

**PRISKILLY TYCANT WATER MAIN  
RENEWAL SCHEME,  
WELSH HOOK, PEMBROKESHIRE:  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
(NGR SM 9301 2778)**



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust  
For: Young Brothers on behalf of  
Dwr Cymru Welsh Water



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RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2012/03  
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 102598

Ionawr 2012  
January 2012

**PRISKILLY TYCANT WATER MAIN RENEWAL SCHEME,  
WELSH HOOK, PEMBROKESHIRE:  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Gan / By

**Simon Ratty**

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**INVESTOR IN PEOPLE**

**BUDDSODDWR MEWN POBL**

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf  
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir  
Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF  
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121  
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131  
Ffacs: 01558 823133  
Ebost: [info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)  
Gwefan: [www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk](http://www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk)

*Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited*  
*The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo,*  
*Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF*  
*Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121*  
*Heritage Management Section 01558 823131*  
*Fax: 01558 823133*  
*Email: [info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)*  
*Website: [www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)*

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# **PRISKILLY TYCANT WATER MAIN RENEWAL SCHEME, WELSH HOOK, PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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## **PRISKILLY TYCANT DWR CYMRU WATER MAIN RENEWAL SCHEME WELSH HOOK, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

### **SUMMARY**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during excavation works as part of the Priskilly Tycant 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 archaeological feature revealed during the course of the monitoring visits was the inner face of the rampart of St Lawrence Camp Iron Age hillfort which remains intact and now serves as a field boundary.*

*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 as the excavations were undertaken on the backfilled trenches of the existing pipe trench.*

*The potential for hitherto unknown archaeological remains associated with the Iron Age hillfort, later settlement and land use to lie within the area continues to remain high.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Commission**

1.1.1 Dwr Cymru proposed to undertake a water mains renewal scheme at Priskilly Tycant (centred on NGR SM 9301 2778). Due to the proximity of known archaeological sites of considerable significance, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services (DAT-FS) were commissioned by Young Brothers on behalf of Dwr Cymru to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks.

1.1.2 The water main renewal scheme route crosses part of an Iron Age promontory fort, St Lawrence Camp (PE 296) which is designated as a scheduled ancient monument. The water main renewal follows the line of an existing water main across the monument.

1.1.3 In addition to the Iron Age fort, Roman finds have been made in the vicinity. The route also lies in close proximity to the medieval church of St Lawrence that would have been the focus for medieval settlement within the area.

1.1.4 It was considered possible that the proposed works could expose, damage or destroy below ground archaeological remains associated with medieval or later settlement.

1.1.5 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken with the understanding that Scheduled Monument Consent had been obtained from Cadw (or Cadw had confirmed it was not necessary) by Dwr Cymru prior to the works commencing. This advice had been given to Dwr Cymru in the early stages of the set-up of the project by the Planning Services section of Dyfed Archaeological Trust, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Dwr Cymru and the local planning authority.

### **1.2 Scope of the Project**

1.2.1 The scheme will involve the replacement of an existing water main running through the area. 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 were required on the route, and these were the areas where there was a potential for archaeological remains to be exposed, damaged or destroyed. Archaeological observation was undertaken in those 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 sent for approval to Dwr Cymru and Dyfed Archaeological Trust Planning Services in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Dwr Cymru and the local 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 Field Services 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 Record<sup>1</sup> (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.

### 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.

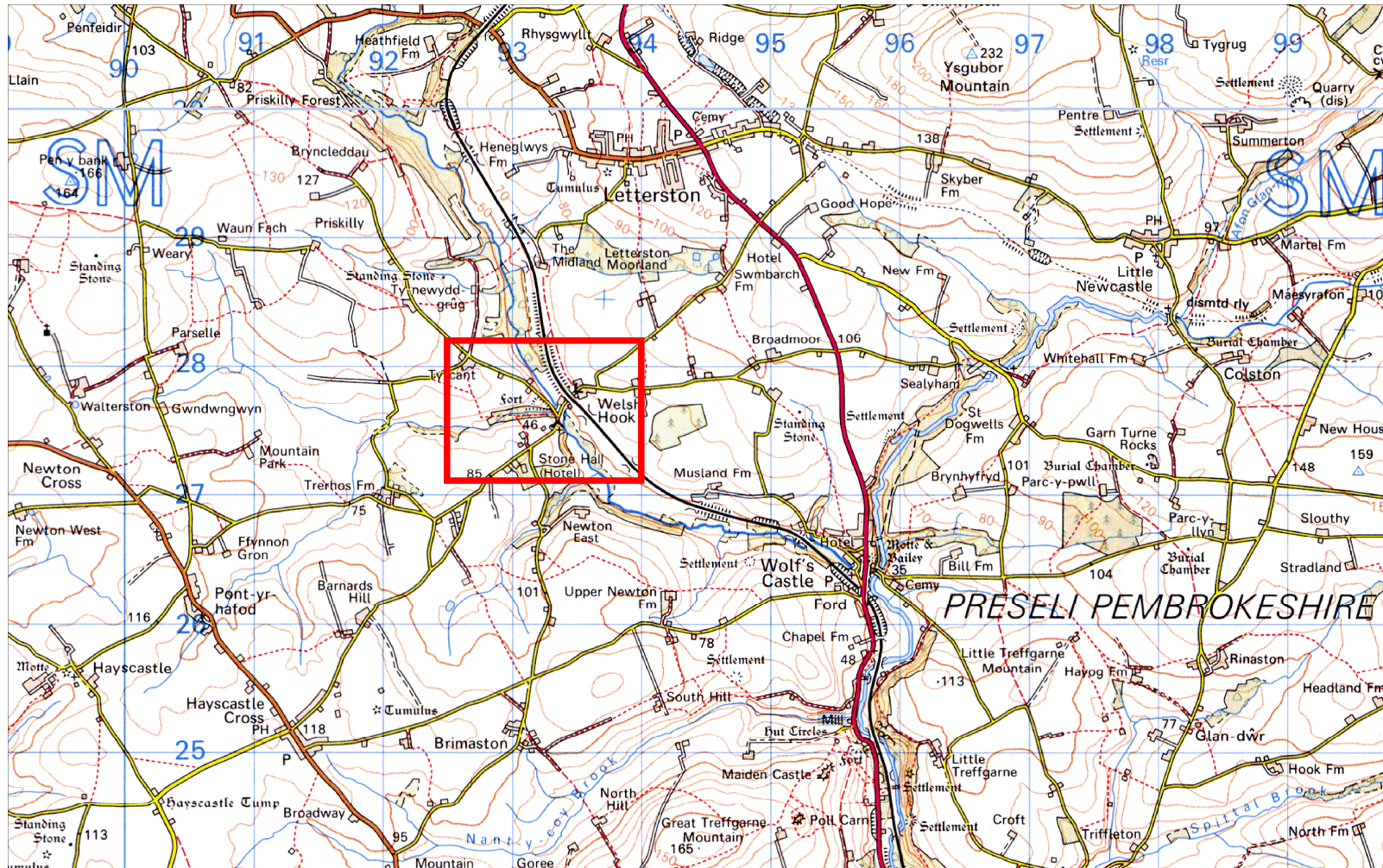
Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410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

**Table 1:** Archaeological and historical timeline for Wales

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

<sup>2</sup> 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 c.240m long route of the water main renewal works (centred on NGR SM 9301 2778). This route runs from the property known as Penybryn near Welsh Hook, Pembrokeshire. It continues south-southeast across agricultural land before arriving at the Scheduled Ancient Monument of St Lawrence Camp Iron Age Hillfort (PE 296). The water main route then turns southeast crossing the fort, heading down slope before terminating at an unclassified road c.100m to the west of Welsh Hook Bridge. A water main is already in existence across the monument,

### **2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

2.2.1 Five known archaeological sites are recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record lying in close proximity to the proposed water main renewal works scheme (Table 2). St Lawrence Camp (PRN 2383) a designated Scheduled Ancient Monument (PE 296) represents the remains of an Iron Age Hillfort. The potential has also been identified for further hitherto unknown archaeological remains to be located outside the main fort ramparts. These may form annexes or the remains of round houses along with possible evidence for agricultural land use that may be contemporary with the fort.

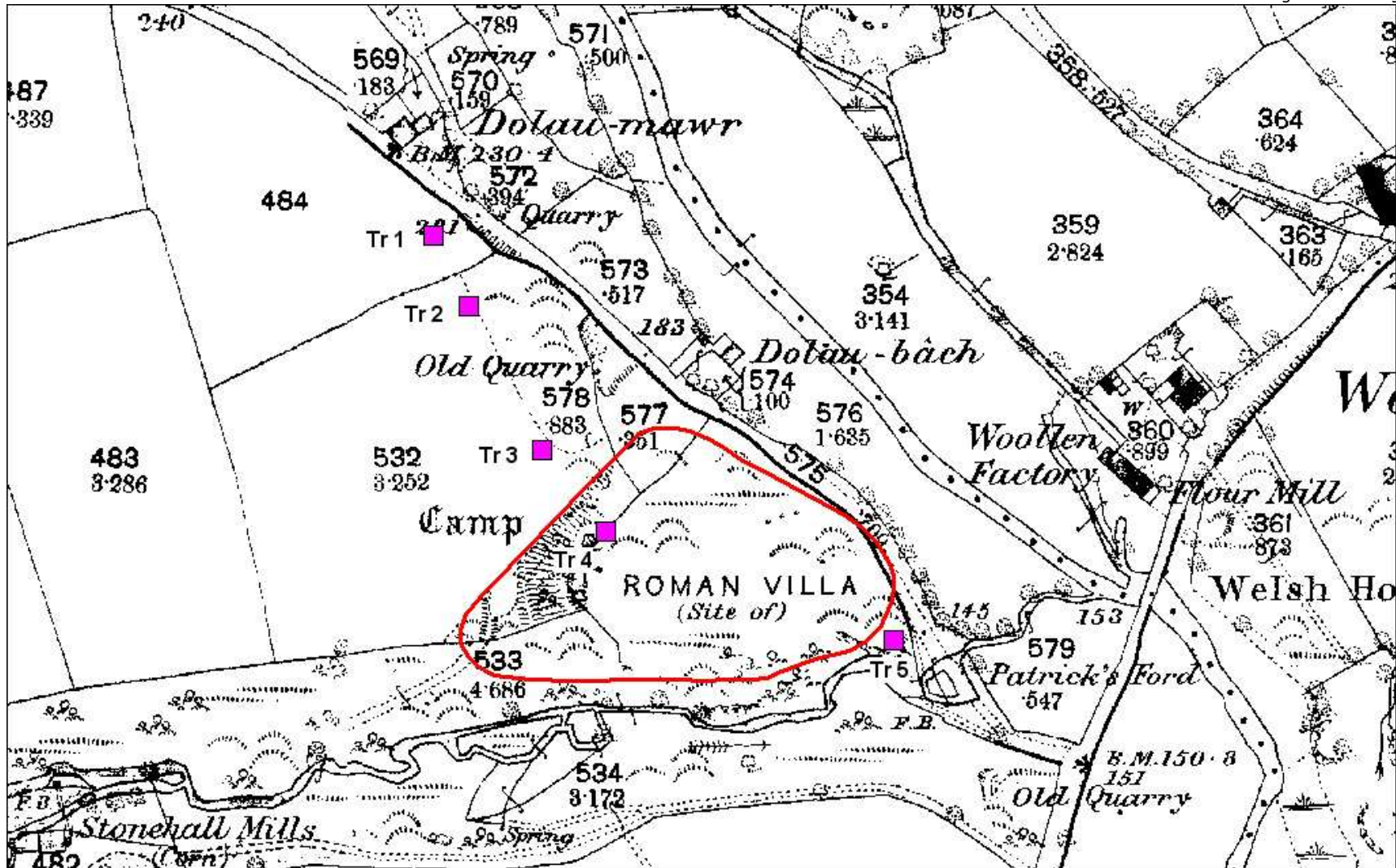
2.2.2 The hillfort is marked on late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century mapping of the area as the site of a Roman Villa. This has probably originated from the Roman findspot recorded within the enclosure (PRN 2358), but unfortunately no further information on the finds has been given. A possible Roman building has been documented as uncovered at nearby Wolfscastle and further suggests Roman activity may be present in the area.

2.2.3 The medieval sites of St Lawrence Church (PRN 2391) and its associated graveyard (PRN 47489) lie in close proximity to the route of the water mains renewal scheme. During the medieval period a church would have formed the nucleus for any medieval settlement in the area. A church has been present on this site since at least the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century when it is documented as being granted by Philip de Poer along with the tithe of the mill, a fishery, nine acres of land in the vicinity of *Hellebeche* and a further seven acres on *Poersberth*, to Slebech Commandery of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem. The precise locations of *Hellebeche* and *Poersberth* are not known. Further Slebech properties are known to have existed at nearby Welsh Hook, where in c.1140, the manor and two carucates of land (c.97ha) were granted to the Commandery by Phillip de Kemys. The grants made by both de Poer and de Kemys remained the property of Slebech Commandery until its dissolution in 1535 (Rees 1947; 106).

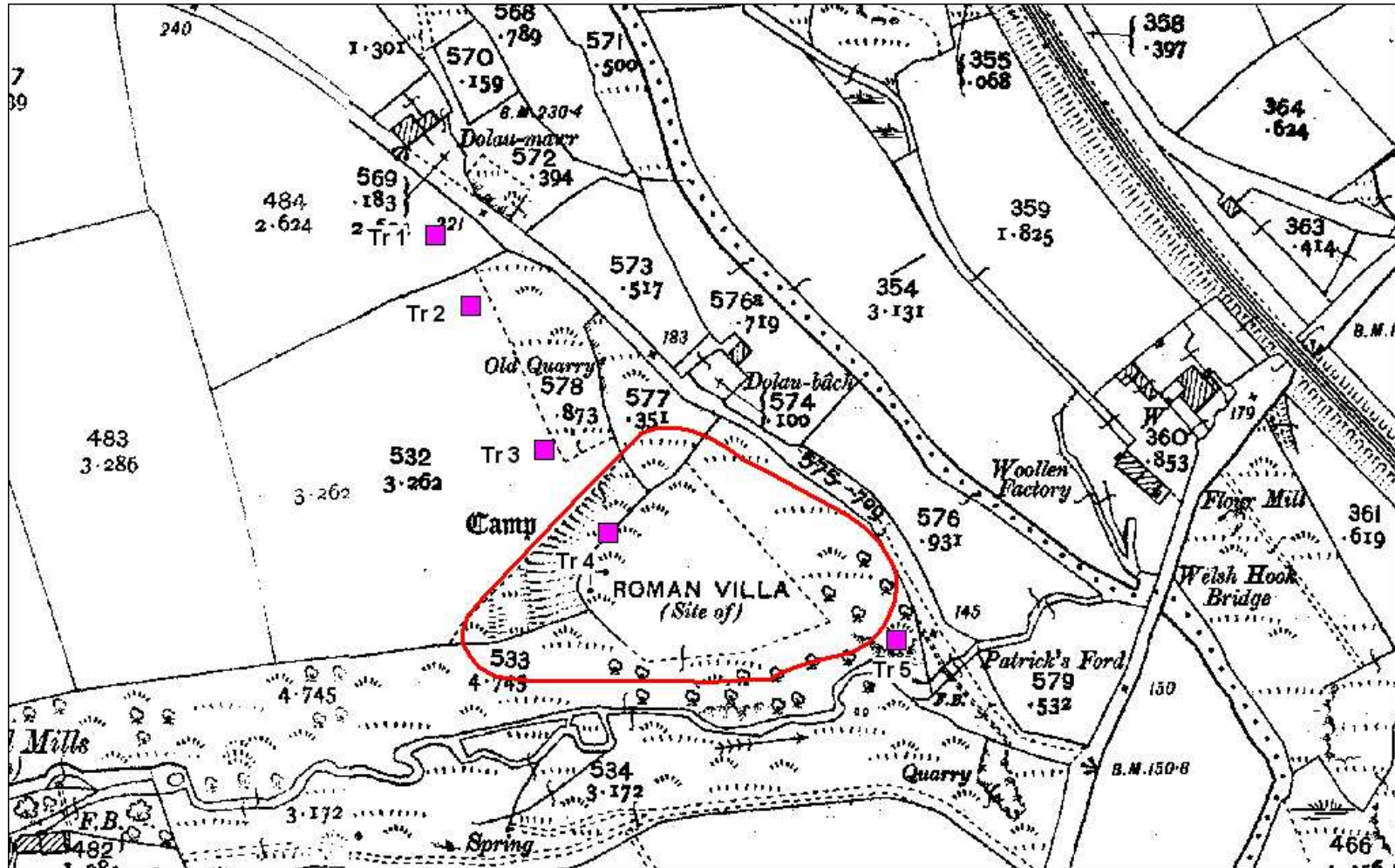
2.2.4 Whilst the church is known to have been in existence during the medieval period there is also the suggestion that the grave yard may have early medieval origins. Within the church is an Early Christian monument, but it is unclear if this originated from the site or was transported there for safe keeping. The church was formerly dedicated to St Patrick or Pedrog and may also suggest an early medieval foundation. A medieval ford site also lies within the area (PRN 12400).

PRN	Site Name	Description	Grid Reference
2358	Stonehalls Mills	Roman findspot (no further information given)	SM 9318 2771
2383	St Lawrence Camp	Iron age hillfort designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (PE 296)	SM 93012 27788
2391	St Lawrence Church	Medieval parish church comprising chancel, nave and south porch. A 13th century church, retaining 80% of its pre-19th century core fabric. It was restored in 1877.	SM 93361 27517
12400	Patrick's Ford	Medieval ford	SM 9329 2769
47489	St Lawrence Church	Early medieval D site, ie. possible early medieval origins. Churchyard, possibly originally circular, occupied by the medieval St Lawrence parish church (PRN 2391). Former dedication to the 'Celtic' St Patrick or St Pedrog?. Group III Early Christian Monument in church (PRN 2392) possibly in situ ?	SM 9336 2751

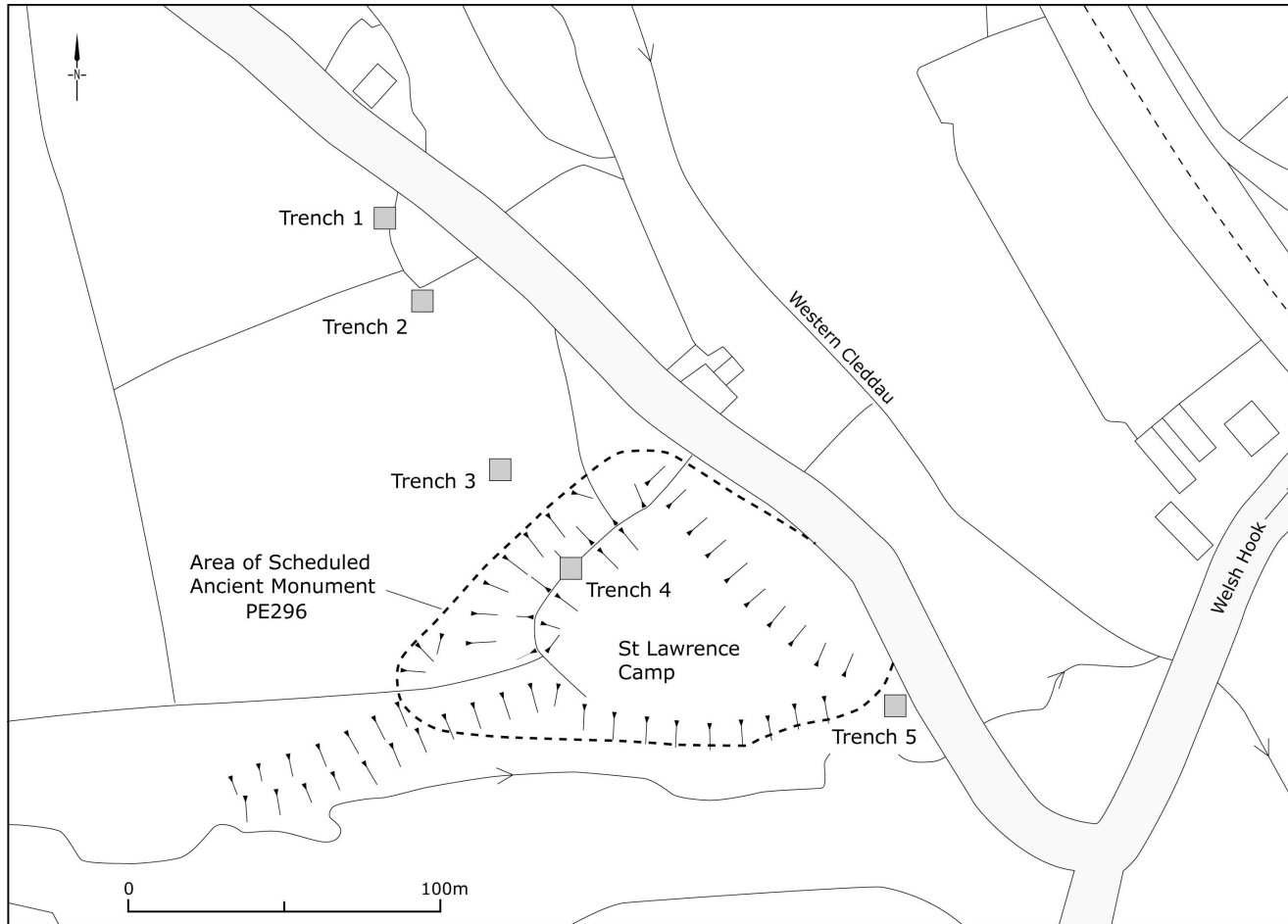
**Table 2:** Known sites of archaeological interest in close proximity to the route of the water main renewal recorded on the Regional HER



**Figure 2:** Location map of trenches monitored by DAT-FS, overlain on the 1889 OS map



**Figure 3:** Location map of trenches monitored by DAT-FS, overlain on the 1907 OS map



**Figure 4:** Location plan of trenches.



### **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 Manual<sup>3</sup> 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. Excavation work was monitored during two site visits on 7<sup>th</sup> December and 8<sup>th</sup> December respectively.

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<sup>3</sup> 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 Site visits were undertaken on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011 to monitor excavation works along the route of the water main renewal. The excavation of five trenches along the route of the water main renewal works were monitored by the attending archaeologist. One trench lay within the boundaries of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of St Lawrence Camp (Trench 4). Of the six trenches excavated only trench four revealed any archaeological deposits, the remainder revealing only natural deposits and the route of the existing water main.

4.2 Trench 4 was located at NGR SM 9318 2773 and measured 5.1m x 1.4m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.43m. The remains of the inner face of the fort rampart, constructed of a firm mid orange clay silt, were revealed within the section of the trench. Only a small part of the moderately sloping inner face of the rampart was revealed within the excavated area. It was possible to determine that the remainder of the rampart formed part of the present field boundary. No construction layers were visible within the revealed section of rampart. The rampart is assumed to be part of the Iron Age fort and is of moderate archaeological interest. A 0.55m deep layer of topsoil containing frequent small angular bed rock fragments was also recorded, which had built up against the rampart. This depth of soil cover suggests that any archaeological remains associated with occupation of the Hillfort (such as post holes, gullies or hearths) would lie at a relatively large depth beneath the present ground surface.

4.3 With the exception of the inner face of the fort rampart no further archaeological remains were revealed during the archaeological watching brief of the water main renewal scheme.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS**

5.1 The archaeological watching brief undertaken during the Priskilly Tycant water mains renewal works revealed a single archaeological feature 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 A single archaeological feature revealed was identified within trench 4 and comprised the inner face of the rampart of St Lawrence Camp Iron Age hillfort, a designated Scheduled Ancient Monument. It was also possible to view that a significant depth of topsoil had accumulated against the rampart and continued towards the interior of the fort, suggesting that any surviving features associated with settlement within the fort may lie at a similar depth. It was not possible to confirm this due to the limited nature of the excavated area. The remainder of the trenches revealed only natural deposits.

5.4 It is considered that the water main renewal works had a minimal impact on the buried archaeological remains of the area as they were located over the backfilled trench of the existing water main. It is considered that the potential for significant archaeological remains to be present within the wider area remains to be high.

## **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 Pembrokeshire 1889

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 scale Pembrokeshire 1907

### **6.3 Published**

Rees, W., 1947, *A History of the Order of St John of Jerusalem in Wales and on the Welsh Border*. Cardiff. Western Mail and Echo.

## PHOTOGRAPHS



**Photo 1:** Trench 1 facing SE  
(NGR SM 9312 2784)

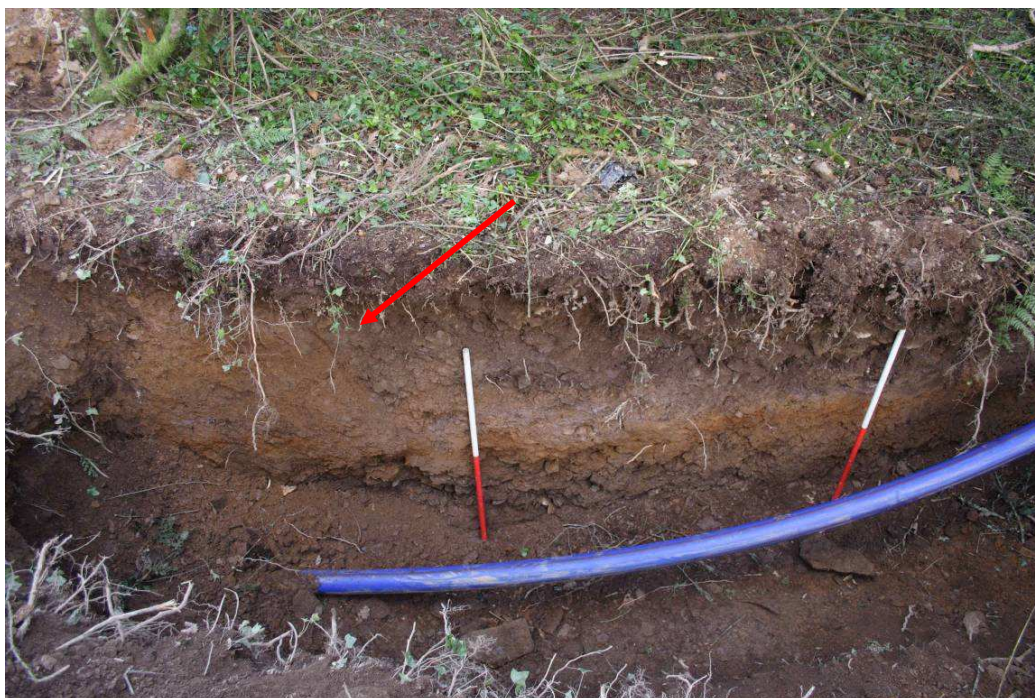


**Photo 2:** NE facing section Trench 2  
(NGR SM 9313 2782)





**Photo 3:** NE facing section Trench 3  
(NGR SM 9316 2767)



**Photo 4:** SW facing section of Trench 4, rampart indicated by arrow  
(NGR SM 9318 2773)





**Photo 5:** Exposed pipe, Trench 5.  
(NGR SM 9328 2769)



**Photo 6:** NE facing section, Trench 5 showing exposed bedrock  
(NGR SM 9328 2769)

# **PRISKILLY TYCANT WATER MAIN RENEWAL SCHEME, WELSH HOOK, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF (NGR SM 9301 2778)**

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Ionawr 2012  
January 2012

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by

**SIMON RATTY**

Swydd / Position: **ARCHAEOLOGIST**


Llofnod / Signature ..... Date 05/01/2012

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith  
This report has been checked and approved by

**JAMES MEEK**

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

Swydd / Position: **HEAD OF FIELD SERVICES**

Llofnod / Signature .....  ..... Date 05/01/2012

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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.*



