

## **MEADOW VIEW, LLANGOEDMOR, CEREDIGION ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF SPECIFICATION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This specification has been prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services in response to a request from Mr. Roe to provide an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a single dwelling at Meadow View, Llangoedmor, Ceredigion (NGR SN 2010 4581; Planning Application number A090629). The land is currently used as gardens and the works will entail the removal of topsoil across the footprint of the proposed dwelling. This specification is in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA<sup>1</sup>, 1994, revised 2001) and is designed to satisfy a Condition recommended on this development (Planning Application No.08/0305/PA) by the Local Planning Authority's (LPA) archaeological advisors<sup>2</sup>.

There are no known archaeological interests within the proposed development site boundary, but it lies in close proximity to the Church of St. Cynllo's, which has early medieval origins. The church is likely to have been a focal point for settlement during the early medieval period (pre-1100) and thus the potential for archaeological remains of such settlement may be present within the proposed development area. Surviving archaeology may comprise below ground remains of timber buildings, plot boundaries or rubbish pits. Such features are likely to be present at a shallow depth below the ground surface at the interface between topsoil and natural subsoils.

It is assumed that the topsoil stripping of the footprint of the building will be undertaken in a single phase of work, removing all soils using a toothless bucket down onto the top of any archaeological remains (if present) or undisturbed natural subsoils. If archaeological remains are present, it may be necessary to observe the excavation of service trenches and other smaller scale intrusive works at the site which have the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains.

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services has considerable experience of this type of project and always operates to best professional practice. The conclusions will be based on a considered assessment of the collected data. Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services has its own Health and Safety Policy, and all works are covered by appropriate Employer's Liability and Public Liability Insurances. Copies of all are available on request.

***Dyfed Archaeological Trust is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation.***

***All Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services staff are CSCS<sup>3</sup> certified to work on construction sites.***

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<sup>1</sup> Institute for Archaeologists.

<sup>2</sup> Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Heritage Management. Recommendation set out in a letter sent to the Ceredigion County Council Planning Department by their archaeological advisors dated 6<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

<sup>3</sup> Construction Skills Certification Scheme.

## 1. WATCHING BRIEF

- 1.1 The definition of archaeological watching brief, taken from the Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IfA S&G: AWB) is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.
- 1.2 The purpose of a watching brief, as laid down in the IFA S&G AWB is:
- to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works;
  - to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment.
- 1.3 This document provides a scheme of works for:

***Archaeological attendance and recording during groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling at Meadow View, Llangoedmor, Ceredigion, which will entail topsoil stripping and ground reduction, and other works, which may expose, damage or destroy any underlying archaeological remains, if present.***

## 2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which Dyfed Archaeological Trust will undertake the watching brief.
- 2.2 To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- 2.3 To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- 2.4 To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- 2.5 To produce an archive and report of any results.

## 3. FIELDWORK

- 3.1 An archaeologist will be present during all major ground disturbance operations<sup>4</sup>. No earth moving should take place without an archaeologist being in attendance.
- 3.2 Any archaeological features or deposits revealed during the groundworks will be examined and recorded to an appropriate level<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> It is important that a project timetable is made available to the archaeologist as soon as is possible in order to co-ordinate the monitoring visits so that delays to the development can be minimised.

<sup>5</sup> It is important that to ensure professional and appropriate recording adequate time must be made available to the visiting archaeologist to record any archaeological features or deposits exposed following the initial site strip and other groundworks as necessary.

- 3.3 Any archaeological features or deposits revealed during the groundworks will be examined and recorded to an appropriate level. In the case of large features only that portion to be directly affected by the works will be excavated.
- 3.4 Deposits containing potential palaeoenvironmental material may be sampled and the samples stored in stable conditions. Arrangements for specialist services will be arranged following discussions between the archaeological project manager, the client and the LPA's archaeological advisor.
- 3.5 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits will conform to best current professional practice and be carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual<sup>6</sup> used by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services. Significant archaeological features or deposits will be drawn at a suitable scale (no less than 1:20) and photographed in an appropriate format.
- 3.6 All archaeologically significant finds will be retained and, where possible, related to the contexts from which they derived. Finds will be temporarily stored by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services in stable conditions. All finds, except those deemed to be Treasure Trove, will remain the property of the landowner, but it is assumed that permission has been given by the landowner for these to be stored as part of the archive in a suitable repository.
- 3.7 Archaeological attendance would be charged at a daily rate.
- 3.8 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the development, Dyfed Archaeological Trust shall have the power to halt any ground works and shall inform the site agent/project manager and prepare a written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the all parties, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services shall, if required, implement on behalf of the Client a contingency scheme for salvage excavation of affected archaeological features. In these instances it may be necessary to employ extra resources to record such features to an appropriate standard.
- 3.9 Should any human remains be encountered the District Coroner's Office and the Police will be notified immediately. All human remains will, where possible, be left *in situ*. If preservation *in situ* is not possible all statutory permissions will be obtained in writing before removal begins.

#### **4. POST-FIELDWORK REPORTING AND ARCHIVING**

- 4.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork will be collated into a site archive structured in accordance with the specifications in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2007), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 4.2 The results of the fieldwork will be assessed in local, regional and wider contexts.
- 4.3 A report that is fully representative of the results of the fieldwork will be prepared and four copies will be sent to the client for dissemination to all relevant parties.

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<sup>6</sup> Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services have adopted the new Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available on-site for inspection if required.

- 4.4 A summary of the project results, excluding any confidential information, may be prepared for wider dissemination (e.g. Archaeology in Wales and special interest and period-specific journals).
- 4.5 The project archive, including all artefacts and ecofacts (excepting those which may be deemed to be Treasure Trove) will be deposited with an appropriate body following agreement with the landowner.
- 4.6 A copy of the final report will be deposited with the regional HER within six months of the completion of the project.

## **5. STAFF**

- 5.1 This project will be managed by J Meek, Head of Field Services.
- 5.2 Other staff will be drawn from Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services' team of experienced archaeologists.

## **6. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 6.1 All Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services staff are CSCS<sup>7</sup> registered.
- 6.2 Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services will carry out a health and safety risk assessment to ensure that all potential risks are minimised.
- 6.3 All relevant health and safety regulations must be followed.
- 6.4 All site inductions, H&S procedures and site rules of the site contractor will be made known to Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services staff at the start of the works.
- 6.5 Safety helmets, high visibility vests and boots are to be used by all site personnel as necessary. The site contractors will make all site staff aware of any other PPE<sup>8</sup> that may be required.
- 6.6 Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services staff must ensure that their presence on site is communicated to all relevant site staff, especially machine operators.

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<sup>7</sup> Construction Skills Certification Scheme (Health and Safety Tested)

<sup>8</sup> Personal Protection Equipment