

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **Land off High Street, Abergwili, Carmarthen**

### Archaeological Watching Brief



By  
Jerry Bond and John Davey

Report No. 2085

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **Land off High Street, Abergwili, Carmarthen**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Prepared For: TRJ Ltd


Edited by: Charlotte James Martin

Signed: 

Position: Project Manager

Date: 05/05/2021

Authorised by: Rowena Hart

Signed: 

Position: Regional Director

Date: 05/05/2022

By

Jerry Bond MA ACIfA

&

John Davey PhD MCIfA

Report No. 2085

**May 2022**

**Archaeology Wales Limited**

The Reading Room, Town Hall, Llanidloes, SY18 6BN

**Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371**

Email: [admin@arch-wales.co.uk](mailto:admin@arch-wales.co.uk)

Web: [arch-wales.co.uk](http://arch-wales.co.uk)



## Contents

<i>Non Technical Summary</i> .....	2
<i>Crynodeb an Thechnegol</i> .....	3
1. Introduction .....	4
2. Site Description and Archaeological Background .....	4
2.1. Location, Topography and Geology .....	4
2.2. Archaeological and Historical Background.....	5
3. Methodology .....	5
4. Watching Brief Results .....	6
6. The Finds .....	7
7. Discussions and Conclusions .....	7
8. Bibliography .....	8

## Figures

Figure 1	Location of site
Figure 2	Trench Location Plan
Figure 3	Excavation plan
Figure 4	Sections

## List of Plates

Plate 1	pre-excavation shot of the site, looking west.
Plate 2	Representative south facing section of stripped area. 1m & 0.3m scales.
Plate 3	East facing section of excavated area. Looking West. 1m & 0.3m scales.
Plate 4	East facing section linear [103]. Looking West. 1m & 0.3m scales.
Plate 5	Edging (105) of linear [103], looking north. 2 x 1m scales.
Plate 6	South facing elevation of wall [107], looking north. 2 x 1m scales.
Plate 7	West facing elevation of wall [108], looking east. 2 x 1m scales.
Plate 8	Site entrance, looking north. 2 x 1m scales.

## Appendix I - Context Register

## Appendix II - Written Scheme of Investigation

### Copyright Notice:

Archaeology Wales Ltd. retain copyright of this report under the copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988, and have granted a licence to TRJ Ltd to use and reproduce the material contained within. The Ordnance Survey has granted Archaeology Wales Ltd a Copyright Licence (No. AL 100055111) to reproduce map information; Copyright remains otherwise with the Ordnance Survey.

## **Non-Technical Summary**

*This report results from work undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) at the request of TRJ Ltd. The work consisted of an archaeological watching brief conducted during the ground works associated with the construction of 6 residential Units 0.2 hectares of land off High Street, Abergwili, Carmarthen, SA31 2JA, centred on NGR SN 44043 21078 The relevant Carmarthenshire County Council Planning Ref W/39625.*

*The site comprises undeveloped grassland with residential properties to the north and west. The site lies on the north side of the east end of the high Street at the junction with the A40. The site is bounded by the High Street to the south; the A40 and roundabout to the east and north; and detached residential properties to the north and west. A Desk Based Assessment and Geophysical Survey had previously been conducted on the site. This work determined that the archaeological potential of the site is related to the fact that the possible line of the Roman Road between Brecon and runs alongside the site.*

*Groundworks took place from 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> February 2021, when topsoil stripping was undertaken in advance of building up the formation level using imported material.*

*A single archaeological feature was recorded. A linear feature filled with gravel and lined on either side by unbonded 'kerb' stones is likely to date from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and may be contemporary with the construction or use of the former railway which ran to the north of the site. It survived on site as a slightly raised earthwork prior to groundworks associated with the development. It does not appear on historic maps, but its line was recorded during the geophysical and topographic surveys of the site.*

*All work was undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020). AW is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.*

## ***Crynodeb an Thechnegol***

*Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn deillio o waith a wnaed gan Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) ar gais TRJ Ltd. Roedd y gwaith yn cynnwys briff gwyllo archeolegol a gynhaliwyd yn ystod y gwaith tir sy'n gysylltiedig ag adeiladu 6 Uned breswyl 0.2 hectar o dir oddi ar y Stryd Fawr, Abergwili, Caerfyrddin, SA31 2JA, wedi'i ganoli ar NGR SN 44043 21078 Cyfeirnod Cynllunio perthnasol Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin W/39625.*

*Mae'r safle'n cynnwys glaswelltir heb ei ddatblygu gydag eiddo preswyl i'r gogledd a'r gorllewin. Mae'r safle ar ochr ogleddol pen dwyreiniol y Stryd fawr wrth y gyffordd â'r A40. Mae'r safle wedi'i ffinio â'r Stryd Fawr i'r de; yr A40 a'r gylchfan i'r dwyrain a'r gogledd; ac eiddo preswyl ar wahân i'r gogledd a'r gorllewin. Roedd Asesiad Desg ac Arolwg Geoffisegol wedi'u cynnal ar y safle o'r blaen. Penderfynodd y gwaith hwn fod potensial archeolegol y safle yn gysylltiedig â'r ffaith bod llinell bosibl y Ffordd Rufeinig rhwng Aberhonddu ac yn rhedeg wrth ochr y safle.*

*Cynhaliwyd groundworks rhwng 8 a 9 Chwefror 2021, pan gynhaliwyd stripio uwchbridd cyn adeiladu'r lefel ffurfio gan ddefnyddio deunydd a fewnforiwyd.*

*Cofnodwyd un nodwedd archeolegol. Mae nodwedd linellol wedi'i llenwi â graean a'i leinio ar y naill ochr a'r llall gan gerrig 'palmant' heb eu rhwymo yn debygol o fod yn dyddio o ganol y 19eg ganrif a gall fod yn gyfoes wrth adeiladu neu ddefnyddio'r hen reilffordd a oedd yn rhedeg i'r gogledd o'r safle. Goroesodd ar y safle fel cloddfa a godwyd ychydig cyn gwaith tir sy'n gysylltiedig â'r datblygiad. Nid yw'n ymddangos ar fapiau hanesyddol, ond cofnodwyd ei linell yn ystod arolygon geoffisegol a thopograffig y safle.*

*Gwnaed yr holl waith yn unol â safonau a chanllawiau Sefydliad Siartredig Archaeolegwyr (2020). Mae AW yn Sefydliad Cofrestredig gyda'r Sefydliad Siartredig Archaeolegwyr.*

## **1. Introduction**

Archaeology Wales (AW) was commissioned by TRJ Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the residential development of 6 affordable housing units (Carmarthenshire County Council Planning Ref W/39625) and following recommendations in an earlier Historic Environment assessment of the site (Evans, 2019) and following a geophysical survey undertaken by Archaeology Wales in November 2019 (Davey 2019). The site is located on 0.2 hectares of land off, High Street, Abergwili, Carmarthen, SA31 2JA. (Figures 1 and 2) centred on NGR SN 44043 21078 (henceforth "the site").

The proposed development area is on 0.2 hectares of land comprising undeveloped grassland with residential properties to the north and west. The site lies on the north side of the east end of the high Street at the junction with the A40. The site is bounded by the High Street to the south; the A40 and roundabout to the east and north; and detached residential properties to the north and west.

Following consultation with Dyfed Archaeological Trust (Development Management) it was agreed that archaeological monitoring in the form of a watching brief would be required for the proposed works. This was to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. Subsequently a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Archaeology Wales and approved by DAT-DM (Appendix 2). All work was undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020).

Groundworks took place from 8th-9th February 2021, when topsoil stripping was undertaken in advance of building up the formation level using imported material. The groundworks were monitored by Jerry Bond ACIfA (AW). The project was managed by John Davey PhD MCIfA MIScT (RSci).

## **2. Site Description and Archaeological Background**

### **2.1 Location, Topography and Geology**

2.1.1. The site is located on 0.2 hectares of land off, High Street, Abergwili, Carmarthen, SA31 2JA. (Figures 1 and 2) centred on NGR SN 44043 21078 (henceforth "the site").

2.1.2. The site, accessed only from Hight Street to the south, comprising undeveloped grassland with residential properties to the north and west. The enclosed area of the site covers approximately 2000m<sup>2</sup> at a height above ordnance datum of approximately 10m.

2.1.3. The solid geology of the proposed development area comprises Didymograptus Bifidus Beds – Tuffaceous-sandstone formed approximately 461 to 466 million years ago in the Ordovician Period. This is overlain by superficial river terrace deposits of sand and gravel. Superficial Deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. (BGS, 2019).

2.1.4 The soil type within the site comprises a freely draining slightly acid loamy soil (Soilscapes, 2019).

## **2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

2.2.1. There are 36 previously known sites of archaeological interest within the 500m study area. These include four Grade II Listed Buildings and one Registered Historic Park & Garden. There are no Scheduled Monuments or Conservations Areas within the study area. Two sites were identified within or near to the proposed development. These comprise a post medieval smithy as well as the possible route of the Roman road (via Julia) along the High Street (Evans, 2019).

2.2.2. Archaeology Wales undertook a geophysical survey on the site during November 2019 to determine the nature and extent of any buried archaeological features within the proposed development area. The work was undertaken using a Bartington Grad601 dual fluxgate gradiometer. A small number of magnetic anomalies were detected. These comprise a strong linear anomaly that corresponds with a low bank on the ground and two areas of modern ground disturbance. Other faint parallel trends likely arise from post medieval or modern field drainage. No significant archaeological features were recorded. Nevertheless, due to the proximity of the assumed line of a Roman Road along Abergwili High Street, it was recommended that an archaeological watching brief should take place during groundworks associated with the development (Davey, 2019).

## **3. Methodology**

3.1. The objective of the watching brief will be:

- to allow the 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.

3.2. The groundworks were undertaken using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a flat-bladed bucket. All groundworks were monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

3.3. The monitoring archaeologist was afforded the required access by the main contractor in order to observe and where necessary to record any archaeological remains revealed. No groundwork was undertaken without the presence of the site archaeologist.

3.4. The watching brief took place from 8th-9th February 2021, when topsoil stripping was undertaken in advance of building up the formation level using imported material. The groundworks were monitored by Jerry Bond ACIfA (AW) (Figure 4).

3.8. 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. 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 (Figures 3 & 4)**

### **Phase 1 (Figures 3-4; Plates 1-8)**

#### **Summary of the works**

Archaeological monitoring was conducted over two days on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 during ground works associated with the construction of 5 dwellings on land at High Street Abergwili, Carmarthenshire. The monitoring archaeologist was Jerry Bond, BA (Hons) ACIfA.

The work involved stripping of the site of the topsoil, including the site entrance, with a bladed 360 degree tracked excavator down to the top of the subsoil or to the upper surface of any archaeological remains encountered (plate 1). In some places a subsoil interface layer was removed and exposed the underlying natural subsoil. Topsoil stripping was undertaken to facilitate the subsequent construction of a raised raft across the site,

#### **Summary of the results of the watching brief**

The basal layer exposed on the site was (102), interpreted as subsoil/natural. This comprised a pale yellow brown clay silt containing frequent small and medium sized rounded stones, it measured more than 0.05m in thickness as excavated. It was only partially exposed, most notably towards the eastern end of the site.

Above the subsoil, layer (101) was recorded. This comprised a subsoil/interface horizon, of mid grey brown clay silt containing occasional small and medium sized rounded stones, it measured 0.05-0.1m thick and extended across the entire stripped area (plate 2).

A single linear feature [103] was recorded cutting layer (101). This linear was aligned east to west and ran across the middle of the site, effectively bisecting it. It extended for at least 25m in length, continuing to the east and west beyond the site boundary. It measured 1.3m wide and 0.2m deep and had steep sides and a flat base (Figures 3 & 4). It is tentatively interpreted as a cut in which was constructed a raised footpath (plates 3 to 5). In the centre of the site the feature was partially removed during the soil strip and it was possible to record its full profile (Figure 4)

The primary fill of [103] comprised a compacted deposit of building rubble (105), mostly crushed mortar, masonry and CBM fragments. This fill measured between 0.05m to 0.1m in thickness and was 1.3m wide. The CBM fragments were derived from frogless bricks potentially suggesting a date of the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century or later. Along parts of the feature this layer appeared to be laid as rough edging or unbonded 'kerbs' of CBM and masonry fragments (Plate 5).

Above (105) was a layer of compacted shale fragments/chippings (104), measuring 0.05 to 0.1m thick and 1.2m wide and extending along the full length of the feature.

Overlying (105) was a series of very fine silty lenses (106) of a very dark brown and dark red brown colour, with a thickness of 0.05 to 0.1m and a width of 1.3m.



Overlying the entire site area was (100) a dark brown clay loam of 0.15 to 0.2m thickness, it contained very occasional small and medium sized rounded stones. Modern and 19<sup>th</sup> century finds were recovered from this layer.

Two stone walls [107] the northern site boundary wall and [108] the eastern boundary wall were photographed (plates 6 and 7). It was noted that wall [108] was scheduled for demolition.

Groundworks for the site entrance comprised the grading of soil down to the level of the pavement along the north side of the High Street (plate 8). It had been suggested in the earlier DBA (Evans, 2019) and Geophysical survey (Davey, 2019) reports that the projected line of the Roman Road from the Roman Fort at Llandeilo, to *Moridunum* (Carmarthen), known as the *Via Julia*, is thought to approximate to that of Abergwili High Street. However, the topsoil strip in proximity to the High Street did not penetrate below modern layers and no archaeological features were recorded.

Two modern test pits with metal vents were noted and correspond with those on the geophysical survey identified as modern features (plate 1).

## 6. The Finds

Table 1: Finds Quantification Table

Context Number	Object Type	Quantity	Weight	Description
100	Pottery	13	156	Mix of modern and 19 <sup>th</sup> c. pot sherds inc blue & white
100	Fe	1	58	Ferrous object
100	Glass	2	18	Green bottle glass and clear window glass
100	CBM	1	12	Very worn sherd
100	Tile	3	728	3 floor tiles, modern?
100	Bone	2	383	Animal jaw bone, Pig? Modern in date
105	CBM	3	4281	Bricks without frogs
105	Masonry	3	6614	Mortar on masonry

The majority of finds were recovered from the topsoil layer (100) and dated from the 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Three frogless bricks were recovered from layer (105), the primary fill of possible raised path [103]. The date at which the process of producing bricks with frogs was introduced is not known but thought to have begun around the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Their presence in a secondary context where they have been re-used as rubble hard core could consistent with a date of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century or later.

## 7. Discussions and Conclusions

A single archaeological feature [103] was recorded during the watching brief at High Street, Abergwili. This is tentatively interpreted as a raised path and is constructed from a rubble base layer (105) laid within a shallow cut, sometimes arranged in to retaining kerbs, with a

gravel cambered surface (104) laid on top. The fact that it is raised above the ground may have been necessary due to the proximity of the Towy flood plain. The feature was identified on the site topographic survey as still standing 0.02-0.15m above the surrounding ground level prior to the commencement of groundworks and was also picked up as a linear anomaly on the subsequent geophysical survey (Davey 2019). Nevertheless, it does not appear on any historic mapping and its date and function must remain speculative at this stage. The presence of 19<sup>th</sup> century or earlier bricks in its primary fill (105) might suggest that its construction could be related to the former railway line and Abergwili station building, to the N of the site. This formed part of the L.N. & W. R. known as Central Wales & Carmarthen Junction (1864-1963). The modern A40 now runs along the same course as the former railway line. The station building was just to the W of the development area (HER PRN : 16460).

The north boundary of the site appears to correspond with a field boundary shown on the Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 edition of 1889-90. It is likely that it was established following the construction of the railway by 1864 to the north and that wall [107] is contemporary with that. Wall [108] is visible on the same historic map and may date from the same time.

No archaeological features or material was recorded during the watching brief relating to the Romano-British period. However, this does not mean they are absent, rather the groundworks did not penetrate down below modern levels during the watching brief.

## 8. Bibliography

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

Davey J. 2019. *Land off High Street, Abergwili, Carmarthen; Geophysical Survey Report*. Archaeology Wales Report Number 1857.

Davey J. 2021. *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief on Land off High Street, Abergwili, Carmarthen*.

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

Evans J. 2019. *Land off High Street, Abergwili, Carmarthenshire*. Archaeology Wales Report No. 1802

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)*

### Websites

[www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html) - Accessed 19/01/2021

[www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/](http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/) - Accessed 19/01/2021

[www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results\\_Application.aspx?resourceID=1006](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Application.aspx?resourceID=1006) –  
Accessed 19/01/2021



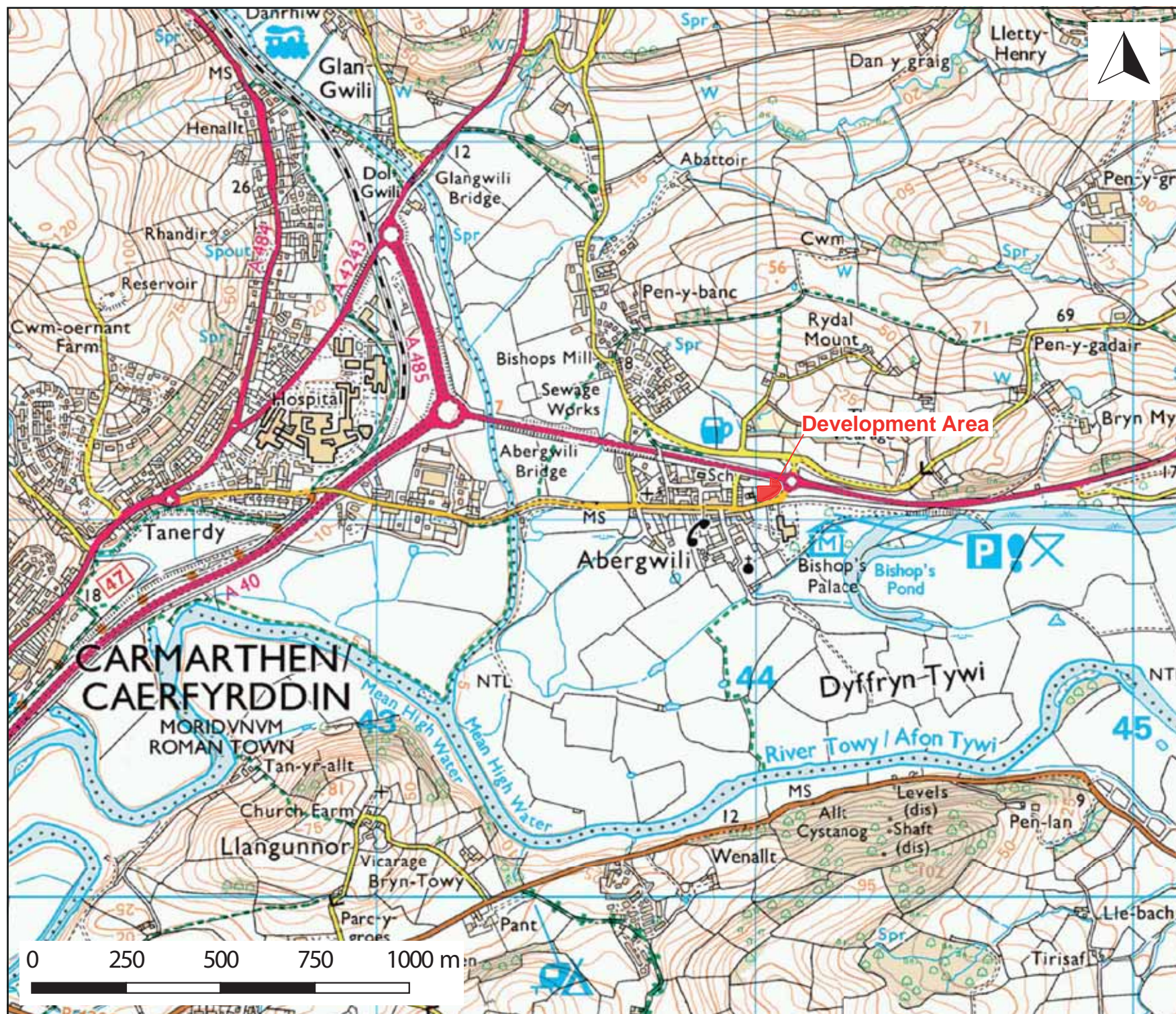


Figure 1. Location of the proposed development





Figure 2. Proposed Development Plan.

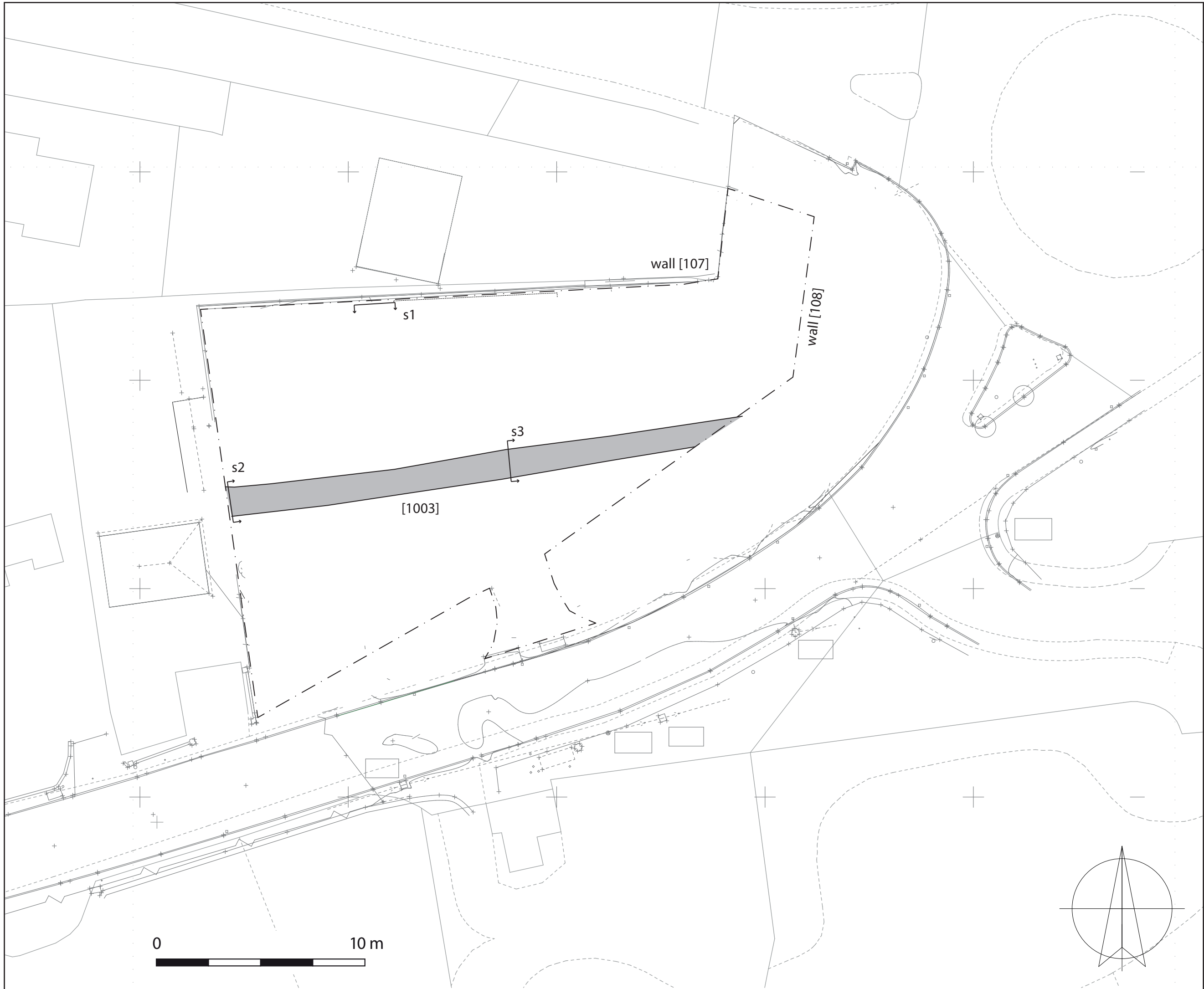
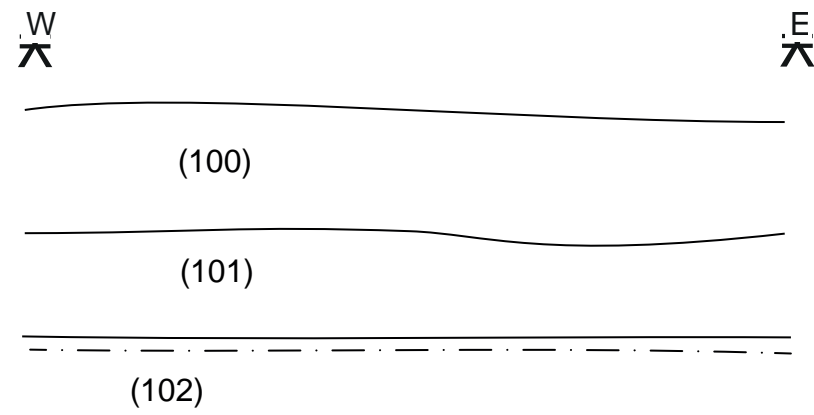
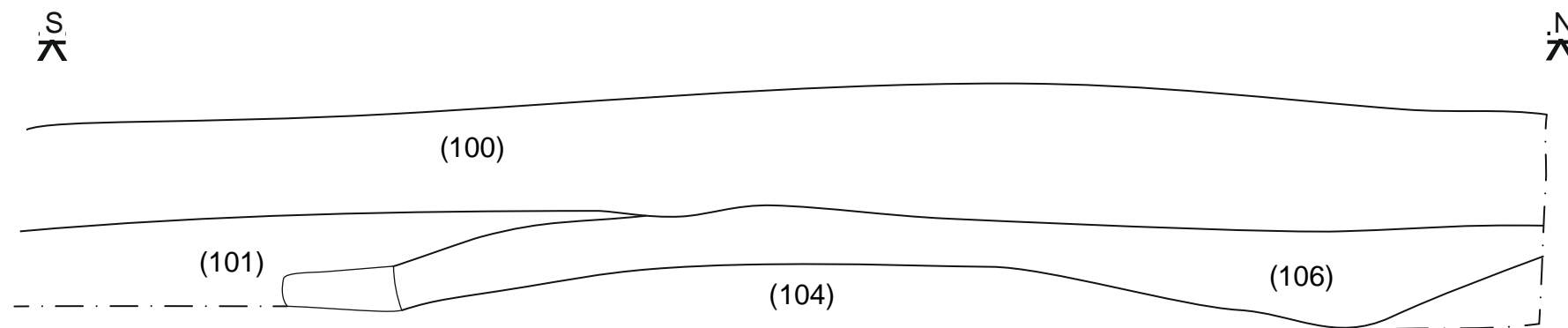


Figure 3. Excavation Plan.

HAS/21/WB S Facing Representative Section  
Section 1



HAS/21/WB E Facing Section, Feature (104)  
Section 2



HAS21/WB E Facing Section, Feature (104), (100) & (101) removed  
Section 3

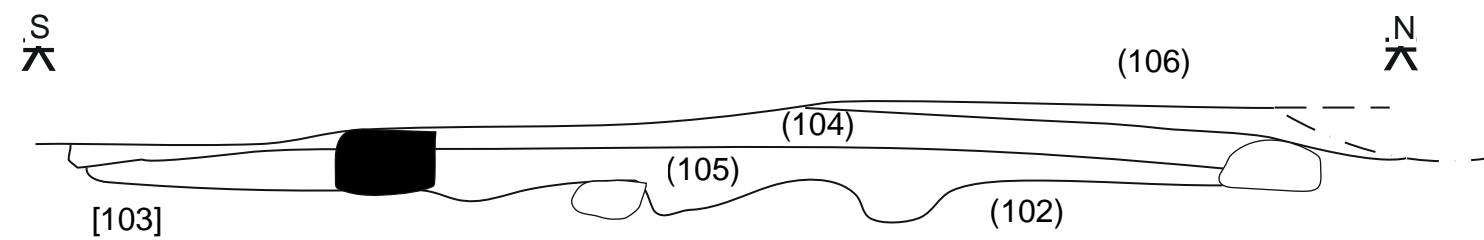


Figure 4. Sections





Plate 1: pre-excavation shot of the site, looking west.



Plate 2: Representative south facing section of stripped area, looking north. 1m & 0.3m scales.





Plate 3: East facing section of excavated area showing gravel surface (104), fill of [103]. Looking West. 1m & 0.3m scales.



Plate 4: East facing section through linear [103]; (105) & (104) part removed. Looking West. 1m & 0.3m scales.





Plate 5: Edging (105) of linear [103], looking north. 2 x 1m scales.



Plate 6: South facing elevation of wall [107], looking north. 2 x 1m scales.





Plate 7: West facing elevation of wall [108], looking east. 2 x 1m scales.



Plate 8: Site entrance, looking north. 2 x 1m scales.

# *Archaeology* *Wales*

## **APPENDIX I:** **Context** **Register**

## Appendix I: Context Register

Context No.	Type	Description	Dimensions	Relationship
100	Deposit	Topsoil, dark brown clay loam,	0.15-0.2m thick, across site	Above (101)
101	Deposit	Subsoil/interface horizon, mid grey brown clay silt	0.1m thick, across site	Below (100) Above (102, 104 & 106)
102	Deposit	Subsoil/natural, pale yellow brown clay silt with frequent small and medium sized rounded stones	> 0.05m thick, across site	Below (101 & 105)
103	Feature/cut	Cut of footpath aligned e-w across all of site, 19 <sup>th</sup> century	1.3m wide, 0.2m thick, > 25m long	Below (105) Above (102)
104	Deposit	Surface layer of [103], grey green Shale chippings	0.05m thick, 1.2m wide, >25m long	Below (106) Above (105)
105	Deposit	Make up hard core basal layer of [103], mixed demolition rubble including mortar, CBM & masonry fragments	0.05-0.1m thick, 1.3m wide >25m long	Below (104) Above (103)
106	Deposit	Fine clay silt deposit above footpath [103], lenses of very dark brown and dark red brown	0.05-0.1m thick, 1.3m wide, > 25m long	Below (101) Above (104)
107	Wall	Masonry section of northern site boundary wall, aligned e-w	1.2m high, 0.5m wide, 50m long	Above (100)
108	Wall	Masonry boundary wall on east of site, aligned n-s, to be demolished	1.1m high, 0.5m wide, 14m long	Above (100)

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **APPENDIX II: Written Scheme of Investigation**

**Archaeology Wales Ltd**

Rhos Helyg, Cwm Belan, Llanidloes, Powys SY18 6QF

T: 01686 440371

E: [info@arch-wales.co.uk](mailto:info@arch-wales.co.uk)

[www.arch-wales.co.uk](http://www.arch-wales.co.uk)

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION  
FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
ON LAND OFF HIGH STREET, ABERGWILI, CARMARTHEN**

**Prepared for:**

TRJ Ltd

**Project No: 2731**

**January 2021**



Archaeology Wales Limited  
The Reading Room, Town Hall, Great Oak Street  
Llanidloes, Powys SY18 6BN  
Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371  
Email: [admin@arch-wales.co.uk](mailto:admin@arch-wales.co.uk)



<i>Contents</i>	<i>Page</i>
<b>1. Introduction &amp; Planning Background.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Site Description .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Archaeological &amp; Historical Background .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4. Objectives.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5. Timetable of Works .....</b>	<b>5</b>
5.1. Fieldwork .....	5
5.2. Report delivery .....	5
<b>6. Fieldwork .....</b>	<b>5</b>
6.1. Detail .....	5
6.2. Recording.....	5
6.3. Finds .....	6
6.4. Environmental sampling strategy.....	6
6.5. Human remains .....	6
6.6. Specialist advisers.....	7
6.7. Specialist reports .....	8
<b>7. Monitoring .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>8. Archive and Reporting programme .....</b>	<b>8</b>
8.1. Site archive .....	8
8.2. Analysis.....	8
8.3. Reports and archive deposition.....	9
<b>9. Health and Safety .....</b>	<b>10</b>
9.1. Risk assessment .....	10
9.2. Other guidelines .....	10
<b>10. Community Engagement and Outreach .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>11. Insurance.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12. Quality Control .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>13. Arbitration.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>14. References.....</b>	<b>12</b>

Figure 1. Site Location Plan

Figure 2. Proposed Development Plan



## 1. Introduction & Planning Background

- 1.1.1. 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 TRJ Ltd (henceforth – the client).
- 1.1.2. The archaeological mitigation will consist of a watching brief and will be undertaken during ground works associated with the residential development of 6 affordable housing units (Carmarthenshire County Council Planning Ref W/39625) and following recommendations in an earlier Historic Environment assessment of the site (Evans, 2019) and following a geophysical survey undertaken by Archaeology Wales in November 2019 (Davey 2019). The site is located on 0.2 hectares of land off, High Street, Abergwili, Carmarthen, SA31 2JA. (Figures 1 and 2) centred on NGR SN 44043 21078 (henceforth "the site").
- 1.1.3. This WSI has been prepared by John Davey PhD MCIfA (Archaeology Wales).
- 1.1.4. The methodology set out in this WSI has been agreed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust–Heritage Management (henceforth – DAT-HM) who are acting as advisors to the local planning authority, Carmarthenshire County Council (henceforth – CCC). DAT-HM has recommended that a watching brief is undertaken during groundworks to ensure there is no accidental damage to the Listed Buildings (beyond the excavation of the test pits) and to ensure that any archaeological remains that are encountered are recorded.
- 1.1.5. The purpose of the archaeological mitigation 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 Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017). The work is to ensure that all archaeological and historical components of the site are fully investigated and recorded if they are to be revealed as a result of activities associated with the development.
- 1.1.6. All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

## 2. Site Description

2.1 The proposed development area is on 0.2 hectares of land off, High Street, Abergwili, Carmarthen, SA31 2JA. The proposed development site comprises undeveloped grassland with residential properties to the north and west. The site lies on the north side of the east end of the high Street at the junction with the A40. The site is bounded by the High Street to the south; the A40 and roundabout to the east and north; and detached residential properties to the north and west.

2.2 The solid geology of the proposed development area comprises Didymograptus Bifidus Beds – Tuffaceous-sandstone formed approximately 461 to 466 million years ago in the Ordovician Period. This is overlain by superficial river terrace deposits of sand and gravel. Superficial Deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. (BGS, 2019).

2.3 The soil type within the site comprises a freely draining slightly acid loamy soil (Soilscapes, 2019).

### 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 There are 36 previously known sites of archaeological interest within the 500m study area. These include four Grade II Listed Buildings and one Registered Historic Park & Garden. There are no Scheduled Monuments or Conservations Areas within the study area. Two sites were identified within or near to the proposed development. These comprise a post medieval smithy as well as the possible route of the Roman road (via Julia) along the High Street (Evans, 2019).

3.2 Archaeology Wales undertook a geophysical survey on the site during November 2019 to determine the nature and extent of any buried archaeological features within the proposed development area. The work was undertaken using a Bartington Grad601 dual fluxgate gradiometer. A small number of magnetic anomalies were detected. These comprise a strong linear anomaly that corresponds with a low bank on the ground and two areas of modern ground disturbance. Other faint parallel trends likely arise from post medieval or modern field drainage. No significant archaeological features were recorded. Nevertheless, due to the proximity of the assumed line of a Roman Road along Abergwili High Street, it was recommended that an archaeological watching brief should take place during groundworks associated with the development (Davey, 2019).

### 4. Objectives

4.1.1. 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* (2020).

4.1.2. The objective of the watching brief will be:

- to allow the 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.

4.1.3. 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.

- 4.1.4. 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.

## **5. Timetable of Works**

### **5.1. Fieldwork**

- 5.1.1. The watching brief will be undertaken, in the targeted area discussed above, during ground works associated with the proposed development. AW will update DAT-HM with the exact date.

### **5.2. Report delivery**

- 5.2.1. The report will be submitted to the client and to DAT-HM within three 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**

- 6.1.1. The work will be undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs (2020).
- 6.1.2. Excavations should be undertaken using a tracked 360 degree excavator equipped with a flat-bladed bucket and will be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist.
- 6.1.3. 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.
- 6.1.4. 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, DAT-HM and AW will be called at the earliest convenience.
- 6.1.5. If significant archaeological features are encountered contingency arrangements will be made. 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 and DAT-HM.

### **6.2. Recording**

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

- 6.2.2. 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.
- 6.2.3. All features identified will be tied into the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries.
- 6.2.4. Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 12MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.
- 6.2.5. The archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will have access to the AW metal detector and be trained in its use.

### **6.3. Finds**

- 6.3.1. 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.
- 6.3.2. All manner of finds regardless of category and date will be retained.
- 6.3.3. Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under *The Treasure Act 1996* will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.
- 6.3.4. 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**

- 6.4.1. 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 will follow English Heritage's *Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 2011).

### **6.5. Human remains**

- 6.5.1. 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 Archaeologists' *Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains: Technical Paper Number 13* (1993).
- 6.5.2. A meeting with DAT-HM, and 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

6.6.1. 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	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 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)

## **6.7. Specialist reports**

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

## **7. Monitoring**

- 7.1.1. DAT-HM will be contacted approximately five days prior to the commencement of archaeological site works, and subsequently once the work is underway.
- 7.1.2. Any changes to the WSI that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to DAT-HM for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.
- 7.1.3. Representatives of DAT-HM will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the watching brief. DAT-HM will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

## **8. Archive and Reporting programme**

### **8.1. Site archive**

- 8.1.1. 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.
- 8.1.2. 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 ClfA Guidelines (Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives', 2014). It will also conform to the guidelines set out in 'The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017' (National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017). The legal landowner's 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).

### **8.2. Analysis**

- 8.2.1. Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of analysis and reporting will be undertaken. The report will adhere to the Welsh Archaeological Trust's joint Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (2018).
- 8.2.2. 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.

### **8.3. Reports and archive deposition**

#### **Report to client**

- 8.3.1. 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 and DAT-HM upon completion.

#### **Additional reports**

- 8.3.2. 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.

#### **Summary reports for publication**

- 8.3.3. 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**

- 8.3.4. 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**

- 8.3.5. 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.

- 8.3.6. 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.
- 8.3.7. Copies of all reports, the digital archive and an archive index will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.
- 8.3.8. 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 DAT-HM.

### **Finds deposition**

- 8.3.9. 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.

### **Staff**

- 8.3.10. The project will be managed by John Davey (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 DAT-HM and the client.

## **9. Health and Safety**

### **9.1. Risk assessment**

- 9.1.1. 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**

- 9.2.1. 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).

### **9.3. Covid-19 Specific Considerations**

- 9.3.1. If an AW Staff member believes they are at an increased risk from the virus they are to contact management.
- 9.3.2. Please see the Site Operating Procedures/HSRA for full details and work in accordance with them.
- 9.3.3. If anyone is showing symptoms of Covid-19 they are to go home immediately and notify the appropriate people. Staff must drive to site in a private vehicle alone or with someone from their household only. If sites require multiple staff members to attend, they will travel separately and will try to avoid the use of public transport (walking, cycling etc). Staff must stay at least 2m away from any person, who does not live



within their own household at all times. This includes on site, within office space, in the canteen and all other parts of the compound. Wash hands regularly and thoroughly, especially on arriving to site, leaving site, and before eating. The staff members should take their own food and drink to site. Once returning home, appropriate care should be taken to ensure that any potential contamination does not spread (change clothes, shower etc).

9.3.4. All staff must read, sign, and adhere to the separate AW Covid – 19 risk assessment.

9.3.5. If any AW staff, contractor, or any other persons on site are not abiding by these rules, the staff member will remove themselves from the risk and contact the PM immediately.

## **10. Community Engagement and Outreach**

10.1.1. 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.

10.1.2. 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.

10.1.3. 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**

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

## **12. Quality Control**

### **Professional standards**

12.1.1. 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

- 12.1.2. 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

- 13.1.1. 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, 2014. *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, 2020. *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*

Davey J. 2019. Land off High Street, Abergwili, Carmarthen; Geophysical Survey Report. Archaeology Wales Report Number 1857.

English Heritage, 2002. *Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology*

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

Evans J. 2019. Land off High Street, Abergwili, Carmarthenshire. Archaeology Wales Report No. 1802

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)*

### Websites

[www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html) - Accessed 19/01/2021

[www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/](http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/) - Accessed 19/01/2021

[www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results\\_Application.aspx?resourceID=1006](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Application.aspx?resourceID=1006) – Accessed 19/01/2021

# *Archaeology Wales*

**Archaeology Wales Limited**

The Reading Room, Town Hall, Llanidloes, SY18 6BN

**Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371**

Email: [admin@arch-wales.co.uk](mailto:admin@arch-wales.co.uk)

Company Directors: Mark Houlston MCifA & Jill Houlston

Company Registered No. 7440770 (England & Wales)

Registered Office: Morgan Griffiths LLP, Cross Chambers

9 High Street, Newtown, Powys, SY16 2NY

