

DWR CYMRU WATER MAIN RENEWAL SCHEME, LLANDYGWYDD CEREDIGION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF (NGR SN 2425 4377)



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**DWR CYMRU WATER MAIN RENEWAL
SCHEME, LLANDYGWYDD CEREDIGION:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Gan / By

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during excavation works as part of the Llandygwydd Water Main Renewal Scheme following recommendation from the archaeological advisors to the local planning authority. The work was commissioned from Dyfed Archaeological Trust by Dwr Cymru

Two monitoring visits were made to during the excavation works. The only deposits that were revealed within the excavated trenches were modern road formation layers that are of minimal archaeological interest. A revetted stone boundary bank was identified running along the south side of the unclassified road leading to Llandygwydd. The bank is thought to date from between the post medieval and industrial periods and is considered to be of low archaeological interest.

No further archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the course of the archaeological watching brief. It is considered that the monitored works had a minimal impact on the buried archaeological resource.

Unfortunately a number of pits excavated in the vicinity of Llandygwydd Church were undertaken without archaeological monitoring, as Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were not informed by the on-site contractor. It is therefore not known if any archaeological deposits were revealed during the course of these works. Due to the small scale nature of the intrusive works, and the fact that they were targeting an existing length of pipe trench, it is considered that even if archaeological deposits were present in this area the overall impact would have been minor.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

1.1.1 Dwr Cymru proposed to undertake a water mains renewal scheme at Llandygwydd, Ceredigion (centred on NGR SM 9792 3739).

1.1.2 The requirement for an archaeological watching brief was placed on the water main renewal scheme following advice from the archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, as the site lies within an area of medieval and later medieval activity. It was considered possible that the proposed works could expose, damage or destroy below ground archaeological remains associated with medieval or later settlement.

1.1.3 Dwr Cymru commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to undertake the archaeological watching brief.

1.2 Scope of the Project

1.2.1 The scheme will involve the replacement of an existing water main running through the village of Llandygwydd, Ceredigion. The water main will mostly be replaced through the use of drilling through the old pipe and pushing through a replacement. A few areas of open cut trenches will be required on the route, and these are the areas where there is a potential for archaeological remains to be exposed, damaged or destroyed. Archaeological observation will be undertaken in these areas only.

1.2.2 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services prior to the commencement of the works, which was approved by the archaeological advisor to the planning authority. The WSI stated that the project objectives were:

- Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which Dyfed Archaeological Trust will address the planning condition placed on the proposed development;
- To monitor groundworks in order to identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits. To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed groundworks;
- To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the groundworks; and
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

The overall aim of the work was to undertake archaeological attendance during the proposed groundworks at the site when they had the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains, and undertake appropriate investigation and recording of any such remains if revealed.

1.3 Report Outline

1.3.1 This report describes the location of the development works along with its archaeological background, and provides a summary and discussion of the archaeological watching brief and its results.

1.4 Abbreviations

1.4.1 Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record¹ (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services – DAT-FS; Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management – DAT-HM; Scheduled Ancient Monument – SAM; Written Scheme of Investigation – WSI; northeast – NE; southeast – SE; northwest – NW; southwest – SW; north-northeast – NNE; south-southeast – SSE; west-northwest – WNW etc.

1.5 Illustrations

1.5.1 Photographic images are to be found at the back of the report. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale.

1.6 Timeline

1.6.1 The following timeline shown in Table 1 below is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text.

| Period | Approximate date | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Palaeolithic – | c.450,000 – 10,000 BC | Prehistoric |
| Mesolithic – | c. 10,000 – 4400 BC | |
| Neolithic – | c.4400 – 2300 BC | |
| Bronze Age – | c.2300 – 700 BC | |
| Iron Age – | c.700 BC – AD 43 | |
| Roman (Romano-British) Period – | AD 43 – c. AD 410 | Historic |
| Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period – | c. AD 410 – AD 1066 | |
| Medieval Period – | 1066 – 1536 | |
| Post-Medieval Period ² – | 1536 – 1750 | |
| Industrial Period – | 1750 – 1899 | |
| Modern – | 20th century onwards | |

Table 1: Archaeological and historical timeline for Wales

¹ Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo SA19 6AF.

² The post-medieval and industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional Historic Environment Record as held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust

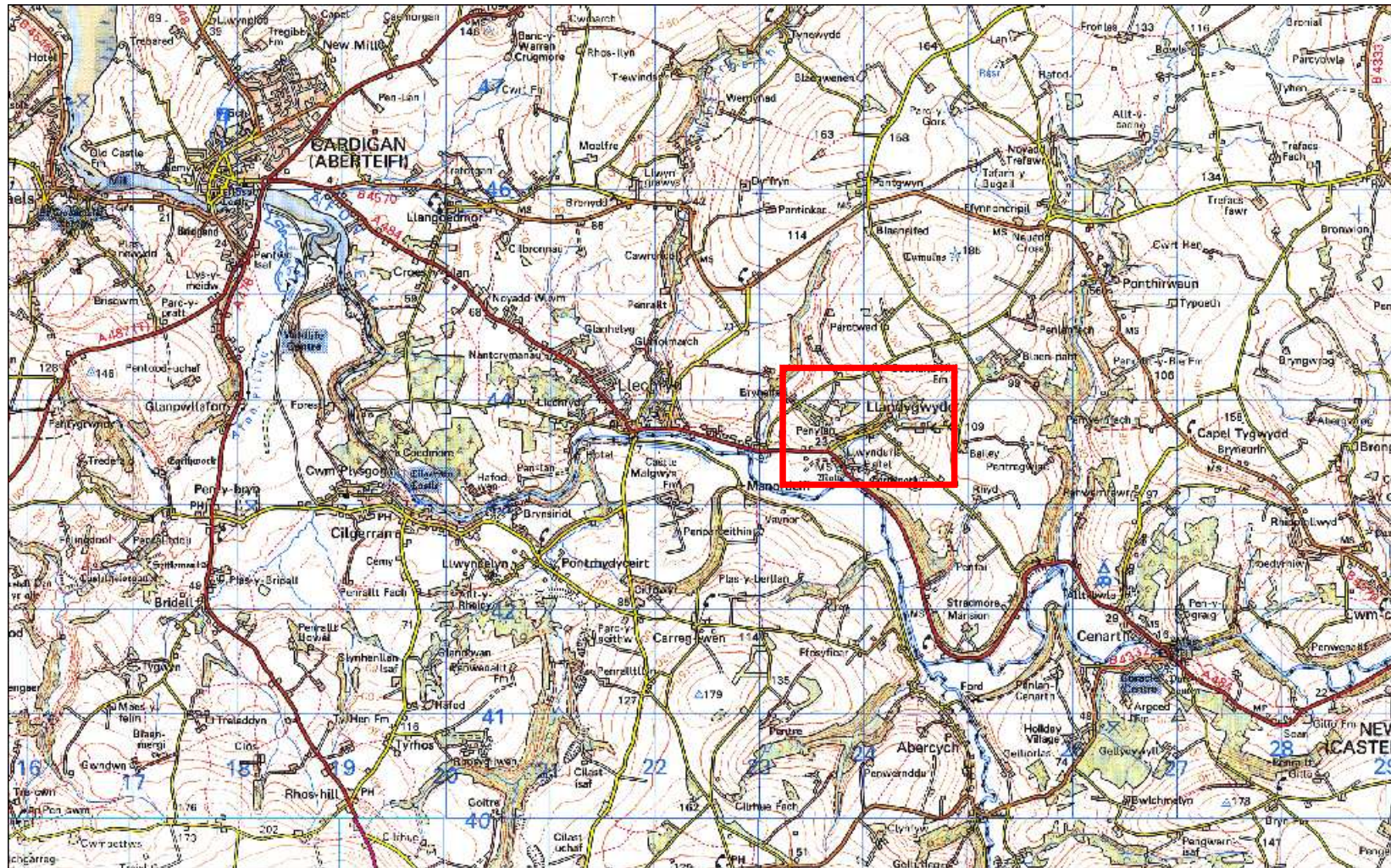


Figure 1: Site location map based upon the Ordnance Survey

Reproduced from the 2003 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A

2. THE SITE

2.1 Location

2.1.1 The area of archaeological interest covers a 1.4km long route of water main renewal works (centred on NGR SM 9792 3739) that follows the line of the A484 Newcastle Emlyn to Cardigan road before turning north east along an unclassified road leading through the village of Llandygwydd. The water main then turns eastwards along the route of Parcgwydd Hill terminating at a property known as Hazeldene.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.2.1 The area of archaeological interest lies within the Llandygwydd Historic Landscape Categorisation (HLC) Area which is summarised below.

2.2.2 *During the historic period, this character area lay within Ceredigion, in the medieval Cantref Iscoed, divided between the commotes of Uwch-Hirwern and Is-Hirwern, which were separated by the steep, north-south valley of the Afon Hirwaun. Ceredigion, including Cantref Iscoed, was briefly brought under Anglo-Norman control between 1110 and 1136, under the de Clare earls. It is probably during this period that most of the numerous castles within this part of Ceredigion were established, some of them possibly having been built during the Welsh reconquest of 1135-6. Ceredigion remained in Welsh hands throughout the 12th and 13th centuries, until finally annexed by the English crown in 1283, when the county of Cardiganshire was created. However, Is-Hirwern commote was relinquished to the Norman King John in 1201 when it became a royal lordship, administered from Cardigan Castle. It remained - apart from a brief period of Welsh rule 1215-1223 - until the Act of Union of 1536 when it became part of the Hundred of Troedyr. Generally the lordship remained subject to Welsh law and tenorial patterns throughout the medieval period, administered as a 'Welshry'. A motte-castle, established near Llwynduris, overlooking the northern edge of the Teifi floodplain, may have become the centre of a small vill. A vill had certainly been established by the late 13th century, which was formally constituted as the Manor of Llandygwydd, probably under the patronage of the Bishops of St Davids who had acquired the parish of Llandygwydd, and who established a fair in the manor.*

2.2.3 *Llandygwydd parish church (which was rebuilt in the 19th century immediately to the east of its predecessor) may have been established at the same time as the motte, but it is more likely to be contemporary with its grant to St Davids as it lies 0.5km northeast of the motte. The motte appears to have been abandoned at an early date and was replaced by the late medieval manor house (or gentry-house) probably represented by the square earthwork to the west. This is probably the Llwynduris referred to in 1507, when it was the property of the Bishops, under lease to Gruffudd Willam Madog. Otherwise, the area in general remained subject to Welsh tenorial patterns - with neither vill nor knight's fees - which were largely responsible for the dispersed settlement pattern within the region.*

2.2.4 *No medieval nucleation occurred, the present settlement at Llandygwydd, whilst focused on the church and, presumably, the site of the medieval vill, is entirely from the later post-medieval period, represented by a straggling row of cottages leading up a small valley from the church. The loose cluster at Ponthirwaun is also late post-medieval and, like Capel Tygwydd just beyond this character area, developed during the early 19th century along the B4570 and around an independent chapel that was established in 1840. A nearby quarry may have encouraged its growth. Settlement has continued to develop, with 20th century infilling. The area throughout is characterised by scattered farmsteads*

most of which are contemporary with the present landscape of large, regular fields, although some may have earlier origins This landscape appears to be late post-medieval and had assumed its present form by the late 18th century when estate maps depict it as it is today. Some of the farms developed into fairly substantial gentry-houses, exploiting the fine southerly aspect, and the area developed a 'polite' veneer. These include the 17th century Stradmore Mansion, recorded in 1610 but later re-sited, Blaenpant, recorded in 1621, and Penylan. Manor Eifed was established before 1766. The road that now flanks the southern edge of the area - the A484 - was newly constructed in the late 18th century as a turnpike.

2.2.5 A total of fourteen sites of archaeological interest are recorded on the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Regional Historic Environment Record lying in close proximity to the route of the water mains renewal works (see table 2). None of the fourteen recorded archaeological interests would be directly affected by the works.

| PRN | Site Name | Description | Grid Reference |
|-------|---|--|----------------|
| 2083 | Onen-Deg; Onnen-Deg | Iron Age Defended Enclosure scheduled ancient monument CD162 | SN 2335 4344 |
| 5225 | Llandygwydd Parish Church; St Tygwydd's | Site of medieval parish church totally rebuilt in 1856-9, (see PRN 20773), within the same churchyard as, but c.100m to the east of its predecessor (at NGR 2426 4379), for which there is now no physical evidence. | SN 2421 4376 |
| 6537 | Manoreifed | Grade II listed Post-medieval rural dwelling | SN 2322 4365 |
| 9875 | Abereifed | Four Post-medieval dwellings recorded by RCAHMW in 1981 | SN 2307 4349 |
| 10353 | St Tegwy Dedication | SAME AS PRN 5225 | SN 243 438 |
| 15360 | Cemetery | Post-medieval Cemetery | SN 2285 4359 |
| 15362 | Post-medieval School | Post-medieval School | SN 2418 4374 |
| 15363 | Post-medieval Vicarage | Grade II Listed Vicarage | SN 24025 43685 |
| 18001 | St Tygwydd's Church | SAME AS PRN 20773 | SN 2426 4379 |
| 20773 | St.Tygwydd's | Grade II Listed Post-medieval Church | SN 24251 43787 |
| 57903 | Makeig Memorial SSW Of Porch Of Church Of Saint Tygwydd | Grade II listed Post-medieval Memorial | SN 24242 43776 |
| 57904 | Coach-House And Stable To W Of Llandygwydd Church | Grade II listed Post-medieval Coach-house & Stable | SN 24169 43730 |
| 57905 | Church Cottage | Grade II listed Post-medieval House (cottage) | SN 24257 43808 |
| 58338 | Manoreifed | Grade II listed Post-medieval house | SN 23211 43644 |

Table 2: Known sites of archaeological interest in close proximity to the route of the water main renewal recorded on the Regional HER

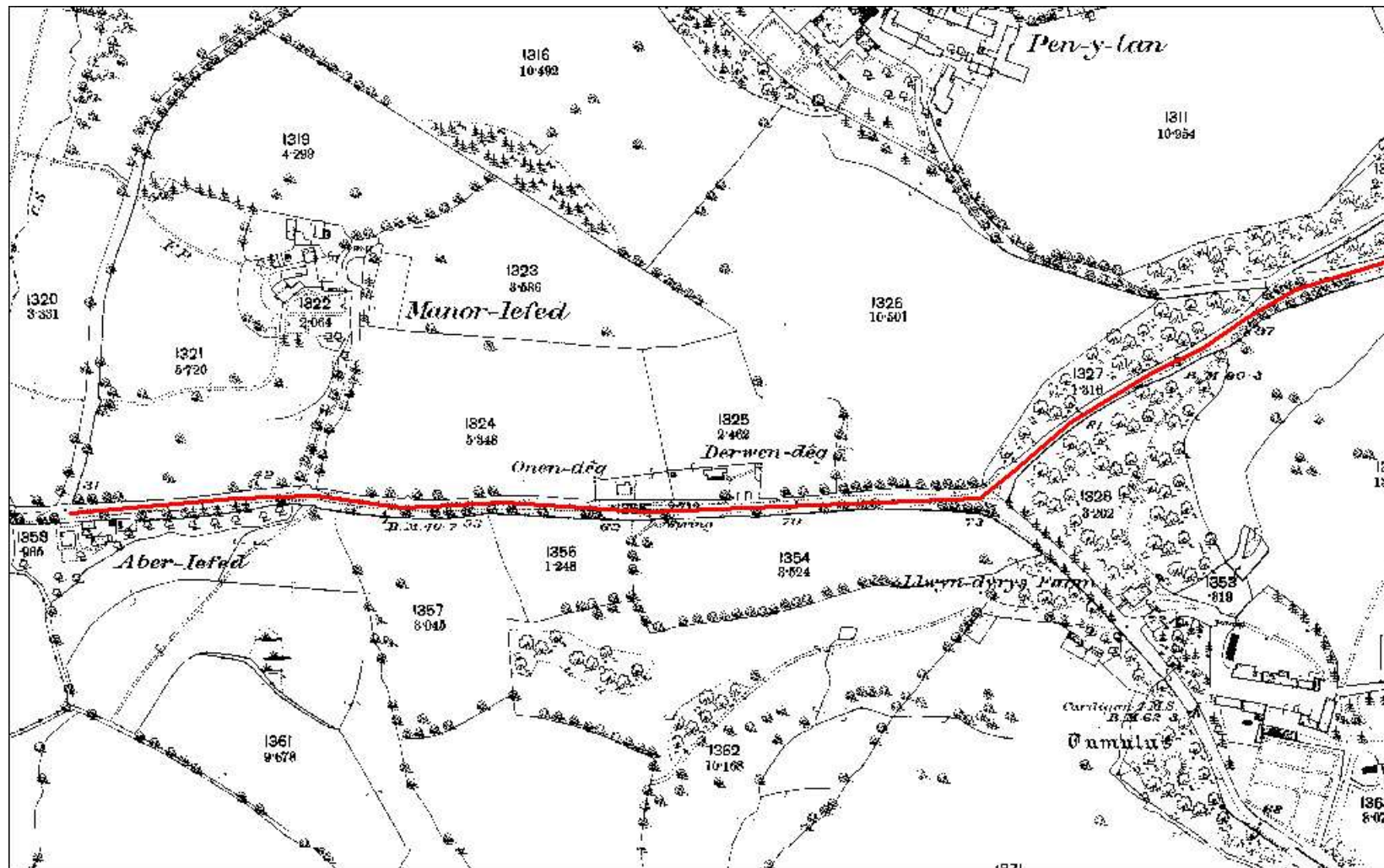


Figure 2: The route of the water main renewal works monitored by DAT-FS, overlain on the 1889 OS map

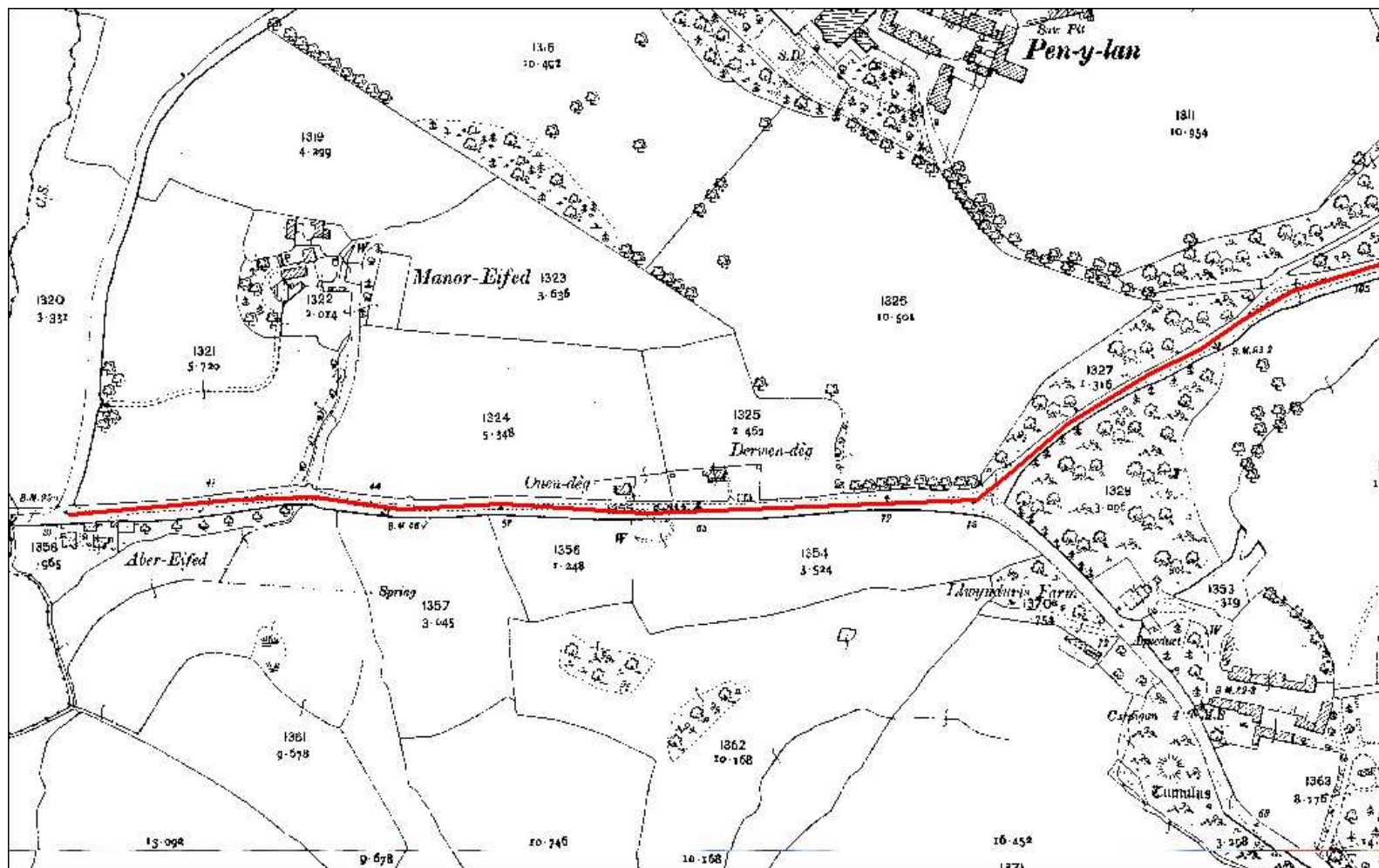


Figure 3: The route of the water main renewal works monitored by DAT-FS, overlain on the 1905 OS map

3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

The detailed methodology for the watching brief was laid out within the WSI. The relevant methodology can be summarised as follows.

3.1 Fieldwork

3.1.1 A 'watching brief' was undertaken during open cut works along the water main renewal scheme route that had the potential to expose, damage or destroy underlying archaeological remains.

3.1.2 All archaeological deposits revealed during the groundworks were examined and recorded to an appropriate level.

3.1.3 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual³ used by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services.

3.2 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving

3.2.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork will be collated into a site archive structured in accordance with the specifications in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2007), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.

3.2.2 The results of the fieldwork have been assessed in local, regional and wider contexts. The report includes a desk-based research element to ensure that the site is placed within its wider archaeological context.

3.2.3 A report fully representative of the results of the fieldwork has been prepared.

3.3 Timetabling of Fieldwork

3.2.7 The watching brief methodology involved monitoring of groundworks during three phases of excavation works. A site meeting was held with the site contractor on 7th June. Excavation work was monitored during two site visits on 15th June and 6th July respectively. Unfortunately the site contractor failed to inform DAT-FS when the intrusive works were being undertaken around the church, so this was done without archaeological monitoring.

³ Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services have adopted the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available on-site for inspection if required.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Area 1 (NGR SN 2307 4350 – SN 2391 4364)

4.1.1 Site visits were undertaken on the 15th June and 6th July 2011 to monitor excavation works along the route of the water main renewal. The majority of the trenches revealed modern road formation layers overlying natural clays. The road formation layers are considered to be of minimal archaeological interest.

4.1.2 Two trenches were excavated on the grass verges of the road line. The sections of the trench revealed a dark topsoil overlying natural clays and shale (see photos 1 & 2). It was possible to identify a revetted stone bank forming the eastern boundary of the unclassified road leading to Llandygwydd village (see photos 3 & 4). The bank was not affected by the water main renewal works. It is likely to date from at least the latter part of the 19th century when the boundary is shown on Ordnance Survey mapping of the area. The bank is considered to be of low archaeological interest.

4.1.3 With the exception of modern road make-up layers and the revetted stone bank, no further archaeological features and deposits were revealed during the two site visits.

4.2 Remainder of Route

4.2.1 Following a breakdown in communication with the on site contractor no further site visits were made to monitor ground works associated with the water main renewal scheme.

4.2.2 It is not known whether any archaeological remains were revealed along the remainder of the route which passed in close proximity to the parish church of Llandygwydd which is known to have medieval origins.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 The archaeological watching brief undertaken during the Llandygwydd water mains renewal works revealed no archaeological remains within the excavated trenches monitored.

5.2 All of the trenches were excavated to find the location of an existing pipeline below ground and were excavated through backfill of the original pipe trench. As such it was unlikely that the works would significantly disturb archaeological remains, merely expose them (if present) within the sides of the excavated trenches.

5.3 The majority of the observed trenches were excavated in the area of the existing road. Only modern road formation layers of minimal archaeological interest were exposed. Two trenches were excavated within the grass verge. These trenches only revealed topsoil and undisturbed natural; subsoils and bedrock. Although none of these trenches exposed significant archaeological remains, they do serve to demonstrate the absence of such deposits. If archaeological remains had been present in the past, they may have been removed during the construction of the existing road.

5.4 A boundary bank of revetted stone was identified but this lay on the boundary of the route of the water main renewal scheme and was not affected by the works. The revetted stone bank is considered to date from between the post medieval and industrial periods and is of low archaeological interest.

5.5 It is considered that the water main renewal works had a minimal impact on the buried archaeological remains of the section monitored. It is not known if any archaeological deposits were revealed during works in the vicinity of Llandygwydd Church, as these were not monitored as the on-site contractors failed to notify Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services that they had commenced.

5.6 In the context of the results of the other trenches, where these unmonitored works were located along the route of the existing pipeline, it is very unlikely that archaeological remains would have been significantly damaged. These works were located over the backfilled trench of the existing pipe to be replaced. Significant archaeological remains may have been revealed within the sides of the trench.

6. SOURCES

6.1 Databases

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Regional Historic Environment Record is held at The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo.

6.2 Map

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 scale Cardiganshire 1889

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 scale Cardiganshire 1905

6.3 Unpublished

Lower Teifi Valley Historic Landscape Categorisation Area: Llandygwydd. Unpublished report by Dyfed Archaeological Trust for CADW Welsh Historic Monuments

Photographs

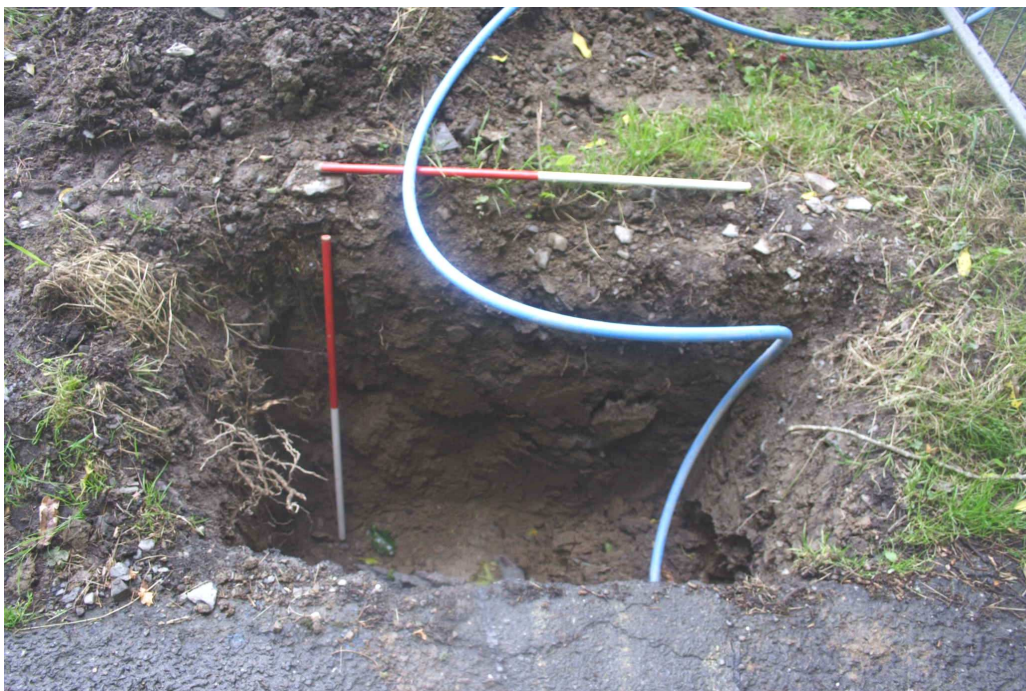


Photo 1: North facing section of roadside pipe trench
(NGR SN 2393 4364)



Photo 2: South facing section of roadside pipe trench
(NGR SN 2370 4351)



Photo 3: Stone revetted boundary bank on south side of road to Llandygwydd



Photo 4: Detail of boundary bank stone revetting

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December 2011

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This report has been checked and approved by

JAMES MEEK

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

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Llofnod / Signature  Date

*Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau
sydd gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn*

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comments you may have on the content or presentation of this report.*

