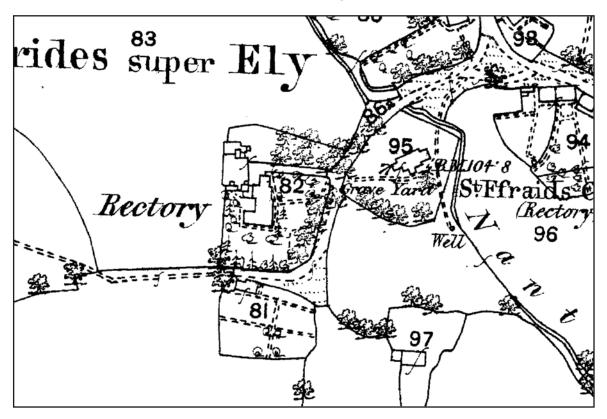


# Stable Yard, The Old Rectory, St Brides Super Ely Vale of Glamorgan

Archaeological Watching Brief Interim Report



Irene Garcia Rovira, PhD MCIfA Report No . 1949





# Archaeology Wales

# Stable Yard, The Old Rectory, St Brides Super Ely

Archaeological Watching Brief Interim Report

Edited by: John Davey Signed: JUL Davey Position: Project Manager Date: 4.2.21

Authorised by: John Davey
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Position: Project Manager
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2nd of February 2021



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# Non-Technical Summary

This report results from a watching brief carried out by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) at the request of Mrs Suzie Morel. The work consisted of an archaeological watching brief conducted during the ground works associated with the construction of a dwelling at Stable Yard, The Old Rectory, St Brides Super Ely, Vale of Glamorgan CF5 6EY, NGR ST 09582 77633. Planning Application 2015/01465/FUL.

The excavations were limited during Stage 1 to the cutting of a footing. The L-shaped trench was cut to 0.9m below the ground level in an area currently used as a car park. No archaeological finds/features were recovered during groundworks.

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

# Crynodeb Annhechnegol

Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn ganlyniad i friff gwylio a gynhaliwyd gan Archaeology Cymru Cyf ar gais Mrs Suzie Morel. Roedd y gwaith yn cynnwys briff gwylio archeolegol a gyhaliwyd yn ystod y gwaith tir sy'n gysylltiedig â'r gwaith o adeiladu annedd yn Iard y Stabl, Yr Hen Reithordy, Llansanffraid-ar-Elai, Bro Morgannwg CF5 6EY, NGR ST 09582 77633. Cais Cynllunio 2015/01465/FUL.

Roedd y gwaith cloddio wedi'i gyfyngu yn ystod Cam 1 i dorri'r sylfaen. Torrwyd ffos siâp L i 0.9m islaw lefel y tir mewn ardal a ddefnyddir ar hyn o bryd fel maes parcio. Ni chafodd unrhyw ganfyddiadau/nodweddion archeolegol eu canfod yn ystod y gwaith tir.

Gwnaed yr holl waith yn unol â safonau a chanllawiau Sefydliad Siartredig yr Archeolegwyr (2014).

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 Archaeology Wales (henceforth AW) was commissioned by Mrs Suzie Morel to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the construction of a dwelling at Stable Yard, The Old Rectory, St Brides Super Ely, Vale of Glamorgan CF5 6EY, NGR ST 09582 77633. Planning Application 2015/01465/FUL.
- 1.1.2 Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Archaeological Planning Management (GGAT-APM) recommended that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during ground works to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on any surviving buried archaeological resource within the bounds of the site. Subsequently a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Irene Garcia Rovira (Project Manager, Archaeology Wales) and approved by GGAT-APM. All work was undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020).
- 1.1.3 The purpose of the archaeological mitigation was 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 Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017). The work was to ensure that all archaeological and historical components of the site be fully investigated and recorded if revealed as a result of activities associated with the development. All work was undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020).
- 1.1.4 The watching brief took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2021. It was supervised by Susan Stratton, AW Project Officer. The project was managed by Irene Garcia Rovira MCIfA. All work conformed to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

# 2. Site Description and Historic Background

- 2.1.1 The development site is located WSW from St Brides Super Ely settlement core. It is mostly surrounded by medium to large green fields, though some built area exists to the ENE. The development site is adjacent to a number of buildings of historic interest, one of which The Old Rectory, St Brides Super Ely (PRN 01479s) recorded in the regional Historic Environment Records as a postmedieval rectory.
- 2.1.2 The underlying geology is defined by Lower Devonian Rocks sandstone and conglomerate formed during the Devonian Period. No superficial soils are recorded (BGS 2021).

# 3. Methodology

- 3.1.1 The groundworks monitored for the archaeological watching brief comprised the excavation of a footing. All excavations were carried out by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. Only a small portion of the site was excavated as part of Stage 1 of construction.
- 3.1.2 All deposits were recorded by means of a continuous context numbering system and recorded on pro-forma context sheets. Sections and plans of the excavation were photographed using a 12MP digital camera.
- 3.1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with the ClfA's Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (2020) and current Health and Safety legislation.

# 4. Watching Brief Results

#### 4.1 Trench 1 (Figure 1-3; Plates 1-2)

4.1.1 The watching brief was limited - Stage 1 - to the cutting of a footing in an area currently used as a car park. The watching brief was limited - Stage 1 - to the cutting of a footing in an area currently used as a car park. The trench was L-shaped and had a length of 7.5m and 3.2m and had a width of 0.6m. The trench was cut to a depth of 0.9m below the ground level.

4.1.2 The natural substrate (002) was composed of mid brown-red clay with frequent boulders. The natural substrate was overlaid by (002) - interpreted as the former topsoil - and was characterised by dark grey-grown clay measuring 0.35m in thickness. Context (002) was overlaid by a deposit of compacted gravels functioning as the surface for the current car park. This deposit was 0.25m in thickness. No archaeological finds or features were revealed during groundworks.

# 5. The Finds

5.1.1 No finds of archaeological significance were recorded during the archaeological watching brief.

# 6. Discussions and Conclusions

6.1.1 The excavations at the Stable Yard where limited, during Stage 1, to the cutting of an L-shaped trench - footings. No archaeological finds or features were revealed during groundworks. Further groundwork activities are anticipated and will be monitored accordingly to comply with condition 8 of planning application 2015/01465/FUL.

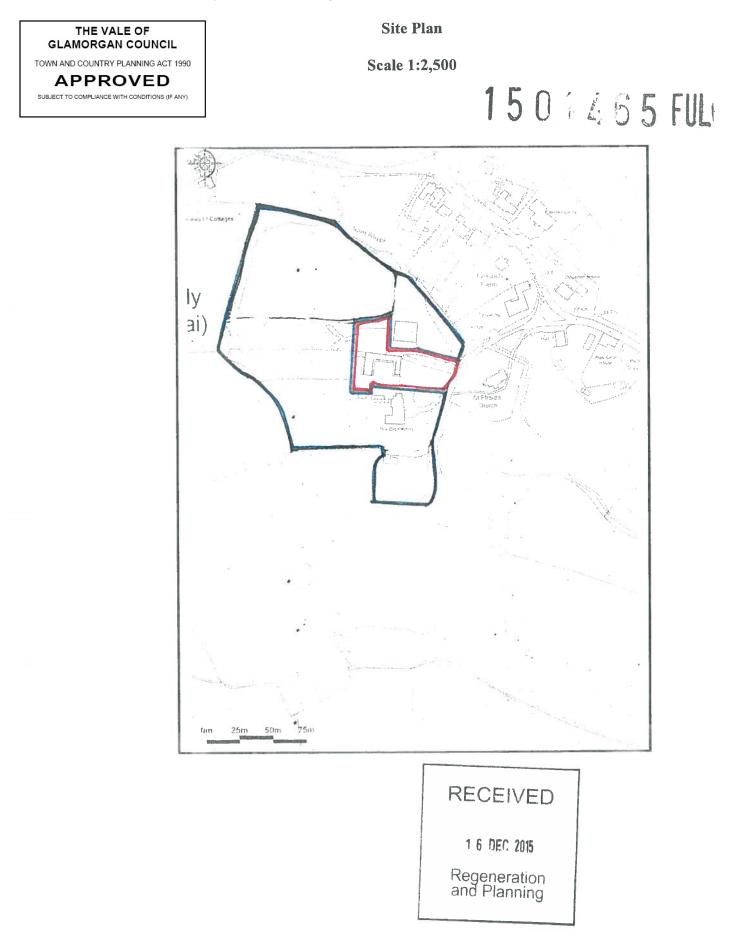
# 7. Bibliography

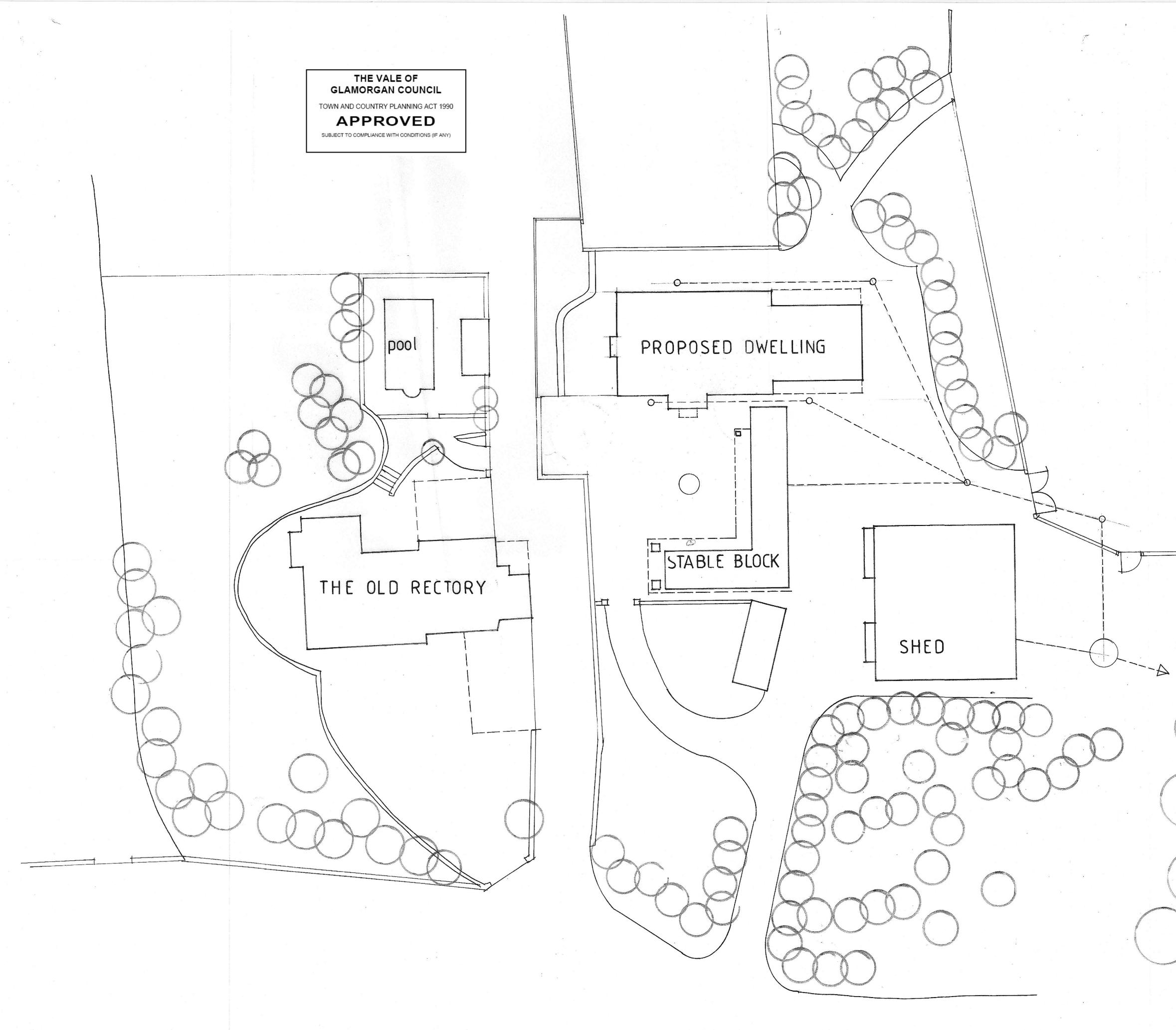
Cadw, 1998. Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief

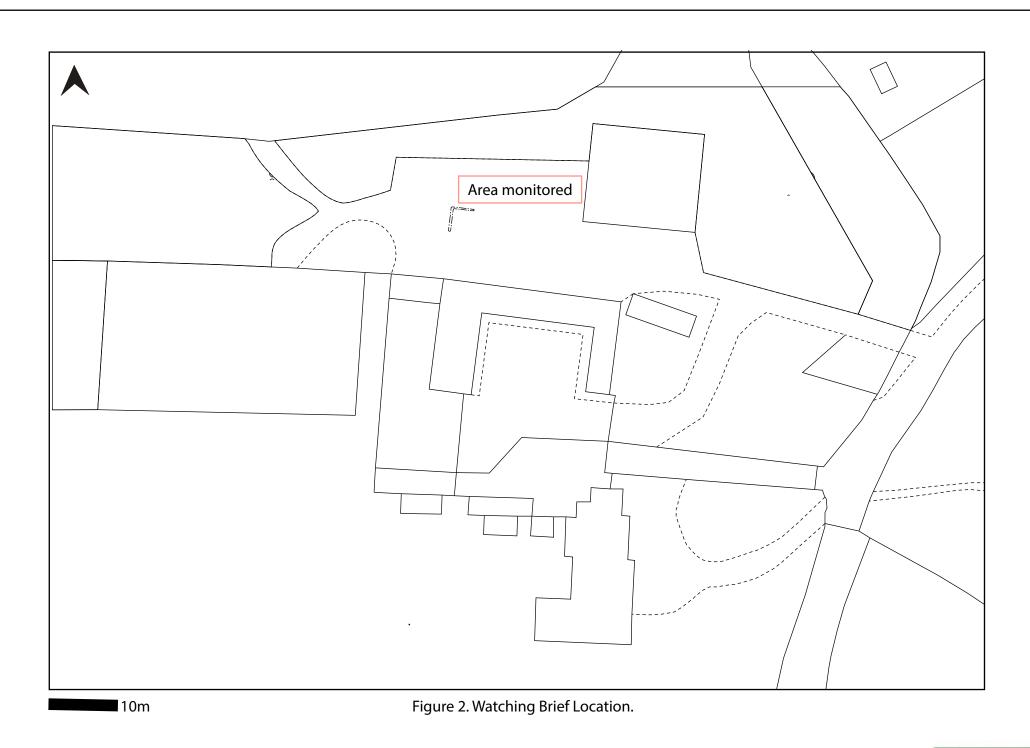
British Geological Survey: Geology of Britain viewer: <a href="http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html">www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html</a> (accessed 1.2.21)

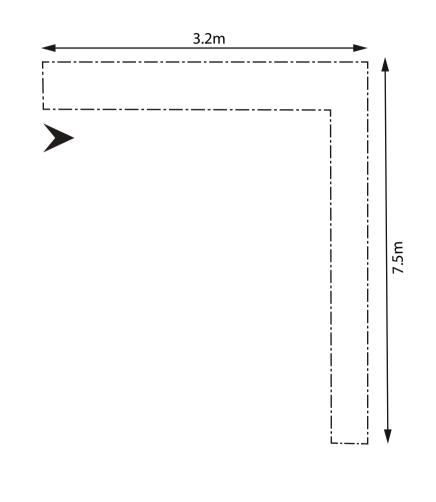
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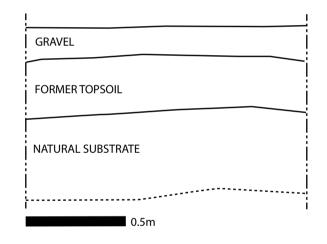




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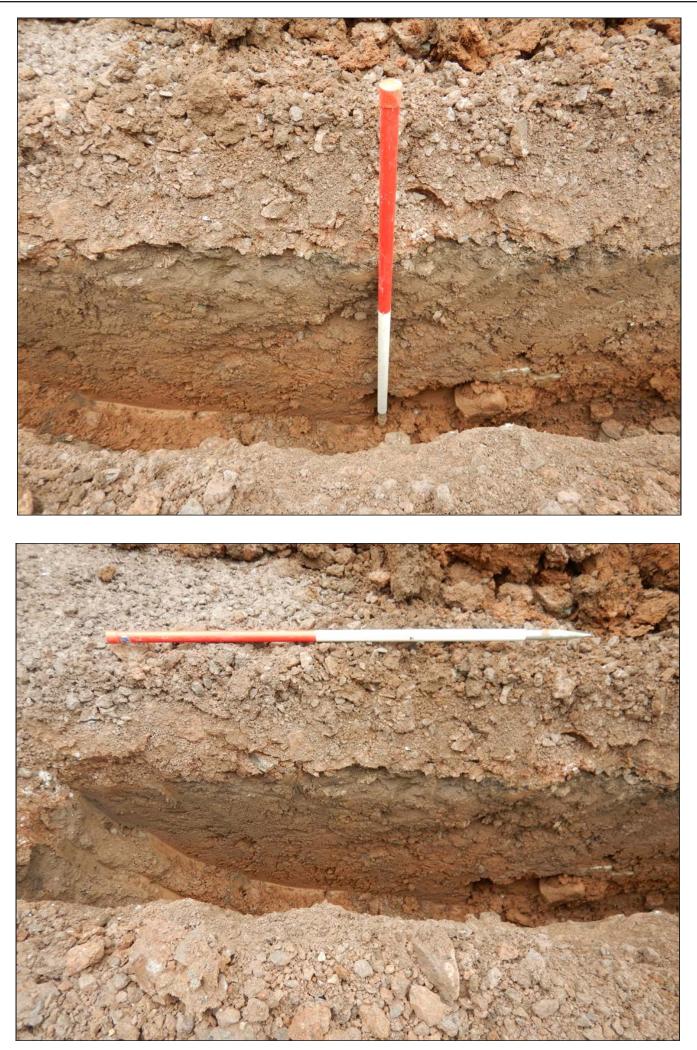


Plate 1-2. South facing section.



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# WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

## FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Stable Yard - The Old Rectory, St Brides Super Ely, Vale of Glamorgan

#### **Prepared for:**

Mrs S. Morel

#### Project No: 2860

#### January 2020



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Figure 1. Location of development

Figure 2. Site Location plan

# 1. Introduction and planning background

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details a programme of archaeological mitigation to be undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of Mrs S. Morel.

The archaeological mitigation will consist of a watching brief and will be undertaken during ground works associated with the construction of a dwelling at Stable Yard, The Old Rectory, St Brides Super Fly, Vale of Glamorgan CF5 6EY, NRG ST 09582 77633.

This WSI has been prepared by Irene Garcia Rovira, Project Manager, AW.

The methodology set out in this WSI has been agreed with Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Planning Service (GGAT-DC). GGAT-DC has recommended that intrusive groundworks in areas assessed to be archaeologically sensitive should be monitored through the implementation of an archaeological watching brief.

The purpose of the archaeological mitigation (watching brief) is to provide GGAT-DC with sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains within the area of work, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy Wales (edition 10), Section 6.1.27 and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: sections 4.13 and 4.14. 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. AW is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA).

# 2. Site Description and historic background

The development site is located WSW from St Brides Super Ely settlement core. It is mostly surrounded by medium to large green fields, though some built area exists to the ENE. The development site is adjacent to a number of buildings of historic interest, one of which The Old Rectory, St Brides Super Ely (PRN 01479s) is recorded in the regional Historic Environment Records as a post-medieval rectory.

The underlying geology is defined by Lower Devonian Rocks - sandstone and conglomerate - formed during the Devonian Period. No superficial soils are recorded (BGS 2021).

# 3. Objectives

This WSI sets out a program of works to ensure that the watching brief will meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for *Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (update 2020).

The objective of the watching brief will be:

• to allow the investigation, recording and reporting 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. Timetable of Works

#### 4.1. Fieldwork

The watching brief will be undertaken during ground works associated with the proposed development. AW will update GGAT-DC with the exact date.

#### 4.2. Report delivery

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

## 5. Fieldwork

#### 5.1. Detail

The work will be undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs* (update 2020).

The Watching Brief will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist on all groundworks associated with the development that could disturb sub-surface deposits containing potential archaeological material. The mechanical excavation will be undertaken by a tracked 360-degree excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

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.

Any archaeological deposits or features encountered will be fenced off and highlighted to all contractors employed on the site. Once a meeting between the client, GGAT-DC and AW has taken place, the features will be excavated at an appropriate sample rate.

To comply with professional guidelines, a contingency for a further limited period of uninterrupted access to each such areas and for a suitably sized team of further 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 AW, the client and GGAT-DC.

#### 5.2. 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 into 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.

#### 5.3. 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).

#### 5.4. 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* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 2011).

#### 5.5. 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 *Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains* (2017).

A meeting with GGAT-DC, and the client and AW will be called if the human remains uncovered are of such complexity or significance that the contingency arrangement (5.1 above) would not be of sufficient scope.

#### 5.6. 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	Julie Birchenall (University of Manchester)
Animal bone	Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall (APS)
Clay pipe	Charley James-Martin (Archaeology Wales)
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	Dr Tim Young (GeoArch)

metallurgical residues	
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)

#### 5.7. Specialist reports

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

# 6. Monitoring

GGAT-DC 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-DC for approval on behalf of the client.

Representatives of GGAT-DC will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the watching brief. GGAT-DC will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

# 7. Archive and Reporting programme

#### 7.1. Site archive

An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017* (National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales) and the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists upon completion of the project. The site archive - including all artefacts, soil samples and records - will be subjected to selection in order to establish those elements that will be retained for long term curation. The selection strategy will be agreed with all stakeholders and will be detailed in the Selection Strategy and Data Management Plan (ClfA update 2020).

The site archive (including artefacts and samples) will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and deposited with an appropriate receiving organisation, in compliance with CIfA Guidelines (Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives', Update 2020). The legal landowners' consent will be gained for deposition of finds. The project will adhere to the Welsh Archaeological Trust's joint Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (2018).

#### 7.2. 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:

- A bilingual 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.

#### 7.3. Reports and archive deposition

#### **Report to client**

Copies of all reports associated with the watching brief, together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, including photographs and illustrations, will be submitted to the client upon completion, and for formal submission.

#### 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. The report and all relevant information will be submitted to the Historic Environment Record following the guidelines and procedures laid out in the *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records* (WAT 2018).

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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. If the archive is not acceptable the archive will be deposited with Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales, Cardiff. If no artefacts are recovered then the archive will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth. 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-DC.

#### 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 landowners.

# 8. Staff

The project will be managed by Irene Garcia Rovira MCIfA (AW Project Manager) and the fieldwork undertaken by AW Staff. Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of GGAT-DC and the client.

# 9. Health and Safety

#### 9.1. 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.

#### 9.2. 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).

## **10. 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.

#### 11. 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.

# 12. Quality Control

#### **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.

#### **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.

# 13. 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.

# 14. References

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, update 2020. *Standards and guidance for the collection, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* 

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. *Standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* 

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, update 2020. *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* 

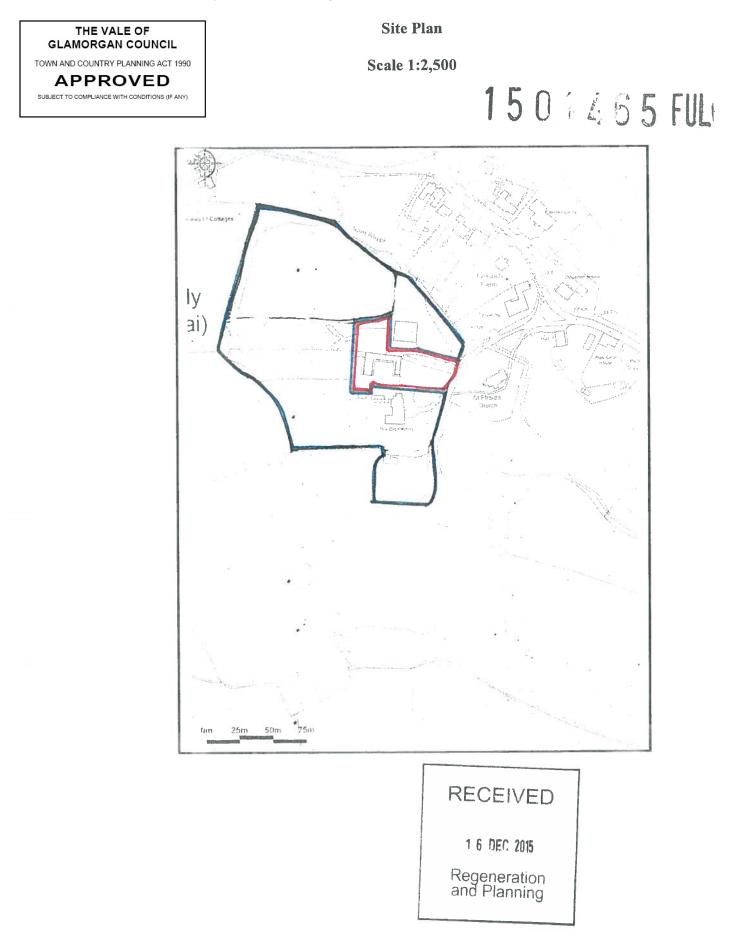
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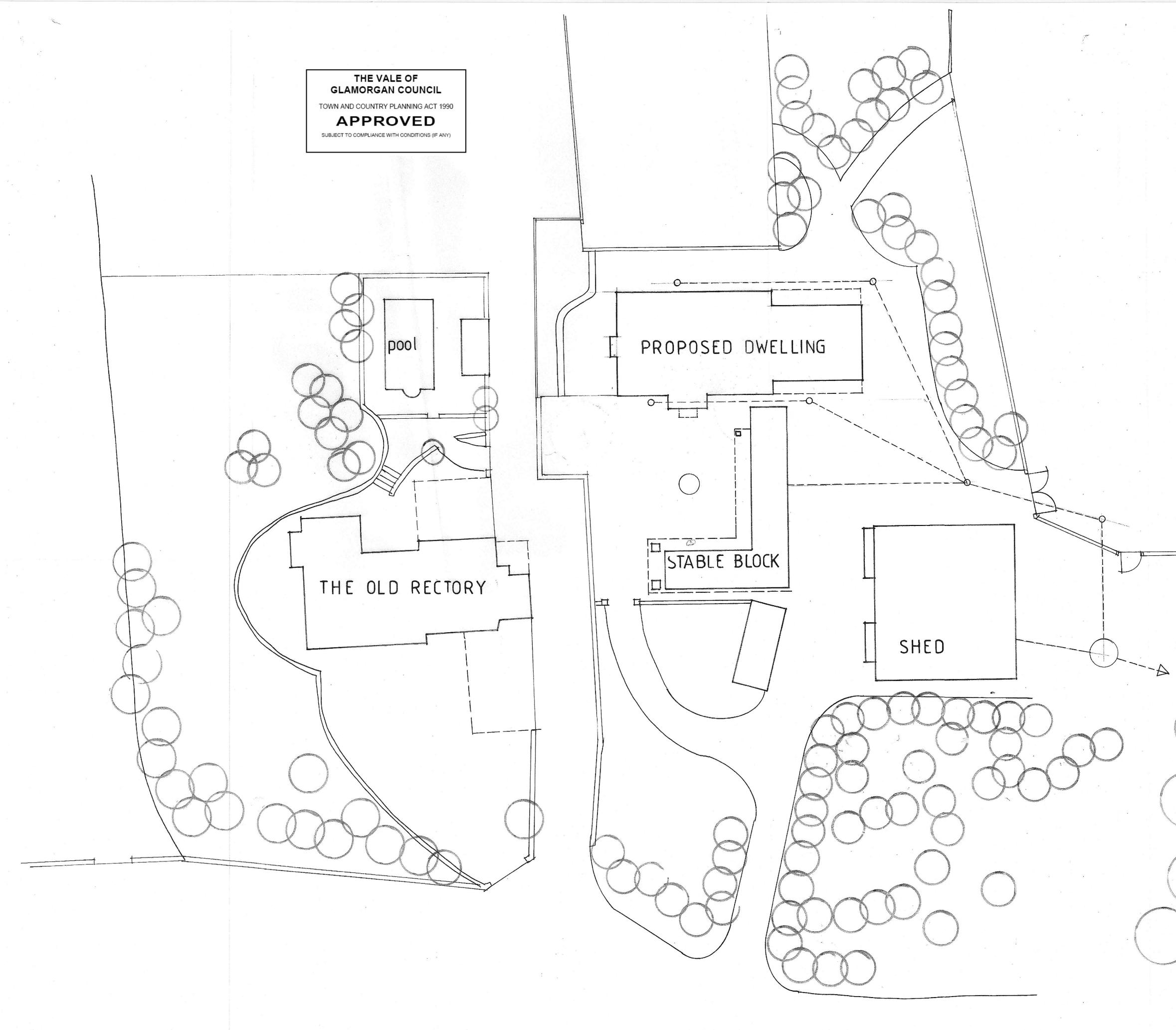
English Heritage, 2006. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE)* 

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

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

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# Archaeology Wales

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