GLASFYRN ROAD, ST DAVIDS, PEMBROKESHIRE: GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

2019

(NGR SM 75790 25360)





Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services For: GRD Ltd.





DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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GLASFYRN ROAD, ST DAVIDS, PEMBROKESHIRE: GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY 2019

By

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GLASFYRN ROAD, ST DAVIDS, PEMBROKESHIRE:

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY 2019

SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by GRD Ltd to undertake a geophysical survey of a proposed development site on land to the east and west of Glasfyrn Road, St Davids, Pembrokeshire. The purpose of the survey was to provide a better indication of the archaeological potential of the site and if required, enable targeting of any further archaeological mitigation requirements before or during development.

An area measuring 3.26ha was surveyed across two fields using a Bartington fluxgate gradiometer which detects subtle variations in the earths magnetic field. Readings were taken at a high resolution on traverses 1.0m wide and every 0.25m within a 30m x 30m grid.

The western field did not contain any geophysical survey anomalies that might suggest archaeological features. On the eastern field anomalies probably relating to post medieval farming were seen including the possible remains of a barn or cottage and sections of a former field boundary. Further intrusive archaeological investigations would be required to further elucidate the date, character and significance of these remains.

CRYNODEB

Comisiynwyd Gwasanaethau Archeolegol YAD gan GRD Cyf i ymgymryd arolwg geoffisegol o safle datblygu arfaethedig ar dir i'r dwyrain a'r gorllewin o Ffordd Glasfyrn, Tyddewi, Sir Benfro. Pwrpas yr arolwg oedd rhoi gwell arwydd o botensial archeolegol y safle ac, os oes angen, galluogi targedu unrhyw gofynion lliniaru archeolegol pellach cyn neu yn ystod y datblygiad.

Nid oedd y cae gorllewinol yn cynnwys unrhyw anghysondebau arolwg geoffisegol a allai awgrymu nodweddion archeolegol. Ar y cae dwyreiniol gwelwyd anghysondebau yn ôl pob tebyg yn ymwneud â ffermio ôl-ganoloesol gan gynnwys gweddillion posibl ysgubor neu fwthyn a rhannau o hen ffin cae. Byddai angen ymchwiliadau archeolegol ymwthiol pellach i egluro dyddiad, cymeriad ac arwyddocâd yr olion hyn.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by GRD Ltd to undertake a geophysical survey of a proposed development site on land to the east and west of Glasfyrn Road, St Davids, Pembrokeshire (centred on NGR SM SM 75790 25360; Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 A Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment was previously prepared for the site area by DAT Archaeological Services (Day 2018) which highlighted the archaeological potential of the site.
- 1.1.3 A condition regarding archaeology has been attached to the planning permission (Condition 12) which states:

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 (Dyfed Archaeological Trust - Development Management) will monitor all aspects of this work through to the final discharge of the condition. The work will not be deemed complete until all aspects of the WSI have been addressed and the final report submitted and approved.

- 1.1.4 Following discussions with the archaeological advisors to the planning authority it was determined that the best way of determining the presence or absence of archaeological remains at the site would be through the implementation of a geophysical survey as the initial stage of investigation.
- 1.1.5 The geophysical survey was undertaken using a fluxgate gradiometer which detects subtle variations in the earths magnetic field, which can indicate the presence of buried features such as ditches, pits, walls or postholes, which are not visible on the ground surface. The purpose of the geophysical survey was to provide a better indication of the archaeological potential of the site through the identification of subsurface features which could be indicative of buried archaeology. This would enable targeting of any further archaeological mitigation before or during the development if required.
- 1.1.6 A written scheme of investigation defining the archaeological works was produced by DAT Archaeological Services (Appendix 1) and this was approved prior to the start of the works.

1.2 Scope of the project

- 1.2.1 The aims of the project were laid out in the written scheme of investigation for the geophysical survey prepared by DAT Archaeological Services. The aims were thus:
 - To identify the presence/absence of any potential archaeological deposits through an initial gradiometer survey;
 - To establish the character and extent of any potential archaeological remains within the site area that could be affected by the proposed works;
 - To prepare a report and archive on the results of the geophysical survey.

1.3 Report outline

1.3.1 This report provides a summary and discussion of the geophysical survey 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). Gradiometer readings are measured in nanoTesla (nT).

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 -	<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	öri
Iron Age –	<i>c</i> .700 BC – AD 43	n
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 ¹ –	1536 - 1750	öri
Industrial Period –	1750 - 1899	n
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 of the proposed development (red boundary), based on the Ordnance Survey

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2 THE SITE

2.1 Location, topography and geology

- 2.1.1 The proposed development area is roughly 2.8ha in size, covering two large flat fields to the east and west of Glasfryn Road. They are situated directly northeast and northwest of the junction between Glasfyrn Road and the A487.
- 2.1.2 The eastern field was the largest at around 1.6ha centred on SM 75818 25353. The western field was 1.2ha in size, centred on SM 75739 25360.
- 2.1.3 The site is relatively level at an elevation of around 74mOD.
- 2.1.4 The underlying bedrock geology consists of Caerbwdy Group Tuff. This is an igneous bedrock formed approximately 541 to 635 million years ago in the Ediacaran Period in an environment previously dominated by explosive eruptions of magma (British Geological Survey Online).

2.2 Archaeological Potential

2.2.1 The Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (Day 2018) considered the buried archaeological potential of the site and the conclusions stated:

"Historic map analysis indicates a former standing stone stood in the western area, which could potentially be of Bronze Age date, as shown on the 1889 Ordnance Survey map. The same map also shows several other former standing stones in surrounding fields. Although no known Roman remains are recorded within the search areas around the site boundary, it is considered likely that a Roman presence was located in the area. This is suggested by antiquarian accounts in the wider area and by Roman coins reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme within 4km of the proposed development boundary, including a hoard of 112 coins. Other significant finds reported to the PAS from the vicinity include Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age flint tools.

"The potential for Palaeolithic period archaeological remains to be present within the development area is negligible. For Mesolithic, Neolithic, Iron Age and Roman date it is considered to be low. The potential for Bronze Age remains is moderate based on the former standing stones recorded in and around the development area. If any such sites were to be found within the development area they would be of high importance.

"The chance of finding remains from the Early Medieval to Post-Medieval eras is thought to be low as the area was used as agricultural land. The fields of the development area are likely to have originated in the medieval period and remains of medieval strip farming may be visible on LiDAR data."

2.2.2 It is highly likely that these fields have been farmed continuously since the medieval period, over a period of around a thousand years, with remains of possible slangs (strip-fields) being visible on LiDAR data. The 1888 OS map shows a standing stone in the western field. This stone is likely to have been Bronze Age in date. The stone has been removed and its whereabouts are unknown, but it is possible that associated remains lie hidden underground where it stood.



Photo 1: View east across the eastern field.



Photo 2: View south across the western field.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 A fluxgate gradiometer, which detects variations in the earth's magnetic field, with a DL601 data logger was used to conduct a detailed survey of the proposed development area. A sample interval of 0.25m (four readings per metre) was used with 0.5m wide traverses across 20m x 20m grids using the zigzag traverse method of collecting data. The gradiometers sensitivity was set to detect a magnetic variation in the order of 0.1 nanoTesla.
- 3.2 The survey grid was tied in to the local Ordnance Survey grid using Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS).
- 3.3 The data was processed using *Terrasurveyor 3.0* and presented with a minimum of processing. The presence of high values caused by ferrous objects, which tend to hide fine details and obscure archaeological features, have been 'clipped' to remove the extreme values allowing the finer details to show through.
- 3.4 The processed data has been presented as a grey-scale plot, overlaid on local topographical features. The main magnetic anomalies have been identified and an interpretation of those results is also given.
- 3.5 The resulting survey results and interpretation diagrams should not be seen as a definitive model of what lies beneath the ground surface, not all buried features will provide a magnetic response that can be identified by the gradiometer. In interpreting those features that are recorded the shape is the principal diagnostic tool, along with comparison with known features from other surveys. The intensity of the magnetic response could provide further information, a strong response for example indicates burning, high ferric content or thermoremnancy in geology. The context may provide further clues but the interpretation of many of these features is still largely subjective.
- 3.6 All measurements given will be approximate as accurate measurements are difficult to determine from fluxgate gradiometer surveys. The width and length of identified features can be affected by its relative depth and magnetic strength.

4 RESULTS

4.1 The geophysical survey results are presented as a greyscale plot in Figure 2 with an interpretation of the results provided in Figure 3. In total an area of 3.26ha was surveyed.

Magnetic Interference

4.2 Magnetic disturbance occurs where the survey encroaches near to a field a field boundary that contains a ferrous material such as wire-fencing. In this instance, where the disturbance has occurred a single polarity response has been exhibited. This is particularly evident along the northern boundary of the northeast field. However, the interference is minimal and has not impacted adversely upon the rest of the survey.

Ferrous Objects (Dipoles)

4.3 Small discrete dipole anomalies have been seen across the survey area. Some of these anomalies may reflect archaeological artefacts but are more likely the response of modern ferrous-rich debris such as brick and tile fragments as well as horse shoes and plough shares, which lie just below the surface.

Pit-"Like" Features

4.4 A number of discrete positive pit-"like" anomalies can be seen throughout the area as roughly circular anomalies exhibiting a positive polarity response. Although there is some potential for them to be of archaeological origin it is also possible that they are a natural feature of the geology or a tree throw. Where large areas of amorphous positive responses are seen, this may reflect areas of disturbed ground.

Modern Service

4.5 A linear dipole response (a chain of positive and negative anomalies) can be seen in the northern part of the north-eastern field orientated roughly east/west.

Features of Archaeological Interest

- 4.6 **A). Rectangular anomaly.** This anomaly sits adjacent to and on the same orientation the probable former field boundary noted above. Measuring 9m x 4x it could represent the names of a post medieval barn or cottage.
- 4.7 **B). Negative linear response.** Two parallel negative linear responses can be seen in the northeast field, orientated roughly north to south. The linear anomalies appear to extend from the most southern end of the survey area, running for 38m before the response diffuses. This anomaly appears to correlate to the location of a field boundary marked on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps and probably represents the remains of a former post medieval field boundary.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Generally the quality of the survey data is good, with little interference from external influences making it possible to observe probable archaeological features.
- 5.2 The western field appears void of any geophysical survey anomalies which could clearly represent archaeological features. The anomalies mostly seen appear to relate to modern ferrous debris. There was no clear indication that any of the anomalies seen could represent the remains of a stone hole for a standing stone, as indicated on earlier maps.
- 5.3 In the northeast field a section of a former field boundary that once divided the field can be seen aligned roughly north to south within part of the field. The field boundary is represented by two parallel linear anomalies which run towards the site of a possible rectangular structure.
- 5.4 The anomalies at area A suggest the possible remains of a former barn or cottage. The structure sits adjacent to the former field boundary and virtually aligned on the same orientation which might suggest some relationship between them. These features probably represent remains of post medieval farming in the area but further exploratory investigations would be needed to ascertain this.



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6 SOURCES

Day, A, 2018. Glasfryn Road, St David's, Pembrokeshire: Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment, DAT Report No: 2018/47

Databases

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record, The Shire Hall, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AF

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

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

Online resources

British Geological Survey [online]. Accessed 14/08/19. Available at: <u>www.bgs.ac.uk.</u>

7 GLOSSARY

Fluxgate Gradiometer	An instrument used to measure magnetism to search for areas of disturbed ground that may be associated with sub surface archaeolgoical features.
nanoTesla (nT)	A unit of measurement of a magnetic field.
Ferrous Objects	Metals and alloys that contain iron.
Dipole Anomalies	An anomaly consisting of a single positive response with an associated negative response forming a 'halo effect'. The negative and positice response is of equal magnitude but opposite polarity and are caused by the same feature. Dipole anomalies are very commonly observed across a range of sites, particularly agricultural land. Generally, unless the dipoles form part of a larger pattern or feature they are regarded as not significant. They are usually the result of modern ferrous rich debris such as brick and tile fragments as well as objects such as horse shoes or broken plough shares, which lie withint he topsoil.
Polarity	An attribute with two possible values, positive or negative.

APPENDIX I

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

LAND OFF GLASFRYN ROAD, ST DAVIDS, PEMBROKESHIRE: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) presents a proposed methodology for a geophysical survey of the site of a proposed development site on Land off Glasfryn Road, St Davids, Pembrokeshire (roughly centred on NGR SM 75790 25360; Figure 1).
- 1.2 The area is roughly 2.8ha in size, covering two large, flat fields situated directly northeast and northwest of the junction between Glasfryn Road and the A487.
- 1.3 A condition regarding archaeology has been attached to the planning permission (Condition 12) which states:

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 (Dyfed Archaeological Trust - Development Management) will monitor all aspects of this work through to the final discharge of the condition. The work will not be deemed complete until all aspects of the WSI have been addressed and the final report submitted and approved.

- 1.4 Following discussions with the archaeological advisors to the planning authority it was determined that the best way of determining the presence or absence of archaeological remains at the site would be through the implementation of a geophysical survey.
- 1.5 Known archaeology at the site is as follows: It is highly likely that these fields have been farmed continuously since the medieval period, over a period of around a thousand years, with remains of possible slangs (strip-fields) being visible on LiDAR data. The 1888 OS map shows a standing stone in the western field. This stone is likely to have been Bronze Age in date. The stone has been removed and its whereabouts are unknown, but it is possible that associated remains lie hidden underground where it stood.
- 1.6 The results of the geophysical survey should provide a better indication of the archaeological potential of the site through the identification of subsurface features which could be indicative of archaeology. Through the use of a gradiometer, a rapid scan of the site area could be undertaken, which through the measurement of tiny variations in the earth's magnetic field, can indicate the presence of buried features such as ditches, pits, walls or postholes, which are not visible on the ground surface.
- 1.7 The survey will be carried out using a fluxgate gradiometer, which detects variations in the earth's magnetic field. Reading will be taken at a medium resolution on traverses 0.5m wide and every 0.25m within a 20m x 20m grid across the field. A Trimble TST will be used to tie the survey grid into

the local Ordnance Survey grid. This resolution enables a relatively speedy survey to be carried out (using a single gradiometer and team of two) and provides good results, assuming that the geology of the area will be conducive to gradiometer survey and that the site does not contain obstructions that would make an even walking pace impossible.

- 1.8 This WSI is in accordance with the relevant Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for archaeological geophysical survey (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014).
- 1.9 The Trust 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.
- 1.10 **Dyfed Archaeological Trust is a CIfA Registered Organisation**.
- 1.11 All permanent staff members of DAT Archaeological Services are CSCS² registered.

2 AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

2.1 This document provides a scheme of works for:

The implementation of a geophysical survey within the development area at Land off Glasfryn Road, St Davids, Pembrokeshire. A report and archive of the results will be prepared.

2.2 The following tasks will be completed:

- Provision of a specification to outline the methodology for the geophysical survey which DAT Archaeological Services will undertake (this document);
- To identify the presence/absence of any potential archaeological deposits through gradiometer survey;
- To use the information obtained to design a specification for future mitigation at the site, which will enable any identified remains to be appropriately investigated and recorded where they will be affected by the proposed development.

² Construction Skills Certification Scheme (Health and Safety Tested)



Figure 1: Location map of the proposed development (red boundary), based on the Ordnance Survey

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3 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 A fluxgate gradiometer will be used for the survey, which detects variations in the earth's magnetic field. Readings will be taken at a medium resolution on traverses 1.0m wide and every 0.25m within a 30m x 30m grid across the site. A Trimble TST will be used to tie the survey grid into the local Ordnance Survey grid.
- 3.2 The underlying geology and soils are considered suitable for geophysical survey.

Processing, presentation and interpretation

- 3.3 Processing will be performed using *TerraSurveyor 3.0*. The data will be presented with a minimum of processing. The presence of high values caused by ferrous objects, which tend to hide fine details and obscure archaeological features, will be 'clipped' to remove the extreme values allowing the finer details to show through.
- 3.4 The processed data will be presented as grey-scale plots overlaid on local topographical features. The main magnetic anomalies will be identified and plotted onto the local topographical features as a level of interpretation.
- 3.5 The resulting survey results and interpretation diagrams should not be seen as a definitive model of what lies beneath the ground surface, not all buried features will provide a magnetic response that can be identified by the gradiometer. In interpreting those features that are recorded the shape is the principal diagnostic tool, along with comparison with known features from other surveys. The intensity of the magnetic response could provide further information, a strong response for example indicates burning, high ferric content or thermoremnancy in geology. The context may provide further clues but the interpretation of many of these features is still largely subjective.
- 3.6 All measurements given will be approximate as accurate measurements are difficult to determine from fluxgate gradiometer surveys. The width and length of identified features can be affected by its relative depth and magnetic strength.
- 3.7 The interpretation diagrams will be used to identify the presence/absence of any potential archaeological deposits. The archaeological advisors to the planning authority, Dyfed Archaeological Trust-Development Management will be informed of these results and a decision will be reached on the details of Stage 3 intrusive evaluation.

4 **POST-FIELDWORK REPORTING AND ARCHIVING**

- 4.1 A copy of the final report will be deposited with the regional HER within six months of the completion of the project.
- 4.2 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 2007), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth. The *National Standards for Wales for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives* produced by the Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales will also be adhered to.
- 4.3 The results of the geophysical survey will be included in a specification for further archaeological mitigation at the site. The results will also be

included in any subsequent reports on any future archaeological mitigation implemented at the site.

4.4 The report will be prepared to follow the relevant Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance* (IfA 1994/1995, revised 2001 & 2008).

5 STAFF

- 5.1 The project will be managed by James Meek, Head of DAT Archaeological Services.
- 5.2 The on-site geophysical survey will be run by Charlie Enright an experienced geophysical surveyor, assisted by Andy Shobbrook.

6 MONITORING

6.1 The site work may need to be monitored by the archaeological advisor to the planning authority. The works will also be monitored by the Project Manager.

7 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 7.1 All permanent members of DAT Archaeological Services staff are CSCS³ 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 Gradiometer survey is a non-intrusive method of archaeological prospection. The process involves the laying out of grids across the site area which are then traversed with the gradiometer taking regular readings. Trip hazards are one of the main issues for such work.
- 7.5 Due to the nature of the survey surveyors are not able to wear any clothing with metal in (such as safety boots). Sturdy footwear is worn with no metal parts.
- 7.6 The developer will make all site staff aware of any other PPE⁴ that may be required.

³ Construction Skills Certification Scheme (Health and Safety Tested)

⁴ Personal Protection Equipment

GLASFYRN ROAD, ST DAVIDS, PEMBROKESHIRE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY 2019

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AUGUST 2019

This report has been prepared by

Charles Enright

Position: Archaeologist DAT Archaeological Services

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Date 14/08/19

This report has been checked and approved by

James Meek

on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position: Head of DAT Archaeological Services

Date 16/09/19

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

