

**Land West of Llechau Farm
Llanharry
Rhondda Cynon Taf**

Archaeological Watching Brief

for
Lovell Partnerships

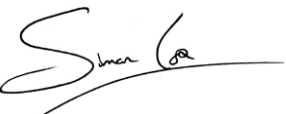
CA Project: 3778
CA Report: 12087

June 2012

Land West of Llechau Farm
Llanharry
Rhondda Cynon Taf

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 3778
CA Report: 12087

prepared by	Kelly Saunders, Project Supervisor
date	18 April 2012
checked by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
date	29 June 2012
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	29 June 2012
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Fig. 2 The site, showing location of observed groundworks (1: 2500).



SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land West of Llechau Farm
Location:	Llanharry, Rhondda Cynon Taf
NGR:	ST 0143 8059
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	3 -17 April 2012
Planning Reference:	09/0730/10
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments, Wales
Site Code:	LCU 12

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a roadway prior to the residential development of the site on land to the west of Llechau Farm, Llanharry, Rhondda Cynon Taf.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In April 2012 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Lovell Partnerships on land to the west of Llechau Farm, Llanharry, Rhondda Cynon Taf (centred on NGR: ST 0143 8059; Fig. 1). Planning permission for the construction of 88 dwellings and associated roads and services has been granted by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) (ref: 09/0730/10), conditional on a programme of archaeological work as outlined within condition 7:

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

The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.

- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Project Design (PD) produced by CA (2012) and approved by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) acting on the advice of Mr Neil Maylan, Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT), archaeological advisor to the LPA. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development encloses an area of approximately 4ha, and is located to the north of Llanharry Road, on the north-eastern outskirts of Llanharry. Prior to

development the site comprised grazing land which generally slopes down to the east and south, and included a small densely overgrown hill in its central area (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 89m AOD.

- 1.4 The site is generally underlain by Triassic strata of reddish brown mudstones and dolomitic conglomerates, all of which are thought to dip gently southwards. These strata generally overlie Carboniferous Limestone strata which dip steeply northwards. The limestone was close to the surface, and was exposed in the area of the central hill (IG 2011). These deposits were encountered throughout the site during the watching brief.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 Archaeological interest in the sites lies in its proximity to the recently identified Roman fort at Miskin to the east of the site, and localised evidence of iron working in the Romano-British period (N Maylan pers. comm.). To the west of the site evidence also remains for late 19th century ironstone mining (IG 2011).

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the PD (CA 2012). The watching brief comprised the initial observation by a competent archaeologist of soil stripping for the construction of roadways into the proposed development. At a meeting with Neil Maylan on 20 March 2012 it had been agreed that areas could be signed off following stripping of the road corridors if no archaeological deposits were identified, or alternatively extended if significant archaeological deposits were identified, by negotiation and with the agreement of Mr Maylan and the client. In the event topsoil stripping was observed across much of the western part of the site, within the areas shaded green on Figure 2, and, following communication with Mr Maylan on 1 May 2012, no further watching brief was required.
- 1.8 Non-archaeologically significant deposits were removed by the contractors under archaeological supervision. Where mechanical excavators were used, these were equipped with a toothless bucket. Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).

- 1.9 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble, and will be deposited with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments, Wales.

2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate 101, consisting of patches of tea green mudstone within a brownish red mudstone with outcrops of limestone, was revealed across the observed area at between 0.23m to 0.6m below present ground level (bpgl), following removal of topsoil 100.
- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see *archaeological background* above) the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the areas of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits suggests that archaeological remains did not extend as far as the development.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Kelly Saunders, who also wrote this report. The illustrations were prepared by Ian Atkins. The archive has been compiled by Kelly Saunders, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Simon Cox.

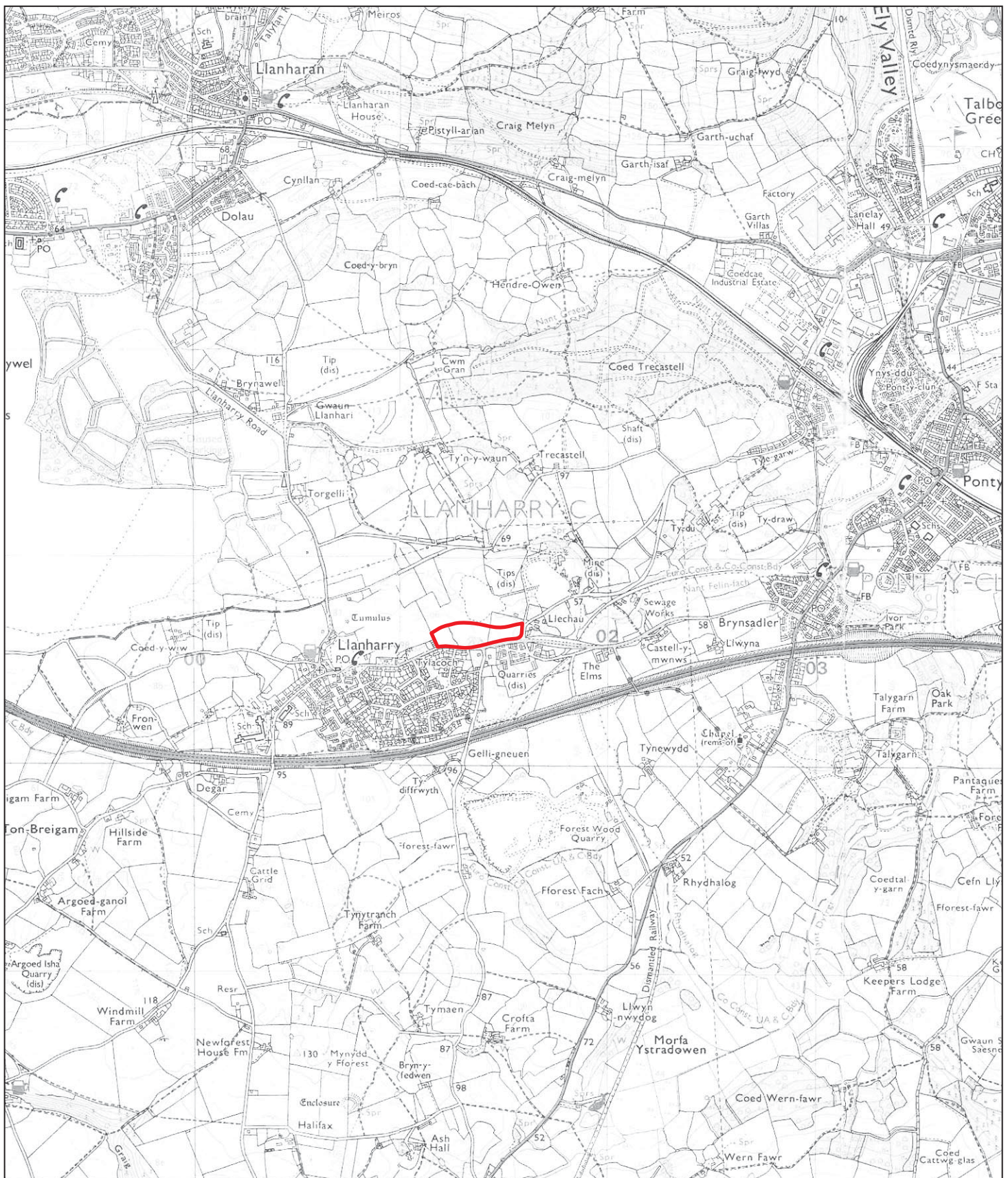
5. REFERENCES

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *Land West of Llechau Farm, Llanharry, Rhondda Cynon Taf: Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.

IG (Integral Geotechnique) 2011 Unpublished 'Executive Summary' of work at Llechau Farm.

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil. Dark/mid reddish brown clayey silt. Soft and friable			0.23-0.6	
101	Layer	Natural Substrate. Tea Green Mudstone patches in brownish red mudstone, with outcrops of Limestone				



Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 326549
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

**Land west of Llechau Farm, Llanharan
 Rhondda Cynon Taf**

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

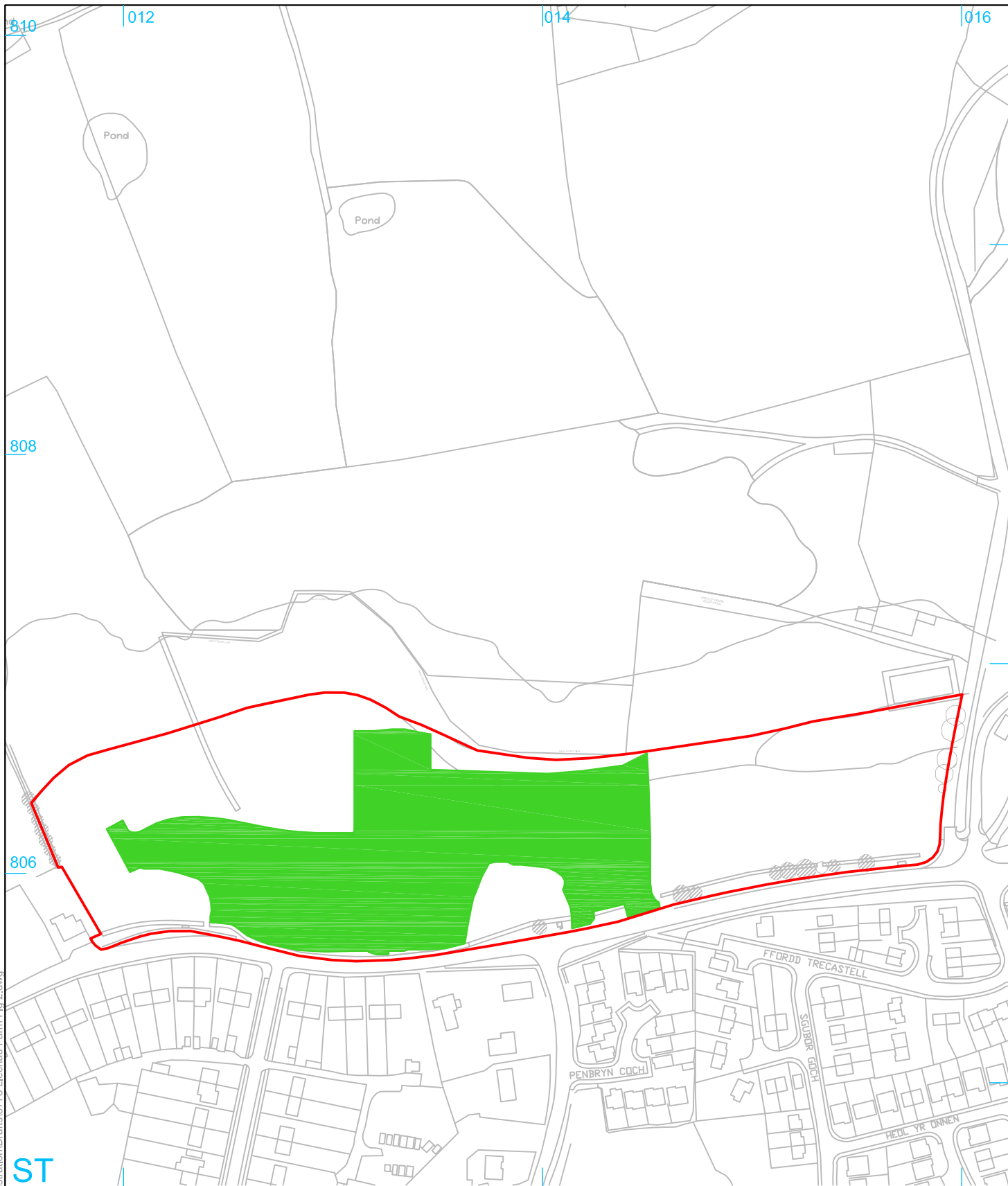


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PROJECT NO. 3778 **DATE** 25-06-2012
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FIGURE NO.

1



- site
- area of observed groundworks



Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 326549
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land west of Llechau Farm, Llanharry Rhondda Cynon Taf

FIGURE TITLE

The site, showing location of observed groundworks

PROJECT NO.	3778	DATE	26-06-2012	FIGURE NO.
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