

Pointz Castle, Pen y Cwm, Pembrokeshire Watching Brief



Report by: Trysor

For: Mr William Lawrence

November 2014



Pointz Castle, Pen y Cwm, Pembrokeshire Watching Brief

By

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Trysor Project No. 2014/381

For: Mr William Lawrence

November 2014

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Cover photograph: Reduced levels across development site, looking southwest.

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RHIF YR ADRODDIAD - REPORT NUMBER: Trysor 2014/381

DYDDIAD 4^{ydd} Tachwedd 2014

DATE 4th November 2014

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan bartneriad Trysor. Mae wedi ei gael yn gywir ac yn derbyn ein sêl bendith.

This report was prepared by the Trysor partners. It has been checked and received our approval.

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Croesawn unrhyw sylwadau ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn.

We welcome any comments on the content or structure of this report.

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Trysor is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists and both partners are Members of the Institute for Archaeologists, www.archaeologists.net .

Jenny Hall (BSc Joint Hons., Geology and Archaeology, MifA) had 12 years excavation experience, which included undertaking watching briefs prior to becoming the Sites and Monuments Record Manager for a Welsh Archaeological Trust for 10 years. She has been an independent archaeologist since 2004 undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desk-based appraisals and assessments, and watching briefs.

Paul Sambrook (BA Joint Hons., Archaeology and Welsh, MifA, PGCE) has extensive experience as a fieldworker in Wales. He was involved with Cadw's pan-Wales Deserted Rural Settlements Project for 7 years. He also undertook Tir Gofal field survey work and watching briefs. He has been an independent archaeologist since 2004 undertaking a variety of work including upland survey, desk-based appraisals/assessments, and watching briefs.

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1. Summary

1.1 In May 2014, Trysor undertook a watching brief on a development site at SM8323723745 at Pointz Castle, Pen y Cwm, Pembrokeshire. No archaeologically significant contexts or artefacts were observed.

2. Copyright

2.1 Trysor hold the copyright of this report and of the paper and digital archive. Further paper copies may be made of this report without gaining permission to reproduce but it must be noted that Figure 2 & 3 include other copyright material and should not be copied.

3. Introduction

3.1 Mr William Lawrence, of Pointz Castle, Pen y Cwm, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 6BA commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the groundworks for a 2 storey dwelling relating to planning application number: NP/10/389

4. The development

4.1 The development consists of a 2 storey dwelling in a corner of a pasture field to the east of the farmhouse at Pointz Castle.

5. Conditions on the consent

5.1 In granting approval for the application, the Local Planning Authority imposed a condition on the consent, which specifies the actions necessary to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.

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 carried out. The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Institute of Archaeologists. The Local Planning Authority will be informed, in writing, at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development of the name of the said archaeologist.

5.2 The applicant started groundworks without the presence of an archaeologist and, after the intervention of the planning officer, work on site was stopped until the issue was resolved.

6. Specification

6.1 Trysor prepared a specification for the watching brief, see Appendix A.

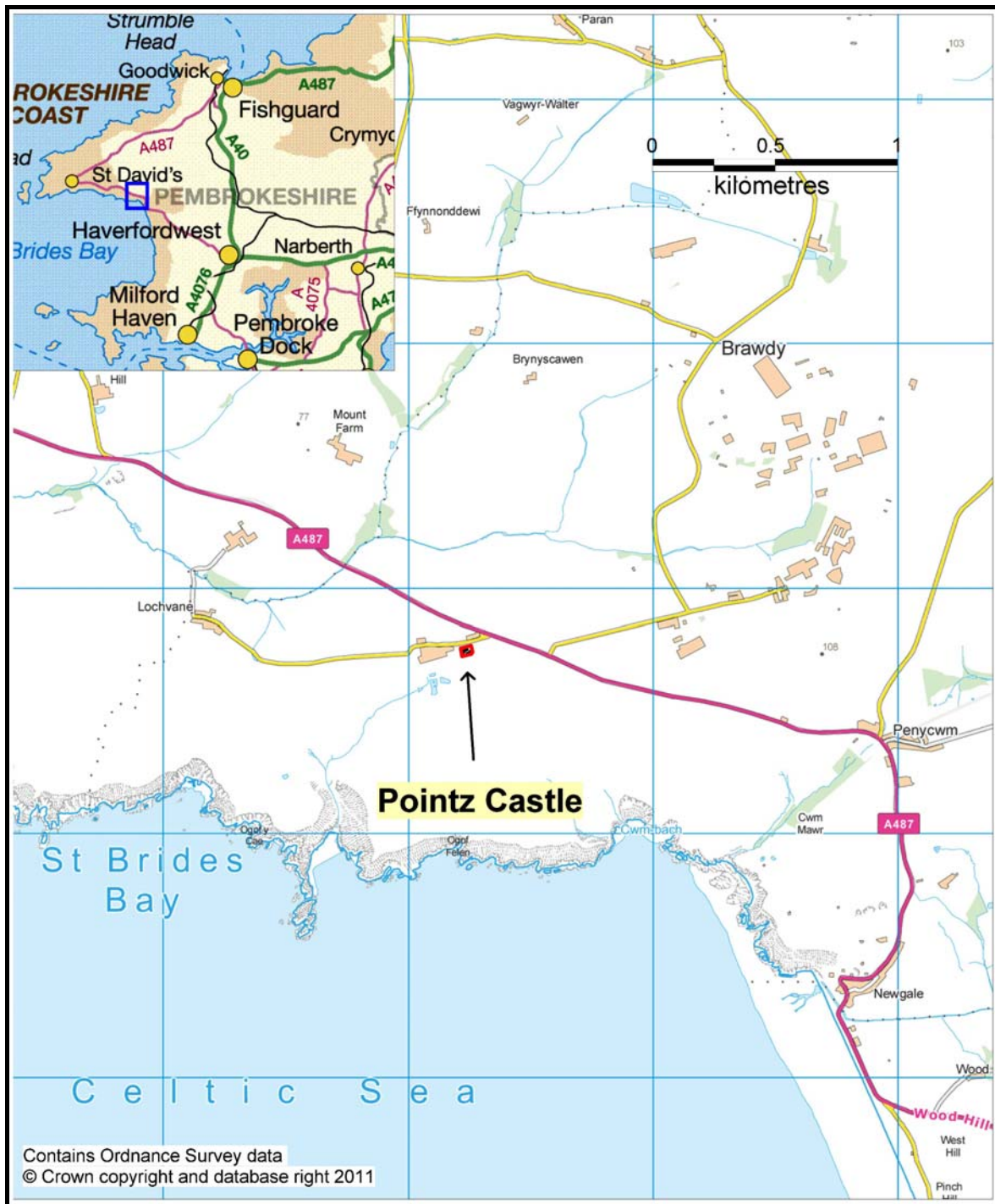


Figure 1: Location of the watching brief

7. Historical and Archaeological Overview

7.1 Pointz Castle motte, PE272, PRN 2782, NPRN 305330, lies 200 metres to the west of the development site on the other side of the farm complex.

7.2 Several flintworking floors lie over 480 metres to the southwest, closer to the coast edge.

8. Methodology

8.1 On 12th May 2014, Trysor watched the mechanical cleaning of an area approximately 25 metres by 15 metres that had previously been stripped of topsoil down to subsoil using a mechanical excavator and a grading bucket. This was the area into which foundations would be dug.

8.2 Heavy rainfall over the preceding weekend had resulted in some surface water across the site, added to by groundwater and water from broken land drains.

8.3 The topsoil removed prior to the watching brief was in a spoilheap to the south of the site and this was looked over but no artefacts noted.



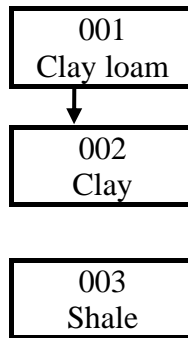
Figure 2: The area from which topsoil was removed and the area which was then mechanically cleaned whilst being observed by Trysor.

9. Site Stratigraphy

9.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (Institute for Archaeologists, 2008). The mechanical cleaning of the area was watched by Trysor and the stratigraphy of the site recorded.

9.2 Context Catalogue

Context Number	Depth	Description	Interpretation
001	0.20m-0.30m	10YR 4/3 clay loam	Ploughsoil
002	0.40m	10YR 6/6 clay, partially gleyed	Subsoil
003		Shale 10YR 6/6 but very mottled with areas of iron staining and gleying	Natural Subsoil



9.2 Two land drains with plastic piping ran across the site south southwestwards to the ditch along the fenceline to the south which in turn ran into a pond. Another land drain lined with stone was also noted. These were not recorded as contexts.

10. Photographs

10.1 Colour digital photographs were taken of topsoil stripping and excavation of trenches using a 16M pixel camera. The following table describes the content of each photograph included in the project archive and their locations are provided in the following map, see Figure 3. The photographs are included in Appendix B at the end of the report.

Photo Number	Description	Date Taken	Direction
PZC2014_101	Area from which topsoil was removed prior to the watching brief with subsoil exposed.	01/05/2014	Looking southeast.
PZC2014_102	Area from which topsoil was removed prior to the watching brief with subsoil exposed.	01/05/2014	Looking east northeast.
PZC2014_103	Area from which topsoil was removed prior to the watching brief with subsoil exposed.	01/05/2014	Looking north northeast.
PZC2014_104	Mechanical cleaning of area in which foundation trenches would be excavated.	12/05/2014	Looking west southwest.
PZC2014_105	Mechanical cleaning of area in which foundation trenches would be excavated.	12/05/2014	Looking west southwest.
PZC2014_106	Section showing clay subsoil, context 002 overlying 003	12/05/2014	Looking south southeast.

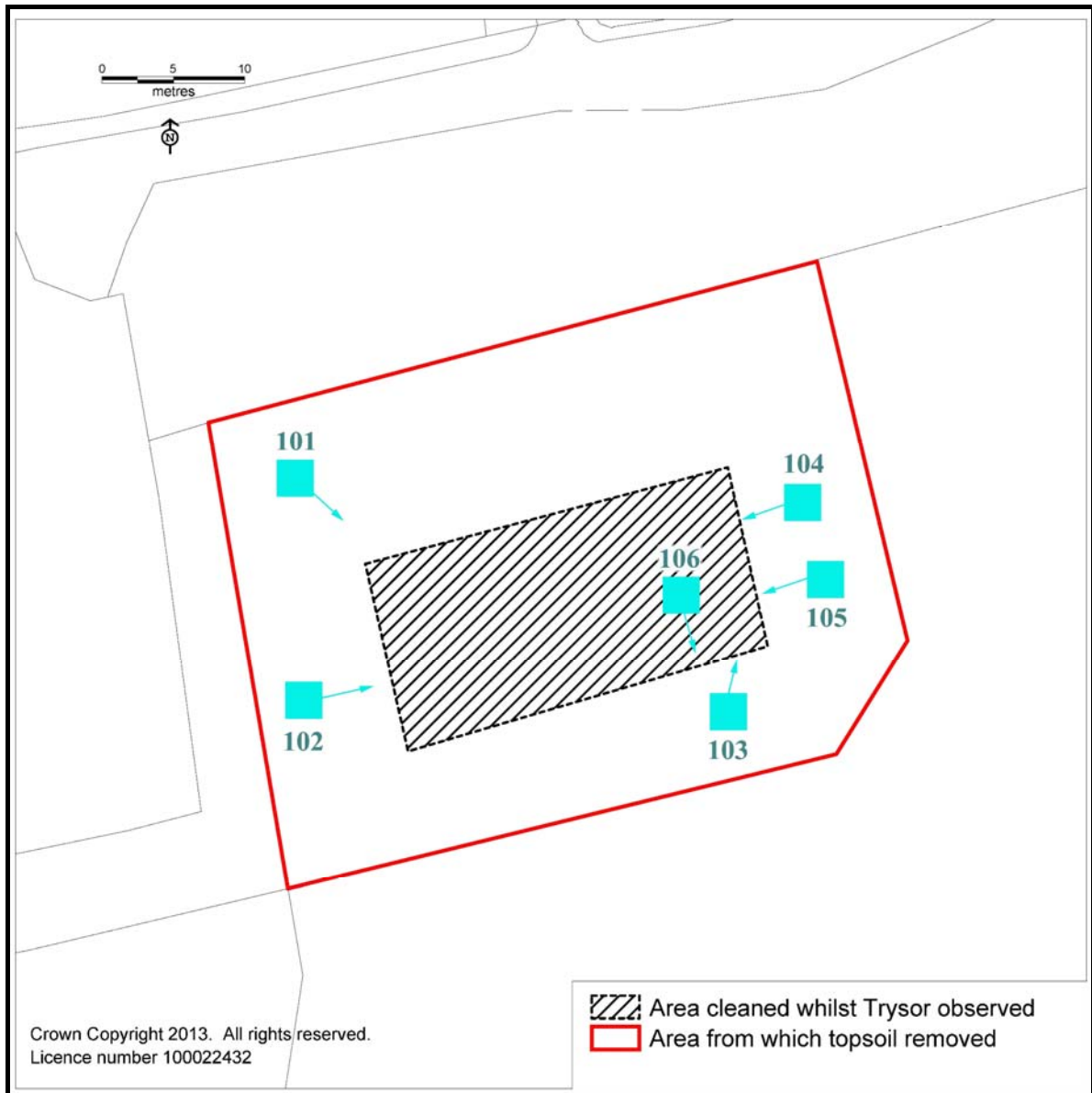


Figure 3: Location and direction of photographs

11. Conclusion

11.1 The topsoil had been stripped prior to the watching brief, but no archaeological contexts were seen in the exposed surface, or in the area mechanically cleaned whilst being observed by Trydor. No artefacts were recovered from ground surface or the topsoil spoilheap.

12. Archive

12.1 The archive and a copy of the report and photographs will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth. Photographs are in TIFF format, following the standard required by the RCAHMW.

12.2 Further copies of the report have also been supplied to Mr Lawrence, and the Historic Environment Record at Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Llandeilo.

13. Sources

13.1 IfA Standard and Guidance

Institute for Archaeologists, 2008 (revised), Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief, available online from the IfA website, www.archaeologists.net

APPENDIX A – Watching Brief Specification

POINTZ CASTLE, HAVERFORDWEST, PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF SPECIFICATION

Planning permission – NP/10/389

1. Introduction

1.1 Mr William Lawrence, of Pointz Castle, Pen y Cwm, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 6BA has commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the groundworks for a 2 storey dwelling relating to planning application number: NP/10/389

1.2 The development is at SM8323723745 at Pointz Castle on the southern side of the A487 road west of Pen y Cwm, Pembrokeshire.

2. The development

2.1 The development consists of a 2 storey dwelling in a corner of a pasture field to the east of the farmhouse at Pointz Castle.

3. Nature of the archaeological resource

3.1 Pointz Castle motte, PE272, PRN 2782, NPRN 305330, lies 200 metres to the west of the development site on the other side of the farm complex. Several flintworking floors lie over 480 metres to the southwest, closer to the coast edge.

4. Conditions on the consent

4.1 The application was approved in 2010 but one condition was that an archaeological watching brief should be undertaken.

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 carried out. The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Institute of Archaeologists. The Local Planning Authority will be informed, in writing, at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development of the name of the said archaeologist.

4.2 The applicant started groundworks without the presence of an archaeologist and the planning officer drew attention to the condition and work on site was stopped until the issue was resolved.

5. Site visit

5.1 At the request of the applicant Trysor visited the site on Thursday 1st May to view what groundworks had been done to date and to discuss a way forward.

5.2 The development area lies in the northwest corner of the field to the east of the modern farmhouse. The field is pasture although has been ploughed intermittently in the past. According to the applicant the development site lies in a part of the field that has been wet in the past but field drains were put in the second half of the 20th century to counteract this.

5.3 The development area had been stripped down to just above the interface between the natural bedrock and the overlying topsoil and subsoil. The topsoil is quite shallow in this area, less than 0.20m deep, and overlies yellow, stony clay up to 0.30m deep. This overlies the natural shale bedrock.



Plate 1: The groundworks undertaken prior to May 1st 2014, looking east.

5.4 The exposed ground surface and spoil heaps were examined for artefacts, but none of any date were noted.

5.5 No obvious features were visible in the exposed ground surface, but the surface was not clean enough to see smaller features or any features which might be filled with material similar to the ground into which they were cut.

5.6 It was agreed that Trysor would write a specification for the watching brief and discuss this with Dyfed Archaeological Trust planning archaeologists.

6. Field methodology for watching brief

6.1 The watching brief will be carried out in accordance with Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA, 2008a)

6.2 A two-person team will watch the mechanical cleaning of the exposed ground surface. They will examine the cleaned surface and features/artefacts of archaeological interest recorded. Excavation of any features will be limited to that necessary to establish their extent and character, unless their excavation is required to allow the development to proceed.

7. Contingency arrangements if archaeological features are discovered

7.1 In the event that archaeological remains are encountered, where appropriate investigation falls outside the scope of this watching brief specification, a meeting between Trysor, the applicant, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management Section and the Local Planning Authority case officer will be convened in order to agree a course of action. The applicant will be responsible for paying for any further work necessary.

8. Health & Safety

8.1 Trysor will undertake a risk assessment in accordance with their health and safety policy.

9. Recording

9.1 A plan of the groundworks, and representative sections if appropriate, will be drawn, at an appropriate scale, recording all features of archaeological interest. The plan will be based on the applicants' survey drawings of the development area.

9.2 A written record of all activity will be kept in a project specific notebook. If archaeological contexts are encountered they will be recorded following the *Central Excavation Unit Manual: Part 2: Recording*, 1986, using a consecutive numbering system.

9.3 Any artefacts will be dealt with in accordance with the guidance provided in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA, 2008b). Any artefacts will be retained, cleaned and stored. Following reporting they will be returned to the applicant.

9.4 Should any human remains be encountered, the Coroner and Regional Archaeological Trust will be immediately informed and the remains left *in situ*.

9.5 Colour digital photographs will be taken, as appropriate, using a 14M pixel camera. A written record will be made on site of the photographs taken. Appropriate photographic scales will be used.

10. Reporting

10.1 A report on the watching brief will be prepared according to the requirements of Annexe 1 of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA, 2008a, p.7) following the completion of the work. Copies of the report will be provided to the client, the Regional Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record.

11. Dissemination

11.1 A summary of the work undertaken and its findings will be submitted to *Archaeology in Wales*, the annual review of archaeological work in Wales collated by the Council for British Archaeology Wales (CBA Wales)

12. Archive

12.1 The paper archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, including a copy of the final report in accordance with the IfA's *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (IfA, Undated). This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. Photographs will be supplied in TIFF format in a file size greater than 11MB, following the standard required by the RCAHMW for Upland Survey (RCAHMW, 2011).

13. Resources to be used

13.1 Two members of staff will undertake the watching brief. They will be equipped with standard field equipment, including digital cameras, GPS and first aid kits.

Trysor have access to the computer hardware and software required to deliver the completed final report and archive to a professional standard.

14. Qualification of personnel

14.1 Trysor is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists and both partners are Members of the Institute for Archaeologists, www.archaeologists.net

14.2 Jenny Hall (BSc Joint Hons., Geology and Archaeology, MifA) had 12 years excavation experience, which included undertaking watching briefs prior to becoming the Sites and Monuments Record Manager for a Welsh Archaeological Trust for 10 years. Since 2004 she has been an independent archaeologist undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desktop assessments and watching briefs.

14.3 Paul Sambrook (BA Joint Hons., Archaeology and Welsh, MifA, PGCE) has extensive experience as a fieldworker in Wales. He was involved with Cadw's pan-Wales Deserted Rural Settlements Project for 7 years. He also undertook Tir Gofal field survey work and watching briefs. Since 2004 he has been an independent archaeologist undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desktop assessments and watching briefs.

15. Insurance & Professional indemnity

15.1 Trysor has Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

16. Project identification

16.1 The project has been designated Trysor Project No. 2014/381

17. Sources

17.1 Non-published

Central Excavation Unit, 1986, *Central Excavation Unit Manual: Part 2: Recording*, 1986

RCAHMW, 2011, *Form AB12: "Notes for Guidance" in the preparation of applications for Uplands Archaeology Initiative projects 2012-13*

17.2 Published

IfA, 2008a, *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*

IfA, 2008b, *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.*

IfA, Undated, *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook

Trysor

May 2014

APPENDIX B



Plate 1: PZC2014_101, Area from which topsoil was removed prior to the watching brief with subsoil exposed, looking southeast.



Plate 2: PZC2014_102, Area from which topsoil was removed prior to the watching brief with subsoil exposed, looking east northeast.



Plate 3: PZC2014_103, Area from which topsoil was removed prior to the watching brief with subsoil exposed, looking north northeast..



Plate 4: PZC2014_104, Mechanical cleaning of area in which foundation trenches would be excavated, looking west southwest.



Plate 5: PZC2014_105, Mechanical cleaning of area in which foundation trenches would be excavated, looking west southwest.



Plate 6: PZC2014_106, Section showing clay subsoil, context 002 overlying 003, looking south southeast.