

Archaeology Wales

Oystercatcher, 47 High Street, Laleston, Bridgend

Archaeological Watching Brief



By
James Weaver & Paul Shelmedine


Report No. 1717


Archaeology Wales

Oystercatcher, 47 High Street, Laleston, Bridgend

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Report No. 1717

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeology Wales (AW) during groundworks associated with the change of use to two dwellings of the former Oystercatcher Public House, High Street, Laleston, Bridgend, centred on SS 87645 79820. The building is Grade II listed, of probable 16th century origin, with 18th century alterations, and lies within the likely layout of the medieval settlement of Laleston. The archaeological work was therefore set as a condition of the planning permission for the development. The associated Planning Application No. is P/13/356/LIS, the local planning authority is Bridgend County Borough Council.

Limestone bedrock was encountered throughout. To the front and rear of the building the bedrock was overlaid by alluvial clay. To the rear modern deposits directly overlay this clay, to the front a layer of silty-clay containing one 19th century find sat between the natural clay and overlying concrete. Within the building modern concrete floors largely lay upon terraced bedrock, although remnants of an earlier stone slab surface or part of the hearth structure were recorded underneath the modern concrete adjacent to the fireplace in the west wall.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and Scope of Work

In September 2017 Archaeology Wales (AW) was commissioned by Replan Ltd to undertake archaeological mitigation (watching brief) in association with the change of use of a public house to two dwellings, the demolition of the eastern annexe and alteration to the rear annexes, at the Oystercatcher, 47 High Street, Laleston, Bridgend, centred on SS 87645 79820 (Figure 1 & 3). The local planning authority is Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC). The associated Planning Application No. is P/13/356/LIS.

The Oystercatcher Public House is a Grade II listed building, probably of 16th century origin. This site lies in an area of potential archaeological remains associated with the medieval nucleated village of Laleston. An adjacent archaeological evaluation (Phillips 2012) also indicated the potential for archaeological remains to exist within the proposed development area.

Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust – Curatorial Division (GGAT-CD) in its capacity as archaeological advisors to BCBC, had recommended that a programme of archaeological mitigation of the development area was undertaken during ground works associated with the development to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

The recommendations made by GGAT-CD were set out in a letter to the local planning authority dated 18th June 2013. As a result a Condition was attached to the planning permission for the development, which reads:

(Condition 4) 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 be 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.

Prior to works commencing an approved Written Scheme of Investigation for an

archaeological watching brief was produced by AW in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA 2014), which was designed to provide an approved scheme of archaeological investigation to be implemented during the groundworks. A copy is included to the rear (Appendix II).

The purpose of the watching brief is to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains on the site of the development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy (revised edition 9, 2016), Section 6.5 and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017). The work was to ensure that all buried artefacts and deposits are fully investigated and recorded if they are disturbed or revealed as a result of activities associated with the development.

The watching brief took place over several visits between November 2017 and March 2018, under the supervision of Jerry Bond and Daniel Moore. This report has been compiled by James Weaver and Paul Shelmedine of AW. The AW project number for the work is 2560 and the site code is HSL/17/WB. The project details are summarised on the Archive Cover Sheet (Appendix III).

All work was undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

1.2 Topography

The site comprised the former Oystercatcher Public House, which lies on the eastern side of the village of Laleston. It occupies a street frontage site on High Street (the A437), the main road through the centre of the village, running between Porthcawl and Pyle to the west and Bridgend to the east.

The road forms the southern boundary to the site, with urban development and gardens forming the remaining boundaries. The village of Laleston is traditionally **centred on St David's church, which lies 100m to the west. The site lies within the** historic core of the village (see Figure 2), with modern development now extending to the north and south, and along the roadside to the east. The village is surrounded by agricultural land, although the urban development of Bryntirion, which forms a suburb of Bridgend, lies under 1km to the east. The centre of Bridgend lies 3km to the east, Porthcawl lies 6km to the southwest, and Pyle 5.5km to the northwest. The A48 bypass skirts Laleston to the south, and the M4 corridor lies around 2.5km to the north.

The site lies at approximately 63mOD, in a gently undulating landscape that gradually falls to the west and southwest into the gentle north – south orientated valley of Cwm Cwintin. This valley meets the mouth of the Ogmere River at Merthyr Mawr Warren, on the coast of the Bristol Channel 4km to the south of the site.

The underlying geology of the area comprises a mix of interbedded limestone and

mudstone of the Porthkerry Member, with nearby bands of shale of the Lavernock Shales Member. Areas of limestone and sandstone also lie a short distance to the north (BGS 2017).

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

The Oystercatcher Public House is a Grade II listed building (Ref.19240). It is described as probably of 16th century origin, with a wing added to the west in *circa* 1700. The roof has been raised at a later date, and the building was refronted, probably in the 18th century, possibly at a time it was operating as a coaching inn. By the late 19th **century it was known as 'The New Inn'** (Figure 2). When recorded by the RCAHMMW in 1972 the remains of a central fireplace with a large timber bressummer was recorded, a date of 1679 inscribed on the lintel was believed to be later. A winding stone staircase was also recorded. These features no longer appear to remain, with the main fireplace in the wall of *circa* 1700. It was listed as a characteristic village inn with a long building history and important street frontage (Cadw – Listed Building Description).

The building, and development site, lie close to the historic core of Laleston, centred **on St David's Church 100m to the west. The village is believed to have its origins as a medieval nucleated settlement. In 1180 William, Earl of Gloucester, granted land in this area to William Lageles, and it is from his family name that 'Laleston' is supposedly derived. The town is recorded in 1226 as 'Lagelstune', when it was burned by the Welsh (Lewis 1849). The Church of St David's is a medieval foundation, with elements of the nave and chancel dating to the late 13th or 14th century.**

The proposed development site therefore had the potential to contain both archaeological evidence of the medieval settlement, as well as evidence relating to the long history of the Oystercatcher building. An archaeological evaluation undertaken to the rear of the property by APAC Ltd in 2012 (Phillips 2012) revealed no archaeologically significant structures or features apart from a scattering of finds. However, it did note that there remained the potential for archaeological remains to exist within the proposed development area. A subsequent watching brief undertaken by APAC Ltd in 2015 (Phillips 2016) also recorded no significant archaeological finds, features or deposits, other than a dump of 19th/20th century material likely associated with the former Inn. However, during the course of the watching brief a former bread oven was noted in the structure of the Oystercatcher Inn, and a bulge in the northeast elevation was also noted that may indicate the location of the former circular staircase.

2 Aims and Objectives

This WSI set out a program of works to ensure that the mitigation (watching brief) **met the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (2014).**

The objective of the watching brief was:

- **to allow a rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features that are** uncovered during the proposed groundworks within the application area.
- **to provide the 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 are not sufficient to support the treatment to a satisfactory or proper standard.

A written report has been compiled following the fieldwork. Sufficient desk-top research has been undertaken to ensure that the results of this work are properly understood, interpreted and reported.

This report includes a comprehensive assessment of the historic context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within regional, national and, if relevant, international research frameworks.

3 Methodology

3.1 Fieldwork

The archaeological watching brief followed the methodology set out within the approved WSI (Appendix II), and was undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist during all intrusive ground work on the site.

The groundwork was carried out in three main phases. Initially work inside the structure included the reduction of floor levels in some areas, with existing floor surfaces broken up and removed. A pneumatic drill was used to break up the existing concrete surface, with test pits excavation carried out by hand. Subsequently, to the front of the building, service trenches were excavated along the frontage, also undertaken by hand. Finally, groundworks were carried out for an extension to the rear of the building. Existing modern concrete surfaces were removed, with the area partially levelled and foundation trenches excavated. This work was carried out by tracked excavator, fitted with both toothless and toothed buckets due to the hard and stony nature of the modern surfaces and underlying deposits. All work was carried out under archaeological observation.

3.2. Recording

Recording was carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc) using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Plans and sections were drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and

related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

Photographs were taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 12MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

No finds were retrieved during the watching brief.

No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered during the archaeological fieldwork.

4 Results of the Watching Brief (Figures 3 & 4)

4.1 General

A watching brief was undertaken in three phases whenever ground works were being undertaken by the developer. In the first phase eight test pits were excavated by the developer in the interior of the building, all monitored by an archaeologist. The second phase had a service trench sunk at the front of the building and the third saw the excavation of the rear extension, both of which were monitored.

4.2 Phase 1 Interior

A series of eight test pits were excavated in the interior of the building. Each test pit was approximately 2m square, and generally around 0.2m deep. These test pits revealed a relatively consistent sequence of deposits.

Test Pit 1 (Plate 3 and 4). Test Pit 1 was cut in the northern central section of the building. The test pit was excavated to a depth of 0.20m below ground level. The natural bedrock (102) was encountered at a depth of 0.2m below pre-existing ground levels, and comprised a roughly levelled surface, although electrical services had been dug into the bedrock along the east side of the test pit. This was overlaid by a very thin (0.05m to 0.1m) deposit (101) of firm reddish-brown sandy-silt, with charcoal staining. This in turn was covered by a 0.1m thick concrete surface (100).

Test Pit 2 (Plate 5 and 6). Test Pit 2 was cut in the central section of the building towards the southern wall, excavated to a depth of 0.20m below ground level. This revealed a very similar sequence to that of Test Pit 1. The bedrock (102) was encountered at a depth of 0.2m below pre-existing floor levels. This was covered by a 0.1m thick deposit of compacted reddish-brown sandy-silt (101), with some charcoal staining. The concrete floor deposit (100) was laid on this, approximately 0.1m thick.

Test Pit 3 (Plate 7 and 8). Test Pit 3 was cut in the central section of the building, to the southwest of Test Pit 1. This test pit was excavated to a depth of 0.17m below ground level, at which point the bedrock (102) was encountered, comprising a roughly levelled surface. Overlying this was a thin (0.05m thick) layer of firm, reddish-brown

sandy-silt (101), topped by the modern concrete floor (100).

Test Pit 4 (Plate 9 & 10). Test Pit 4 was cut at the western end of the building, adjacent to the fireplace. This Test Pit was excavated to a depth of 0.22m below ground level, at which point the bedrock (102) was encountered, overlaid by a thin deposit of reddish-brown sandy-silt subsoil (102). At the northern end of the test pit a dark grey slate slab (104) was encountered at a depth of 0.18m below the pre-existing ground level. This slab did not extend across the full width of the test pit, at a similar level at the southern end of the test pit deposit (102) was overlain by a light creamy-grey crushed mortar deposit (105), 0.04m thick, that appears to have been used as a bedding deposit for a grey flat stone paving slab (103), encountered at a depth of 0.15m below the current surface. This stone paving slab (103) did extend across the test pit, and directly overlaid the slate. The stone paving slab surface was overlaid by (106), a 0.1m thick deposit of firm crushed mortar, ash and charcoal, used as a bedding deposit for the modern concrete surface (100).

Test Pit 5 (Plate 11). Test Pit 5 was cut in the southeast corner of the building. This Test Pit was excavated to a depth of 0.15m from below ground level, at which point a rough uneven bedrock surface (102) was revealed. This was partly covered by a thin (0.05m thick) spread of the typical subsoil deposit (101) over which lay the modern concrete surface (100).

Test Pit 6 (Plate 12). Test Pit 6 was cut in the northeast corner of the building. Test Pit 6 was excavated to a depth of 0.15m below ground level at which point the bedrock (102) was encountered, covered by 0.06m of reddish-brown subsoil (101). The modern concrete surface was laid directly on top of these deposits.

Test Pit 7 (Plate 13 and 14). Test Pit 7 was one of two (along with Test Pit 8) smaller test pits excavated against the foundation of an internal wall. The pit was excavated to a depth of 0.4m. Bedrock (102) was encountered at a depth of 0.2m, overlaid with a 0.1m layer of typical subsoil (101). This in turn was overlaid with the crushed mortar deposit (106) seen in Test Pit 4, acting as a bedding layer for the modern concrete surface (100) above.

Test Pit 8 (Plate 13 and 14). Test Pit 8 was one of two (along with Test Pit 7) smaller test pits excavated against the foundation of an internal wall. This pit was cut to a depth of 0.35m. An almost identical sequence of deposits to that within Test Pit 7 was revealed. Bedrock (102) was encountered at a depth of 0.25m, overlaid with 0.1m of subsoil (101). Above this was a bedding layer (106) for the modern concrete surface (100).

4.3 Phase 2 Exterior (front)

The installation of services along the front exterior of the building comprised the hand excavation of a single trench, measuring 7.1m in length and 0.6m wide, reaching a maximum depth of 0.5m. This revealed a uniform sequence of deposits throughout (Plates 15 – 18).

Solid limestone bedrock (005) was reached at depths of between 0.3m and 0.5m below the current ground level. The bedrock sloped roughly down to the east, although higher levels were more broken up, this slope however appeared to be a natural variation in the bedrock. Excavation largely stopped when bedrock was reached.

Above the bedrock sat a natural clay (004) comprised a firm to stiff mid to light brown clay with occasional sub angular stones. This was found throughout the trench and was up to 0.4m at its thickest to the east, reducing to 0.1m to the west as the underlying bedrock rose closer to the surface. Above this sat a firm mid reddish-brown silt (003) up to 0.1m thick. One fragment of clay pipe stem, of likely 19th century date, was recovered from within this deposit. Root activity was also noted throughout.

The reddish-brown silt was topped by a 0.1m thick layer of modern aggregate (002) that had been used as a base for the modern concrete slab surface (001), 0.05m thick, in front of the building.

4.4 Phase 3 Exterior (rear)

Foundations were excavated to the rear of the building for an attached extension. Prior to excavation the site comprised a mixed area of hardstanding and paving, with higher ground to the north suggesting the area may, in part, have been terraced into the rising ground. An area measuring 8m north – south, by 11m east – west was surface stripped by machine. Foundation footings, approximately 1m wide, were then excavated by machine to a depth of 1m below previous ground levels. A drainage trench was also excavated diagonally across the stripped area (Plates 19 – 22).

A fragmented limestone bedrock (202) was revealed across the site at a depth of approximately 0.3m below the previous ground levels. This extended the full depth of the foundation excavations. This was overlaid by a natural light yellow-brown clay (201), up to 0.2m thick, and again spread across the site. The upper 0.1m comprised a mixed deposit of mid grey-brown topsoil, the underlying clay, stone dust and mortar, and paving slabs (200). No finds were recovered from these excavations.

5 Conclusions

5.1 General

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken between November 2017 and March 2018 during groundworks associated with the change of use of the Oystercatcher Public House, on the High Street in Laleston. The building is Grade II listed, of probable 16th century origins, with 18th century alterations, and lies close to the likely layout of the medieval settlement of Laleston. The site therefore contained the potential to reveal archaeological remains, as such an archaeological watching brief was set as one of the conditions of the planning permission for the development.

5.2 Overall Interpretation

Limestone bedrock was encountered throughout all excavated areas, from the front of the building, through the interior and to the rear. Both to the front, and to the rear of the building, the bedrock was overlaid with a yellow-brown clay, which would appear to be a natural alluvial material.

This was not encountered within the building, suggesting levels had been cut down to the bedrock to provide a solid surface upon which to set the floor. Earlier floor levels however appear largely to have been removed, with the modern concrete surface sitting almost directly on top of the bedrock, separated only by a thin sandy-silt deposit. The one exception was remnants of a stone and slate slab surface found adjacent to the fireplace in the western gable wall. These slabs may have been associated with a hearth structure in front of the fireplace.

To the rear of the building only natural deposits were encountered under modern surfaces, suggesting the area had been terraced and any previous archaeological remains removed. To the front of the building an earlier silt deposit was revealed, but no features of archaeological significance were encountered.

6 Bibliography and References

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British Geological Survey: Geology of Britain Viewer
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/> Accessed 02/03/18

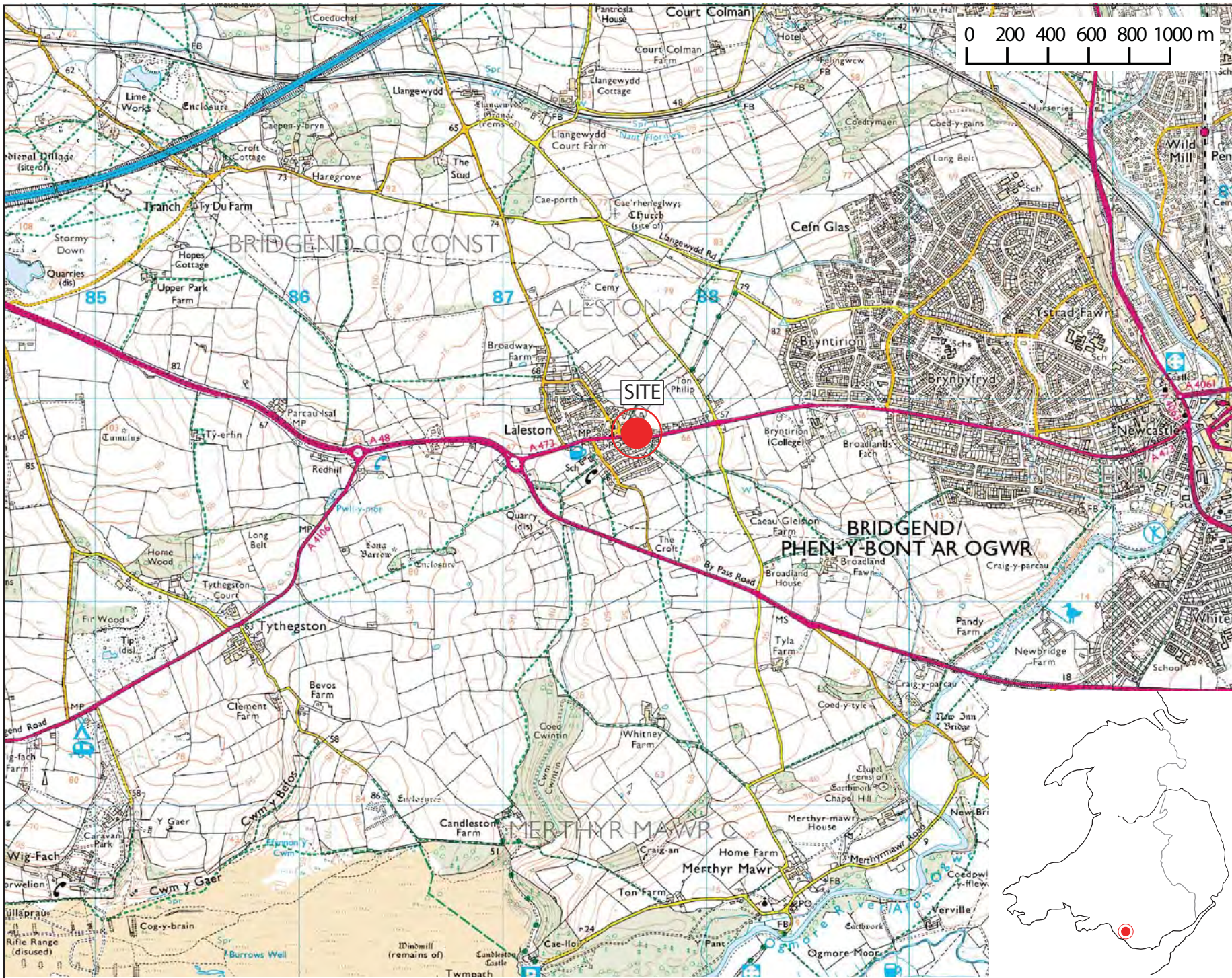


Figure 1: Location map, 1:25,000 @ A4

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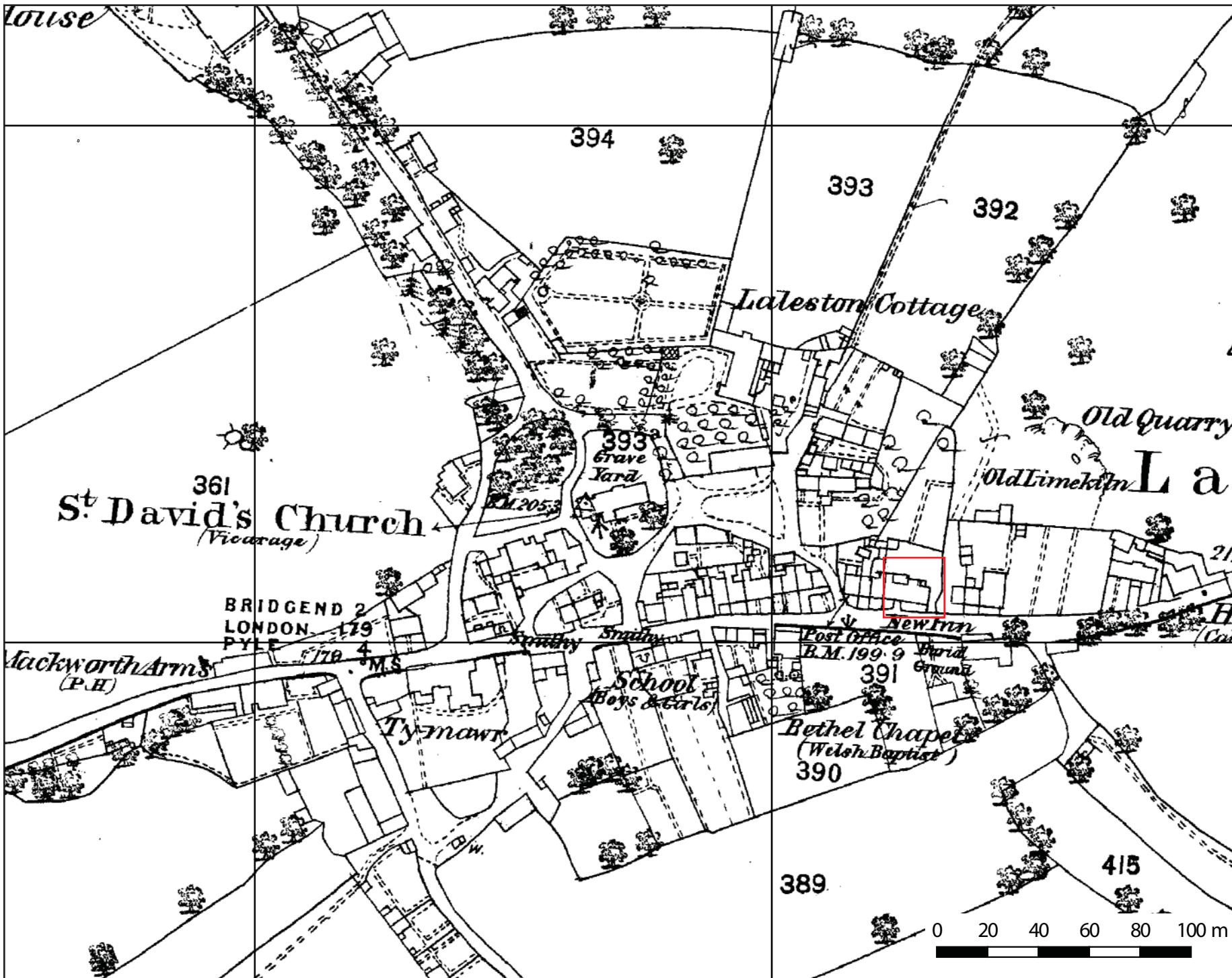


Figure 2: Extract from Ordnance Survey mapping of 1876, showing the development site (in red)

1:2000 @ A4

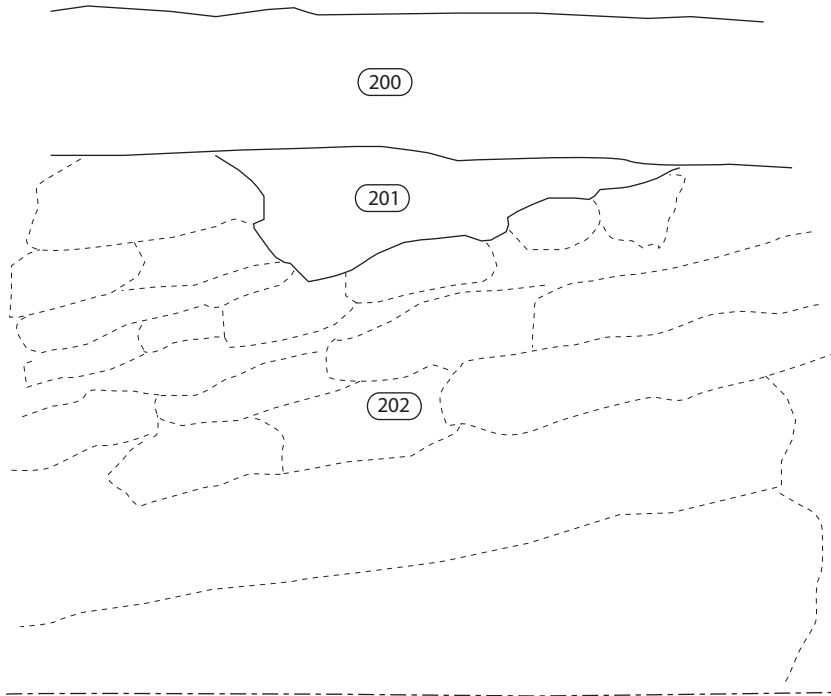
(c) Landmark Information Group Ltd



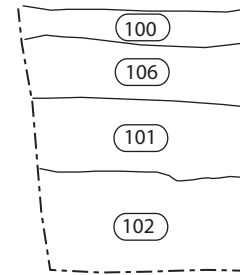
Figure 3: Site location and development plan, showing observed excavated areas (in red).

1:250 @ A4

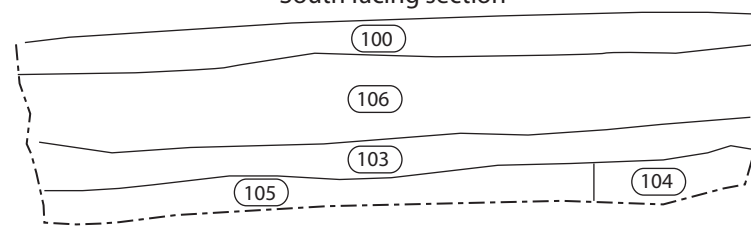
Phase 3 Exterior rear
East facing section



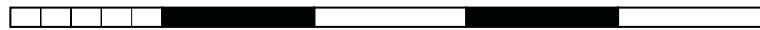
Phase 1 Interior
Test Pit 8
South facing section



Phase 1 Interior
Test Pit 4
South facing section



0m



1m

Scale 1:10 @ A4

Phase 2 Exterior front
South facing section

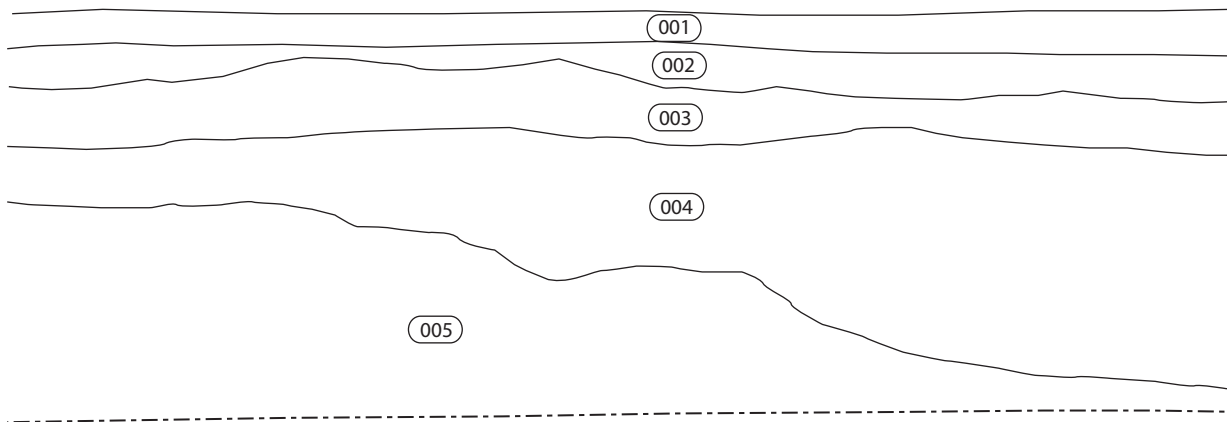


Figure 4: Representative site sections from the site.



Plate 1: The former Oystercatcher Public House, as viewed from the High Street to the south.



Plate 2: Phase 1 works within the building, showing excavation of test pits in progress and the fireplace against the western wall. Looking west.



Plate 3: Phase 1 interior, test pit 1, showing exposed bedrock. View north, 0.5m & 0.3m scales.



Plate 4: Phase 1 interior, test pit 1, showing exposed bedrock. View west, 0.5m & 0.3m scales.



Plate 5: Phase 1 interior, test pit 2, showing exposed bedrock. View north, 0.5m & 0.3m scales.



Plate 6: Phase 1 interior, test pit 2, showing exposed bedrock. View east, 0.5m & 0.3m scales.



Plate 7: Phase 1 interior, test pit 3, showing exposed bedrock. View east, 0.5m & 0.3m scales.



Plate 8: Phase 1 interior, test pit 3, showing exposed bedrock. View north, 0.5m & 0.3m scales.



Plate 9: Phase 1 interior, test pit 4. Slate slab 104 can be seen along the bottom edge. View west, 0.5m & 0.3m scales



Plate 10: Phase 1 interior, test pit 4, showing section with paving (103). View north, 0.5m & 0.3m scales.



Plate 11: Phase 1 interior, test pit 5, showing exposed bedrock. View north, 0.5m & 0.3m scales



Plate 12: Phase 1 interior, test pit 6, showing exposed bedrock. View north, 0.5m & 0.3m scales.



Plate 13: Phase 1 interior, test pits 7 and 8. View east, 1m, 0.5m & 0.3m scales.



Plate 14: Phase 1 interior, test pit 8, showing section. View north, 0.5m & 0.3m scales.



Plate 15: Phase 2 exterior (front), showing the excavated services trench, view west.



Plate 16: As above, under excavation, view east.



Plate 17: Phase 2 exterior (front), showing exposed limestone bedrock (005) in the trench. View north, 1m scale.



Plate 18: Phase 2 exterior (front), showing exposed, fragmented, limestone bedrock (005) to the left, with overlying clay (004) to the right. View north, 1m scale.



Plate 19: Phase 3 exterior (rear), showing the area prior to excavations.



Plate 20: Phase 3 exterior (rear), showing the area subsequent to excavations, revealing the fragmented bedrock (202) throughout. View south, 2m & 1m scale.



Plate 21: Phase 3 exterior (rear), showing the area during excavations, with fragmented bedrock (202) exposed throughout. View southwest, 1m scales.



Plate 22: Phase 3 exterior (rear), showing representative section and relative levels of excavated area. View west, 1m scales.

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APPENDIX I: Context List

| Area | Context no | Context type | Description | Dimensions |
|------------------|------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Interior | (100) | Layer/surface | Concrete floor across all of site | 0.1m thick |
| Interior | (101) | Layer | Firm red brown sandy silt. Subsoil some charcoal staining | 0.1m thick |
| Interior | (102) | Layer | Bedrock | |
| Interior | (103) | Layer | Paving slab floor - only in TP 4 | |
| Interior | (104) | Layer | Single partly visible slate slab | >0.2m wide, 0.06m thick |
| Interior | (105) | Layer | Pale off white mortar bedding for (103) only in TP4 | >0.7m wide, 0.06m thick |
| Interior | (106) | Layer | Firm light off white and black flecked and grey flecked crushed mortar and ash and charcoal | 0.1m thick |
| | | | | |
| Exterior (front) | (001) | Layer/surface | Concrete slab surface | 0.05m thick |
| Exterior (front) | (002) | Layer | Aggregate immediately below (001) | 0.1m thick |
| Exterior (front) | (003) | Layer | Firm red brown silt. Contained 19 th cent. clay pipe stem. | 0.1m thick |
| Exterior (front) | (004) | Layer | Natural subsoil. Firm, mid to light brown clay | 0.1m to 0.3m thick |
| Exterior (front) | (005) | Layer | Limestone bedrock | |
| | | | | |
| Exterior (rear) | (200) | Layer | Mixed deposit of mid grey-brown topsoil, stone dust, mortar, clay and concrete paving slabs | >0.1m thick |
| Exterior (rear) | (201) | Layer | Natural subsoil. Firm, light yellow-brown clay. | 0.2m thick |
| Exterior (rear) | (202) | Layer | Limestone bedrock | |

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APPENDIX II: Specification

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION
FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF
AT THE OYSTERCATCHER, 47 HIGH STREET, LALESTON,
BRIDGEND

Prepared for:

Replan Ltd

Planning Application Number: P/13/356/LIS

Project No: 2560

September 2017



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Figure 1. Site location

Figure 2. Detailed plan of the site as existing

Figure 3. Proposed development plan

Summary

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details a programme of archaeological mitigation to be undertaken by Archaeology Wales at the request of Replan Ltd.

The archaeological mitigation will consist of a watching brief, and will be undertaken during ground works associated with the change of use of a public house to two dwellings, the demolition of the eastern annexe and alteration to the rear annexes at the Oystercatcher, 47 High Street, Laleston, Bridgend, centred on SS 87645 79820. The associated Planning Application No. is P/13/356/LIS.

The Oystercatcher Public House is a Grade II listed building, probably of 16th century origin. This site lies in an area of potential archaeological remains associated with the medieval nucleated village of Laleston. An adjacent archaeological evaluation (Phillips 2012) also indicated the potential for archaeological remains to exist within the proposed development area.

Consequently Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust - Curatorial Division, in its capacity as archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority, recommended a programme of archaeological mitigation on the proposed development.

All work will be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

1. Introduction and planning background

This WSI details the methodology for a programme of archaeological mitigation (watching brief) to be undertaken in association with the change of use of a public house to two dwellings, the demolition of the eastern annexe and alteration to the rear annexes, at the Oystercatcher, 47 High Street, Laleston, Bridgend, centred on SS 87645 79820. (Figure 1 and 2). The associated Planning Application No. is P/13/356/LIS.

The Oystercatcher Public House is a Grade II listed building, probably of 16th century origin. This site lies in an area of potential archaeological remains associated with the medieval nucleated village of Laleston. An adjacent archaeological evaluation (Phillips 2012) also indicated the potential for archaeological remains to exist within the proposed development area.

This WSI has been prepared by Philip Poucher, Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of Replan Ltd.

The methodology set out in this WSI has been agreed with Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust – Curatorial Division (GGAT-CD) in its capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority (Bridgend County Borough Council). GGAT-CD has recommended that a programme of archaeological mitigation of the development area is undertaken during ground works associated with the

development to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

The recommendations made by GGAT-CD are set out in a letter to the local planning authority dated 18th June 2013. As a result a Condition has been attached to the planning permission for the development, which reads:

(Condition 4) 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 be 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.

The purpose of the archaeological mitigation (watching brief) is to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains on the site of the development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy (revised edition 9, 2016), Section 6.5 and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017). The work is to ensure that all buried artefacts and deposits are fully investigated and recorded if they are disturbed or revealed as a result of activities associated with the development.

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

2. Site Description

The site comprises the former Oystercatcher Public House, which lies on the eastern side of the village of Laleston. It occupies a street frontage site on High Street (the A437), the main road through the centre of the village, running between Porthcawl and Pyle to the west and Bridgend to the east.

The road forms the southern boundary to the site, with urban development and gardens forming the remaining boundaries. The village of Laleston is traditionally **centred on St David's church, which lies 100m to the west. The site lies within the historic core of the village, with modern development now extending to the north**

and south, and along the roadside to the east. The village is surrounded by agricultural land, although the urban development of Bryntirion, which forms a suburb of Bridgend, lies under 1km to the east. The centre of Bridgend lies 3km to the east, Porthcawl lies 6km to the southwest, and Pyle 5.5km to the northwest. The A48 bypass skirts Laleston to the south, and the M4 corridor lies around 2.5km to the north.

The site lies at approximately 63mOD, in a gently undulating landscape that gradually falls to the west and southwest into the gentle north – south orientated valley of Cwm Cwintin. This valley meets the mouth of the Ogmere River at Merthyr Mawr Warren, on the coast of the Bristol Channel 4km to the south of the site.

The underlying geology of the area comprises a mix of interbedded limestone and mudstone of the Porthkerry Member, with nearby bands of shale of the Lavernock Shales Member. Areas of limestone and sandstone also lie a short distance to the north (BGS 2017).

3. Archaeological background

The Oystercatcher Public House is a Grade II listed building (Ref.19240). It is described as probably of 16th century origin, with a wing added to the west in *circa* 1700. The roof has been raised at a later date, and the building was refronted, probably in the 18th century, possibly at a time it was operating as a coaching inn. By the late 19th **century it was known as 'The New Inn'**. When recorded by the RCAHMW in 1972 the remains of a central fireplace with a large timber bressummer was recorded, a date of 1679 inscribed on the lintel was believed to be later. A winding stone staircase was also recorded. These features no longer appear to remain, with the main fireplace in the wall of *circa* 1700. It was listed as a characteristic village inn with a long building history and important street frontage (Cadw – Listed Building Description).

The building, and development site, lie close to the historic core of Laleston, centred **on St David's Church 100m to the west. The village is believed to have its origins** as a medieval nucleated settlement. In 1180 William, Earl of Gloucester, granted land in this area to William Lageles, and it is from his family name that 'Laleston' is **supposedly derived. The town is recorded in 1226 as 'Lagelstune', when it was burned by the Welsh (Lewis 1849). The Church of St David's is a medieval foundation, with elements of the nave and chancel dating to the late 13th or 14th century.**

The proposed development site therefore has the potential to contain both archaeological evidence of the medieval settlement, as well as evidence relating to the long history of the Oystercatcher building. An archaeological evaluation undertaken to the rear of the property by APAC Ltd in 2012 (Phillips 2012) revealed no archaeologically significant structures or features apart from a scattering of finds. However, it did note that there remained the potential for archaeological remains to exist within the proposed development area. A subsequent watching brief undertaken by APAC Ltd in 2015 (Phillips 2016) also recorded no significant archaeological finds, features or deposits, other than a dump of 19th/20th century

material likely associated with the former Inn. However, during the course of the watching brief a former bread oven was noted in the structure of the Oystercatcher Inn, and a bulge in the northeast elevation was also noted that may indicate the location of the former circular staircase.

4. Objectives

This WSI sets out a program of works to ensure that the mitigation (watching brief) will meet the standard required by The Chartered **Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (2014)**.

The objective of the watching brief will be:

- to allow a rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features that are uncovered during the proposed groundworks within the application area.
- to provide the 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 are not sufficient to support the treatment to a satisfactory or proper standard.

A written report will be compiled following the fieldwork. Sufficient desk-top research will be undertaken to ensure that the results of this work are properly understood, interpreted and reported.

The report will include a comprehensive assessment of the historic context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within regional, national and, if relevant, international research frameworks.

4.1. Site Specific Research Aims

It is important to recognize that whilst primarily designed to mitigate impacts, developer-led archaeology is also regarded as research activity with an academic basis, the aim of which is to add to the sum of human knowledge. Curators recognize the desirability of incorporating agreed research priorities as a means of enhancing the credibility of the development control process, ensuring cost-effectiveness and legitimately maximizing intellectual return.

A research framework for the archaeology of Wales has been produced, which has been under review since 2009. The main archaeological potential of this area could contribute to the themes laid out in *A Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales Version 01, Final Paper: Medieval (Davidson 2003)*. The need for focussed and published work relating to urban settlements is particularly highlighted in both the original paper and in more recent reviews (Davidson et al 2016).

5. Timetable of works

5.1. Fieldwork

The programme of mitigation will be undertaken during ground works associated with the proposed development. A proposed start date of early October is likely, but with groundworks requiring an archaeological watching brief not commencing until early 2018. Archaeology Wales will update GGAT-CD with the exact date.

5.2. Report delivery

The report will be submitted to the client and to GGAT-CD within two months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional HER.

6. Fieldwork

6.1. Detail

The work will be undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered **Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for** Watching Briefs (2014).

The watching brief will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist on groundworks associated with the proposed development, which will consist of groundwork on the rear annexes and any associated development (stripping, levelling, foundation excavation, drainage and service excavation) where sub-surface deposits are likely to be exposed or cut into. Mechanical excavations will be undertaken by a tracked excavator using a toothless ditching bucket wherever possible.

Work inside the structure also include the reduction of floor levels in some areas. Existing floor surfaces will be broken up and removed. The watching brief will also be undertaken on this removal work to ascertain if any earlier floor deposits or other features of note are revealed.

The site archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will be afforded the required access by the main contractor in order to observe and where necessary to record any archaeological remains revealed. Groundwork will not be undertaken without the presence of the site archaeologist. The site archaeologist will record finds and less significant archaeological deposits and features without significant delay to the work program.

Where significant or complex archaeological deposits or features are encountered there will be a requirement for those areas to be fenced off and highlighted to all contractors employed on the site. Machines or contractors shall not enter this area until archaeological recording has been completed. If significant archaeological features are revealed during the work a meeting between the client, GGAT-CD and AW will be called at the earliest convenience.

To comply with professional guidelines, a contingency for additional uninterrupted access to each such area and for a suitably sized team of archaeologists to be

employed should be provided. Contingency costs will be agreed in advance before any extension to the programme commences and will follow a site meeting between Archaeology Wales, the client (or their agent) and GGAT-CD.

6.2. Recording

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc) using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

All features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries.

Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 12MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

The archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will have access to the AW metal detector and be trained in its use.

6.3. Finds

The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for **Archaeologists' Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological (2014)** will form the basis of finds collection, processing and recording.

All manner of finds regardless of category and date will be retained.

Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under *The Treasure Act 1996* will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (normally Phil Parkes at Cardiff University).

6.4. Environmental sampling strategy

Deposits with a significant potential for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental material will be sampled, by means of the most appropriate method (bulk, column etc). Where sampling will provide a significant contribution to the understanding of the site AW will draw up a site-specific sampling strategy alongside a specialist environmental archaeologist. All environmental sampling and recording and will **follow English Heritage's Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology (2002)**.

6.5. Human remains

In the event that human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established and the coroner informed. All human remains will be left *in situ* and

protected during backfilling. Where preservation *in situ* is not possible the human remains will be fully recorded and removed under conditions that comply with all current legislation and include acquisition of licenses and provision for reburial following all analytical work. Human remains will be excavated in accordance with the Chartered **Institute for Archaeologist's** *Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains: Technical Paper Number 13* (1993).

A meeting with GGAT-CD, the client and AW will be called if the human remains uncovered are of such complexity or significance that the contingency arrangement (6.1 above) would not be of sufficient scope.

6.6. Specialist advisers

In the event of certain finds, features or sites being discovered, AW will seek specialist opinion and advice. A list of specialists is given in the table below although this list is not exhaustive.

| Artefact type | Specialist |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Flint | Kate Pitt (Archaeology Wales) |
| Animal bone | Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University) |
| CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc. | Rachael Hall (APS) |
| Clay pipe | Hilary Major (Freelance) |
| Glass | Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales) |
| Cremated and non-cremated human bone | Malin Holst (University of York)/Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University) |
| Metalwork | Kevin Leahy (University of Leicester)/ Quita Mold (Freelance) |
| Metal work and metallurgical residues | Dr Tim Young (GeoArch) |
| Neo/BA pottery | Dr Alex Gibson (Bradford University) |
| IA/Roman pottery | Jane Timby (Freelance) |
| Roman Pottery | Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)/ Peter Webster (Freelance) |
| Post Roman pottery | Stephen Clarke (Monmouthshire Archaeology) |
| Charcoal (wood ID) | John Carrot (Freelance) |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Waterlogged wood | Nigel Nayling (University of Wales – Lampeter) |
| Molluscs and pollen | Dr James Rackham |
| Charred and waterlogged plant remains | Wendy Carruthers (Freelance) |

6.6.1. Specialist reports

Specialist finds and palaeoenvironmental reports will be written by AW specialists, or sub-contracted to external specialists when required.

7. Monitoring

GGAT-CD will be contacted approximately five days prior to the commencement of archaeological site works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

Any changes to the WSI that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to GGAT-CD for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.

Representatives of GGAT-CD will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the field evaluation. No area will be back-filled, until GGAT-CD has had the opportunity to inspect it, unless permission has been given in advance. GGAT-CD will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

8. Post-fieldwork programme

8.1. Archive assessment

8.1.1. Site archive

An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2006) upon completion of the project.

The site archive (including artefacts and samples) will be will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and deposited with an appropriate receiving organisation, in compliance with ClfA Guidelines (*Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, 2014). The legal landowners consent will be gained for deposition of finds.

8.1.2. Analysis

Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of analysis and reporting will be undertaken. This will result in the following inclusions in the final report:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the watching brief, all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings (if features are encountered) with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- Written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate.
- An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development
- A discussion of the local, regional and national context of the remains by means of reviewing published reports, unpublished reports, historical maps, documents from local archives and the regional HER as appropriate.
- A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples finds and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.

8.2. Reports and archive deposition

8.2.1. Report to client

Copies of all reports associated with the mitigation (watching brief), together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, including photographs and illustrations, will be submitted to the client and GGAT-CD upon completion.

8.2.2. Additional reports

After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of all reports will be deposited with the relevant county Historical Environment Record, the National Monuments Record and, if appropriate, Cadw.

8.2.3. Summary reports for publication

Short archaeological reports will be submitted for publication in relevant journals; as a minimum, a report will be submitted to the annual publication of the regional CBA group or equivalent journal.

8.2.4. Notification of important remains

Where it is considered that remains have been revealed that may satisfy the criteria for statutory protection, AW will submit preliminary notification of the remains to Cadw.

8.2.5. Archive deposition

The final archive (site and research) will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution, usually the relevant Local Authority museums service. Arrangements will be made with the receiving institution before work starts.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, copies of all reports and the final archive will be deposited no later than six months after completion of the work.

Copies of all reports, the digital archive and an archive index will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER. A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to GGAT-CD.

8.2.6. Finds deposition

The finds, including artefacts and ecofacts, excepting those which may be subject to the Treasure Act, will be deposited with the same institution, subject to the agreement of the legal land owners.

9. Staff

The project will be managed by Philip Poucher (AW Project Manager) and the fieldwork undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced AW staff. Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of GGAT-CD and the client.

Additional Considerations

10. Health and Safety

10.1. Risk assessment

Prior to the commencement of work AW will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. A copy will be sent to the client (or their agent as necessary) for their information. All members of AW staff will adhere to the content of this document.

10.2. Other guidelines

AW will adhere to best practice with regard to Health and Safety in Archaeology as set out in the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (2002)*.

11. Community Engagement and Outreach

Wherever possible, AW will ensure suitable measures are in place to inform the local community and any interested parties of the results of the site investigation work. This may occur during the site investigation work or following completion of the work. The form of any potential outreach activities may include lectures and talks to local groups, interested parties and persons, information boards, flyers and other

forms of communication (social media and websites), and press releases to local and national media.

The form of any outreach will respect client confidentiality or contractual agreements. As a rule, outreach will be proportional to the size of the project.

Where outreach activities have a cost implication these will need to be negotiated in advance and in accordance with the nature of the desired response and learning outcomes.

12. Insurance

AW is fully insured for this type of work, and holds Insurance with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hiscox Insurance Company Limited through Towergate Insurance. Full details of these and other relevant policies can be supplied on request.

13. Quality Control

13.1. Professional standards

AW works to the standards and guidance provided by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*. AW fully recognise and endorse the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct*, *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* and the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs* currently in force. All employees of AW, whether corporate members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists or not, are expected to adhere to these Codes and Standards during their employment.

13.2. Project tracking

The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

14. Arbitration

Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision in accordance with the Rules of the **Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' Arbitration Scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists** applying at the date of the agreement.

References

Davidson A 2003 *A Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales Version 01, Final Paper: Medieval*

Davidson A, Davies W, Gray M & Silvester RJ 2016 *A Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales: Medieval Draft Paper November 2016*

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- Phillips, N 2012 *Archaeological Evaluation: Oystercatcher Inn, car park and garden*
APAC Ltd Report
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Archaeology
Wales

APPENDIX III:
Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Oystercatcher, 47 High Street, Laleston, Bridgend

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Site Name: | Oystercatcher |
| Site Code: | HSL/17/WB |
| PRN: | 02169m |
| NPRN: | 19556 |
| SAM: | - |
| Other Ref No: | Listed Building 19240 |
| NGR: | NGR SS 87645 79820 |
| Site Type: | Construction of a rear extension, and other associated works, to the Grade II listed building within the medieval settlement of Laleston. |
| Project Type: | Watching Brief |
| Project Manager: | Philip Poucher |
| Project Dates: | September 2017 – February 2019 |
| Categories Present: | None |
| Location of Original Archive: | AW |
| Location of duplicate Archives: | RCAHMW, Aberystwyth |
| Number of Finds Boxes: | - |
| Location of Finds: | - |
| Museum Reference: | - |
| Copyright: | AW |
| Restrictions to access: | None |

Archaeology Wales

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