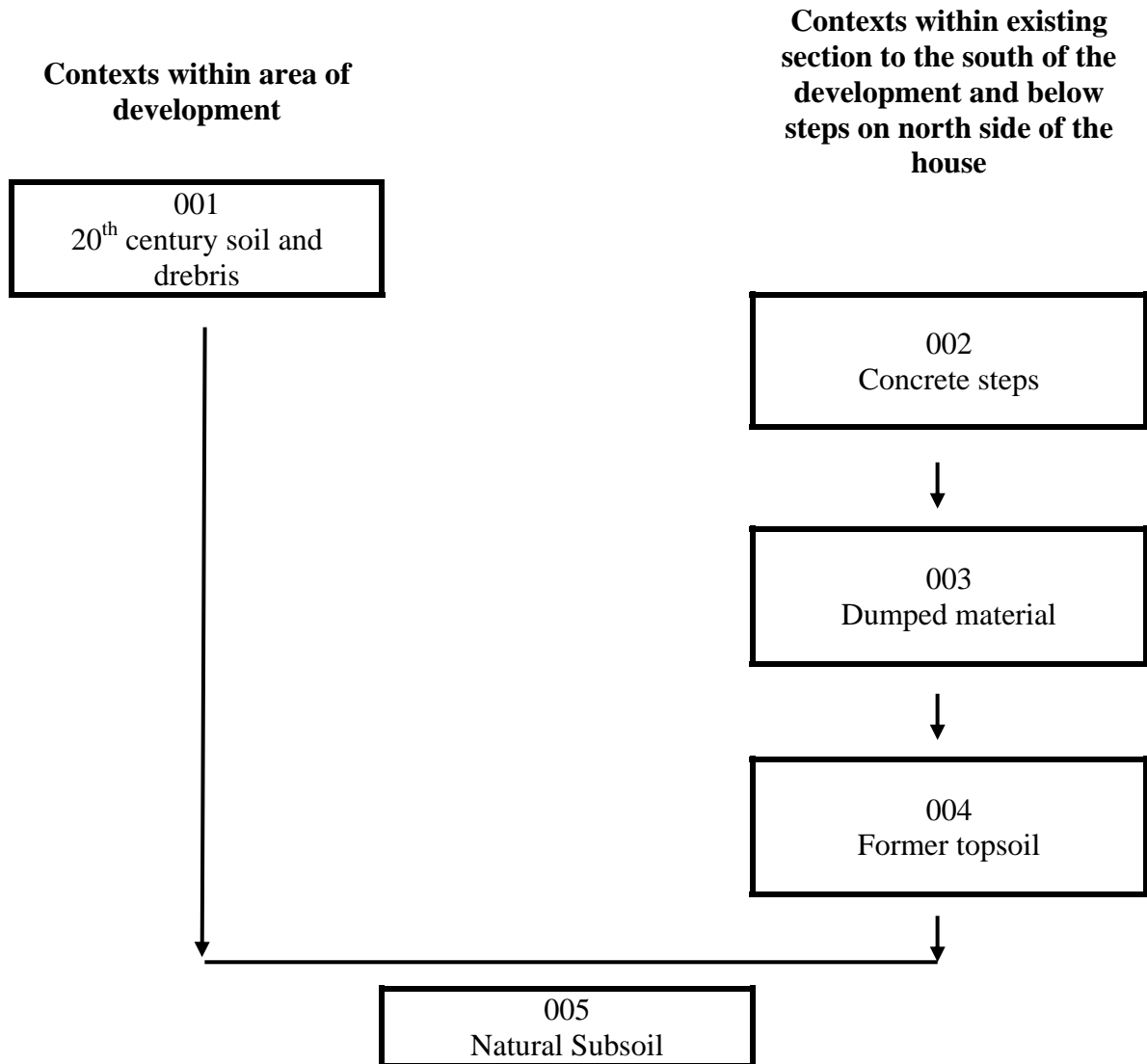
9. Site Stratigraphy

9.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (Institute for Archaeologists, 2014). The mechanical strip of the area and excavation of the foundation trench was watched by Trysor and the stratigraphy of the site recorded.

9.2 In addition a section visible below concrete steps leading up northwestwards on the northeast side of the house was recorded. This section showed how the slope had been previously truncated.

9.2 Context Catalogue

| Context Number | Depth | Description | Interpretation |
|----------------|-------------------|--|---|
| 001 | Up to 0.40 metres | 10YR 3/1 very dark gray loam, with small stones and late 20 th century artefacts | 20 th century layer within area that has been previously truncated when a structure was built here |
| 002 | - | Concrete and stone steps running up slope on the north side of the house | |
| 003 | Up to 0.60 metres | Stones and slag | Dumped material, used to build up slope before steps 002 constructed. |
| 004 | Up to 0.5 metres | 10YR 2/1 loose sand silt | Former topsoil, overlain by dumped material when the steps were built. |
| 005 | - | Varies from 10YR 4/3 brown, loose sand with some stone to 2.5 Y 4/2 dark grayish brown, loose stone, gravel and sand | Natural Subsoil |



10. Photographs

10.1 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. The photographs are included in Appendix B at the end of the report.

| Photo Number | Description | Date Taken | Direction |
|---------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------------|
| PBL2016_101 | Starting to remove context 001, the steps 002 visible to the left of the photo with 003 and 004 below | 01/02/2016 | Looking west southwest |
| PBL2016_102 | Surface vegetation and debris scraped off context 001 | 01/02/2016 | Looking north northeast |
| PBL2016_103 | From north of the development area showing the change in level to the north. Material has been use to create a level platform and then the ground drops away beyond. | 01/02/2016 | Looking northeast |
| PBL2016_104 | Removal of late 20 th century/ early 21 st century footings | 01/02/2016 | Looking south southwest |
| PBL2016_105 | Removal of late 20 th century/ early 21 st century footings | 01/02/2016 | Looking south southwest |
| PBL2016_106 | Southern foundation trench marked out after removal of 20 th century/21 st century footings and scraping off of vegetation from context 001 | 01/02/2016 | Looking west northwest |
| PBL2016_107 | Excavation of eastern foundation trench, through context 001 and into natural subsoil 005 | 01/02/2016 | Looking west northwest |
| PBL2016_108 | Excavation of eastern foundation trench, through context 001 and into natural subsoil 005 | 01/02/2016 | Looking north northeast |
| PBL2016_109 | Section below steps showing the stone and concrete of the steps, 002, the cobble make up 003 below on the left of the photo and the former topsoil, 003 below that | 01/02/2016 | Looking south southwest |
| PBL2016_110 | The section below steps 002 showing 003 and 004 | 01/02/2016 | Looking south southwest |
| PBL2016_111 | Eastern foundation trench | 01/02/2016 | Looking north northeast |

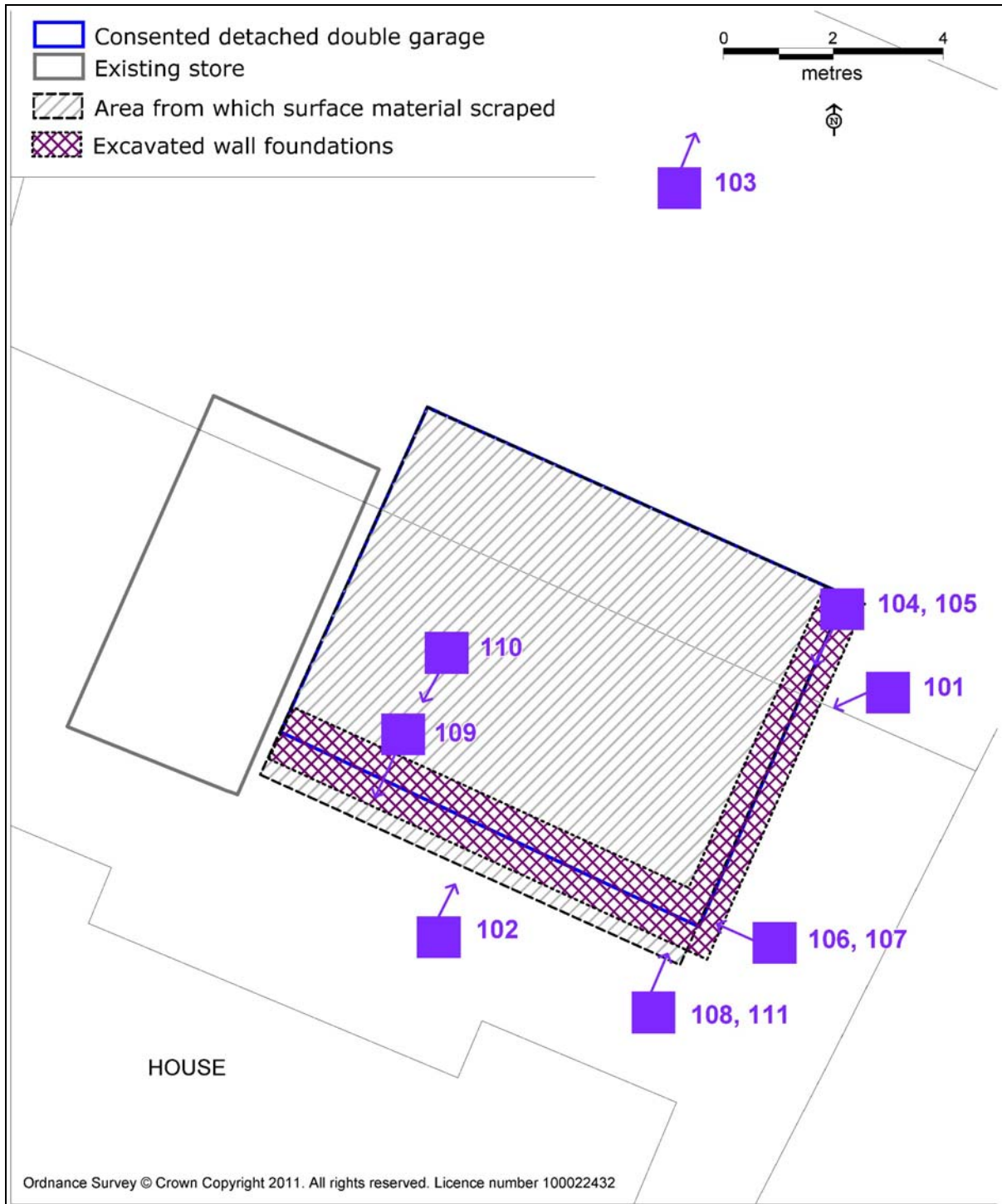


Figure 4: Location and direction of photographs.

11. Conclusion

11.1 No archaeologically significant features or artefacts were recorded.

11.2 A section, not related to the development, under steps running upslope to the northwest along the northeast side of the house showed that the former topsoil horizon 004, was at a higher level and this had been removed previously from the development area

11.3 This area north of the house appears to have been levelled off in late 20th century/21st century cutting down into the slope and pushing material northward to create a level area on what was a hillslope.

11.4 If the possible Roman kiln lay in this area it is likely to have been removed, or buried under material dumped over the garden area to the north during the process of levelling the ground.

12. Archive

12.1 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 RCAHMW.

12.2 A further copy of the report has also been supplied to the Historic Environment Record at Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust, Swansea.

13. Sources

13.1 CIfA Standard and Guidance

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief, available online from the IfA website, www.archaeologists.net

APPENDIX A

**PENYBANC, CASTLE STREET, LOUGHOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION**

Planning application – 2015/1364

1. Introduction

1.1 Mr James Tang, of Penybanc, Castle Street, Loughor, Swansea SA4 6TS has commissioned Trysor heritage consultants on behalf of his client to prepare an archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) on groundworks for a consented detached double garage to the north of the dwelling at Penybanc, Castle Street, Loughor, relating to planning application number: **2015/1364**

1.2 The development is at SS5657898142.



Figure 1: Approximate location of the development site.

2. The development

2.1 The development consists of a detached double garage that will lie to the northeast of the house at Penybanc and to the southeast of an existing garage or store room.

3. Conditions on the consent

3.1 In granting approval for the application, the Local Planning Authority imposed a condition on the consent; the condition specifies the actions necessary to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.

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 to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To identify and record any features of archaeological interest discovered during the works, in order to mitigate the impact of the works on the archaeological resource

4. Nature of the archaeological resource

4.1 During the construction of the Great Western railway in 1851 parts of a Roman bathhouse were found at Loughor. Excavations in the 1970s and 1980s ahead of work for a road development confirmed the presence of a fort. The fort was laid out on the glacial gravels on the east side of the river Loughor at a point that has been favoured as a crossing point. In order to accommodate the fort on the slope down to the river a series of terraces were created. Eight phases of activity have been identified, see table 1 below (Burnham & Davies, 2010, pages 262-264).

| | | |
|------|---------------------|---|
| I | AD73/4 to AD80 | laying out of the first fort and first buildings |
| II | AD80 to AD85 | second phase of buildings |
| III | AD85 to AD100 | third phase of buildings |
| IV | AD100 to AD105 | fourth phase of buildings including construction of external bath house |
| V | AD105 to AD110 | fifth phase of building |
| VI | AD110 to AD115/120 | refurbishment of rampart, construction of stone tower in southeast corner, new defensive ditch, bath house abandoned, roads resurfaced and sixth phase of buildings |
| VII | AD115 to AD 120/260 | Construction second, smaller fort occupied intermittently |
| VIII | c.AD360 -310+ | Refurbishment of ramparts with a capping wall and cobblestone casing, large timber building in southwest corner of the fort |

Table 1: Identified phases of activity at Loughor roman fort

4. 2 Little is known of what external settlement may have lain outside the fort. The bath house (GGAT PRN 00200w) was to its south (RCAHMW, 1976, page 88b. RCAHMW investigators found two 2 cremation burials (RCAHMW, 1976) on the edge of the marsh to the south of the fort, of probable 1st to 2nd century date. They thought that their presence probably explained why there was a Church Site marked at that location on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey. A stone inscribed with ogham, which was thought to be a reused Roman altar stone, was found somewhere in Loughor but its true provenance seems to have been lost. It is believed that the B4620 road (Castle Street) is the fossilised route of the road into the north east side of the fort (Sherman and Evans, 2004, p. 27-28). A possible pottery kiln (PRN 00220w) associated with a quantity of late 1st to early 2nd century pottery was found to the north of the fort. A hoard of 60 coins, dating to AD250 to AD263 was reported in a

journal of 1856 and may possibly be the site of the Roman coins shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.

| ID number | Type | Period | NGR | NPRN | PRN | Ref |
|-----------|------------|--------|------------------|--------|----------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Fort | Roman | SS56369800 | 107606 | 00202w | Burnham & Davies, 2010 |
| 2 | Road | Roman | SS5686198131 | 307253 | 01016.0w | Sherman & Evans, 2004 |
| 3 | Bathhouse | Roman | SS56349799 | | 00200w | RCAHMW 1976 |
| 4 | Kiln? | Roman | SS56589814 | | 00220w | RCAHMW 1976, Ling & Ling 1973 |
| 5 | Cremation | Roman | SS56589777 | | | RCAHMW 1976 |
| 6 | Cist | Roman | SS56479808 | | 01400w | Ling RJ & Ling LA/1973 |
| 7 | Altar? | Roman? | Location unknown | | 00206w | RCAHMW 1976 |
| 8 | Vicus | Roman | SS566981 | | 05305w | Pearson, 2002 |
| 9 | Coin Hoard | Roman | SS56199794 | | | RCAHMW 1976 |

Table 2: Identified or postulated Roman features at Loughor.

4.3 The site of the possible pottery kiln (ID Number 4, PRN 00220w) lies somewhere in the vicinity of Penybanc Loughor. The record of what has been found is rather confused. The HER records a “great deal of pottery” dating probably to from the late 1st to mid 2nd century being found in 1934. The RCAHMW in 1976 said this consisted “bowls, jars and mortaria”

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4.6 The conclusion of Ling & Ling was that was no real evidence that the 1934/1955 site was a kiln.

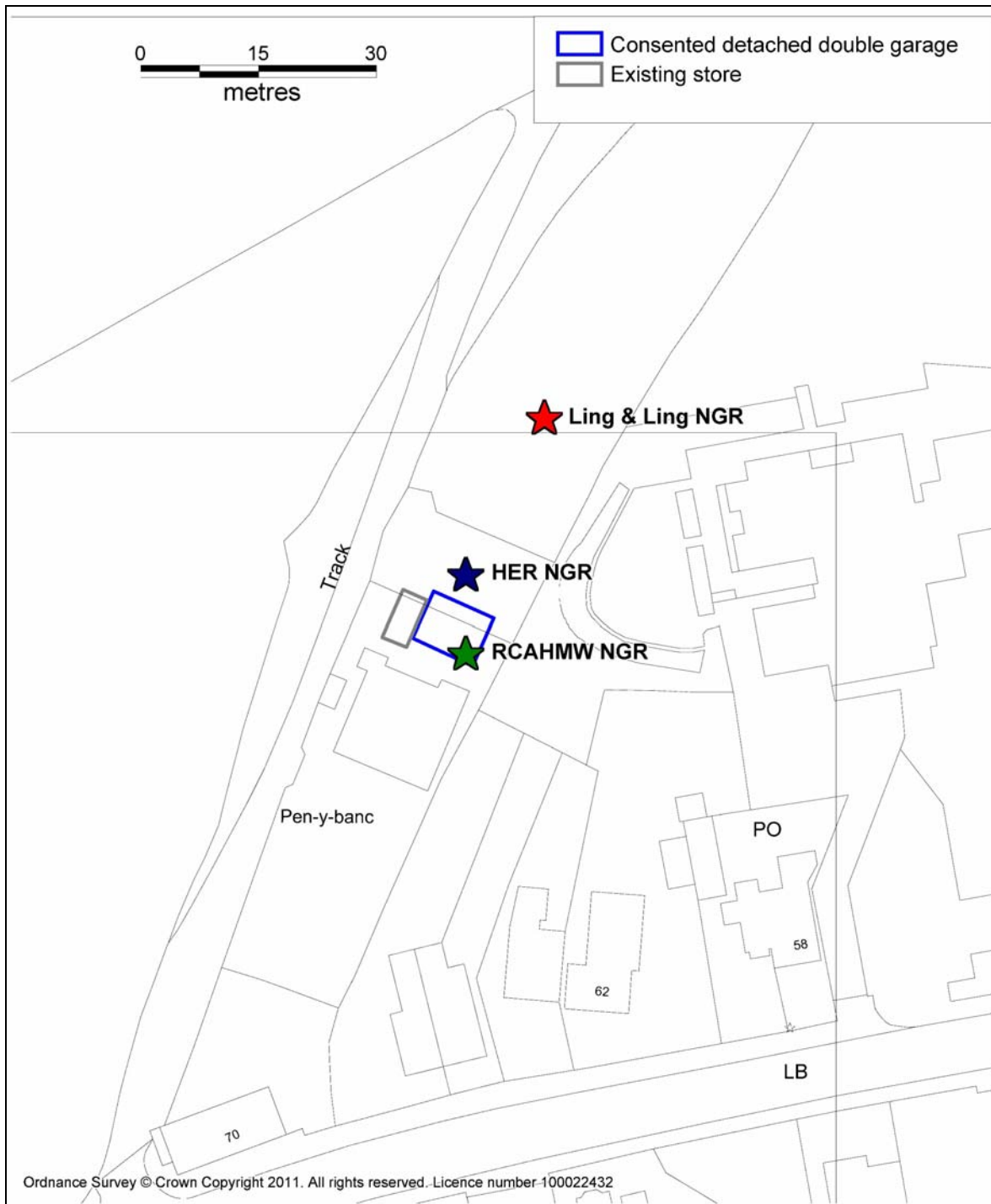


Figure 2: Approximate location of the development site.

5. Field methodology

5.1 Given the uncertainty about the actual location of the stone feature uncovered in 1955 and whether it was a kiln, it is considered that a watching brief is appropriate mitigation in this case.

5.2 A watching brief will be carried out on groundworks in accordance with Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA, 2014a)

5.3 A two-person team will watch the excavation for groundworks associated with development and features of archaeological interest recorded. Excavation of any features will be limited to that necessary to establish their extent and character, unless their excavation is required to allow the development to proceed.

6. Contingency arrangements if archaeological features are discovered

6.1 In the event that archaeological remains are encountered, where appropriate investigation falls outside the scope of this watching brief specification, a meeting between Trysor, the applicant, Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Heritage Planning Section and the Local Planning Authority case officer will be convened in order to agree a course of action.

6.2 The client will be responsible for paying for any further work necessary. This may include extra time on site, extra time for post excavation processes, finds processing, analysing and conservation, dating techniques such as radio-carbon dating, on-site monitoring, but this list not exhaustive.

7. Health & Safety

7. 1 Trysor will undertake a risk assessment in accordance with their health & safety policy.

8. Recording

8.1 A plan of the groundworks, and representative sections if appropriate, will be drawn, at an appropriate scale, recording all features of archaeological interest. Plans will be drawn on permatrace to a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate. The plan will be based on the applicants' survey drawings of the development area.

8.2 A written record of all activity will be kept in a project specific notebook. If archaeological contexts are encountered they will be recorded following the *Central Excavation Unit Manual: Part 2: Recording*, 1986, using a consecutive numbering system.

8.3 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). Any artefacts will be retained, cleaned and stored. Following reporting they will be returned to the applicant.

8.4 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

8.5 Colour digital photographs will be taken, as appropriate, using a 16M pixel camera. A written record will be made on site of the photographs taken. Appropriate photographic scales will be used.

9. Reporting

9.1 A report on the watching brief will be prepared according to the requirements of Annexe 1 of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA, 2014a, p.12) following the completion of the work. Copies of the report will be provided to the client, the Regional Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record.

10. Dissemination

10.1 A summary of the work undertaken and its findings will be submitted to *Archaeology in Wales*, the annual review of archaeological work in Wales collated the Council for British Archaeology Wales (CBA Wales)

11. Archive

11.1 The paper archive will be deposited with the National Monuments 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. Photographs will be supplied in TIFF format in a file size greater than 11MB, following the standard required by the RCAHMW for Upland Survey (RCAHMW, 2011). Digital archives will conform to the RCAHMW guidelines issued in 2015 (RCAHMW, 2015)

12. Resources to be used

12.1 Two members of staff will undertake the watching brief. They will be equipped with standard field equipment, including digital cameras, GPS and first aid kits. Trysor have access to the computer hardware and software required to deliver the completed final report and archive to a professional standard.

12.2 If specialist post excavation expertise is required, such as for finds work, an available qualified archaeologist with the correct expertise will be used.

13. Qualification of personnel

13.1 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

13.2 Jenny Hall (BSc Joint Hons., Geology and Archaeology, MCIfA) had 12 years excavation experience, which included undertaking watching briefs prior to becoming the Sites and Monuments Record Manager for a Welsh Archaeological Trust for 10 years. Since 2004 she has been an independent archaeologist undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desktop assessments and watching briefs.

13.3 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. Since 2004 he has been an independent archaeologist undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desktop assessments and watching briefs.

14. Insurance & Professional indemnity

14.1 Trysor has Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

15. Project identification

15.1 The project has been designated Trysor Project No. 2015/498

16. Sources

16.1 Non-published

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

Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust, 2014, *Archaeological WSI/Project Design Monitoring Form – Notes and Guidance*

Pearson, A, 2002, *Roman roads and vici in Southeast Wales*. GGAT report no. 2002/061

RCAHMW, 2011, *Form AB12: “Notes for Guidance” in the preparation of applications for Uplands Archaeology Initiative projects 2012-13*

RCAHMW, 2015, *RCAHMW Guidelines for Digital Archives*, Version 1

Sherman & Evans, 2004, *Roman roads in South East Wales*, GGAT report no. 2002/061

16.2 Published

Burnham, B & Davies, J, 2010, *Roman Frontiers in Wales and the Marches*

CIfA, 2014a, *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*

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*

Emery, 1954, *The Location of Leucarum*, Gower, Vol 7, pps 17-18

Ling, R & Ling, L, 1973, "Excavations at Loughor, Glamorgan: the north-east and south-east angles of the Roman fort." *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 122 pps 99-146.

RCAHMW, 1976, *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Glamorgan: Vol I Pre-Norman; Part II The Iron Age and Roman Occupation*

16.3 Web-based

Historic Wales, accessed 31/08/2015, <http://historicwales.gov.uk>

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook
Trysor, November 2015

APPENDIX B



Plate 1: PBL2016_101: Starting to remove context 001, the steps 002 visible to the left of the photo with 003 and 004 below, looking west southwest



Plate 2: PBL2016_102: Surface vegetation and debris scraped off context 001, looking north northeast.



Plate 3: PBL2016_103: From north of the development area showing the change in level to the north. Material has been used to create a level platform and then the ground drops away beyond, looking northeast



Plate 4: PBL2016_104: Removal of late 20th century/ early 21st century footings, looking south southwest.



Plate 5: PBL2016_105: Removal of late 20th century/early 21st century footings, looking south southwest.

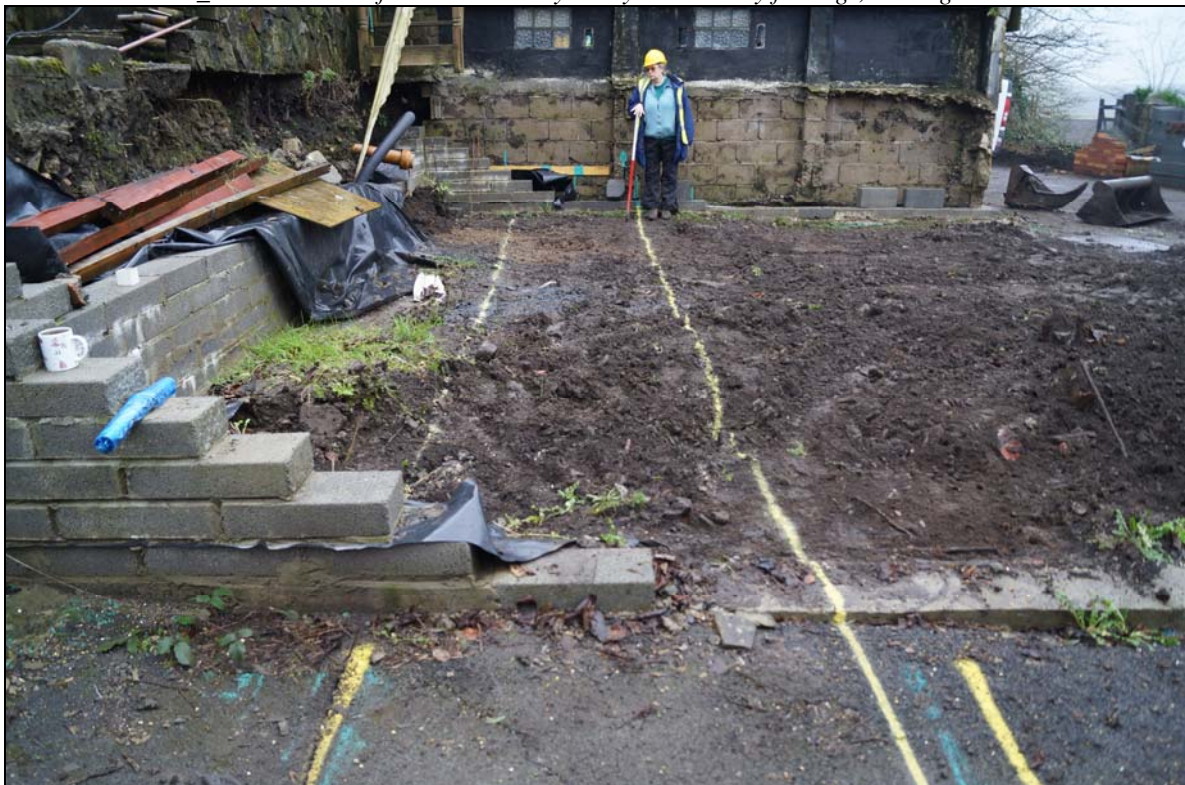


Plate 6: PBL2016_106: Southern foundation trench marked out after removal of 20th century/21st century footings and scraping off of vegetation from context 001, looking west northwest.



Plate 7: PBL2016_107: Excavation of southern foundation trench, through context 001 and into natural subsoil 005, looking west northwest.



Plate 8 : PBL2016_108: Excavation of southern foundation trench, through context 001 and into natural subsoil 005, looking north northeast.



Plate 9: PBL2016_109: Section below steps showing the stone and concrete of the steps, 002, the cobble make up 003 below on the left of the photo and the former topsoil, 003 below that , looking south southwest.



Plate10: PBL2016_110: The section below steps 002 showing 003 and 004, looking south southwest.



Plate 11: PBL2016_111: Eastern foundation trench, looking north northeast.