

**TY MAWR FARM, LLANSAINST,
CARMARTHENSHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF
(NGR SN 3884 0811)**



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For: Dorrell Renewables



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CARMARTHENSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Gan / By

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TY MAWR FARM, LLANSAIN, CARMARTHENSHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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TY MAWR FARM, LLANSAIN, CARMARTHENSHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were commissioned by Dorrell Renewables, on behalf of Mr Jonathon Strong, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new Gaia wind turbine at Ty Mawr Farm, Llansaint, Carmarthenshire.

The application area lies in close proximity to the site of a possible Bronze Age barrow, although the provenance of the record and the exact location of the site are unclear. A Bronze Age standing stone also lies in close proximity. As such sites tend to exist within cemeteries or in association with other features in the wider Bronze Age landscape, the site was identified by the archaeological advisor to the planning authority as having archaeological potential.

No archaeological remains of Bronze Age or any other period were revealed during the course of the archaeological watching brief which suggests that if any were present they have been destroyed by ploughing or lie outside the area affected by the groundworks.

Discussions with the landowner revealed that flint had been occasionally unearthed during previous episodes of ploughing on land to the east of, and outside the, application area. The nature of this flint is unclear as none of it was retained by the landowner. Flint can be an indication of prehistoric archaeological activity.

The observed groundworks associated with the wind turbine had a minimal impact on the buried archaeological resource in the area. No archaeological finds or features were recovered from the development site, however the potential for archaeological remains of Bronze Age and other periods to lie within the wider area cannot be discounted.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

1.1.1 Dorrell Renewables Ltd, on behalf of the client Mr Jonathon Strong, submitted a planning application to Carmarthenshire County Council for the erection of a Gaia wind turbine at Ty Mawr Farm, Llansaint, Kidwelly, SA17 5JQ (NGR Planning Application Reference – W/23837).

1.1.2 The application area lies in close proximity to the possible site of a Bronze Age barrow and a Bronze Age standing stone. The site was therefore considered to have archaeological potential by the archaeological advisor to the planning authority, as such sites tend to exist within cemeteries or in association with other features in the Bronze Age landscape. So although no known archaeological sites were present within the site area, there was a potential for hitherto unknown archaeological sites, including burials to survive below ground within the area affected by proposed groundworks.

1.1.3 The condition (no. 6) placed on the planning decision stated:

The developer shall ensure that a professionally qualified archaeologist is present during the undertaking of any groundworks in the development area, so that an archaeological watching brief can be carried out. The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists. The Planning Authority will be informed, in writing at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development, of the name of the said archaeologist.

1.1.4 Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were commissioned by Mr Jonathon Strong to undertake the archaeological watching brief. An initial written scheme of investigation was prepared and approved prior to the commencement of the works.

1.2 Scope of the Project

1.2.1 The project was designed to enable investigation and recording of any archaeological features or deposits exposed during the excavation of the base of the Gaia wind turbine and associated cable trench connecting the turbine to Ty Mawr.

1.3 Report Outline

1.3.1 This report describes the location of the site 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 Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo SA19 6AF.

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 is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text (Table 1).

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

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

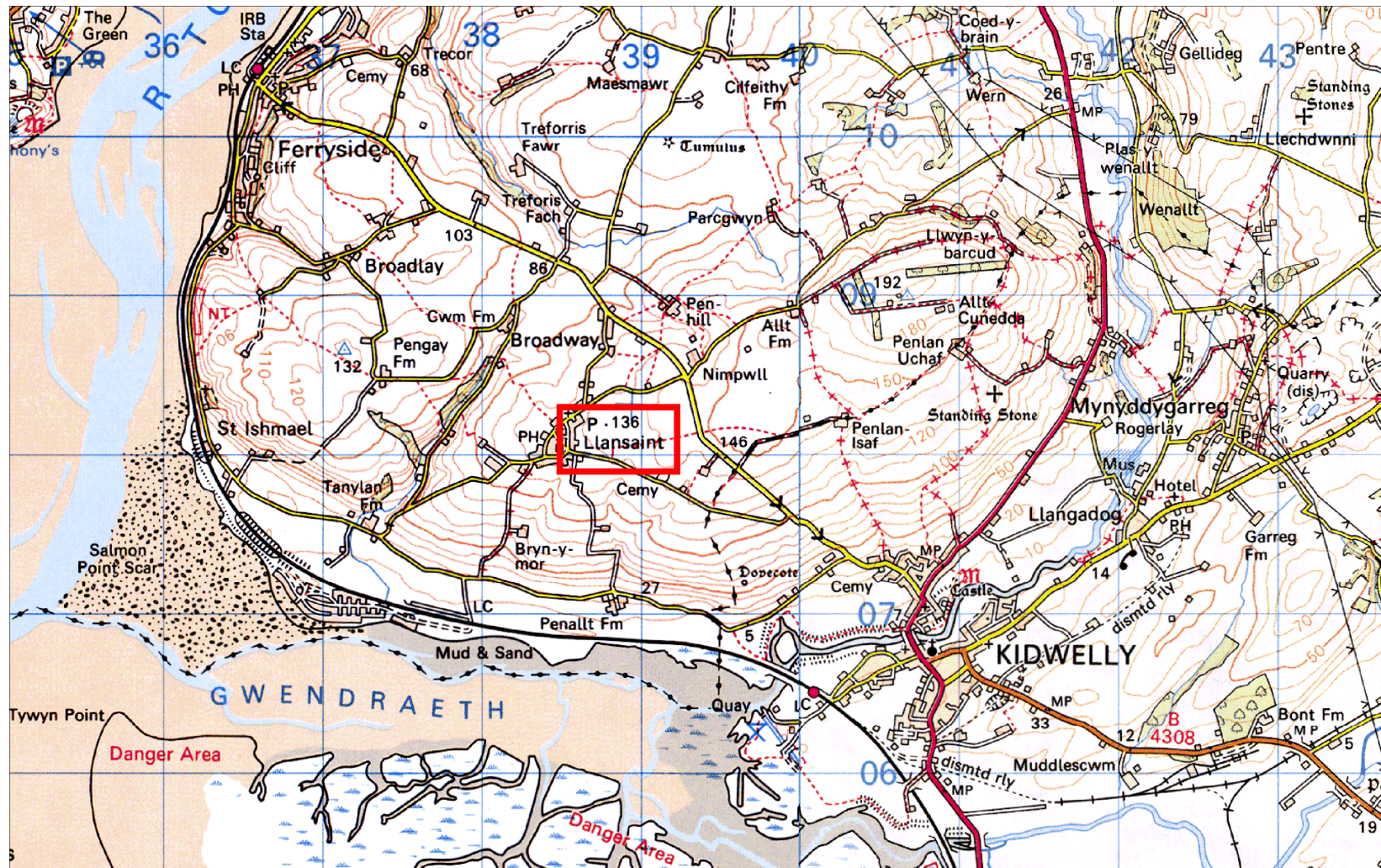


Figure 1: Site Location map of watching brief site from the Ordnance Survey.

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2. THE SITE

2.1 Location

2.1.1 The application area (centred on NGR SN 3884 0811) lies on agricultural land to the east of the centre of Llansaint village near Kidwelly Carmarthenshire. The application area occupies high ground with views of Carmarthen Bay to the west, the Gower peninsula to the south and Allt Cunedda to the east.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.2.1 The development site lies in close proximity to six known archaeological sites recorded on the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Regional Historic Environment Record (Table 2). None of these sites would directly be affected by the groundworks

PRN	Site Name	Description	Grid Reference
2122	Fynnon Saint	Recorded site of a medieval holy well, close to Tabor Chapel, believed to have been dedicated to St Ishmael, covered over and a pump placed over). A pump is still shown on modern mapping.	SN 3862 0830
8431	Llansaint Smithy	Site of now destroyed post medieval blacksmiths workshop	SN 3865 0830
11227	Llansaint Tump	Bronze Age round barrow	SN 387 082
15626	Tabor Chapel	Post medieval chapel originally established as a Sunday school, prior to the building of the present chapel in 1877.	SN 3855 0827
23595	Fynnon Saint	Cottage shown on 1907 6" OS map. Present condition unknown	SN 3859 0829
23597		Post medieval blacksmiths workshop	SN 3852 0811

Table 2: Known archaeological interests in close proximity to the development site

2.2.2 Located c.440m to the east of the application area lies Maen Llwyd standing stone (PRN 2125; NGR SN 3930 0809) which like Llansaint Tump (PRN 8431) is believed to date from the Bronze Age. In addition to the Llansaint Tump round barrow and Maen Llwyd standing stone sites, the wider landscape surrounding the application area has nineteen known archaeological sites of Bronze Age date within a c.2km radius, indicating a considerable amount of activity in this area during the period (see Figure 2).

2.2.3 The recorded site of Llansaint Tump (PRN 11227) was visited by the HER Officer of Dyfed Archaeological Trust, with the client, prior to the works commencing. No sign of a Bronze Age barrow was visible in the recorded location during the site visit. This could mean that the site has been mis-located. The potential of the site to contain remains of Bronze Age date was still present due to the numerous other sites of this date in the area.

2.2.4 The late 19th and early 20th century Ordnance Survey maps indicate that the development area was used as agricultural land. No structures or archaeological features are indicated on the plans (Figures 3 & 4).

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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 ground level reduction works at the site which 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. This report includes a desk-based research element to ensure that the site is placed within its wider archaeological context.

3.2.3 This report is fully representative of the results of the fieldwork.

3.3 Timetabling of Fieldwork

3.2.7 The watching brief methodology involved monitoring of excavations of the wind turbine base and associated cable trench. The groundworks were monitored during one site visit on 15th July 2011.

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

4.1 Turbine Base

4.1.1 The turbine base measured 5.4m x 5.6m and was excavated to a depth of 1.15m revealing a stratigraphic sequence of a 0.48m deep ploughsoil overlying natural bedrock (Photos 1 & 2).

4.1.2 No archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the turbine base excavations. No finds were recovered.

4.2 Cable Trench

4.2.1 The cable trench ran from the west side of the turbine base and ran for a length of c.700m to connect to Ty Mawr. The trench measured 0.18 wide with an average depth of 1m and revealed a stratigraphic sequence comparable to that previously revealed in the turbine base excavations (Photos 3 & 4).

4.2.2 The narrow width of the cable trench was not ideal for identifying archaeological features (Photo 4).

4.2.3 No archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the course of the cable trench excavations. No finds were recovered.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 No evidence of any archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the course of both the turbine base and cable trench excavations.

5.2 It is possible that the lack of archaeological remains may be due to previous ploughing of the site area having removed any such remains. A conversation with the landowner revealed that the area had been ploughed within the last 10 –15 years.

5.3 It should also be noted that the area affected by the groundworks associated with the wind turbine covered a very small area and it does not diminish the potential for other archaeological remains to still remain in the area outside the area affected by the groundworks. The narrow width of the cable trench was not ideal for recording archaeological features.

5.4 Discussions with the landowner also revealed that flint had been occasionally noticed during ploughing on the property, in particular in the area to the east of the application site towards the site of Maen Llwyd standing stone. The nature and date of the flint is unknown as none of had been analysed or retained. Flint is not a natural stone in the area and would thus have been brought in, probably through human action, to be made into tools, such as blades, scrapers, arrowheads etc throughout the prehistoric period (most common flint finds in this area dating from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age).

5.5 No flint was recovered during the groundworks associated with the construction of the wind turbine and associated cable trench.

5.6 The groundworks associated with the construction of the turbine base and cable trench have had a minimal impact on the buried archaeological resource in the area.

6. SOURCES

6.1 Map

Ordnance Survey 1890 1:2500 Carmarthenshire Sheet LIII.2

Ordnance Survey 1906 1:2500 Carmarthenshire Sheet LIII.2

6.2 Databases

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record.

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Post excavation view of turbine base.



Photo 2: South facing section of turbine base.



Photo 3: West facing view of cable trench.



Photo 4: Representative section of cable trench.

APPENDIX I: Soil Descriptions

Number	Description	Depth
Layer 100	Ploughsoil Dark reddish brown clay silt of moderate compaction containing occasional small angular stone.	0.5m
Layer 101	Natural Shattered old red sandstone bedrock.	0.66m

Table 3: Soil descriptions