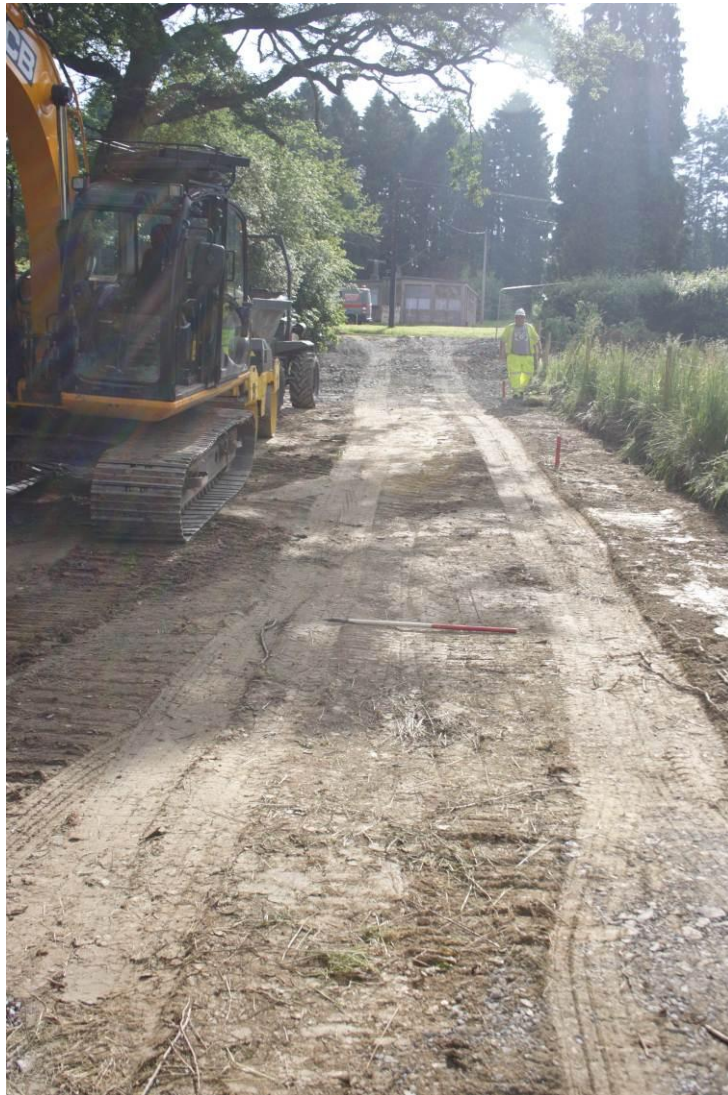


HENLLAN WASTE WATER TREATMENT WORKS, CEREDIGION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

(NGR SN 35459 40238)



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For: Asbri Planning



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Gan / By

Charles Enright

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HENLLAN WASTE WASTER TREATMENT WORKS, CEREDIGION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

A planning application was submitted to Ceredigion County Council for the construction of a new access road to Henllan Waste Water Treatment Works, Ceredigion (NGR 07634 11431) and associated drain.

The condition for a scheme of archaeological works has been placed upon the development due to the close proximity of the development to St David's Church. The church was built in the 19th century on the footprint of an earlier medieval church; it is surrounded by a large medieval churchyard containing burials. To the west is the site of a World War II Italian Prisoner of War camp.

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Richard Bowen of Asbri Planning, on behalf of Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd to undertake the archaeological watching brief during ground works that had the potential to disturb archaeological remains. The watching brief took place on the 18th, 19th and 20th June, 2014.

The archaeological watching brief has demonstrated that the construction of the new access track and associated drain has not impacted upon any archaeologically significant deposits or features.

The topsoil strip across the road line did not fully expose the underlying subsoils but there were still no obvious signs of any disturbed archaeological features.

The excavation of the drainage trench allowed the archaeologist to observe the removal of the remnant topsoil and see the natural undisturbed geology.

No features, finds or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the watching brief.

The lack of archaeological remains observed during this watching brief in the area of the new access track and associated drain does not negate the possibility that significant archaeological deposits survive in the wider area. The close proximity of St David's Church could mean that there is potential for medieval or even early medieval settlement associated with the church in the wider area.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services Services were commissioned by Richard Bowen of Asbri Planning, on behalf of Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the proposed construction of a new access road to Henllan Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW), Ceredigion (SN 35459 40238; Figure 1) and associated drain. Asbri Planning prepared the planning documentation for the proposals and following the granting of planning permission, Alun Griffiths (Contractors) Ltd undertook the construction of the access road and ultimately commissioned the archaeological works.
- 1.1.2 The required archaeological works have been placed as a condition on planning permission for this development (Planning Reference A130950) recommended by the archaeological advisors¹ to Ceredigion County Council. The condition requires that: *'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 in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority.'*
- 1.1.3 The archaeological condition has been placed on the development as the proposed works could potentially expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains. The development proposals lay in proximity to the archaeological and historically important Church of St David, Henllan.

1.2 Scope of Project

- 1.2.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a watching brief was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services prior to the commencement of works. The WSI outlined methodologies for:

Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which the watching brief should be undertaken.

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 The overall aim of the work was summarised in the WSI as follows:

Archaeological attendance and recording during groundworks associated with the construction of the proposed access road at the Henllan WWTW, Ceredigion. These works may expose, damage or destroy any underlying archaeological remains, if present. The works will also involve the preparation of a report and archive on the results of the watching brief.

¹ Dyfed Archaeological Trust Planning Services – Heritage Management.

1.3 Report Outline

- 1.3.1 This report 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 Record² (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 Printed map extracts are not necessarily produced to their original scale.

1.6 Timeline

- 1.6.1 The following timeline (Table 1) 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 1086	
Medieval Period –	1086 – 1536	
Post-Medieval Period ³ –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20 th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales.

² Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo SA19 6AF.

³ 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

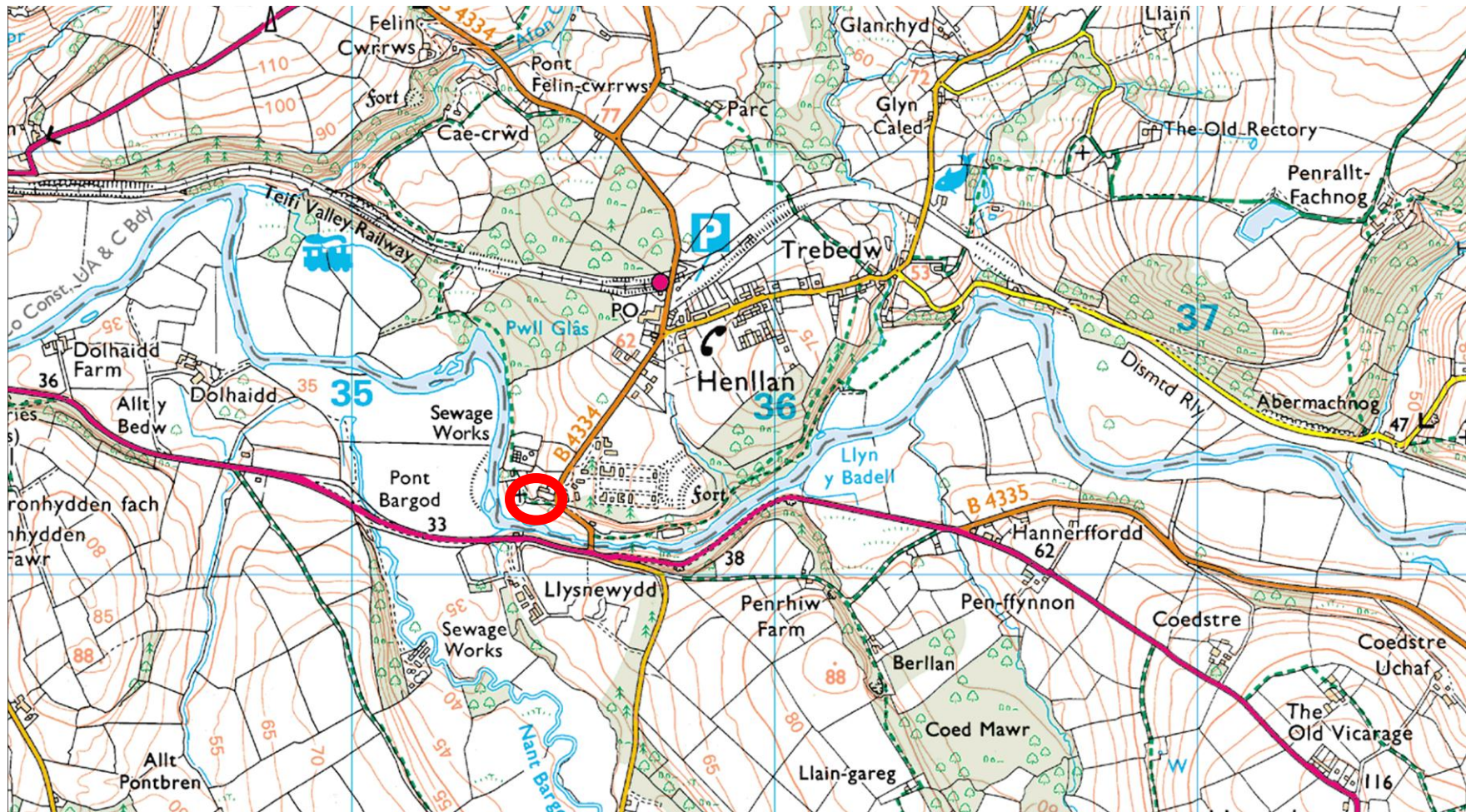


Figure 1: Site location map based on the Ordnance Survey 1:25000 scale. Area marked within red circle.

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2 THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 The site of the new access track lies approximately 460m southwest of Henllan, on the west side of the B4334. The river Teifi passes the site to the west and south (Figures 1 & 2).
- 2.1.2 The new access track will lead west from the B4334 crossing a small meadow field adjacent to the property called Pengallt, before heading past the southern side of the WWTW to its southwestern corner (Figure 2). It is presumed that this new access track will replace that which presently exists to the south which leads past St David's Church.

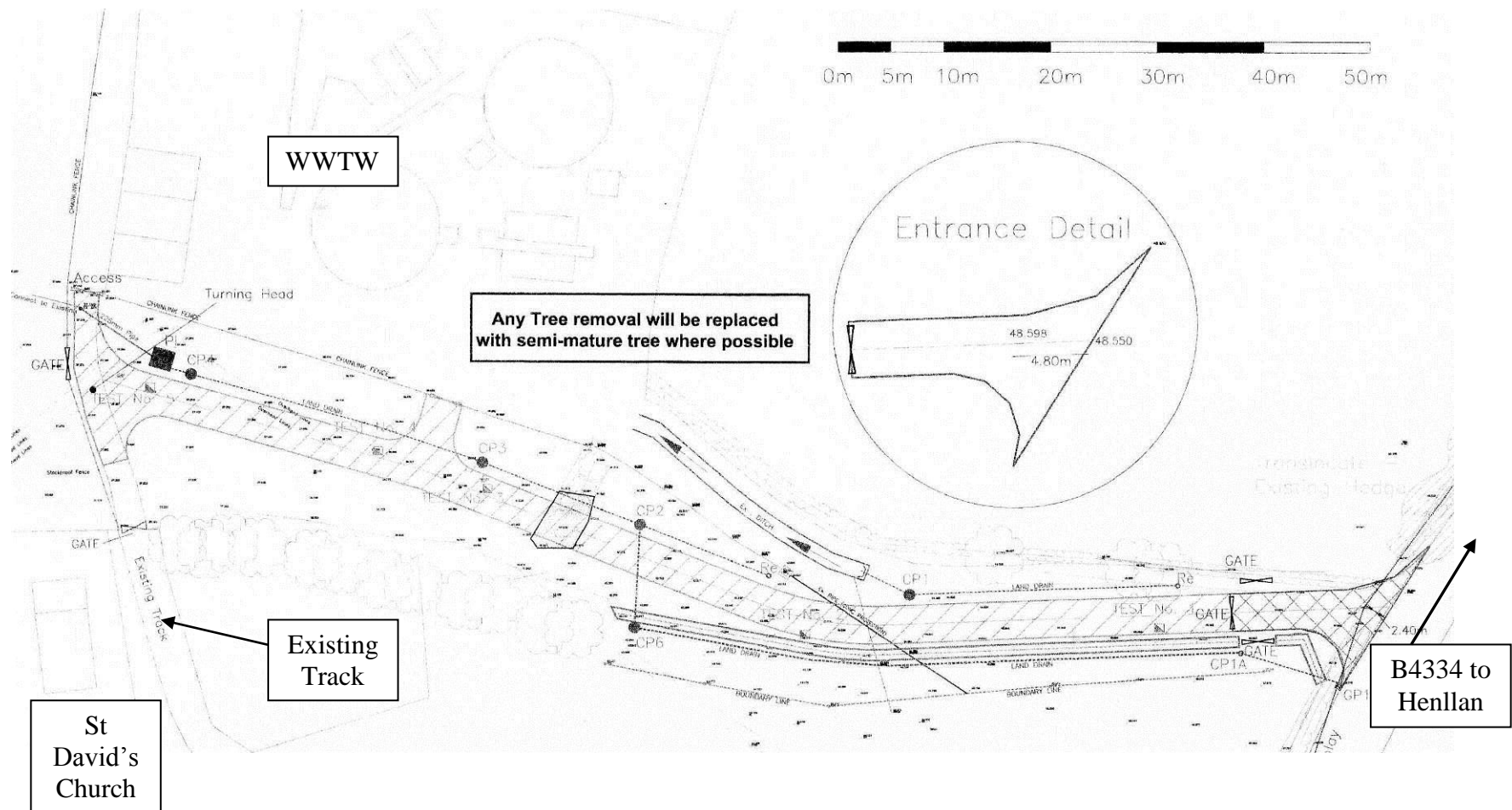


Figure 2: Plan of proposed new access road as supplied by Alun Griffiths and annotated by C Enright (2014).

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 A search of the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust indicates that there are seven known sites of archaeological interest within a 250m radius of the center of the proposed site (Table 2 summarises the seven known archaeological sites and Figure 3 illustrates the distribution of known sites within the vicinity of construction work).
- 2.2.2 The present church (PRN 5282) was built in the early 19th century (1826?) on the footprint of the earlier medieval church. It is possible that some medieval fabric was retained, but uncertain. The church also has later 19th century additions. The churchyard is roughly oval shaped and this fact, tied in with the dedication to St David, suggests that the church may have early medieval origins (PRN 49327).
- 2.2.3 To the southeast of the site area is the grade II Listed Building Pont Henllan (PRN 5284 and 57790). This bridge dates from the post medieval period.
- 2.2.4 All other sites recorded in the HER within a 250m radius are of mid-20th century origin and relate to the Second World War. This includes the Italian Prisoner of War Camp (PRN 31428) and the associated chapel in the Prisoner of War Camp (PRN 57791), which is a grade II* Listed Building. An anti-invasion pillbox is located on the south side of Henllan Bridge (PRN 100570). It forms part of the Carmarthen Command Stop Line used in the early period of WWII (1940 -1). This pillbox has been designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.
- 2.2.5 Just outside of the 250m radius, to the east of the new track lies an Iron Age Hill Fort. This has been designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (PRN 2341).
- 2.2.6 Overall the archaeological potential of the site is considered greatest for possible medieval or even early medieval settlement associated with St David's Church. It is considered unlikely that further World War II remains exist in the area, but as with remains of other periods the possibility should not be discounted.

PRN	Site Name	Description	Grid Reference
5282	St Davids	Henllan Parish Church of St David's. Post-medieval rebuilding of medieval church.	SN35404019
5284	Pont Henllan	Grade II Listed Bridge, part lying within Henllan parish	SN3557440074
10199	St David's Dedication	Record deleted as part of Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project. Record now merged with record PRN 49327.	SN354402
49327	Henllan Parish Church; St David's	Early medieval B site, i.e. medium-probability early medieval origins. Churchyard occupied by Henllan parish church PRN 5282 which was formerly a chapelry and not listed in the 'Taxatio' of 1291. Now in Orlwyn Teifi parish. It was entirely (re)built, in the earlier 19th century, on the same site, and in the same location as its predecessor, but nothing was retained from the earlier fabric. It appears to have always belonged to St David's Cathedral. It was mentioned in a late 12th century poem when it was already termed 'Hen Llan' or 'old church'. Moreover, the site has been convincingly argued as the 'Llinhenlann' mentioned in Rhigyfarch's late 11th century 'Life of St David'. The large, circular churchyard, 45m in diameter, was extended to the north in the 19th century. It occupies the Teifi floodplain and is therefore not likely to have origins as an iron age defended enclosure. The site lies 300m W of a large iron age hill fort PRN 2341 but the relationship between the two, if any, is unknown. It has been suggested that the original dedication may not have been to St David.	SN35404019
57790	Pont Henllan	Grade II listed bridge, part lying within Llangelor Community	SN3557440081
31428	Henllan Prisoner of War Camp	An Italian Prisoner of War Camp built after the partial excavation of the hillfort PRN 2341 in 1942.	
57791	Former POW Chapel at Henllan caravan park	Grade II* listed WWII pow chapel	SN3566740177
100,570	Pont Henllan	An anti-invasion pillbox dating to the early period of World War II (1940-1). The pillbox defends Pont Henllan Bridge (PRN 5284). It forms part of the Carmarthen Command Stop Line.	SN3557840034

Table 2: Known archaeological and historical sites recorded on the regional HER within a 250m radius centred new access track.



Figure 3: Map showing distribution of archaeological sites recorded on the regional HER within a 250m radius of the new access road. The Iron Age Hill Fort can also be seen lying just outside of the 250m radius.

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3 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 An archaeological 'watching brief' was undertaken on the 18th, 19th and 20th June 2014, at the commencement of ground works that had the potential to expose, damage or destroy underlying archaeological remains.
- 3.1.2 The ground works consisted of two phases; Phase one involved the excavation of topsoil across the extent of the new access track. Phase two involved the excavation of subsoil to facilitate the construction of a drain and associated manhole openings.
- 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 Manual⁴ 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 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.

⁴ 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 The excavation of the topsoil across the extent of the new access track (phase 1) was conducted immediately prior to the arrival of the archaeologist. The topsoil was approximately 0.10 – 0.15m in depth and consisted of a friable light brown silt loam. The area was covered with a large number of roots (Photo 1). The level removed for the topsoil strip did not expose any underlying archaeological remains as the full depth of topsoil was not removed.



Photo 1: Excavation of topsoil for new access track (Phase 1).

- 4.2 The Phase 2 works involved the excavation of a linear trench for drainage purposes. This trench was approximately 1m wide, running parallel down the midsection of the new access track, aligned east/west. The trench was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.75m (Photo 2). At fixed points along the drainage trench larger trenches of approximately 2m x 2m and to a depth of approximately 1.5m were also excavated for inspection chambers (Photo 3).
- 4.3 Excavation of the drainage trench revealed that the subsoil consisted of a light brown, undisturbed clay silt that varied in depth across the site. At the most eastern end of the trench the subsoil was approximately 0.5 – 0.70m in depth, with the first 0.15 – 0.20m containing a high volume of small stone inclusions. It was noted that the clay silt subsoil was overlying the natural grey shale bedrock occurring at a depth of approximately 0.70cm (Photo 4).



Photo 2: Excavation of drainage trench (Phase 2).



Photo 3: Example of trench excavated for manhole openings. North facing section. Note the remnant topsoil at the top of the section and shale at the base

- 4.4 Moving west along the trench it becomes obvious that the clay loam subsoil increased in depth to over 1m deep. The shale layer was only just visible at the base of the most westerly manhole opening.



Photo 4: North facing section at eastern end of drainage trench, note the grey shale layer clearly visible beneath the clay loam subsoil and remnant topsoil at the top of the section

- 4.5 No features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were observed during the watching brief.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 This archaeological watching brief has demonstrated that the construction of the new access track and associated drain has not impacted upon any archaeologically significant deposits or features.
- 5.2 The topsoil strip across the road line did not fully expose the underlying subsoils, leaving a thin layer of topsoil at the base of the proposed access track foundation. There was no indication of any underlying archaeological features being present, being a lack of any finds or other indications of underlying archaeology. It is possible that archaeological remains could still survive beneath the remnant topsoil.
- 5.3 The excavation of the drainage trench allowed a trench through the material below the remains of the topsoil to be observed. This appeared to be of around 0.20m total depth, with around 0.05m depth left after the topsoil strip. This lay directly upon a light brown clay silt subsoil, presumably representing the undisturbed natural geology. This subsoil in turn lay on top of shale bedrock.
- 5.4 There were no indications of any archaeological remains within the areas excavated for the drainage trench and the inspection pits.
- 5.5 Although nothing of archaeological significance was recorded within the area of the new access track and associated drains, there remains the potential that significant archaeological deposits could survive in the vicinity.
- 5.6 The site area still lies within close proximity to St David's Church and the potential for medieval or even early medieval settlement associated with the church still remains within the area.

6 SOURCES

6.1 Publications

Brown, D.H., 2007, *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*. Institute of Field Archaeologists.

6.2 Database

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record.

6.3 Map

Ordnance Survey Map. 2003. 1:25 000. Ceredigion.

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on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: **HEAD OF DAT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

Llofnod / Signature  Dyddiad / Date 17/07/15

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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have on the content or presentation of this report

