# UPLANDS, BURGAGE GREEN, ST ISHMAELS, PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF (NGR SN 14223 49040)



View of scheduled medieval motte (SM PE196)



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services For: Mr Andrew Sutton



## **DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2018/55 RHIF Y DIGWYLLIAD / EVENT RECORD NO. 114929

> Tachwedd 2018 November 2018

## UPLANDS, BURGAGE GREEN, ST ISHMAELS, PEMBROKSHIRE

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Gan / By

**Hubert Wilson** 

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## UPLANDS, BURGAGE GREEN, ST ISHMAELS, PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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#### UPLANDS, BURGAGE GREEN, ST ISHMAELS, PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Andrew Sutton of AS Architecture and Planning to undertake a watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a storage/workshop unit at the property known as Uplands, Burgage Green, St Ishmaels, Pembrokeshire; centred on SM 8344 0762 (Planning Application Number NP/16/0521/FUL).

An archaeological condition was attached to the planning decision as the development lies in close proximity to the scheduled monument earthwork known locally as the 'tump'. This earthwork comprises the remains of a medieval motte or castle mound (SM PE196, PRN 3004) that is sited 40m east of the development area.

The condition was assigned following advice from Dyfed Archaeological Trust-Development Management, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Planning Authority. The condition 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 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".

To fulfil this condition the archaeological advisors to the local planning authority recommended that an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks that were likely to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains.

The watching brief was undertaken on the 2nd November 2018.

The monitored groundworks comprised the machine excavation of eight foundation trenches measuring approximately 0.9m square and situated 4.5m apart. The site is currently a builder's yard; the topsoil has been partially truncated in the past and a layer of hard core and stone chippings deposited on top to create a firm surface. The foundation trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a grading bucket.

All of the trenches were excavated down to the natural subsoil. This comprised a mixture of reddish-brown and yellow sandy-clays, which was visible between 0.4m and 0.5m below the ground surface. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded during the excavation.

Although no significant archaeological remains were revealed within the development area, there is still potential that significant archaeological deposits could be present in the vicinity.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### **Project Proposals and Commission**

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr Andrew Sutton of AS Architecture and Planning to provide an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a proposed storage/workshop unit at Uplands, Burgage Green, St Ishmaels, Pembrokeshire (NGR SM 8344 0762) (Figure 1). The proposed works consisted of excavating eight 0.9m square foundation trenches. These will house the main frame columns for the structure (Figure 2).
- 1.1.2 The Ordnance Survey First (1889) and Second (1908) edition 1:2,500 maps show the development area absent of any structures, buildings or earthen banks.
- 1.1.3 The development area lies 40m to the west of a scheduled monument, a motte earthwork known locally as the 'tump' (SM PE196, PRN 3004, Figure 3). The motte (a very large mound of earth) is 5.5m high and 32m in diameter. A visible ditch up to 6m wide encircles most of the motte. The soil or upcast from digging this ditch would be a source of earth for constructing the flat topped mound which would have supported a timber palisade surrounding a timber-built tower; some towers later been rebuilt in stone. Typically a motte overlooked a bailey; this was an enclosed courtyard that butted up to the motte. Within a bailey stables, workshops and other structures were often located. The position of the bailey associated with St Ishmael motte is not known and it is possible that the proposed development might lie within its boundary.
- 1.1.4 As a consequence an archaeological condition was placed on planning permission (NP/16/0521/FUL) following advice from the archaeological advisor's to the planning authority (Planning Services of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust), as there was a potential for archaeological remains of early medieval date to survive within the development area.

#### **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, which was approved by the archaeological advisor to the planning authority prior to the commencement of the works. The project objectives were:
  - 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.
- 1.2.2 The overall work was summarised as: "Archaeological attendance during ground works associated with building and renovation works at the property known as Penrhyn Bach, Poppit, Pembrokeshire, 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 (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 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 –	<i>c</i> .450,000 – 10,000 BC	
Mesolithic –	<i>c</i> . 10,000 – 4400 BC	Pre
Neolithic –	<i>c</i> .4400 – 2300 BC	hist
Bronze Age –	<i>c</i> .2300 – 700 BC	Prehistoric
Iron Age –	<i>c</i> .700 BC – AD 43	0
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 - <i>c.</i> AD 410	
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	<i>c</i> . AD 410 – AD 1086	
Medieval Period –	1086 - 1536	Hist
Post-medieval Period <sup>1</sup> –	1536 - 1750	Historic
Industrial Period –	1750 - 1899	n
Modern –	20 <sup>th</sup> century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and historical timeline for Wales

<sup>&</sup>lt;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

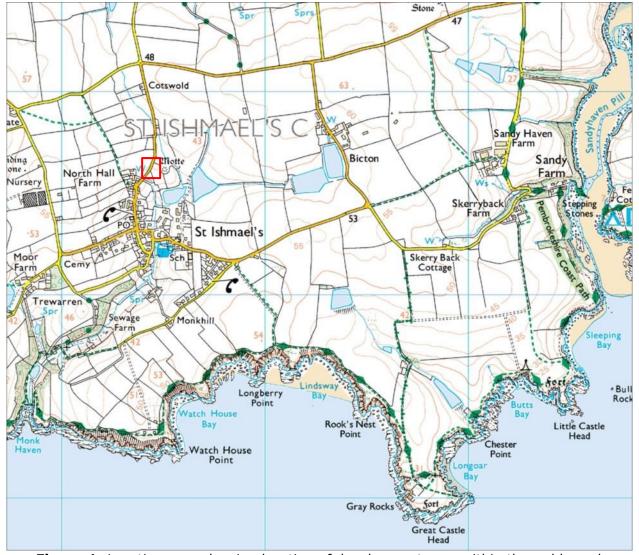
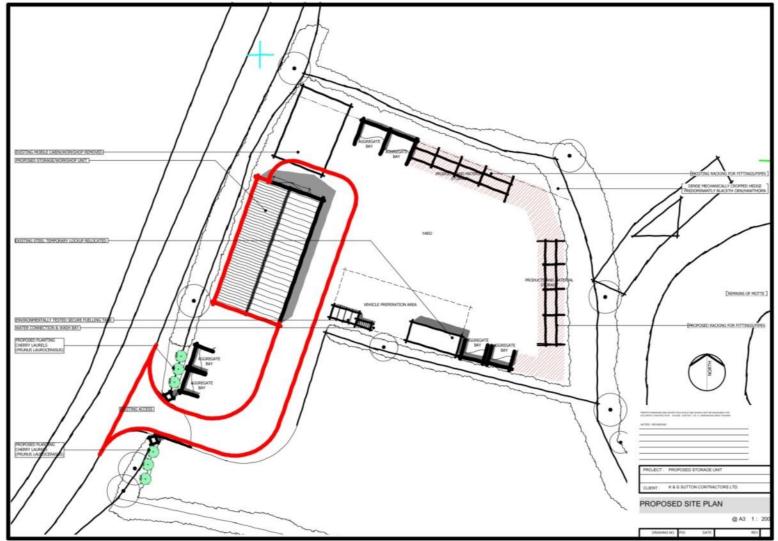
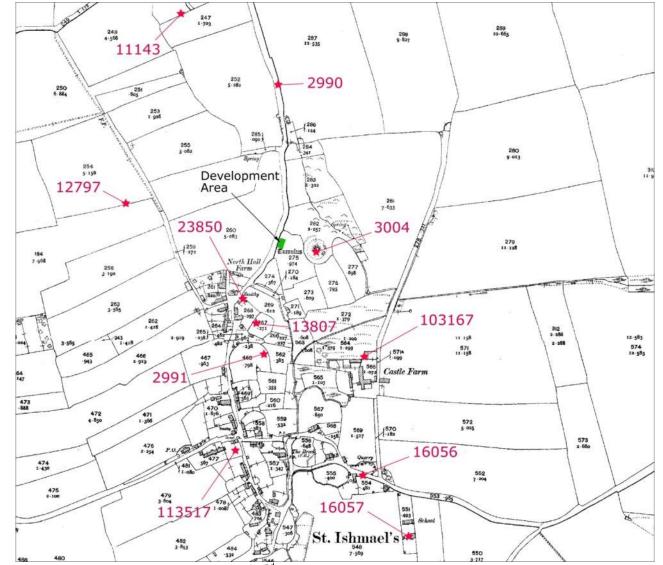


Figure 1: Location map showing location of development area within the red boundary

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**Figure 2:** Plan of development proposals for Uplands, Burgage Green, St Ishmaels, Pembrokeshire showing location of storage/workshop unit. Part of the scheduled motte can be seen on the right. Plan supplied by client.



**Figure 3:** Extract from the Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> 1:2,500 map published in 1906 showing archaeological and historical sites recorded on the Regional Environment Record within 500m of the development area; listed in Table 2.

PRN	Site name	Туре	Summary	Period	NGR
2990	North Hall	Midden, Burnt mound	Two areas of burnt stone and coal ash not thought to be burnt mound material	Prehistoric	SM8345 0788
2991	North Hall	Burnt mound		Prehistoric	SM 8341 0745
3004	St Ishmaels Tump	Motte	The monument comprises the remains of a motte and ditch, dating to the medieval period (c. 1066 -1540 AD). A motte is a large conical or pyramidal mound of soil and/or stone, usually surrounded by either a wet or dry ditch, and surmounted by a tower constructed of timber or stone. The motte measures 32m in diameter across the top and 5.5m high. It is surrounded by a ditch 6m wide. The east side of the mound is somewhat hollowed away. Scheduled Monument SM PE196	Medieval	SM 8350 0761
11143	North Hall Farm	Findspot	A stone axe partially polished on both sides	Neolithic	SM 833 080
12797	Mabesgate	Findspot	A small white flint collected by T C Cantrill	Prehistoric	SM832 077
13807	The Fold or The Green	Common land		Medieval Post- Medieval	SM 834 075
16056		Quarry	On the 1887 Ordnance Survey map, this site is marked as a quarry with its extents. On the 1908 and 1964 maps this site is not noted as being a quarry but the extent of the working is marked.	Post- Medieval	SM 8357 0726
16057		School	A school is shown at this location on the First (1887), Second (1908) and 1964 editions of the Ordnance Survey		
23850	St Ishmaels	Blacksmith's workshop	A smithy is shown at this location on the 1887 and 1908 Ordnance Survey maps.	Post- Medieval	SM 8338 0754
103167	Castle Farm	Farm building	Farm building on northern edge of Castle Farm identified from the 1908 Second edition Ordnance Survey map. Not shown on modern mapping.	Prehistoric; Post- Medieval	SM 8357 0744
113517	Memorial Hall	Memorial Hall	St Ishmaels Memorial Hall commemorating the six men of the parish who fell during the First World War.	Post- Medieval	SM 83359 07298

**Table 2:** Archaeological and Historical Sites recorded on the regional Historic Environment Recordwithin 500m of the development area; shown in Figure 3.



Photo 1: Aerial view taken in 1988 of the motte earthwork in relation to St Ishmaels village © DAT Images/AP88-19.34

DAT Archaeological Services

## 2. THE SITE

#### 2.1 Location and Topography

- 2.1.1 The site is located on the northern margins of St Ishmaels which is a small medieval village 6.5kms west of Milford Haven. The Milford Haven Waterway lies just over 0.5km south of the development area.
- 2.1.2 The development area is an area of level, made up ground located in an extant builder's yard. A hedge bank, situated a metre to the west, lies between the site and an unclassified road into St Ishmaels.
- 2.1.3 The local bedrock is Milford Haven Group Argillaceous rocks and Sandstone formed in the Devonian/Silurian Periods (based on information from the British Geological Survey). (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).



**Photo 2:** View east from the development area towards the tree covered earthwork of the motte.

## 2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 No archaeological sites are known to exist within the boundary of the proposed area. However, a search of the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) database records eleven archaeological sites lying within 500m of the development area (Figure 3, Table 2). The nearest site, 40m to the east of the development, is the scheduled monument of St Ishmael medieval motte (SM PE196, PRN 3004), known locally as the 'tump'. A motte-and-bailey castle was a fortification with a wooden or stone keep situated on a raised earthwork called a motte, accompanied by an enclosed courtyard, or bailey, surrounded by a protective ditch and palisade.
- 2.2.2 The motte survives as a ditched mound, some 32m in diameter and 5.5m high (Photos 1 & 2). It is surrounded by a ditch 6m wide. The RCAHMW (NPRN 305355) suggest that aerial photographs appear to show traces of

a dam to the east, which would have ponded back an area of c.160m N-S by 100m and that a bailey enclosure (settlement area) may have lain to the south between the motte and a mere. However, this is not conclusive and the bailey may have been located elsewhere.

2.2.3 The development area lies within the boundaries of the Milford Haven Historic Landscape Categorisation Area (HLC 320) as recorded on the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (Cadw 1998). The description of this HLC area provides a good summary of the archaeological and historical background of the St Ishmaels background and is reproduced in full below:

A small historic landscape character area lying on the north shore of the Milford Haven waterway within St Ishmael's parish, comprising the village (and field system) of St Ishmael's which, with its motte castle, was the caput of the medieval Sub lordship of St Ishmael's, a member of the Lordship of Haverford. The parish church with its 'Celtic' dedication and three Early Christian Monuments and a possible cist cemetery lies some distance from the village. The church was mentioned in 1291 when it was a possession of Haverfordwest Priory. A sizeable medieval settlement is indicated by the remains of an extensive medieval strip-field system around the village. By the early 19th century estate maps show that the present morphology of the village and surrounding fields had been established, although a more extensive strip field system then existed. Away from the village these strips have been amalgamated into large fields (these are now considered part of a different landscape character area), but close to the village the pattern of enclosed strips is still maintained. These fields were clearly enclosed from an open field farming system. The date of this enclosure is uncertain, but it is likely to have occurred in a piecemeal fashion over a number of decades, perhaps in the 17th century and 18th century. Farms and houses would have been established concomitant with the enclosure of the open fields. This process was still occurring in the mid-19th century when Trewarren House was established in 1845. Considerable mid and late 20th century has maintained the village plan as shown on early 19th century estate maps.

#### Description and essential historic landscape components:

This relatively small historic landscape area includes the village of St Ishmael's, surrounding farmland, and a wooded valley within which the parish church is located. The village, which lies at about 50m above sea level and is built in and on both sides of a small open valley, consists of a loose clustering of houses rather than a compact nucleated settlement. Indeed many of the village lanes have a rural feel and are bordered by large hedgebanks. The core of the village comprises a mixture of two storey 19th century houses, a pub, a chapel converted to a house and a shop together with modern houses and bungalows in a variety of styles and materials. Surrounding the core are several small late 20th century housing estates, individual houses, a school and sports field. Long narrow fields that surround the village were once part of the community's extensive open field system. Earth banks topped with hedges enclose these fields. Hedges are generally in good condition and well maintained, and although some are becoming overgrown there are few hedgerow trees. Land-use is a mixture of improved pasture and arable. There is a nursery in the area. The substantial 19th century house of Trewarren lies to the west of the village, and has walled gardens and landscape features including ponds, follies located in the valley up from Monk Haven. This valley is heavily wooded. The medieval church of St Ishmael with early medieval inscribed stones lies in this valley together with a former

vicarage built in 1835 in pattern book Georgian Gothic style. A motte, the site of a medieval castle, lies to the north of the village. Other archaeological sites include Bronze Age standing stones, bronze age burnt mounds, find spots of prehistoric artefacts and a cist cemetery.

Although this is a diverse area - the village, strip fields woodland and the isolated church – it is a coherent historic landscape and includes all the component of a medieval and post-medieval settlement. It is distinct from the large farms with large regular fields that lie to the west, north and east, although there is no hard-edged boundary here. It has a very obvious boundary with the sea cliff historic landscape area to the south.

## 3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

## 3.1 Fieldwork

- 3.1.1 A watching brief was undertaken during initial groundworks at the site which had the potential to expose, damage or destroy underlying archaeological remains.
- 3.1.2 The groundworks that were monitored comprised the excavation of eight foundation trenches measuring 0.9m square through made up ground approximately 40m to the west of St Ishmaels motte (SM PE196, PRN 3004) (Figure 4). The excavation was undertaken by a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a grading bucket.
- 3.1.3 All archaeological deposits revealed during the groundworks were examined and recorded to an appropriate level.
- 3.1.4 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual<sup>2</sup> used by DAT Archaeological Services.
- 3.1.5 The work followed the Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief as laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA 2014) and adhered to their code of conduct (CIFA 2014).

## 3.2 Timetabling of Fieldwork

3.2.1 The watching brief took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018.

## 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 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.

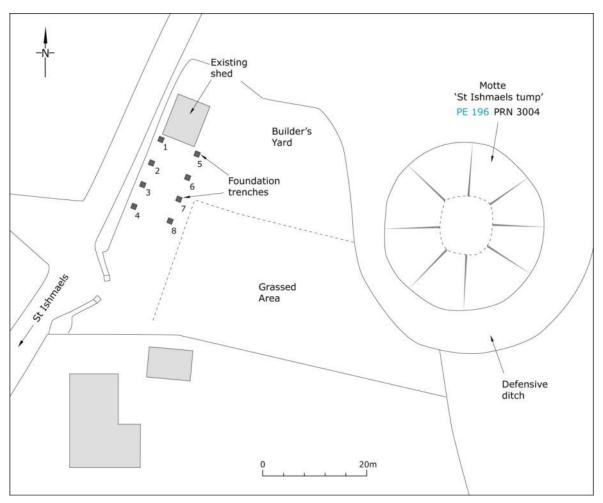


Figure 4: Location of trenches within builder's yard in relation to motte

#### 4. **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

- 4.1 The eight foundation trenches were located on the western edge of an extant builder's yard on level, made up ground, approximately 40m west of St Ishmaels motte (SM PE196, PRN 3004) (Photo 3; Figure 4).
- 4.2 The eight trenches measured approximately 0.9m square and were situated 4.5m apart (Photo 7). Each trench was excavated down to a natural undisturbed horizon. This horizon was a yellow-orange sandy-clay, with occasional small to medium fragments of sandstone (Photo 4).
- 4.3 The depth of made up ground within each trench varied from 0.45m to 0.25m. Below this lay, on average, a buried soil of 0.12m thick reddishbrown, silty clay and below this was the natural horizon of yellow-orange sandy-clay (Photo 5).
- 4.4 A narrow plastic pipe was seen in Trench 3 and Trench 6 (Photo 6). No other artefacts or archaeological deposits were identified in section or plan.

#### 5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 A watching brief was carried out during groundworks associated with the proposed construction of a storage/workshop unit at Uplands, Burgage Green, St Ishmaels, Pembrokeshire. The development area lies in an area with an identified potential for archaeological remains of medieval date to be present. Thus a condition was placed on planning permission for the development requiring an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during groundworks that could expose, damage or destroy archaeological deposits.
- 5.2 The monitored groundworks comprised the machine excavation of eight 0.9m square foundation trenches with an average depth of 0.5m. The trenches lay within a builder's yard 40m to the west of St Ishmaels motte (SM PE196, PRN 3004). The trench was excavated using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a grading bucket.
- 5.3 The trench sections revealed a consistent soil profile which contained no evidence of archaeological deposits or structures.
- 5.4 Although no archaeological deposits were identified within the development area, it is still possible that significant archaeological remains could still lie within the vicinity of the development.

#### 6. PHOTOGRAPHS



**Photo 3:** View north across the development area prior to groundworks.



**Photo 4:** View west showing natural ground at base of trench 1. 0.5m scale

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**Photo 5:** East facing section in trench 3 showing reddish brown buried soil between made up ground (above) and the natural horizon (below). 0.5m scale



**Photo 6:** View west showing plastic pipe in base of Trench 7. 0.5 scale

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**Photo 7:** View south showing foundation Trenches 5, 6, 7 and 8. 1m scale

## 7. SOURCES

## 7.1 Map

Ordnance Survey 2nd 1:2,500 map published in 1906

## 7.2 Database

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

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

Cof Cymru - National Historic Assets of Wales: http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/recordsv1/cof-cymru/?lang=en

Historic Wales: - http://historicwales.gov.uk

British Geological Survey: http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html

## APPENDIX I

## **Project Archive**

ERN: 114929

12 x Digital photographs; Film Number 114929 (8 x JPEGs, 8 x TIFFs)

1x Photo catalogue

## **Context Register**

Context	Description	Interpretation		
01	Dark imported soils, small to medium stone,	Made-up ground		
02	Reddish brown, silty clay, small stone	Buried soil		
03	Yellow orange sandy clay	Natural undisturbed ground		

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## DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

## RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2018/55 RHIF Y DIGWYLLIAD / EVENT RECORD NO. 114929

Tachwedd 2018 November 2018

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MWAM Date: 6/11/2018 Llofnod / Signature

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

#### **Fran Murphy**

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

Swydd / Position: Project Manager DAT Archaeological Services

Llofnod / Signature F.A. Murphy Date: 14/11/2018

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

