

13 Station Road, Loughor, Swansea Watching Brief



Report by: Trysor

For: Mrs J Rees

September 2014



13, Station Road, Loughor, Swansea Watching Brief

By

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Trysor Project No. 2012/395

For: Mrs J Rees

September 2014

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Cover photograph: The development area, looking south.

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DYDDIAD 28^{ain} Medi 2014

DATE 28th September 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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Paul Sambrook

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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.

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1. Summary

In July 2014, Trysor undertook a watching brief on a development site at SS5639097959 in Loughor, Swansea. No significant archaeological contexts or artefacts were noted.

2. Copyright

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 Figures 2 & 3 include other copyright material and should not be copied.

3. Introduction

Mrs J Rees, of 3, Castle Court, Loughor, Swansea, SA4 6UN has commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks at 13, Station Road, Loughor, Swansea, SA4 6TR relating to planning application number: 2014/0174.

4. The development

The development consists of single storey rear extension replacing two existing rear extensions, utilising a smaller footprint.

5. Conditions on the consent

Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Curatorial Division, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, advised that a condition be imposed if the planning application was approved

Accordingly, in granting approval for the application, the Local Planning Authority imposed a condition on the consent; the condition 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 conducted. The archaeological watching brief shall be undertaken to the standards of the Institute for Archaeologists. The Local Planning Authority shall be informed in writing, at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development of the name of the said archaeologist and no work shall begin until the Local Planning Authority has confirmed, in writing, that the proposed archaeologist is suitable. A copy of the watching brief report shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within two months of the fieldwork being completed by the archaeologist.

Reason: to identify and record any feature of archaeological interest discovered during the works, in order to mitigate the impact of the works on the archaeological resource.

6. Specification

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



Figure 1: Location of watching brief

7. Historical and Archaeological Overview

A more detailed discussion of the previously recorded archaeology in the area is given in Appendix A, section 3, but the presence of Loughor Castle and Roman Fort just outside the development plot were the main reasons for the watching brief.

8. Methodology

On Monday 28th July 2014, foundations trenches for an extension to the rear of the building were excavated, see Figure 2. This process was observed by Trysor.

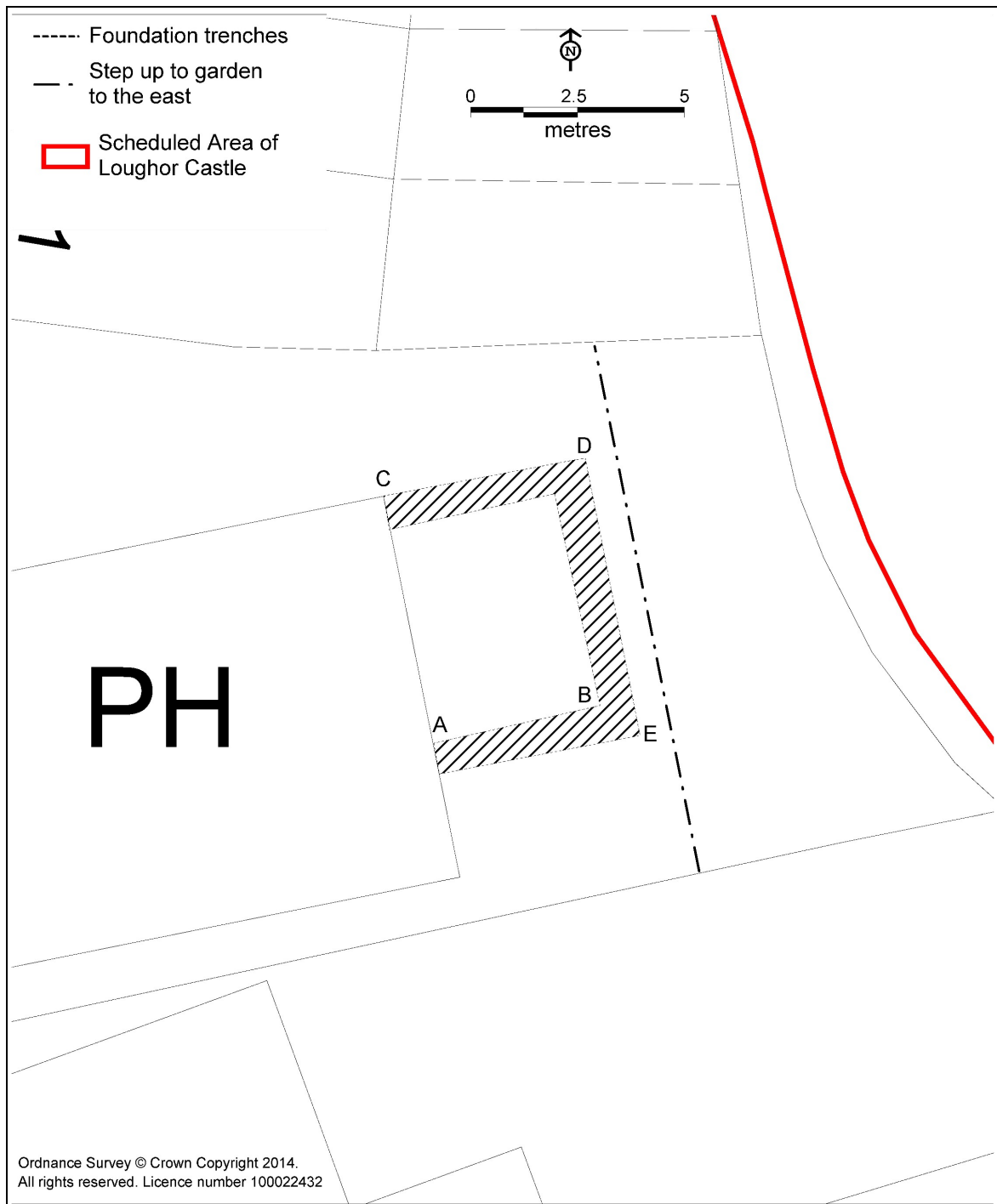


Figure 2: The location of the foundation trenches to the rear of 13, Station Road.

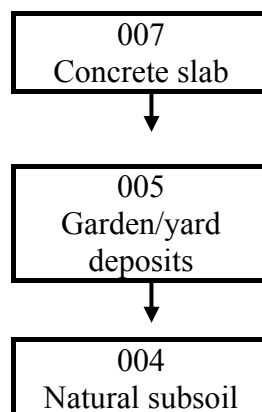
9. Site Stratigraphy

The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (Institute for Archaeologists, updated 2013). The mechanical excavation of the foundation trenches was watched by Trysor and the stratigraphy of the site recorded.

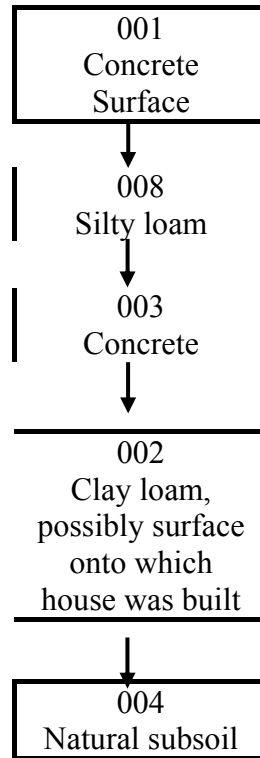
9.1 Context Catalogue

Context Number	Depth	Description	Interpretation
001		Concrete	Up to 0.15 metres
002		10YR 4/2 Dark grayish brown, clay loam	Possible remains of former ground surface prior to house being built, no artefacts.
003	Up to 0.2 metres	Concrete	Concrete base of former structure
004	-	7.5YR4/4 to 7.5YR 4/5 Brown silty clay with rounded stones up to 0.30 metres long within it	Natural subsoil
005	Up to 0.25m	7.5YR2.5/1 Black, very friable, grit, with white flecks, no artefacts noted	Former garden/yard deposits , see Photo 107
006	Up to 0.25 metres	Very mixed material with lenses and patches including house brick, mortar and charcoal	Demolition, rubbish layer
007	0.10 metres	Concrete slab	Drive/yard surface
008	Up to 0.40 metres	10YR 4/2 Dark grayish brown, friable silty loam	Material backfilled on top on 003

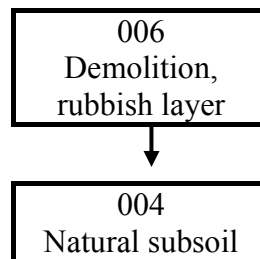
Section C to D



Section A to B



Section D to E



10. Photographs

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
SRL2014_101	Looking across the development area after removal of the concrete slab covering the area but before excavation of the foundation trenches	28/07/2014	Looking south southwest.
SRL2014_102	Showing the step up to the garden area to the east – scheduled area of Loughor Castle just beyond boundary in the background	28/07/2014	Looking east northeast
SRL2014_103	Showing the southern end of the step up to the garden area to the east with remaining concrete base in photo	28/07/2014	Looking east northeast
SRL2014_104	Back of the house as excavation of foundation trenches begins. The scars of previous extensions can be seen.	28/07/2014	Looking southwest
SRL2014_105	The foundation trench at the southern end of section D to E showing XXX overlying 004	28/07/2014	Looking east northeast
SRL2014_106	Foundation trench at E, showing block of concrete.	28/07/2014	Looking south southeast
SRL2014_107	The foundation trench at the eastern end of C to D showing 005 overlying 004	28/07/2014	Looking north northwest
SRL2014_108	Foundation trench at the western end of A to B context 002, overlying 004	28/07/2014	Looking north northwest
SRL2014_109	Foundation trench at the mid point of A to B showing collapse of side revealing 008 over 003 overlying 004	28/07/2014	Looking north
SRL2014_110	General view across the excavated foundation trenches	28/07/2014	Looking north northeast
SRL2014_111	Looking along foundation trench from E to D	28/07/2014	Looking north northwest
SRL2014_112	General view across the excavated foundation trenches towards C	28/07/2014	Looking northwest
SRL2014_113	General view across the excavated foundation trenches towards A	28/07/2014	Looking west northwest

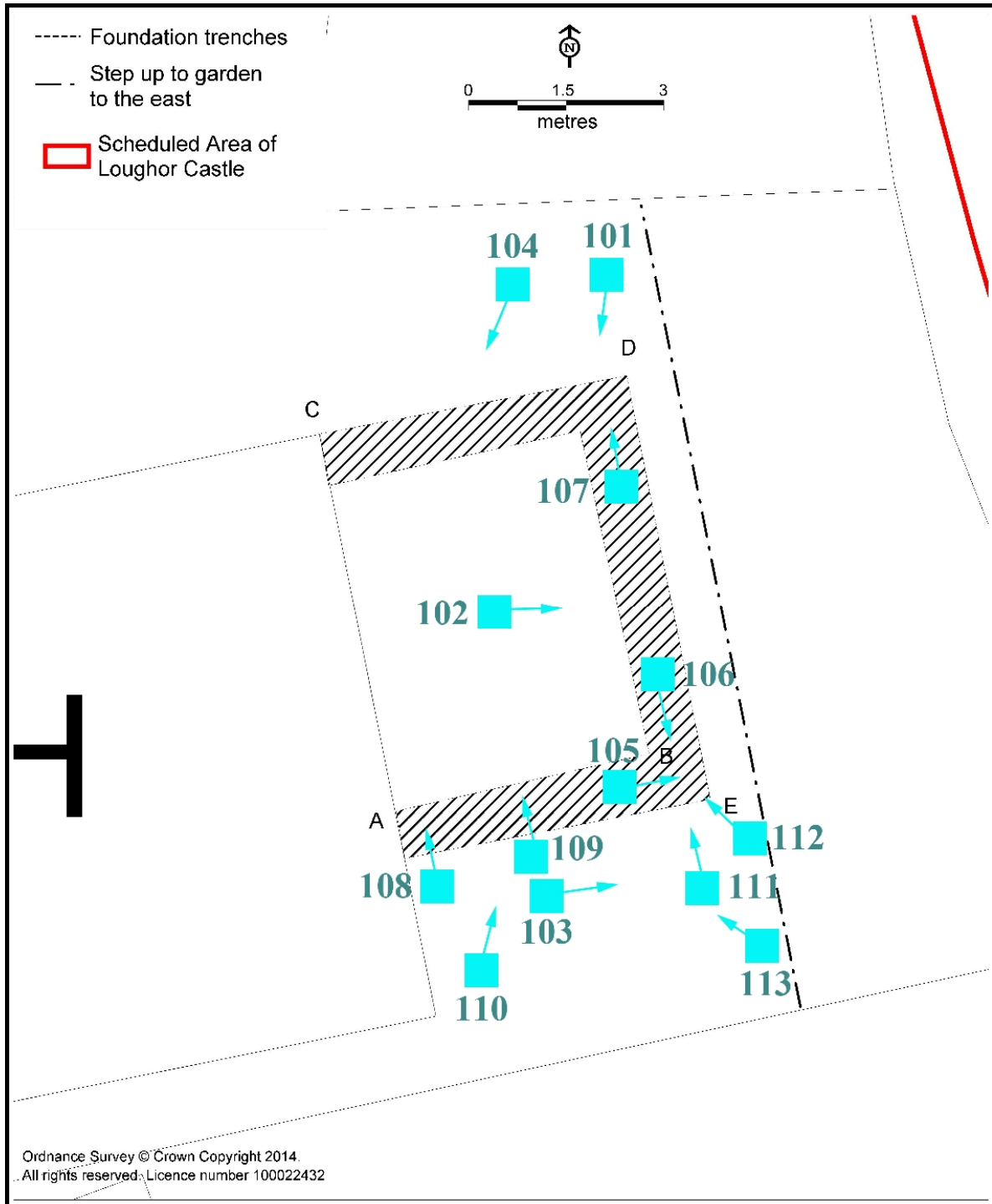


Figure 3: Location and directions of photographs

11. Conclusion

No archaeologically significant contexts or artefacts were noted.

12. Archive

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.

Further copies of the report have also been supplied to Mrs Rees and the Historic Environment Record at Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust, Swansea.

13. Sources**13.1 Published sources****13.2 Unpublished sources****13.3 IfA Standard and Guidance**

Institute for Archaeologists, 2013 (updated), Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief, available online from the IfA website, www.archaeologists.net

APPENDIX A – Watching Brief Specification

**13, STATION ROAD, LOUGHOR, SWANSEA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF SPECIFICATION**

Planning application – 2014/0174

1. Introduction

Mrs J Rees, of 3, Castle Court, Loughor, Swansea, SA4 6UN has commissioned Trysor heritage consultants to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks at 13, Station Road, Loughor, Swansea, SA4 6TR relating to planning application number: 2014/0174.

The development is at SS5639097959 on the eastern side of Station Road, Loughor, to the rear of the house.



Figure 1: Location of Station Road in Loughor

2. The development

The development consists of single storey rear extension replacing two existing rear extensions, utilising a smaller footprint.

3. Nature of the archaeological resource

During the construction of the Great Western railway in 1851 parts of a Roman bathhouse were found at Loughor. Excavations in the 1970s and 1980s ahead of work for a road development confirmed the presence of a fort. The fort was laid out on the glacial gravels on the east side of the river Loughor at a point that has been favoured as a crossing point. In order to accommodate the fort on the slope down to the river a series of terraces were created. Eight phases of activity were identified, see table 1 below.

I	AD73/4 to AD80	laying out of the first fort and first buildings
II	AD80 to AD85	second phase of buildings
III	AD85 to AD100	third phase of buildings
IV	AD100 to AD105	fourth phase of buildings including construction of external bath house
V	AD105 to AD110	fifth phase of building
VI	AD110 to AD115/120	refurbishment of rampart, construction of stone tower in southeast corner, new defensive ditch, bath house abandoned, roads resurfaced and sixth phase of buildings
VII	AD115 to AD 120/260	Construction second, smaller fort occupied intermittently
VIII	c.AD360 -310+	Refurbishment of ramparts with a capping wall and cobblestone casing, large timber building in southwest corner of the fort

Table 1: Identified phases of activity at Loughor roman fort

Little is known of what external settlement may have lain outside the fort. The bath house (ID number 3) was to its south. RCAHMW investigators found two cremation burials (ID number 3) on the edge of the marsh to the south of the fort, of probable 1st to 2nd century date. They thought that their presence there was probably why there was a Church Site marked there on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map at that point. A stone inscribed with ogam, which was thought to be a reused Roman altar stone altar, was found somewhere in Loughor but its true provenance seems to have been lost. A possible pottery kiln (PRN 00220w) associated with a quantity of late 1st to early 2nd century pottery was found to the north of the fort. A hoard of 60 coins, dating to AD250 to AD263 was reported in a journal of 1856 and may possibly be the site of the Roman coins shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.

It is believed that the B4620 road (Castle Street) is the fossilised route of the road into the north east side of the fort (Sherman and Evans, 2004, p. 27-28)

Loughor Castle lies within the eastern angle of the Roman fort. The earliest medieval remains appear to be a primary ring bank constructed between 1106 and 1151. In the second half of the twelfth century the bank was extended inwards and two stone buildings were raised in the late twelfth to early thirteenth century. The main curtain wall was added in the later part of the thirteenth century. In the late thirteenth century the square tower that is the prominent survival on the site today was inserted into the curtain wall. The borough is first mentioned in 1319, but is thought to have been established in the later thirteenth century.

ID number	Type	Period	NGR	NPRN	PRN	Ref
1	Fort	Roman	SS56369800	107606	00202w	Burnham & Davies, 2010
2	Road	Roman	SS5686198131	307253	01016.0w	Sherman & Evans, 2004
3	Bathhouse	Roman	SS56349799		00200w	RCAHMW 1976
4	Kiln?	Roman	SS56589814		00220w	RCAHMW 1976
5	Cremation	Roman	SS56589777			RCAHMW 1976
6	Cist	Roman	SS56479808		01400w	Ling RJ & Ling LA/1973
7	Altar?	Roman?	Location unknown		00206w	RCAHMW 1976
8	Coin Hoard	Roman	SS56199794			RCAHMW 1976
9	Castle	Medieval	SS5642597984	417	00203w	
10	Church	Medieval	SS5634597992	13509	00223w	
11	Town	Medieval	SS5640098000	401423		
12	Building	Medieval	SS56439805		02785w	OS, 1956
13	Tenement	Medieval	SS567981		01941w	HER only, no sources given, is site in the right place?

Table 2: Identified phases of activity at Loughor roman fort

By the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886, surveyed in 1879, Station Road had been built, presumably built after 1851 when the railway to the south was built. Station Road is shown as two terraces at a slight angle to each other with a detached building in between them. This building is 13 Station Road which on the 1921 Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1913, is labelled as a public house. The southern part of the southern terrace had been removed by this date. Personal testaments online indicate that it was the Station Hotel, and in more recent years Hurrens restaurant.

4. Impact of the Development on the Resource

The development lies within the area of the Roman fort, with the castle building 20 metres to the northeast and the church 45 metres to the northwest. This high potential for buried archaeological material is offset by the previous development here. The two previous extensions will have disturbed the ground to the rear of 13 Station Road.

5. Conditions on the consent

Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Curatorial Division, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, advised that a condition be imposed if the planning application was approved

Accordingly, in granting approval for the application, the Local Planning Authority imposed a condition on the consent; the condition 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 conducted. The archaeological watching brief shall be undertaken to the standards of the Institute for Archaeologists. The Local Planning Authority shall be informed in writing, at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development of the name of the said archaeologist and no work shall begin until the Local Planning Authority has confirmed, in writing, that the proposed archaeologist is suitable. A copy of the watching brief report shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within two months of the fieldwork being completed by the archaeologist.

Reason: to identify and record any feature of archaeological interest discovered during the works, in order to mitigate the impact of the works on the archaeological resource.

6. Field methodology

The watching brief will be carried out in accordance with Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA, 2013a)

A two-person team will watch the excavation for groundworks associated with development and will examine the exposed stratigraphy of the groundworks undertaken in association with the development. All trenches will be examined and features 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

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, Glamorgan Gwent 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

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

9. Recording

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.

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.

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, 2013b). Any artefacts will be retained, cleaned and stored. Following reporting they will be returned to the applicant.

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

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

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, 2013a, p.12) 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

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

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, 2013c). 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

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

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. Since 2004 she has been an independent archaeologist undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desktop assessments and watching briefs.

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15. Insurance & Professional indemnity

Trysor has Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

16. Project identification

The project has been designated Trysor Project No. 2013/395

17. Sources

17.1 Maps

Ordnance Survey, 1886, Carmarthenshire LIX.SW, scale 1:10560, surveyed 1879
Ordnance Survey, 1907, Carmarthenshire LIX.SW, scale 1:10560, surveyed 1905
Ordnance Survey, 1921, Carmarthenshire LIX.SW, scale 1:10560, surveyed 1913
Ordnance Survey, 1942, Carmarthenshire LIX.SW, scale 1:10560, surveyed 1935
Ordnance Survey, 1948, Carmarthenshire LIX.SW, scale 1:10560, surveyed 1938
Ordnance Survey, 1951, Carmarthenshire LIX.SW, scale 1:10560, surveyed 1948

17.2 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*

Sherman, A and Evans, E. 2004, *Roman roads in Southeast Wales* GGAT report no. 2004/073

17.3 Published

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IfA, 2013b, *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*.

IfA, 2013c, *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*

Ling RJ & Ling LA, 1973, *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, CXXII pp99-146

RCAHMW, 1976, *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Glamorgan, Volume I Pre-Norman, Part II The Iron Age and the Roman Occupation*

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Trysor

June 2014

APPENDIX B



Plate 1: SRL2014_10, After removal of floors from previous extensions, looking southwest.



Plate 2: SRL2014_102, Step-up to the garden area to the east, looking east northeast.



Plate 3: SRL2014_103, Southern end of step up to garden, looking east northeast.



Plate 4: SRL2014_104, The back of the house showing scars from previous extensions, looking southwest.



Plate 5: SRL2014_105 Concrete slab overlying 004, the natural subsoil, looking east northeast.



Plate 6: SRL2014_106, Concrete block, looking south southeast.



Plate 7: SRL2014_107, Foundation trench at the eastern end of C to D, looking north northwest.



Plate 8: SRL2014_108, foundation trench at the western end of A to B, looking north northwest.



Plate 9: SRL2014_109, Foundation trench at mid point between A and B, looking north



Plate 10: SRL2014_110, general view across foundation trenches, looking north northeast.



Plate 11: SRL2014_111, Looking along foundation trench from E to D, looking north northwest.



Plate 12: SRL2014_112, general view across foundation trenches, looking northwest.



Plate 13: SRL2014_113, general view across foundation trenches, looking west.