

Tredunnock House, Tredunnock, Usk, Monmouthshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

On Behalf Of:

Mr & Mrs Itani



By

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ABSOLUTE ARCHAEOLOGY



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT TREDUNNOCK HOUSE, USK, MONMOUTHSHIRE

NGR ST 38008 94816

PL. App No: DC/2008/01076

Summary

Absolute Archaeology was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Itani to undertake a Watching Brief as part of groundworks associated with the planned extension to Tredunnoch House, Usk, Monmouthshire.

The work was subject to the conditions laid down by Monmouthshire Council (pl. app no. DC/2008/01076), with advice from the curatorial division of Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd.

The Watching Brief revealed no features of archaeological interest during the course of groundworks.

Acknowledgements

Absolute Archaeology would like to acknowledge the assistance of the clients, Mr & Mrs Itani and Neil Maylan of Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd in the production of this report. We would also like to acknowledge Mark Curtis and Edward Ford, the contractual ground workers, for showing great patience during the investigation of each individual construction trench.

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Maps

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Abbreviations

aOD

Above Ordnance Datum; used to express a given height above mean sea level.

SEA LEVEL

Heights are to the nearest metre above sea level at Newlyn.

The Site

The specific development area

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PLATES

Miscellaneous photos of the archaeological monitoring

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report sets out the results of the archaeological Watching Brief on land belonging to Mr and Mrs Itani, adjoining Tredunnoch House, Usk. The work was to monitor all groundworks associated with the proposed extension to Tredunnoch House (planning reference DC/2008/01076). The Watching Brief was carried out by Absolute Archaeology between Tuesday 4th and Friday 8th August 2009.

1.2 The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Itani.

2 SITE INFORMATION

2.1 Tredunnoch house is set in the small village of Tredunnoch, located within the rural Monmouthshire landscape which is defined by enclosed farmland and scattered villages. The house is set in large grounds, with the main building located less than 5m south of St Andrew's churchyard. The River Usk is less than 500m to the east.

2.2 The Layout plan of the proposed extension is described in the Delegation Report as being *'A ground floor dining/garden room and first floor bathroom to the west side elevation of the property, measuring approximately 8.5m by 5.6m by 5.6m high and a ground floor bedroom/store to the rear north elevation of the property. The ground floor bedroom measures approximately 4.8m by 4.8m by 5.2m and the bathroom measures approximately 4.7m by 1.8m by 3.1m high.'*

2.3 Tredunnoch House is described in the Delegation Report as *'a traditional detached two storey dwelling located within the village centre of Tredunnoch and within Tredunnoch's Conservation area'*. Tredunnoch House is set in large grounds and is located within a Special Landscape Area (SLA).

2.4 The Site lies upon the St Maughans Formation of Old Red Sandstone.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Tredunnoch House is situated in an area of probable high archaeological potential associated with the Roman period. Martin Locock, writing on behalf of Cadw and Monmouthshire County Council (Monmouthshire Historic Settlements Survey Part 2), has noted that the area around the church of St Andrew's could well be the site of a Roman fort. Indeed the boundary directly north of the proposed extension to Tredunnoch House and surrounding St Andrew's church has the characteristics and layout of the perimeter of a Roman fort, which in turn appears to be within another larger enclosure of similar shape.
- 3.2 High archaeological potential is further supported by the discovery of a Roman tombstone found near the church (probably the Roman tablet on display in the church, dedicated by the wife of a Legionary named Julius of the Legio II Augusta) and earthworks identified within the area of the church.
- 3.3 The village of Tredunnoch is approximately 500m west of the River Usk and positioned centrally between the legionary fortress at Caerleon and the earlier Neronian legionary fortress at Usk. This again suggests that Tredunnoch was situated in a strategically important area during the Romano-British period (adapted from the summary of archaeology provided by Judith Doyle, (2009) Archaeological Planning Officer, Monmouthshire County Council)

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 Monitoring of all groundworks associated with the proposed extension took place.
- 4.2 This took place in accordance with IFA (2008) *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.
- 4.3 The archive has been prepared using the site code A Arc 15.

5 RESULTS

5.1 All groundworks were closely monitored during removal of soil by a 3 ton Yanmar mini digger from all of the construction trenches. All trenches measuring <1m in width and <1.4m in depth were devoid of archaeological features. Examination of the spoil from all trenches revealed no finds, apart from occasional sherds of modern 20th century glazed pottery (not retained).

6 CONCLUSION

6.1 As discussed above, no archaeological features were identified as a result of the archaeological Watching Brief. The investigation focussed on all groundworks associated with the proposed extension.

7 ARCHIVE

7.1 As the result of the Watching Brief was negative and no archaeological material was recovered, deposition of the archive is deemed necessary. However, a copy of this report will be submitted to the our clients, Mr and Mrs Itani, Mr N Maylan, Archaeological Planning Manager, Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd and the Monmouthshire Council, Local Planning Authority, for their records.

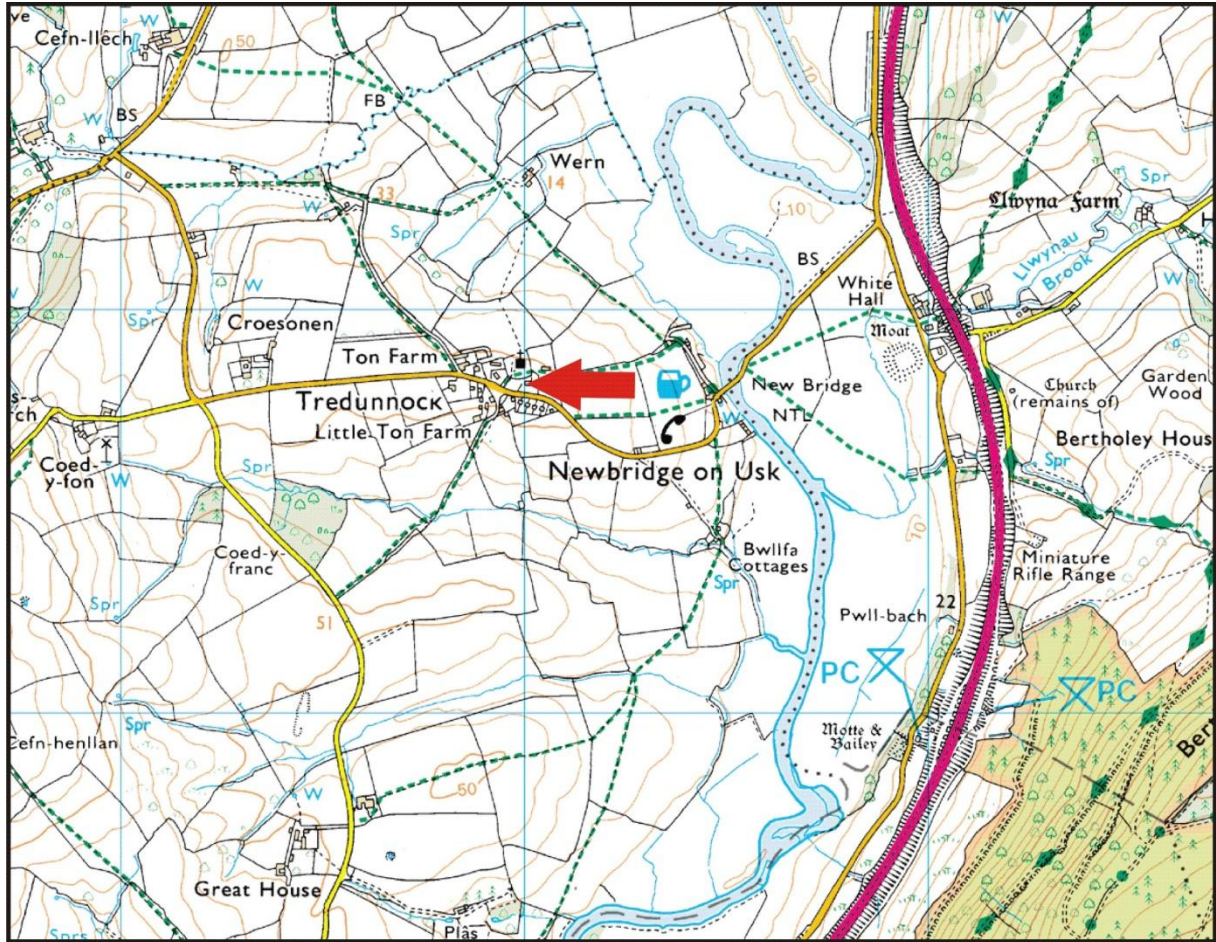
8 REFERENCES

English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects 2*

IFA. 2008. *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological Watching Brief*

9. FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location

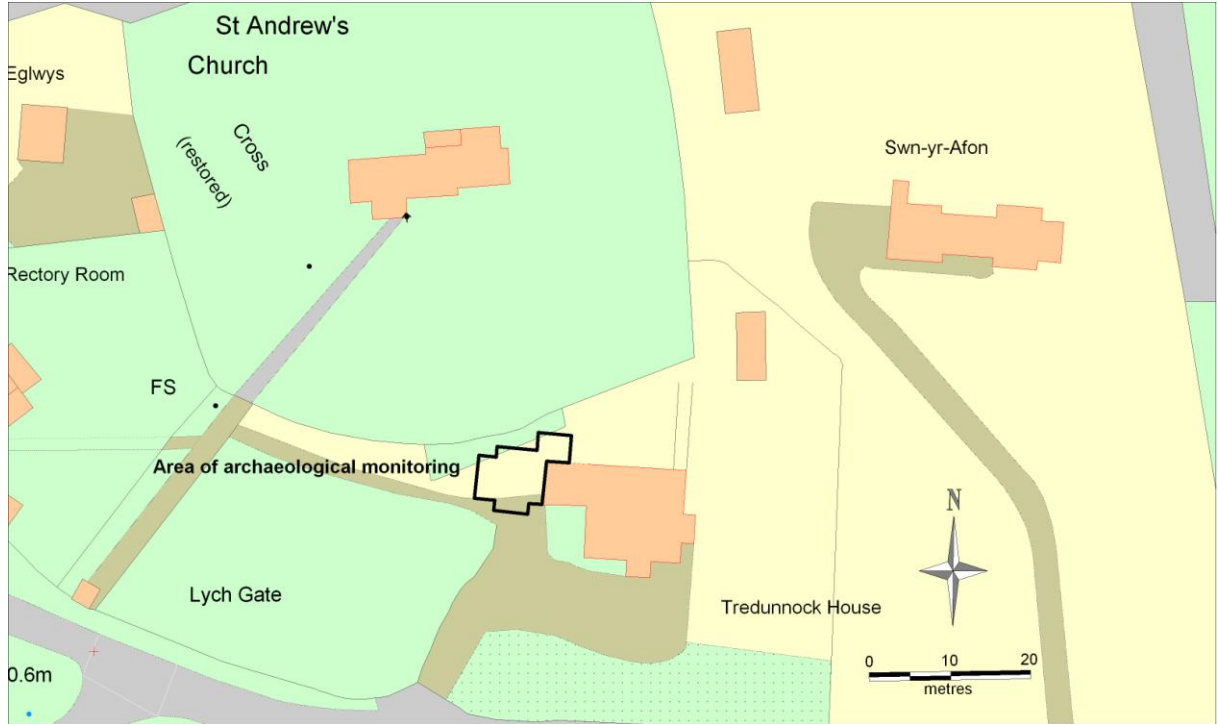


1 km

← = Location of site



Figure 2: Area of archaeological monitoring



10. Plates: General Working Shots

