

**ACWB1801R**

**Office use only**

AC file   
RCAHMW   
VCCouncil   
Developer

**ARCHAEOLOGY CYMRU**



Canon-hill Art-space  
Canon Street  
Barry

Vale of Glamorgan  
CF62 7RH  
07437 747402

archaeologycymru@live.co.uk

**REPORT**

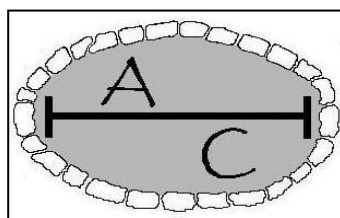
**WATCHING BRIEF**  
QUINCE COTTAGE  
LLYSWORNEY  
VALE OF GLAMORGAN  
CF71 7NQ



Grid Reference: **SS96312 74053**

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018

Planning App. No. **2011/01141 Vale of Glamorgan Council**



## **A Summary List of Contexts**

Site Plans and Appendices	3
Summary	4 -5
Introduction	6 - 7
Acknowledgements	8
Situation and Topography	9
Map	10
Geology	11
Soil Profile	11 - 12
Site plan	13
The Excavations	14 - 25
Archaeological Discussion	26
Glossary of Finds	27
Discussion of Finds	28 - 30
Archaeological Observation in General	31 - 32
Photographic record conclusion	33- 34
Discussion and Conclusions	35 - 36
Recommendations	37
Bibliography	38

ANNEX attached PROJECT DESIGN IN FULL

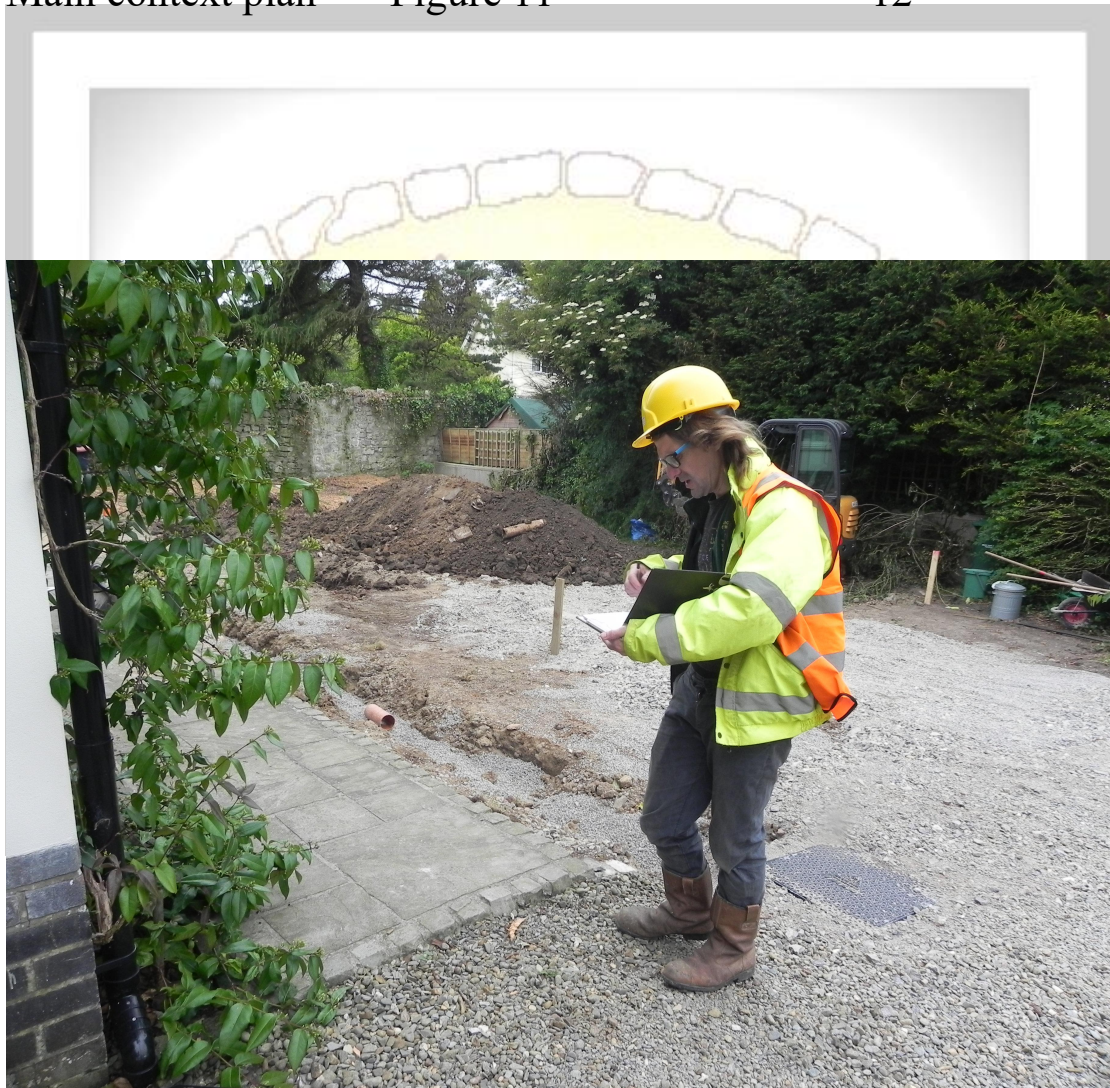
## Site Plans and Appendices

Photograph images

Figures Cover, 1 - 50 (excluding 8 and 11) 1 - 37

Map Figure 8 9

Main context plan Figure 11 12



*Figure 1, Karl-James Langford on site taking notes.*

## Summary

*It was believed by the County Archaeological curator, the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (Trust), that there was evidence for potential archaeological remains to exist close to the site of a development known as Quince Cottage. There had been a previous 'watching brief' within the boundaries as referred to in the 'project design:8':*

*The Cardiff Archaeological Consultants were asked to carry out an archaeological watching brief at Quince Cottage, whilst groundwork's were being carried out whilst extensions and a small building were being excavated and constructed as an addition to a private housing complex. The excavation was carried out between 16/06/2012-29/10/2012 and no significant archaeological remains were encountered.*

*The 'Trust', believed that the close location of the Llysworney Medieval village and other levels of evidence (See Annex) to support the need for an archaeological mitigation strategy via a 'Watching Brief'; these are the archaeological conditions attached to the development.*

*A day 'Watching Brief' that examined the excavation of site, took the footings below the required 750mm as in the Annex, figure 5, revealed no structural evidence or any artefacts of any date in context within the 3 trenches excavated (A-C, see figure 11). In regards to stratification of the three trenches, the excavations went down on average to a depth of 1,100mm, at 700mm from ordnance datum across the site the natural light brown sandy loam context (002) was reached. Above this layer the ground could be described as plough-zone soil, and Victorian garden dark brown to black sandy loam (context 001). However in trench C (see figure 11), there was a modern cesspit (figure 4), which had been discontinued, this dominated over half of the trench, obviously this feature had destroyed any archaeology.*

*Within this the top context (plough-zone soil) described above there were two un-stratified artefacts located, a Victorian clay-pipe (context 003) within trench A top context 001, and the base of a Ewenny iron honey glazed pot (context 004) of late 1800s date within trench C. Both artefacts were scrapped up within the digger bucket in the immediate top soil, and are therefore classed as un-stratified on this account.*

*It is the opinion of the author that there is a degree, but without 100% certainty within the current development at Quince Cottage Llysworney, that there is NO archaeological record of any period immediately east within the property boundary.*



*Figures 2 to 4, trench A under excavation, with spoil heap present. Length of utility trench north to south. Cess pit looking north in trench B/C*

## Introduction



*Figure 5 Trench A, being excavated down to level: 1,100mm*

The site, which forms the basis of this Watching Brief, is located within the grounds of Quince Cottage, Llysworney, Vale of Glamorgan (centred at NGR **SS96312 74053**). The site of the cottage is surrounded by gardens, lawn and a gravel yard. The area of study for the footing of the garage site was covered by a mixed gravel and compacted top soil layer. The whole of the application area is around 0.1 acre in extent.

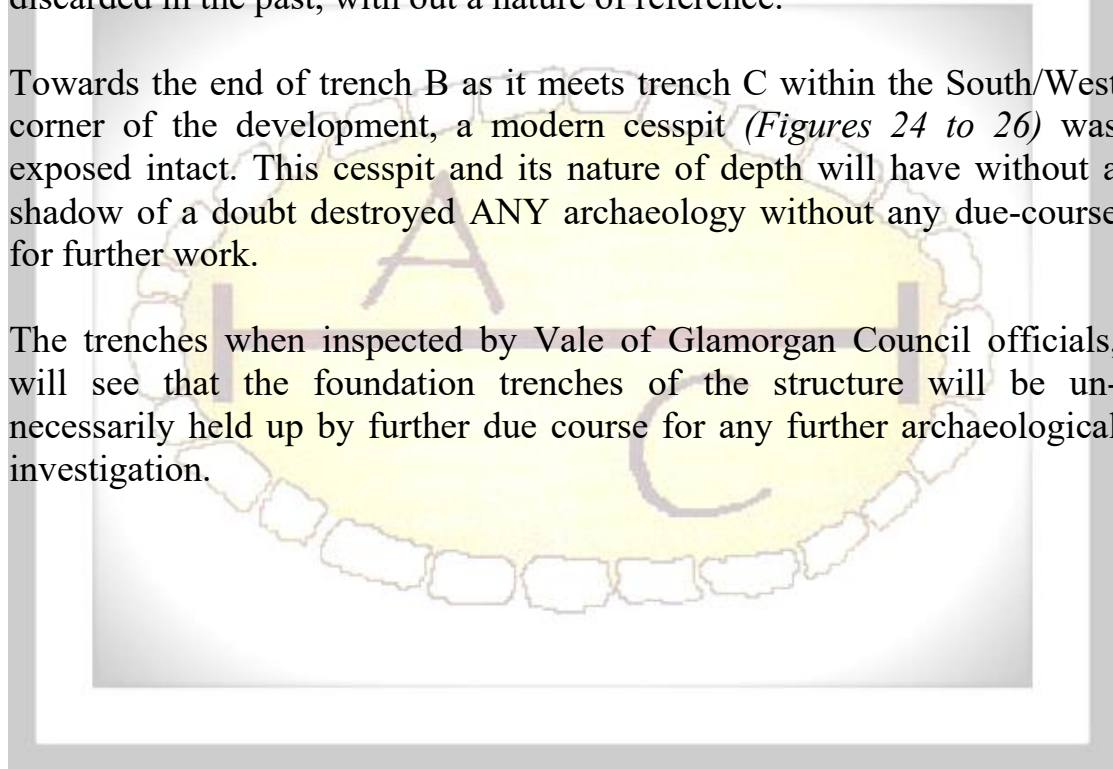
Karl-James Langford and colleagues of Archaeology Cymru were commissioned to carry out an archaeological Watching Brief for Peter and Trisha Emery following a planning application for a new build construction of a detached garage. The basic requirement to supervise excavation equipment to a depth of around 1,000mm of three trenches, around 600mm in width (*see annex and figure 5*).

The Watching Brief was requested to fulfil the requirements of Planning Policy Wales 2002. More detailed advice is to be found in Welsh Office Circular 60/96, which recommends that ‘the developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeologist is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area, so that an archaeological Watching Brief can be conducted.’ Also, this Archaeological Watching Brief will be undertaken to meet ‘Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists’, 2014)’.

On undertaking a day of 'watching brief' whilst the digger was being used on site, three trenches (A to C) see, *figures 14, 23 and 35* were excavated in total to an average depth in practice to 1,100mm (*see figures 16 and 17*), and the trench width were on average 600mm wide, by no more as can be expected with trench collapse to 700mm in width. The conditions concerning the weather was ideal. The JCB bucket made easy work of the contexts (001 and 002) as there was no resistance. Both contexts contained little to no stone, and the 'natural' was found at 700mm across the entirety of the site. See, *Soil Strata/Profile* for details of both contexts (001 and 002). There was surprising no artefacts in context, except for a Victorian clay-pipe bowl (context 003) and Ewenny pottery (context 004), more detail in *Glossary of finds and contexts*. Both artefacts were out of context, and indicate that they had been thus discarded in the past, with out a nature of reference.

Towards the end of trench B as it meets trench C within the South/West corner of the development, a modern cesspit (*Figures 24 to 26*) was exposed intact. This cesspit and its nature of depth will have without a shadow of a doubt destroyed ANY archaeology without any due-course for further work.

The trenches when inspected by Vale of Glamorgan Council officials, will see that the foundation trenches of the structure will be unnecessarily held up by further due course for any further archaeological investigation.



## **Acknowledgements**



*Figure 6 Karl-James Langford at work observing a JCB at trench B*

Karl-James Langford of Archaeology Cymru was commissioned to carry out an archaeological Watching Brief for Peter and Trisha Emery after planning permission was granted with conditions. One condition was an archaeological Watching Brief.

We are grateful for the support of the site owners.

Archaeology Cymru is appreciative for the assistance on site from Michelle Harry. We are also greatly appreciative of the time given by Richie Builders, in assisting us with the Watching Brief.

This report has been assisted by Rhona Dyer Archaeology Cymru within an administrative capacity.





*Figure 7, Richie Builders on site*

## **Situation and Topography**

Llysworney is situated in the centre of rich agricultural land on a flat swathe, common in this part of the Vale of Glamorgan and close to the medieval market town of Cowbridge.


British Geological Survey  bedrock geology description of Llysworney: Porthkerry Member - Limestone and Mud-stone, Inter-bedded. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 191 to 201 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. Local environment previously dominated by shallow lime-mud sea.



Figure 8 Ordnance Survey scale 1:50, 000 Location of Llysworney

## Geology

The underlying Geology – it's regolith or bedrock was completely absent from the examination of the 3 trenches (*see figure 11*). It can be presumed therefore that the landscape saw a deposition of thick glacial clays after the retreat of the ice sheets 12,000 years ago. Or some of the build up on site may represent hill-ward wash of glacial clays.

---

## Soil/strata Profile

Generally there are two types (*see Figure 9*) of contextual soils at the site in general. These contexts are the layer of top soil, that could be classed as plough-zone, and Victorian garden dark brown to black sandy loam (context 001), below this layer the ground could be described which overlies at 700mm from ordnance datum across the site, the natural light brown sandy loam context (002) was reached. This context could be described as glacial in origin.

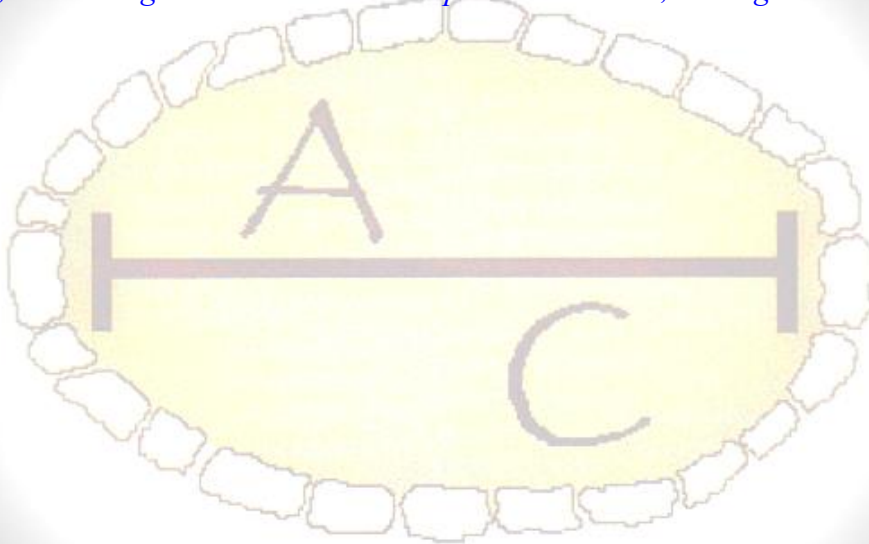
Context number	Brief description and notes
001	<i>Layer of top soil as plough-zone, and Victorian garden dark brown to black sandy loam.</i>
002	<i>Layer at 700mm from ordnance datum across the site the natural light brown sandy loam context was reached.</i>



*Figures 8a and 8b, depth at trench B*



*Figure 9, illustrating at level measurement point in trench B, see Figure 10*



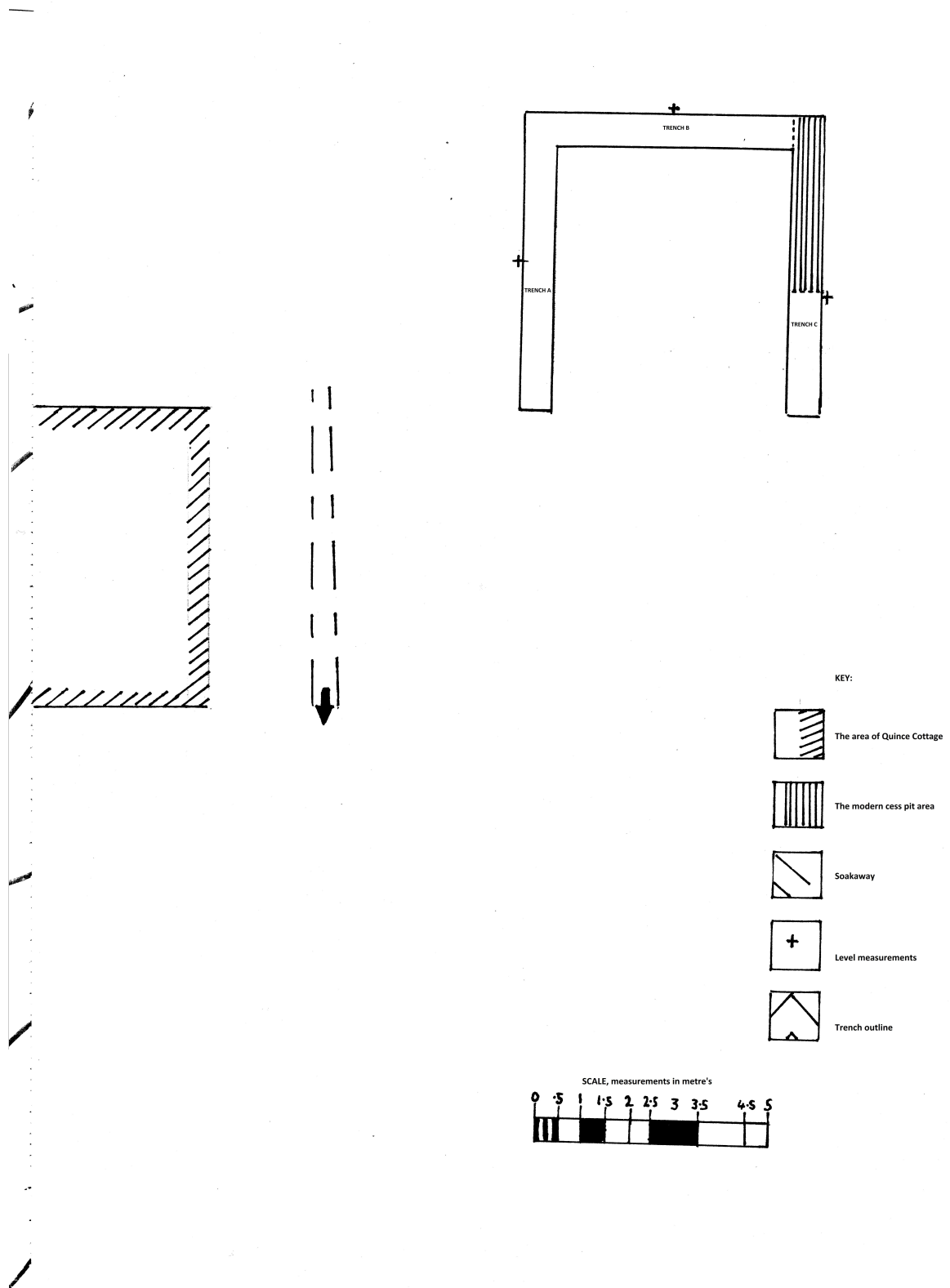


Figure 11 Site plan of Quince Cottage

## **The Excavations, and technique**

The Excavation at all the trenches (A to C) were undertaken using a small digger, the spoil was then taken away using an open backed truck. Each digger bucket load was observed as it left the ground, and the trench it created was examined for artefact or structural remains by two archaeologists from Archaeology Cymru. Then when the trenches were cleared a photographic record was created.

### **Trench A**

Trench A as explored through these images (*Figure 12*) shows extensively illustrated by the sections that there is no archaeology present. To avoid repetition the same statement is as with trench B and C. With the exception at trench C is dominated by a modern cess pit structure.



*Figure 12, section depth of trench A*

Trench A in *figure 13 and 14* here they would have intercepted any walls, structural contexts that may have been running in an East/West direction across the site. There is nothing clearly visible in Trench A.



*Figure 13, excavation of trench A*



*Figure 14, Trench A*

## **Trench B**

Trench B was explored using the same techniques at Trench A. In every conceivable way the Trench B matrix replicated that of Trench A. However for one exception.



*Figure 15, inspecting trench B*







*Figure 16 to 17 illustrating soil profile in trench B*



*Figure 18, section of trench B*

Towards the end of Trench B in a westerly direction towards the terminal with Trench C, a modern cess pit was revealed (Figures 20, 24 to 26). The cess pit has destroyed to an unknown depth, any archaeological that may have once existed in the South/West of the site.



*Figure 19, extensive tree root disturbance in trench B*



*Figure 20, continuation of the trench excavation from B to C.*





*Figure 21 to 23, further images of trench B*



*Figures 24 to 26 illustrating the modern cess pit leading from trench B to C*



*Figure 27 and 28, removal of the cess pit*

## **Trench C**

With the trench (C) dominated by a cess pit in the south leading to 2/3rds of the length, the remaining comment should be left for the north section of the trench.



*Figure 29 and 30, removal dimensions of the cesspit*



Figure 31 to 34

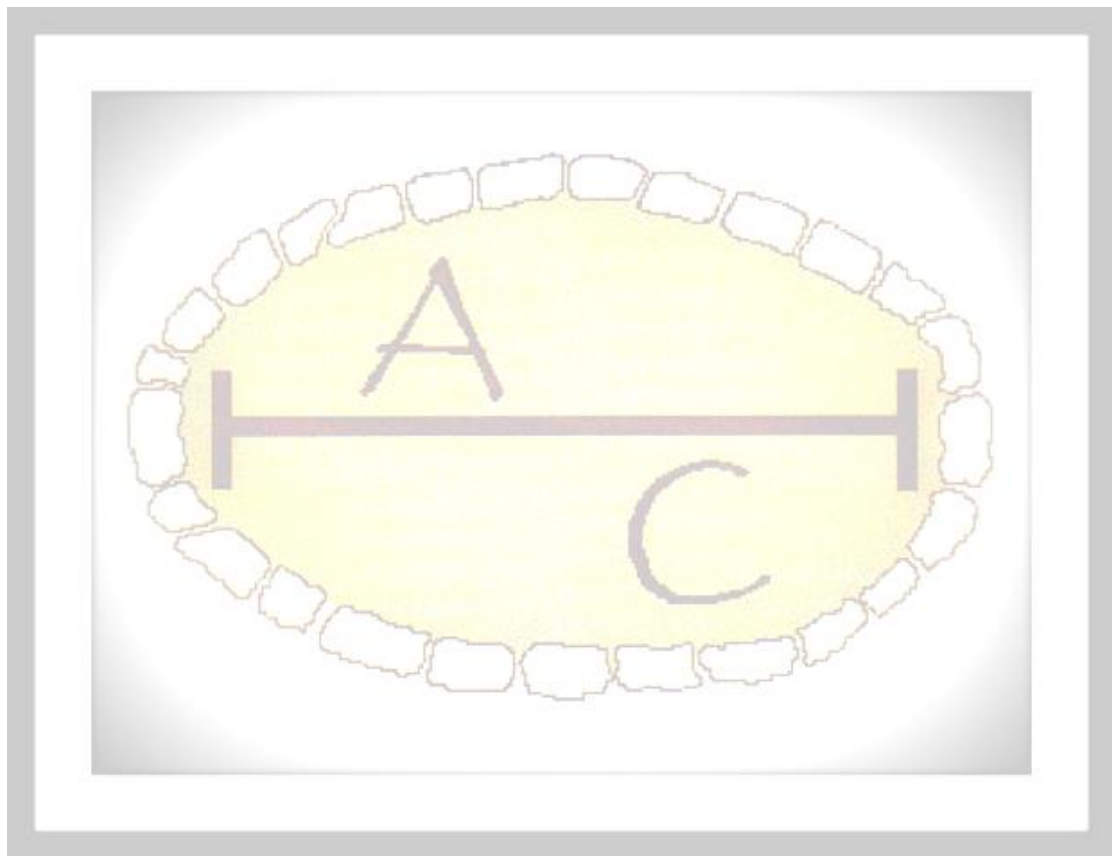
Southern end of cess pit in trench C leading into trench B

Concrete fabric of cess pit, trench C

Cess pit under clearance, trench C

Northern end of cess pit in trench C

Although the light was not as prominent in Trench C for examination of context 001 and 002, it became clear at the end, the northern end that the layers were the same as trench A and B.







*Figures 35 to 37  
Clearance of trench C  
from cess pit heading  
north*



*Levels in trench C*



*A cleared trench from the  
cesspit looking north*



Figure 38 to 40, trench C south to north.



Trench C looking south



Trench C active recording looking north

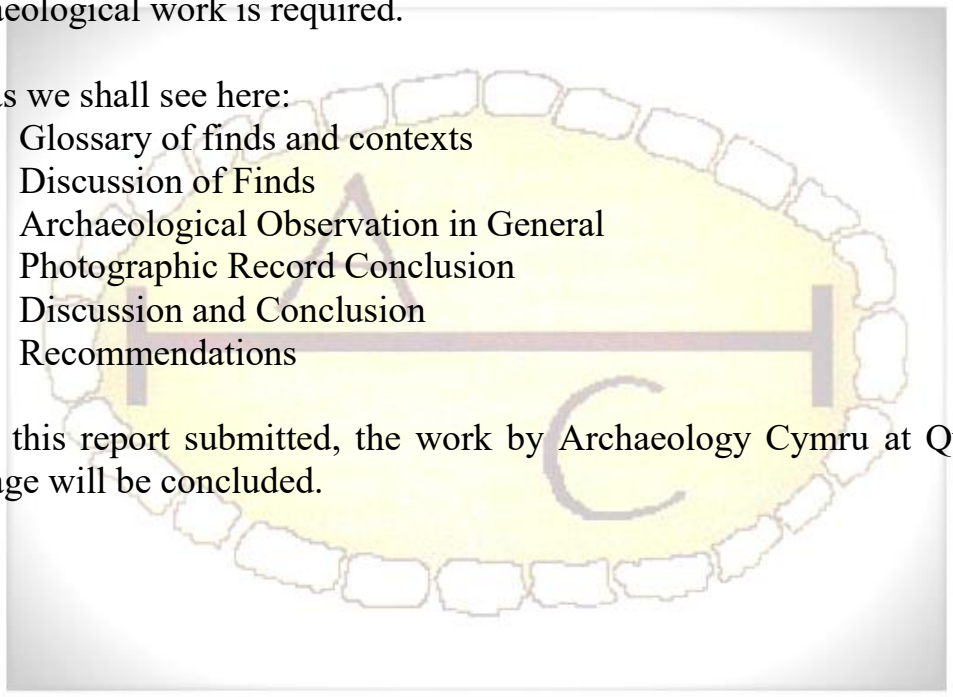
## **Archaeology discussion**

### **On conclusion of work**

The archaeological work was undertaken to the standards expected by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. Strict monitoring was enforced by two archaeologists, and nothing was deemed absent from the archaeological recording strategy.

It is the opinion of Archaeology Cymru that in light of the absence of archaeological deposits across all three trenches in regards to the development, as seen in the ‘watching brief’ trenches, no further archaeological work is required.

But as we shall see here:



- Glossary of finds and contexts
- Discussion of Finds
- Archaeological Observation in General
- Photographic Record Conclusion
- Discussion and Conclusion
- Recommendations

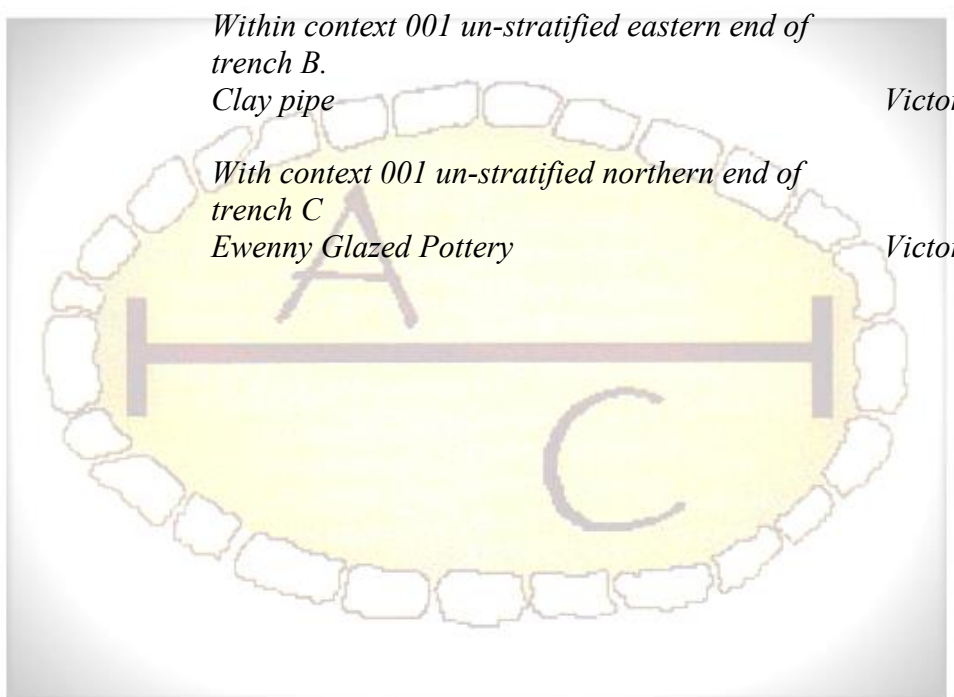
With this report submitted, the work by Archaeology Cymru at Quince Cottage will be concluded.

## Glossary of finds and contexts

The context list was limited, so the finds, contexts, and buildings were placed into one single list so that this limits confusion on analysis.

### ◊A Summary List of Finds◊

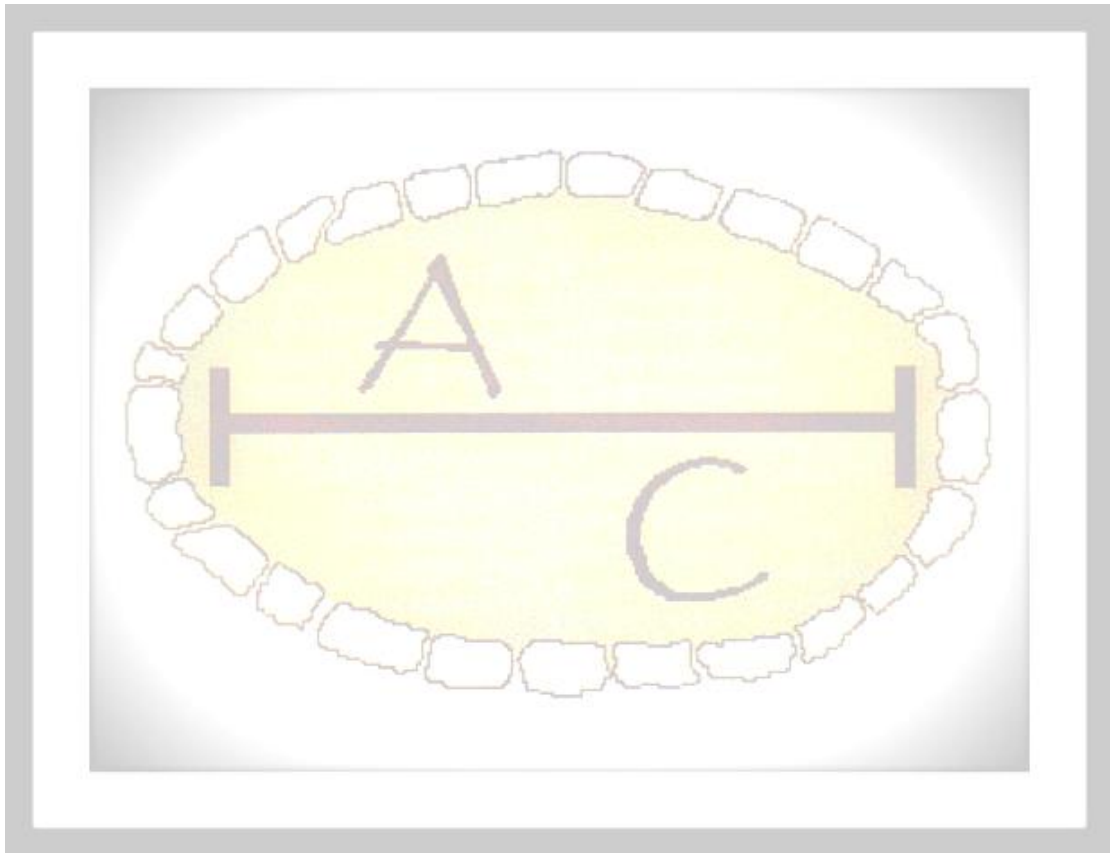
<u>Context</u> <u>Find no.</u>	<u>Brief Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
001	Layer of top soil as plough-zone, and Victorian garden dark brown to black sandy loam.	Modern
002	Layer at 700mm from ordnance datum across the site the natural light brown sandy loam context was reached.	12,000 bp
003	Within context 001 un-stratified eastern end of trench B. Clay pipe	Victorian
004	With context 001 un-stratified northern end of trench C Ewenny Glazed Pottery	Victorian



## **Discussions of Finds**

Both finds (context 003 and 004) were found out of situ, they are unstratified. Context 003 a Victorian clay-pipe was found in top soil (context 001) in the region of trench B, and the Ewenny Pottery (context 004) was found in top soil in trench C.

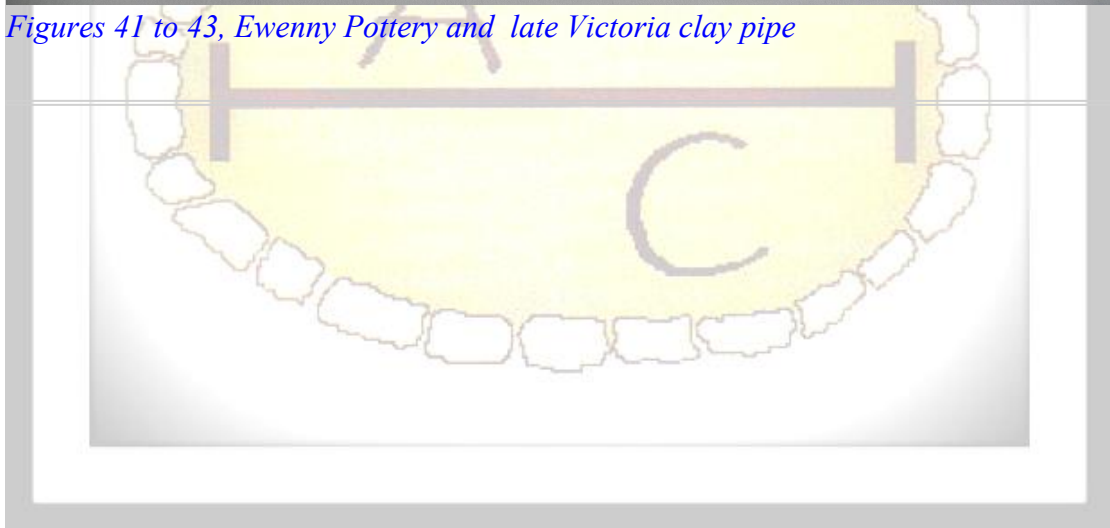
All that can be ascertained by both artefacts (context 003 and 004) is that they date from the middle to late part of the 1800s and without further in-depth study they were obviously discarded as garden debris some within those dates.







*Figures 41 to 43, Ewenny Pottery and late Victoria clay pipe*



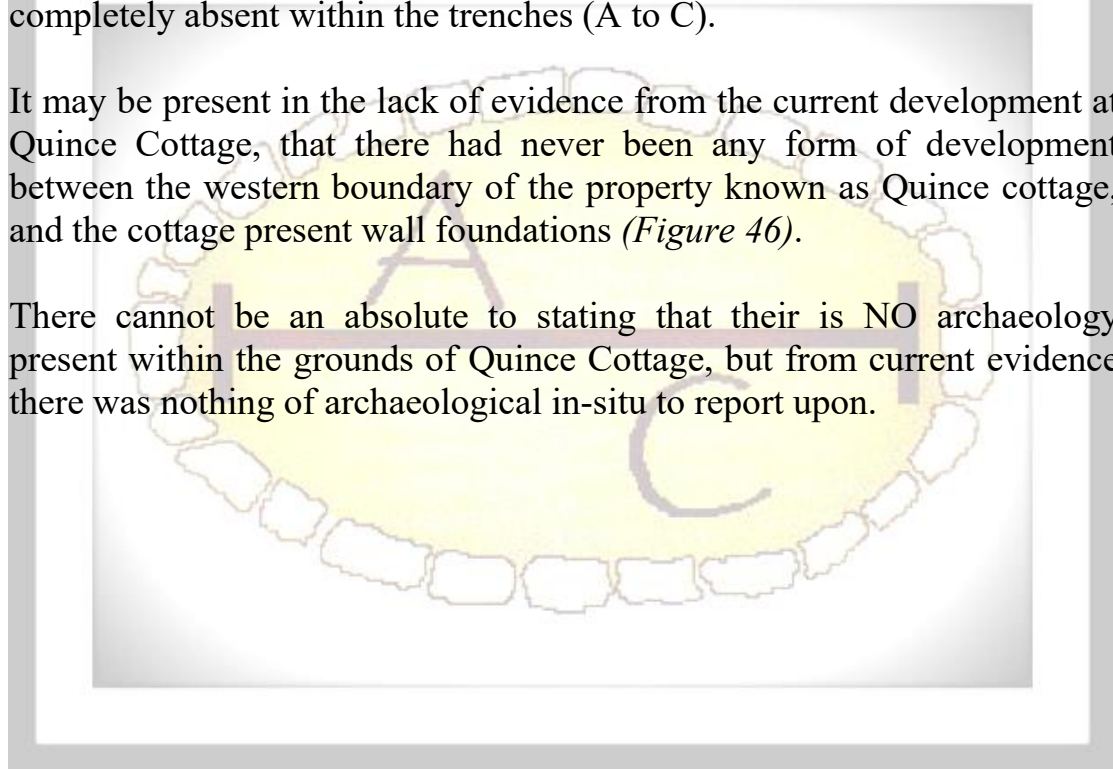
## Archaeological Observation in General

Many of the trench and area sections illustrated a complete lack of any change to texture and soil colour, this was all recorded via a photographic record. It was therefore decided due to time constraints that the archaeological record on site would be principally based on this photographic record, and appropriate drawings made from these if required for publication and by the Curatorial County Archaeologist. No section drawings were necessary, as it was determined a level division between the two context layers at the site (001 and 002).

It can be surmised that any evidence relating to the extensive Medieval Village referenced to in the 'Annex', was completely absent in any form structurally or artefact. Any evidence in-situ from ANY period was also completely absent within the trenches (A to C).

It may be present in the lack of evidence from the current development at Quince Cottage, that there had never been any form of development between the western boundary of the property known as Quince cottage, and the cottage present wall foundations (*Figure 46*).

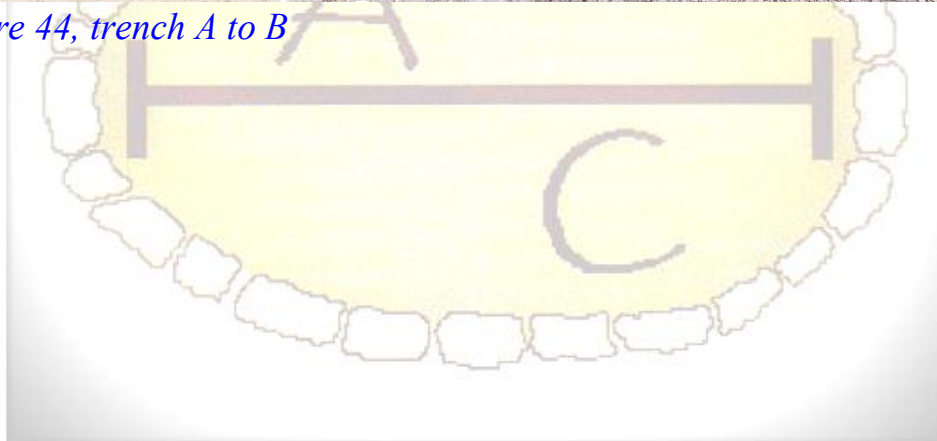
There cannot be an absolute to stating that there is NO archaeology present within the grounds of Quince Cottage, but from current evidence there was nothing of archaeological in-situ to report upon.





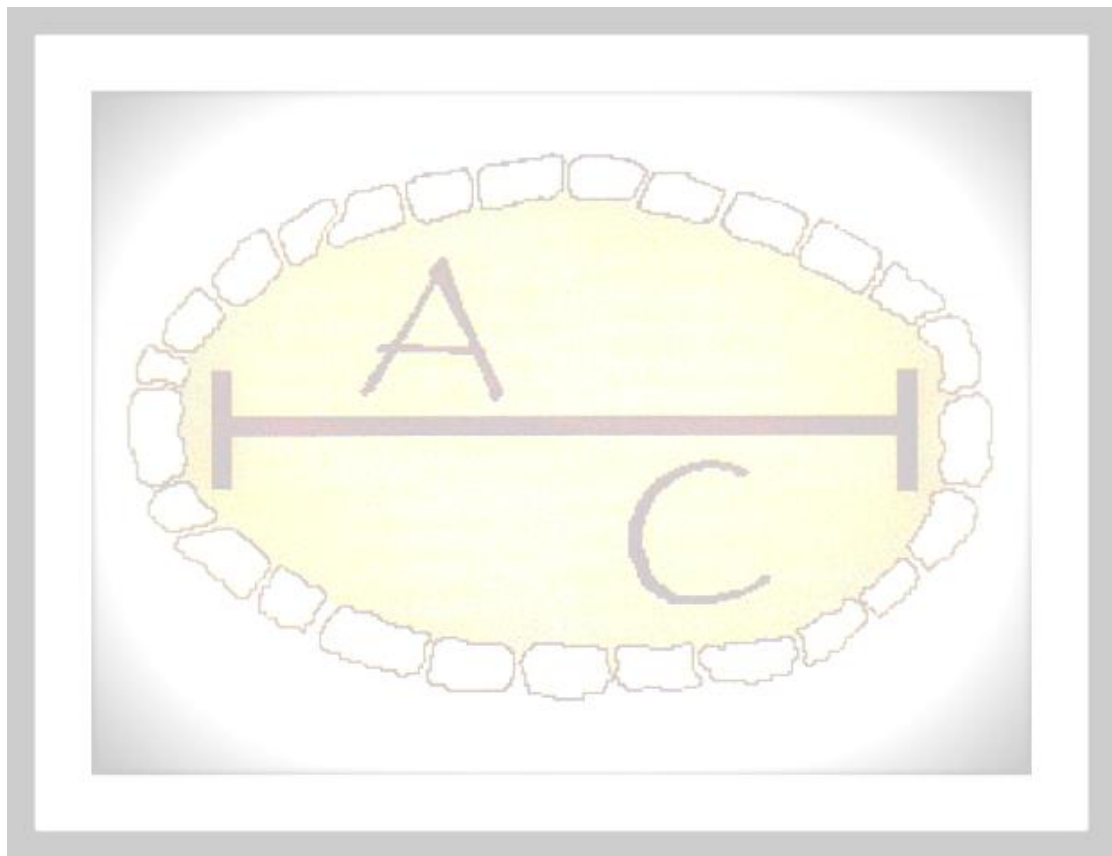


*Figure 44, trench A to B*



## **Photographic Record Conclusion**

The limited nature of the site, meant that the medium of photography was more feasible to record; although negative on an archaeological level as much as we could as illustrated above. Many of the images were taken with adequate lighting conditions. Where required to show heights, and to assist in locational properties a standard metre ranging rod was used. It can be ascertained the boundaries between context 001 and 002, when examining *Figures 9 and 12*.





*Figure 45 and 46, area of the trench excavation was well documented.*

## Discussion and Conclusion

Over a two day period an Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken to assess the nature of archaeological deposits at a site known as Quince Cottage. There had been previous Archaeological work undertaken at the site in 2012 by Cardiff Archaeological Consultants (*see, annex*), but the county archaeological curator the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, cited that there might be grounds to suspect an archaeological resource at the site based on evidence close to the surrounds of the existing development.

It could be assumed that the second watching brief (current) was necessary, and all archaeological work could be deeply relevant whether the results are negative or positive. In this case the work at Quince Cottage offered a 100% negative result, and nothing in context was withheld to being recorded across three trenches.

It was useful to ascertain that there had been no occupation of structural note within the grounds west of Quince cottage. This being determined the medieval village as discussed in the *Annex*, may indicate that for whatever reason it was absent here. This doesn't not mean to say that the extent of the medieval village is undermined, on the contrary, the village was sizeable to delineate area's that should be absent of structures.

Context 001, does show that due to the organic nature of its colouring it has been disturbed, that at some point in the past this area may have been ploughed and part of the medieval Ridge and Furrow system seen across the whole of medieval England (as Wales was seen as a political unit of England in the high Medieval period). Equally the land at Quince Cottage may have been set aside woodland, or private gardens for a medieval villager. This sense of a private garden was translated into the Victorian period, and now beyond into the present time-line.

In concluding, the current '*watching brief*' at Quince cottage was necessary, but any further archaeological mitigation at the location would not be advisory; based on two previous '*watching briefs*' (current and in 2012) at the site. The current work at Quince cottage was necessary to determine the archaeological resource, that has been achieved.



*Figures 47 to 49 East to West, then West to East in trench B and trench A*

## **Recommendations**

In light of the absence of ‘any’ archaeological remains or artefacts from across the site it is the recommendation that any requirement for any further archaeological work should forthwith be disposed of.

It should further to current work be cited that the Vale of Glamorgan Council should not have any further requirements for an archaeological mitigation strategy after this and a previous ‘watching brief’ by Cardiff Archaeological Consultants (2012:8, *see annex*) at Quince Cottage also offering an entirely negative result.



*Figure 50 Development looking east to west.*

## **Bibliography**

Ashton, R; Swallow, P & Watt, D (1993) Measurement and Recording of Historic Buildings  
Donhead : London

Robinson, D. M (1985) South Glamorgan's Heritage The Archaeology of a County  
G-GAT: Swansea

