

9, Castle Street, Loughor, Swansea Watching Brief



Report by: Trysor

For: Mr Nigel Rees

January 2014



9, Castle Street, Loughor, Swansea Watching Brief

By

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Trysor Project No. 2012/337

For: Mr Nigel Rees

January 2014

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Cover photograph: Before excavation of the foundation trenches, looking east.

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RHIF YR ADRODDIAD - REPORT NUMBER: Trysor 2012/337

DYDDIAD 6^{ed} Ionawr 2014

DATE 6th January 2014

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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Jenny Hall (BSc Joint Hons., Geology and Archaeology, MifA) 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. She has been an independent archaeologist since 2004 undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desk-based appraisals and assessments, and watching briefs.

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1. Summary

In November 2013, Trysor undertook a watching brief on an extension to an existing dwelling at 9, Castle Street, Loughor, NGR SS5675798090. No archaeologically significant contexts or artefacts were observed.

2. Copyright

Trysor hold 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 Figure 2 & 3 include other copyright material and should not be copied.

3. Introduction

Mr Nigel Rees, of 15, Llwyn y Bryn, Skewen, Neath, SA10 6DZ commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks at 9 Castle Street Loughor Swansea SA4 6TU relating to planning application number: 2013/0922

4. The development

The development was an extension to the rear and side of an existing two storey dwelling at 9, Castle Street, Loughor, NGR SS5675798090

5. Conditions on the consent

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

The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeologist is present during the undertaking of any ground disturbing works in the development area, so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief shall be undertaken to the standards of the Institute for Archaeologists. The Local Planning Authority shall be informed in writing, at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development of the name of the said archaeologist and no work shall begin until the Local Planning Authority has confirmed, in writing, that the proposed archaeologist is suitable. A copy of the watching brief report shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within two months of the fieldwork being completed by the archaeologist.

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

Trysor prepared a specification for the watching brief, see Appendix A, which was approved on 13th November by Archaeological Planning Officer at Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust.



Figure 1: Location of 9, Castle Street, Loughor.

7. Historical and Archaeological Overview

A more detailed discussion of the previously recorded archaeology in the area is given in Appendix A, section 3, but the presence of Loughor Roman fort and medieval Loughor, including the castle, to the southwest was the main reason for the watching brief.

This southern side of Castle Street was a large field on the 1879 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map although Castle Street which bounded it to the north and Bwrw Road to the south were in place. The same is also shown on the 1898 2nd edition and 1907 3rd edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey maps.

By the time of the survey for the 1918 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map several houses, including Number 9, had been built on the southern side of Castle Street. It is shown in its current position on the east side of the plot with a wider part fronting the road and a narrower back section. The same picture is shown on the 1935 map with more development in other parts of the field. The 1986 1:2500 map shows the same.

At some point an extension was added to the western side of the house and this is shown on modern detailed mapping. This extension and part of the southern end of the house was taken down prior to the watching brief, see Figure 2.

8. Methodology

On Thursday 14th November 2013, three foundation trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator and a toothed bucket. This process was observed by Trysor. The trenches were approximately 1 metre wide and up to 0.85 metres wide.

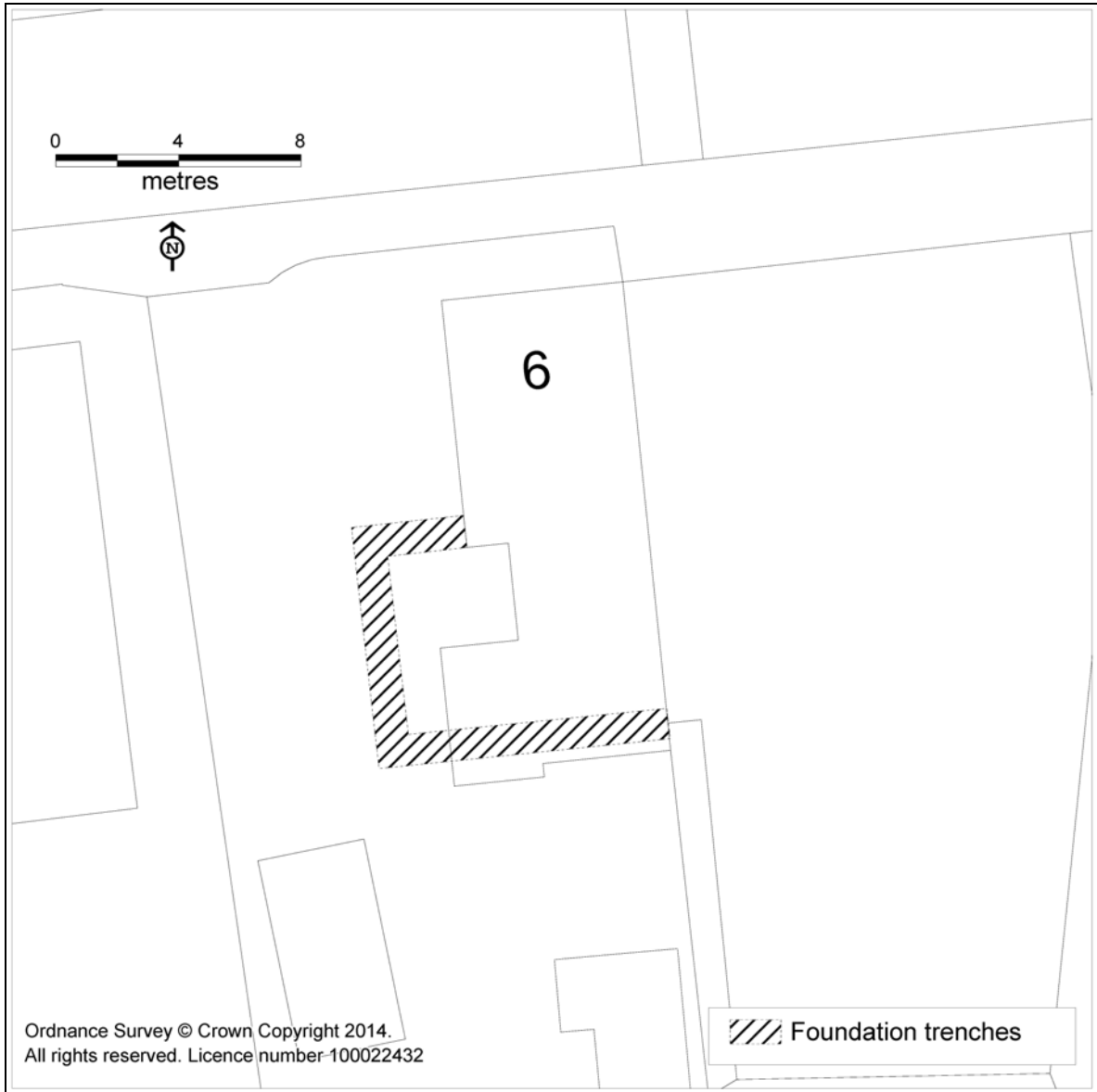


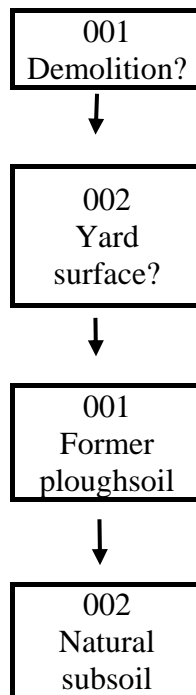
Figure 2: Foundation trenches overlying the house footprint prior to demolition of the southern and southwestern side

9. Site Stratigraphy

The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (Institute for Archaeologists, 2008). The mechanical topsoil strip of the area of the slurry pit was watched by Trysor and the stratigraphy of the site recorded.

9.1 Context Catalogue

Context Number	Depth	Description	Interpretation
001	0.25m	Black, mixed material containing brick, coal and mortar	Demolition layer?
002	0.1m	10YR3/1 very dark grey gritty loam containing 20 th century pottery	Yard surface?
003	0.25m	10YR3/2 very dark greyish brown clay loam	Former ploughsoil prior to the house being built in 20 th century
004	-	7.5YR4/3 brown clay with stones	Natural Subsoil



10. Photographs

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

Photo Number	Description	Date Taken	Direction
CSL2013_101	Back of the house after removal of the previous extension revealing the stone foundations of the house and brick and stone above,	14/11/2013	Looking north northwest.
CSL2013_102	Detail of the foundations of the house,	14/11/2013	Looking north northwest.
CSL2013_103	Stone foundations and brick upper part of the house,	14/11/2013	Looking east northeast.
CSL2013_104	After excavation of southernmost foundation trench,	14/11/2013	Looking northeast.
CSL2013_105	Excavated foundation trenches,	14/11/2013	Looking east northeast.
CSL2013_106	Looking at the northern foundation trench and the remains of a raised concrete path to its north,	14/11/2013	Looking northeast.
CSL2013_107	Detail of section below former raised concrete path,	14/11/2013	Looking north northwest.
CSL2013_108	Detail of the southern end of the western foundation trench,	14/11/2013	Looking west southwest.

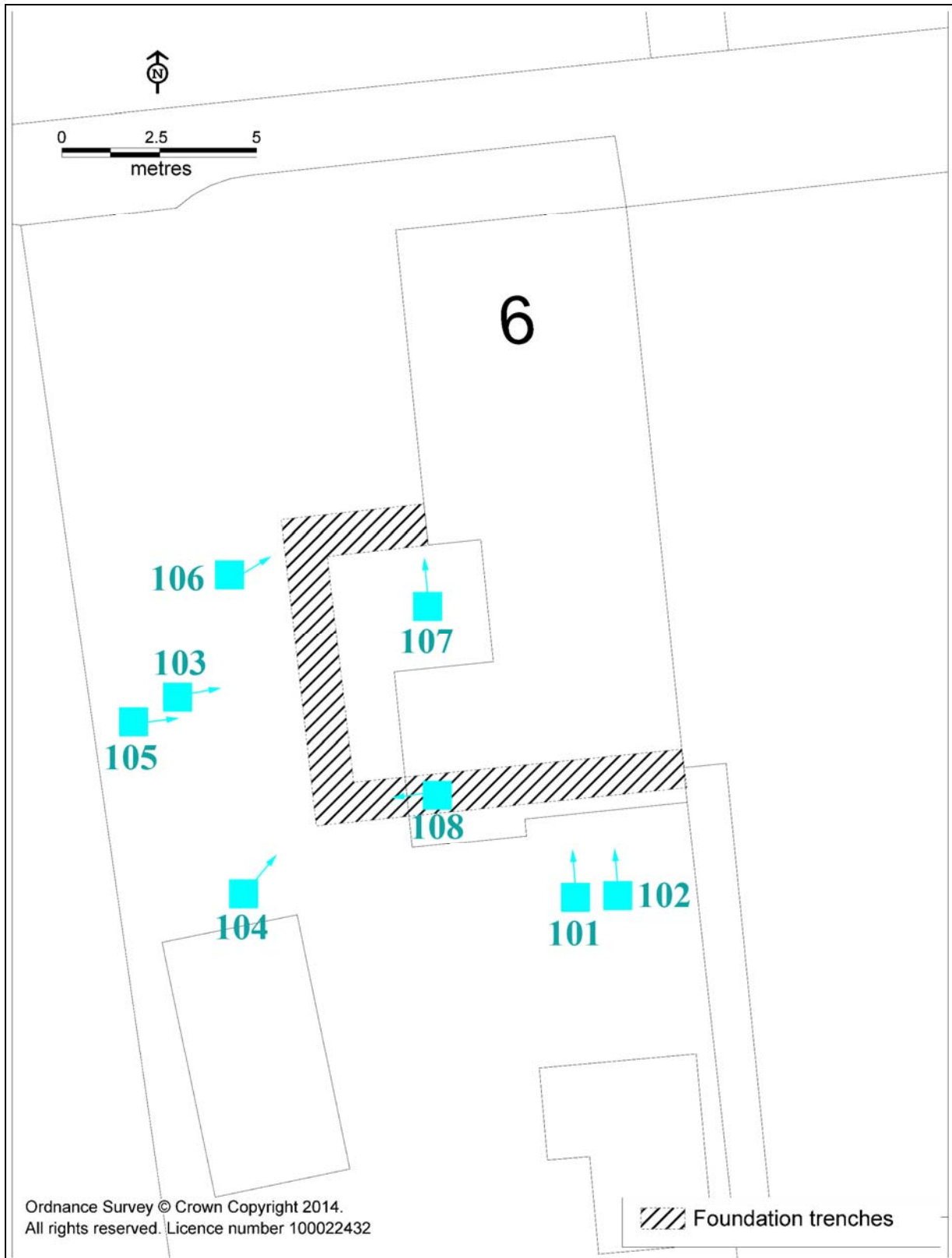


Figure 3: Location and direction of photographs

11. Conclusion

When the house was constructed in the early part of the 20th century it was built in a former field and that ploughsoil could still be seen below two layers relating to use of the house and changes to the southern end of the building. No Roman or medieval contexts or artefacts were noted.

12. Archive

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.

Further copies of the report have also been supplied to Mr Rees, and the Historic Environment Record at Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust, Swansea.

13. Sources

13.1 Unpublished sources

Trydor, 2013, 9, Castle Street, Loughor, Swansea Archaeological Watching Brief Specification

13.2 IfA Standard and Guidance

Institute for Archaeologists, 2008 (revised), Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief, available online from the IfA website, www.archaeologists.net

APPENDIX A – Watching Brief Specification, 31/10/2013
Specification approved by GGAT Archaeological Planning Officer on 13/11/2013

9, CASTLE STREET, LOUGHOR, SWANSEA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF SPECIFICATION

Planning permission – 2013/0922

1. Introduction

Mr Nigel Rees, of 15, Llwyn y Bryn, Skewen, Neath, SA10 6DZ has commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks at 9 Castle Street Loughor Swansea SA4 6TU relating to planning application number: 2013/0922

The development is at SS5675798090 on the southern side of Castle Street Loughor.

2. The development

The development consists of two storey side/rear extension, detached garage and widening of existing vehicular access replacing an existing structure

3. Nature of the archaeological resource

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 were identified, see table 1 below.

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

Little is known of what external settlement may have lain outside the fort. The bath house (ID number 3) was to its south. RCAHMW investigators found two 2 cremation burials (ID number 3) on the edge of the marsh to the south of the fort, of probable 1st to 2nd century date. They thought that their presence there was probably why there was a Church Site marked there on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map at that point. A stone inscribed with ogam, which was thought to be a reused Roman altar stone altar, was found somewhere in Loughor but its true provenance seems to have been lost. 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.

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)

Loughor Castle lies within the eastern angle of the Roman fort. The earliest medieval remains appear to be a primary ring bank constructed between 1106 and 1151. In the second half of the twelfth century the bank was extended inwards and two stone buildings were raised in the late twelfth to early thirteenth century. The main curtain wall was added in the later part of the thirteenth century. In the late thirteenth century the square tower that is the prominent survival on the site today was inserted into the curtain wall.

The borough is first mentioned in 1319, but is thought to have been established in the later thirteenth century. No borough charter survives. By 1544 Loughor was a classic example of a medieval borough in terminal decline, as a town had 38 taxpayers, assessed together at 11s 4d

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
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	Coin Hoard	Roman	SS56199794			RCAHMW 1976
9	Castle	Medieval	SS5642597984	417	00203w	
10	Church	Medieval	SS5634597992	13509	00223w	
11	Town	Medieval	SS5640098000	401423		
12	Building	Medieval	SS56439805		02785w	OS, 1956
13	Tenement	Medieval	SS567981		01941w	HER only, no sources given, is site in the right place?

4. Conditions on the consent

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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.

5. Field methodology

The watching brief will be carried out in accordance with Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA, 2008a)

A two-person team will watch the mechanical excavation for the extension foundations and will examine the exposed stratigraphy of the groundworks undertaken in association with the development. All trenches will be examined 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

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 Management Section and the Local Planning Authority case officer will be convened in order to agree a course of action. The applicant will be responsible for paying for any further work necessary.

7. Health & Safety

Trysor will undertake a risk assessment in accordance with their health and safety policy.

8. Recording

A plan of the groundworks, and representative sections if appropriate, will be drawn, at an appropriate scale, recording all features of archaeological interest. The plan will be based on the applicants' survey drawings of the development area.

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.

Any artefacts will be dealt with in accordance with the guidance provided in the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation*

and research of archaeological materials (IfA, 2008b). Any artefacts will be retained, cleaned and stored. Following reporting they will be returned to the applicant.

Should any human remains be encountered, the Coroner and Regional Archaeological Trust will be immediately informed and the remains left *in situ*.

Colour digital photographs will be taken, as appropriate, using a 14M pixel camera. A written record will be made on site of the photographs taken. Appropriate photographic scales will be used.

9. Reporting

A report on the watching brief will be prepared according to the requirements of Annexe 1 of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA, 2008a, p.7) 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

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 by the Council for British Archaeology Wales (CBA Wales)

11. Archive

The paper archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, including a copy of the final report in accordance with the IfA's *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (IfA, Undated). 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).

12. Resources to be used

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.

13. Qualification of personnel

Trysor is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists and both partners are Members of the Institute for Archaeologists, www.archaeologists.net

Jenny Hall (BSc Joint Hons., Geology and Archaeology, MifA) 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.

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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

Trysor has Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

15. Project identification

The project has been designated Trysor Project No. 2013/337

16. Sources

16.1 Maps

Laugharne parish tithe map, 1842 (schedule 1841)

Laugharne Township parish tithe map and schedule, 1842

16.2 Non-published

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

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

Sherman, A and Evans, E. 2004, *Roman roads in Southeast Wales* GGAT report no. 2004/073

16.3 Published

Burnham, BC & Davies, JL, 2010, *Roman Frontiers in Wales and the Marches*, RCAHMW

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IfA, Undated, *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*

Ling RJ & Ling LA, 1973, *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, CXXII pp99-146

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

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook

Trysor

October 2013

APPENDIX B



Plate 1: CSL2013_101: Back of the house after removal of the previous extension revealing the stone foundations of the house and brick and stone above, looking north northwest.



Plate 2: CSL2013_102: Detail of the foundations of the house, looking north northwest.



Plate 3: CSL2013_103: Stone foundations and brick upper part of the house, looking east northeast.



Plate 4: CSL2013_104: After excavation of southernmost foundation trench, looking northeast.



Plate 5:CSL2013_105: Excavated foundation trenches, looking east northeast.



Plate 6:CSL2013_106: Looking at the northern foundation trench and the remains of a raised concrete path to its north, looking northeast.



Plate 7: CSL2013_107: Detail of section below former raised concrete path, looking north northwest.



Plate 8: CSL2013_108: Detail of the southern end of the western foundation trench, looking west southwest.

