

**Watching Brief During Dune Slack
Scrape Groundworks
Merthyr Mawr Warren, Bridgend,
CF32 0LS (SS 862 766),
SoLIFE S2020/04**



Report by: Trysor

For: Sands of LIFE

March 2021



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Merthyr Mawr Warren, Bridgend,
CF32 0LS (SS 862 766),
SoLIFE S2020/04**

By

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Trysor

Trysor Project No. 2021/760
HER Event Record PRN – GGAT E006591

For: Sands of LIFE

March 2021

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Cover photograph: Sand Scrape 4, looking northwest with the area for deposition of the sand removed in the trees to the right (north)

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RHIF YR ADRODDIAD - REPORT NUMBER: Trysor 2021/760

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DYDDIAD 9^{fed} Mis Mawrth 2021 **DATE** 9th March 2021

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.

JENNY HALL MCIFA *Jenny Hall*

PAUL SAMBROOK MCIFA *Paul Sambrook*

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

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. 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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Event Record PRN – GGAT HER

PRN	GGAT E006591
Name	Watching Brief During Dune Slack Scrape Groundworks, Merthyr Mawr Warren, Bridgend, CF32 0LS (SS 862 766), SoLIFE S2020/04
Type	WATCHING BRIEF
NGR	SS8620076600
Easting	286200
Northing	176600
Summary (English)	In December 2020 Trysor carried out a watching brief during the excavation of six sand scrapes to rejuvenate dune slacks at Merthyr Mawr Warren. No features or contexts of archaeological significance were recorded. An undated hammerstone was recovered from a context believed to be modern. © Trysor 2021
Crynodeb (Cymraeg)	Yn Rhagfyr 2020, cariwyd allan brîff gwyllo gan Trysor ar waith cloddio chwe chrafiad mawr i adfywio llaciau twyni tywod yn g Nghwningar Merthyr Mawr. Ni ddaethpwyd o hyd unrhyw haenau o bwys archaeolegol. Darganfuwyd carreg morthwyl mewn cyd-destun modern nid yw'n bosibl i'w dyddio. © Trysor 2021
Description	In December 2020 Trysor carried out a watching brief during the excavation of six sand scrapes to rejuvenate dune slacks at Merthyr Mawr Warren. No features or contexts of archaeological significance were recorded. An undated hammerstone was recovered from a context believed to be modern. © Trysor 2021
Sources	Trysor, 2021, Watching Brief During Dune Slack Scrape Groundworks, Merthyr Mawr Warren, Bridgend, CF32 0LS (SS 862 766), SoLIFE S2020/04
Copyright	© Trysor 2021

Contents

1. Summary	1
2. Copyright	1
3. Introduction	1
4. The Groundworks	1
5. Aims and Purposes of the Archaeological Work	3
6. Methodology	4
7. Site Stratigraphy	6
8. Artefact Report	8
9. Interpretation	8
10. Photographs	9
11. Conclusion	11
12. Archive	11
13. Sources	11
Appendix 1: Photographs	12
Appendix 2: Finds and environmental evidence	16
Appendix 3: Written Scheme of Investigation	17

1. Summary

1.1 In December 2020, Trysor undertook a watching brief on groundworks at SS86207660, to the south of the Scheduled Ancient Monument, GM342, Merthyr Mawr Warren. The groundworks were carried out as part of the management by Natural Resources Wales' Sands of LIFE project of the sand dunes at Merthyr Mawr Warren, Bridgend, CF32 0LS.

1.2 No archaeologically significant contexts were recorded.

1.3 A single artefact was recorded: a residual pebble showing evidence of use as a hammerstone, of presumed prehistoric date.

2. Copyright

2.1 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 Trysor should be acknowledged as the creators of the report.

3. Introduction

3.1 Natural Resources Wales' Sands of LIFE project commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to prepare a written scheme of investigation for a programme of sand dune management works and implement the approved written scheme of investigation.

3.2 The Sands of LIFE (SoLIFE) (LIFE17 NAT/UK/000023) is a major conservation project, led by National Resources Wales and supported by the EU LIFE fund, which will restore threatened sand dune sites across Wales. The project will run until December 2022.

3.3 Trysor prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation, in line with the Standards and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists of which was approved by the Sands of LIFE team, see Appendix 3.

3.4 This report summarises the result of the archaeological work.

4. The Groundworks

4.1 The groundworks are on land at Merthyr Mawr Warren, Bridgend, centred on SS86207660. This land forms part of the National Nature Reserve, owned by Merthyr Mawr Estate and being managed at the time of the work by Natural Resources Wales.

4.2 The development comprised the creation of a six shallow sand scrapes in the slack (valley floor) to the south of the Scheduled Ancient Monument, GM342, Merthyr Mawr Warren, with the intention of providing diverse habitats and encouraging active dune development.

4.3 Each scrape was excavated by machine to a maximum depth of 0.8 metres to reach the depth where the sand was wet. The sides of the scrapes were profiled to create a gentle slope.

4.4 Excavated sand was moved to the wooded slack to the north of the scrapes, at SS8625776645, just to the south of the Scheduled Area and the resulting sand heap levelled off.

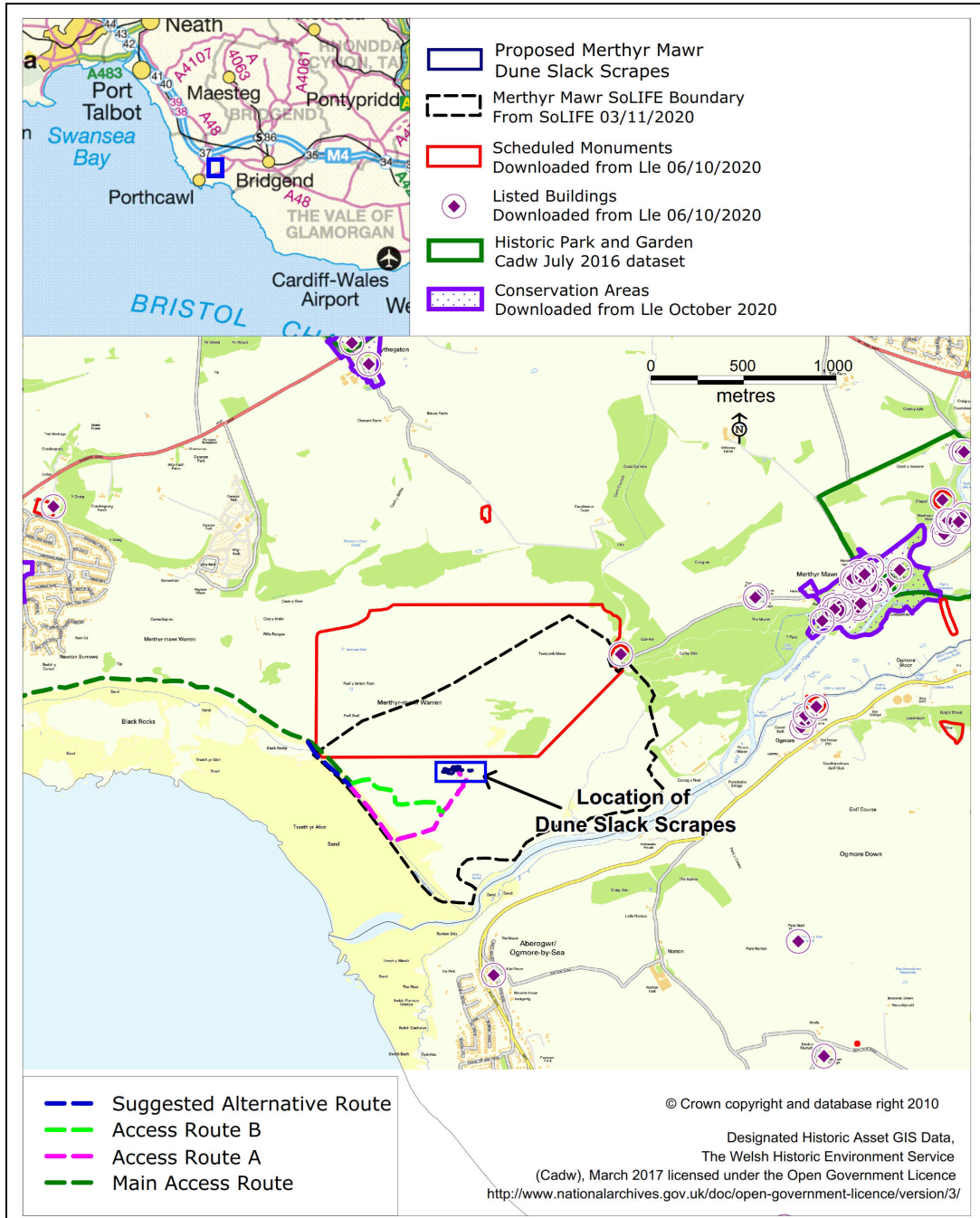


Figure 1: Location of the development

5. Aims and Purposes of the Archaeological Work

5.1 The known archaeological and historical background is summarised in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 3). Merthyr Mawr Warren is a large coastal dune system, now largely stabilised with grass, scrub and woodland. Behind the beach, lateral dunes have developed running east-west, with the slacks (valleys) scoured by wind.

5.2 Artefacts and structures from the Mesolithic onwards have been recorded when exposed periodically by sand movement.

5.3 Much of the Warren has been designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument on the basis of the known and potential archaeological value, see Figure 1.

5.4 The current groundworks are located in an area of the National Nature Reserve to the south of the Scheduled Ancient Monument boundary.

5.5 The watching brief comprised the monitoring of the groundworks to identify and record any significant archaeological deposits exposed and to recover any artefacts. This would mitigate the impact of the groundworks on the historic environment.

6. Methodology

6.1 In December 2020, a watching brief was carried out by Trysor during the excavation of the six scrapes. The scrapes were excavated in the sequence: 3, 2, 1, 4, 5, 6. The excavated areas within the slack were covered by mature rough grassland; the dunes were also mainly grassed.

Scrape Number	NGR	Size
1	SS8618676615	16 metres northwest to southeast by 10 metres
2	SS8620876604	20 metres north-northeast to south-southwest by 11 metres
3	SS8622876624	14 metres north to south by 15 metres
4	SS8626476635	23 metres east to west by 8 metres
5	SS8627276614	24 metres east to west by 8 metres
6	SS8632076612	30 metres east to west by 6 metres
Spoil heap	SS8625776645	25 metres east to west by 15 metres

Table 1: Size and location as excavated

6.2 The site code used was MMD2020. The following number sequences were used to record contexts and photographs, see Table 2.

Number Sequence	Used For	Numbers Used
001 - 006	Context numbers	001 -006
101 to 200	Photograph numbers	101 to 108

Table 2: Number sequences used

6.3 The groundworks were undertaken in poor winter weather with frequent heavy rain. Following Covid 19 procedures, social distancing was maintained with the contractors and NRW staff.

6.4 After the fieldwork was complete, an artefact was submitted to Ian Brooks for specialist identification, see Appendix 2.

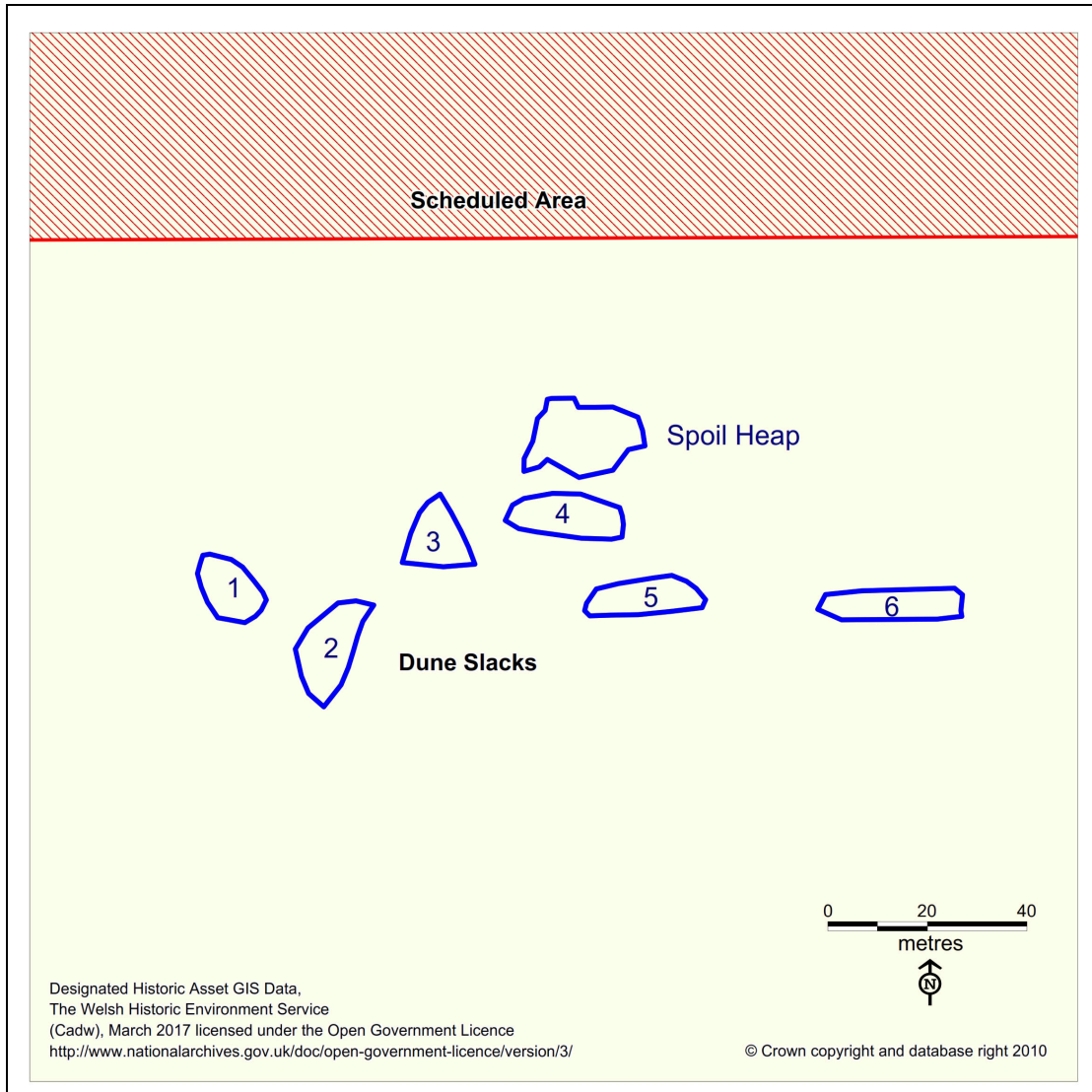


Figure 2: The location and size of the finished scrapes, and spoil heap

7. Site Stratigraphy

7.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).

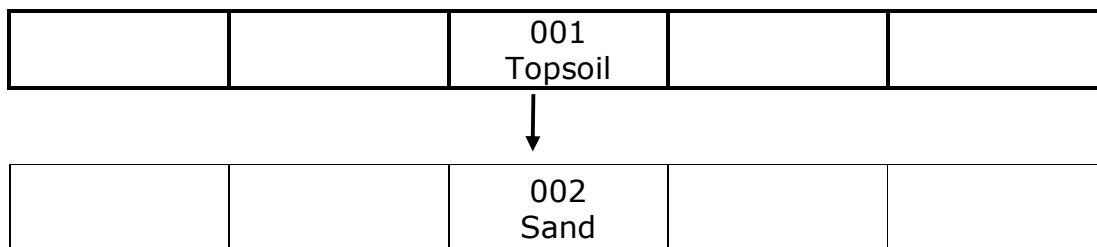
7.2 Context Catalogue

Context Number	Depth	Description	Interpretation
001	0.05m	Layer	Topsoil
002	0.5m +	Layer	Sand
003	0.05m	Layer	Topsoil
004	0.3m	Layer	Sand
005	0.05m	Layer	Sand with organic material
006		Layer	Lower sand

7.3 Scrapes 1, 3-6 (Plates 5 & 6)

7.3.1 Scrape 1 was excavated in the northwestern part of the slack, against its northern flank, centred on SS8618676615. Scrape 3 lay to the east of Scrape 1 centred on SS8622876624. Scrape 4 lay to the east of Scrape 3 centred on SS8626476635. Scrape 5 lay to the southeast of Scrape 4 centred on SS8627276614.

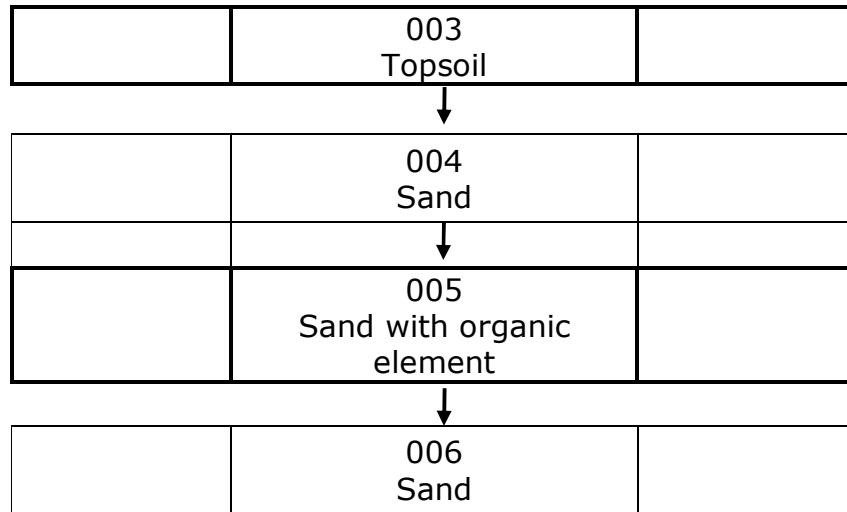
7.3.2 Each scrape was excavated by machine to a maximum depth of 0.80 metres. Only two layers were observed. The topsoil (001) of 0.05 metres depth overlay a layer (002) of soft yellow-brown sand with some red/brown mottling. Excavation ceased when the sand became firm and damp. No artefacts were found.



7.4 Scrape 2 (Plates 2, 3 and 4)

7.4.1 Scrape 2 was located at SS8620876604 to the south of Scrapes 1 and 3, against the south flank of the slack.

7.4.2 In this scrape there were more indications of geomorphic processes. In section, natural tip lines were observed reflecting the deposition of blown sand on the downwind face of the dune. One lens included very small fragments of shell.



7.4.3 Thin organic topsoil (003) overlay sand with red/brown mottling and patches of grey staining (004). At a depth of 0.3m, a patch of dark sand with organic material was seen (005), from which the hammerstone was recovered, see section 8.5 below and Appendix 2. The patch was localised in extent (maximum 0.4m) and did not form a discrete horizon. Below the organic patch the sand continued (006).

8 Artefact report by I P Brooks

8.1 A single, waterworn cobble was recovered, from Context (005) during the course of the archaeological watching brief. The cobble is 123.5 x 79.3 x 38.8mm in size and weighs 460 g. One end has marked bruising suggesting it has been used either as a maul/hammerstone, or for crushing against a hard surface. The accidental removal of a large flake of one side of this artefact would suggest a high impact use was more likely. It is assumed that this is a local beach cobble that has been used for a specific task and then abandoned.

8.2 Tools of this type are impossible to date as they have use throughout history, indeed Mitchel (1881)¹ recorded the continued use of stone pebbles as tools as late as the 1880's in the Northern Isles of Scotland.

9 Interpretation

9.1 All of the sand appeared to have been deposited in the recent past, perhaps reflecting a period of dune mobility. Although no dating evidence was recovered, the looseness of the sand suggests that this occurred in the 20th century. There was no suggestion that the organic patch (005) represented a relic soil profile and is also recent.

9.2 Mottling appeared to be associated with past and present roots growing down into the sand.

¹ Mitchel, A. 1881 *The Past in the Present. What is civilisation? Being ten of the Rhind Lectures on archæology delivered in 1876 and 1877.* Harper and Brothers, New York.

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 3. The photographs are included in Appendix 1 at the end of the report.

Photo Number	Description	Date Taken	Direction Looking
MMW2020_101	Location of the sand scrape slacks	09/12/2020	West-southwest
MMW2020_102	Excavation of Sand Scrape 2	10/12/2020	Northeast
MMW2020_103	Sand scrape 2 showing sand layers and some more organic layers	10/12/2020	Southeast
MMW2020_104	Sand scrape 2 showing sand layers and some more organic layers	10/12/2020	Southeast
MMW2020_105	Sand Scrape 3	09/12/2020	East
MMW2020_106	Sand scrape 4, looking northwest with the spoilheap within the trees to the north.	11/12/2020	Northwest
MMW2020_107	The stone found within context (005) in sand scrape 2	-	-
MMW2020_108 (Appendix 2)	The stone found within context (005) in sand scrape 2 (Photo I. Brooks).	-	-

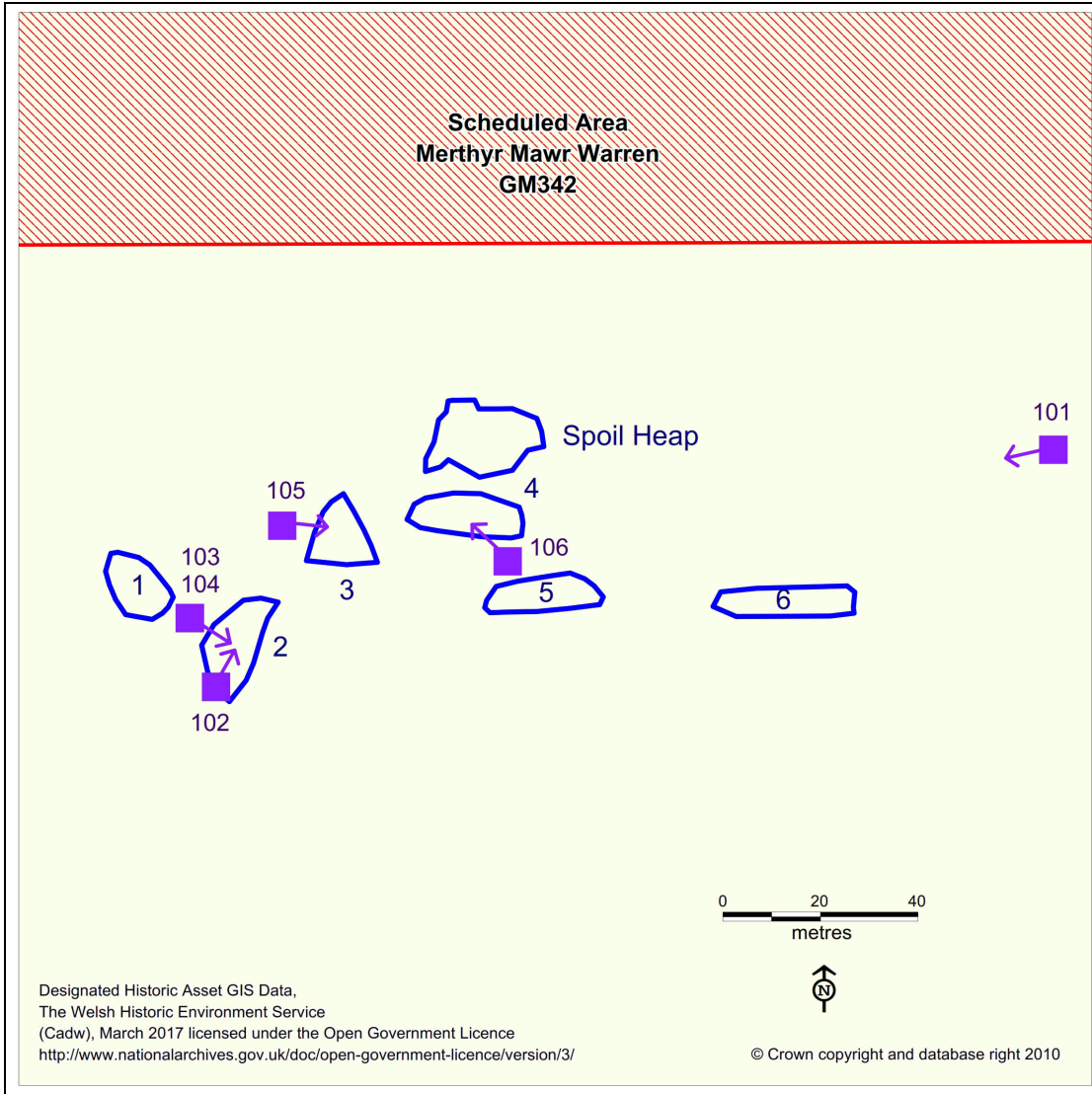


Figure 8: Location of photographs

11. Conclusion

11.1 No significant archaeological contexts were observed during the groundworks.

11.2 It is assumed that the sand had been deposited during a period of dune mobility in the 20th century and then became stabilised by vegetation.

11.3 The hammerstone is undated and could be recent in origin.

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 will be supplied to the Historic Environment Record, Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, Swansea.

12.3 The archive will consist of a pdf copy of the report, and the photographs as Tiffs. The hammerstone will be returned to the landowner.

13. Sources

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

Mitchel, A. 1881 1877 *The Past in the Present. What is civilisation? Being ten of the Rhind Lectures on archæology delivered in 1876 and 1877*. Harper and Brothers, New York.

APPENDIX 1: Photographs



Plate 1: MMW2020_101. Location of the sand scrape slacks, looking west-southwest.



Plate 2: MMW2020_102. Excavation of sand scrape 2 after removal of the turf layer (001), looking northeast



Plate 3: MMW2020_103. Sand scrape 2 showing sand layers and some more organic layers, looking southeast



Plate 4: MMW2020_104. Sand scrape 2 showing sand layers (002), (006) and the organic context (005), looking southeast



Plate 5: MMW2020_105. Sand Scrape 3 completed, looking east.



Plate 6: MMW2020_106. Sand scrape 4 during excavation, looking northwest with the spoil heap in the trees to the north.



Plate 7: MMW2020_107. The stone found within context (005) in sand scrape 2

APPENDIX 2: Finds and environmental evidence

I.P. Brooks, Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd

A single, waterworn cobble was recovered, from Context 005 during the course of the archaeological watching brief. The cobble is 123.5 x 79.3 x 38.8mm in size and weighs 460 g. One end has marked bruising suggesting it has been used either as a maul/hammerstone, or for crushing against a hard surface. The accidental removal of a large flake of one side of this artefact would suggest a high impact use was more likely. It is assumed that this is a local beach cobble that has been used for a specific task and then abandoned.

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Mitchel, A. 1881 *The Past in the Present. What is civilisation? Being ten of the Rhind Lectures on archæology delivered in 1876 and 1877.* Harper and Brothers, New York.



Plate 8: MMW2020_108. The stone found within context (005) in sand scrape 2 (Photo I. Brooks).

APPENDIX 3 – Written Scheme of Investigation

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR MERTHYR MAWR DUNE SLACK SCRAPES SANDS OF LIFE SoLIFE S2020/04

Contents

1	Introduction	2
2.	Objective of the Written Scheme of Investigation	3
3.	The Development	3
4.	Nature of the Archaeological Resource	3
5.	Scope of Work	3
6.	Methodology	5
7.	Recording	6
8.	Contingency arrangements	6
9.	Health & Safety	6
10.	Reporting	7
11.	Public Benefit and Outreach	7
12.	Archive	6
13.	Resources to be used	8
14.	Qualification of personnel	8
15.	Insurance & Professional indemnity	9
16.	Project identification	9
17.	Monitoring	9
18.	Sources	9
	Appendix A: Selection Strategy	11
	Appendix B: Data Management Plan	21

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR
 MERTHYR MAWR DUNE SLACK SCRAPES
 SANDS OF LIFE SoLIFE S2020/04**

1. Introduction

1.1 The Sands of LIFE project has commissioned Trydor to prepare a written scheme of investigation for archaeological mitigation in respect the creation of dune slack scrapes at Merthyr Mawr. The dune slack scrapes lie within an area approximately 160 metres east to west by 40 metres centred on SS8625076615, see Figures 1 and 2.

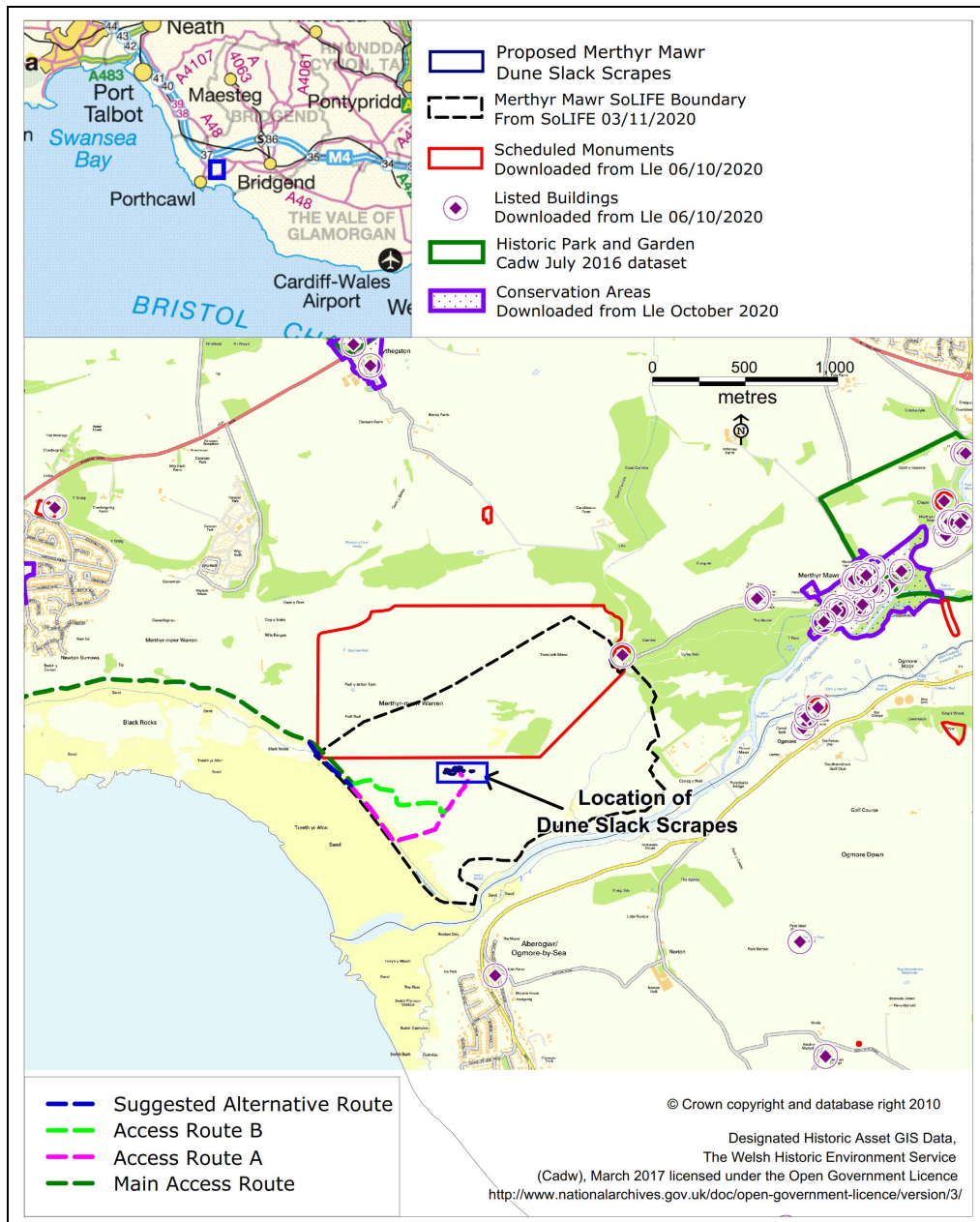


Figure 1: Location of the proposed dune slack scrapes

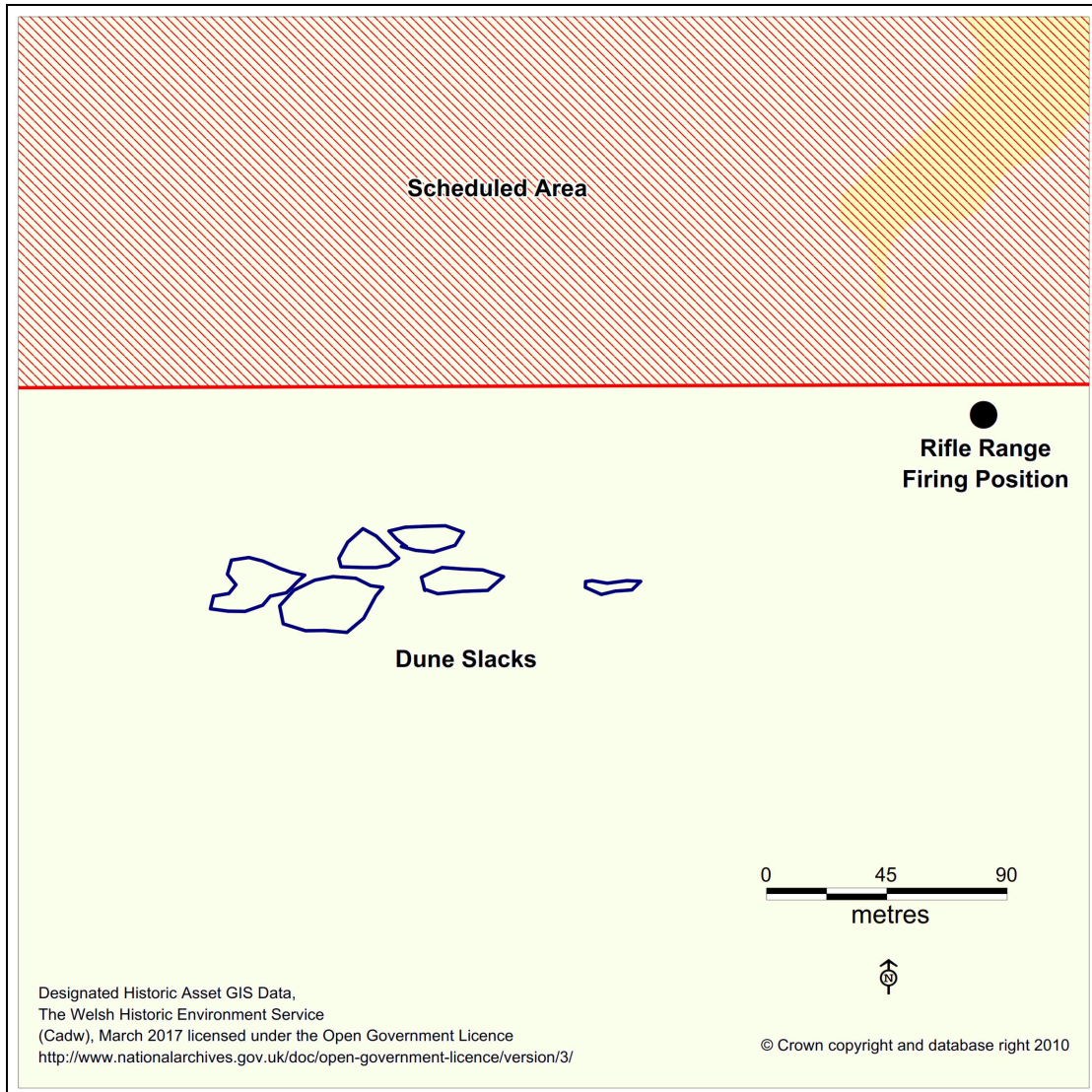


Figure 2: Detail of the proposed dune slack scrapes and the location of the scheduled area.

2. Objective of the Written Scheme of Investigation

2.1 The objective of this specification is to specify the method by which any archaeological impact will be mitigated.

3. The Groundworks

3.1 The groundworks consist of the creation of 6 dune slack scrapes. These are shallow hollows to create damp hollows or “slacks” within the sand dunes.

3.2 Using a tracked, mechanical excavator of 5 tonnes or less, the turf and the organic horizon will be stripped off the areas specified down to the lighter white sand below. The central part of the area will be dug deeper down to near the water table to allow the slack to flood in winter. This is likely to be 0.3 to 0.5 metres deep. The sides of the slack will then be graded back up ground level at the edges of the slack.

3.3 The material removed from the newly created slack will be deposited in an area agreed with the SoLIFE Project Officer.

4. Nature of the archaeological resource

4.1 The archaeological resource of Merthyr Mawr is acknowledged as being very significant and unusually an area of 120 hectares has been designated a Scheduled Monument – GM432.

4.2 The archaeology within the Scheduled Area is largely buried below sand incursions with no visible features and includes all periods from the Mesolithic (before 4,000BC) through to the 19th century. Of particular importance is evidence of prehistoric funerary and ritual sites and medieval/post-medieval settlement.

4.3 Many artefacts of all dates have been recovered from the dunes and they are not limited to within the scheduled area. However, watching briefs over several years by GGAT in the areas of dunes being cleared of sea buckthorn recorded few artefacts or structures. The proposed area of the scrapes is in slack areas, not dunes, and it is more likely that former ground surfaces are encountered during sand removal.

4.4 To the east of the proposed dune slack improvement was a 19th century volunteer rifle range that extended for 800 yards (c. 730 metres) north-northeast to south-southwest. The targets lay at the northern end and the firing positions were 100 yards apart running southwards. The 400 yard firing position at approximately SS8646276676 and in 2014 there was observed a distinct grassy mound 4 metres northeast to southwest by 3 metres and 0.6 metres high which was identified as the possible remains of the firing position, (NPRN 420030)

5. Scope of Work

5.1 The access route for machinery is via the car park at Newton Burrows, near Porthcawl, grid reference: SS 837 769. The access route leaves the car park at its eastern end along what was the access track to sand and gravel workings in the mid 20th century. From SS8548976739 to SS8554976684 a distance of 85 metres the track runs through the corner of the scheduled area of Scheduled Monument GM432, an extensive area in the centre of the dunes. It would be preferable if the machinery drops down to the beach at

approximately SS8549576730 and follow the top of the beach to SS8566076525 a distance of approximately 270 metres. From there the machinery will either:

- a) Remain on the beach, above the high tide line and entering the dune system through the existing notches at approximately SS8590776228. If used this section of the access route will be walked at least once by Trysor in order to observe/record any features of archaeological interest,
- b) Re-enter the dune system at SS85687654 and follow a curvilinear sandy track through the dunes. If used this section of the access route will be walked at least once by Trysor in order to observe/record any features of archaeological interest.

5.2 The spot location where spoil material will be deposited has been identified to the north of the slacks. This places it within 30 metres of the edge of the scheduled area, and potentially closer. If no other location suitable, further away from the Scheduled Monument, the scheduled area should be clearly demarcated with no works within it. Trysor will advise SoLIFE as to where the boundary will be and looks at any alternative sites. Before any spoil material is deposited Trysor will observe the current surface, as vegetation allows, for any artefacts.

5.3 The groundworks for the dune slacks will be observed as part of an archaeological watching brief in order to record any features of archaeological significance.

5.3.1 The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (CIfA, 2020a) was used to write this Written Scheme of Investigation. The CIfA define a watching brief as:

“.....The definition of an archaeological watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive. This definition and Standard do not cover chance observations, which should lead to an appropriate archaeological project being designed and implemented, nor do they apply to monitoring for preservation of remains in situ.”

5.3.2 The purpose of a watching brief is described as:

“The purpose of a watching brief is a. to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works b. to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard A watching brief is not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for

contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits. The objective of a watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on a site.”

6. Methodology

6.1 The programme of work will be carried out in accordance with Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA, 2020a).

6.2 A two-person team will watch the excavation of groundworks associated with the dune slacks. Features of archaeological interest will be 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.

7. Recording

7.1 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. If archaeological features of contexts are encountered, plans will be drawn on permatrace to a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate.

7.2 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 proforma recording sheets and a consecutive numbering system.

7.3 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, 2014). Any artefacts will be retained, cleaned and stored. Following reporting they will be returned to the applicant (landowner). If the landowner does not wish to retain the artefacts or if the artefacts are of regional or national importance, negotiation will commence at the earliest possible opportunity with a relevant Museum Service.

7.4 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.

7.5 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 license will be applied for under the Burial Act 1857.

7.6 Should removal of in situ human remains be required, work will be undertaken in accordance with CBA handbook, 2018 *Human Remains in Archaeology: a handbook* (Roberts, C, 2018).

7.7 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.

8. Contingency arrangements if archaeological features are discovered

8.1 In the event that archaeological remains are encountered, where appropriate investigation falls outside the scope of this specification, a meeting between Trysor and the SoLIFE team will be required. The applicant will be responsible for paying for any further work necessary such as revised programme of work, curatorial monitoring, finds conservation, finds specialist, environmental sampling and processing, radio-carbon dating etc.

9. Health & Safety

9.1 Trysor will undertake a risk assessment in accordance with their health and safety policy taking into account current Covid 19 regulations at the time of the groundworks. The risk assessment will also take into account the hazards and risks identified by the SoLIFE project.

10. Reporting

10.1 Following the completion of the on-site work, a report on the watching brief will be prepared according to the requirements of section 3.8 of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA,2020a).

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

- A non-technical summary of the watching brief
- Introductory statement
- Aims and purposes of the watching brief
- Methodology
- Results including structural data and associated finds and/or environmental data recovered, details will be included in appendices as appropriate
- Interpretation
- Discussion/Conclusion including significance of result in a local, regional and national context.
- 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 Glamorgan Gwent Historic Environment Record after approval of the report from the local planning authority.

11. Public Benefit and Outreach

11.1 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). If appropriate, a full report on findings will be

submitted for publication with an appropriate regional or national archaeological journal within one year of the completion of the fieldwork element of the project.

11.2 The results of the work will be deposited in the NMR and regional HER making it publicly accessible to all in line with current guidance, (NPAAW, 2017, RCAHMW, 2015 and WAT, 2018).

11.3 The purpose of the work and the history of the site will be discussed with the client and others on site, in order to widen understanding of why the work is important and broaden appreciation for the historic environment.

12. Archive

12.1 The paper and digital 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, 2014b) and *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017* (NPAAW, 2017). 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).

12.2 Any artefacts will be returned to the landowner after recording and reporting. If they are considered to be regionally or nationally important, discussions about depositing the artefacts in a recognised museum archive will be held with the landowner. According to current standard and guidance, Porthcawl Museum in Porthcawl are collecting material from the area south of the M4 and between the Kenfig and Ogwr rivers. However they have limited space and do not collect digital data, human remains or soil samples (NPAAW, 2017, section 6).

13. Resources to be used

13.1 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.

14. Qualification of personnel

14.1 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

14.2 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.

14.3 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.

14.4 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. He has undertaken watching briefs and evaluations across south Wales, including within Cowbridge.

14.5 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.

14.6 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, MCIfA) 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.

15. Insurance & Professional indemnity

15.1 Trysor has Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

16. Project identification

16.1 The project has been designated Trysor Project No. 2020/752, site code MMD2020. The GGAT HER PRN Event Record will be E006591.

17. Monitoring

17.1 Staff from the Sands of LIFE team will be welcome to visit the site and monitor the work.

18. Sources

18.1 Non Published

Evans, E M and Locock, M 2001 *Evaluation of archaeological potential: Merthyr Mawr Warren* (GGAT report 2001/052, Swansea)

- Huckfield, P.W, 2006, *Merthyr Mawr Warren, Bridgend: archaeological watching brief*
- Locock, M 1996 *Merthyr Mawr Warren: archaeological assessment* (GGAT report 96/082, Swansea).
- Locock, M 1999 *Merthyr Mawr Warren: archaeological watching brief on machine clearance of sea buckthorn* (GGAT report 99/012, Swansea).
- Locock, M 2002 *Merthyr Mawr Warren, Bridgend: archaeological watching brief on clearance of Sea Buckthorn* (GGAT report 002/016, Swansea).
- NPAAW, 2017, *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017*
- RCAHMW, 2015, *RCAHMW guidelines for Digital Archives, Version 1*
- Tuck, M, 2003, *Merthyr Mawr Warren, Bridgend: archaeological watching brief* GGAT report 2003/017 for CCW
- WAT, 2018, *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records*

18.2 Published

CIfA, 2020a, *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*

CIfA, 2014, [Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.](#)

CIfA, 2020b, *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*

Roberts, C, 2018, *Human Remains in Archaeology: a handbook*, Council for British Archaeology Practical Handbooks in Archaeology, No 19 2nd edition

18.3 Web based materials

Cof Cymru, <http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/recordsv1/cof-cymru/?lang=en> ,
accessed 14/09/2020

Historic Wales, <http://historicwales.gov.uk/>, accessed 14/09/2020

18.4 Data Sources

HER Enquiry, HER Enquiry Reference Number: 6413, received on 11/11/2020

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook
Trysor,
November 2020
www.trysor.net

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Paul Sambrook (BA Joint Hons., Archaeology and Welsh, MCIfA, PGCE) has extensive experience as a fieldworker in Wales. Amongst other things he was involved with Cadw's pan-Wales Deserted Rural Settlements Project for 7 years. He has been a partner in Trysor since 2004 undertaking a wide variety of work including upland survey, desk-based appraisals/assessments, and watching briefs.

APPENDIX A: SELECTION STRATEGY

Sands of Life
Merthyr Mawr – Dune Slack Scrapes
12/11/2020 v.1
Selection Strategy

Project Information

Project Management

Project Manager	Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook
Archaeological Archive Manager	Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook
Organisation	Trysor

Stakeholders	Date Contacted
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<p style="text-align: center;">Collecting Institution(s)</p> <p><i>A collecting institution for artefacts will only be contacted in advance of site work, if the potential for artefacts from sealed contexts is assessed as Moderate to Very High. The scale of field work and where it is situated geographically will be considered when making this initial assessment</i></p>	<p>Artefact archive not contacted yet. Potential for artefacts that require archiving considered Moderate. There may be artefacts within the slack areas Artefacts from non-sealed contexts will be noted and returned to landowner unless they are assessed as of regional or national importance. Artefacts from sealed contexts will be retained and recorded. A decision will be made at that point if any need to be deposited in an archive, when their significance has been assessed against the results of the watching brief. Digital /paper archive to be archived with RCAHMW, with copies to HER if they wish.</p>	<p>Not contacted</p>
Project Lead / Project Assurance	Jenny Hall and Paul Sambrook	
Landowner / Developer	See WSI	
Other	-	

Resources

Resources required Describe the resources required to	No unusual resources required to date, beyond trays, bags, markers record sheets. The potential for artefacts from
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implement this Selection Strategy, particularly if unusual resources are required.

sealed contexts is assessed as Low. Artefacts from the topsoil will be recorded and returned to the landowner, unless they are assessed as being of regional or national importance.

Context

Describe below the context of this Selection Strategy. You should refer to:

- The aims and objectives of the project;
- Local Authority guidance (including the brief);
- Research Frameworks;
- The repository collection development policy and/or deposition policy;
- Material-specific guidance documents.

Note: This section may be copied from your Project Design/WSI to ensure all Stakeholders receive this context information.

- The aims and objectives of the project are to record and protect the historic environment whilst enabling development
- The methodology to be used and its context is given in this Written Scheme of Investigation.
- The Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales identifies areas of past, current and future archaeological research in Wales <https://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/intro.html>
No specific themes are connected with this project although the reason the work was asked for was because archaeological work may help inform the history of this structure.
- If necessary a suitable artefact archive will be identified using *National Standards for the Collecting and Depositing of Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017*, Part 6. Museums in Wales Collecting Archaeology

As there are no other parameters for this project defining what artefacts are collected, retained and disposed of, artefact retention and disposal will be guided by the 2019 document from the National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales, *Archaeological Archives: Selection, Retention and Disposal Guidelines for Wales*

Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Digital Data Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Collections Curator).

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook

Selection

Location of Data Management Plan (DMP)

Selection of digital data elements should be considered in your project's DMP. For the purpose of the Selection Strategy, you can either copy the selection section of your DMP below, or attach it as an appendix to this document. Please indicate here if the DMP is attached.

See Appendix 2 of this WSI

The selection strategy in your DMP should:

- 1.1 Define what digital data will be selected for inclusion in the archaeological archive, how this will be done, and why. Do not forget to consider that specialists may have digital data that should be included in the archaeological archive.
- 1.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (i.e. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 1.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. digital repository deposition requirements) and specialist advice sought.
- 1.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

a) Final report as pdf file which will include WSI and any specialist reports if needed

b) Selected and catalogued photographs as Tiffs file

Additional files may include

- c) Vector GIS files as .shp files
- d) Drawings as .pdf files
- e) Scanned context sheets/site notes as pdf

NPAAW, 2017, *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017*

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

WAT, 2018, *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)*

De-Selected Digital Data

The procedure for dealing with De-selected digital data and what specialist advice informed this process should be recorded in your DMP. Please copy this information here or attach your DMP as an appendix to this document.

See Appendix B in this WSI

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here. The Selection Strategy will be reviewed after fieldwork is complete when the digital data created will be clearer

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

2 – Documents

Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Documents Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for the Documents elements of the archaeological archive. To do this you must:

- 2.1 Define which documents will be selected for inclusion in the archaeological archive, how this will be done, and why. Do not forget to consider that specialists may have documents that should be included in the archaeological archive.
- 2.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 2.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. digital repository deposition requirements) and specialist advice sought.
- 2.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

a) Final report as pdf file which will include WSI and any specialist reports if needed. This is the version sent to client and approved by third parties. Specialist reports will be contained within that report

b) Selected and catalogued photographs as Tiffs file

Additional files may include: to be reviewed after site work

- c) Vector GIS files as .shp files
- d) Drawings as .pdf files
- e) Scanned context sheets/site notes as pdf

NPAAW, 2017, *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017*

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

WAT, 2018, *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)*

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De-Selected Documents

Describe the procedure for dealing with De-selected material and what specialist advice has informed this procedure.

Deselected digital documents will be retained within Trysor backups.

The process is one of selection rather than deselection.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3.1 – Materials DIGITAL

Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Materials Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for each material type and or object type. To do this you must:

- 3.1 State the Selection Strategy you are applying to each category of material, how this will be done, and why.
- 3.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 3.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. thematic, period, and regional, Research Frameworks, repository deposition policies) and specialist advice sought.
- 3.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

The [Materials Selection Template](#) may be useful in structuring this section.

As described in the Data Management Plan and above

Uncollected Material

If you are practising selection in the field, describe the process that will be applied. To do this you must:

- Detail how you will characterise, quantify and record all uncollected material on site.
- Explain how you will dispose of, or re-distribute, uncollected material.

Not applicable

De-Selected Material

Describe what you will do with the de-selected material. All processed material should have been adequately recorded before de-selection.

Kept within Trysor backups

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3.2 – Materials - PAPER

Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Materials Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for each material type and or object type. To do this you must:

- 4.1 State the Selection Strategy you are applying to each category of material, how this will be done, and why.
- 4.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 4.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. thematic, period, and regional, Research Frameworks, repository deposition policies) and specialist advice sought.
- 4.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

The Materials Selection Template may be useful in structuring this section.

Field notes and context sheets – bound and presented as paper archive

Uncollected Material

If you are practising selection in the field, describe the process that will be applied. To do this you must:

- Detail how you will characterise, quantify and record all uncollected material on site.
- Explain how you will dispose of, or re-distribute, uncollected material.

De-Selected Material

Describe what you will do with the de-selected material. All processed material should have been adequately recorded before de-selection.

Kept within Trysor archive folders

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3.3 – Materials - ARTEFACTS

Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Materials Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for each material type and or object type. To do this you must:

- 5.1 State the Selection Strategy you are applying to each category of material, how this will be done, and why.
- 5.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 5.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. thematic, period, and regional, Research Frameworks, repository deposition policies) and specialist advice sought.
- 5.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

The Materials Selection Template may be useful in structuring this section.

As stated above

Uncollected Material

If you are practising selection in the field, describe the process that will be applied. To do this you must:

- Detail how you will characterise, quantify and record all uncollected material on site.
- Explain how you will dispose of, or re-distribute, uncollected material.

As stated above

De-Selected Material

Describe what you will do with the de-selected material. All processed material should have been adequately recorded before de-selection.

Returned to client or disposed of appropriately

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

Materials Selection Template

This table may be inserted into Section 3 of the main [Selection Strategy Template](#) to help present differing selection strategies for different material types

Find Type	Selection Strategy	Stakeholders	Review Points
All finds will be collected			



*Watching Brief During Dune Slack Scrape Groundworks
Merthyr Mawr Warren, Bridgend, CF32 0LS (SS 862 766),
SoLIFE S2020/04*

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