

# **WATER MAIN RENEWAL SCHEME, ADJACENT TO ST NICHOLAS AND TEILO CHURCHYARD, PENALLY, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**APRIL 2012**



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust  
For: Young Brothers



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## WATER MAIN RENEWAL SCHEME, ADJACENT TO ST NICHOLAS AND TEILO CHURCHYARD, PENALLY, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Gan / By

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**SUMMARY**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during excavation works in Penally High Street, Pembrokeshire adjacent to the cemetery of St Nicholas and Teilo Church (SS 1177 9917). Due to the archaeological potential of the area, an archaeological watching brief was recommended to be undertaken during groundworks in the area. Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were commissioned by Young Brothers on behalf of Dwr Cymru to undertake the watching brief during intrusive groundworks associated with the water main renewal scheme.*

*The excavation consisted of two trenches, measuring 1.8m by 1.5m and 1.35m by 1.1m approximately 21m apart. These were excavated in order to locate the existing water main and insert the new replacement main through a pipe splitting methodology.*

*It is thought highly probable that the churchyard in Penally has its origins in the early medieval period, containing within its precincts the site of an early medieval church, a probable 'clas' and five Early Christian Monuments, dating from the early 10<sup>th</sup> century, (two of which are now missing).*

*Despite the fact that the deposits contained within the trenches had been compromised in the past by the laying of the existing water main and other services, the watching brief demonstrated that archaeological remains did survive on the site.*

*In the east facing section of Trench 1 the remains of a wall footing was revealed, running the entire length of the trench and beyond. No dating evidence was recovered from this structure. The footing was sealed by a layer which contained a sherd of 'willow pattern' pot (of post-medieval/modern date). This was the only artefact recovered from the trench. The footings could be associated with a number of possible structures which are close by and could be of medieval origin.*

*The north facing section of Trench 2 revealed two stones partially set into the silty-clay natural, the upper surfaces of which lay just under the tarmacadam surface. Like the wall footing in Trench 1 this feature also has a number of possible interpretations; the remains of a kerb; the remnants of a metalled surface or an infilled pothole. Due to the limited nature of excavation needed for the water main replacement works, it was not possible to investigate these features further. The watching brief has demonstrated that the extent of disturbance to archaeological deposits was quite minimal from the present water main renewal scheme.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Commission**

- 1.1.1 As part of a scheme to renew the water main in the village of Penally, Pembrokeshire (NGR SS 1177 9917), Dyfed Archaeological Trust were commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks in the section that was adjacent to the churchyard walls of St Nicholas and Teilo Church.
- 1.1.2 It was considered that the proposed trenches had the potential to disturb significant archaeological remains including potential structures and features of medieval or early-medieval origins. It was considered possible that the proposed works could expose, damage or destroy below ground archaeological remains associated with the early medieval, medieval or later church within the area. The recommendation for an archaeological watching brief was placed on the water main renewal scheme following advice from the archaeological advisors to the local planning authority and Dwr Cymru.
- 1.1.3 Young Bros. (working as sub contractors to Dwr Cymru) commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services (DAT-FS) to undertake the archaeological watching brief during groundworks at the site.
- 1.1.4 The watching brief was intended to adequately record any significant archaeological features that may be encountered during the groundworks thereby protecting the potential archaeological interests. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services prior to the works commencing.

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

- 1.2.1 The project objectives as laid out in the WSI were:
  - Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services will undertake the watching brief.
  - 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 ground works.
  - To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
  - To produce an archive and report of any results.
- 1.2.2 One site visit was undertaken to the site during the groundworks on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

### **1.3 Report Outline**

- 1.3.1 This report describes the location of the site along with its archaeological background before summarising the watching brief results and the conclusions based on those 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; Written Scheme of Investigation – WSI

## 1.5 Illustrations

- 1.5.1 Record photographs are included at back of the report. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale and are illustrative only.

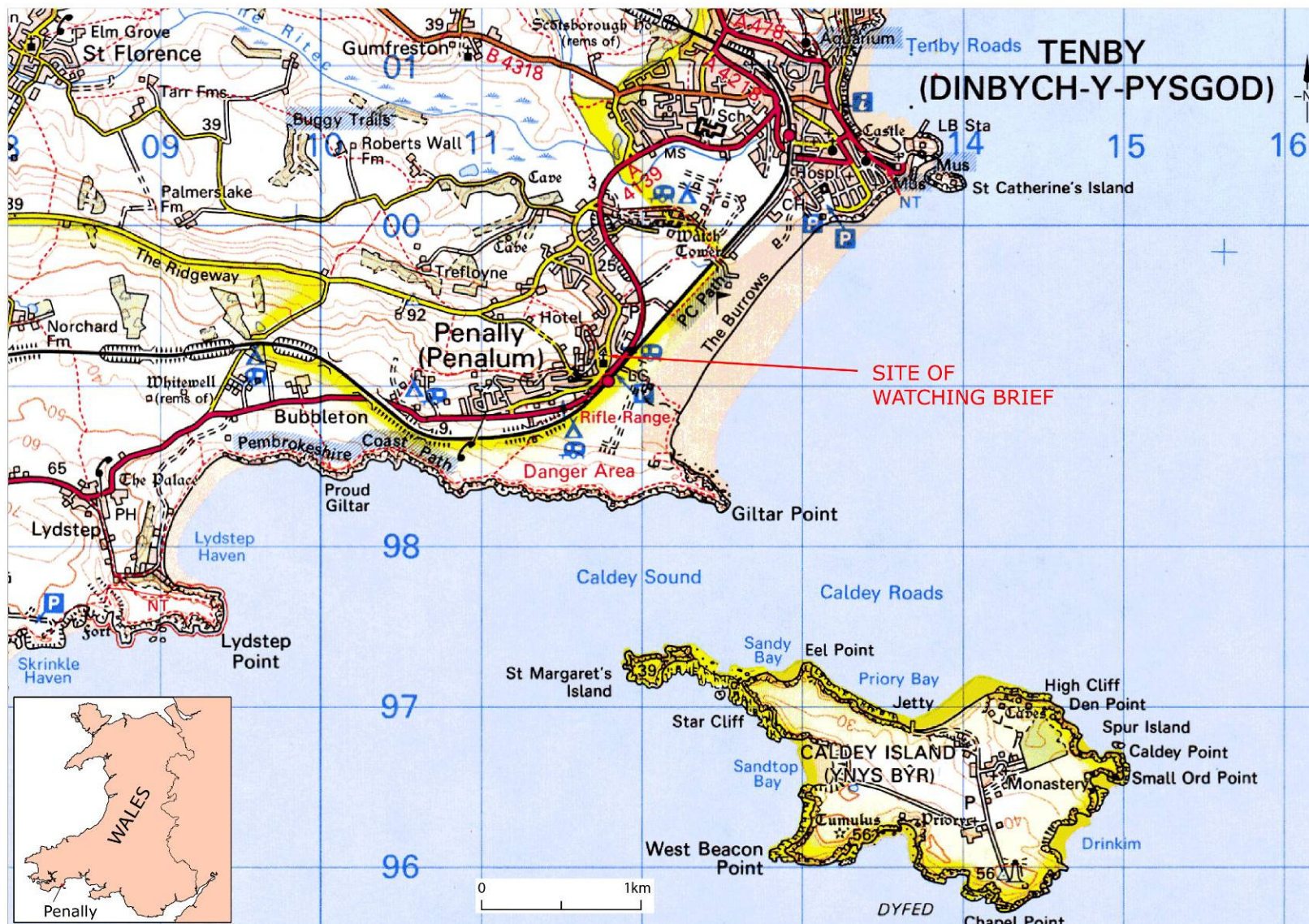
## 1.6 Timeline

- 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 1086	
Medieval Period –	1086 – 1536	
Post-Medieval Period –	1536 – 1899	
Modern –	20th century onwards	

**Table 1:** Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales

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



**Figure 1:** Location map of watching brief site from 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 and Topography

- 2.1.1 Penally lies 2km to the southwest of Tenby. It is located on the east side of the eastern end of the 'Ridgeway', an area of high ground with considerable historic connections (Figure 1). The churchyard of St Nicholas and St Teilo (PRN 3442, NGR SS 1177 9917) is situated on its lower slopes, its eastern side contained behind a revetment wall below which the High Street runs in a north-south direction.
- 2.1.2 Two trenches were excavated in the roadline in the area close to the churchyard to expose the existing water main and provide access for its renewal.
- 2.1.3 Inter-bedded limestone and mudstone of the Lower Carboniferous period represent the solid geology.

### 2.2 Archaeological Background

- 2.2.1. A search of the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER – held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust) records 10 known archaeological sites within 50m of the watching brief. These are shown in Table 2 below:

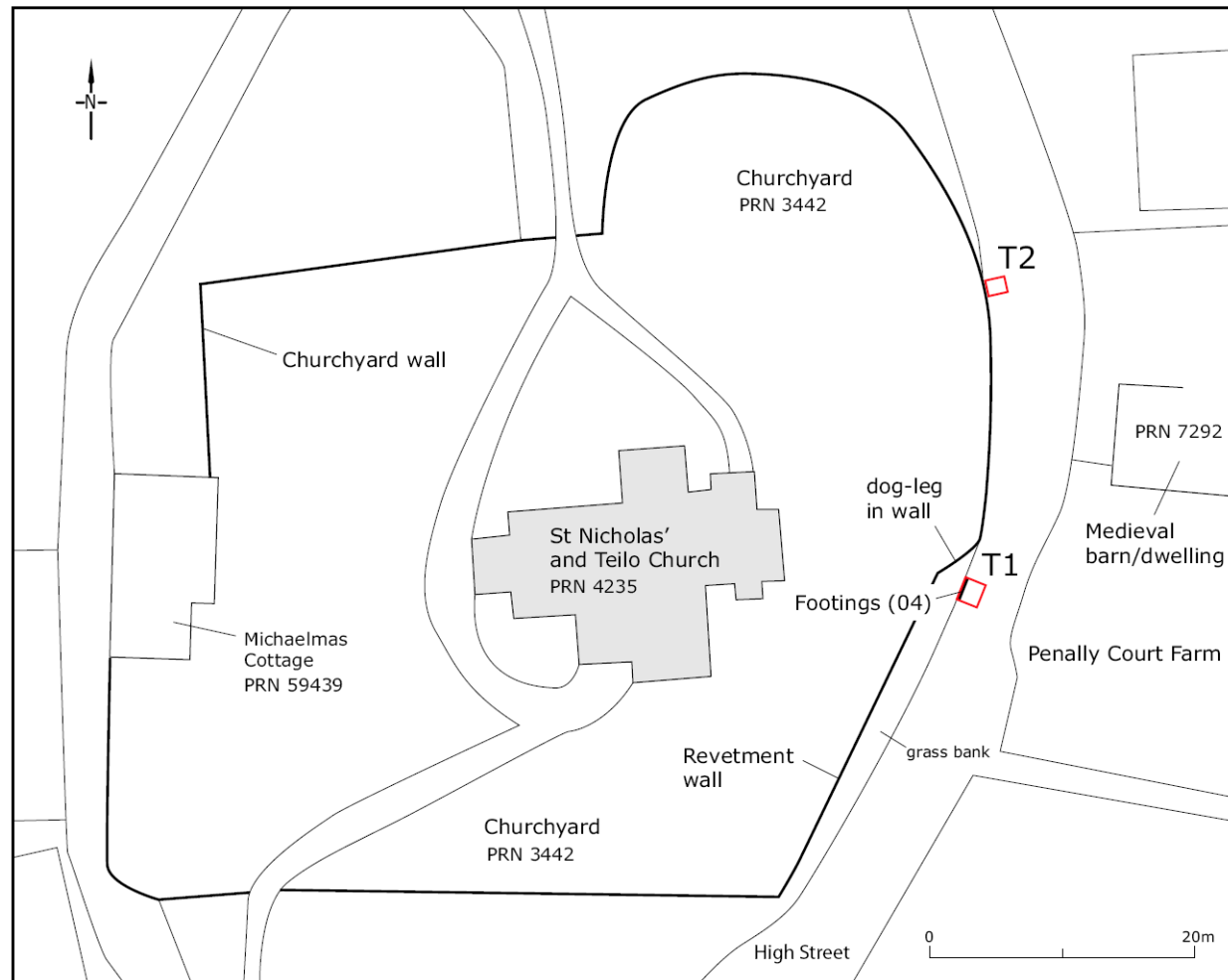
PRN	Site Name	Grid Reference	Description
59439	St Michaelmas Cottage	SS 11735 99181	Post-medieval Grade II Listed school
59438	Giltar Lodge	SS 1177699121	Post-medieval Grade II Listed house
46846	Penally Parish Church	SS 1176 9917	Group II Early Christian Monument built into facework of Church; probably 10 <sup>th</sup> century
4235	Penally Parish Church of St Nicholas' and St Teilo	SS 1177 9917	Medieval Church; Grade II* Listed
4232	Mail Domnac Cross; Penally Church	SS 1176 9917	Lost fragment of Group III Early Christian Monument, probably early 10 <sup>th</sup> century
4231	Mail Domnac Cross, Penally Church	SS 1176 9917	Lost fragment of Group III Early Christian Monument, probably early 10 <sup>th</sup> century
4230	Penally Parish Church	SS 11769917	Group III Early Christian Monument (cross and base), probably early 10 <sup>th</sup> century
4229	Penally Parish Church	SS 11769917	Group III Early Christian Monument (cross shaft), probably early 10 <sup>th</sup> century
7292	Penally Court Farm	SS 1183 9917	Grade II Listed building, medieval large ruined dwelling/barn
3442	Penally Churchyard	SS 1177 9917	Early medieval A site ie. high probability of early medieval origins. Site of early medieval church and probable clas, mentioned in c.675. Mother church of Cantref Penfro?

**Table 2:** Historic Environment Record entries

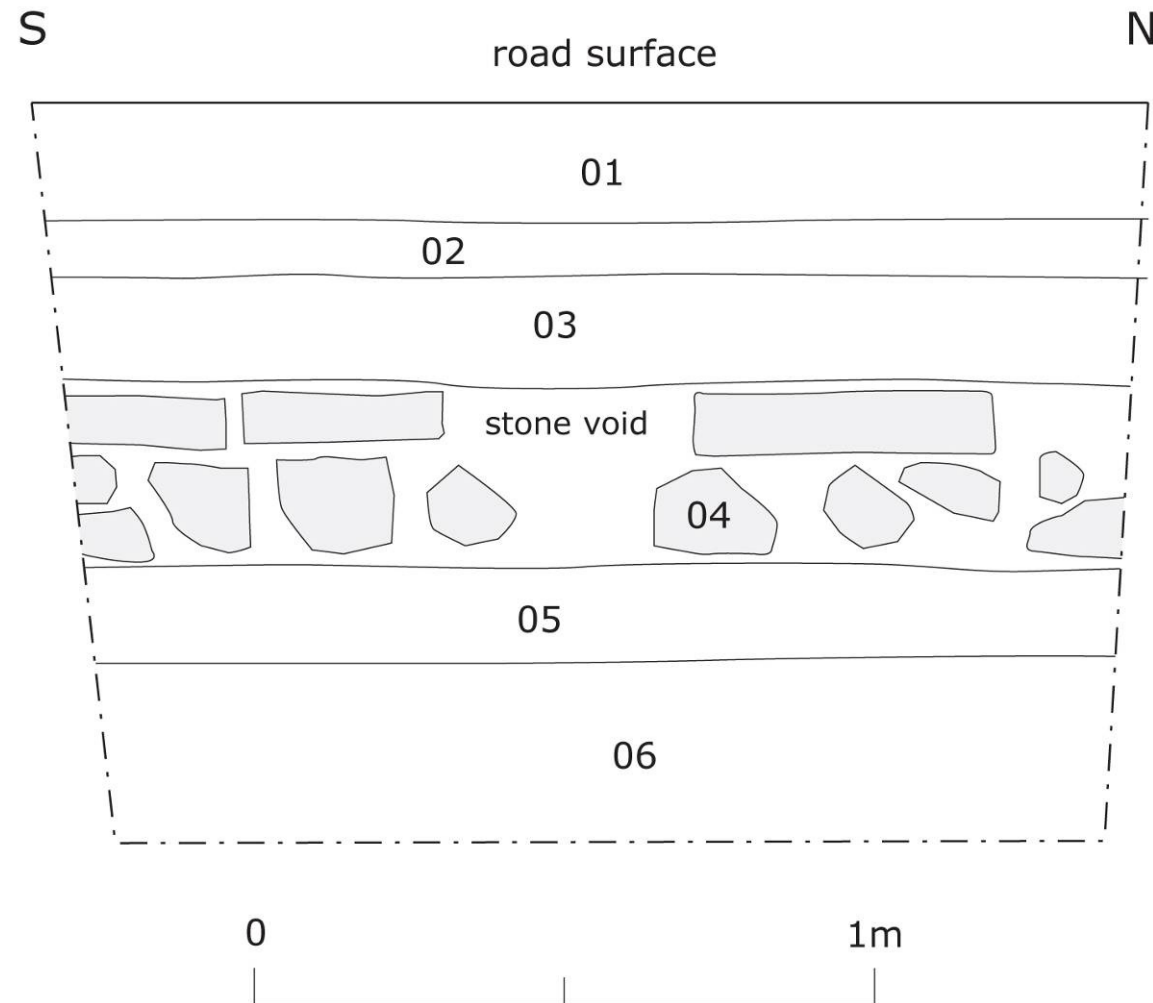
- 2.2.2 The earliest evidence for human occupation in the vicinity of Penally is at Hoyle's Mouth Cave (PRN 14209; NPRN 304237; NGR SN11190032), a multi-period site which has been occupied since the Later Upper Palaeolithic (40,000 – 10,000 yrs ago). This cave is approximately 1.3km northwest of the watching brief site.
- 2.2.3 Saint Teilo, the founder of Llandaff Cathedral, is reputed to have been born in the vicinity of Penally and is said to have established a monastery in the area during the 6<sup>th</sup> century. The site of the monastery is unclear, but part of the complex is traditionally thought to be within the grounds of

Penally Abbey Hotel (PRN 7289; NPRN 21583) which houses the medieval ruins of St Deiniol's Chapel (PRN 4233; NPRN 11758). St Deiniol's Well, a medieval Holy Well and Grade II Listed structure (PRN 4234; NPRN 32494) lies 20m west of the chapel. These features are approximately 180m north of the watching brief.

- 2.2.4 The chancel, nave, north transept, south transept, south porch, font and west tower of St Nicholas' and St Teilo Church (PRN 4235; NPRN 400386) are of medieval origin. Two Early Christian Monuments (SAM PE 142) lie in the south transept, both originally stood in the churchyard. One is the well-known wheel-cross of 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> century date (PRN 4230; NPRN 276028) the other is a contemporary cross-shaft that formerly stood south-west of the church (PRN 4229). A further ECM fragment is present built in to the wall fabric (PRN 46846).
- 2.2.5 There is a high probability that the churchyard (PRN 3442) has early medieval origins. It is the site of an early medieval church and probable 'clas' c.675, referred to in a pre-conquest document. The two Early Christian Crosses that now reside inside the church (PRNs 4229; 4230) once stood in the churchyard, and it is reasonable to assume that two other crosses recorded from the site, but which have now been lost, were also originally located in the churchyard (PRNs 4231; 4232).
- 2.2.6 10m east of the watching brief site within the grounds of Penally Court Farm lie the ruins of a large, Grade II Listed barn or dwelling with probable medieval origins (PRN 7292; NPRN 21831). The west gable and south wall survive with the walls being up to 0.6m thick.



**Figure 2:** Location of trenches T1 and T2



**Figure 3:** East facing section of T1

### **3. 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 The groundworks for this scheme of work involved locating the existing water main in order to gain ingress and feed a new pipe through.
- 3.1.4 The route of the water main relevant to the watching brief, ran in a north-south direction between two small trenches (T1 and T2, Figure 2) 21m apart, on the main street of Penally adjacent to the churchyard wall. The road is approximately 12mOD above sea level. Both trenches were opened with a tracked excavator using a toothed bucket.
- 3.1.5 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual<sup>2</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 the work**

- 3.3.1 The archaeological watching brief consisted of a single visit on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012 to record the two open trenches.

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<sup>2</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. ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS (Figure 2)**

##### **4.1 Trench 1 (T1) (Photos 1 - 4, Figures 2 and 3)**

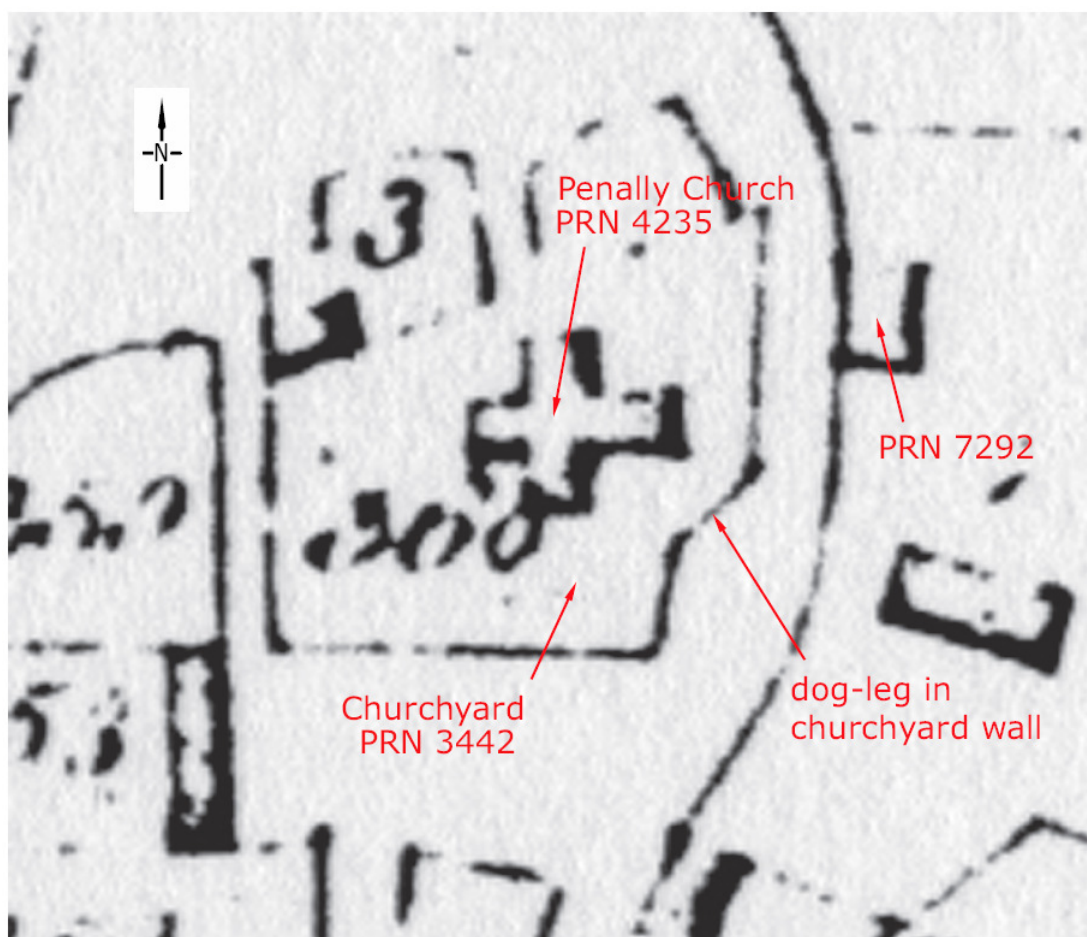
- 4.1.1 Trench 1 measured approximately 1.8m by 1.5m and 1.2m deep. It was sited on the road 2.5m away from the churchyard wall, just south of a dog-leg in the wall-line, approximately 21m south of trench 2. A grass bank lies between the wall and the trench.
- 4.1.2 In section the north and south facing sections revealed typical profiles through the road, approximately 0.10m thickness of tarmac lying above a layer of aggregate between 0.30m and 0.35m thick. This sat on top of natural deposits of pink-brown, silty clay containing 50% small stone. It was not possible to see the west facing section, being concealed behind the existing water main.
- 4.1.3 The east facing section (Photos 2 & 3; Figure 3) - adjacent to the grass bank - revealed a series of layers. The upper layer was Layer (01), a very dark brown silty clay approximately 0.20m thick; (02), a 0.08m thick layer of aggregate/chippings; and (03), very compact, pink-yellow, sandy silty clay, containing lenses of small stone, approximately 0.17m thick. This layer revealed the only artefact; a sherd of 'willow pattern' pottery.
- 4.1.4 Below (03) was a linear alignment of stones (04). This consisted of a bottom 'rubble' course of irregular shaped stones averaging 0.12m in length overlain with a course of flatter dressed stone averaging 0.10m thick and between 0.2m and 0.45m long. No mortar was detected. The footings (04) rested on a deposit of pink-brown, silty-clay containing 50% small stones (05), which in turn stood on a layer of yellow-brown, silty-clay containing 50% small stones (06). The last two layers probably represent changes in the natural.

##### **4.2 Trench 2 (T2) (Photos 5 - 6, Figure 2)**

- 4.2.1 Trench 2 measured approximately 1.35m by 1.1m and sloped from 0.75m to 1m deep. It was sited 0.65m away from the churchyard wall and a few metres south from where the wall begins to curve west.
- 4.2.2 The south, east and west facing sections revealed typical road sections consisting of natural silty-clay overlain with a layer of aggregate averaging 0.40m thick, capped with a layer of tarmac approximately 0.08m thick.
- 4.2.3 The north facing section (Photo 5) revealed two sub-angular stones measuring 0.23m x 0.15m and 0.28 x 0.22m, partly set into the natural silty-clay. The top of the larger stone lay just below the base of the tarmac. This feature seems to end on the west side of the stones, whilst on the east side a trench cut for a service pipe might have truncated this feature. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature.

## 5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The watching-brief has demonstrated that although the deposits in the two trenches had been significantly disturbed in the recent past by the installation of services, remnants of archaeological features of possible medieval origin are still present.
- 5.2 In Trench 1, on the east facing side and continuing beyond the trench section, a linear alignment of stones (04) was recorded. This consisted of two courses of stone. The lower of the two courses was of rubble construction and stood on natural silty-clay deposits. This arrangement supported a course of flatter, block-like, 'worked' stone, the whole suggesting a possible foundation course or footings for a former wall.
- 5.3 It is impossible to ascertain from the length of footings exposed the purpose or function of this wall and also whether it has any associations with any surrounding upstanding masonry. One possibility is that the churchyard wall has been moved back from the road due to a former collapse or road widening. This theory could also account for the dog-leg that is still visible in the churchyard wall at this point (Figure 2). The footings align with the standing wall alignment before the dog-leg (Photo 4). This realignment occurred before 1842, as the tithe map for the parish of Penally, printed in that year, clearly shows the dog-leg (Figure 4).



**Figure 4:** Extract of Tithe map of Penally of 1842 showing dog-leg in wall

- 5.4 The wall (04) could also be associated with the Grade II Listed medieval barn/dwelling (PRN 7292; NPRN 21831) situated across the road, 13m northeast of Trench 1. This building, constructed of rubble masonry, roughly brought to courses, has a surviving lateral south wall and a west

gable wall approximately 0.6m wide. The height of the gable suggests a building of considerable size and would probably have had associated buildings in close proximity; the footings (04) could be the remains of one of these buildings. The footings could also be part of a structure connected with the early medieval church and probable 'clas' (religious community) mentioned in documentation c.675.

- 5.5 The north facing section of Trench 2 revealed two stones set halfway into the underlying silty-clay natural, their upper halves protruding into the aggregate which constitutes the road make-up. As so little remains of this feature, interpretation is questionable. It could be kerbing for a former road, track or path; alternatively it could be the remnants of a metalled floor or road; or simply the remains of an infilled pothole.
- 5.6 The watching brief has demonstrated that the small excavations needed for the water main renewal have actually caused a minimal impact to the archaeological remains that had survived disturbance from the original water main.

## PHOTOGRAPHS



**Photo 1:** View west across street. Trench 1 in the foreground; dog-leg in churchyard wall can be seen beside grass bank; Penally Church in background.



**Photo 2:** East facing section of Trench 1 showing wall footings (04).  
1m and 0.5m scale.



**Photo 3:** Close-up of flat stone in upper course of (04) within Trench 1. 1m and 0.5m scale.



**Photo 4:** View north of Trench 1 showing wall footings (04) and its possible alignment to the churchyard wall before dog-leg. 1m and 0.5m scales.



**Photo 5:** View south showing stones in north facing section of Trench 2 set into the silty-clay natural. 1m and 0.5m scales.



**Photo 6:** View south looking at Trench 2 and its proximity to the churchyard wall. Safety barriers surround Trench 1 in the background.

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August 2012**

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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 ..... Dyddiad / Date 10/08/12

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

*As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any  
comments you may have on the content or presentation of this report*

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