

PARC HINDS RISING MAIN, CARMARTHEN, DWR CYMRU SCHEME ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF (NGR SN41251989)



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
For: Dwr Cymru Welsh Water



ymddiriedolaeth archaeolegol
DYFED
archaeological trust

PARC HINDS RISING MAIN, CARMARTHEN, DWR CYMRU SCHEME

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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Gan / By

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PARC HINDS RISING MAIN, CARMARTHEN, DWR CYMRU SCHEME

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Dwr Cymru Welsh Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during investigative ground works associated with a new pipeline scheme in the town of Carmarthen following a recommendation from the archaeological advisors to the planning authority, Planning Services at Dyfed Archaeological Trust, who also provide archaeological advice to Dwr Cymru.

Three trial holes were excavated along Coracle way in the town of Carmarthen to gather information on the below ground conditions and any services present prior to finalising the plans for the proposed pipeline scheme.

It is understood that the proposed method of construction for the pipeline is likely to be "directional drilling". Where directional drilling is employed, the only areas where it will be possible to see if archaeology has been disturbed will be in the inspection/connection pits that are excavated for the works.

Therefore an archaeological watching brief was requested on these investigative works by the archaeological advisors to the planning authority, Planning Services at Dyfed Archaeological Trust, who also provide archaeological advice to Dwr Cymru.

The watching brief was requested as the proposed route of the pipeline lies on the northern bank of the Afon Tywi through Carmarthen, in areas where potential remains of a Roman port may be located, as well as medieval riverside activity and settlement. The route crosses the former lines of streets which are likely to have been laid out in the medieval period, but were demolished with the construction of Coracle Way.

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 15th November 2015.

It was evident that the area had been heavily disturbed by the construction of Coracle Way in 1963. Remnants of brick structures were exposed in 2 trial holes T5 & T6 at depths of 1.0m and 1.20m respectively from the current ground surface. It is probable that these structures relate to foundations of 18th and 19th century buildings that were demolished to construct Coracle Way.

As it is intended to "drill" the proposed new pipeline at an average depth of no more than 1.30m it is considered, on the evidence from the trial holes, that the impact of the development on archaeological deposits in this area will be low.

Whilst the features revealed during the course of the watching brief are considered to be of low archaeological interest the potential for significant archaeological remains to be present in the vicinity of the area is high and it is possible that archaeological mitigation will be required in areas of any open cut work that might form part of the proposed pipeline scheme.

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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 proposed new route of the Parc Hinds Rising Main, Carmarthen (centred at SN4122 1990; Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The Parc Hinds Rising Main runs east from Pot House Wharf (SN 41064 19849) at the Pump House on the southern side of the A4242, along the southern side of Coracle Way and Old Station Road to an existing chamber at the end of Old Station Road at SN 41600 20034. It is understood that the proposed method of construction is likely to be "directional drilling, with some open cut work across the busy five way junction at Carmarthen Bridge and at the western end location at Pothouse Wharf".
- 1.1.3 An archaeological watching brief has been requested on the works by the archaeological advisors to the planning authority, Planning Services at Dyfed Archaeological Trust, who also provide archaeological advice to Dwr Cymru. The watching brief has been requested as the proposed route lies on the northern bank of the Afon Tywi through Carmarthen, in areas where potential remains of a Roman quay may be located, as well as medieval riverside activity and settlement.
- 1.1.4 The route crosses an area of former 18th and 19th century buildings and streets to the south of what was Little Bridge Street (Figure 3), some of which are likely to have origins in the medieval period. Many of these streets were partially or totally demolished with the construction of Coracle Way in 1963.
- 1.1.5 Where directional drilling is employed, the only areas where it will be possible to see if archaeology has been disturbed will be in the inspection/connection holes that will need to be excavated for the works. Therefore it was recommended that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during the machine excavation of 3 trial holes (T4-T6). The trial holes were excavated to investigate the ground conditions prior to the directional drilling that is not planned to start until 2016.
- 1.1.6 The request for an archaeological watching brief was made to better understand whether the directional drilling could potentially expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains in the vicinity of the route of the new pipeline.

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, Corner House, 6 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 the locations of the 3 trial holes excavated on Coracle Way, Carmarthen.

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale Explorer Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office,
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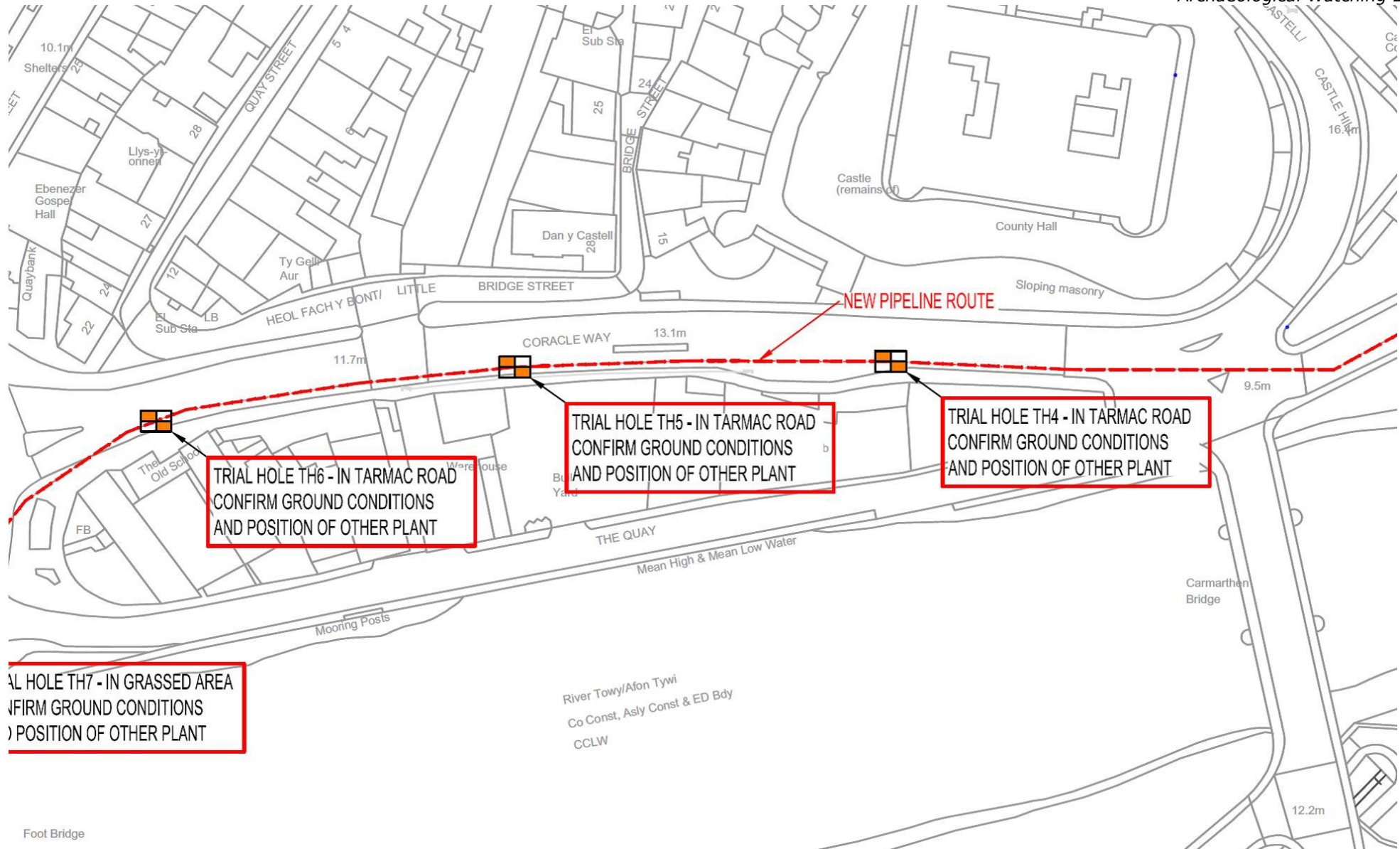


Figure 2: Map of the eastern section of the proposed new pipeline route and the locations of the 3 trial holes whose excavation was monitored during the watching brief. Plan supplied by client.

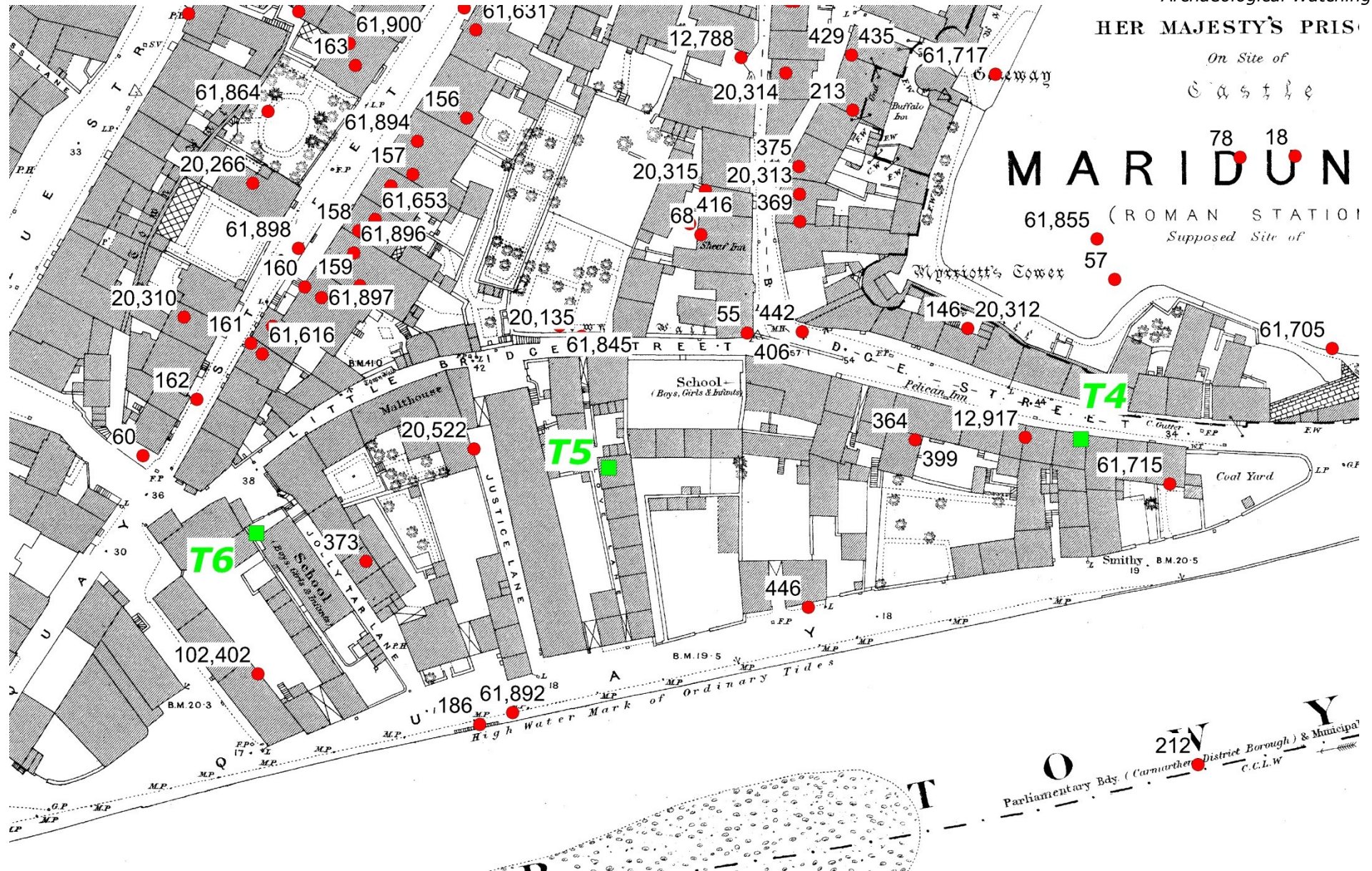


Figure 3: Extract of the Ordnance Survey 1:500 map of Carmarthen c.1888 showing the then street pattern; some of which underwent demolition in 1963 during the construction of Coracle Way. The locations of the 3 trial holes T4-T6 monitored during the watching brief are shown. The known archaeological sites within close vicinity to the trial holes are displayed and are listed in Table 2.

PRN No	NPRN	NAME	DESCRIPTION	GRID REF	TYPE	DATE
18		COUNTY GAOL	Find spot of a sherd of Roman pottery found during the construction of the County Gaol in 1869. (PP 4/11/04)	SN41351995	Find spot	Roman
55		BRIDGE GATE	Carmarthen was given a grant of murage in 1233 and this gate was part of the subsequent defences (PRN 74). There appears to be no remains of this gate but Delaney & Soulsby suggest remains exist behind No.9 Bridge Street. (PP 14/5/04)	SN41251992	Town Gate	Medieval
57	95084	CARMARTHEN CASTLE	Originally a motte and bailey castle built 1109 by Walter, Sheriff of Gloucester. It was attacked repeatedly by the Welsh during the 12th and earlier 13th centuries, destroyed in 1137 and rebuilt in stone in 1145. It was eventually retaken from Llwelyn the Great by William Marshall the younger in 1223 and returned to royal control. During the 14th century the castle appears to have been extensively repaired and added to with substantial royal apartments and administrative rooms. It was captured by Owain Glyndwr in 1405. It played an important role in the Wars of the Roses and Civil War, probably slighted in the late 1640's. Much of the remains were demolished in 1789-92 for the construction of the county gaol, and again from 1938 with the construction of the County Hall. (PP 14/5/04, taken from Cadw-listed buildings information).			
			Scheduled Ancient Monument CM008	SN4130820005	Castle	Medieval
60		TOWY GATE	No gate is shown at this location on Speeds map of 1610, but its position is indicated by the number of streets radiating from this point. It was part of the town defences (PRN 74) built after Carmarthen obtained a grant of murgage in 1233. (PP 14/5/04)	SN41141990	Town Gate	Medieval
78	100074	COUNTY GAOL	The site of Carmarthen County Gaol, built between 1789 and 1792 by John Nash. Shown on Wood's Map of 1834 occupying roughly the NW quarter of the castle site, but by the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map in 1891 it occupied the whole site. It was demolished for the building of the County Hall in 1938. Sections of the former Gaol wall still survive, now listed. (PP 17/5/04)			
			Listed Building Grade II Ref No 82151	SN41341995	Prison	Post-Medieval
146	17125	BRIDGE STREET NO.9	In 1976 this was described as a listed building, the listing description apparently remarked this was probably a medieval building incorporating part of the castle wall. The front had small 18th century sash windows and doorway. This reference could not be located and the building is not currently listed. (PP 7/6/04)	SN41291992	Dwelling	Medieval
157		QUAY STREET NO.6;GWYNNE HOUSE	18th century substantial town house, altered in the early 19th century and much rebuilt in the late 20th century. Named after the Gwynne family. It is a 3-storey building with a basement, faced in stucco, with sash windows and a panelled door. (PP 8/6/04)			
			Listed Building Grade II Ref No 9558	SN41191995	Dwelling	Post-Medieval
158		QUAY STREET NOS.7 8	A later 18th century town house, divided into two dwellings. It is said to have had an 18th century wig powdering room, now gone. In 1884 Thomas Thomas, official receiver in bankruptcy cases was recorded occupying No.8.			
			Listed Building Grade II Ref No 9559	SN41181994	Dwelling	Post-Medieval
159	17734	QUAY STREET NO.9	A later 18th century town house in a terraced row. A 3-storey building faced in rough cast, with sash windows and a 19th century door case. It was recorded as the private house of James Baud in 1926, now used as offices. (PP from listed building info 8/6/04)			
			Listed Building Grade II Ref No 82139	SN41181993	Dwelling	Post-Medieval
160		QUAY STREET NO.10;TY GELLI	An earlier 18th century town house, 2-storey high with sash windows and a panelled door. The building was much altered in 1985 renovation. In the late 19th century it was	SN41171993	Dwelling	Post-Medieval

		AUR; GOLDEN GROVE HOUSE	used as a private girls school, the Girls Collegiate School, and from 1895-99 the County Girls School, or Girls Intermediate School which became the Girls Grammar School before moving to Parc Myrddin in 1899. This building is now used as offices. (PP from listed buildings info 8/6/04)			
161	17736	QUAY STREET NOS.11 12;CARTREF	Listed Building Grade II* Ref No 9561 A later 18th century terraced house, part of a row of 4 2-storey houses mentioned in 1953, of which only nos. 11-12 still stand. No.11 has had an extra storey added, presumably in the 19th century, and has been much restored since 1981. No.12 has had all fenestration and its door altered in the late 20th century. In 1884 no.12 was occupied by Miss Elizabeth Davies, a music teacher, no.11 was occupied by John Morgan Hopkins, physician. (PP from listed building info 8/6/04)			
162		QUAY STREET NOS.13 14	Listed Building Grade II Ref No 82101 18th century building, 2 to 3-storey, faced in rough cast with panelled doors. Originally a continuation of the terrace including no's. 11-12 Quay Street, but demolished in mid-1960's road improvements. (PP 8/6/04)	SN41161992	Dwelling	Post-Medieval
186	100182	THE QUAY	Carmarthen was one of the chief ports of Wales until it began to decline in the 19th century. The quay, originally located at Island Wharf, was first built in stone in the mid-16th century. The visible remains date mainly from the 19th century, the quay was extended to the bridge in 1808. (PP 23/9/04)	SN41151991	Dwelling	Post-Medieval
212		FIVE FIELDS ALLOTMENTS	Listed Building Grade II Ref No 9555 Stone axe.	SN41201985	Quay	Post-Medieval
364		HARE; BRIDGE STREET NO 3	A record of a public house at No.3 Bridge St., Carmarthen, date unknown. (PP 8/11/04)	SN41331984	Find spot	Prehistoric
369		HORSE AND JOCKEY; BRIDGE STREET NO.17	19th century Inn in a building that has early 18th century origins. Used as a shop by the later 19th century (PRN 20339). (PP 15/6/04)	SN41281990	Public House	Post-Medieval
373		JOLLY TAR; THE QUAY NO 18	Listed Building Grade II Ref No 9426 Public House first shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1888. Now used by the Boat Club. (PP 15/6/04)	SN41261994	Public House	Post-Medieval
375		KING'S HEAD; BRIDGE STREET NO 18	Public House first marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888. (PP 15/6/04)	SN41181988	Public House	Post-Medieval
399		PELICAN; BRIDGE STREET NO 31	An Inn marked on the 1st (1888) and 2nd (1906) edition Ordnance Survey maps. (PP 17/6/04)	SN41261995	Public House	Post-Medieval
406		RED COW; BRIDGE STREET NO 28	The Red Cow was converted into flats in the later 1990's, preceded by building recording and a watching brief (PRN 42690), although much of the interior had previously been removed by this time. Most of the building appears to have been constructed during the late 18th/early 19th century, utilising an earlier wall. It is marked as a Public House only on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888. (PP 17/6/04)	SN41281990	Public House	Post-Medieval
416	17132	SHEAF; BRIDGE STREET NO 23	An Inn marked on the 1st (1888) and 2nd (1906) edition Ordnance Survey maps, possibly also marked on Wood's map of 1834. The building itself, which is listed, has medieval vaulted cellars (PRN 68), the rest probably rebuilt in the 19th century and then re-fronted in the mid-20th century as a service men's club. (PP 17/6/04)	SN41251992	Public House	Post-Medieval
			Listed Building Grade II Ref No	SN41241994	Public House	Post-Medieval

442		UNICORN; BRIDGE STREET	A Public House thought to be located at No.14 Bridge Street. (PP 17/6/04)	SN41261992	Public House	Post-Medieval
446		WATERLOO; THE QUAY NO 7	A Public House recorded at no.7 The Quay, Carmarthen, adjacent to Waterloo Steps. Date unknown. (PP 23/9/04)	SN41261987	Public House	Post-Medieval
12917		CARMARTHEN CASTLE	Find spot of an object made of deer antler, c4.75inches (c10.8cm) long with a pointed end and an opening at the other end, ornamented with circles. It was originally described as a needle or early form of shuttle, later identified as a stylus with belt attachment. It was unearthed in the later 19th century within the bounds of the castle. It was found with some animal bones and a piece of leather in what appears to have been a waterlogged deposit. (PP 22/6/04)	SN413199	Find spot	Unknown
20135			A stretch of walling, possibly part of the 1233 town wall (PRN 74). Rises to a height of 5m, now used as the rear garden wall of No.6 Quay Street and to No.3 St Mary Street, with later repairs. A central repair is said to front a tunnel under the garden of No.3 St Mary's Street.(PP 25/6/04)			
			Listed Building Grade II Ref No 82153	SN41221992	Wall	Post-Medieval, Medieval
20266	17739	QUAY STREET NO.28;LLYS-Y-BARNWR	Town house probably dating to the later 18th century, marked on Wood's map of 1834. Externally the present facade appears late 19th century although alterations are recorded in 1922-3. Used in the mid-20th century as judges lodgings, now converted into flats. Quay Street is the most complete street of 18th century houses in Carmarthen, laid out in the early 12th century and housing prominent families by the late middle ages. (PP 29/6/04)			
			Listed Building Grade II Ref No 9565	SN4116119949	Dwelling	Post-Medieval
20310	17738	QUAY STREET NO.26	A later 18th century town house. Three-storeys high, built on a full height basement, part of a terraced row but with a higher facade than neighbouring properties. Converted into flats. Quay street is the most complete street of 18th century houses in Carmarthen.(PP 30/6/04)			
			Listed Building Grade II Ref No 9564	SN4114819925	Dwelling	Post-Medieval
20312	17126	BRIDGE STREET NO.10	18th to early 19th century building, 3-storey high, 2 bays with a slate gabled roof. Includes a 19th to early 20th century shop front. No longer a listed building, current condition unknown. (PP 30/6/04)	SN41291992	Dwelling	Post-Medieval
20313	17129	BRIDGE STREET NO.17	A low two-storey terraced house with a cellar. Externally it appears early to mid-19th century, but with early 18th century origins. Formerly the Horse and Jockey Inn (PRN 369), marked as an Inn on Wood's map of 1834 and as a public house on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888, although it has a late 19th/early 20th century shopfront and is recorded as being occupied by shopkeepers in 1884 and 1914. (PP 30/6/04)			
			Listed Building Grade II Ref No 9426	SN4126019945	Shop	Post-Medieval
20315	17131	BRIDGE STREET NOS.26 27	Two 3-storey buildings probably built in the early 19th century, although no.27 was built over medieval barrel vaulted cellars and was re-fronted as the service men's club in 1958. The buildings are shown on Wood's map of 1834; no.28 appears to be part of a public house along with the Red Cow (PRN 406) to the south. No.26 is listed as the Sheaf Inn (PRN 416) in 1884 and 1926 although it has a late 19th/early 20th century shop front and the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 marks no.27 as the Sheaf Inn. The shopfront of no.26 has been extensively restored in the late 20th century, and the building is now used as offices. (PP 30/6/04)			
			Listed Building Grade II Ref No 9428	SN4124319946	Dwelling	Post-Medieval

61653		NOS 7 AND 8 QUAY STREET	Grade II listed house Listed Building Grade II Ref No 82139	SN4118319942	House	Post-Medieval
61664	23309	COUNTY HALL	Grade II listed county offices Listed Building Grade II Ref No 82151	SN4133619953	County Offices	Post-Medieval
61715		TOWY WORKS	Grade II listed shop and warehouses Listed Building Grade II Ref No 82210	SN4132619891	Shop and Warehouses	Post-Medieval
61717		WALL OF FORMER GAOL W OF COUNTY HALL SECTION OF MEDIEVAL TOWN WALL	Grade II listed gaol wall Listed Building Grade II Ref No 82212	SN4129619966	Gaol Wall	Post-Medieval
61845		CARMARTHEN CASTLE	Grade II listed town wall Listed Building Grade II Ref No 9494	SN4121619922	Town Wall	Post-Medieval
61855		QUAY WALL AND BOLLARDS	Grade I listed castle Listed Building Grade I Ref No 9507	SN4130820006	Castle	Post-Medieval
61892		GWYNNE HOUSE	Grade II listed quay wall& bollards Listed Building Grade II Ref No 9555	SN4120619852	Quay Wall & Bollards	Post-Medieval
61894	17418	NOS 7 AND 8 QUAY STREET	Grade II listed house Listed Building Grade II Ref No 9558	SN4119119956	House	Post-Medieval
61895		GOLDEN GROVE HOUSE, WITH STEPS AND RAILINGS	Grade II listed houses Listed Building Grade II Ref No 9559	SN4118619948	House	Post-Medieval
61897		WALLS AND RAILINGS IN FRONT OF NOS 9 AND 10	Grade II* listed house, steps& railings Listed Building Grade II* Ref No 9561	SN4117319928	House & Steps & Railings	Post-Medieval
61898		CARTREF	Grade II listed forecourt wall& railings Listed Building Grade II Ref No 9562	SN4116919937	Forecourt Wall & Railings	Post-Medieval
61899			Grade II listed houses Listed Building Grade II Ref No 9563	SN4116419923	House	Post-Medieval

Table 2: Known archaeological and historical sites recorded on the regional HER and RCAHMW Coflein database within close vicinity of the proposed trial holes. The site distribution is shown in Figure 3.

2. THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 The Parc Hinds Rising Main runs east from Pot House Wharf (SN 41064 19849) at the Pump House on the southern side of the A4242, along the southern side of Coracle Way and Old Station Road to an existing chamber at the end of Old Station Road at SN 41600 20034.
- 2.1.2 The 3 trial holes that were monitored during the watching brief are located along the south side of Coracle Way (Figure 2). They were excavated within the road to the north of the pavement edge.
- 2.1.3 The underlying solid geology consists of Abergwilli Formation – mudstone, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 461 to 467 million years ago in the Ordovician Period.
- 2.1.4 The superficial deposits comprise clay, silt, sand and gravels, formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. These rocks were formed from rivers depositing mainly sand and gravel detrital material in channels to form river terrace deposits, with fine silt and clay from overbank floods forming floodplain alluvium, and some bogs depositing peat.

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 42 known sites within the vicinity of the watching brief area where the trial holes are located (Figure 3, Table 2).
- 2.2.2 The majority of these buildings are 18th century in date and are listed buildings. Figure 3 shows their distribution overlying an extract of the Ordnance Survey 1:500 map of Carmarthen c.1888. This map shows a street pattern that is likely to have origins in the medieval period. The 3 trial holes were excavated within an area of these former streets that underwent demolition in 1963 during the construction of Coracle Way.
- 2.2.3 The line of Quay Street (Figure 3) follows the line of the medieval street layout and led towards Towy Gate, one of the medieval town gates. A road would have led outside of the town walls at this point leading to the river and possible wharfs, quays or a river crossing.
- 2.2.4 The exact position of the Roman quay is not known. The course of the River Towy is likely to have changed on numerous occasions over the last 2000 years. The bridging point is known to have been in existence since the Middle Ages, but there is no evidence that it was any earlier (James 1980).
- 2.2.5 A port is known to have existed in Carmarthen during the medieval period which may have been established during the 12th century when the castle was first constructed. In 1326 Carmarthen became a Staple Town for the export of wool, hides and woolfells (skins with the fleece still on), much of the wool being exported to Flanders.
- 2.2.6 The main medieval quay was located c.65m to the west of the development site where the Wynveth Stream formerly divided into two branches around an area of land just before entering the River Towy (NGR SN 4110 1985). This area became known as Island Wharf where larger ships berthed. In 1796 the Wynveth Stream was covered over by the construction of Blue Street, the river culverted beneath the street.

- 2.2.7 Speed's map of Carmarthen depicts the 'Key' as running approximately from Island Wharf towards the bridge. It is not clear whether the quay structure was of timber or stone. The depiction of the quay by Speed may suggest expansion of the port, but the plan is very schematic.
- 2.2.8 An engraving of Carmarthen produced by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck, and published in 1748 depicts Island Wharf and the Wynveth Stream issuing into the River Towy. No depiction of a quay structure extending towards the town bridge is shown, with the area being depicted as a small wood.
- 2.2.9 During the 18th century Carmarthen became a substantial port. Thomas Lewis's map of 1786 shows that the Quay area (within which the trial holes are located) had been developed by that time with the construction of warehouses.
- 2.2.10 Between 1808-1809 the present stone quay was constructed and extended eastward up to the town bridge. Between the 1820s and early 1830s shipping visiting the port increased substantially.
- 2.2.11 The opening of the South Wales Railway at Carmarthen in 1852 and the gradual silting up of the River Towy reduced Carmarthen's dependency on the river for trade. The First World War (1914-18) saw trade cease at the Quay. It resumed in the early 1920s but the last commercial ship left the Quay in 1940.

3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The watching brief was carried out over one day on 15th November 2015 at the request of the client / site contractors.
- 3.1.2 Excavation work was conducted by a mini mechanical excavator with a 0.5m wide toothed 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 & DISCUSSION

4.1 Trial hole T4 (Photos 1-4)

- 4.1.1 Trial hole T4 was located at SN4130 1990 (Figure 2). The north-south orientated trench measured approximately 2.00m x 0.5m, and was excavated to a depth of approximately 1.30.
- 4.1.2 The excavation of the trench revealed that immediately below a thick accumulation of modern tarmac and hardcore (with a combined depth of 0.65m) were clean sands and gravels characteristic of the superficial geological deposits in this area. These deposits continued uninterrupted until the excavation of the trial hole was halted at 1.30m. No finds were recovered from this trench.

4.2 Trial hole T5 (Photos 5-6)

- 4.2.1 Trial hole T5 was located at SN4122 1990 (Figure 2). The north-south orientated trench measured approximately 2.00m x 0.5m, and was excavated to a depth of 1.20-1.30.
- 4.2.2 The excavation of the trench revealed a thick buildup of several layers of modern tarmac above gravel hardcore (with a combined depth of 0.67m). Below the tarmac layers at the north end of the trench was a modern water pipe within a U-shaped cut. The concrete chamber of a modern surface water drain could be seen in the east side of the trench at the south end.
- 4.2.3 Beneath the hardcore a layer of loose rubble was visible that comprised sand and a quantity of brick and stone fragments. This rubble layer lay above substantial brick footings visible across the whole of the trench at a depth of c.1.0m from the ground surface. Several courses of brickwork were exposed within the trench. No finds were recovered from this trial hole.

4.3 Trial hole T6 (Photos 7-10)

- 4.3.1 Trial hole T6 was located at SN4116 1989 (Figure 2). The north-south orientated trench measured approximately 2.00m x 0.5m, and was excavated to a depth of 1.20.
- 4.3.2 The excavation of the trench revealed that immediately below a thick accumulation of modern tarmac and hardcore (with a combined depth of 0.65m) was a very compacted deposit of dark brown/black silty clay containing large quantities of brick, slate and stone fragments, as well as charcoal, mussel shell and 2 small fragments of 19th/20th century brown lustre-ware pottery. Unusually no iron nails were recovered from this deposit.
- 4.3.3 This compacted silty clay continued uninterrupted until at a depth of approximately 1.20m clean sands and gravels characteristic of the superficial geological deposits in this area were visible. However, at this same depth at the south end of the trial hole the edge of a possible stone and brick structure was exposed that did not extend across the rest of the excavated hole.
- 4.3.4 The excavation of the trial hole was halted at a depth of 1.30m.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 It was evident that the area within which 2 of the trial holes (TH5 & TH6) were located had been heavily disturbed by the construction of Coracle Way in 1963. Remnants of brick structures were exposed in 2 trial holes T5 & T6 at depths of 1.0m and 1.20m respectively from the current ground surface. It is probable that these structures relate to foundations of 18th and 19th century buildings (as shown in Figure 3), that were demolished to construct Coracle Way, but in such small trenches it was not possible to clearly characterise the structures.
- 5.2 No archaeological deposits or features were recorded within trial hole TH4.
- 5.3 As it is intended to "drill" the proposed new pipeline at a depth of no more than 1.30m below the current ground surface, it is considered, on the evidence from the trial holes, that the impact of the proposed "direct drilling" of a new water main along the current line of Coracle Way in Carmarthen town on archaeological deposits in this area will be low.
- 5.4 Whilst the features revealed during the course of the watching brief are considered to be of low archaeological interest the potential for significant archaeological remains to be present in the vicinity of the area is high and it is possible that archaeological mitigation will be required in areas of any open cut work that might form part of the proposed Parc Hinds Rising Main scheme.

6. PHOTOGRAPHS

Trial hole T4



Photo 1: Excavation of trial hole T4. Looking roughly northwest



Photo 2: Excavation of trial hole T4. The tarmac and hardcore measured approximately 0.65m deep.



Photo 3: The west face of trial hole T4 showing the natural deposits of sand and gravel that lay directly below the layer of hard core beneath the tarmac. 1m scale



Photo 4: The spoil heap by the side of T4 showing the very clean, distinct natural sand and gravel excavated from the trial hole.

Trial hole T5



Photo 5: Excavating trial hole T5. Carmarthen Castle (PRN 57) can be seen in the background. Looking roughly northwest



Photo 6: Trial hole T5 after excavation was completed showing what appears to be substantial brick footings at approximately 1.0m depth. A modern water pipe can be seen in the northern end of the trench. Looking north.

Trial hole T6



Photo 7: Excavating trial hole T6. The street in the background to the right is Quay Street. Looking approximately northwest



Photo 8: Trial hole T6 after excavation was completed showing the very dark, compacted mixed deposit that lay below hard core and tarmac. Looking southeast



Photo 9: Trial hole T6 after excavation was completed showing the very dark, compacted mixed deposit that lay below hard core and tarmac. Looking approximately northwest. 1m scale



Photo 10: Trial hole T6 showing the very compacted deposit of brick and stone at the southern end of the trial hole.

7. SOURCES

Published

James, T 1980 *Carmarthen. An Archaeological and Topographical Survey.*

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 1888 1:500 1st edition map of Carmarthen

PARC HINDS RISING MAIN, CARMARTHEN, DWR CYMRU SCHEME

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2015/65

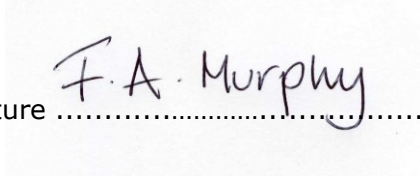
**Gorffennaf 2016
July 2016**

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

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Swydd / Position: Project Manager DAT Archaeological Services

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date 11/07/2016



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

James Meek

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on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

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Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

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

