PROPOSED WATER MAIN – WOGASTON INLET, SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2015

(NGR SM 92539 00305)



Photo: View north - excavation of Trial Hole 9; Bronze Age Barrow (PRN 3246) is visible as a mound in adjacent field.



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services For: Dwr Cymru Welsh Water





DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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PROPOSED WATER MAIN – WOGASTON INLET, SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2015

Gan / By

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PROPOSED WATER MAIN – WOGASTON INLET, SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2015

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Proposed Water Main – Wogaston Inlet, South Pembrokeshire: Archaeological Watching Brief

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PROPOSED WATER MAIN – WOGASTON INLET, SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of three trial holes, positioned 300m south of the hamlet of Wallaston Green, South Pembrokeshire (centred on NGR SM92538 03305), in advance of a water main replacement scheme. Due to the potential for archaeological remains to be present in the vicinity of the trial holes, the archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority, who also advise Dwr Cymru, recommended that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during the groundworks. Mr David Williams of Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water commissioned DAT Archaeological Services to undertake the watching brief.

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 was undertaken on the 16th December 2015 during the excavation of three trial holes (TH8-10), deemed to be in close proximity to Wallaston Bronze Age Barrow Cemetery (PRN 47442). The cemetery comprises four burial mounds (PRNs 3245-8) centred on NGR SM 92615 00346. The barrow cemetery is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (PE 064).

Two trial holes (TH9 and TH10) were positioned at the roadside verge and revealed a BT conduit; associated backfill and natural deposits. TH10 also revealed the edge of a former tarmacadam road surface. Trial hole (TH8) was positioned on an access track and revealed track make-up and natural deposits. The groundworks were carried out by a 360 degree excavator using a combination of toothed and flat bladed buckets.

Although no important archaeological remains were revealed during the watching brief, there is still a potential that significant archaeological deposits could be present in the vicinity

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 investigative groundworks associated with the renewal of the water main at Wogaston Farm, South Pembrokeshire (centred at NGR SM 92538 00305, Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The requirement for the watching brief was placed on the investigative groundworks following advice from the archaeological advisor to the planning authority (Planning Services of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust), who also provide archaeological advice to Dwr Cymru.
- 1.1.3 The archaeological watching brief was requested as the prposed groundworks lies between 70m to 170m away from Wallaston Bronze Age Barrow Cemetery (PRN47442; SAM PE064), and may disturb archaeological deposits or features associated with the cemetery, such as satellite burials.
- 1.1.4 The groundworks were located approximately 340m north of the B4320 junction to Wallaston Cross and 3.5km west of the village of Hundleton (Figure 1). Three trial holes (TH8-10) were excavated; TH9 and TH10 along the roadside verge and TH8 on a nearby access track. The purpose of the trial holes was to confirm below ground conditions, and details of any services, in advance of the proposed new pipeline.
- 1.1.4 The watching brief was undertaken on 16th December 2015.

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	_
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	Pre
Neolithic –	c.4400 - 2300 BC	5
Bronze Age –	c.2300 - 700 BC	istoric
Iron Age –	c.700 BC - AD 43	n
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 1086	
Medieval Period –	1086 - 1536	Hist
Post-Medieval Period ² –	1536 - 1750	storic
Industrial Period –	1750 - 1899	C
Modern –	20 th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales.

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 $^{^{}m l}$ Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Corner House, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo SA19 6AE.

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

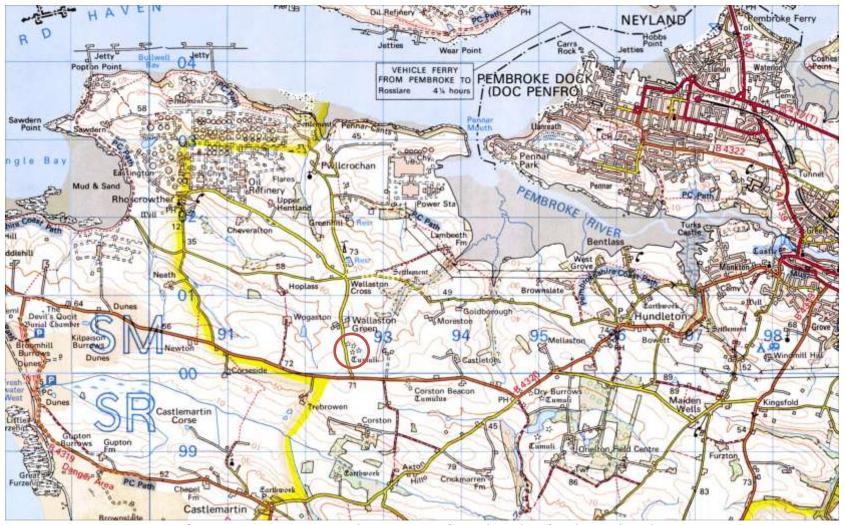


Figure 1: Location map showing site of watching brief within red circle.

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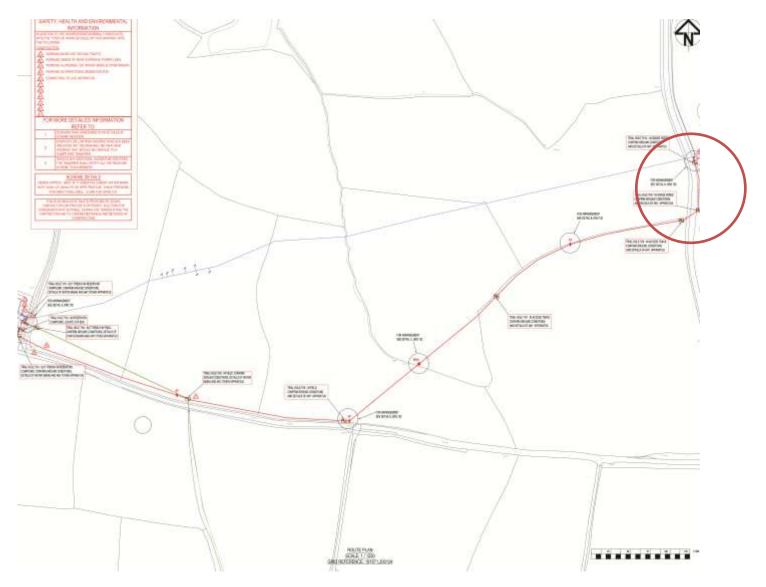


Figure 2: Map of the proposed route of the replacement water main. The red circle shows the location of the area monitored during the watching brief. Plan supplied by client.

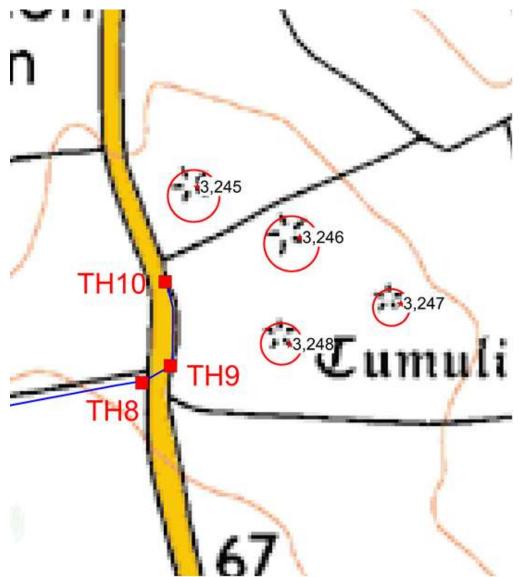


Figure 3: Detail of the location of Trial Holes 8, 9 and 10 and their vicinity to the 4 scheduled Bronze Age round barrows.

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Photo 1: Bronze Age Barrow (PRN 3246) in field adjacent to trial holes.

2. THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 The location of the three trial holes lies close to the 60m contour in an area of undulating pasture, gently sloping from south to north. Pembroke Town lies 6km to the east and the hamlet of Rhoscrowther 2.8km to the northwest (Figure 1).
- 2.1.2 The trial holes were situated along the road between Wallaston Cross and its junction with the B4320, which lies 320m to the south. Two of the trial holes were positioned on the east side of the road adjacent to the field that contains the Wallaston Bronze Age Barrow Cemetery (PRNs 3245-8; PE 064). Trial hole (TH8) was situated just inside the entrance of an access track on the west side of the road (Figure 2).
- 2.1.3 The underlying solid geology consists of Argillaceous rocks and Sandstone of the Milford Haven Group.

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 four known sites within close vicinity of the watching brief area (Table 2, Figure 3).
- 2.2.2 The four sites (PRNs 3245-8) are prehistoric burial mounds and comprise the Wallaston Bronze Age Barrow Cemetery. Three of the barrows, (PRNs 3245, 3247 and 3248) are barely visible, having been reduced by ploughing. However PRN 3246 stands at 1.6m high and is clearly visible from the road (Cover photo and Photo 1).
- 2.2.3 The B4320 road (which lies 320m to the south) is traditionally thought to follow the line of a prehistoric trackway, known as 'The Ridgeway', that runs along the main east-west ridge across South Pembrokeshire. The amount of prehistoric archaeology surviving within its immediate environs lends credence to the tradition of this being an ancient route.

PRN	SAM Ref	Period	Description	Grid Reference
3245	PE 064	Bronze Age	One of four round barrows at Wallaston, forming the round barrow cemetery PRN 47442. This is now a much spread mound, c.28m in diameter and 0.8m high. NC 2003.	SM9255400417
3246	PE 064	Bronze Age	The best preserved of four round barrows at Wallaston that form the barrow cemetery PRN 47442. The mound is grass covered, 1.6m high and 35m in diameter. NC 2003.	SM9262700381
3247	PE 064	Bronze Age	The most easterly of a group of four barrows on Wallaston Farm forming barrow cemetery PRN 47442. The mound stands to a height of c.0.6m and is 25m in diameter. NC 2003.	SM9269900334
3248	PE 064	Bronze Age	One of four round barrows on Wallaston Farm, forming barrow cemetery PRN 47442. This mound is c.0.6m high, 25m in diameter and spread by ploughing. NC 2003.	SM9262000305

Table 2: Known archaeological and historical sites recorded on the regional HER and RCAHMW Coflein database within close vicinity of the trial holes. Site locations shown in Figure 3.

3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The watching brief was carried out over one day on 16th December 2015 at the request of the client / site contractors.
- 3.1.2 Excavation work was conducted by a mini excavator using a combination of toothed and flat bladed buckets. 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 Manual ³ 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.

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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 Trial hole (TH8) was situated on an access track, 10m in from the west side of the road, and was approximately 35m south of the gateway into the field containing the Wallaston Bronze Age Barrow Cemetery. It measured 1.0m by 1.2m and was 1.2m deep. The trial hole revealed 0.4m of track material below which stood at least 0.8m of yellow, chalky clay. No significant archaeological deposits or features remains were revealed in the trial hole (Photo 5).
- 4.2 Trial hole (TH9) was situated on the east side of the road, 1.2m in from the edge of the grass verge and 24m south of the gateway into the field containing the Wallaston Bronze Age Cemetery. It was approximately 1.2m square and 1.2m deep. Within the trial hole 0.2m of topsoil was visible overlying 0.4m of reddish brown silty clay containing frequent angular stone. Below this layer a deposit of yellow chalky-clay at least 0.6m deep was recorded. In the middle of the trial hole and 0.4m below the ground surface was a British Telecom ceramic conduit. No significant archaeological features or deposits were revealed in the trial hole (Photo 2).
- 4.3 Trial hole (TH10) was situated on the east side of the road, 0.8m from the edge of the grass verge and 37m north of the gateway into the field containing the Wallaston Bronze Age Barrow Cemetery. It measured 1.0m by 1.2m and was 1.2m deep. Within its west facing section 0.2m of topsoil was recorded overlying 0.35m of pink-brown, silty clay subsoil, beneath which stood at least 0.65m of reddish brown, silty clay containing frequent angular stone. In the west side of the trial hole, 0.5m down from the ground surface, the edge of a former tarmacadam road surface was exposed. In the middle of the trial hole, 0.55m below the ground surface was a British Telecom ceramic conduit. No significant archaeological deposits or features were revealed in the trial hole (Photos 3 and 4).

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 A watching brief was carried out during investigative groundworks to confirm below ground conditions and details of any services present, in advance of the installation of a new water main. The monitored groundworks were positioned 300m south of the hamlet of Wallaston Green, South Pembrokeshire, within 70m of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (PE064) Wallaston Bronze Age Barrow Cemetery (PRN 47442). Thus a recommendation was made by the archaeological advisros to the local planning authority, who also advise Dwr Cymru, that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during the investigative groundworks.
- 5.2 The groundworks comprised excavating three trial holes approximately 1.2m wide and 1.2m deep, by means of a 360° tracked excavator using a combination of toothed and flat bladed buckets.
- 5.3 No significant archaeological deposits were identified within the trial holes. However, it is still possible that significant archaeological remains lie within the vicinity of the development.

6. PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 2: West facing section of TH9 with BT ceramic conduit. 1m scale



Photo 3: East view of TH10 with BT ceramic conduit and remains of former tarmacadam road surface. 1m scale



Photo 4: View south: location of TH10 in relation to road. Wallaston Bronze Age Barrow Cemetery in adjacent field.



Photo 5: North facing section of TH8 positioned on access track. 1m scale.

7. SOURCES

Published

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

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/

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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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