

**FELIN WNDA, CEREDIGION, WATER MAIN
REPLACEMENT SCHEME:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2014
(NGR SN 32376 47002)**



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
For: Dwr Cymru Welsh Water



ymddiriedolaeth archaeolegol
DYFED
archaeological trust

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2014/54
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 107531

Rhagfyr2014
December 2014



FELIN WNDA, CEREDIGION, WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT SCHEME: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2014

Gan / By

Ed Davies

Paratowyd yr adroddiad yma at ddefnydd y cwsmer yn unig. Ni dderbynnir cyfrifoldeb gan Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf am ei ddefnyddio gan unrhyw berson na phersonau eraill a fydd yn ei ddarllen neu ddibynnu ar y gwybodaeth y mae'n ei gynnwys

The report has been prepared for the specific use of the client. Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited can accept no responsibility for its use by any other person or persons who may read it or rely on the information it contains.



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
Gwefan: 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
Website: www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

*Cwmni cyfyngedig (1198990) ynghyd ag elusen gofrestredig (504616) yw'r Ymddiriedolaeth.
The Trust is both a Limited Company (No. 1198990) and a Registered Charity (No. 504616)
CADEIRYDD CHAIRMAN: Professor B Burnham MIFA. CYFARWYDDWR DIRECTOR: K Murphy BA MIFA*

**FELIN WNDA, CEREDIGION, WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT SCHEME:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2014**

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	1
1. INTRODUCTION	2
1.1 Project Commission	2
1.2 Scope of Project	2
1.3 Report Outline	2
1.4 Abbreviations	2
1.5 Illustrations	3
1.6 Timeline	3
2. THE SITE	7
2.1 Site Location	7
2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background	7
3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY	9
3.1 Fieldwork Methodology	9
3.2 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving	9
4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	10
5. CONCLUSIONS	11
6. PHOTOGRAPHS	12
7. SOURCES	15

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location map based on the Ordnance Survey	4
Figure 2: Map of the proposed route of the replacement water main	5
Figure 3: Extract of the first edition Ordnance Survey map of c.1880, with the area of investigation circled in red	6

TABLES

Table 1:	Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales.	3
Table 2:	Known archaeological and historical sites recorded on the regional HER and RCAHMW Coflein database within close vicinity to the site of Capel Gwnda	8

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1:	The length of wall that came to the notice of the site contractor in July 2014	12
Photo 2:	The area to the northwest of the length of wall cleaned of the surrounding vegetation and loose soil	12
Photo 3:	Cleaned area prior to excavation of trench, showing loose root filled, material including rubbish and small stones	13
Photo 4:	Dry-stone revetment wall to northwest of the walling	13
Photo 5:	The completed water main replacement trench in the area of the length of wall	14

**FELIN WNDA, CEREDIGION, WATER MAIN RELACEMENT SCHEME:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Dwr Cymru Welsh Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with a water main replacement scheme in the area of Felin Wnda, Ceredigion, following a recommendation from the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority.

Although the scheme was planned to follow as closely as possible the route of the existing water main that required replacing, the pipe route passes close to the area of the possible former chapel of ease of Capel Gwnda (PRN 5737) and it was in close vicinity to this site that during initial ground works in July 2014 a length of walling some 25 to 30m in length came to the notice of the site contractor. It is believed that the remains represent a farm building or cottage. Ground works were halted and following discussions with Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the planning authority, an archaeological watching brief was confirmed as appropriate mitigation in the area of the former chapel.

A Written Scheme of Investigation outlining the watching brief aims and objectives was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services and was approved by the archaeological advisor to the planning authority.

The watching brief took place on the 4th September 2014. Upon inspection of the walling and previous ground works, it was established that the planned trench route had so far only broken ground where the previous pipe trench had passed through, and that no archaeological remains had been affected by the excavation. Works were resumed with archaeological supervision to ensure that any exposed remains in the area of the former chapel could be recorded, and to ensure that the walling remained undisturbed.

No features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed during the watching brief.

The lack of archaeological remains observed during ground works was due to the replacement pipe trench closely following the route of the original pipe and therefore does not preclude the possibility that significant archaeological remains or deposits survive in the wider area.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Dwr Cymru Welsh Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the renewal of the water main at Felin Wnda, Ceredigion (located at SN 32376 47002; Figure 1) in the area of the former chapel of ease Capel Gwnda (PRN 5737).
- 1.1.2 The proposed works included the excavation of a trench, to provide access to the old water main ready for replacement. The pipe route passed close to the area of the former chapel of ease of Capel Gwnda (PRN 5737) and it was in close vicinity to this site that during initial ground works in July 2014 a length of walling some 25 to 30m in length came to the notice of the contractor in July 2014 (Photo 1). It is believed that the remains represent a farm building or cottage.
- 1.1.3 Ground works were halted and following discussions between Dwr Cymru Welsh Water with Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the planning authority, an archaeological watching brief was confirmed as appropriate mitigation in the area of the former chapel.
- 1.1.4 The request was made as the proposed works could potentially expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains in the vicinity of the former chapel of ease of Capel Gwnda.

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 was commissioned by Dwr Cymru. 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.

1.3 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 Record¹ (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Sites recorded by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) Cofelin database are identified by their National Primary Record Number (NPRN); 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 ² –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20 th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales.

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

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 based on the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 map.

Reproduced from the 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 10002093

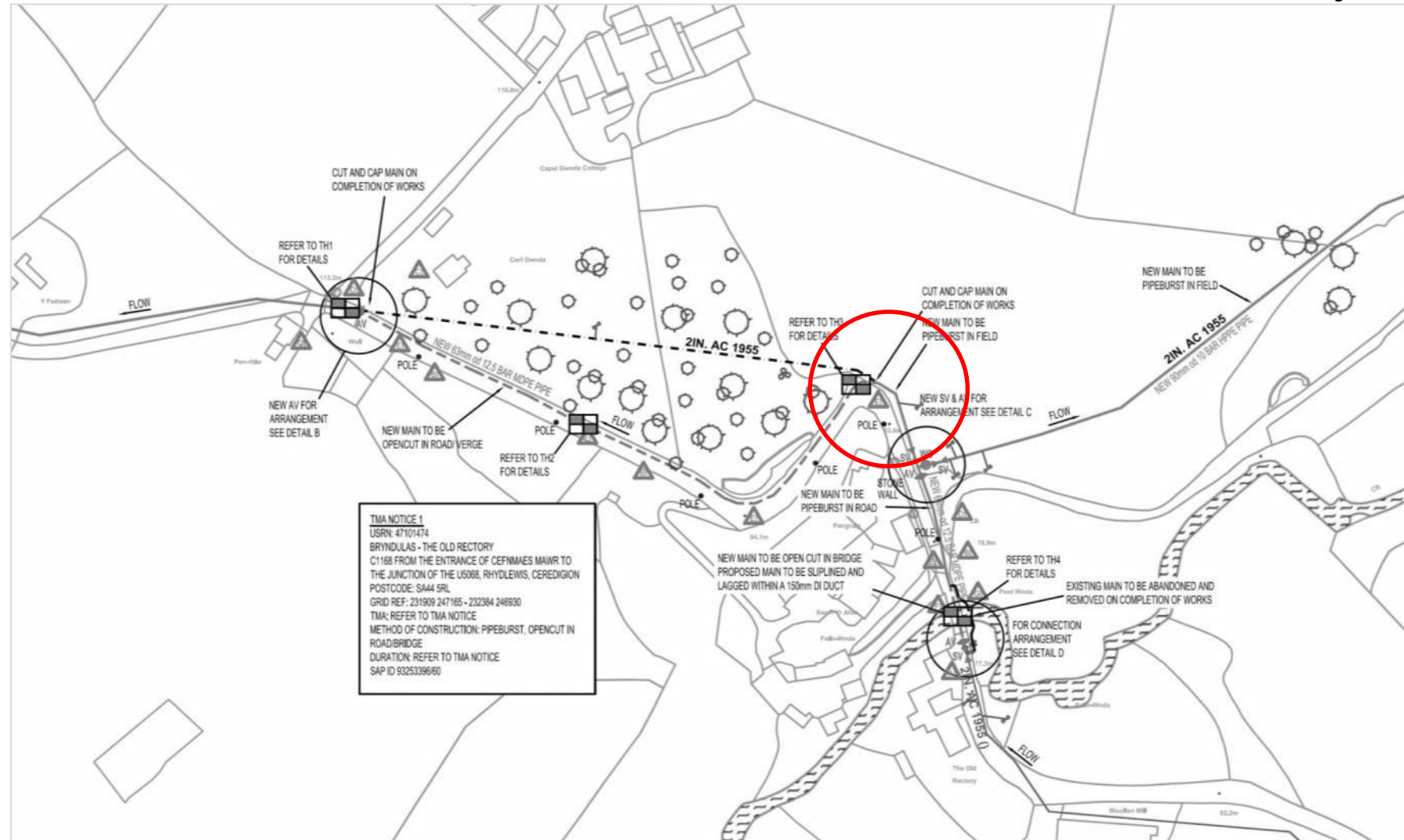


Figure 2: Map of the proposed route of the replacement water main. The red circle shows the location of the area that was monitored during the watching brief and includes the location of the walling discovered during initial ground works. Plan supplied by client.

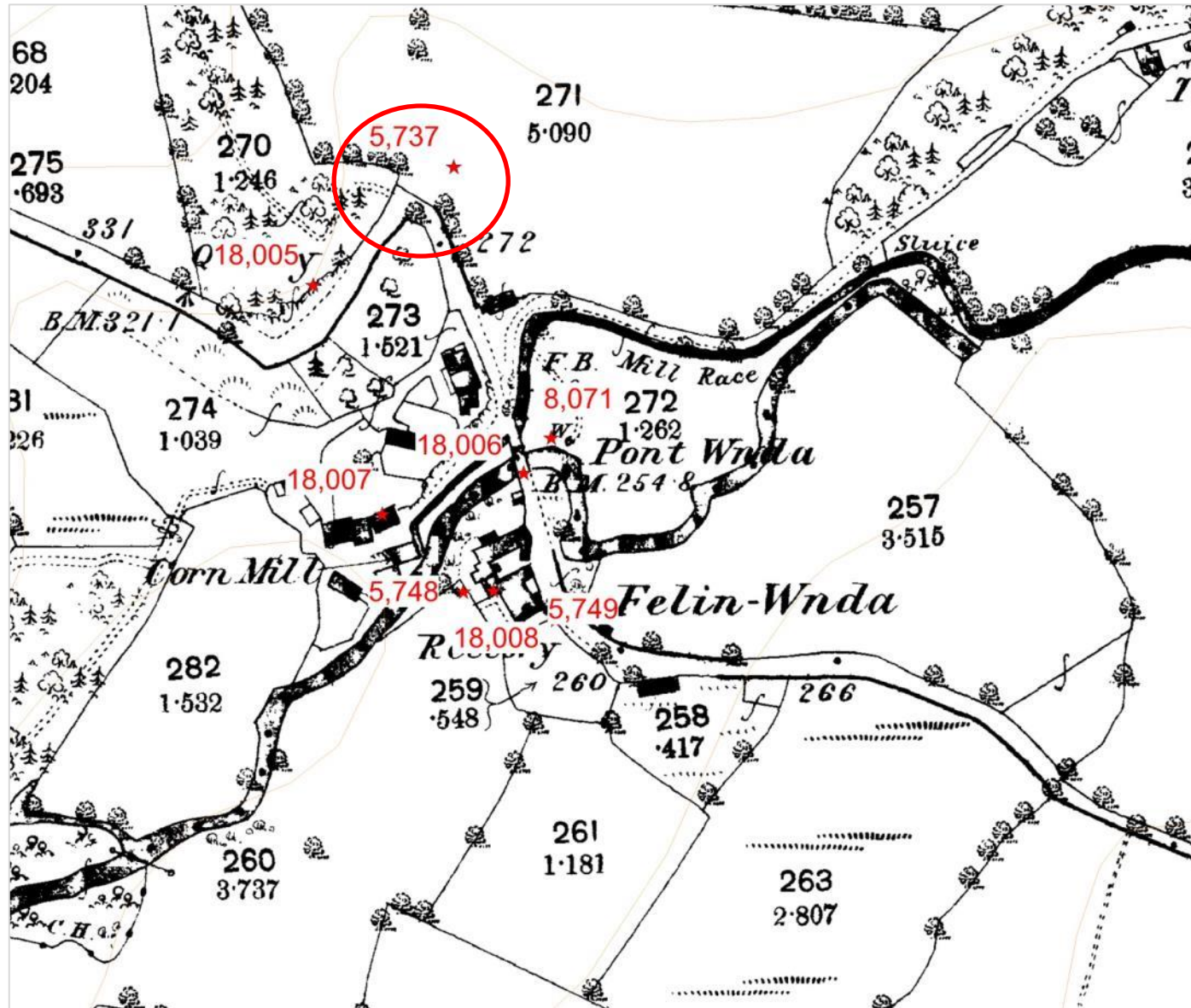


Figure 3: Extract of the first edition Ordnance Survey map of c.1880 with the area of investigation circled in red. The known archaeological sites within close vicinity to the possible site of Capel Gwnda (PRN 5737) listed in Table 2 are displayed.

2. THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 Felin Wnda is a hamlet in the community of Troedyr aur, Ceredigion, Wales. The water main replacement scheme passes through Felin Wnda following as closely as possible the route of the water main that needs replacing (Figure 2).
- 2.1.2 The area requiring monitoring during the archaeological watching brief (Figure 2) was situated north of a sharp bend in the road that passes through Felin Wnda on level ground between the road edge and the field boundary at the base of the hill.
- 2.1.3 The underlying solid geology consists of Nantmel mudstone formation rocks (part of the Ashgill formation) with superficial geology of Diamiction Till.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 A search of the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust and the RCAHMW Coflein database indicates that there are 8 known sites within close vicinity of the watching brief area where the length of wall is located (Figure 3, Table 2).
- 2.2.2 There are two sites of medieval date; the possible location of the chapel of ease Capel Gwnda (PRN 5748) and the site of a putative medieval holy well (PRN 8071).
- 2.2.3 The place-name 'Felin Wnda', could represent one of two potential sites for a medieval chapelry, to Troed-yr-aur parish, dedicated to the 'Celtic' St Gwnda/Gwyndaf. A building platform 8m NE-SW by 13m is thought to potentially represent the location of the chapel but according to Samuel Lewis, writing in 1833, the chapel lay on the site now occupied by the Old Rectory, which was built in the early 19th century (Lewis 1849). The William Rees map, however, depicts the chapel on the site of the 18th/19th century, Nonconformist Capel Twr Gwyn PRN 16896 (Rees 1932). It was possibly a Welsh foundation, Ceredigion remaining in Welsh hands during most of the 12th and 13th centuries (Ludlow 2002).
- 2.2.4 The holy well, the waters of which were famous for curing warts, was assessed as part of the holy wells project (Ings, 2012). Little now survives above ground to indicate the position of the well that was situated below Pont Wnda.
- 2.2.5 The remaining archaeological sites date from the post-medieval period (Table 2) and include the rectory, bridge, mill and quarry.

*Felin Wnda, Ceredigion, Water Main Replacement Scheme:
Archaeological Watching Brief*

PRN	RCHAMW	Site Name	Description	Grid Reference
5737		CAPEL GWNDA	Possible site of Capel Gwnda. Represented by a levelled area. RPS September 2001; At the given grid reference there is indeed a levelled area but it, I am reliably informed by a local farmer, was probably caused by the insertion of drainage in the field. (However, it could be quite feasibly a building platform 8m NE-SW by 13m). Downslope at SN3238147026 there is a 10m by 10m platform terraced into the hillslope. This may be associated with the remnant stone footings of a dwelling at SN3237347001 (6m x 7m circa, with walls standing at highest 0.40m - drystone shale built). RR March 2003	SN32364704
5748		CAPEL GWNDA;CAPEL TWR GWYN	Place-name 'Felin Wnda', representing one of two potential sites for a medieval chapelry, to Troed-yr-aur parish, dedicated to the 'Celtic' St Gwnda/Gwyndaf. According to Samuel Lewis, writing in 1833, the chapel lay on the site now occupied by the Old Rectory, which was built in the early 19th century (Lewis 1833); the William Rees map, however, depicts the chapel on the site of the 18th - 19th century, Nonconformist Capel Twr Gwyn PRN 16896 (Rees 1932) - see PRN 12388. It was possibly a Welsh foundation, Ceredigion remaining in Welsh hands during most of the 12th and 13th centuries. This site lies within 50m of the Ffynnon Capel Gwnda curative well site (PRN 8071). There is no current evidence for an early medieval date. NDL 2004	SN32374690
5749		FELIN WNDA RECTORY	Record deleted during Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project PRN 44753. clearly relates to same site as PRN 5478. Record now merged with PRN 5748. NDL 2004	SN32394689
8071		FFYNNON CAPEL GWNDA	The site was visited during the Cadw Holy Wells project of 2011. The recorded location is below Pont Wnda, where a gully, dry at the time of the visit, was noted running towards the river. Within it was a dump of stone and bricks in the approximate spot of the recorded well, suggesting that the feature may have been filled in (M.Ings, 2011).	SN32394695
18005		QUARRY	Quarry	SN3231347002
18006	23949	PONT WNDA	Post-medieval bridge - one arch, 21 ft. span, over River Ceri.	SN32384695
18007	24753	FELIN-WNDA	Early C19 water-powered corn-mill, situated on north bank of Afon Ceri, just west of Pont Wnda marked on Tithe Map and first edition O.S. Grade II Listed Ref No 16088	SN3233446926
18008		BUILDING	Post-medieval building, former rectory.	SN32364690

Table 2: Known archaeological and historical sites recorded on the regional HER and RCAHMW Coflein database within close vicinity of the site of Capel Gwnda.

3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The watching brief was carried out over one day on 4th September 2014 at the request of the client / site contractors.
- 3.1.2 Excavation work was conducted by a 13 ton machine with a 0.6m wide toothless bucket. All archaeological deposits revealed during the ground works were examined and recorded to an appropriate level.
- 3.1.3 The excavation conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual³ used by DAT Archaeological 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.

³ DAT Archaeological 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 During the watching brief and prior to recommencing ground works with the excavator, an area to the northwest of the length of wall (Photo 1) was cleaned of the surrounding vegetation and loose soil (Photo 2). This allowed for a fuller assessment of the ground through which the trench for replacing the water main would pass.
- 4.2 The cleanup showed that the material in this area was a mixture of debris including building stone that had collected from the gradual decay of the nearby walled structure (represented by the length of wall) and accumulated rubbish (Photo 3). The finds observed in this material consisted of plastic wrappers, broken glass, old metalwork, rubber and a glass syringe.
- 4.3 As the standing wall proved to be outside of the proposed line of the water main trench and the ground surface showed signs of recent disturbance, the machine excavation of the water main trench was allowed to continue.
- 4.4 A short section of stone built revetment (Photo 4) to the north of the wall is thought to indicate the line of the previous water main. It is thought likely that after the earlier excavation someone built up the gap created by the route of the pipe trench to maintain the integrity of the hedge line.
- 4.5 The excavation of the new water main pipe trench was observed from the edge of the pipe junction in the field to the north, to the roadside edge (Photo 5). The matrix of the material within the trench consisted of up to 0.3m of rubble/rubbish deposits overlying 0.9m of mixed material, believed to be backfill from the previous water main excavation, including large stones similar to those visible in the walling. The old water main was exposed towards the base of the trench.
- 4.6 The pipe replacement scheme only required inserting a new narrower plastic pipe down the length of the old pipe and so there was no need to excavate the trench any deeper.
- 4.7 No further evidence was found for the structure that may be represented by the revealed walling within the area of excavation. However a number of large stones of similar character to those visible in the wall were found loose within the backfill of the trench, and in the fabric of the revetment.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The lack of archaeological remains observed during ground works was due to the replacement water main trench following closely the route of the original water main and therefore does not preclude the possibility that evidence for archaeological activity exists in the wider area.
- 5.2 No further lengths of walling were observed during the ground works, however, similar material was found in the backfill of the existing water main trench and in the fabric of the revetment. It is likely that it was at least partially damaged by the excavation of the previous water main trench, with material from the structure reused to repair the hedge line or used to backfill the trench. Some evidence of the return of the structure may yet exist outside the watching brief area.

6. PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: The length of wall that came to the notice of the site contractor in July 2014. Photograph taken facing south. 1m scale



Photo 2: The area to the northwest of the length of wall cleaned of the surrounding vegetation and loose soil. Photograph taken facing northeast. 1m scale



Photo 3: Cleaned area prior to excavation of trench, showing loose root filled, material including rubbish and small stones. Photograph taken facing roughly northeast. 1m scale



Photo 4: Dry-stone revetment wall to northwest of the length of wall. Photograph taken facing roughly northeast. 1m scale



Photo 5: The completed water main replacement trench situated to the northwest of the length of wall. Photograph taken facing northeast.

7. SOURCES

Published

Lewis, S, 1849 *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales*, London.

Rees, W, 1932 *South Wales and the Border in Fourteenth Century*

Unpublished

Ings, I, 2001 *Medieval And Early Post-Medieval Holy WellsA Threat-Related Assessment 2011*, Dyfed Archaeological Report No 2012/7

Ludlow, N, 2002 CADW. *Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project, Ceredigion Part 1*. Cambria (DAT) Archaeology Report Number 2004/31

Database

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record, housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust in The Shire Hall, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AF

RCAHMW Coflein Database <http://www.coflein.gov.uk/>

Cartographic

Ordnance Survey 1889 1:2500 1st edition Cardiganshire

FELIN WNDA, CEREDIGION, WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT SCHEME: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2014

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2014/54

**Rhagfyr 2014
December 2014**

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

Edward Davies

Swydd / Position: Archaeologist



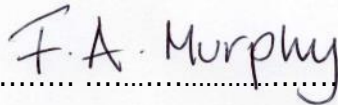
Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date 01/12/2014

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

Fran Murphy

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

Swydd / Position: Project Manager DAT Archaeological Services



Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date 09/12/2014

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

