

Barn Conversion,
Land between Pyle Road and Fulmar Road
Nottage, Porthcawl

Archaeological Watching Brief

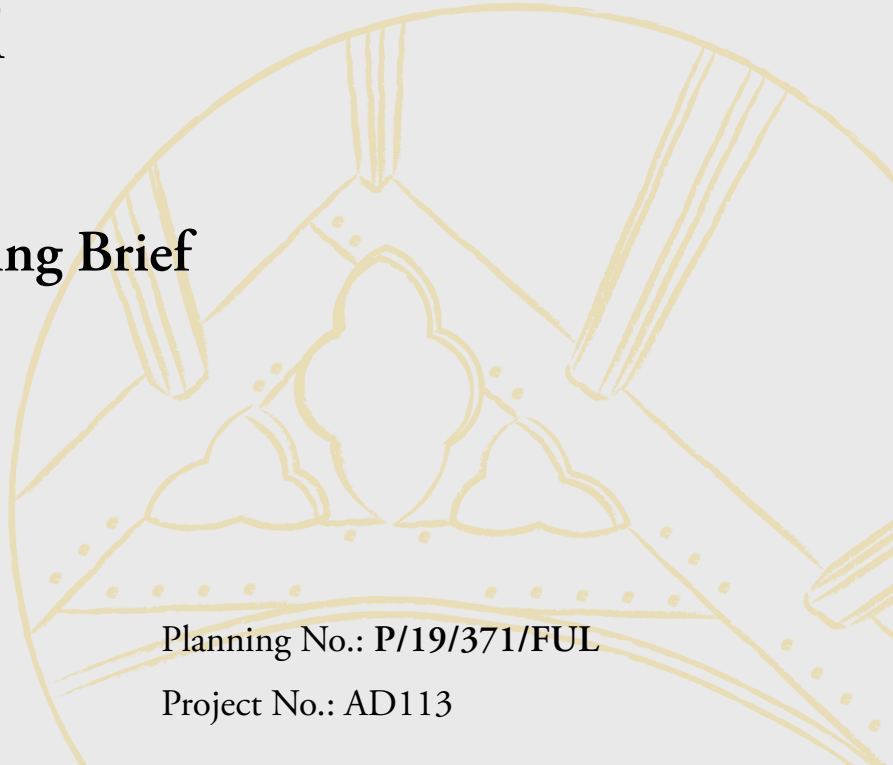
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Acknowledgements

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Abbreviations used in this report

HER	- Historic Environment Record.
GGAT-PS	- Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Planning Services.
LPA	- Local Planning Authority.
NGR	- National Grid Reference.
NMR	- National Monuments Record.
OS	- Ordnance Survey.

All other abbreviations will be referred to in text.

Project Team

Ross Cook FSA – A buildings archaeologist and dendrochronologist with a background in archaeology and buildings conservation. He has undertaken archaeological fieldwork throughout Wales and England, where he has also worked to produce detailed surveys of a wide range of Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings; this has included Ruthin Castle, Ludlow Castle Neath Abbey, Llansteffan Castle, Tretower Castle, Cilgerran Castle, Newport Castle Pembrokeshire, and Brymbo Ironworks. Ross is the Cathedral Archaeologist at St Davids Cathedral, and Consultant Archaeologist to Christchurch Priory, Dorset. He previously worked for the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales as a Historic Buildings Investigator (Archaeology), where he recorded buildings and Monuments, and provided advice on historic buildings at a national level. Currently he is involved in project work with Cadw, The Brymbo Heritage Group, and The Buildings of Medieval and Ottoman Palestine Research Project.

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ArchaeoDomus Archaeological & Heritage Services is the trading name of Ross Cook, an affiliate member of the CIfA, adhering to the CIfA codes of conduct.

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Barn Conversion, Nottage, Porthcawl

Watching Brief

Summary

ArchaeoDomus was commissioned by Roy Derrick, and The Laurels Trust to prepare a written scheme of investigation and undertake an archaeological watching brief and make a record of the west barn at Land between Pyle Road and Fulmar Road, Nottage, Porthcawl, Bridgend County Borough, CF36 3TA. The aim was to help enhance our understanding of the historic environment whilst enabling development.

The watching brief observed all excavations associated with development to monitor for any potential unseen archaeological resource. The building recording made a record of the west barn in advance of development.

The watching brief revealed that the area has undergone several phases of development since the Tithe Map of 1847. The most significant of these was the excavation of the railway cutting in 1861 for the Porthcawl Branch Line. This divided the area shown on the Tithe Map, demolished the barn, and caused two new barns to be constructed to the east and west of the cutting, which are shown on the First Edition 25-inch Map of 1877. Recording the surviving of these two barns, the west barn, revealed it was of a single phase of development, with buttresses added shortly after construction. Latterly, both barns underwent minor additions or alterations in the 20th century, for use as a builder's yard. After the closure of the branch line in 1963, the cutting became a site for dumping local waste, with more purposeful infill for the creation of the builder's yard, which was represented across the site by a common levelling material. A fire in 1979 destroyed the barn uncovered in Area 1, which was subsequently demolished, and its rubble spread across site. Shortly after the fire, the garage was built, using some of the stone from the destroyed barn. Scalpings were used to level the site and a concrete drive was poured from the entrance to the new garage. The yard became redundant in the late-20th century.

The fieldwork commenced on 15th December 2021 and concluded on 4th April 2022.

No further archaeological features or deposits were identified.

Sgwrs Barn, Nottage, Porthcawl

Bugeilio archaeolegol

Crynodeb

Comisiynwyd ArchaeoDomus gan Roy Derrick, ac Ymddiriedolaeth Laurels i baratoi cynllun ymchwil ysgrifenedig ac ymgymryd â briff gwyllo archeolegol a gwneud cofnod o ysgubor y gorllewin ar dir rhwng Heol y Pil a Heol Fulmar, Notta, Porthcawl, Burdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, CF36 3TA. Y nod oedd helpu i wella ein dealltwriaeth o'r amgylchedd hanesyddol wrth alluogi datblygiad.

Sylwodd y briff gwyllo pob cloddiaid sy'n gysylltiedig â datblygu i fonitro am unrhyw adnodd archeolegol nas gwelwyd posibl. Gwnaeth recordiad yr adeilad gofnod o ysgubor y gorllewin cyn datblygu.

Datgelodd y briff gwyllo fod yr ardal wedi cael sawl cam o ddatblygiad ers Map Degwm 1847. Y mwyaf sylweddol o'r rhain oedd cloddio'r toriad rheilffordd ym 1861 ar gyfer Rheilffordd Gangen Porthcawl. Rhannodd hyn yr ardal a ddangosir ar Fap y Degwm, dymchwelodd yr ysgubor, ac achosodd i ddwy ysgubor newydd gael eu hadeiladu i'r dwyrain a'r gorllewin o'r toriad, a ddangosir ar y Map Argraffiad Cyntaf 25 modfedd o 1877. Wrth gofnodi'r ddwy ysgubor hyn sydd wedi goroesi, datgelodd yr ysgubor orllewinol, ei fod o un cyfnod o ddatblygiad, gyda bwresi yn cael eu hychwanegu yn fuan ar ôl y gwaith adeiladu. Yn olaf, cafodd y ddau ysgubor fân ychwanegiadau neu addasiadau yn yr 20fed ganrif, i'w defnyddio fel iard adeiladur. Ar ôl cau'r llinell gangen ym 1963, daeth y toriad yn safle ar gyfer gwaredu gwastraff lleol, gyda mwy purpasol ar gyfer creu iard yr adeiladur, a gynrychioliodd ar draws y safle gan ddeunydd lefelu cyffredin. Dinistriodd tân yn 1979 yr ysgubor a ddatgelwyd yn Ardal 1, a gafodd ei ddymchwel wedyn, a lledaenodd ei rubel ar draws y safle. Yn fuan wedi'r tân, adeiladwyd y garej, gan ddefnyddio peth o'r garreg o'r ysgubor a ddinistriwyd. Defnyddiwyd scalpings i lefelu'r safle a thywlltwyd gyriant concriid o'r fynedfa i'r garej newydd. Daeth yr iard yn ddi-waith ar ddiwedd yr 20g.

Dechreuodd y gwaith maes ar 15 Rhagfyr 2021 a daeth i ben ar 4 Ebrill 2022.

Ni nodwyd unrhyw nodweddion na dyddodion archeolegol pellach.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 ArchaeoDomus were commissioned to undertake an archaeological programme of works at Land between Pyle Road and Fulmar Road, Nottage, Porthcawl, Bridgend County Borough, CF36 3TA (hereafter referred to as the 'site', 'barns' or 'development area'). This work included a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ArchaeoDomus 2021) and an archaeological watching brief and a record of the western barn. This project has been commissioned by Roy Derrick and The Laurels Trust.



Fig. 1 – Development Area, showing ownership. The Laurels Trust (red; west barn), and Roy Derrick (green; garage)

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 Planning permission was granted on 25th April 2019 under number P/19/371/FUL. Consent has been granted for the 'Proposed conversion (including extensions) of 2no. stone barns and associated land to 2no. dwellings with private garden space and a courtyard area accommodating associated parking spaces'. With permission Archaeological Conditions were recommended by Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Planning Services (GGAT-PS) to the Local Planning Authority, in line with *Planning Policy Wales section 6.5.7*, and *TAN 24 sections 4.13 and 4.14*. The conditions states:

10. No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agent of successors in title, has secured agreement for a written scheme of historic environment mitigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority. Thereafter, the programme of work

will be fully carried out in accordance with the requirements and standards of the written scheme.

Reason:

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

- 1.2.2 The Local Planning Authority is Bridgend County Borough Council, the planning application number is P/19/371/FUL, documentation relating to the application are available on request from the authority.
- 1.2.3 The development area comprises of two barns, which are being developed by different owners (Fig. 1). The west barn by The Laurels Trust (Fig. 1), and the garage by Roy Derrick (Fig.1). This archaeological project will cover both developments, which are under a single planning application.
- 1.2.4 A pre-development photographic record, comprising elements 1-9 of section 4.4.8 (HE 2016), where appropriate, will be made of the west barn only and will be included as an appendix to the watching brief report. Photographs will be taken with a camera with a resolution of no less than 12 megapixels, and will include a scale, where it is considered necessary. All photographs will be located on a plan to indicate their direction.
- 1.2.5 This record will be accompanied by a descriptive account of the building in line with Historic England's *Understanding Historic Buildings* (2016) section 4.5.2 item 6 (pg. 22), and item 12 (pg. 22), where achievable. This will describe the building's form, function, date, and sequence of development, including details of materials used in its construction. This will include the cartographic regression in section 3.7 of this WSI, which in line with section 9 (pg. 22). Plan and principal elevation drawings will be included with the record, in line with 4.3.3. item 2 (EH 2016).
- 1.2.6 The purpose for the Watching Brief is to provide information to Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Planning Services and Bridgend County Borough Council with information regarding any archaeological resources on the site. Requirements for this are set out in *Planning Policy Wales, Section 6.1* (Edition 11, Dec 2018, updated 2021), and sections 4.13 and 4.14 of *TAN 24: The Historic Environment* (2017). This framework ensures that heritage assets, archaeological remains and deposits are fully investigated, recorded, and catalogued if they are uncovered as a result of activities associated with development.
- 1.2.7 The LPA have placed a condition for a Level 3 HBR on the application, recommended by GGAT-PS. ArchaeoDomus undertook a rapid assessment of this building, which demonstrated the buildings to be of insufficient significance or detail for such a record to be undertaken. This information was communicated to GGAT-PS, where a recommendation was made to remove a levelled record, but to include a photographic record with plan in the appendix of the watching brief report. After some discussion, ArchaeoDomus and GGAT-PS have agreed an alternative form of suitable record of the building as formally set out in this written scheme.

- 1.2.8 The fieldwork was commenced 15th December 2021 and concluded 4th April 2022. It was undertaken in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ArchaeoDomus 2022) and in line with the guidance laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, *CIfA Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014; updated 2020).
- 1.2.9 All work was undertaken by a qualified archaeologist.
- 1.2.10 This report documents the results of the watching brief.

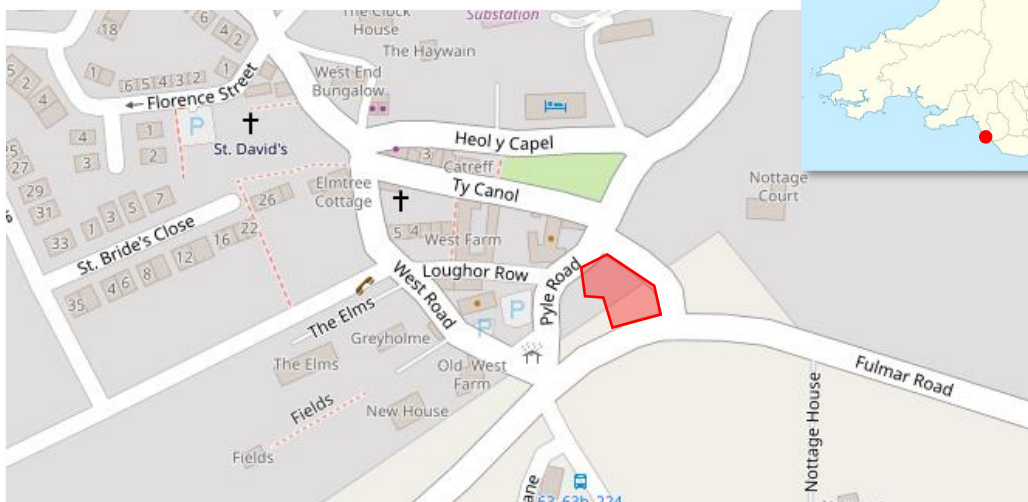
2 SITE AND LOCATION

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 The development site is comprised of a small parcel of land with two barns (garage and west barn), between Fulmar Road and Pyle Road, at the south-east corner of the village of Nottage, in Bridgend County Borough. The village lies immediately to the north of Porthcawl, and some 8.8km west-southwest of Bridgend. The historic core of the village is located on a small area of rising ground over the low-lying coastal plains, and near to the sheltered bays of Sandy and Trecco. The village green sits 25m to the north of site, and the nearest place of worship is the Unitarian Chapel, 75m to the north-west. The site sits at circa 21m above sea level and is centred around NGR SS 81962 78127 / Lat Long 51°29'23"N 3°42'06"W / What3Words repeat.clauses.mercy.



*Fig. 2 – Location – Nottage
OpenStreetMap 2021. All rights reserved.*



*Fig. 3 – Location – Development Area (red).
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2.2 Geology

- 2.2.1 The underlying geology is formed of sedimentary limestone known as the Oxwich Head Limestone Formation (BGS) with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS). The local soil type is a freely draining slightly acidic but base-rich soil (UKSO) and unsurveyed on the World Reference Base (UKSO).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 This report uses a Historic Environment Record search with a radius of 500m to identify sites of archaeological and historical importance.
- 3.1.2 The village of Nottage sits in the Parish of Newton Nottage, and historically was within the medieval Welsh Commote of Newcastle and the larger Cantref of Gorfynydd.
- 3.1.3 A HER search (**Ref. 6627**), with a radius of 500m, showed there to be 1 Scheduled Monument, 6 Listed Buildings, 19 sites registered with the NMRW, and 14 with the Regional HER. The historic core of the village was designated as a Conservation Area (**Ref. 266**) in 1973.

3.2 Bronze Age

- 3.2.1 Local evidence demonstrates that communities associated with the Beaker culture were inhabiting the area during the Bronze Age. The most obvious remains from this period are two round barrows, Summer (**PRN GGAT00469m**) and Wilderness (**PRN GGAT06314m**), which have left a tangible mark on the landscape.

3.3 Roman

- 3.3.1 Two finds indicate Roman activity within the search area. is a small find of a seven-pointed star-shaped bronze ornament, with the mark of Medusa (**PRN GGAT00198m**). A second Roman object sits to the front of Nottage Court but originated in Port Talbot; milestone (**PRN GGAT00038m**) bearing three successive official inscriptions and believed to be of the late-3rd and early-4th centuries CE; and unfortunately tell us little about the Roman presence in Nottage itself.

3.4 Early Medieval

- 3.4.1 There are no sites associated with early medieval settlement identified within the search area.

3.5 Medieval

- 3.5.1 As with much of Wales, the earliest clear evidence of habitation within the settlement comes in the medieval period with sites associated with the Christian faith. In Nottage, four such sites have been recorded. The medieval chapel of St David (**GGAT00205**) was located next to the village green, on Heol-y-Capel, and served one of Margam Abbeys monastic granges at Nottage Court (**GGAT04603m**). During this period, there were reputed to have been three holy wells in Nottage,

though only two are known today; St Davids Well (GGAT00201m) and Fynnion Fawr (GGAT00202m).

3.6 Post-Medieval

3.6.1 In the post-medieval period, the Reformation saw the breakup of monastic lands in Wales, with many of the granges and abbeys sold into private hands by the crown. Margam Abbey was no exception and surrendered to the crown in 1537 and was then sold to Sir Rice Mansell in 1540. Mansell maintained the estate but sold off smaller properties and granges. In 1545, the grange at Nottage was acquired by the Lougher family, who would largely rebuild the house in 1570.

3.6.2 The post-medieval period, as with many other areas in Wales, saw a sustained period of development in Nottage, with all the buildings of the village dating from this time. The earliest dwelling within Nottage, other than the Court, is a property of circa 1650 called Veronica Cottage (Cadw ID 19373). The property was originally known as Top Farm, with lands extending from the west of the village, but since surrounded by later development in the early-20th century. The Farmers' Arms (Cadw ID 19372) is the oldest commercial building to survive within the village, dating to the 18th century, but heavily upgraded in the 19th and 20th centuries.

3.6.3 By 1861, the Porthcawl Branch Line had opened as a broad-gauge railway, which ran through Nottage, from Duffryn Llynfi to Porthcawl, and in 1900 the Nottage Halt Railway Station began receiving passengers.

3.7 Cartographic Sources

3.7.1 The earliest map to show the area in any detail is the Tithe Map of 1846, which shows the development area as a single holding (499) registered in the Apportionment as a Barn and Yard. It was owned by Reverend Henry Hey Knight and occupied by David Hopkins Junior. The tithe value is calculated at £0. 17s. 4d.

3.7.2 By the First Edition 25-inch Map from the Ordnance Survey in 1877, the area has changed considerably, with the Porthcawl Branch Line now bisecting the plot in a cutting, with a small bridge connecting east and west banks. At this time two new buildings are shown to both the east and west of the railways, which are likely to date to between 1861 and 1877, and certainly not as early as the 1846 Tithe Map. The boundary to the south of the barns is considerably different from the Tithe and later maps.

3.7.3 The subsequent 25-inch Maps of 1899 (Fig. 6), 1918, 1943 and 1969-77 (Fig. 7) show little change from the 1877, with two minor additions made to the western of the two barns.

3.7.4 The most significant change comes between the editions of 1969-77 (Fig. 4), and 1979-91 (Fig. 5), when the branch line was closed, and the cutting infilled. The barn to the east of the plot is no longer existent on the later of the two maps, with a new garage built to the southern boundary,

the boundary was also rearranged by between the two maps to allow for the creation of Fulmar Road. Local knowledge tells us the barn burned down in 1972 and was replaced by the garage in 1979.

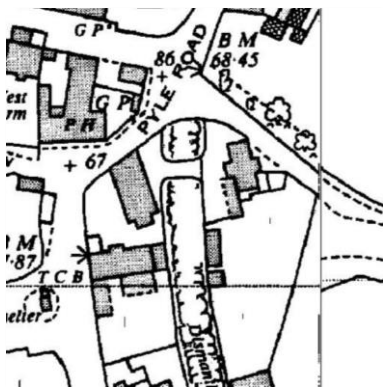


Fig. 4 – 25-inch OS Map of 1969-77

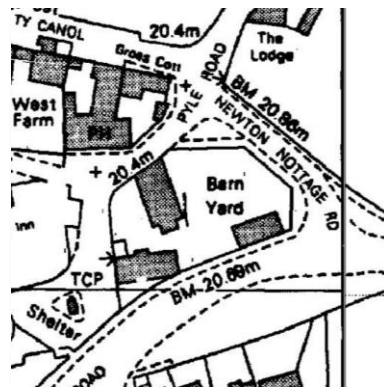


Fig. 5 – 25-inch OS Map of 1979-91

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 Watching Brief

4.1.1 The aims of the Watching Brief, as defined by the CIfA (2014; revised 2020), are:

‘To allow a rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features that are uncovered during the proposed groundworks within the application area.

To provide the 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 are not sufficient to support the treatment to a satisfactory or proper standard.’

4.1.2 The aims of the watching brief were to identify and record any potential archaeological deposits uncovered during excavations, which may shed light on the earlier uses of the site. It was not intended to reduce or remove the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or new archaeological discoveries. Its purpose was to act as a guide and not to replace any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of the resource.

4.1.3 Produce a photographic and descriptive account of the west barn prior to development, for inclusion as an appendix to the report.

4.1.4 The *Research Framework for Wales* (2017) sets out the knowledge base of past research and provides a rationale for future studies of the historic environment. The present investigations will be undertaken considering the key themes and where there are limitations in current knowledge, particularly where the present investigations can enhance our understanding of some of these key areas. For example, current important Post- medieval themes for consideration are the development of religion following Dissolution and associated historic buildings developed in the Anglicisation of Wales and early Protestant nonconformity, the rapid change from rural to industrial in areas of rapid population growth and the effect on settlement patterns and land-use in the rural landscape. The impact of the gentrified landed estates on the landscape, the establishment of formal Parks and Gardens and the development of the picturesque movement. Other important themes in the period include climate change and threats to the historic environment, the change from castles into dwellings and Civil War sites, the rural economy, and the industrialisation of agriculture.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 To communicate the results of the archaeological investigation to the client in the form of an illustrated report, and to provide digital copies to Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Planning Services, Regional HER and the NMRW.

- 4.2.2 To prepare a digital archive of the projects report, photographic archive, all drawn elements for deposition with the National Monuments Record of Wales and Regional HER held by the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust.

- 4.2.3 To safely store all material finds in a secure location on site for future detailed recording and analysis, and specialist reporting.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 General

5.1.1 All archaeological works have been conducted by a qualified archaeologist in accordance with the methodology set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ArchaeoDomus 2021) and in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (November 2014) and *Standards and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording standing buildings or structures* (2020) from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

5.2 Watching Brief

5.2.1 The areas observed during the watching brief were as follows:

1. All service trenches.
2. Foundations (raft or trench).
3. Excavation of internal floors.
4. Landscaping.

5.2.2 All excavations were undertaken by 360° tracked excavator, under constant archaeological supervision. The ground level was reduced to the archaeological horizon or the natural geological substrate. The generated spoil was visually inspected to maximise the recovery of archaeological finds.

5.2.3 Areas of potential archaeological features were manually cleaned to prove their presence or absence.

5.2.4 Small finds were collected and bagged in relation to their context. Unstratified small finds were recorded and will be stored with the site archive, unless otherwise specified.

5.2.5 A general photographic record was made using a Canon 760D 24-megapixel or Google Pixel 5 12-megapixel camera, with ranging rods used where required.

5.2.6 For the full methodology refer to the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ArchaeoDomus 2021).

5.3 Recording

5.3.1 A digital photographic record was maintained throughout with a Canon 760D 24-megapixel or Pixel 5 12-megapixel camera. 2 x 1m ranging rods or smaller photo scales were used for scale where appropriate.

5.3.2 All photographs have been named using the project code, in this instance AD113, which are followed by a reference and number. Where applicable, the following reference codes have been used:

- ❖ HBR – Historic Buildings Record
- ❖ WB – Watching Brief

5.3.3 All photographs in this report are watermarked with the photograph's name, code, and number.

5.3.4 All survey was undertaken using RTK-GPS survey grade equipment, and drawn up in Rhino 7.

5.4 Reinstatement

5.4.1 On completion of excavation, trenches were backfilled without supervision.

5.5 Documentary Research

5.5.1 Documentary research was undertaken using readily available resources with additional research aided by map regression and Tithe Map searches. Historic trade directories were used to help establish a timeline of events for the building. Further research was undertaken using unpublished and published sources.

5.6 Reporting

5.6.1 This report has been written and compiled by Ross Cook, according to the guidance laid down in the CIfA's *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2014; updated 2020).

5.6.2 This report has been written in Microsoft Word 2016 and uses Adobe Garamond Pro as its typeface.

5.7 Health and Safety

5.7.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work Act 1974* and *Health and Safety Advice in Archaeology* (BAJR 2005).

6 HISTORIC BUILDINGS RECORD

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 This section provides a written account of the building in line with items 6 and 12 (pg. 22), drawn record in line with item 2 (pg. 14), and photographic in line with items 1-9 (pg. 19-20) of Historic England's *Understanding Historic Buildings* (2016).
- 6.1.2 The west barn forms part of a small compound to the south of the village of Nottage, between Fulmar Road and Pyle Road. The garage is of modern construction, and is not included as part of this record.
- 6.1.3 The barn is now in split ownership, and as such, this report will only record the section that is under development. Access to record to the west of the barn from the adjacent yard was not granted.
- 6.1.4 The drawn record is presented in **Appendix I** and the photographic record is presented in **Appendix II**.

6.2 Summary Statement

- 6.2.1 **Phase 1** – The west barn was constructed between 1861 and 1877, and may have been built to replace a barn shown on the 1846 Tithing Map after the railway cutting and tunnel was made through Nottage in 1861. It was built as a single storey building of four bays, on a north-south alignment, and once included an additional two bays at its southern end, partitioned by a low, stone wall. It was constructed from local blue lias limestone and bedded in a slaked lime mortar with stone and coal aggregate, which was then finished with a white lime wash inside and out. Pine was used for the roof and window and doorway lintel, with a reused oak joist also used for the north doorway. The trusses are simple A-frame design, with principal rafters and a collar, and are all lap jointed at nailed. The trusses carry a ridge board and a single tier of purlins, which are staggered and secured to the trusses with tusk tenons. The pine of the roof has bandsaw and circular saw marks, the earlier provides a *terminus post quem* of 1858, after which the first commercially viable bandsaw in Britain went into production. It is not clear what its use was at this time, but with the two doorways and single window, it probably functioned as a storage building associated with the larger barn that once stood to the east of the railway; a bridge connected the two. Not long after its construction, structural movement gave cause for a buttress to be built against the east elevation, near to the north doorway. Internally, three pairs of beam sockets were made into the masonry of the lateral walls, which presumably partitioned the building into three cells or created a storage floor. Unfortunately, no evidence of these now survives.
- 6.2.2 **Phase 2** – In the 1970s or 1980s, the slate roof is renewed with a bituminous felt beneath the slate. The southern of the two doorways was blocked in stone with cement mortar, and the low partition wall at the southern end was extended to the ridge in concrete block, splitting the ownership. General repairs were undertaken to the building, which are evidence by their use of cementitious mortar. Sometime after this work, a galvanised grate was installed to secure the window.

6.3 Past and Present Usage

- 6.3.1 **Phase 1** – There is no indication of its original use surviving in the physical structure of the building. However, its location and relationship to the larger barn that once stood to the east of the railway line, and the bridge that connects them, indicates that these buildings were once part of the same holding.
- 6.3.2 **Phase 2** – The use of the barn in this phase appears to be for storage, and contains diverse pieces of equipment and materials. Some of the objects are railway related, including a weighing scale from E & A Ashworth Ltd, and a second mechanical device of unknown use and origin. These likely came from the Nottage Holt Railway Station. Local knowledge recalls this barn, and the larger, being used by a local builder for storage of farm and construction equipment, and materials in the mid-20th century.

7 FIELDWORK RESULTS

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken on 15th and 22nd December 2021 and concluded on 4th April 2022.

7.1.2 In this section, the results of the watching brief are presented. The photographic archive in **Appendix III**.

7.1.3 All excavation was monitored by a qualified archaeologist.

7.1.4 Excavation of Area 3 was monitored by Black Mountains Archaeology Ltd on behalf of ArchaeoDomus.

7.2 Area 1 (Plates 31-40)

7.2.1 Area 1 extends across the east part of the site, occupying an area from the entrance to the garage. The area of excavation is presented in **Appendix I**. The concrete slab covering the area was broken up and removed in advance of attendance to site, in agreement with the archaeologist.

7.2.2 Beneath the level of the concrete slab (101) were deposits of levelling materials, made up of scalplings (102) and burnt demolition material (103) which constitutes the debris of the former barn. Below this were the remains of the lower stone wall courses [104] of the southern bay and porch of the former barn, and a small brick feature [105]. Within the porch of the barn *in situ* flagstones [106] were uncovered, and to the south bay an area of trodden lime mortar flooring [107]. Through this area a service trench was then excavated to supply water. This uncovered a natural subsoil (108) over the natural blue lias limestone bedrock (109), and the footings of the brick extension [105].

7.2.3 *No further archaeological materials or deposits were identified.*

7.3 Area 2 (Plates 41-43)

7.3.1 Area 2 conforms to the internal footprint of the garage. The area of excavation is presented in **Appendix I**.

7.3.2 Excavations removed a deposit of scalplings (201), which extended across the entire area. This overlay a concrete slab [202], and demolition rubble (203).

7.3.3 *No further archaeological materials or deposits were identified.*

7.4 Trench 1 (Plates 44-51)

7.4.1 Trench 1 extended south from the north boundary wall and turned 90° to head west towards the west barn. This excavation passes through the known area of the railway cutting. The area was covered by a pile of rubble, which was moved in advance of attendance to site.

7.4.2 Beneath the pile of rubble (301) was a levelling deposit of scalplings (302). To the west of the trench excavation, this overlay a historic ground surface (303) on top of a thin compacted clayey subsoil (304). Under the subsoil was the natural blue lias limestone bedrock (305). To the east, the trench passed through the backfill of the former railway cutting [306]. This was formed of scalplings (302) and a mixed scalping and concrete rubble deposit (307) and a waste concrete pour (308).

7.4.3 From the fill of the former railway cutting (307) a cast iron railway chair was recovered (306-FN01; Plates 57-58)

7.4.4 *No further archaeological materials or deposits were identified.*

7.5 Area 3 (Plates 52-56)

7.5.1 Area 3 conforms to the internal footprint of the west barn. The area of excavation is presented in **Appendix I**.

7.5.2 A concrete slab [401] formed the floor of the barn, which was laid on a deposit of scalplings (402). Underlying this, was a brown silty clay deposit (403), which contained fragments of pottery and china. This overlay a natural compacted clay (404). To the north end of the barn and within (404), were outcrops of blue lias limestone bedrock (405).

7.5.3 *No further archaeological materials or deposits were identified.*

7.6 Finds

7.6.1 A railway chair was recovered from context (307) in Trench 1 (Plates 57-58).

7.6.2 A small finds assemblage was recovered from context (403) in Area 3. A small finds report was produced by Dr Rhys Morgan of Black Mountains Archaeology Ltd and is presented in **Appendix V**.

7.6.3 *No further archaeological finds were observed or recovered during the watching brief.*

7.7 Environmental

7.7.1 *No environmental deposits for sampling were identified during the watching brief.*

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 General

- 8.1.1 The archaeological programme consisted of a buildings record of the west barn and an archaeological watching brief. The watching brief monitored all excavations associated with development. This revealed the remains of a stone build barn that was present on the Ordnance Survey 25-inch Map of 1877. The historic buildings record has shown the barn to be constructed in the period of 1861-1877, with one major primary phase of development, with minor secondary alterations.
- 8.1.2 The Tithe Map of 1847 records a 'Barn and Yard' in the location of the development area. This was owned by the Reverend Henry Hey Knight and rented by David Hopkins Junior for £0. 1s. 18d. The barn was located in the area of the cutting and was certainly demolished for the construction of the railway, which was charged through the centre of the site.
- 8.1.3 Local knowledge comes from several sources, who approached us during the watching brief. One was an elderly gentleman of 92 years, who owned/occupied the site several decades previously.

8.2 West Barn

- 8.2.1 Map regression initially places the construction of the west barn to the period of 1847 and 1877, between the Tithe Map and First Edition 25-inch Map from the Ordnance Survey. However, this can be refined with the identification of the bandsaw marks on the faces of the roof trusses to give a *terminus post quem* of 1858, after which the first commercial bandsaw enters operation in Britain. The construction of the railway in 1861, and its cutting through the site, make it likely the barn was built after its construction, especially when considering the impact the cutting would have made to the stability of the surrounding ground. If we take the probability of the construction to post-date the cutting, it further refines the date to between 1861-1877.
- 8.2.2 The form of the west barn remains semi-vernacular in form, despite the use of imported pine for the roof and later slate. The blue lias used in its construction may have come from the excavations for the railway cutting immediately to its east, or another local source. The lime mortar that bonds the masonry is creamy-white in colour, and contains lumps of unslaked lime, coal flecks and a local stone dust aggregate, all of which are consistent with a typical 19th century mortar. The coal inclusions observed represent the unburnt fuel from the calcination of limestone and is representative of the nature of quicklime production.
- 8.2.3 With two doorways and single window, the barn was most likely used for the storage, rather than for livestock or as a workshop. The arrangement of the internal space lends itself to storage, with a lack of internal fittings or partitions, and large open space. The later insertion of floor or partition beams, evidenced by the crudely formed beam sockets, suggests that the barn may have been subdivided into three bays, or perhaps had a storage floor added. Either one postdating its original construction.

8.3 Area 1

- 8.3.1 The remains of the building excavated in Area 1 confirm the mapping evidence that show a barn with porches on a north-south alignment. It was probably of three-bays; storage – entrance – storage. Mapping regression indicates that this barn was built in the period of 1847 and 1877, between the Tithe Map and First Edition. As with the west barn, its construction may have come after railway a was charged through Nottage in 1861, but no evidence was unearthed to refine its dating any further.
- 8.3.2 The flagstones of the barn's porch retained the holes for the drop bolts of the double leaf barn doors, which were set back from the front of the porch and in line with its lateral walls. Only the porch of the barn was finished with flag stone, which reduced the wear and susceptibility of this area to bogging with wet weather and the entrance made by carts. The masonry, like that of the west barn, was bonded in a creamy-white in mortar, and contains lumps of unslaked lime, coal flecks and a local stone dust aggregate, all of which are consistent with a typical 19th century date. The coal inclusions observed represent the unburnt fuel from the calcination of limestone for the production of quicklime. The barn burnt down in 1972, with black and burnt deposits within the demolition material confirming this event.
- 8.3.3 The small addition to the west end of the barn used machine pressed bricks, set in a cementitious mortar. Local knowledge tells us that this was built to carry diesel and water tanks for use by the yard owner.

8.4 Area 2 and Trench 1

- 8.4.1 The excavation of Area 2, confined to the internal footprint of the garage, revealed a concrete slab and scalplings at the lowest required excavation depths. The concrete surface and scalplings were new surfaces from the redevelopment of the site as a barn yard in the early 1970s, when the cutting was backfilled. Evidence of this was also observed in Trench 1, where concrete fence posts and a waste concrete pour were recorded. Local knowledge tells us that waste materials from around Nottage and Porthcawl, such as excavation, construction waste and demolition materials were bought in to fill the cutting. The excavations revealed that general dumping of waste material, along with the more purposeful deposition of scalplings, backfilled the railway cutting and levelled the ground to form a yard by the early 1970s.
- 8.4.2 From Trench 1, a single cast iron railway chair was recovered (**Fig. 57-58**). This likely originated from the former Porthcawl Branch Line, which ran through Nottage, and directly under the site. This is similar to a Porthcawl Railway seat (70.181/414) held in the Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales collections.

8.5 Area 3

- 8.5.1 The excavations of Area 3, confined to the internal footprint of the west barn, revealed a levelling deposit, which formed the floor of the barn. This contained small finds associated with domestic

food preparation and consumption, which cover a broad range of dates from the late-16th to mid-19th centuries (see **Appendix V**). The internal deposition of this context and its relationship to the barn, was undertaken post-construction. This material, and the accumulation of waste materials contained within, probably originated from site, and was simply redeposited to form an internal, level floor surface. The inclusion of materials from a broad range of dates is probably the result of night-soiling, the spreading of domestic organic waste across fields or gardens.

8.6 Final Summary

- 8.6.1 Overall, The watching brief revealed that the area has undergone several phases of development since the Tithe Map of 1847. The most significant of these was the excavation of the railway cutting in 1861 for the Porthcawl Branch Line. This divided the area shown on the Tithe Map, demolished the barn, and caused two new barns to be constructed to the east and west of the cutting, which are shown on the First Edition 25-inch Map of 1877. Recording the surviving of these two barns, the west barn, revealed it was of a single phase of development, with buttresses added shortly after construction. Latterly, both barns underwent minor additions or alterations in the 20th century, for use as a builder's yard. After the closure of the branch line in 1963, the cutting became a site for dumping local waste, with more purposeful infill for the creation of the builder's yard, which was represented across the site by a common levelling material. A fire in 1979 destroyed the barn uncovered in Area 1, which was subsequently demolished, and its rubble spread across site. Shortly after the fire, the garage was built, using some of the stone from the destroyed barn. Scalpings were used to level the site and a concrete drive was poured from the entrance to the new garage. The yard became redundant in the late-20th century.

9 ARCHIVING

- 9.1 The results of the Watching Brief are this written report, interpreted survey, and photographic archive. The final report and site archive will be held by ArchaeoDomus. The digital report will be deposited with the regional HER, managed by GGAT, and the NMR. A PDF copy of the report will be made available from www.archaeodomus.co.uk.

10 SOURCES

10.1 Written Sources

- 10.1.1 **Hall, M.** 2009, *Lost Railways of South Wales*. Countryside Books. Great Britain.
- 10.1.2 **Hodge, J. & Davies, S.** 2019, *Railways and Industry in the Tondu Valleys; Ogmere, Garw and Porthcawl Branches*. Pen & Sword Books. United Kingdom.
- 10.1.3 **CIFA**, 2014, *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*.
- 10.1.4 **Welsh Government**, 2017, *Planning Policy Wales; Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment*. Crown Copyright.
- 10.1.5 **CIFA**, 2007, *Archaeological Archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*

10.2 Online Sources

- 10.2.1 **British Geological Survey**
Accessed: August 2022
www.bsg.ac.uk
- 10.2.2 **UK Soil Observatory**
Accessed: August 2022
www.ukso.org.uk
- 10.2.3 **Welsh Tithe Maps**
Accessed: August 2022
places.library.wales

APPENDIX I
Historic Mapping
&
Excavation Areas

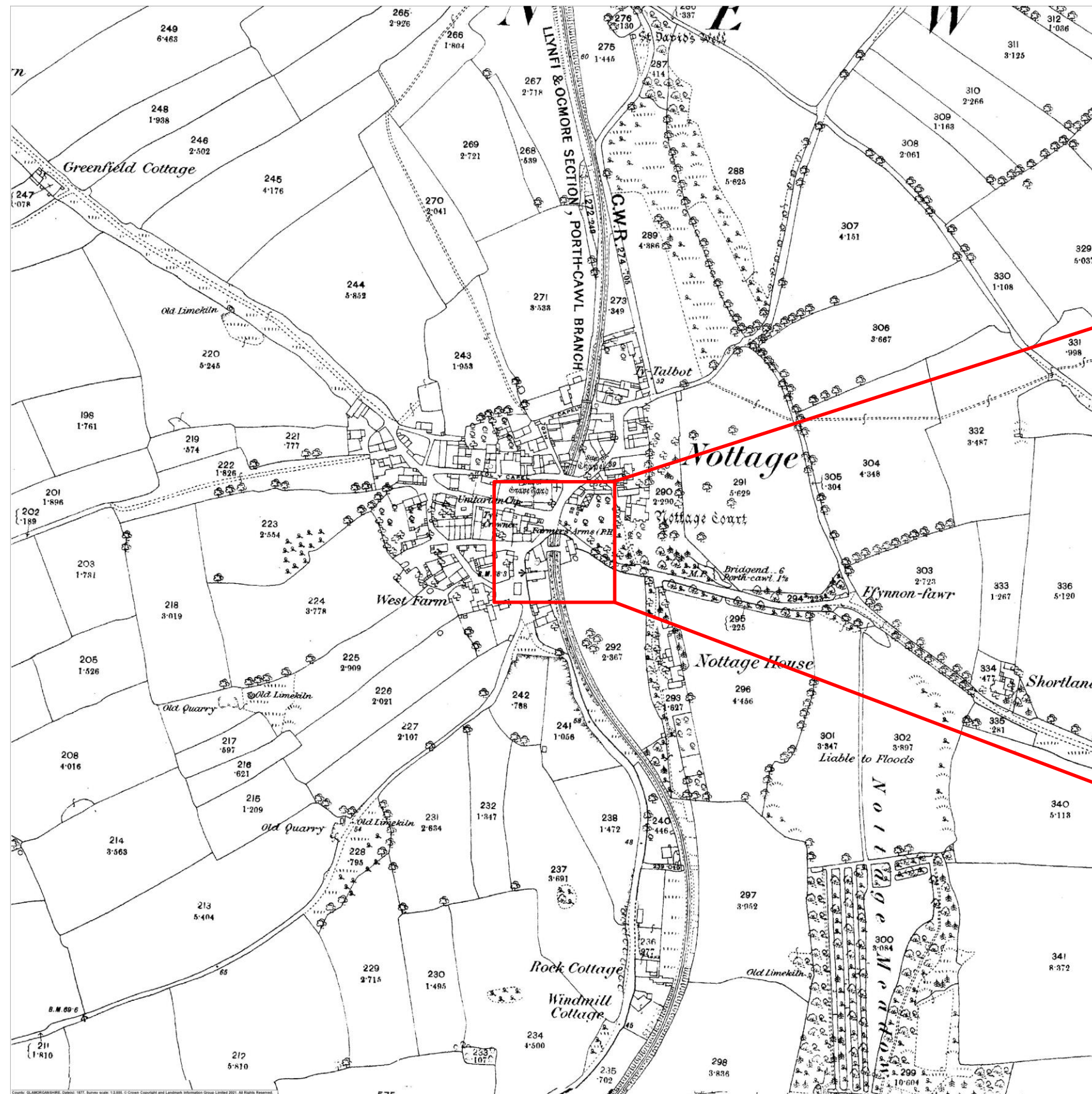
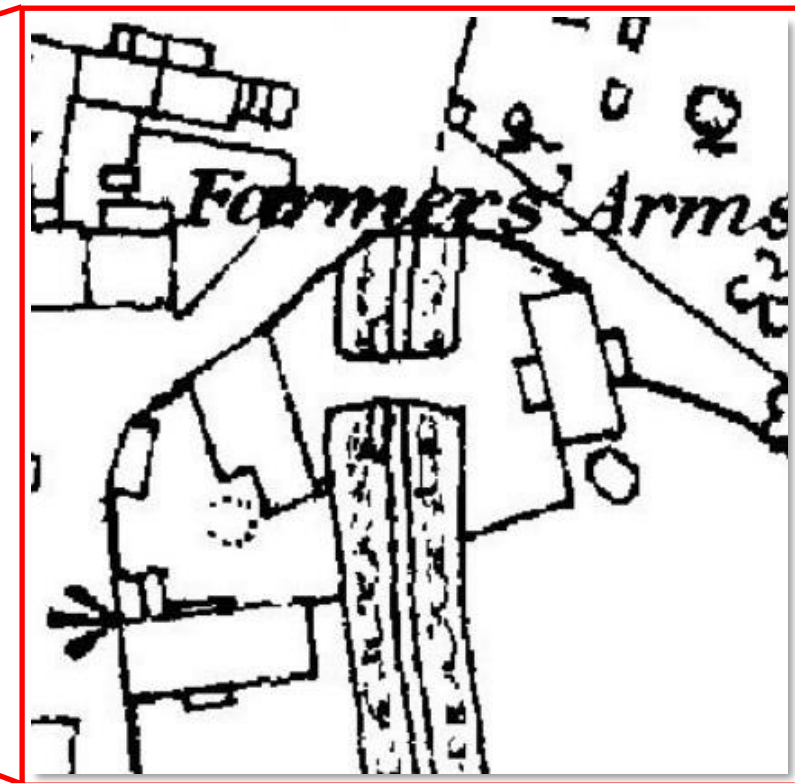


Fig. 6 – 1877 25 Inch to One Mile, OS.



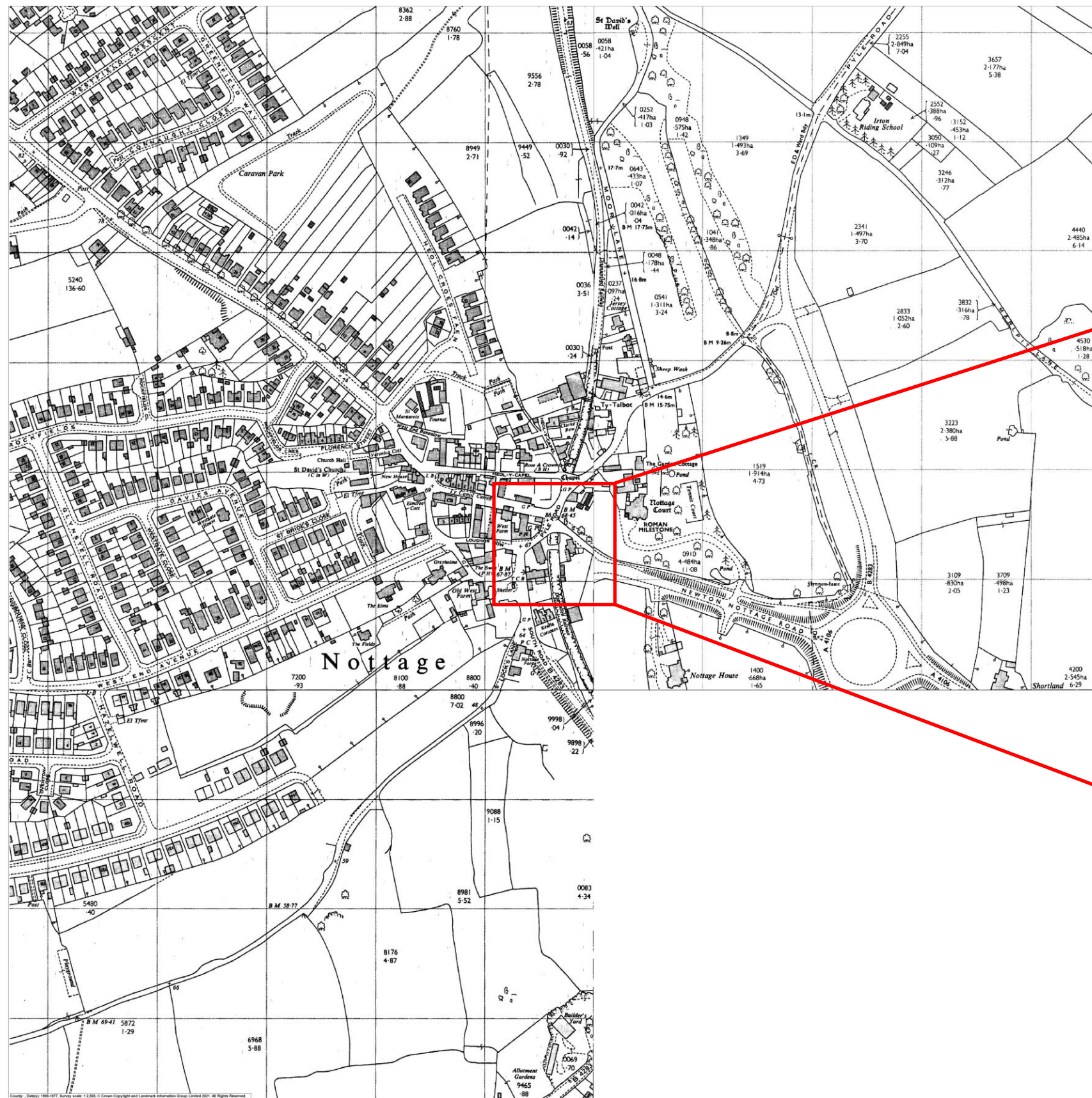


Fig. 7 – 1969-77 25 Inch to One Mile, OS.

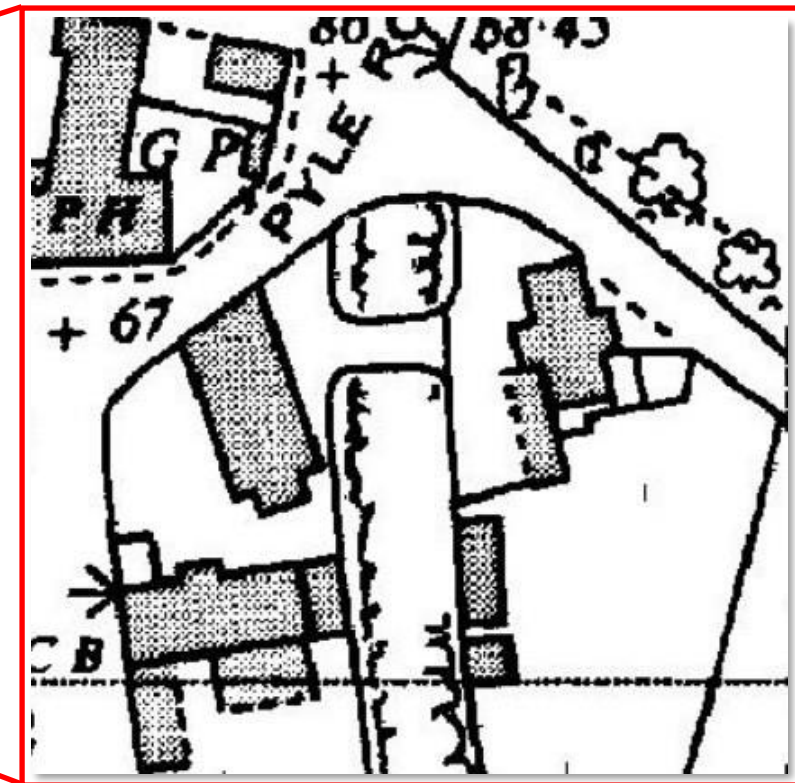
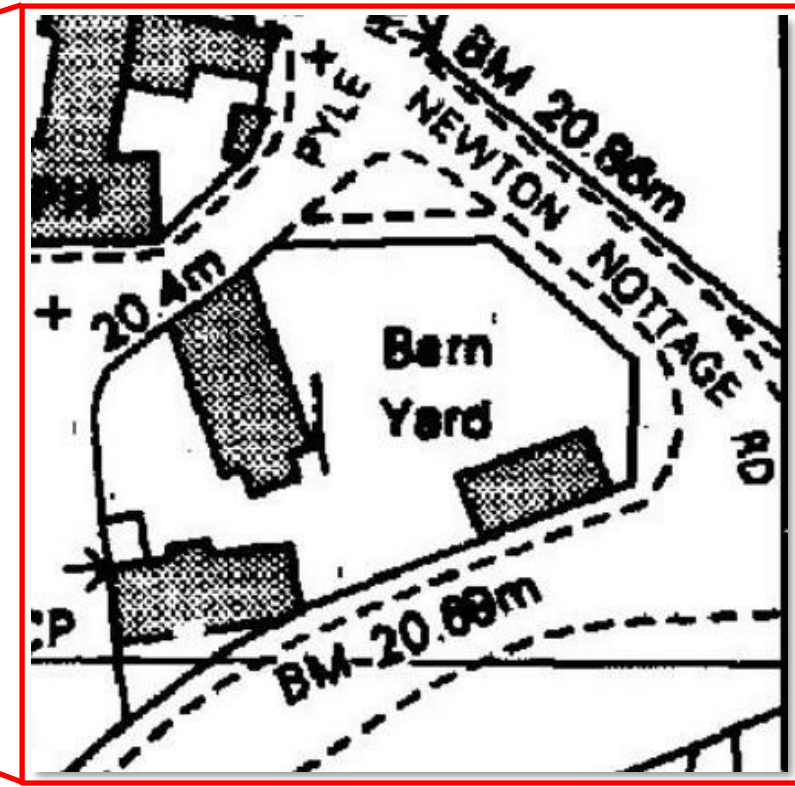
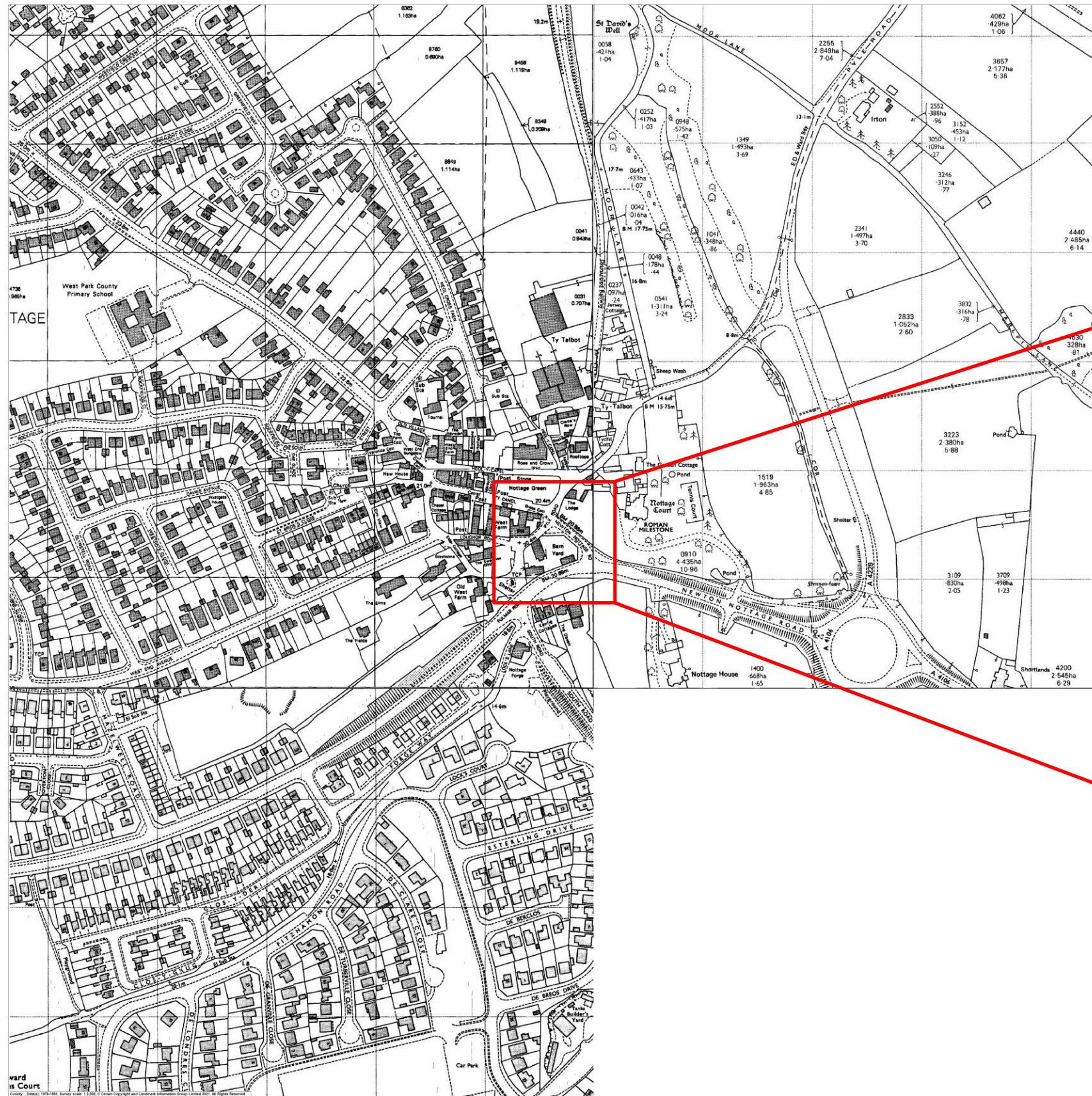


Fig. 8 – 1979-91 25 Inch to One Mile, OS.



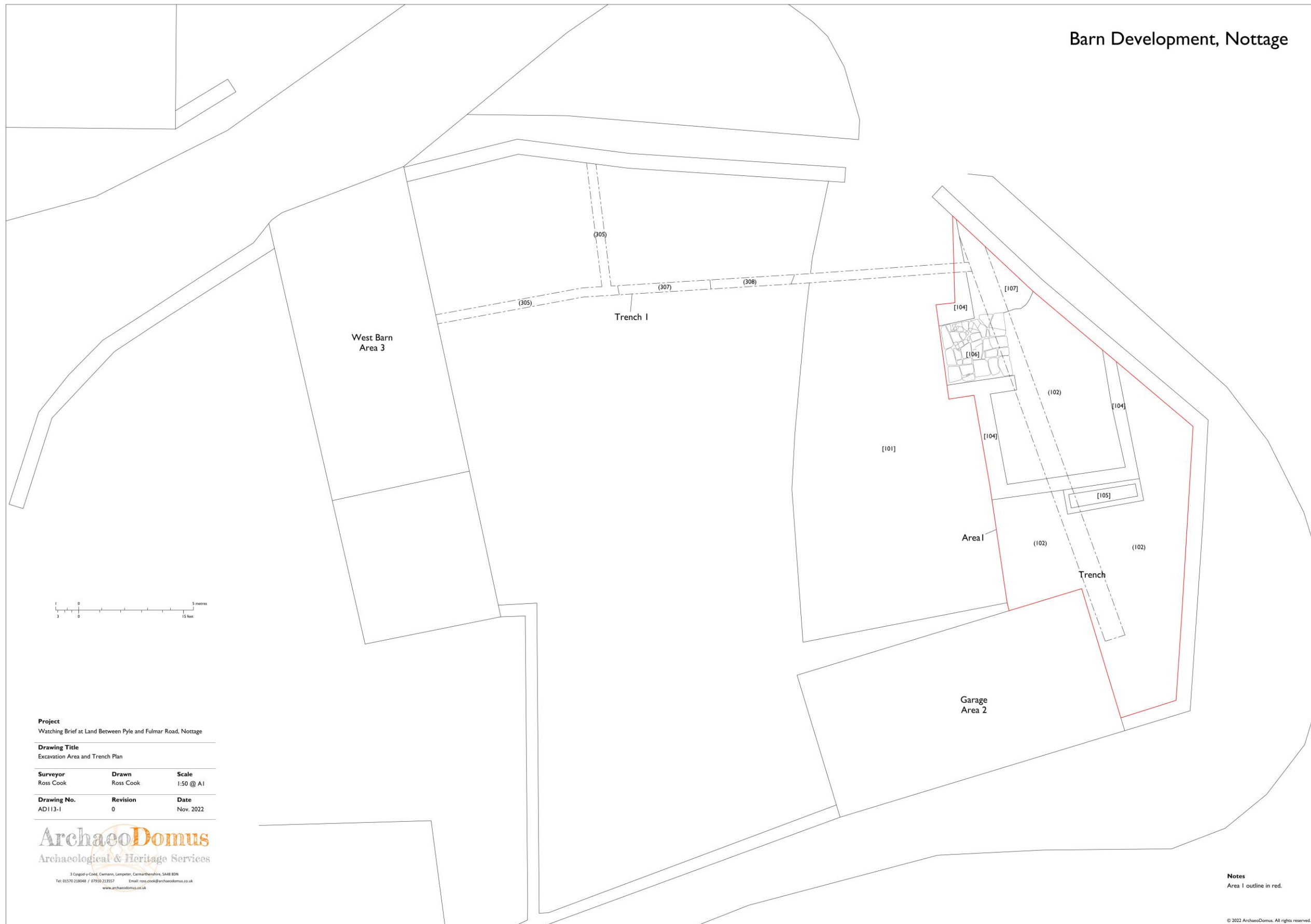
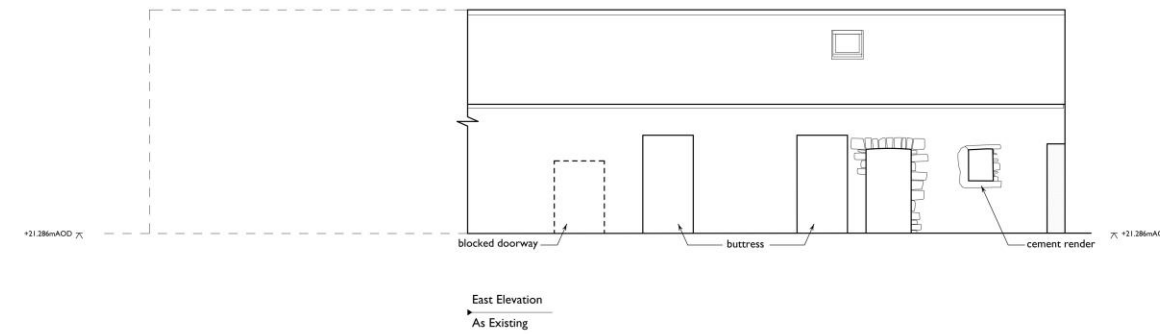
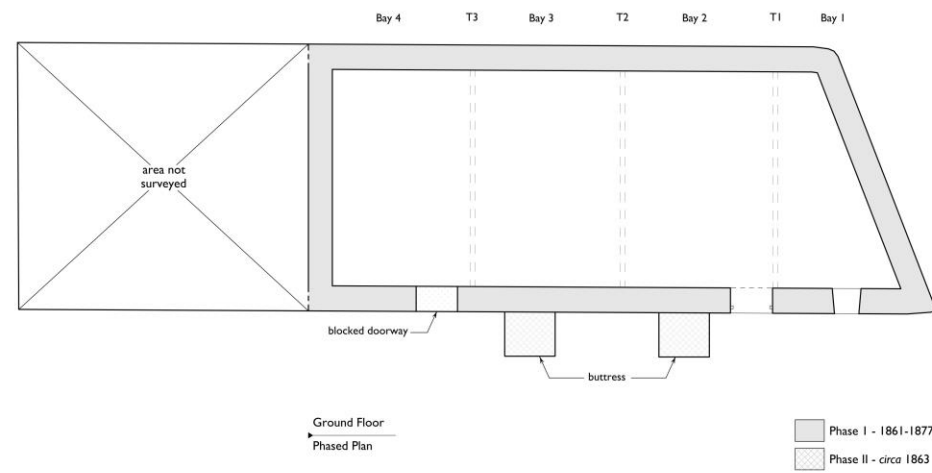


Fig. 9 – Excavation Areas and Trench

Barn Development, Nottage



Notes
Elevation given over Ordnance Survey Datum Newlyn.
Area not surveyed under separate ownership.

Project
Watching Brief at Land Between Pyle and Fulmar Road, Nottage

Drawing Title
West Barn Plans and Elevation

Surveyor Ross Cook **Drawn** Ross Cook **Scale** 1:50 @ A1

Drawing No. AD113-2 **Revision** 0 **Date** Nov. 2022

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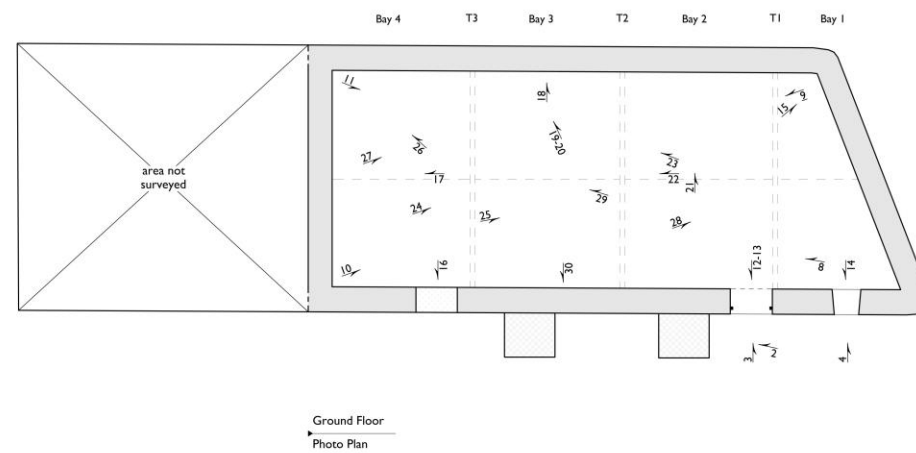


Fig. 10 – Phased plan, as existing elevation, and photo plan.

APPENDIX II

Historic Buildings Record

Photographic Archive



Plate 1 – View east, showing west elevation of west barn.



Plate 2 – View south, showing buttress to west elevation.



Plate 3 – View west, showing doorway to east elevation.



Plate 4 – View west, showing window to east elevation.



Plate 5 – View south, showing north elevation.



Plate 6 – View south, showing north elevation and flanking yard walls.



Plate 7 – View north-west, showing south $\frac{3}{4}$ view of barn.



Plate 8 – View south, showing barn internal space.



Plate 9 – View south, showing barn internal space.



Plate 10 – View north, showing barn internal space.



Plate 11 – View north, showing barn internal space.



Plate 12 – View east, showing doorway.



Plate 13 – View east, showing reused joist as lintel.



Plate 14 – View east, showing window.



Plate 15 – View north-west, showing rounded corner.



Plate 16 – View east, showing blocked doorway to bay 3.



Plate 17 – View south, showing partition wall, with concrete block upper wall.



Plate 18 – View west, showing socket in masonry.



Plate 19 – Platform weighing scales.



Plate 20 – E & A Ashworth Ltd, Newport, Mon. Makers.



Plate 21 – View west, showing exemplar roof bay.



Plate 22 – View south, showing exemplar roof truss.



Plate 23 – View showing tackle block to truss 2.



Plate 24 – View north-west, showing stored materials and items.



Plate 25 – View north-west, showing stored materials and items.



Plate 26 – View -west, showing unknown machine, and stored materials and items.



Plate 27 – View north, showing unknown machine.



Plate 28 – View north, showing stored materials and items.



Plate 29 – View south-west, showing stored materials and items.



Plate 30 – View east, showing railway station platform barrier.

APPENDIX III

Watching Brief

Photographic Record



Plate 31 – Nadir view of Area 1.



Plate 32 – Nadir view of site.



Plate 33 – Nadir view of porch flagstones [106].



Plate 34 – View south-east, showing porch flagstones [106].



Plate 35 – View showing bolt holes in flagstones of porch.



Plate 36 – View east, showing brick feature [105].



Plate 37 – View south-east, showing levelling (102) and burnt material (103) in trench section.



Plate 38 – View west, showing masonry wall of barn [104] in trench section.



Plate 39 – View south, showing foundation courses of brick [105] feature in trench section.

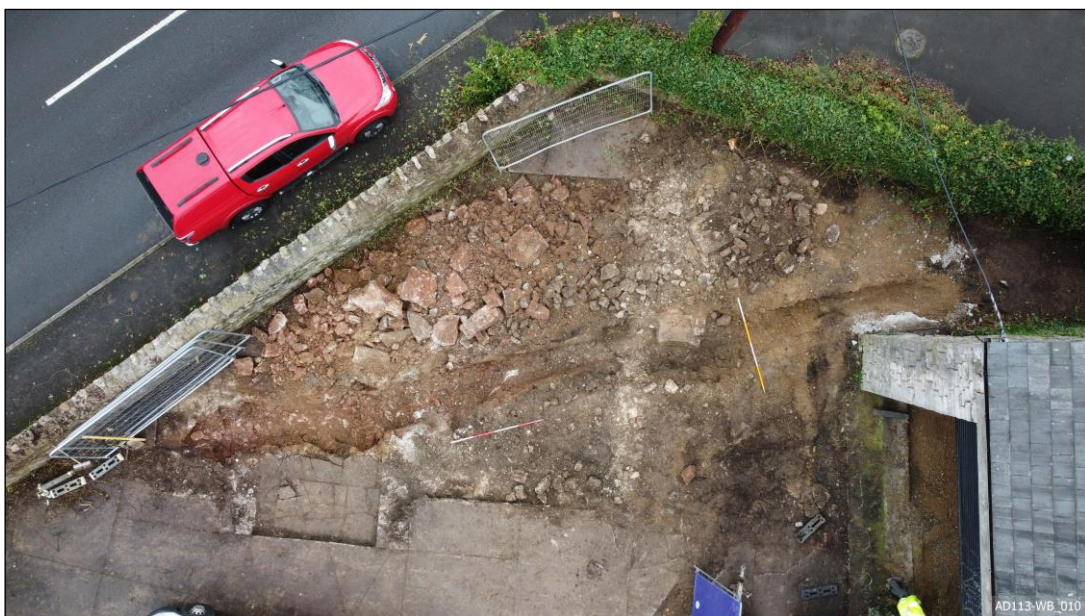


Plate 40 – Nadir view, showing service trench through Area 1.



Plate 41 – View south, showing garage.



Plate 42 – View south-west, showing Area 2.



Plate 43 – View south-east, showing Area 2.



Plate 44 – View north-west, showing area of Trench 1 excavation.



Plate 45 – View north-west, showing Trench 1.



Plate 46 – View east, showing Trench 1.



Plate 47 – View west, showing Trench 1.



Plate 48 – View east, showing scalplings (302), historic ground surface (303), clay subsoil (304), and blue lias (305) in trench section.



Plate 49 – View west, showing trench excavation against east wall of barn.



Plate 50 – View showing scalplings (302) and concrete rubble deposits (308).



Plate 51 – Nadir view, showing concrete pour deposit (308).



Plate 52 – View north, showing natural (405) in Area 3.



Plate 53 – View east, showing natural subsoil (404).



Plate 54 View south, showing natural subsoil (404).



Plate 55 – View south, showing Area 3.



Plate 56 – View west, showing wall footing.



Plate 57 – Railway chair. 307-FN01.



Plate 58 – Railway Chair. 307-FN01.

APPENDIX IV

Context Records

Area 1				
Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
101	Deposit	0.00-0.07m	Concrete slab.	Modern
102	Deposit	0.07-0.75m	Scalpings. Levelling material.	Modern
103	Deposit	0.07-0.75m	Demolition material levelling.	Modern
104	Structure	0.00-NB	Stone masonry wall. Lower courses.	19 th Century
105	Structure	0.00-NB	Brick structure. Diesel tank stand.	Modern
106	Structure	0.10 - 0.16m	Flagstones. Laid in porch of former barn. Drop bold hole. Bonded in lime mortar.	19 th Century
107	Structure	0.10-0.15m	Trodden lime mortar floor.	19 th Century
108	Natural	0.75-NB	Natural subsoil. Brown. Clayey.	Natural
109	Natural	0.18-NB	Blue Lias bedrock.	Natural

Area 2 - Garage				
Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
201	Deposit	0.00-0.15m	Scalpings. Levelling material.	Modern
202	Deposit	0.15-NB	Concrete slab.	Modern
303	Deposit	0.15-NB	Demolition material levelling.	Modern

Trench 1				
Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
301	Deposit	0.00-0.00m	Rubble. Brick, concrete, timber.	Modern
302	Deposit	0.00-0.62m	Scalpings. Levelling material.	Modern
303	Natural	0.62-0.69m	Historic ground surface. Black humus. Roots.	Natural
304	Natural	0.69-0.72m	Compact clayey subsoil. Brown.	Natural
305	Natural	0.72-NB	Blue Lias bedrock.	Natural
306	Cut	0.59-NB	Railway cutting into bedrock.	19 th Century
307	Deposit	0.00-NB	Mixed deposit. Scalpings and concrete rubble. Railway chair recovered – FN01.	Modern
308	Deposit	0.31-NB	Waste concrete pour.	Modern

Area 3 - West Barn				
Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
401	Deposit	0.00-0.20m	Concrete slab.	Modern
402	Deposit	0.20-0.25m	Scalpings. Levelling material.	Modern
403	Deposit	0.25-0.35m	Silty clay deposit. Contained fragments of pottery.	19 th Century
404	Natural	0.35-NB	Compact clayey subsoil.	Natural
405	Natural	0.35-NBB	Blue Lias bedrock.	Natural

APPENDIX V

Small Finds Report

Finds from West Barn at Nottage, Porthcawl, Bridgend County Borough

Project No AD113

Report by Rhys Morgan (14/02/2022)

Introduction

A small assemblage of ceramic finds was collected during a watching brief in Nottage, Porthcawl. The watching brief observed the reducing of the ground level within the West Barn by machine. All finds derived from context (003), which comprised a deposit of made-up ground situated directly above the natural geology. The purpose of this report is to outline a description and categorisation of the ceramic assemblage.

The Ceramic Assemblage

The ceramic assemblage comprised eleven sherds, four of which derived from red earthenware vessels and seven of which derived from refined white earthenware vessels. The latter group can be further divided into plain, undecorated whiteware (constituting one sherd) and blue-and-white transfer-printed whiteware (constituting five sherds). In total, the ceramic assemblage weighed 242g, with the redware component of the assemblage weighed 202g, the plain whiteware component weighing 7g and the transfer-printed whiteware component weighing 28g. In terms of date, the assemblage covered a relatively wide chronology, although it has been determined that the entire assemblage derives from the Post-medieval period.

Redware (Figure 1)

The redware component of the ceramic assemblage comprises two body sherds, one rim sherd and one base sherd.

The body sherds derive from separate storage vessels, both of which were very large in size. Both are glazed on the interior alone, one with a light brown lead glaze, the other with a darker, chocolate-brown lead glaze. In texture, the fabric of the former sherd is well fired and uniform in colour with rare, minute grit inclusions distributed sporadically throughout. The fabric of the latter sherd is less evenly fired, as it exhibits a red halo towards the interior. Moreover, this sherd contains slightly more grit inclusions. The former sherd appears nineteenth century in date, although the latter, in consideration of its fabric, may be earlier, possibly dating to the eighteenth. The rim sherd is relatively poorly fired and has an oxidised core. The fabric is also fairly coarse, with occasional grit inclusions of varying sizes throughout. The vessel from which it derived comprised a very large pancheon with a lead glaze on its interior and rim. The rim is rusticated and 'wavy' in appearance. Both the form and fabric of this sherd suggest that it is of early Post-medieval date, ranging between the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The base sherd derives from a jug or pitcher, which has a dark (almost black) lead glaze on its interior. This glaze is relatively matt in appearance and lacks the lustrous finish of Jackfield ware. The fabric is also too coarse to constitute pottery of this kind, as it is coarse, with an oxidised core. Both the glaze and fabric also lack the purplish hue of Cistercian ware. This sherd can therefore be categorised as a black lead glazed redware common from the late sixteenth into the late seventeenth centuries.

Whiteware (Figure 2)

The whiteware component of the ceramic assemblage comprises one body sherd from a plain, undecorated vessel; five rim sherds from transfer-printed vessels; and one base sherd from a transfer-printed vessel.

The undecorated body sherd is in poor condition and exhibits much brown staining where its exposed earthenware fabric has absorbed moisture from the soil. Both the exterior and interior of the sherd is markedly white in appearance and lacks the faintly creamy hue of earlier whiteware. The sherd likely derives from a plate of at least mid-nineteenth century date.

Four of the five transfer-printed rim sherds derive from plates or plate-like vessels. The exterior of one of these sherds has a bluish, cobalt hue. However, this was a by-product of the transfer-printing process rather than deriving from cobalt additions to the glaze – a characteristic of earlier Pearlware. One sherd is of the classic Willow design (originally developed by Josiah Spode) with a border consisting of a single line of white dots. The vessel from which it derived was a platter. A large plate is represented by two of the sherds. This plate had an indented rim, although it was not possible to determine whether this indenting was of the single or double variety. The design on the interior of this plate is also Chinoiserie inspired. The indented vessel, in consideration of its steep sided well, likely derive from a soup plate. The final plate sherd derived from a much smaller and finer Chinoiserie vessel, possibly constituting a side or nursery plate. The fifth rim sherd derives from a cup. The fabric of this sherd is very fine and the design on its interior, which incorporates cross-hatched chevron or diamond geometric patterning is again Chinoiserie inspired. In terms of date, all sherds detailed above belong to the nineteenth century. More specifically, the platter and the larger sized plate were likely manufactured from the mid-nineteenth century, while the inclusion of an indenture on another plate suggests that it was manufactured between the beginning of the nineteenth century and the 1820s (Neale 2005, 162).

The final sherd of transfer-printed whiteware comprises the base of a dinner plate. The design on the interior is again cross-hatched and of Chinoiserie origin. The rim at the base of the sherd is of common, single type. Again, the vessel from which this sherd derived was manufactured in the nineteenth century.

Conclusion

The ceramic assemblage detailed above is representative of two forms of activity. The first, represented mainly by the redware component, relates to food preparation and storage, while the second, represented by the whiteware assemblage, relates to dining and display. An exception, however, is represented by the black glazed redware jug or pitcher, which was connected with victual activities that significantly pre-dated the manufacture of whiteware and possibly even the earlier creamware tradition from which it developed.

Chronologically, the ceramic assemblage varies widely in date, with the earliest sherd dating from the late sixteenth century and the latest sherds dating from the mid-nineteenth century. This serves as a suggestion that although context (003) was deposited within the West Barn after its erection, it derived from a mass of waste material that accumulated prior to this erection.

Bibliography

Neale, G, 2005, *Encyclopedia of British Transfer-printed Pottery Patterns 1790–1930*, London, Miller's.

Figures



Figure 59. The redware component, comprising sherds from a c eighteenth century storage vessel (top-left), a nineteenth century storage vessel (top-centre), a sixteenth–seventeenth century pancheon (top-right) and a black lead glazed jug/pitcher (bottom-centre)

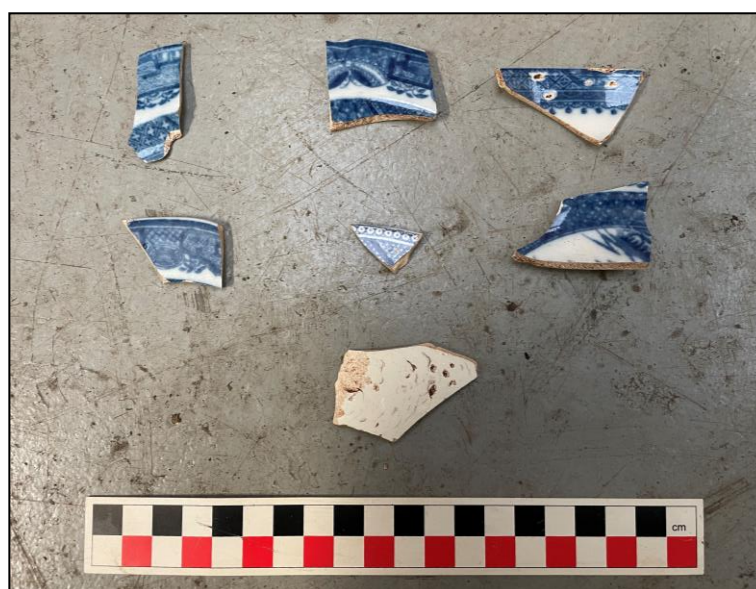


Figure 60. The whiteware component, comprising sherds from nineteenth century transfer-printed side/nursery plate (top-left), indented soup plate (top-centre and middle-left), cup (top-right), platter (middle-centre), dinner plate (middle-right) and possible undecorated plate (middle-bottom)

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