

PEMBROKE CYCLE WAY, BRIDGEND TERRACE, PEMBROKE:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2012



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
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PEMBROKE CYCLE WAY, BRIDGEND TERRACE, PEMBROKE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Gan / By

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PEMBROKE CYCLE WAY, BRIDGEND TERRACE, PEMBROKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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SUMMARY

In response to a request from Atkins Ltd on behalf of Pembrokeshire County Council, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services provided an archaeological watching brief during topsoil stripping for the construction of a new cycle way leading from Bridgend Terrace to West Street, Pembroke. The scheme is also referred to as the Monkton SUP Ramp. Due to the location of the proposed works within an area of known archaeological significance an archaeological condition was placed on planning permission.

The watching brief was undertaken on two days during early March 2012 to observe topsoil stripping in the lower part of the site area, which lay within Lower Common. Lower Common had formerly been an area of salt marsh used as common land from the medieval period. In the later 19th and early 20th century, alterations to river and stream courses were made to drain this ground. At the same time considerable quantities of detritus was imported onto the site to raise the ground level. The watching brief in this area demonstrated the presence of a depth of this made-ground, but no significant archaeological remains.

The western arm of the Cycle Way led up the steep slope from Lower Common to Bridgend Terrace. No significant archaeological remains were revealed within this area, although large amounts of tree root disturbance was noted which may have obscured any such remains. Evidence for terracing adjacent to the road was recorded.

Although no significant archaeological remains were revealed, there is still a high potential that significant archaeological deposits could be present in the vicinity of the cycle way. These may lie below the modern make-up layers covering the Commons or lie on the ridge on which Bridgend Terrace runs.

INTRODUCTION

Project Commission

In response to a request from Atkins Ltd on behalf of Pembrokeshire County Council, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services provided an archaeological watching brief during topsoil stripping for the construction of a new cycle way leading from Bridgend Terrace to West Street, Pembroke (Figure 1); centred on NGR SM 9813 0134). The scheme is also referred to as the Monkton SUP Ramp.

An archaeological condition has been attached to planning permission for the scheme (planning application ref 11/0948/PA) which states:

'No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. This shall be in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority'.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI or specification) was prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services which was approved by Pembrokeshire County Council prior to the works commencing.

The site was divided geographically into two parts, a higher western arm on a limestone ridge, and a lower eastern section on part of The Lower Common. A steep drop, including some bare rock face, lay between the two areas.

Scope of the Project

The main scope of the project was laid out within the WSI as 'Archaeological attendance and recording during the initial topsoil strip over the proposed area of the Pembroke Cycle Way from Bridgend Terrace to West Street. The proposed works may expose, damage or destroy any underlying archaeological remains, if present within the areas. A report shall be prepared on the results of the watching brief, and an archive created of all finds, records, photographs and plans created by this mitigation strategy.'

- 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.

Report Outline

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.

Abbreviations

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; Written Scheme of Investigation – WSI

ILLUSTRATIONS

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

Timeline

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 –	1536 – 1899	
Modern –	20th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales

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

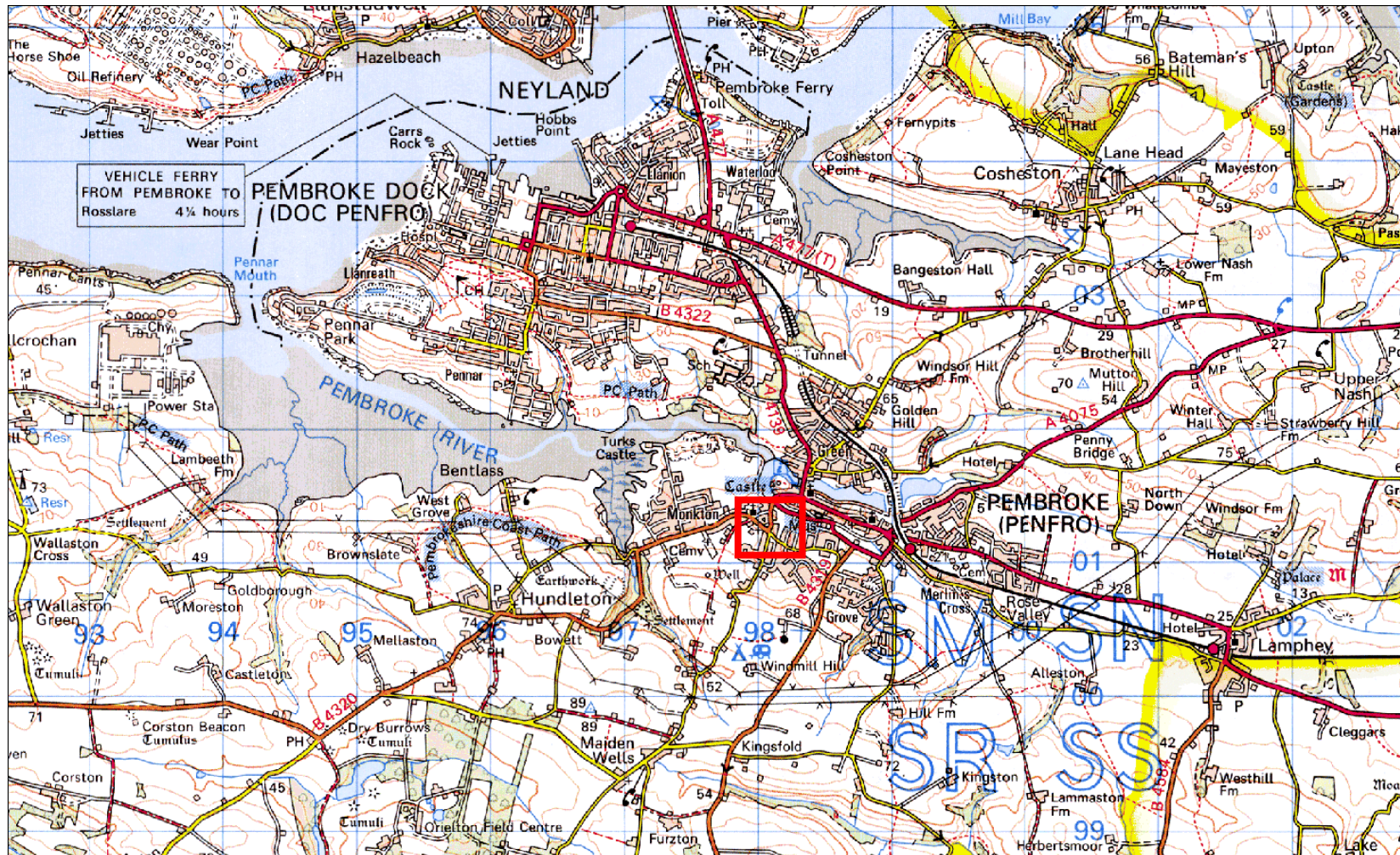
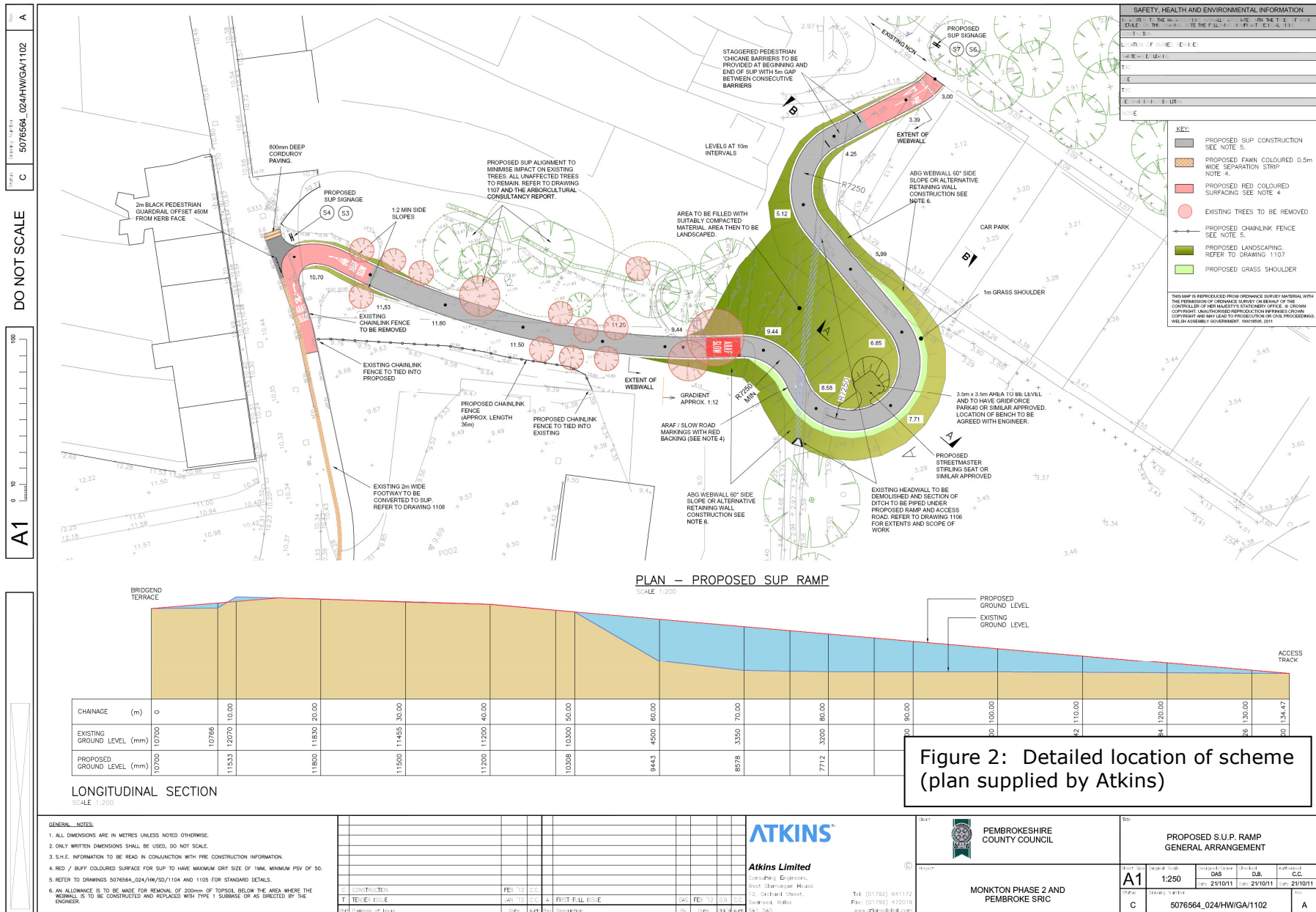


Figure 1: Location plan of Pembroke Cycle Way

(Reproduced from the 1995 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 Ltd., The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A



THE SITE

Location and Topography

The proposed new Cycle Way or Monkton SUP Ramp leads from Bridgend Terrace to West Street, Pembroke (Figures 1 and 2; centred on NGR SM 9813 0134). The route lies to the southwest of the historic town of Pembroke.

The route leads from the existing car park accessed from West Street on the lower ground to the east (The Lower Common), and then rises steeply up towards Bridgend Terrace to the west. The two main areas of the watching brief comprise the Lower Common area and the Western Arm leading to Bridgend Terrace.

Archaeological and Historical Background

No archaeological sites are known to exist directly on the route of the proposed development, however a search of the Regional Historic Environment Record database revealed that a total of thirteen sites of archaeological and historic interest are located within a c.150m buffer zone centred on the route of the proposed Cycle Way. These are listed in **Table 3** below.

The majority of these sites lie at the corner of Bridgend Terrace and Church Terrace and represent buildings and structures that are Grade II Listed Buildings. These structures are all of Post-medieval date. Also in this group is Monkton Old Hall, a Grade I Listed building of medieval date (PRN 3272).

The two closest sites to the Cycle Way recorded on the DAT HER are that of Lake House (PRN 17325) located to the south of the site and a medieval Mural Tower (PRN 13205) located to the northeast. Lake House is a substantially unaltered house of the late 18th century. The building is not Listed, but is considered to be of archaeological and historical significance. The site of the former Mural Tower is located within the area of the common, lying c.40m to the northeast of the northern end of the Cycle Way. No visible remains of the tower survive.

Pembroke Castle lies over 150m to the north of the Cycle Way. The Castle is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No. PE005).

The line of the proposed Cycle Way can be seen to cross through agricultural fields on the hillslope to the east of Bridgend Terrace down onto the Lower Common on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1891 (Figure 3) and 1909 (Figure 4). The maps show no indication of any structures or other features of interest within the line of the Cycle Way.

The eastern end of the proposed Cycle Way crosses into the Pembroke Conservation Area, and thus the cycle route will impact upon it. The Pembroke Conservation Area Character Statement is presently in the process of being written, and a draft is currently available. The draft describes the area of the Commons through which the proposed bypass will lie as follows:

The Commons provides useful open space to the south, which provides town amenity space and also creates an important setting to the old town from the south. This area incorporates a children's play area. Numerous mature trees exist about this area which contribute to the amenity value and character of this area. (Pembroke Conservation Area Character Statement, November 2008, Draft for Public Consultation)

PRN	Site Name and Description	Grid Reference	Period
3272	Monkton Old Hall Grade I Listed Building. Historic home. Now restored.	SM 98054 01432	Medieval
13205	Mural Tower	SM 982 014	Medieval
17325	Lake House Described in 1982 as a substantially unaltered late 18th century house.	SM 9810 0127	Post-medieval
20012	Church Terrace No.2 Grade II Listed Dwelling in Pembroke.	SM 9806 0141	Post-medieval
20013	Church Terrace No.3 Grade II Listed Dwelling in Pembroke.	SM 9805 0141	Post-medieval
20034	Mansel Street; Orange Gardens Grade II Listed Dwelling in Pembroke.	SM 9821 0121	Post-medieval
39007	Monkton Old Hall Grade II listed building	SM 9805 0143	Post-medieval
60239	Retaining Wall And Garden Wall To Monkton Old Hall Grade II listed retaining and garden walls	SM 98037 01423	Post-medieval
60240	Prospect Cottage Grade II listed house	SM 98064 01412	Post-medieval
60241	Forecourt Retaining Wall To Nos. 1 and 2 Church Terrace Grade II listed retaining wall	SM 98067 01418	Post-medieval
60242	Front Retaining Wall To No.3 Church Terrace Grade II listed retaining walls	SM 98048 01419	Post-medieval
60318	Garden Walls To Rear Of Nos 6-11 Westgate Hill Grade II listed garden and town walls	SM 98198 01478	Post-medieval
60571	Prospect House Grade II listed house	SM 98072 01412	Post-medieval

Table 2: Recorded archaeological sites within a 150m buffer zone centred on the proposed Cycle Way (Monkton SUP Ramp).

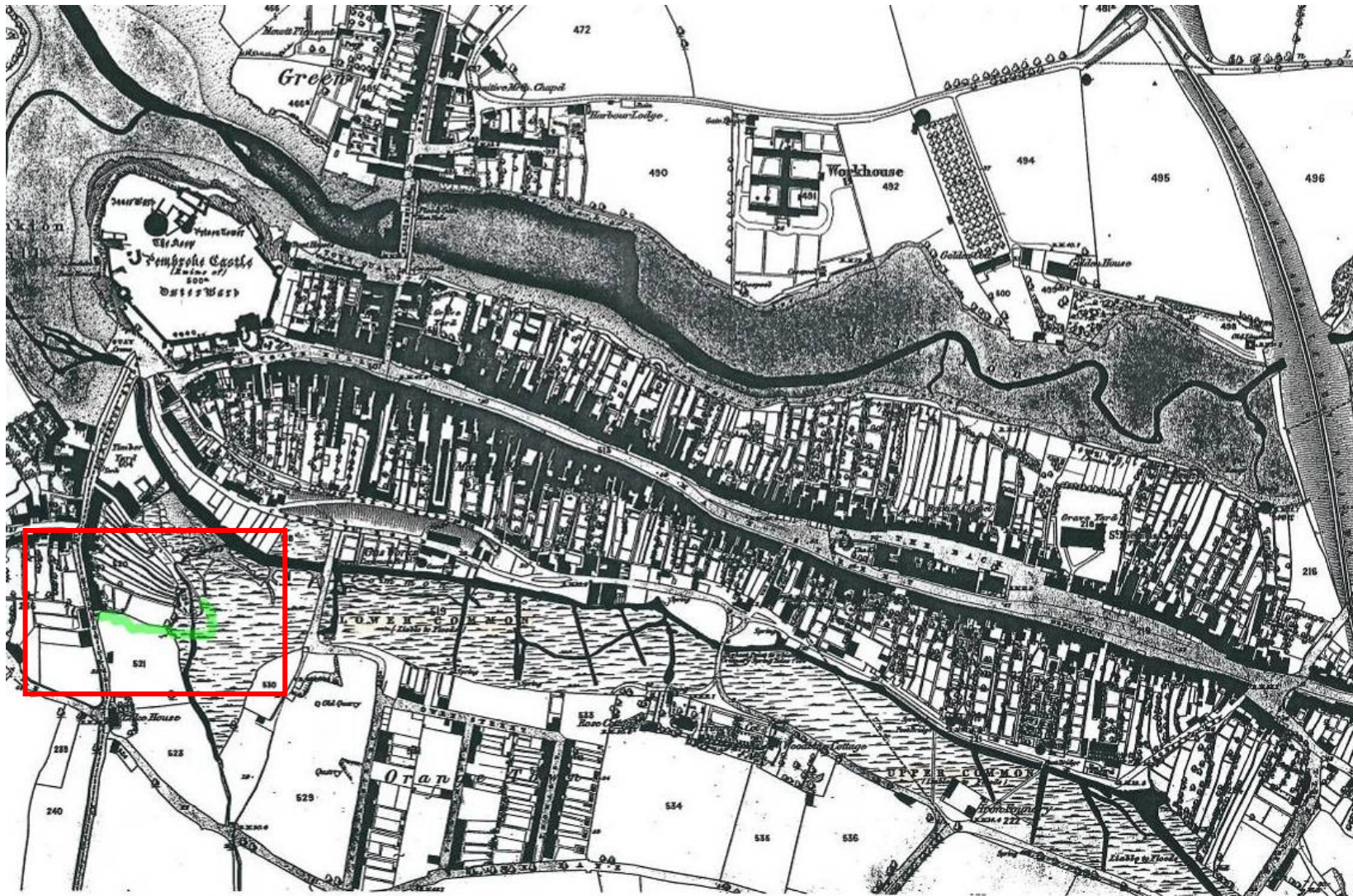


Figure 3: Extract of Ordnance Survey first edition 1891, and approximate location of scheme

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WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

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

Fieldwork

A 'watching brief' was undertaken during initial ground works within the proposed Pembroke Cycle Way route that had the potential to expose, damage or destroy underlying archaeological remains.

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

Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual² used by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services.

Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving

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.

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.

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

Timetabling of Fieldwork

The watching brief methodology involved monitoring of groundworks during two stages of excavation. These were undertaken on 5th and 9th March 2012. The weather was cold, clear and dry. The topsoil was either stripped with a mini digger or larger 360° tracked machine.

² ***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.***

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

The Lower Common

The topsoil stripping of the lower area on the common was undertaken on the 5th March.

Below the topsoil there were mixed deposits of dark ashy soil, some lighter patches with lime mortar flecking and a stonier infill towards the southern edge of the strip (Photo 1). These deposits contained fragments of slate and brick, china, stoneware and glass. A glass bottle marked "Lung Tonic Hull" (probably manufactured by Owbridge's) and a stoneware ink bottle were also recovered.

The topsoil was very dark and contained a lot of detritus, some of very modern date.

No finds were retained.



Photo 1: Overview of the topsoil stripped area of the lower part of the Pembroke Cycle Way scheme. View east from the higher part of the site.

Western Arm

The western arm of the cycle way, towards West Street was topsoil stripped on 9th March 2012 (Photo 2).

The eastern half of this area only had a thin layer of topsoil, up to c.0.1m in depth. Below this was a surface of shaly limestone "rab", the upper part of the natural geology.

Further to the west the topsoil depth was greater, up to c.0.2m in depth. A lighter red brown subsoil lay below this topsoil.

All of the Western Arm area had a lot of tree root disturbance.

Only modern glass bottles and other detritus were seen in the topsoil.

At the far western end there was a terrace cut down to approximately road level. This part was not observed further as it was evident that any archaeological features would have been destroyed by this road terracing.



Photo 2: Western, upper arm of scheme. View West.

Earthworks on the slope between the upper and lower parts of the scheme were also not observed as there was considered very unlikely to be any archaeological features on this steep slope.

DISCUSSION

The watching brief within the area of the Lower Common has indicated a similar soil make-up to that which has been previously observed in the Upper Common in 2006³, comprising a substantial depth of made-ground containing detritus of mainly early 20th century date. More recent archaeological observation of geotechnical works within the area have also provided evidence for similar character soils (Unpublished DAT-FS observations 2010). The depth of this make-up has been recorded up to 1m thick.

This build-up probably started between the dates of the First (1891) and Second (1909) editions of the Ordnance Survey maps (Figures 3 and 4). These maps show that the offshoot stream channels appeared to be filled in during this period, associated with the draining of the Commons and subsequent stabilisation and levelling of the land using imported detritus and soil.

The dating of finds from this Lower Common suggests that the infilling continued well into the 1900's. If the backfill on the Common were to be removed the earlier stream channels may prove to be archaeologically significant as they may have been used for the locations of quays and possibly contain other evidence of medieval activity.

The watching brief on the upper, Western Arm of the scheme overlooking the salt marsh would have been a good location for settlement throughout history. Prior to draining of the commons, it would have overlooked the waterlogged marsh areas. In the event, the watching brief revealed no indication of significant archaeological activity. No finds suggesting settlement were recovered. It is possible that tree root disturbance may have destroyed or hidden archaeological features, but this is considered unlikely. The thin depth of the topsoil on the eastern half may indicate that the land had previously been topsoil stripped. Nearer to the road, it was evident that terracing associated with its construction would have removed any archaeological features that may have been present.

Although no significant archaeological remains were revealed, there is still a high potential that significant archaeological deposits could be present in the vicinity of the cycle way. These may lie below the modern make-up layers covering the Commons or lie on the ridge on which Bridgend Terrace runs.

³ Crane P, 2006. Pembroke Commons Flood Alleviation Scheme: Archaeological Evaluation: unpublished report copy held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust

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**Ebrill 2012
April 2012**

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

Pete Crane

Swydd / Position: Senior Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature ..pp. ..



Dyddiad / Date: 26/04/12

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 26/04/12

*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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