



**White Farm  
Merthyr Dyfan  
Barry  
Vale of Glamorgan**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

*for*  
**Persimmon Homes**

CA Project: 3889  
CA Report: 14172

April 2014

White Farm  
Merthyr Dyfan  
Barry  
Vale of Glamorgan

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 3889  
CA Report: 14172

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date	24 April 2014
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date	24 April 2014
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signed	
date	
issue	01

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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1: 25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of observed groundworks (1:2000)

## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	White Farm
<b>Location:</b>	Merthyr Dyfan, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan
<b>NGR:</b>	ST 1140 6935
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date:</b>	4 March –6 June 2013
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	2002/01636/OUT
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	National Museum Wales
<b>Site Code:</b>	WHF 12

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with a residential development at White Farm, Merthyr Dyfan, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March–June 2013 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Persimmon Homes at White Farm, Merthyr Dyfan, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan (centred on NGR: ST 1140 6935; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent granted by Vale of Glamorgan Council (VGC) for a residential development (Planning ref: 2002/01636/OUT). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with detailed Project Design (PD) produced by CA (2012) and approved by VGC acting on the advice of the Archaeological Planning Service of Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT), the archaeological advisors to VGC. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The development area enclosed an area of approximately 6ha, and comprised land within six fields. It was bounded on all sides by residential development. The underlying geology of the area is mapped as Porthkerry Formation Limestone and Mudstone of the Jurassic Era with no overlying superficial deposits (BGS 2014).

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.4 Archaeological interest in the site arises from its proximity to the shrunken medieval village of Merthyr Dyfan, which appears to have been located to the north and east of the development area (CA 2002). Remains of fourteen medieval buildings have so far been uncovered, in two groups west and south-east of the probable thirteenth-century church of St. Dylan and St. Teilos (Tyley 1971, Harris et al 1983). In addition, two small agricultural buildings are depicted within the site on maps of 1878 and 1955. The Rectory, which is shown on maps of 1842 to 1955, lies on the edge of the development area, possibly just to the north of it.

1.5 Fifteen evaluation trenches were excavated across the site in October 2002. No archaeological features were encountered, despite the close proximity of the site to the known medieval village of Merthyr Dyfan and the depiction of buildings within the site on nineteenth-century maps (CA 2002).

### ***Archaeological objectives***

1.6 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

### ***Methodology***

1.7 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2012). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising soil stripping and ground reduction across the site and the excavation of service trenches (Fig. 2).

1.8 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).

1.9 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with National Museum Wales. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## **2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)**

2.1 The natural geological substrate, consisting of limestone brash in a yellow clay, was revealed at an average depth of 0.35m below present ground level. In the north west of the site this was overlain by a levelling layer, up to 0.7m deep, comprised of modern rubble in a red-grey silty clay matrix, which was in turn overlain by a thin

modern topsoil. Across the remainder of the site, the topsoil directly overlay the natural geological substrate.

- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

### 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see *archaeological background* above) the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of the observed groundworks. This accords with the results of the previous evaluation of the site and reinforces the conclusion that the shrunken medieval village of Merthyr Dyfan did not extend as far as the site (CA 2002). Structures shown on the site on 1878 and 1955 maps were either a cartographical error, or else were not substantial enough to be archaeologically visible.

### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Charlotte Haines, Christopher Leonard, Rebecca Riley and Jamie Wright. The report was written by Christopher Leonard. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled by Christopher Leonard, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

### 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed 24 April 2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2002 *White Farm, Merthyr Dyfan, Vale of Glamorgan. Archaeological Evaluation*. CA Typescript Report No. **02105**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 *White Farm, Merthyr Dyfan, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan: Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Harris, R., Parkhouse, J. and Tyley, G.R. 1983 'Excavations at Merthyr Dyfan' *GGAT Annual Report 1982-3*

Tyley, G.R. 1971 'Merthyr Dyfan', *Archaeology in Wales* **11**





**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	Thickness (m)
10000	Layer	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay	0.1–0.3
10001	Deposit	Made ground	Mid red-grey silty clay, frequent modern rubble	0.2–0.7m
10002	Layer	Natural	Limestone fragments in yellow clay	

## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	White Farm, Merthyr Dyfan, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with a residential development at White Farm, Merthyr Dyfan, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	4 March–6 June 2103	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Evaluation (CA 2012)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	White Farm, Merthyr Dyfan, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan	
Study area	0.6ha	
Site co-ordinates	ST 1140 6935	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	-	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Rebecca Riley	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	-	-
Paper	National Museum Wales	Context sheets, trench recording forms, photographic register
Digital	National Museum Wales	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>White Farm, Merthyr Dyfan, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>14172</b>		



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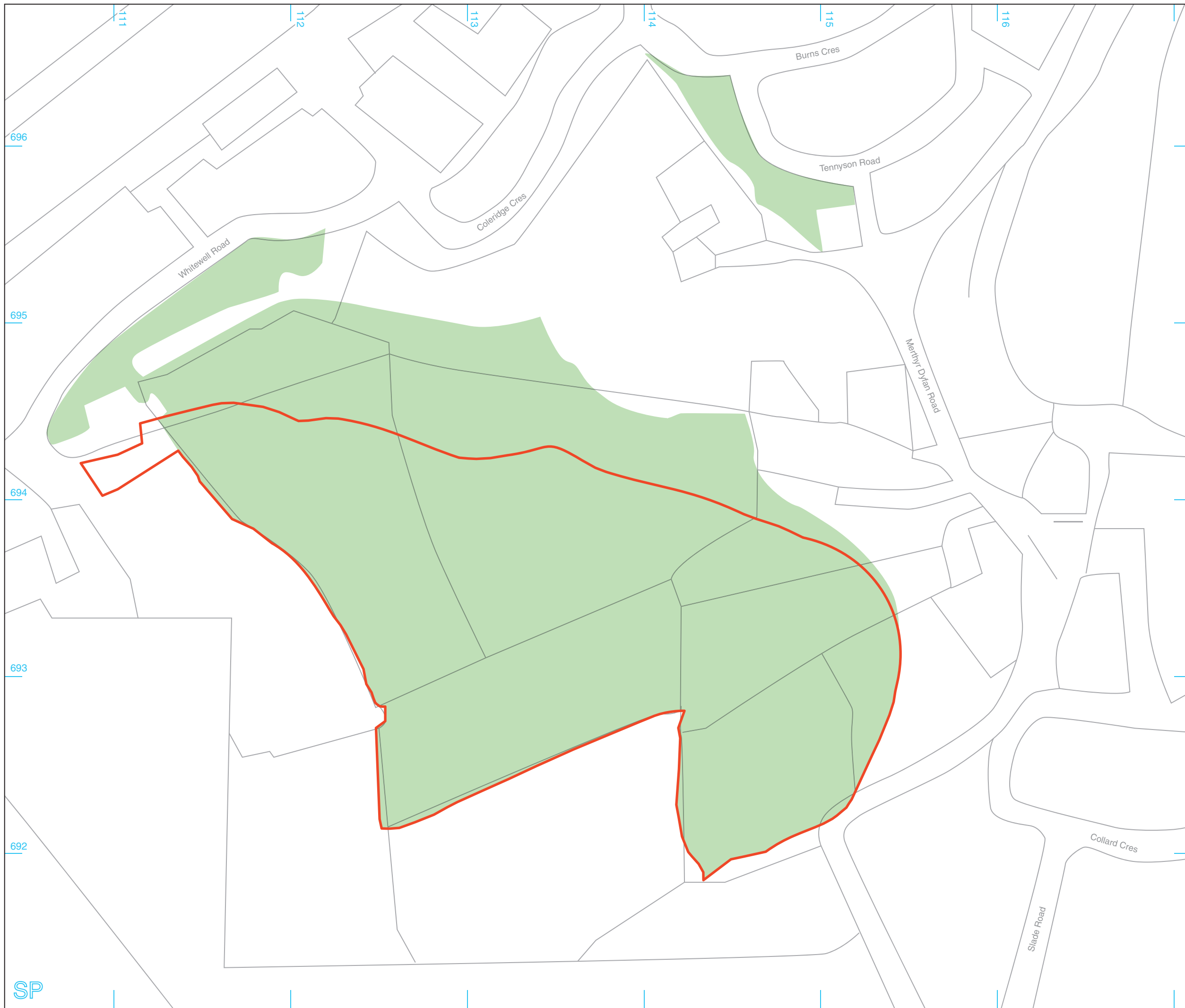


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**PROJECT TITLE**  
White Farm, Merthyr Dyfan, Barry  
Vale of Glamorgan

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Site location plan

<b>DRAWN BY</b>	AO	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	3889	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	RP	<b>DATE</b>	21/12/2015	
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	REY	<b>SCALE@A4</b>	1:25,000	<b>1</b>



- site boundary
- area of observed groundworks



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 White Farm, Merthyr Dyfan, Barry Vale of Glamorgan

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 The site, showing location of observed groundworks

<small>DRAWN BY</small> AO	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> 3889	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> RP	<small>DATE</small> 21/12/2015	<b>2</b>
<small>APPROVED BY</small> REY	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:1000	