

MONKTON CHURCH PRIORY, PEMBORKESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF (SM 97962 01451)



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
For: Barratt Associates



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**MONKTON CHURCH PRIORY, PEMBROKESHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
(SM 97962 01451)**

Gan / By

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MONKTON CHURCH PRIORY, PEMBROKESHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2015

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MONKTON CHURCH PRIORY, PEMBROKESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief to monitor the repair works to the southeastern corner of the perimeter churchyard wall of Monkton Church, Pembrokeshire (SM 97962 01451; PRN 3273). Monkton Church is known to have been a Priory, believed to have early medieval origins and is located with a known medieval settlement. The boundary walls of the surrounding churchyard are depicted on the historical mapping and are in part, lined by mature trees. The sections of wall in the southeastern corner had become very unstable, bulging in places and necessitating temporary shoring to stabilize the walls for fear of collapse.

In 2011 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken (Poucher, 2011) within this area to assess the effects of encroaching root activity from two mature trees within close proximity of the walls. A number of test pits were dug within the interior of the churchyard which confirmed that the roots were having a detrimental effect on the boundary wall. These test pits also revealed a sequence of disturbed and redeposited material yielding artefacts from the late medieval period to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These deposits were indicative of periods of activity during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries during which time the churchyard was leveled and the ground level raised. The results of these investigation recommended that any works exceeding 1.25m in depth were likely to encounter potentially earlier undisturbed archaeological deposits.

During this watching brief a length of approximately 8m of the eastern wall and 4.75m of the southern were carefully dismantled to stable heights and a narrow "L" shaped trench was mechanically excavated along the interior of the wall under close archaeological supervision. The depths of these works did not exceed 1.8m below the churchyard ground level and subsequently the bottom of the wall was not reached. However, the investigations did reveal a sequence of deposits identical to those identified during the 2011 watching brief and characterized the walls. Artefactual material, including decorated floor tiles and pottery, dating from the fifteenth or sixteenth centuries were retrieved amongst nineteenth century pottery from within the same deposit. The late medieval material is clearly residual and is most likely to be derived from the former Priory. These mixed deposits verified the narrative of extensive landscaping and levelling being undertaken in the churchyard.

These investigations also concluded that it is highly likely that the current, post-medieval boundary wall is built on earlier footings. Whilst it appears that the extensive leveling activity has truncated and disturbed deposits, there is still potential for earlier deposits to survive beneath the levelling material.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Proposals and Commission

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr Barratt of Barratt Associates to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the repairs to the churchyard perimeter wall at Monkton Church, Pembrokeshire (SM 97962 01451).
- 1.1.2 The area of proposed repair lies within the grounds of Monkton Priory Church (PRN 3273) and its associated churchyard (PRN 60238). The church itself once formed part of a medieval monastic priory, the origins of which are thought to potentially date from the early medieval period. Furthermore, the church is adjacent to the medieval site of Monkton Old Hall and within the vicinity of a known medieval settlement. Owing to the church's proximity to this known medieval archaeology it was considered likely for further archaeological remains, including the potential of burials, to be discovered during the proposed groundworks and necessitated an archaeological watching brief.
- 1.1.3 In similar circumstances in 2011, DAT Archaeological Services undertook an archaeological watching brief (Poucher 2011) during preliminary investigations of tree roots in the churchyard which were de-stabilising the southeastern corner of the retaining wall. The investigations were able to determine much about the structure of the wall and subsequently informed a plan for the repairs to be undertaken. The watching brief results were summarised as follows:

A series of investigative test pits were excavated within the grounds of the churchyard around Monkton Priory Church, Pembrokeshire (NGR SM 97962 01451). The test pits were required to investigate the root system of two mature trees to ascertain if they were the cause of ongoing structural damage to the adjacent churchyard wall.

The investigation pits demonstrated that tree root activity from the two mature trees in the corner of the churchyard did indeed reach the churchyard boundary wall. The roots were confirmed as having a damaging effect on the structure of the walls.

The test pit investigations also revealed the remains of a possible original cemetery soil, cut by one possible, undated grave. This material was contained by an earlier clay-bonded boundary wall following the same line as the current boundary wall. One fragment of 16th – 18th century pottery was recovered pressed into the clay bonding of this wall. A significant proportion of these possible cemetery deposits appear to have been truncated within the area investigated, close to the current boundary walls. The upper c.1m of ground deposits appeared to consist of mixed disturbed ground containing elements of building material, disturbed burials in the form of disarticulated bone, waste animal bone and mixed pottery and glass fragments from a wide date range. The finds include floor and roof tiles dated to between the 13th and 15th centuries, including a possible rare example of a Breton import. The pottery fragments also include an unusual Breton import, but are all dateable to between the 17th to early 20th centuries. The bulk of the material appears to be 19th to early 20th century in date. The base of this deposit coincided with the base of the current boundary wall, suggesting the area was levelled prior to the construction of the current upper part of the boundary wall. The internal ground levels were also subsequently raised, using the disturbed cemetery and demolition material. The date range for the later pottery and

glassware suggests this work may coincide with a period of major restoration at Monkton Priory Church in 1882 – 87.

- 1.1.4 The results of the previous watching brief indicated that any further ground works within the churchyard were likely to impact upon archaeological features and deposits. It was also recommended that any groundworks exceeding 1.25m in depth had the potential to impact upon early post-medieval and/or earlier archaeological remains.
- 1.1.5 The archaeological advisor to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Church In Wales recommended that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during the churchyard wall repair works to enable an appropriate level of recording of any archaeological deposits encountered to be made.

1.2 Scope of the 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 the works. This detailed the works that would be implemented to mitigate against damage caused by the proposed repairs to any further archaeological remains. The repairs works themselves had been designed to cause minimum ground disturbance, but could still potentially expose archaeological deposits and finds.
- 1.2.2 This WSI was approved by the archaeological advisor to the Diocesan Advisory Committee prior to the commencement of the works with objectives to:
- Provide a provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which DAT Archaeological Services will undertake the watching brief.
 - To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
 - To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed groundworks.
 - To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the groundworks.
 - To produce an archive and report of any results.
- 1.2.3 The overall work was summarised as: *"Archaeological attendance during ground works associated with the proposed repair works to the churchyard perimeter wall at Monkton Church, Pembrokeshire (SM 97962 01451), which are likely to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains. Appropriate investigation and recording of any such remains will be undertaken if revealed. A report and archive of the results of the works will be prepared."*

1.3 Report Outline

- 1.3.1 This report describes the location of the development works along with its archaeological background, and 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 Record (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Sites recorded on the National Monument Record (NMR) held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMS) are identified by their National Primary Record Number (NPRN). Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM). Altitude is expressed to Ordnance Datum (OD). References to cartographic and documentary evidence and published sources will be given in brackets throughout the text, with full details listed in the sources section at the rear of the report.

1.5 Illustrations

1.5.1 Photographic images are to be found within the report. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale.

1.6 Timeline

1.6.1 The following timeline 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 ¹ –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
modern –	20 th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and historical timeline for Wales

¹ 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

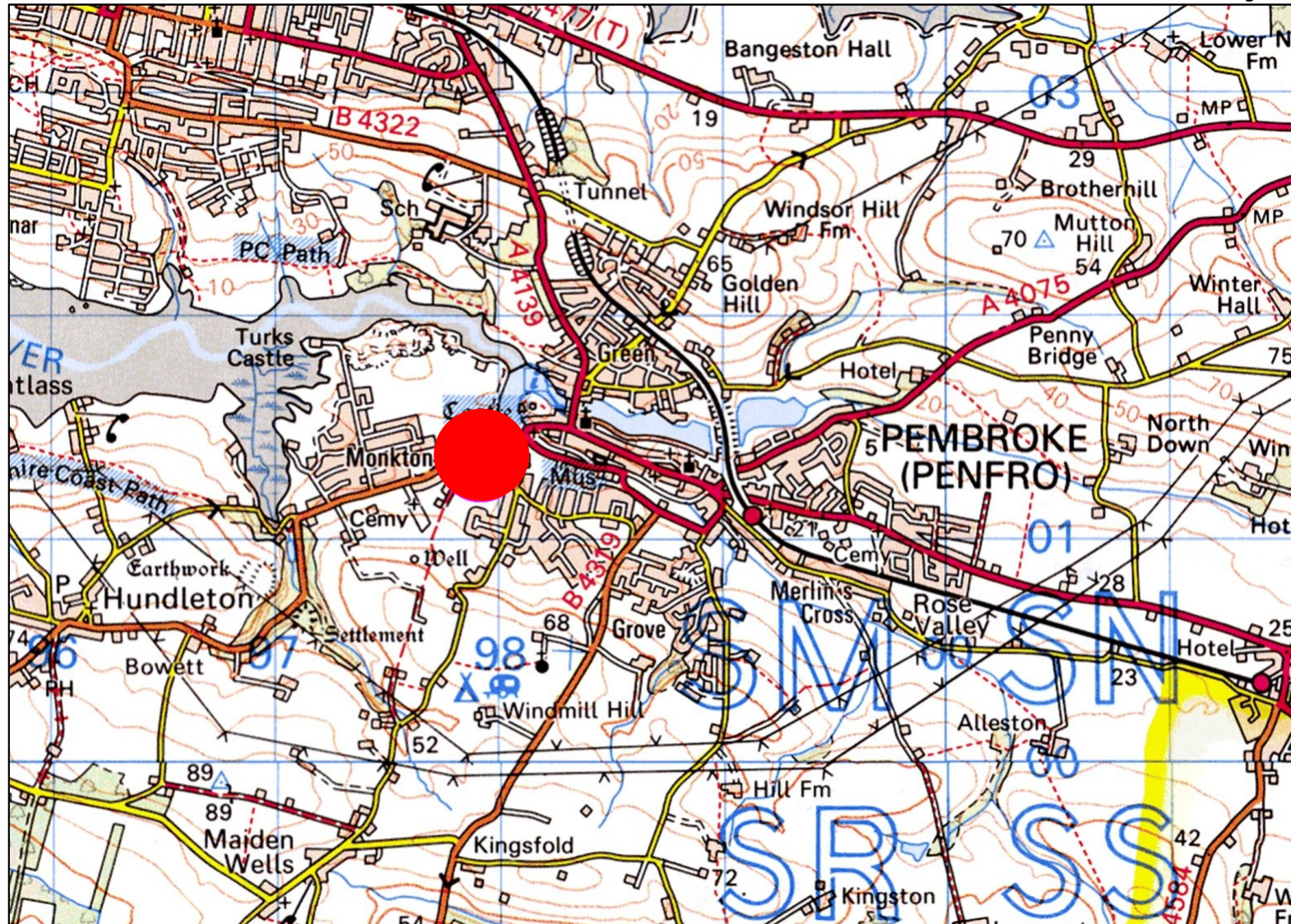


Figure 1: Location map showing the location of Monkton Church within the red circle

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office,
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2 THE SITE

2.1 Site location and topography (*taken from Poucher 2011*)

- 2.1.1 Monkton Priory Church is located between the village of Monkton and the town of Pembroke within Pembrokeshire (SM 97962 01451; Figure 1). Monkton and Pembroke are separated by a small valley through which runs Common Lake stream and Monkton Pill, both of which feed into Pembroke river that runs around the north side of Pembroke. The church and churchyard are located to the east of the village of Monkton and face the prominent and impressive Pembroke Castle.
- 2.1.2 The churchyard, formerly a graveyard, but now used only for cremation burials, is grass covered, occupying a level terrace bounded by mortared stone walls (Photo 1). The ground drops away to the east, falling 3m to 3.5m onto another terrace occupied by Monkton Old Hall and its gardens. Beyond this the ground continues to drop into the valley occupied by Monkton Pill and Common Lake. Mature trees line the south-eastern edge of the churchyard in line with the parameter wall (PRN 60238).
- 2.1.3 Monkton Priory Church (Photo 2) is a grade I listed building (ref. 6330), the surrounding churchyard walls and gateways are also grade II listed (ref. 6331). The church within its churchyard setting also forms part of the essential setting of the grade II* listed gardens of Monkton Old Hall and Vicarage (ref. PGW (DY) 40 (PEM)). The site also lies within the Conservation Area of Pembroke.



Photo 1: View facing the southeastern corner of the churchyard. The wooden fencing indicates the section of wall subject to repair works. The Old Hall is visible in the background. (DAT Photo IMG_5720-108990)



Photo 2: Monkton Church Priory with the southeastern corner just visible in the background. (DAT Photo IMG_5746-108990)

2.2 Archaeology and historical background (*taken from Poucher 2011*)

- 2.2.1 Monkton Priory Church, dedicated to Saint Nicholas, is a large multicelled church that was restored in the late 19th century, but still incorporates much pre 19th century fabric, some of which dates back to the 12th century. It was established as the church of a Benedictine Priory founded by Arnulf de Montgomery, Lord of Pembroke in 1098, soon after the establishment of Pembroke Castle itself. There is some suggestion that activity on the site may predate this foundation, possible as a llys or an associated ecclesiastical site during the Early Medieval period. Little is known about the pre-Norman history of Pembroke, but it has been assumed the town was a centre of some importance by the time of the Norman incursions into west Wales, due in part to the fact that the invading forces under Roger de Montgomery headed straight for Pembroke, which then became his headquarters.
- 2.2.2 The main Priory buildings were probably arranged to the north and west of the church, but the Priory grounds are likely to encompass the current churchyard. Its association with Pembroke ensured the Priory was an important centre and it became a parish church and also the favoured residence for the 14th century Bishops of St David's.
- 2.2.3 A small settlement also formed around the Priory gates during the medieval period, although the focus of settlement was likely to be within the walled town of Pembroke itself. By the later medieval period a general economic downturn, coupled with a shifting of power from Pembroke to Haverfordwest, meant settlement in this area declined and many of the houses and cottages within Monkton may have been abandoned. Speed's map of Pembroke in c.1610 shows no settlement in Monkton at that time.

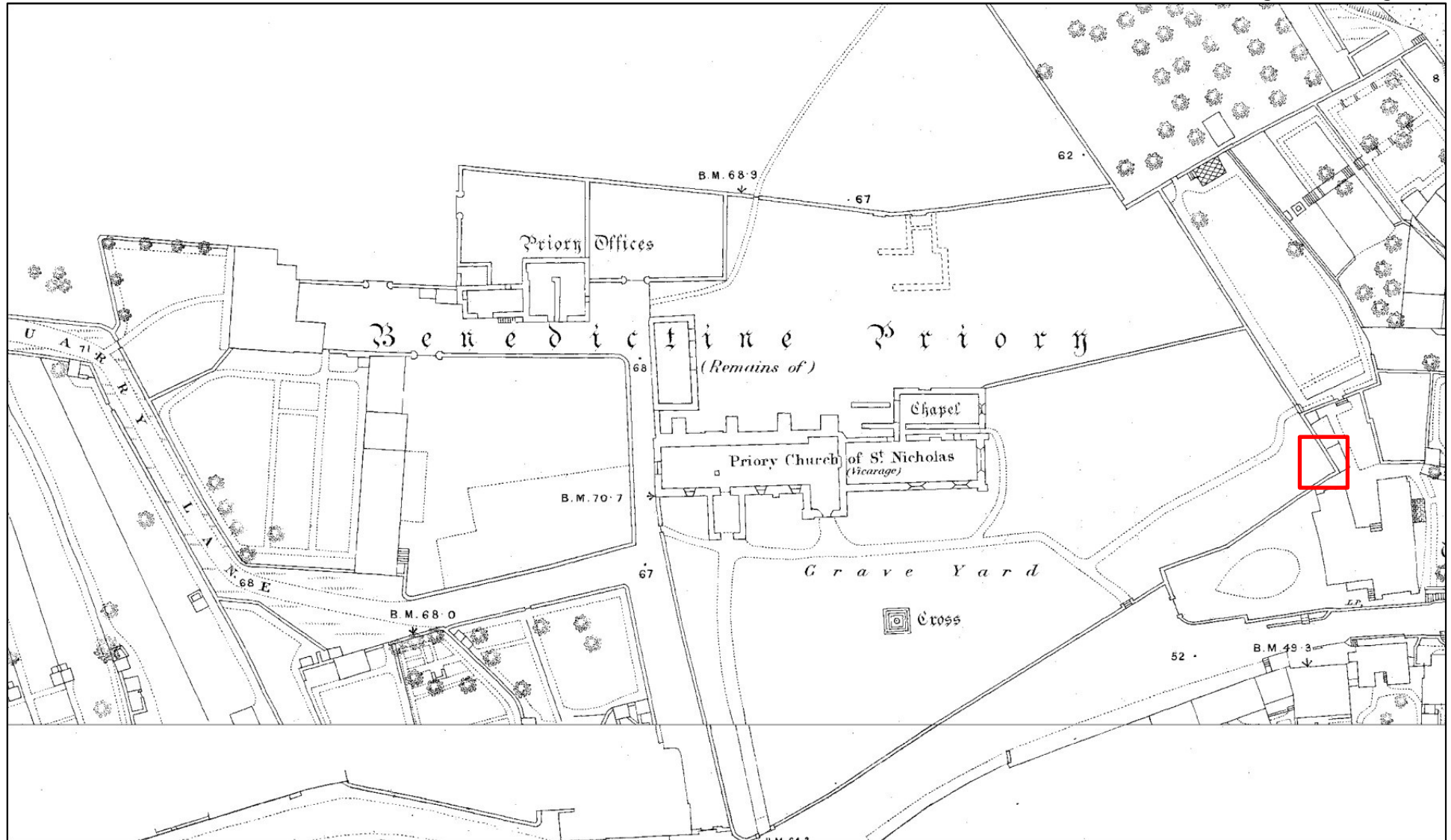


Figure 2: An extract from the 1:500 Ordnance Survey 1861 map of Pembrokeshire showing the layout of the Priory Church and the location of the perimeter walls (the area of repairs within the red box).

- 2.2.4 Monkton Old Hall, a fine stone-built medieval building lying just beyond the eastern edge of the churchyard, is believed to date from the 14th century. Possibly built as a guest house or hospitium for the Priory.
- 2.2.5 The Priory was dissolved in 1535 or 1539 and subsequently acquired by the Vaughans of Whitland and later the Devereux Earls of Essex who held the Priory for over two centuries. The church remained a parish church with the Priory buildings, including Monkton Old Hall, leased out to minor gentry families.
- 2.2.6 By the 18th century Monkton Old Hall had become a farmhouse, although it still retained a walled paddock and dovecote. It was restored at various stages by private owners throughout the 19th century, before being left to the village in 1897 during which time it began to deteriorate again. Miss Muriel Thompson bought it again as a private residence in 1933. It passed to the Landmark Trust in 1978 who have carried out a major programme of restoration on the site, including the demolition of a small Victorian wing on the northwest side of the house.
- 2.2.7 The Priory church was restored in 1882 – 87. During the 20th century the graveyard went out of use, gravestones were removed and parts of the churchyard were levelled.

WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork

- 3.1.1 This watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2014). The Written scheme of investigation, detailing the archaeological works proposed, was approved by the archaeological advisor to the Diocesan Advisory Committee prior to the works commencing.
- 3.1.2 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual² used by DAT Archaeological Services.
- 3.1.3 A written, drawn and photographic record was maintained throughout this watching brief, a summary of which is presented in Appendix 1. All contexts encountered during this watching brief were recorded and assigned a unique context number. These numbers are enclosed in brackets in the following text. Elevation levels were taken relative to an on-site datum. A context register and a catalogue of finds retrieved from this watching brief are provided in Appendices 1 and 2.

3.2 Timetabling of Fieldwork

- 3.2.1 The watching brief was conducted between 1st and 13th of October 2015, with the timing of visits being determined by the contractor's programme of work. In all six visits were made to the site.

3.3 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving

- 3.3.1 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 2011), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 3.3.2 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.
- 3.3.3 A report fully representative of the results of the fieldwork has been prepared.

² DAT Archaeological Services have adopted the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology.

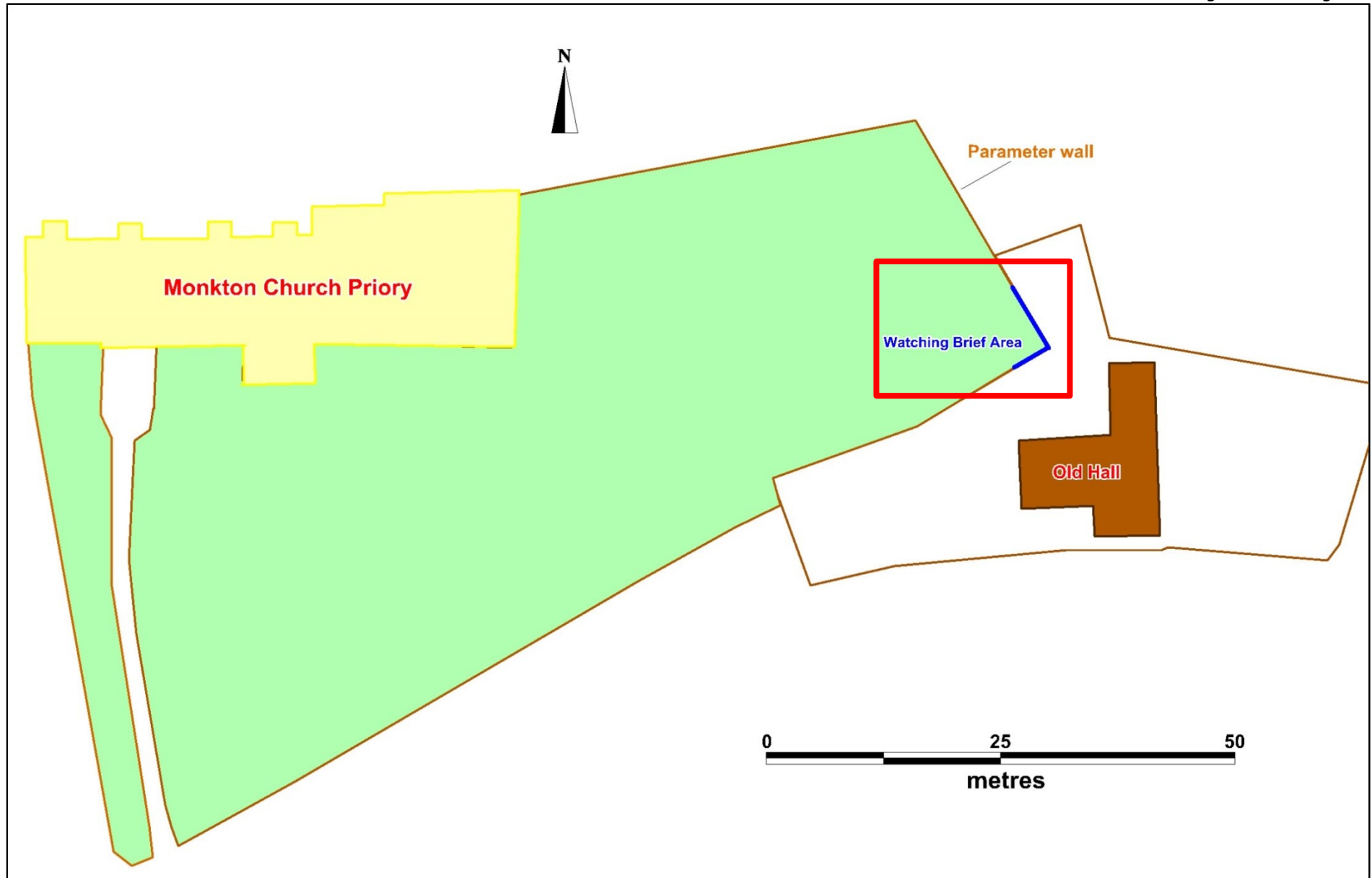


Figure 3: Schematic plan showing location of watching brief area (red box, with the blue line representing area of wall repairs).

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 This watching brief monitored groundworks associated with the consolidation of a section of the perimeter retaining wall of the churchyard (Figure 3). Work was concentrated on sections of the south-eastern corner, at the joining of the southern (07) and eastern (06) walls. Here, the walls had become increasingly unstable with the eastern wall (06) bulging severely and subsequently temporary shoring had been erected in an attempt to stabilise the walls in fear of collapse (Photo 3).



Photo 3: The bulging eastern boundary wall (06) prior to works. Note the temporary shoring. (DAT Photo from 2011).

- 4.1.2 A narrow, "L" shaped trench measuring 0.6m wide, was mechanically excavated along the internal faces of the eastern (06) and southern (07) walls (Figure 4). The trench along the eastern wall (06) measured approximately 8m in length and around 4.75m of trenching was dug against the southern wall (07). A small modern pit (03) had been cut into the corner of the walls and filled with an assortment of modern pottery and glass vessels dating from the early twentieth-century (04) (Photo 4). This is very likely to be one of the backfilled test pits from the 2011 investigations (Poucher, 2011). Between 0.1m and 0.3m of clayey silt topsoil (01) was removed to reveal a friable, mid-brown silty clay (02). This layer varied in thickness from 0.55m and 0.7m and contained large amounts of post-medieval building debris, sherds of glass and pottery,

bone (animal and human) and frequent small to medium sized angular stone. This layer was also heavily disturbed by roots.

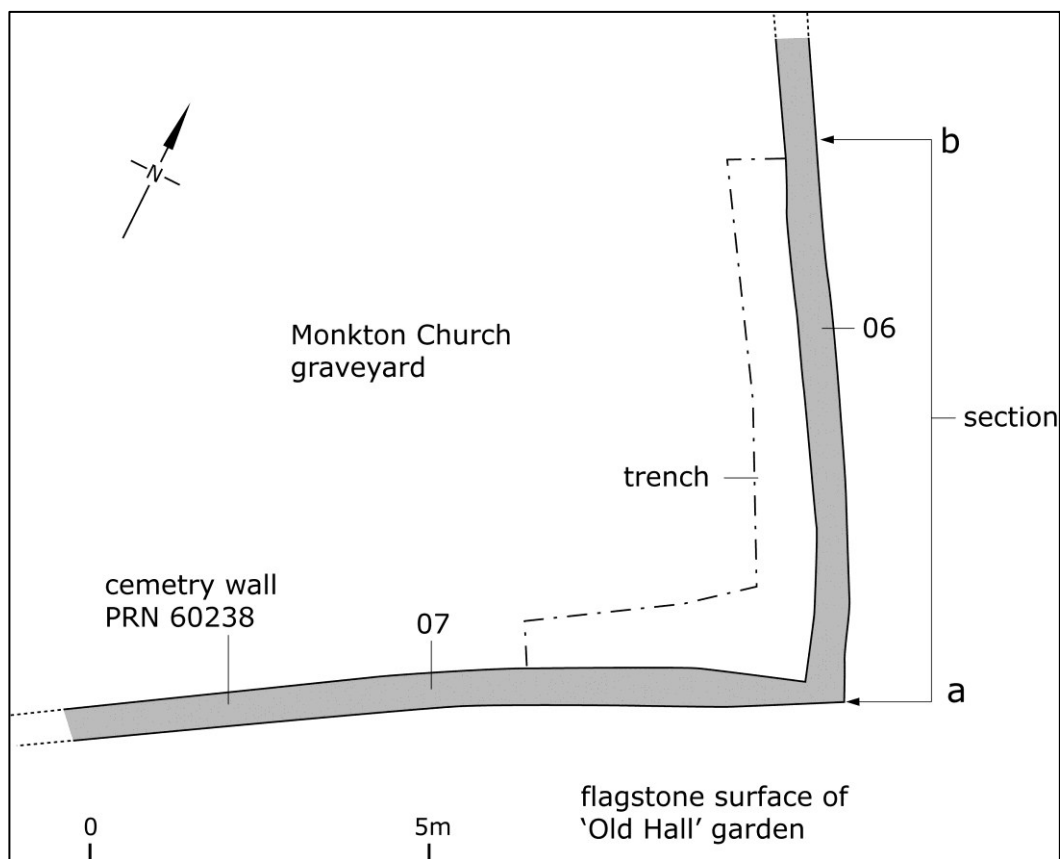


Figure 4: Plan showing the location and extent of the works undertaken on the eastern (06) and southern (07) walls in the southeastern corner of the churchyard.



Photo 4: The mixed post-medieval to modern pottery from the fill (04) of the possible test pit (03). (DAT Photo IMG_5738-108990)

- 4.1.3 Underlying this layer was a loose, dark grey, sandy silt (05) around 1.6m below the top of the wall (07), which varied in thickness from 0.35m to 0.8m although the final depth was not fully excavated. It contained large amounts of lime mortar, angular stones, fragments of slate, glass sherds, animal and human bone, eighteenth-nineteenth century Dairyware, an almost complete clay pipe, a few sherds of late medieval pottery, fragments of possible fifteenth to sixteenth - century floor tiles (James and Brennan 1998) and undatable pieces of CBM (Ceramic building materials). It also contained a partially decayed railway sleeper (Photo 5 and Figure 5).



Photo 5: The south-eastern corner of walls (06) (orientated E-W) and (07) (orientated N-S) at the end of the dismantling process. The bulk of deposit (05) is left in situ and is overlain by (02); note the cream sherd of dairy-ware and the section of the railway sleeper as indicated by the red and white scale in (05). Also just visible in the background is the full height of wall (07).
(DAT Photo IMG_5786-108990)

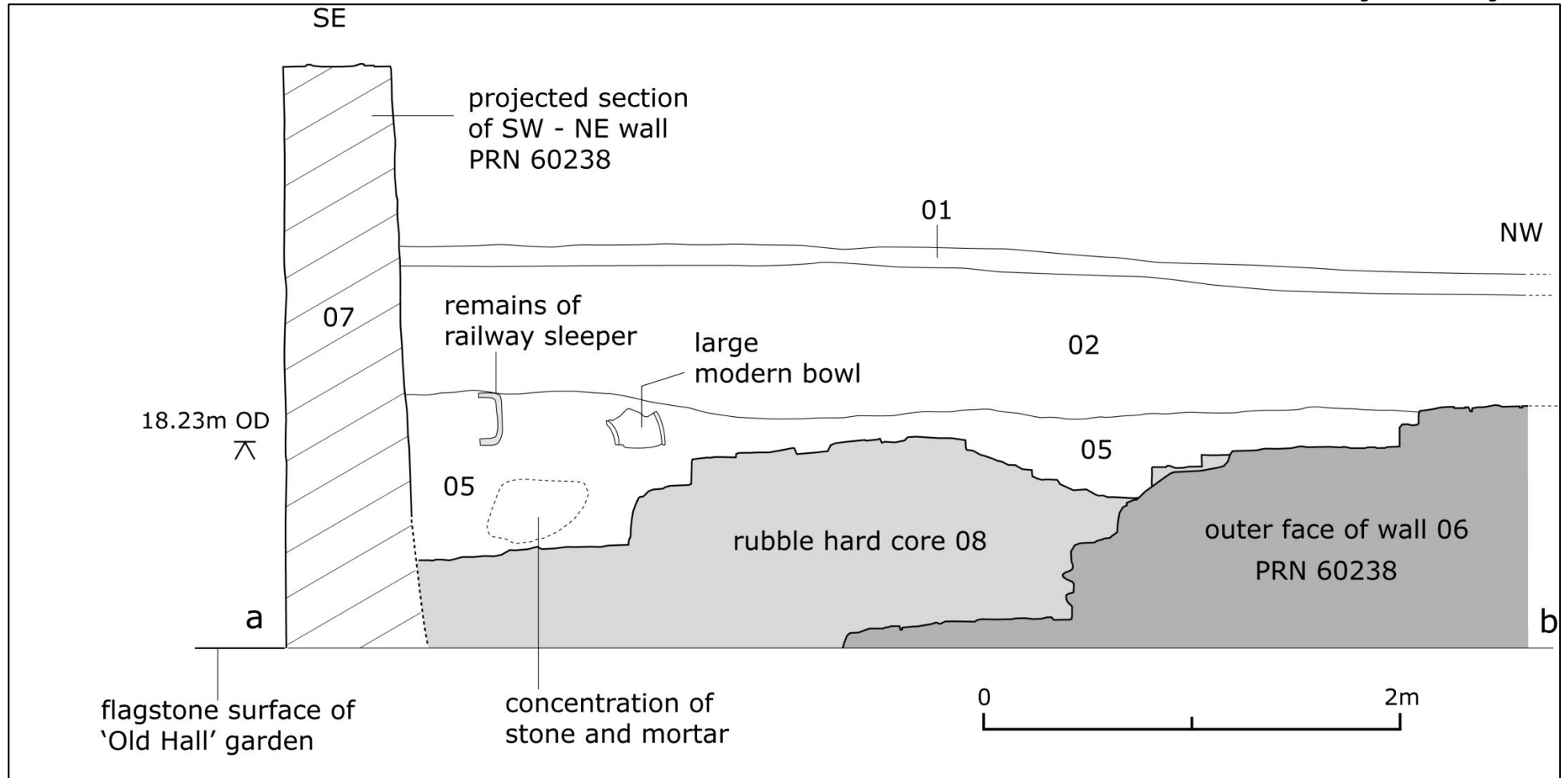


Figure 5: North-east facing section showing the sequence of deposits revealed during the dismantling of walls (06) and (07).

- 4.1.4 The eastern wall (06) measured 0.6m wide, 2.8m high and was orientated north-east/south-west. The wall itself appeared to be comprised of a roughly coursed internal elevation, lime mortared angular limestone blocks, a rubble hard core (08) and a faced external elevation. It joined the southern wall (07) by means of a butt joint (Photos 6 & 7). Invasive root activity had significantly impacted the structural integrity of the wall, desiccating the lime mortar and exploiting the weaknesses in the joints. Around 3.1m of this unstable section was dismantled down to a stable height between 1.8m and 0.6m below ground level. At the corner point it was necessary to dismantle the wall down to the flagstone surface of the garden terrace of the Old Hall to the rear of the churchyard, some 1.9m below the churchyard ground level and 2.8m below the top of wall (07). This did not reveal the base of the wall which remains buried.



Photo 6: The butt joint of walls (06) (orientated E-W) and (07) (orientated N-S) seen prior to dismantling. (DAT Photo IMG_5734-108990)

- 4.1.5 The southern wall (07) varied in width between 0.7m (at the base of that exposed) and 0.4m. It was orientated north-west/south-east. This too was comprised of a roughly coursed internal elevation, lime mortared angular limestone blocks, a mortared rubble hard core and a roughly faced external elevation. It appeared more structurally sound than wall (06) and showed evidence of being partially rebuilt towards the corner join. Here, the wall tapered to a width of 0.35m into the corner join (Photo 8). This

too was partially dismantled to the surface level of the Old Hall gardens where again, the final depth of the wall was not reached and remains buried (Photo 9).



Photo 7: The southeastern corner of walls (06) and (07) viewed in plan after dismantling showing the butt joint between the walls.
(DAT Photo IMG_5770-108990)



Photo 8: Viewed in plan prior to dismantling showing the tapered wall (07) butting wall (06). (DAT Photo IMG_5733-108990)



Photo 9: View facing north-west along the length of the eastern boundary wall (07). This photo shows the south-eastern corner of walls (06) and (07) after dismantling. Note the reduction down to the level of the flagged surface of the Old Hall garden terrace and the apparent continuation of the walls.
(DAT Photo IMG_5785-108990)

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The archaeological watching brief has provided an appropriate record of the wall repair works at Monkton Priory Church.
- 5.2 The sequence of soil deposits revealed during this watching brief is identical to those deposits encountered during the watching brief undertaken in 2011 (*ibid*). Whilst each context is subtly delimited, together they demonstrate the period of activity from the late nineteenth century when the churchyard was levelled and the ground level raised.
- 5.3 The late medieval floor tiles and pottery recovered in layer (05) alongside nineteenth-century artefacts demonstrate that this layer constitutes redeposited disturbed ground. It is most likely that the late medieval floor tiles and pottery are residual from the former medieval Priory buildings, the remains of which inevitably were disturbed during the levelling of the churchyard.
- 5.4 The full depth of this deposit (05) and the walls (06) and (07) were not reached during this watching brief. However, the test pitting during the 2011 investigations did successfully identify the extent of these features. The conclusions were such that existing walls (06) and (07) are actually built upon an earlier phase of the perimeter wall. The mixed nature of layer (05) suggests that the original ground level was reduced to a certain level with earlier deposits being truncated. The perimeter wall was then heightened whereupon the disturbed material (and most likely additional imported material) was redeposited within these new walls to increase the level of the churchyard.
- 5.5 Therefore it seems most probable that the sections of the eastern and southern walls were post-medieval in age whilst the footings of an earlier wall may still survive at a greater depth. It was noted during an initial visit to the site that the wall (prior to dismantling) contained evidence for numerous repairs and patches, illustrating that there had been numerous problems with its stability since the retaining walls were constructed.
- 5.6 Any future groundworks within the southeastern corner exceeding the depths reached during this watching brief (around 1.8m below the existing ground level) may possibly impact upon the remains of potentially medieval deposits which were not truncated during the nineteenth-twentieth century groundworks.
- 5.7 It is likely that only the area around the perimeter walls and southeastern corner were subject to significant disturbance during the construction of the retaining walls and raising of the ground level. It is likely that the depths of undisturbed archaeology are far shallower within the main body of the churchyard.

6 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 6.1.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Hubert Wilson of Dyfed Archaeological Services with grateful assistance and co-operation from the onsite contractors. The author would like to thank her colleague Hubert for his assistance with this report and Dee Brennan for looking at the ceramic material.

7 SOURCES

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Unpublished

Poucher, P,. (2011) *Monkton Priory Churchyard, Pembrokeshire; Archaeological Watching Brief 2011*. Dyfed Archaeological Trust Report No. 2011/36

Database

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record, housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust in The Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AE

APPENDIX 1

Context Register

Context Number	Type	Description
01	Layer	Topsoil: Dark brown, friable clayey silt with small to medium sized stones and fragments of mortar. Between 0.1m and 0.3m thick.
02	Layer	Mid brown, friable silty clay including frequent flecks of mortar with small to medium sized angular stones. Very rooty. Between 0.55m and 0.7m thick.
03	Cut	Cut of modern pit/possible test pit.
04	Fill	Fill of pit (03) including mixed nineteenth century – modern pottery.
05	Layer	Loose, dark grey sandy silt containing large amounts of lime mortar, angular stones, fragments of slate, glass sherds, animal and human bone, eighteenth-nineteenth century dairy-ware, an almost complete clay pipe, a few sherds of late medieval pottery, fragments of possible late fifteenth to early sixteenth - century floor tiles and undatable pieces of CBM (Ceramic building materials). Between 0.35m to 0.8m thick.
06	Structure	Eastern boundary wall.
07	Structure	Southern boundary wall
08	Fill	Rubble hard core of wall (06)

APPENDIX 2
Finds Register

Find No.	Context	Type	No. (n)	Description
01	05	Tile	3	Decorated "Malvern" type with splash/drip glazings. Likely 15 th – 16 th century
02	05	Tile	2	Decorated "Malvern" type, possibly 15 th /16 th C patterned.
03	05	Tile	2	Plain (Type 2) Fabrics 1 – 6, 9 -11 glazed probably "Malvern" possibly 13 th C? 15 th /16 th C? 1 piece is triangular cut; Dyfed Gravel-tempered ware
04	05	Pot	4	18 th -19 th C Dairyware (body sherds)
05	05	CBM	4	Fragments of brick one cemented with coal flecked lime mortar. Likely post-medieval in date.
06	05	Pot	2	18 th – 19 th century Dairyware (body sherds)
07	05	Clay Pipe	1	Bowl and stem (incomplete) pipe with stamp on base of bowl.
08	05	Pot	1	Splashed green glazed, rim sherd Dyfed fabric. Likely late Medieval in age.
09	05	Pot	1	Splash glazed over metallic slip, body sherd. Transitional fabric, likely late medieval
10	05	Pot	1	18 th - 19 th Century Dairyware, base sherd.

APPENDIX 3: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION
MONKTON CHURCH PRIORY, PEMBROKESHIRE,
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2015

INTRODUCTION

This written scheme of investigation has been prepared by DAT Archaeological Services in response to a request from Mr D Barratt of Barratt Associates to provide an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the repairs to the churchyard perimeter wall at Monkton Church, Pembrokeshire (NGR SM 97962 01451).

This scheme has been prepared to detail the methodology of the proposed archaeological watching brief to comply with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists standards and guidance and for approval by the archaeological advisor to the planning authority prior to the commencement of work.

The application area lies within the grounds of Monkton Priory Church (PRN 3273) and its associated churchyard (PRN 60238). This church has known medieval origins as a monastic priory and it is suspected that it may have its earliest origins during the early medieval period. A settlement is also likely to have developed around the priory during the medieval period (PRN 64360). There is therefore the potential for archaeological remains to be discovered, including burials.

A previous watching brief was undertaken by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services in 2012 during investigations of tree roots in the churchyard which were thought to be the cause of the instability of the eastern corner of the churchyard retaining wall. The investigations determined much about the structure of the wall and enabled a plan for the repairs to be developed. The watching brief results were summarised as follows:

A series of investigative test pits were excavated within the grounds of the churchyard around Monkton Priory Church, Pembrokeshire (NGR SM 97962 01451). The test pits were required to investigate the root system of two mature trees to ascertain if they were the cause of ongoing structural damage to the adjacent churchyard wall.

Monkton Priory Church forms part of a former Benedictine Priory established in the late 11th century, with possible earlier origins. The churchyard is likely to form part of the Priory grounds, and also lies adjacent to the medieval Monkton Old Hall and close to an area of known medieval settlement. The excavation of the test pits had the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains. Due to the high potential for archaeological remains to be disturbed by the excavations, a requirement for an archaeologist to be present to oversee the groundworks was placed on the work by the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor. The aim of the watching brief was to ensure that any such remains exposed could be identified and the test pits would then be relocated to avoid any damage to such remains. Dave Barratt of Barratt Associates commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services (DAT-FS) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of the test pits on the 14th July 2011.

The investigation pits demonstrated that tree root activity from the two mature trees in the corner of the churchyard did indeed reach the churchyard boundary wall. The roots were confirmed as having a damaging effect on the structure of the walls.

The test pit investigations also revealed the remains of a possible original cemetery soil, cut by one possible, undated grave. This material was contained by an earlier clay-bonded boundary wall following the same line as the current

boundary wall. One fragment of 16th – 18th century pottery was recovered pressed into the clay bonding of this wall. A significant proportion of these possible cemetery deposits appear to have been truncated within the area investigated, close to the current boundary walls. The upper c.1m of ground deposits appeared to consist of mixed disturbed ground containing elements of building material, disturbed burials in the form of disarticulated bone, waste animal bone and mixed pottery and glass fragments from a wide date range. The finds include floor and roof tiles dated to between the 13th and 15th centuries, including a possible rare example of a Breton import. The pottery fragments also include an unusual Breton import, but are all dateable to between the 17th to early 20th centuries. The bulk of the material appears to be 19th to early 20th century in date. The base of this deposit coincided with the base of the current boundary wall, suggesting the area was levelled prior to the construction of the current upper part of the boundary wall. The internal ground levels were also subsequently raised, using the disturbed cemetery and demolition material. The date range for the later pottery and glassware suggests this work may coincide with a period of major restoration at Monkton Priory Church in 1882 – 87.

Any further ground-breaking activity within the churchyard is likely to disturb archaeological features and deposits. Although the upper 1m to 1.25m appears to represent late 19th century or later disturbed ground it still clearly has the potential to contain earlier objects and disturbed human remains. Undisturbed cemetery deposits become apparent at depths of c.1m in places, but this could be closer to the current ground levels further away from (inside of) the boundary walls.

The present watching brief will be implemented to mitigate against any damage to further archaeological remains that could potentially be caused by the proposed repairs. The repairs themselves have been designed to cause minimum ground disturbance, but could still potentially expose archaeological deposits and finds.

The following written scheme of investigation outlines the methodology through which DAT Archaeological Services would undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at the site, which have the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains.

The written scheme of investigation is in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014). DAT Archaeological Services has considerable experience of this type of project and always operates to best professional practice. DAT Archaeological Services has its own Health and Safety Policy, and all works are covered by appropriate Employer's Liability and Public Liability Insurances. Copies of all are available on request.

Dyfed Archaeological Trust is an CIfA Registered Archaeological Organisation. All staff are CSCS registered.

1. WATCHING BRIEF

- 1.1 The definition of archaeological watching brief, taken from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance: for an Archaeological Watching Brief (CIfA S&G: AWB 2014) is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.
- 1.2 The purpose of a watching brief, as laid down in the CIfA S&G AWB is:
- to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works;
 - to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment.
- 1.3 This document provides a scheme of works for:
- Archaeological attendance and recording during groundworks associated with the repairs to the church yard perimeter wall at Monkton Priory Church, Pembrokeshire. It is understood that the works will involve the removal of the areas of failing churchyard wall to a sound level and partial removal of material behind the wall, prior to a new one being constructed. The works may expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains, where present.

2 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which Dyfed Archaeological Trust will address the Institute for Archaeologists standards and guidance on the proposed development.
- 2.2 To monitor groundworks in order to identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits during the wall repairs.
- 2.3 To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits revealed or affected by the proposed groundworks.
- 2.4 To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be revealed or affected by the groundworks.
- 2.5 To produce an archive and report of any results.

3. FIELDWORK

- 3.1 A watching brief will be undertaken at the commencement of groundworks at the site that have the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains. This will require the presence of an archaeologist during the removal of the existing wall and any deposits behind. Further observation may be required where anchor holes are being excavated within the church yard for further wall supports.

- 3.2 The removal of all material from the site should be undertaken under constant archaeological supervision, with sufficient additional time allowed within the development timescales to ascertain the presence or absence of significant archaeological features and the recording of such features (on consultation with the curatorial officer if desired).
- 3.3 Any archaeological features or deposits (including human remains) revealed during the groundworks will be examined and recorded to an appropriate level and will be left *in situ*, not to be disturbed.
- 3.4 Any disarticulated human bones discovered will be reburied in the same location they were discovered or close to it as possible.
- 3.5 It is essential coordination between the site contractor's and archaeologist is established at the outset to avoid any potential disturbance to archaeology without an archaeologist being present, or unnecessary visits to the site when works are being carried out that do not require the presence of an archaeologist.
- 3.6 Adequate time must be made available to the visiting archaeologist to ensure that appropriate recording can be undertaken of any archaeological features or deposits exposed during ground works.
- 3.7 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits will conform to best current professional practice and be carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual³ used by DAT Archaeological Services. Significant archaeological features or deposits will be drawn at a suitable scale (no less than 1:20) and photographed in an appropriate format.
- 3.8 All archaeologically significant finds will be retained and, where possible, related to the contexts from which they derived. Finds will be temporarily stored by DAT Archaeological Services in stable conditions. All finds, except those deemed to be Treasure, will remain the property of the landowner.
- 3.6 Under the 1996 Treasure Act, "treasure" can be summarised as:
- Any object other than a coin containing at least 10% gold or silver and at least 300 years old;
 - Any prehistoric assemblage of base metal;
 - Coins found together which contain 10% gold or silver (but no single coins) and groups of at least 10 coins of other metals, provided they are at least 300 years old;
 - Any object found associated with treasure except unworked natural objects; and
 - Any object which would
- 3.9 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the development, or that archaeological remains of high significance are exposed, DAT Archaeological Services shall have the power to halt any ground works and shall inform the site agent/project manager and the curatorial officer, and prepare a written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the curatorial officer, DAT Archaeological Services shall, if required, implement on behalf of the Client a contingency scheme for salvage excavation of affected archaeological features. In these instances

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.

it would be necessary to employ extra resources to record such features to an appropriate standard.

4. POST-FIELDWORK REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

- 4.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork will be collated into a site archive structured in accordance with the specifications in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2011), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 4.2 The results of the fieldwork will be assessed in local, regional and wider contexts. The report will include a desk-based research element to ensure that the site is placed within its wider archaeological context. A report that is fully representative of the results of the fieldwork will be prepared and four copies will be sent to the client for dissemination to all relevant parties.
- 4.3 A summary of the project results, excluding any confidential information, may be prepared for wider dissemination (e.g. Archaeology in Wales and special interest and period-specific journals).
- 4.4 The project archive, including all artefacts and ecofacts (excepting those which may be deemed to be Treasure) will be deposited with an appropriate body following agreement with the landowner.
- 4.5 A copy of the final report will be deposited with the regional HER within six months of the completion of the project.

5. STAFF

- 5.1 This project will be managed by James Meek, Head of DAT Archaeological Services.
- 5.2 Archaeological attendance during the watching brief will be undertaken by staff drawn from the team of archaeologists employed by DAT Archaeological Services.

6. MONITORING

- 6.1 The fieldwork may need to be monitored by the archaeological advisors to the planning authority and the Head of DAT Archaeological Services, who should be provided access to the site at any time during the watching brief works.

7. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 7.1 All DAT Archaeological Services staff are CSCS⁴ registered.
- 7.2 DAT Archaeological Services will carry out a health and safety risk assessment to ensure that all potential risks are minimised.
- 7.3 All relevant health and safety regulations must be followed.
- 7.4 All site inductions, H&S procedures and site rules of the site contractor will be made known to DAT Archaeological Services staff prior to them commencing work on-site.

⁴ Construction Skills Certification Scheme (Health and Safety Tested)

- 7.5 Safety helmets, safety boots and high visibility vests are to be used by all site personnel as necessary. The site contractors will make all archaeological staff aware of any other PPE⁵ that may be required and provide them. Archaeological staff must not enter any area where there is a considered to be a health and safety risk that has not or is not being appropriately mitigated against.
- 7.6 DAT Archaeological Services staff must ensure that their presence on site is communicated to all relevant site staff, especially machine operators.

⁵ Personal Protection Equipment

MONKTON CHURCH PRIORY, PEMBROKESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2015/67
RHIF Y DIGWYLLIAD / EVENT RECORD NO.108990

Ionawr 2016
January 2016

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

Menna Bell

Swydd / Position: **Archaeologist**

Llofnod / Signature



..... Date: 26/01/2016

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

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

Swydd / Position:

Llofnod / Signature Date: xx/xx/2016

*Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau
sydd gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn*

*As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any
comments you may have on the content or presentation of this report*



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MEWN POBL | IN PEOPLE

