

Erection of New Garage at Cefn y Gaer

Trefecca, Brecon, Powys LD3 0PR

NGR SO 1446 3132

A Written Scheme of Investigation for an

Archaeological Watching Brief

Planning Application 16/14050/FUL

CPAT HER Event PRN 142682

Prepared for David Oxnard by Peter Dorling, BSc. MCIfA, January 2017

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Brecon Beacons National Park Authority has granted planning permission (16/14050/FUL) for a new garage at Cefn y Gaer, Trefecca.
- 1.2 The development lies close to the scheduled ancient monument, known as Cefn Barn Ringwork (BR088, NPRN306053, CPAT HER PRN 540), and a condition of the consent is that there should be an archaeological watching brief during any ground works associated with the development.
- 1.3 This written scheme of investigation (WSI) sets out how the work will be carried out, the standards of excavation, recording and reporting, staff specifications and qualifications. It has been written following the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief 2014*.
- 1.4 The purpose of the watching brief is that set out in the above CIfA guidance.
  - a. 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
  - b. 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 to a satisfactory and proper standard

## **2. Location and Geology**

- 2.1 The development site is just to the south-east of Cefn y Gaer, Trefecca, Brecon, Powys LD3 0PR. NGR OS 1446 3132 (figures 1 and 2). Located on the 220m contour on one of the lower foothills of the north-western corner of the Black Mountains it looks west over the Llynfi Valley.
- 2.2 The solid geology of the area is Devonian Old Red Sandstone of the St Maughans Formation. This supports loamy clay soils whose exact character depend on drift deposits and agricultural history. It is understood that bedrock on the site is very close to the surface, outcropping in places.

## **3. Previous Archaeological Work**

- 3.1 There is no record of any excavation of the medieval ringwork, but the site was recently the subject of a detailed survey by Will Davies the Cadw Inspector. A photographic record of the barn was required prior to its conversion to domestic use.

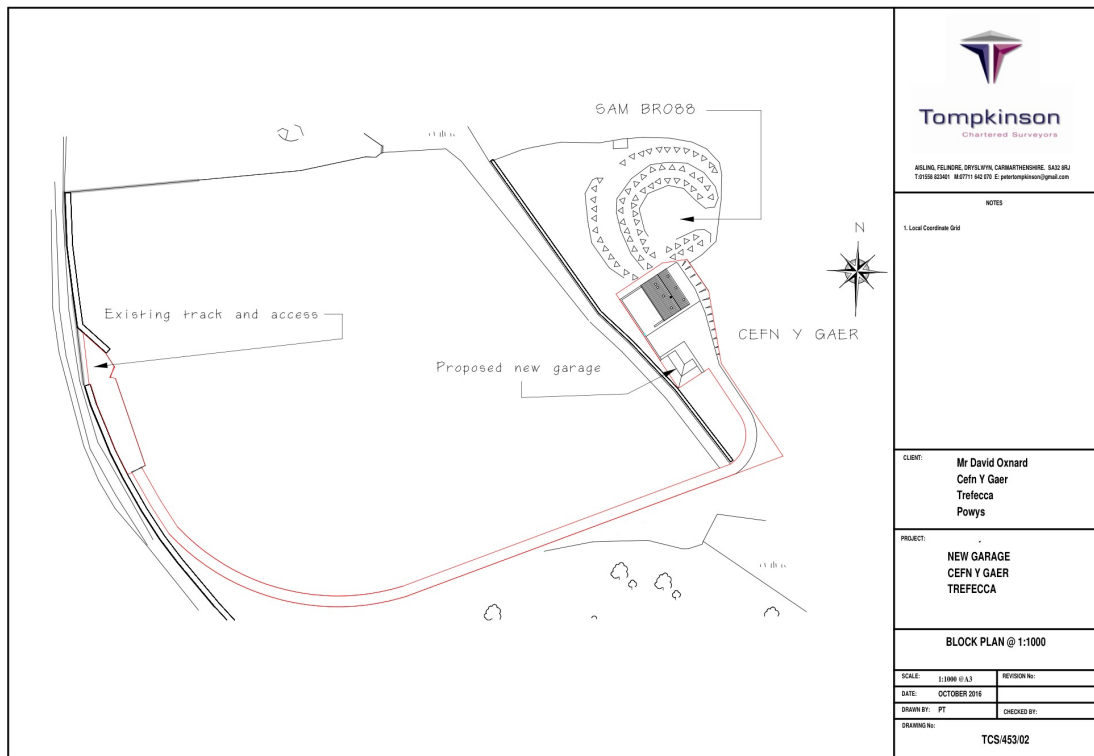


Figure 1: General layout and location of the development site and Cefn Barn Ringwork



Figure 2: The site of the new garage (where the green container is) looking from the east. The Scheduled ringwork is on the far side of the converted barn on the top right

## 4. Methods

- 4.1 *Health and Safety* - All work will be undertaken in accordance with current Health and Safety legislation. A CDM Health and Safety Action Plan will be prepared before work begins. All staff and visitors will wear appropriate PPE, which may include high-visibility clothing, hard hats and safety footwear and will receive a H&S briefing.
- 4.2 *Location and extent* –The general area of the development is shown in figures 1 and 2 above, the area of the watching brief corresponds to the footprint of the new garage building. The watching brief will be particularly concerned with the excavation by machine of foundation trenches and any clearance or levelling of the area, but also with any other ground disturbance associated with the development such as the excavation of service trenches.
- 4.3 *Excavation* – The work will be conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014) and the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* (2014).
- 4.4 *Recording* – All on-site recording will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* (2014). The location of any recorded archaeological features or deposits will be accurately recorded and located to features in the vicinity of the excavation, boundaries and/or buildings identified on modern Ordnance Survey maps and levels will be related to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.5 *Contexts* – A continuous unique numbering system will be used for all recorded contexts. Written descriptions will be recorded on pro-forma sheets comprising factual data and interpretative elements. Where stratified deposits are encountered a Harris matrix will be compiled during the course of the excavation. Hand drawn plans and sections will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 or 1:10 as appropriate. A full digital photographic record, to a minimum resolution of 12 megapixels illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered, will be maintained. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological work. A register of plans, sections and photographs will be kept.
- 4.6 *Artefacts* – All artefacts will be related to the contexts from which they were derived, small finds will be measured in three dimensions. All finds will be retained initially and treated in accordance with UKIC guidelines, *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal, 2001). If necessary a retention policy will be discussed and agreed with the local authority monitoring officer. Specialist reporting requirements will be assessed as part of the post-excavation programme at the end of the field work.
- 4.7 *Reporting* – an illustrated report will be prepared by Peter Dorling within one week of the completion of field work. This will contain sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology, Archaeological Background, Watching Brief Results, Conclusions and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives and finds. Copies of the report (PDF and/or Hard Copy) will be supplied to the client for submission to the Local planning authority. Following approval of the report copies will be supplied to the National Park Archaeologist, the CPAT HER and RCAHMW. A summary report of the watching brief results will be published in *Archaeology in Wales*, and if appropriate in a local or national archaeological journal.

- 4.8 *Archiving* – The site archive will be prepared to specifications in English Heritage’s Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) system and the ClfA Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (2014), to be deposited with the National Monuments Record.
- 4.9 *Human remains* – Any human remains that are encountered as part of this project will be left *in-situ* and will be reported to the client, the coroner and the archaeological advisor. No human remains will be excavated under this contract. Archaeological excavations would continue in the area of the discovery, to clarify the nature and extent of burial features. Where appropriate, and as an addition to the current contract, the remains will be excavated and recorded as soon as is practically possible, in accordance with the appropriate Home Office and environmental health regulations. A licence will be obtained on behalf of the project from the Ministry of Justice in accordance with Section 25 of the 1857 Burials Act, for the ‘accidental disturbance of ancient human remains’. Such removal will be in compliance with the Disused Burial Grounds Amendment Act 1981. Excavation and subsequent treatment of human remains will be undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeology Technical Paper Number 7, 2004 (Brickley and McKinley).
- 4.10 *Unexpected discoveries: Treasure.* – This section sets out the procedures to be followed in the event of discovering items of possible Treasure. The meanings and outline procedures are those defined in the *Treasure Act* of 1996 (which replaced previous Treasure Trove legislation) and in the associated *Treasure Act 1996: Code of Practice*. Treasure is now considered to apply to a wide range of object types and materials concealed in above ground structures or deposited in the ground, including those finds which would previously have been defined as Treasure Trove. The procedure for determining whether or not a find is regarded as Treasure involves reporting the find to the appropriate district coroner. Items declared to be Treasure generally become the property of the Crown, though the Secretary of State has the power to disclaim objects that have been submitted as potential treasure. Such objects are then returned by the coroner to the finder unless objections to this are received from the landowner or occupier within a specified period.

## **5. Copyright**

- 5.1 Intellectual Copyright will be retained by Peter Dorling who will licence the client, and other bodies as necessary for use in matters relating to the project and for use of the project archive by the relevant body or museum.

## **6. Insurance**

- 6.1 Peter Dorling holds appropriate Public Liability and Employers Liability insurance. Aviva Insurance Ltd Policy Number 24765101CHC/UN/010194. Expires on 02/11/17.

## **7. Resources and Programming**

- 7.1 Staff (see also CV, Appendix 1)

- 7.1.1 Peter Dorling BSc. MCIfA (Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists) will be the principal project archaeologist. With over 35 years of archaeological experience, principally in Wales and the Marches, Peter has been involved in a wide variety of excavation, survey,

conservation and management projects. Of specific relevance to this project is his involvement in survey, small scale excavation and conservation work at Castell Blaenllynfi, Cathedine, Powys and recording, conservation work and watching brief at Crickhowell Castle, Powys. He also developed and directed the educational excavation focused on the demolished Elizabethan and Georgian manor house of Ty Mawr at Llangasty Talylyn. He has recently been directing extensive archaeological evaluations at Hay Castle in advance of major renovation work taking place.

#### 7.1.2 Specialist artefact and environmental analysis if necessary will be carried out by

- Medieval ceramics (Stephanie Ratkai)
- Archaeo-botanical material (Dr Mike Allen, Allen Environmental Archaeology)
- Soils and sediments (Dr Mike Allen, Allen Environmental Archaeology)
- Human remains (Jackie McKinley)
- Artefact Conservation (Cardiff University, Conservation Department)

### 7.2 Timetable

7.2.1 It is anticipated that the work will take place over a one day period in the spring but possibly sooner if there is a spell of good weather.

7.2.2 Post-excavation processing would follow straight on from the field work and the report preparation thereafter. Delivery of the report to the client for submission to the local planning authority will be achieved within one week of completing the field work. A summary report for Archaeology in Wales will be prepared for the round of submissions following completion of the project.

### 7.3 Monitoring

7.3.1 Notice of the field work will be given to the local planning authority for a monitoring visit to be made if required. In the event of significant archaeology being revealed the local authority archaeologist will be contacted to discuss the requirement for further recording and excavation.

## **Appendix 1: Staff CV**

Outline Curriculum Vitae for Peter John Dorling, BSc. MCIfA

88 Marlow Bottom, Marlow, Buckinghamshire SL7 3PH

aveyron58@gmail.com

Mobile. 07972714476

### **Higher education**

1984 - 1987 University College Cardiff, BSc. Archaeology (Hon's) 2.2

### **Archaeological experience**

1978 - 1984 Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, Welshpool, Powys

Survey assistant, excavator, excavation supervisor, post excavation assistant

1987 - 1989 Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

Excavation director and field officer

Excavation, post-excavation and report publication of two Bronze Age cairns at Nant Helen opencast coal site, Ystradgynlais, Powys. Various small scale watching briefs in south Powys.

1989 - 2005 Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

National Park Archaeologist

Provision of archaeological planning advice to National Park planning officers and committee. Site management and conservation advice to land owners and managers, including agri-environment scheme, Forest Enterprise, Welsh Water, SWALEC. Archaeological field survey of National Park owned commons.

Compiling site and commons management plans. Organising, carrying out and/or commissioning practical site management works including masonry repair work at Blaenllynfi and Crickhowell Castles. Earthwork repairs at various sites including Maes Celyn motte, Crickhowell and conservation work at Llangors Crannog.

Interpretation and education provision in the form of on-site interpretation, printed booklets and leaflets, guided walks and organising and running an educational excavation for schools.

2005 - 2014 Herefordshire Archaeology, Herefordshire Council

Senior Project Archaeologist

Director of excavations at various sites in Herefordshire including Castle Field prehistoric enclosure and henge, Stapleton (2006), Hillcroft Field Neolithic enclosure, Bodenham (2006), Credenhill Hillfort, Credenhill (2007-9) New Weir Forge, Whitchurch (2009-10), Little Doward Hillfort, Ganarw (2011) and Eaton Camp Hillfort, Eaton Bishop (2012-13).



Resource assessments included two county-wide studies, one of the major Iron Age enclosures (hillforts) and the other an assessment of the archaeological impact of potential mineral extraction areas.

A combined resource assessment and management plan was undertaken for English Heritage of the Roman town archaeological remains underlying the village of Leintwardine.

Conservation management plans were compiled for Dinedor Hillfort, Dinedor, New Weir Forge, Whitchurch, Eaton Camp Hillfort, Eaton Bishop and the two major hillforts of Midsummer Hill and British Camp on the Malvern Hills for the National Trust, English Nature and the Malvern Hills Conservators.

### 2014 - Present

Self-employed Archaeological Contractor

Interpretation and cataloguing of the Herefordshire collection of aerial photographs for the Herefordshire Historic Environment Record and Herefordshire Archaeology.

Excavation supervisor for the National Trust's "Summer of Archaeology" project, Brockhampton Estate, Herefordshire.

Provision of management advice for Herefordshire Archaeology for Natural England's Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

Temporary Historic Environment Record Officer, Herefordshire Archaeology.

Compilation of a Conservation Management Plan for Credenhill Hillfort.

Archaeological evaluation and advice for Hay Castle Trust Ltd in advance of major restoration work at Hay Castle.

Director of community excavation at Ponthendre motte and bailey castle, Longtown.

### **Some recent reports and publications**

Dorling, P. 2007. The Lugg Valley, Herefordshire: Archaeology, Landscape Change and Conservation. Herefordshire Archaeology Monograph Series, No. 3

\*Dorling, P. 2011. New Weir Forge, Whitchurch, Herefordshire: A Report on Excavations in 2009 and 2010. Herefordshire Archaeology Report No. 306

\*Dorling, P. Cotton, J. & Rimmington, N. 2012. Little Doward Hillfort, Ganarw, Herefordshire: A Report on Excavations in 2009 and 2011. Herefordshire Archaeology Report No. 295

Dorling, P. & Wigley, A. 2012. An Assessment of the Archaeological and Conservation Status of Major Later Prehistoric Enclosures in Herefordshire and Shropshire.

\*Dorling, P. 2014. Eaton Camp, Ruckhall, Eaton Bishop, Herefordshire: A Report on Excavations in May 2012 and June 2013. Herefordshire Archaeology Report No. 332

Dorling, P. 2014. Herefordshire Archaeology and Minerals Resource Assessment.

\*Dorling, P. 2014. A Conservation Management Plan for Leintwardine Roman Station of Bravinium (Branogenium), Leintwardine, Herefordshire. Herefordshire Archaeology Report No. 341

Dorling, P. 2015. Hay Castle, Oxford Road, Powys. A Report on Preliminary Archaeological Evaluation, September 2015. Unpublished Report

Dorling, P. 2016. A Conservation Management Plan for Credenhill Hillfort, Park Wood, Credenhill, Herefordshire. Unpublished Report

Dorling, P. 2016. An Interim Report on Phase I Archaeological Evaluation at Hay Castle. Unpublished Report

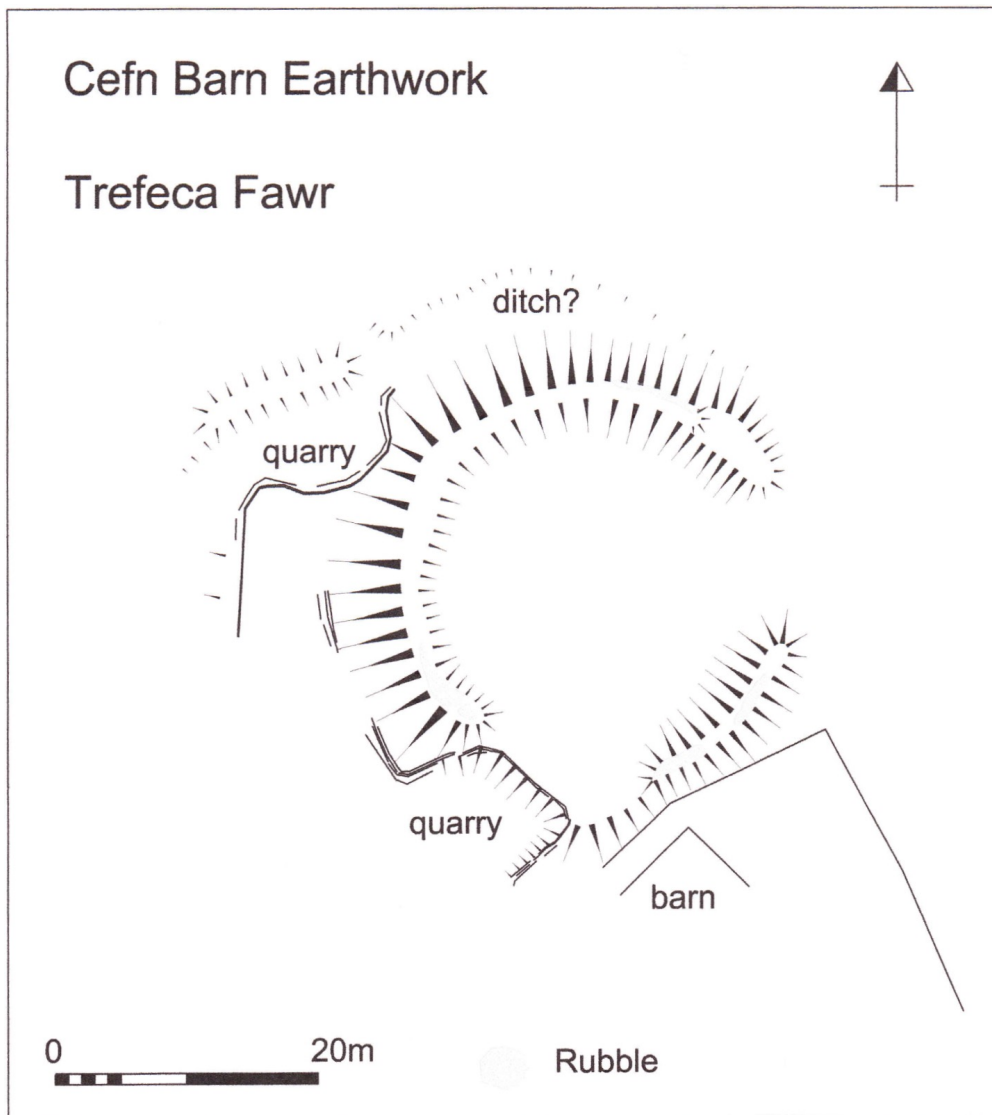
Dorling, P. 2016. An Interim Report on Phase II Archaeological Evaluation at Hay Castle. Unpublished Report

The reports marked with an \* can be viewed on the "Herefordshire Through Time" website by following "Publications"

## Appendix 2: Description of Cefn Barn Ringwork (BR088)

The monument comprises the remains of a well preserved castle-ringwork, which dates to the early part of the medieval period (c. AD 1066 - 1485). The ringwork is roughly circular in plan, measuring 27m north/south and 23m east/west with a discontinuous bank and ditch defining the outer edge of the enclosure. The interior is flat. The bank is steep sided, a maximum of 1m high on the inside and 2.2m high on the outside, and surrounded by a shallow ditch, 0.3m to 0.5m deep. The ditch is intermittent and does not survive on the south or east sides. There is a gap in the bank on the east side which may be the original entrance. At the west end of the site is a stone outcrop at the foot of the bank which is around 3m high. A hollow to the south of the outcrop may be the result of quarrying.

The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of medieval settlement, organisation and defence. The site forms an important element within the wider medieval landscape. It is well preserved and retains considerable archaeological potential. There is a strong probability of the presence of evidence relating to chronology, layout, building techniques and functional detail. The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive.



Recent survey drawing of the ringwork. © Will Davies, Cadw