

**PENYSTAR, SHINGRIG,  
ST DOGMAELS, PEMBROKESHIRE:  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
2017  
(NGR SN 16443 45806)**



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services  
For: Mr Joe Rainsbury



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Gan / By  
Fran Murphy

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Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf  
Corner House, 6 Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo,  
Sir Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AE  
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121  
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131  
Epost: [info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)  
Gwefan: [www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk](http://www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk)

*Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited*  
Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo,  
Carmarthenshire SA19 6AE  
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121  
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131  
Email: [info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)  
Website: [www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)

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**PENYSTAR, SHINRIG, ST DOGMAELS, PEMBROKESHIRE:**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION 2017**

**SUMMARY**

*DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr Joe Rainsbury to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the construction of a new garage within the garden of the former vicarage; now known as Penystar, which lies in the village of St Dogmaels, Pembrokeshire. The archaeological works are required to satisfy a condition placed on planning permission for the development (Planning Application No. 17/0341/PA). This condition was placed following advice from the archaeological advisors to the planning authority, Dyfed Archaeological Trust - Development Management (DAT-DM), who were of the opinion that the proposed development had the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains associated with the medieval abbey of St Dogmaels, as it is probable that the former vicarage area lies within the original extant of the abbey precinct.*

*The evaluation was carried out on the 22nd September 2017 when a single trench c.9.0m in length and 1.8m wide, orientated north-south was initially excavated along the length of the proposed foot print of the garage. Another shorter trench, measuring around 2.0m in length and 1.8m wide, was excavated at a right angle on the east side of the main trench.*

*The excavated trenches revealed a similar sequence of soils in all the trench sections. Beneath the ground surface was a deep layer of imported 'garden soil', (101) measuring 0.50-0.60m in depth that contained very few finds. Underlying this was a compacted deposit of light brown dirty silty clay (102) mixed with gravel and stone within which were numerous fragments of animal bone, 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds, fragments of 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century ceramic floor and ridge tile, roofing slate, iron nails and pieces of ceramic brick. Deposit (102) appeared to be situated directly upon the natural subsoil.*

*No evidence of any structures or archaeological features associated with the artefacts was recorded within the evaluation trenches. Within the trenches deposit (102) appeared to be a single deposit of mixed natural subsoil lying above undisturbed natural subsoil. The nature of the artefacts from this deposit indicated that there may have been medieval or later buildings in the surrounding area; not unsurprising when the former vicarage building is located within the original extant of the medieval abbey precinct. However, no evidence was recorded that any remains of any such building existed within the development area of the proposed garage.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Commission**

1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services (the contracting arm of Dyfed Archaeological Trust) were commissioned by Mr Joe Rainsbury to provide a scheme of archaeological works in advance of the construction of a new garage within the garden of the property known as Penystar, Shinrig, St Dogmaels, Pembrokeshire (centred on NGR SN16443 45806, Figure 1). The archaeological works are required to satisfy a condition placed on planning permission for the development (Planning Application No. 17/0341/PA). This condition was placed following advice from the archaeological advisors to the planning authority, Dyfed Archaeological Trust - Development Management (DAT-DM), who were of the opinion that the proposed development had the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains associated with the medieval abbey of St Dogmaels.

1.1.2 The condition was in line with Section 23 of Welsh Office Circular 60/96 'Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology', and stated:

*No development shall take place until a qualified and competent archaeologist has submitted a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for approval in writing by the local planning authority. This WSI will describe the different stages of the work and demonstrate that it has been fully resourced and given adequate time. On behalf of the local planning authority, their archaeological advisors (DAT DM) will monitor all aspects of this work through to the final discharging of the condition. This work will not be deemed complete until all aspects of the WSI have been addressed and the final report submitted and approved.*

*Reason: to protect historic environment interests whilst enabling development*

1.1.3 Following discussions with the archaeological advisor to the planning authority (DAT-DM), it was established that an archaeological trial trench evaluation would be undertaken to characterise the nature and depth of any archaeological features or deposits that may be damaged or destroyed by the proposed works.

1.1.4 A written scheme of investigation defining the archaeological works was produced by DAT Archaeological Services and was approved by DAT-DM.

1.1.5 The aim of the evaluation was to provide information on the character and significance of any below ground archaeological remains within the area proposed for development. This information would inform any further mitigation that might be required.

### **1.2 Scope of the project**

1.2.1 The aims of the project were laid out in the written scheme of investigation for an archaeological evaluation prepared by DAT Archaeological Services and approved by DAT-DM. The aims were thus:

- to evaluate by the trial trench excavation the survival of significant archaeological deposits or features within the area proposed for a new garage at the property known as Penystar, Shinrig, St Dogmaels, Pembrokeshire;
- to establish the state of preservation, character, extent and date range for any identified archaeological deposits or features;

- to use the information to design any required future mitigation at the site which will enable any identified archaeological remains to be appropriately investigated and recorded where they will be affected by the proposed development;
- the production of a report and an archive of results.

### 1.3 Report Outline

- 1.3.1 This report provides a summary and discussion of the archaeological evaluation and its results, and puts those results within their regional and national context.

### 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 (RCAHMW) are identified by their National Primary Record Number (NPRN). Scheduled Monument (SM). 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 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 <sup>1</sup> –  | 1536 – 1750                      |             |
| Industrial Period –                  | 1750 – 1899                      |             |
| Modern –                             | 20 <sup>th</sup> century onwards |             |

**Table 1:** Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales.

<sup>1</sup> 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:** An extract of the 1:25000 Ordnance Survey map showing the location of the development area (red dot).

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:** Development proposals plan showing footprint of proposed new garage (in red) at Penystar, Shingrig, St Dogmaels with proposed evaluation trench in blue (Plan taken from Pembrokeshire County Council Planning website)

## **2. THE SITE**

### **2.1 Site Location and topography**

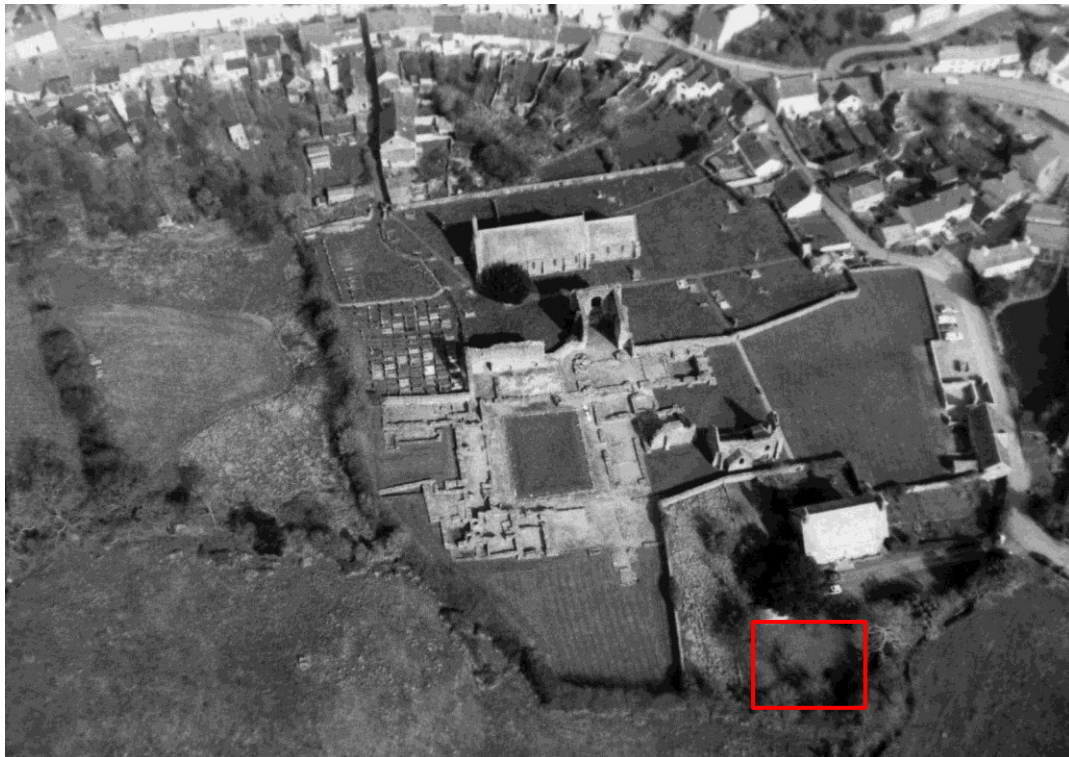
- 2.1.1 The proposed garage site is situated within the garden of the former vicarage, St Dogmaels, Pembrokeshire (centred on NGR SN16443 45806 (Figures 1 and 2). The property has recently been sold and is now known as Penystar.
- 2.1.2 The site is under grass and is situated on a gentle east facing slope at about 20m OD.
- 2.1.3 The underlying solid geology is comprised of the Dinas Island Formation - Sandstone and Mudstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 449 to 458 million years ago in the Ordovician Period. The recorded superficial deposits are sedimentary deposits; glacial in origin. Geological information has been obtained through the British Geological Survey mapping portal.

### **2.2 Historical Background and Archaeological Potential**

- 2.2.1 The Dyfed Historic Environment Record (HER) records 21 known archaeological sites within close vicinity of the proposed garage, the majority of which lie to the north within the area of the Abbey grounds (Figure 4, Table 2). These include St Dogmaels Abbey (Primary Record Number (PRN) 1090) which dates from the 12th century; the ruins of which are a Scheduled Monument SAM PE073.
- 2.2.2 The Norman Abbey of St Mary at St Dogmaels was a Tironensian monastery and was the 'mother house' of two nearby priories, Caldey and Pill. Originally the church was planned to have an aisled nave with an apsidal eastern end and transept chapels but was never completed. It was remodeled in 13th century, with a simple nave and a lengthened eastern end over a small crypt. Further altered in the 14th century, when the western end was built and a northwestern door added, and in the early 16th century, when the north transept was given fan vaulting. South of the church lie the monastic buildings, and a detached building of the late 13th century, possibly an infirmary chapel or infirmary, lies to the southeast. Although the Abbey church walls survive to a substantial height, elsewhere, the monastery buildings are represented by low walls or foundations, except for the infirmary which has three intact walls, and part of the rough stone vault.
- 2.2.3 The Bradshaw family are believed to have lived at the site after purchasing the property from the Crown in the late 1530's after the Dissolution. It is likely that they would have constructed a new mansion with stone from the abbey although the location of the Bradshaw mansion is unknown. It is possible that the former vicarage (now known as Penystar), south of the abbey, overlies the mansion site (PRN 15546).
- 2.2.4 During the 17th and 20th centuries much of the abbey site appears to have been used for agricultural purposes, with some abbey buildings used as agricultural buildings and other buildings constructed over parts of the site.
- 2.2.5 The foundations for most of the cruciform abbey church survive (Photo 1) and indicate that unusually there was no entrance to the church in the west and visitors would have accessed the nave through the north door, quite probably via a route along Church Lane passing through a gatehouse whose location is no longer known (although the foundations may have been recently found during archaeological evaluation in 2014). The monks

entered through a door on the south that connected the church to the cloister.

- 2.2.6 The church which stands to the north of the medieval abbey is a much later building and dates to the Victorian era (PRN 4998).
- 2.2.7 A number of early medieval inscribed stones were recovered from the area of the Abbey which indicate a pre-medieval religious structure being present at the site (PRNs 1218, 1219 and 1221).
- 2.2.8 The remains of the Abbey are designated as a Grade I listed building (PRN 59219). A number of grade II listed buildings and structures also lie within the vicinity of the proposed new garage site, including: the former vicarage (PRN 59221), the coach house (PRN 39182), the former vicarage stables (PRN 59220); and walls associated with the churchyard and vicarage (PRNs 59207 and 59222).



**Photo 1:** Aerial photograph taken in 1995. The Abbey can be seen in the foreground of the photo and the proposed site of the new garage has been outlined in red. (DAT AP ref: AP95-41.33)

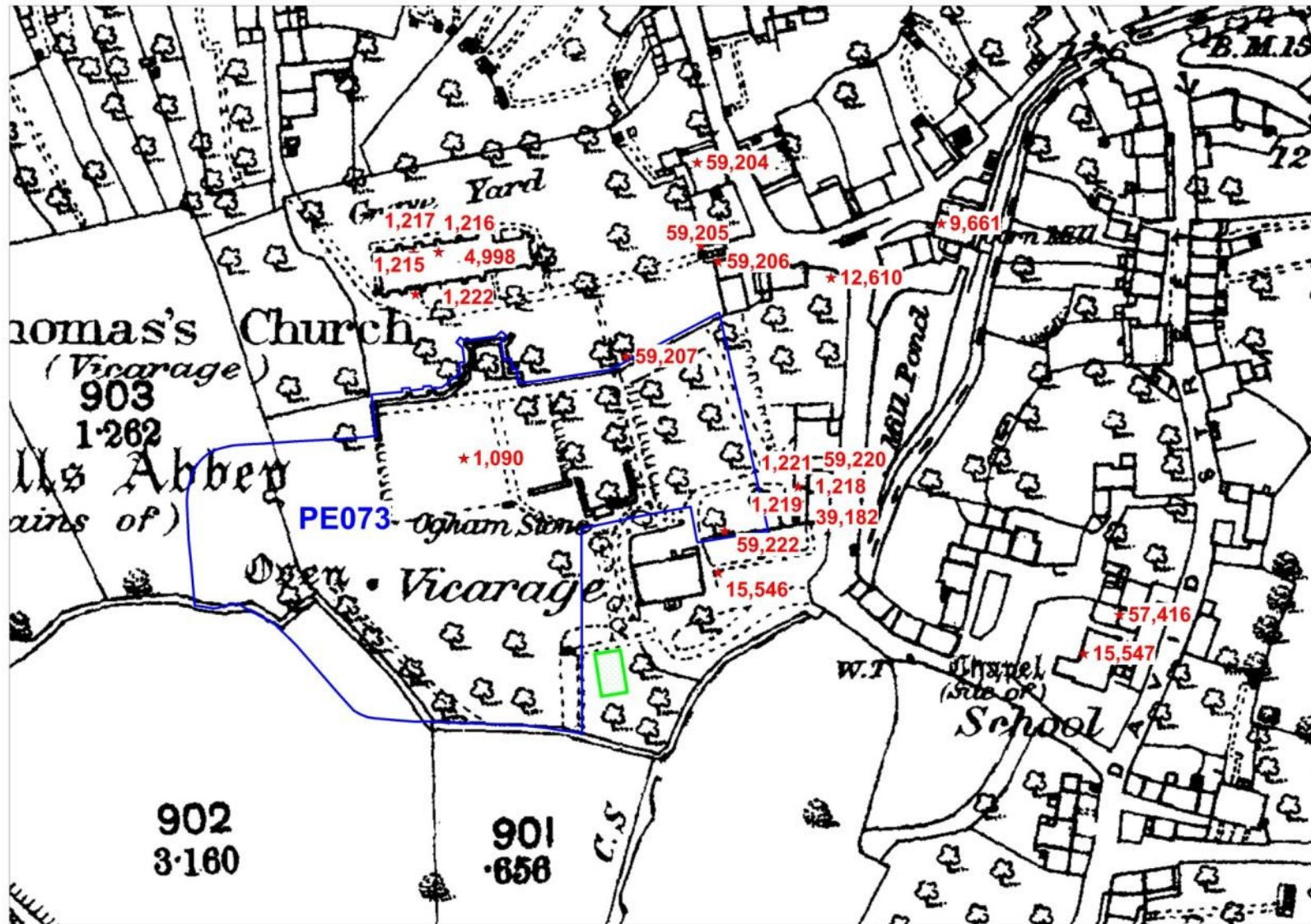
2.2.9 The 1838 St Dogmaels parish tithe map shows the vicarage (Photo 2) but no buildings are shown within the proposed garage development area (Figure 3). The 1890 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2500 map (Figure 4) and the 1904 second edition again show the vicarage, with the area of the proposed garage set within undeveloped land to the southeast.



**Figure 3:** An extract of the St Dogmaels tithe map of 1838 with the approximate position of the proposed garage area outlined in red.

2.2.10 It is probable that the vicarage area lies within the original extant of the abbey precinct, which may well have been defined by the stream course that runs along the southern/southeastern boundary of the vicarage gardens.





**Figure 4:** Extract from the 1890 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1: 25,000 map showing the location of archaeological and historical sites recorded on the Dyfed HER that lie in close vicinity of the development area. The evaluation trench is outlined in green. The scheduled area of the abbey (PE073) is outlined in blue. Sites are listed in Table 2.



| PRN  | NAME                    | SITE TYPE       | PERIOD                   | DESCRIPTION   | NGR        |
|------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---|------------|
| 1090 | ST DOGMAEL'S ABBEY      | Abbey           | Early medieval, Medieval | <p>Ruined site of the Norman Abbey of St Mary at St Dogmaels that was founded in 1115 by the Fitzmartin family, Lords of Cemais. It was a Tironensian monastery and was the 'mother house' of two nearby priories, Caldey and Pill. Originally the church was planned to have an aisled nave with an apsidal eastern end and transept chapels but was never completed. It was remodeled in 13th century, with a simple nave and a lengthened eastern end over a small crypt. Further altered in the 14th century, when the western end was built and a north-western door added, and in the early 16th century, when the north transept was given fan vaulting. South of the church lie the monastic buildings, and a detached building of the late 13th century, possibly an infirmary chapel or infirmary, lies to the south-east. Although the Abbey church walls survive to a substantial height, elsewhere, the monastery buildings are represented by low walls or foundations, except for the infirmary which has three intact walls, and part of the rough stone vault. During the 17th and 20th centuries much of the abbey site appears to have been used for agricultural purposes, with some abbey buildings used as agricultural buildings and other buildings constructed over parts of the site. A great deal of stone robbing has obviously occurred and much reduced the abbey buildings. The location of the site of the Bradshaw family mansion is unknown. They are believed to have lived at the abbey after purchasing the property from the Crown in the late 1530's after the Dissolution of the abbey. It is possible that the present Vicarage, south of the abbey, overlies the mansion site.F Murphy 2012 based on many sources.</p> <p><b>Scheduled Monument PE073</b></p> | SN16414586 |
| 1215 | SAGRANUS STONE          | Inscribed Stone | Early Medieval           | <p>Group I ECM (Latin- and Ogam-inscribed stone), of probable 5th - 6th century date, now in St Dogmaels church PRN 4998. It was first recorded in the 1690s when it stood in the ruins of St Dogmaels Abbey.</p> <p>The Sagraanus stone was known as the Rosetta Stone of the Ogam Alphabet by Celtic Scholars seeking to translate and understand the Irish Ogam Alphabet during the 19th century. The stone is bilingual (Irish and Latin) and bears witness not only to the importance of Latin in post-Roman Wales, but also to the considerable influence of the Irish in West Wales during the centuries after the Roman withdrawal. By the end of the 5th century, Pembrokeshire was undoubtedly settled and governed by Irish incomers of the Deisi tribe. The stone bears the Latin inscription SAGRANI FILI CUNOTAMI in an alphabetic style which is held to date to the 5th or early 6th century AD. Along the left angle of the face of the stone is the Irish Ogam translation SAGRANI MAQI CUNATAMI (Sagraanus son of Cunatamos).</p>  | SN16404591 |
| 1216 | ST DOGMAEL'S CHURCH ECM | Inscribed Stone | Early Medieval           | Group II ECM (incomplete cross-carved slab), of probable 8th century date, now in St Dogmaels Church PRN 4998. It was first recorded in the 1870s among the ruins of St Dogmaels Abbey. Probable 8th century inscribed stone bearing the image of a Maltese ring-cross.   | SN16404591 |
| 1217 | ST DOGMAEL'S CHURCH ECM | Inscribed Stone | Early Medieval           | Group II ECM (fragmentary carved pillar), of probable 8th - early 9th century date, now in St Dogmaels Church PRN 4998. It was first recorded in the 1870s among the ruins of St Dogmaels Abbey. Part of an inscribed stone dating to the 8th-9th centuries AD and bearing the image of a Latin ring-cross.   | SN16404591 |
| 1218 | ST DOGMAEL'S            | Inscribed       | Medieval, Early          | An incomplete, shaped rectangular pillar with rounded angles. At the top is a deeply incised vertical line with traces of a horizontal line across the top. The ends of the   |            |

|       |                               |                                     |                         |  |              |
|-------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--------------|
|       | ABBEY                         | Stone                               | Medieval                | horizontal line are linked part-way. Fragmentary carved pillar with inscription, possibly early medieval but could be a post-Conquest monument. Until 1999, in St Dogmaels Abbey infirmary, near where it was first recorded in 1908. Now in nearby Coach House PRN 39182.   |              |
| 1219  | ST DOGMAEL'S ABBEY            | Inscribed Stone                     | Early Medieval          | Group II ECM (incomplete cross-carved pillar), of probable 8th - early 9th century date, now in the Coach House, St Dogmaels PRN 39182. It was first recorded in the 1870s among the ruins of St Dogmaels Abbey.   | SN16494585   |
| 1221  | ALTAR STONE                   | Inscribed Stone                     | Early Medieval          | Group II ECM (cross-carved pillar), of possible 8th - early 9th century date, now in the Coach House, St Dogmaels PRN 39182. It was first recorded in 1949, re-used in the 13th century footings of the Chapter House, St Dogmaels Abbey.  | SN16494585   |
| 1222  | ST DOGMAEL'S                  | Monastery, Ecclesiastical Enclosure | Early Medieval          | Early medieval A site, ie. High-probability early medieval origins. Site of the post-Conquest St Dogmaels Abbey (PRN 1090) and post-medieval church (PRN 4998), within probable location of the documented early medieval monastery of 'Llandudoch'. Possible<br><br>The association of St Dogmaels with the early Christian saints Dogmael (or Dogfael) and Tydecho suggests that there was a monastic community in the St Dogmaels area from the 5th century AD, which appears to have thrived throughout the "Age of the Saints." The history of this monastic community (called a 'clas' in mediaeval Welsh) is poorly understood. It has been suggested that a church dedicated to St Dogmael was founded within the parish during the fifth century AD. There are records of cist-burials (typical of early Christian sites) being found in the vicinity of the iron age fort at Caerau. 19th century historians were of the opinion that this may have been the site of an early monastic settlement, perhaps that of St Dogmael himself. This theory was reinforced by the proximity of a field called Yr Hen Fynachlog (The Old Monastery). | SN16404590   |
| 4998  | ST THOMAS THE MARTYR'S CHURCH | Church                              | Post-medieval           | The post medieval parish church of St Thomas the Martyr in St Dogmaels village. Post-medieval church, built de novo in c.1700 over part of the precinct of St Dogmaels Abbey PRN 1090. NDL 2003 A church is reported to have been built on the present site c.1700, the original church being sited a short distance to the east at the site of the Church School. The present parish church is almost wholly 19th century in its architecture, dating to the period 1848-52.<br><br><i>Grade II Listed Building Ref No 13086</i>  | SN1640645910 |
| 9661  | Y FELIN; ST DOGMAELS MILL     | Corn Mill                           | Post-medieval, Medieval | A stone built corn mill dating from at least the mid-17th century, with an added 19th century third storey, that may have medieval origins as part of St Dogmael's Abbey. A third storey to the mill was added and the machinery was renewed in the 1820s. The mill was in use until 1926 before falling into disuse, reopening briefly during the 2nd World War, and the millpond was filled in with rubble. The current owners began restoring the mill in 1980 and now offer guided tours. A replacement overshot wheel was bought from another, closed, Pembrokeshire mill but the original axle and hub were retained. This powers three pairs of stones, two of French burr for milling wheat and the third for oatmeal and animal feed. The original pond walls survive and it was cleared of debris and re-flooded in 1981. There is a lean-to oat drying kiln adjoining the mill (M.Ings, 2012, from various sources)<br><br><i>Grade II* Listed Building Ref No 13096</i>  | SN1652745912 |
| 12610 | CWMFFRWD                      | Fulling Mill                        | Medieval                | Early sources indicate that there was a fulling mill established in St Dogmaels by the 14th century. Its location is unknown but it may have been to the south eastern corner of the   | SN165459     |

|       |                                 |                     |               |  |              |
|-------|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|--|--------------|
|       |                                 |                     |               | parish towards the neighboring Cwmffrwd valley. Place-names near site 'Mill House' + 'Velindre House', 'Mill street'.  |              |
| 15546 | ST DOGMAELS VICARAGE            | Vicarage            | Post-medieval | Large and attractive 19th century vicarage. Reportedly enlarged and improved in 1867 on the site of the earlier vicarage. It is possible that the building stands on the site of the mansion house built by the Bradshaw family, who bought St Dogmaels Abbey from the Crown in the 1530s and came to live on the abbey site.<br><br><i>Grade II Listed Building Ref No 13104</i>  | SN16474583   |
| 15547 | ST DOGMAELS CHURCH SCHOOL       | School              | Post-medieval | Originally the village church school, the building has been modified for use as a community centre and in 1999 is about to undergo further structural improvements. The school apparently occupies the site of the pre-18th century parish church and the site is potentially archaeologically sensitive.<br><br><i>Grade II Listed Building Ref No 10554</i>  | SN1655745807 |
| 39182 | THE COACH HOUSE                 | Stable, Coach House | Post-medieval | Attractive Coach House building. Not present on 1840's parish tithe map, but recorded as having been built in 1866-67 at the behest of the Rev. Daniel Jones, Vicar. It is said that an abbey building which stood immediately to the south (known locally as The Chapter House and in very good condition) was demolished and the stone used to refurbish the Vicarage and build a new coach house.<br><br><i>Grade II Listed Building Ref No 13103</i> | SN16494585   |
| 57416 | OLD SCHOOL COTTAGE,             | Cottage             | Post-medieval | Early C19 small cottage in whitewashed rubble stone with grouted slate roof<br><br><i>Grade II Listed Building Ref No 10553</i>  | SN1656645816 |
| 59204 | TYMELYN, CHURCH STREET (W SIDE) | House               | Post-medieval | Earlier C19 house, altered in late C19, whitewashed roughcast with slate roof and later C19 yellow brick end stacks<br><br><i>Grade II Listed Building Ref No 13085</i>  | SN1646945929 |
| 59205 | LYCHGATE                        | Lychgate            | Post-medieval | Lychgate and steps to churchyard at St. Thomas church Mid C19. Lychgate in rubble stone with Bath stone ashlar dressings, coped gables and slate roof.<br><br><i>Grade II Listed Building Ref No 13087</i>   | SN1646945909 |
| 59206 | FORMER BIER HOUSE               | Outbuilding         | Post-medieval | Early C19 outbuilding, said to have been bier house, beside steps to lychgate. Listed for group value with lychgate and church.<br><br><i>Grade II Listed Building Ref No 13088</i>  | SN1647345905 |
| 59207 | WALL ALONG S SIDE OF CHURCHYARD | Wall                | Post-medieval | Later C19 rubble stone wall with rough stone coping and one pointed doorway aligned with similar doorway in wall to rear of the vicarage.<br><br><i>Grade II Listed Building Ref No 13089</i>  | SN1645045883 |
| 59220 | THE VICARAGE STABLES, SHINRIG   | Stables             | Post-medieval | Mid C19 coach house and stable in brown squared rubble stone with slate roof, ridge vent and cement coping.<br><br><i>Grade II Listed Building Ref No 13103</i>  | SN1649345852 |
| 59222 | WALL ATTACHED TO                | Wall                | Post-         | Later C19 rubble stone wall attached to rear of vicarage stables and running to N of vicarage. With rough stone coping extending from corner of Vicarage Stables and   | SN1647245840 |

|  |                     |  |          |   |  |
|--|---------------------|--|----------|---|--|
|  | REAR OF<br>VICARAGE |  | medieval | stepping N to reach the claustral ruins some 20m S of Abbey Chapter House. The wall includes a pointed arched doorway aligned with similar doorway in wall to parish churchyard to N.<br><br><i>Grade II Listed Building Ref No 13105</i> |  |
|--|---------------------|--|----------|---|--|

**Table 2:** Archaeological and historical sites recorded on the Dyfed HER that lie in the vicinity of the development area, shown in Figure 4.

### **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

#### **3.1 Methodology**

- 3.1.1 This evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014). It followed the methodology laid out in the WSI for the evaluation.
- 3.1.2 After consulting the archaeological advisor to the planning authority, DAT-DM, it was established that an archaeological evaluation would be undertaken to characterise the nature and depth of any archaeological features or deposits that may be damaged or destroyed by the proposed works.
- 3.1.3 It was considered that one trench measuring approximately 1.6m wide and up to 9.0m long located towards the centre of the development area, would be sufficient at this stage to evaluate the archaeological potential of the development area.
- 3.1.4 The trench was excavated by a 360 machine excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket in level spits. Arisings were stored adjacent to the trench (at a safe distance). The trench was excavated to remove all non-archaeologically significant overburden, down onto either archaeological levels or the underlying natural undisturbed ground surface.
- 3.1.5 Following machine excavation, the trench was hand cleaned to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features and to determine their significance. The excavation of the minimum number of archaeological features needed to elucidate the character, distribution, extent, date and importance of the archaeological remains was undertaken.
- 3.1.6 All deposits were recorded by archaeological context record sheet, scale drawing, photography and site notebooks. All individual deposits were numbered using the open-ended numbering system in accordance with DAT Archaeological Services' Recording Manual<sup>2</sup>. Significant deposits were recorded by scale drawing; drawn plans were related to Ordnance Datum and, where possible, known boundaries. A photographic record was maintained using digital format.
- 3.1.7 All archaeologically significant artefacts, ecofacts and samples were retained and, where possible, related to the contexts from which they derived.

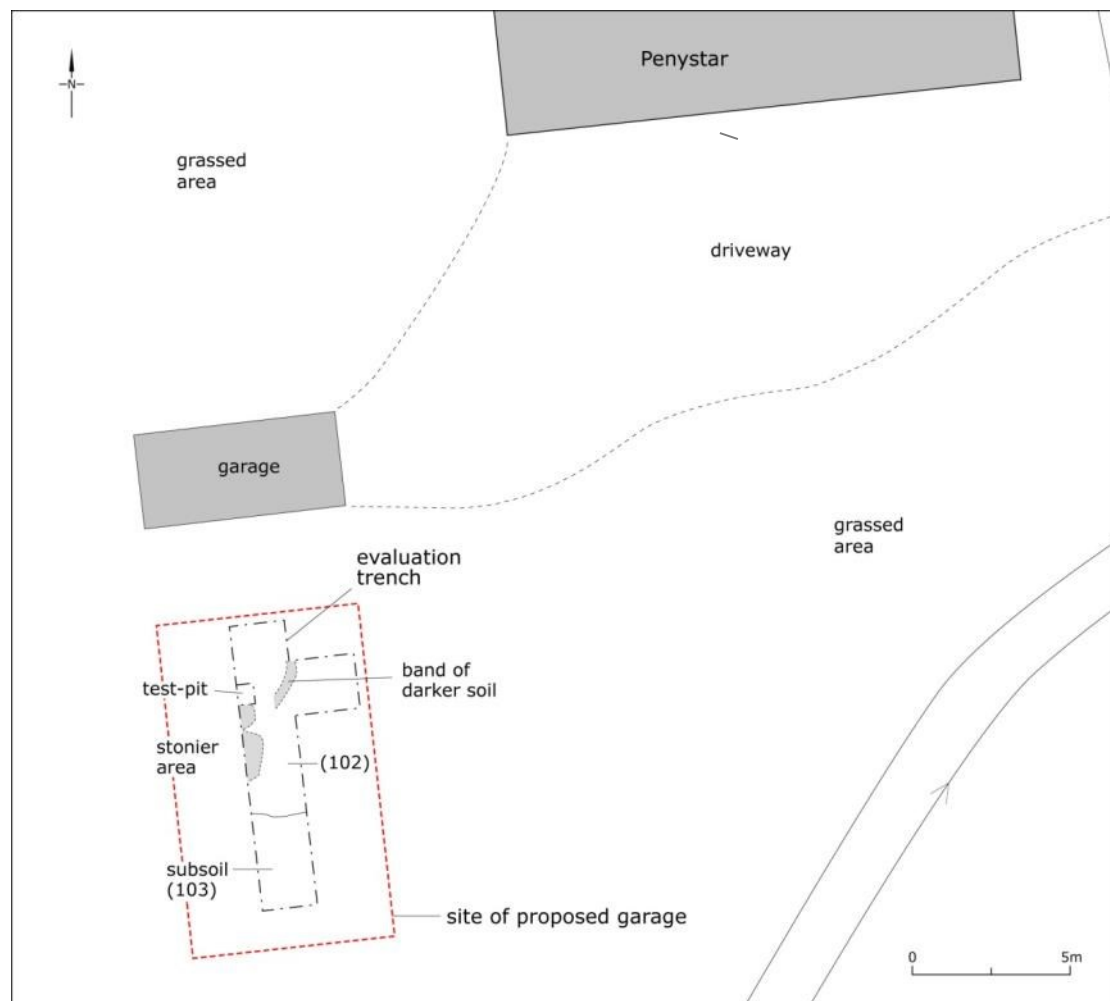
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<sup>2</sup> **DAT Archaeological Services use the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available for inspection if required.**



## 4. RESULTS

- 4.1 The evaluation was carried out on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017 in wet weather. A single trench c.9.0m in length and 1.8m wide, orientated north-south was initially excavated along the length of the proposed foot print of the garage (Photos 3 & 4). Another shorter trench, measuring around 2.0m in length and 1.8m wide, was excavated at a right angle on the east side of the main trench, creating a stout "T"-shaped trench (Figure 5, Photo 6).
- 4.2 All individual archaeological deposits or features were numbered using the open-ended numbering system. Each numbered deposit was described and is shown within rounded brackets ( ) in the text. A summary of the descriptions are listed in Appendix I.

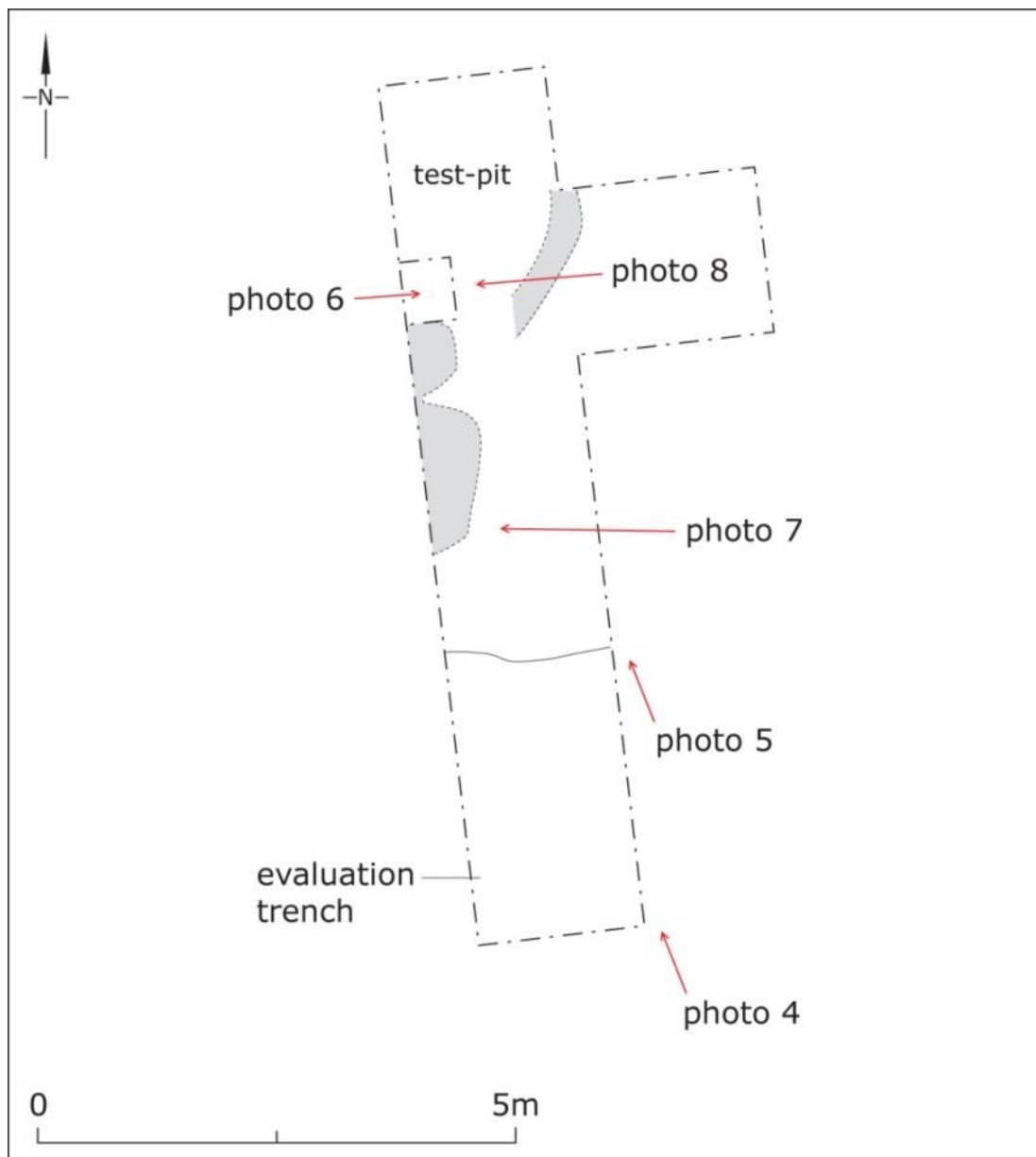


**Figure 5:** Plan showing the location of the evaluation trench within the garden of Penystar.

- 4.3 The excavated trenches revealed a similar sequence of soils in all the trench sections. Underlying the grass ground surface was a deep layer (101) of consistent loam or 'garden soil', measuring 0.50-0.60m in depth (Photo 7). This layer contained very few finds apart from a few abraded sherds of 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery.
- 4.4 Removal of deposit (101) revealed a compacted deposit of light brown dirty silty clay mixed with gravel and stone (102) (Figures 5 & 6). Within this deposit were numerous fragments of animal bone; some showing butchery marks, pottery sherds (Photo 9), fragments of ceramic floor tile

(Photo 10), ceramic ridge tile (Photo 11), roofing slate, iron nails and pieces of ceramic brick.

- 4.5 The floor tile is locally made (Dyfed Gravel Tempered Ware) and is very similar in form and fabric to that recovered elsewhere from St Dogmaels Abbey (D Williams pers comm) and is probably of 13th-15th century date. Some of the tiles have been glazed and others are painted. One tile is triangular in shape to fit within a specific pattern. The ridge roofing tiles are of a similar fabric and again locally made, and similarly probably date from the 13th-15th century (ibid).
- 4.6 In contrast the pottery sherds are all of probable mid-16th century date (at the earliest). No sherds of obviously earlier dated pottery were recovered (ibid). The pottery is of a similar though finer Dyfed Gravel Tempered Ware fabric and all represent wheel thrown vessels. The majority are green glazed and are pieces from jugs or jars.
- 4.7 The nature of deposit (102) varied slightly across both trenches. Small areas of greater stone or darker soil (Figure 5) were seen in the deposit but investigation of these variations showed that they were not archaeologically significant. Deposit (102) extended across the whole of the shorter east-west trench but did not extend across the whole north-south trench; towards the southern end of the trench the natural sand and gravel subsoil (103) was exposed (Figure 5). It appeared that (102) lay above the natural subsoil (103) in this area.
- 4.8 A small test pit was excavated through deposit [102] at the northern end of the north-south trench against its east facing section (Figure 5, Photo 8). Within the test pit deposit (102) was shown to be approximately 0.18m deep and it was confirmed that deposit (102) lay directly above the natural sand and gravel subsoil.
- 4.9 No further structures or significant archaeological features were recorded within the evaluation trenches.



**Figure 6:** Plan of the trial trench showing the location of the photographs taken during the evaluation.



**Photo 2:** Looking north at the former vicarage, now called 'Penystar'.



**Photo 3:** Looking north at the area proposed for the new garage. 1m scale





**Photo 4:** Excavating the evaluation trench. Looking north



**Photo 5:** The north-south evaluation trench after it had been cleaned by hand.  
2m scale





**Photo 6:** The east-west evaluation trench. 2m scale



**Photo 7:** The east facing section of the north-south evaluation trench. 1m scale





**Photo 8:** The east facing section through the test pit excavated down to natural subsoil. 1m scale



**Photo 9:** The 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds



**Photo 10:** Fragments of medieval floor tile



**Photo 11:** Fragments of medieval ceramic ridge and flat roofing tile

## **5. CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 The results of the evaluation suggest that at some time in the recent past major ground works have occurred within the area within which the proposed development lies. It is possible that the ground level has been reduced down to natural subsoil and then covered with a deep deposit of imported garden soil.
- 5.2 It is possible that these groundworks could have occurred during the 19th century when the vicarage was reportedly enlarged and improved in 1867/8 by the Rev Henry Jones on the site of an earlier vicarage but the absence of 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery in the area suggests this is doubtful.
- 5.3 The mixed nature of deposit [102] that was situated between garden soil (101) and the natural subsoil (103) the varied nature of the artefacts within this deposit indicate the presence of earlier buildings within the vicinity of the 19<sup>th</sup> century vicarage.
- 5.4 It is tempting to suggest that the pottery recovered during the evaluation, that all appears to be of a consistent 16<sup>th</sup> /17<sup>th</sup> century date, could have come from the post-dissolution mansion of the Bradshaw family which may have been destroyed during the construction of the earlier vicarage (at an unknown date). Although the location of the house is not known it has been often been suggested that it may lie beneath the existing vicarage building.
- 5.5 The probable earlier date of the floor and ridge tile suggest they may have originated from the medieval abbey but it is also possible they could have been reused in the building of the Bradshaw mansion; something not untypical of the time.
- 5.6 No evidence of structures or archaeological features associated with the artefacts was recorded within the evaluation trenches. Within the trenches deposit (102) appeared to be a single deposit of mixed natural subsoil lying above undisturbed natural subsoil. The nature of the artefacts from this deposit indicated that there may have been medieval or later buildings in the surrounding area; which is not surprising when the vicarage building is located within the original extant of the medieval abbey precinct. However, no evidence for any such building was recorded within the development area of the proposed garage.
- 5.7 Although no archaeological deposits were identified within the development site, it is still possible that significant archaeological remains could lie within the vicinity of the proposed development.
- 5.8 The decision on the nature of further required mitigation rests with Development Management-Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DM-DAT) in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority.

## **6. SOURCES**

### **Publications**

Brown, D H, 2011 *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*. Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists.

CIFA, 2014 *Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

### **Database**

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record

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

Cof Cymru - National Historic Assets of Wales

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/recordsv1/cof-cymru/?lang=en>

### **Online resources**

British Geological Survey: [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)

### **Map**

St Dogmaels Parish Tithe Map & Apportionment 1838

1<sup>st</sup> edition, Pembrokeshire, 1:25000" Ordnance Survey, 1890

2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Pembrokeshire, 1:25000" Ordnance Survey, 1906



## **APPENDIX I**

### **Project Archive**

Project Number: FS17\_037

ERN: 111138

68 x Digital photographs; Film Number 111138 (34 x JPEGs, 34 x TIFFs)

1x Photo catalogue

### **Context Register**

| <b>Context</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|----------------|--|
| 101            | Dark brown silty clay loam – well tilled 'garden soil' containing a few abraded sherds of 20 <sup>th</sup> century pottery (blue & white). Disturbed by roots of a small tree in centre of trench.                           |
| 102            | Light brown silty clay mixed with gravel and stone containing numerous fragments of animal bone, pottery sherds, fragments of ceramic floor tile, ceramic ridge tile, roofing slate, iron nails and pieces of ceramic brick. |
| 103            | Light brown silty clay, sand and gravel.   |

# **PENYSTAR, SHINGRIG, ST DOGMAELS, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION 2017**

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2017/60  
RHIF Y DIGWYDDIAD / EVENT RECORD NO. 111138

**Hydref 2017**

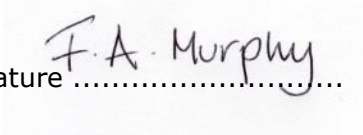
**Oct 2017**

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

**Fran Murphy**

Swydd / Position: **Project Officer DAT Archaeological Services**

Llofnod / Signature ..... Dyddiad / Date 16/10/2017



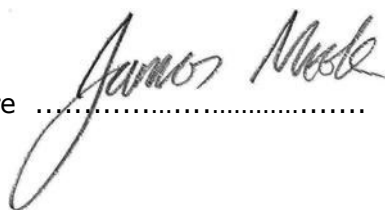
Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith  
This report has been checked and approved by

**James Meek**

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

Swydd / Position: **Head of DAT Archaeological Services**

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

