

A40 RIVER TYWI: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
For: Atkins.



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**REPORT NO. 2022-03
EVENT RECORD NO. 127947**

February 2021

**A40 RIVER TYWI:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF**

By

Charlie Enright

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A40 RIVER TYWI: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Client

Atkins

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Report No

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CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / CRYNODEB GWEITHEREDOL	1
1. INTRODUCTION	2
1.1 Project Proposals and Commission	2
1.2 Scope of the Project	3
1.3 Report Outline	3
1.4 Abbreviations	3
1.5 Illustrations	3
1.6 Timeline	3
2. SITE DESCRIPTION	7
3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY	7
3.1 Fieldwork	7
3.3 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving	9
4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	8
5. SOURCES	12
APPENDIX I: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION	13
FIGURES	
Figure 1: Site location.	5
Figure 2: Area proposed for topsoil stripping between river meander and A40 road (Supplied by Atkins).	6
TABLES	
Table 1: Archaeological and historical timeline for Wales	4
PHOTOGRAPHS	
Photo 1: Topsoil stripping the compound area. View north.	9
Photo 2: Compound area (view southwest).	9
Photo 3: A collection of the finds found distributed throughout the topsoil within the compound area.	10
Photo 4: A section of road excavated and infilled with stone.	10
Photo 5: Area for piling rig after topsoil stripping. View north.	11
Photo 6: Groundworks towards the eastern half of the site.	11

A40 RIVER TYWI: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during topsoil stripping associated with works to prevent a meander in the River Tywi from migrating and undercutting a section of the A40 trunk road between Carmarthen and Llandeilo.

No finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded during the watching brief.

CRYNODEB GWEITHEREDOL

Comisiynwyd Gwasanaethau Archaeolegol YAD i ymgymryd â brîff gwylio archaeolegol yn ystod gwaith stripio uwchbridd yn gysylltiedig â gwaith i atal ystum yn Afon Tywi yn ymfudo a thandorri rhan o gefnffordd yr A40 rhwng Caerfyrddin a Llandeilo.

Ni chofnodwyd unrhyw ddarganfyddiadau, nodweddion na dyddodion o arwyddocâd archeolegol yn ystod y brîff gwylio.

**A40 RIVER TYWI:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Proposals and Commission

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Atkins to provide an archaeological watching brief during topsoil stripping on the A40 River Tywi. Specifically, the works took place between Carmarthen and Llandeilo on the route of the A40 trunk road where it follows the edge of the floodplain (roughly centred on SN 52565 21415; Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The site is located within the Nantgaredig – Derwen Fawr Historic Landscape Character Area (DAT nd, no.191) that lies across low rolling hills on the north side of the Tywi valley. It consists of large, dispersed farms in a landscape of small- to medium-sized fields. Modern linear and nucleated development is concentrated along the A40, which passes through the area.
- 1.1.3 An archaeological watching brief was attached to the planning decision by Carmarthenshire County Council Local Planning Authority following advice from their archaeological advisors, Dyfed Archaeological Trust–Development Management (DAT-DM).
- 1.1.4 The purpose of the watching brief was to monitor topsoil stripping in the area required for the piling rig (Figure 2) and to provide information on the character and significance of any below-ground archaeological remains that may be revealed.

1.2 Scope of the Project

1.2.1 To comply with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standards and Guidance (CIfA 2014) and Code of Conduct (CIfA 2021, and before the commencement of works, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a watching brief was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services and approved by DAT-DM in their capacity as advisors to the local authority (Appendix I). The WSI sets out the watching brief methodology, and defines the project objectives as:

- To monitor groundworks to identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits 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 can be summarised as:

Archaeological attendance during topsoil stripping in space required for piling rigs on the A40 between Carmarthen and Llandeilo that could expose, damage or even 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 the 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). 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.

Table 1: Archaeological and historical timeline for Wales

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)–	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
post-Roman / early medieval–	c. AD 410 – AD 1086	
Medieval–	1086 – 1536	
post-medieval ¹ –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial–	1750 – 1899	
modern –	20 th century onwards	

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

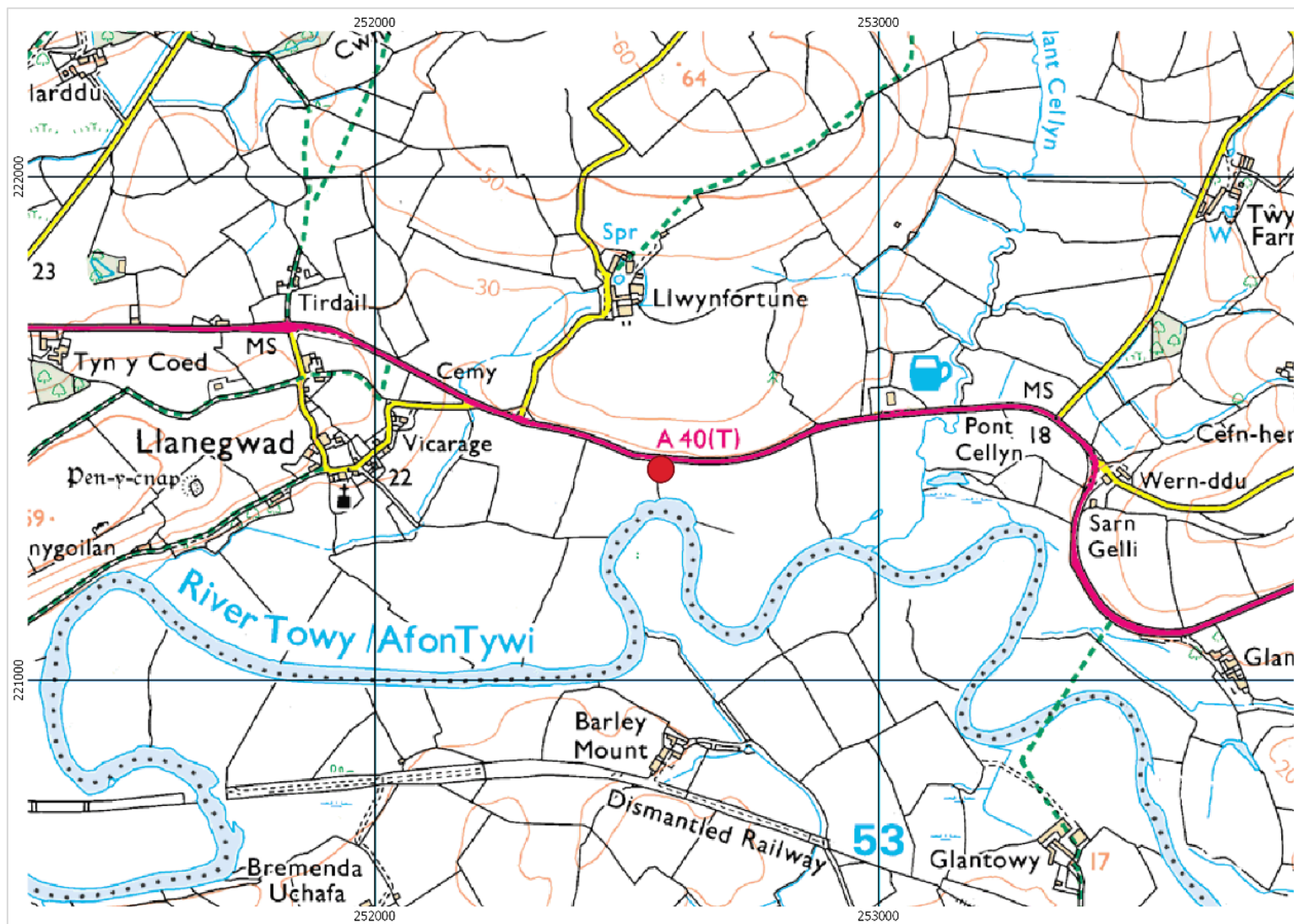


Figure 1: Site Location (Red marker).

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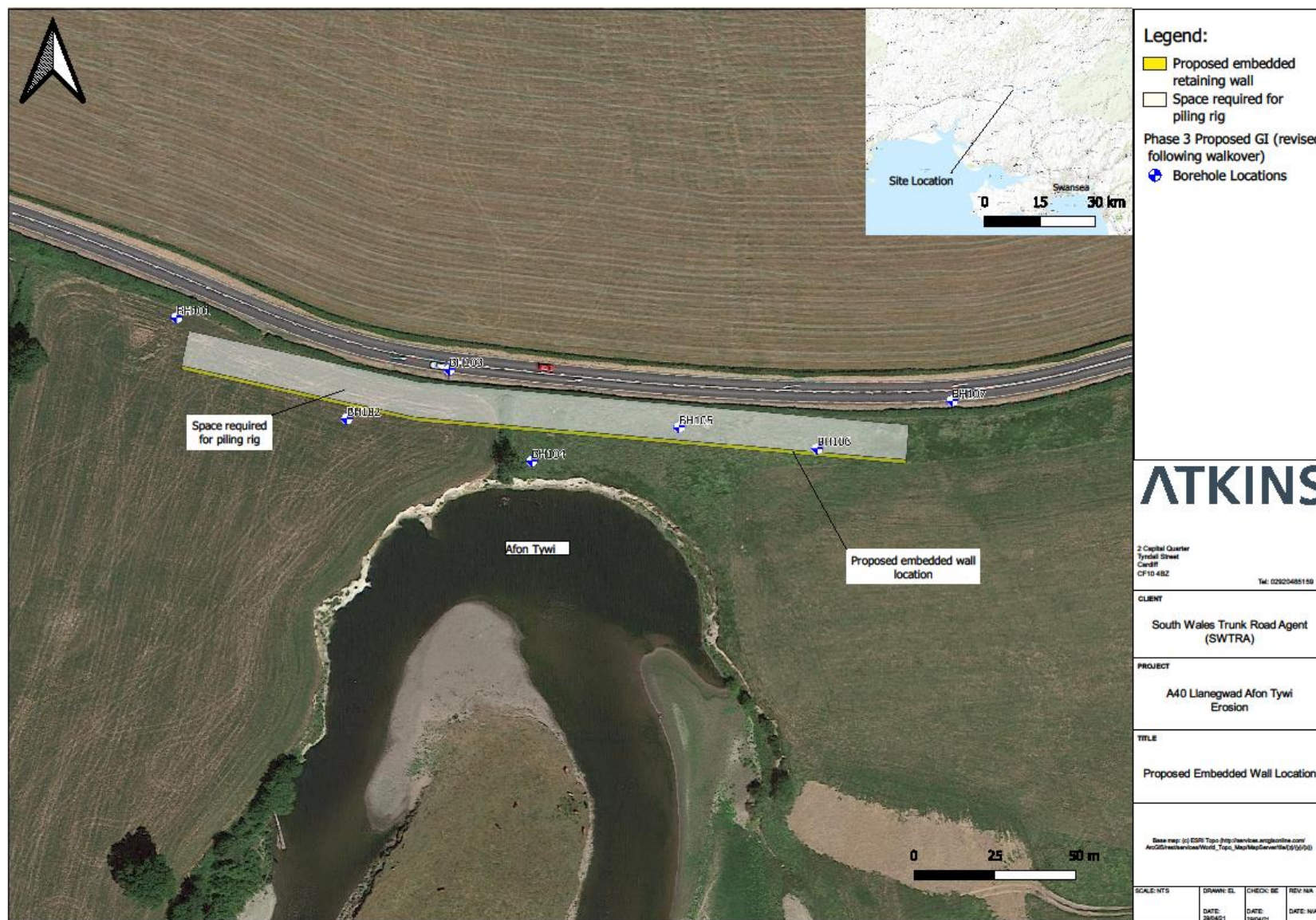


Figure 2: Area proposed for topsoil stripping between the river meander and the A40 (supplied by Atkins).

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 The site is located on the A40 between Carmarthen and Llandeilo. The A40 trunk road follows the edge of the floodplain of the River Tywi. A meander in the river near the village of Llangewad is migrating towards the road. Remedial works are being undertaken to address the risk of the A40 being undercut by the river (Figure 2).
- 2.2 The site is located within the Nantgaredig Derwen Fawr Historic Landscape Character Area.
- 2.3 The superficial deposits are recorded as Alluvium – Clay Silt, Sand and Gravel – deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in environments dominated by rivers. The bedrock geology is recorded as Nantmel Mudstones Formations. A sedimentary rock formed approximately 444 – 490 million years ago in environments dominated by deep seas. (BGS nd)

3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2014).
- 3.1.2 A written scheme of investigation (Appendix I) was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services detailing the proposed archaeological works, which DAT-DM approved in their capacity as advisors to the local planning authority.
- 3.1.3 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out following the Recording Manual² used by DAT Archaeological Services. Written, drawn and photographic records were maintained throughout the watching brief. All archaeological contexts encountered were recorded and assigned a unique context number.
- 3.1.4 The watching brief monitored the groundworks associated with the excavation of four trial pits. These were mechanically excavated using a tracked excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. All archaeological deposits revealed during the groundworks were examined and recorded to an appropriate level.

3.2 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving

- 3.2.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork will be collated into a site archive structured following specifications in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2011), and procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 3.2.2 The results of the fieldwork have been assessed in local, regional and wider contexts. The report includes a desk-based research element to ensure that the site is placed within its wider archaeological context.

² DAT Archaeological Services have adopted the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available on-site for inspection if required.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- 4.1 The first site visit by an archaeologist was made on the 12th of October 2021. During this visit the preparation of a compound area at the western end of the site was monitored. This work included the removal of topsoil (approx. 0.20m thick) across an area measuring 35m x 35m at the western end of the site. This revealed an orange-brown, silty clay subsoil (Photos 1 – 2). No features or deposits of archaeological significance were observed during the ground reduction works in this area. Frequent sherds of 19th/20th century glass and pottery were present throughout the topsoil (Photo 3).
- 4.2 The following day an archaeologist attended the site again, but left, as no groundworks were taking place. Upon arrival to monitor excavation of the track the following day (14th October), it was apparent that a section of track had been excavated during the intervening period and had begun to be infilled with stone (Photo 4). Where the track had not been infilled the archaeologist checked for any evidence of archaeological remains or deposits. Although the area had been tracked over no evidence was observed. During this site visit the archaeologist was able to monitor the stripping of topsoil in the area for the piling rigging. This was a large open area c.20m x 20m. The topsoil was removed revealing an orange-brown, silty clay subsoil (Photo 5). No evidence of significant archaeological remains or deposits were recorded during this monitoring.
- 4.3 On the 19th October 2021, the archaeologist returned to site to watch the eastern half of groundworks. Again, some excavation had taken place in the intervening period which had been tracked over and subjected to heavy rain (Photo 6). The area was walked over, and no evidence of archaeological remains were observed.
- 4.4 A site visit was agreed for October 25th, 2021, to monitor the topsoil strip on the east side of the river meander. Upon arrival in the morning the attending archaeologist was informed that the stripping had already been completed and no more would be happening that day.
- 4.5 After this last site visit over approximately 50 – 70% of the topsoil stripping had been completed. Following discussions with DAT-DM, it was agreed that no further watching brief was required.



Photo 1: Topsoil stripping the compound area. View north.



Photo 2: Compound area (view southwest).



Photo 3: A selection of the 19th/20th century glass and pottery present throughout the topsoil within the compound area.



Photo 4: A section of track excavated and infilled with stone.



Photo 5: Area for piling rig after topsoil stripping. View north.



Photo 6: Groundworks towards the eastern half of the site.

5. SOURCES

Published

BGS. nd. *Geology of Britain viewer*. [online] available at
<<https://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>> accessed 10.01.2022

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

CIfA. 2014. *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Reading, Chartered Institute of Archaeologists

CIfA. 2021. Code of conduct: professional ethics in archaeology (2021 revision). Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

DAT. nd. *Historic Landscape Characterisation, 191 Nantgaredig-Derwen* [online] available at
<<https://dyfedarchaeology.org.uk/HLC/HLCTowy/Towyvalleymap.htm#191>> accessed 09.02.2022

Database

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

APPENDIX I:

**A40 RIVER TYWI – TOPSOIL STRIPPING:
WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI or specification) has been prepared by DAT Archaeological Services in response to a request from Atkins to provide an archaeological watching brief during topsoil stripping on the River Tywi.
- 1.2 Specifically, the works will take place between Carmarthen and Llandeilo on the A40 trunk road that runs along the edge of the floodplain of the River Tywi (Figure 1). A meander in the river near the village of Llanegwad is migrating towards the road. The works are being undertaken to address the risk of the A40 road being undercut by the river (Figure 2).
- 1.3 The site is located within the Nantgaredig – Derwen Fawr Historic Characterisation Area that lies across low rolling hills on the north side of the Tywi valley. It consists of large dispersed farms in a landscape of small-to medium-sized fields. Modern linear and nucleated development is concentrated along the A40 road which passes through the area.
- 1.4 This written scheme of investigation outlines the methodology through which DAT Archaeological Services would undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works at the site, which have the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains. This document has been prepared for the client and is specifically prepared for DAT Archaeological Services to undertake the required archaeological works. The WSI cannot be used by any third party.
- 1.5 This specification is in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (CIfA³, 1994, revised 2001 & 2008) and is designed to satisfy a condition recommended on this development (Planning Application No. W/28058) by the archaeological advisors⁴ to Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC).
- 1.6 DAT Archaeological Services has considerable experience of this type of project and always operates to best professional practice. DAT Archaeological Services is the contractual arm of Dyfed Archaeological Trust that 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.
- 1.7 Dyfed Archaeological Trust is a CIfA Registered Organisation.
- 1.8 All permanent staff of DAT Archaeological Services are CSCS registered.

³ Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

⁴ Dyfed Archaeological Trust-Development Management (DAT-DM).

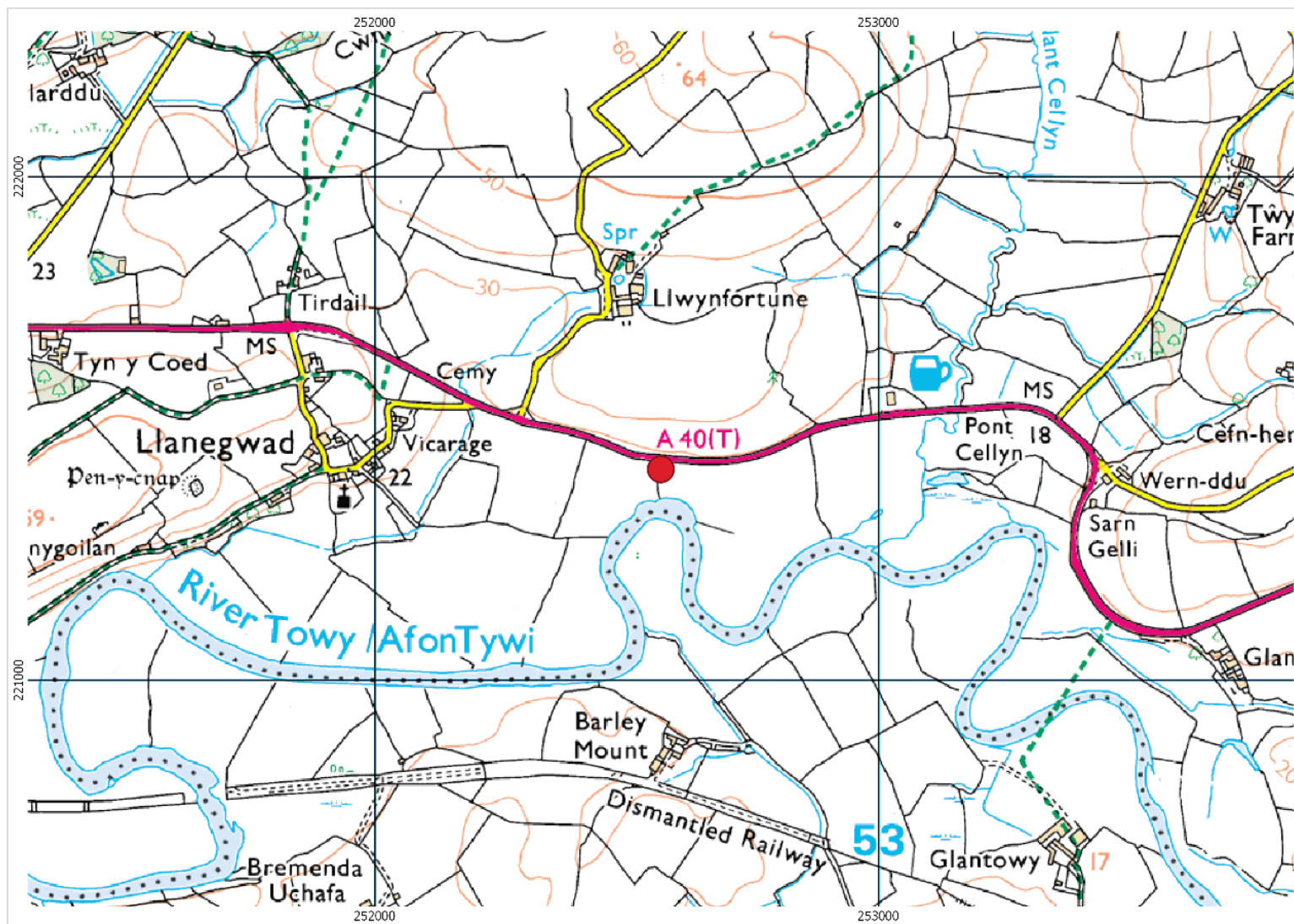


Figure 1: Approximate location of site location marked in red.

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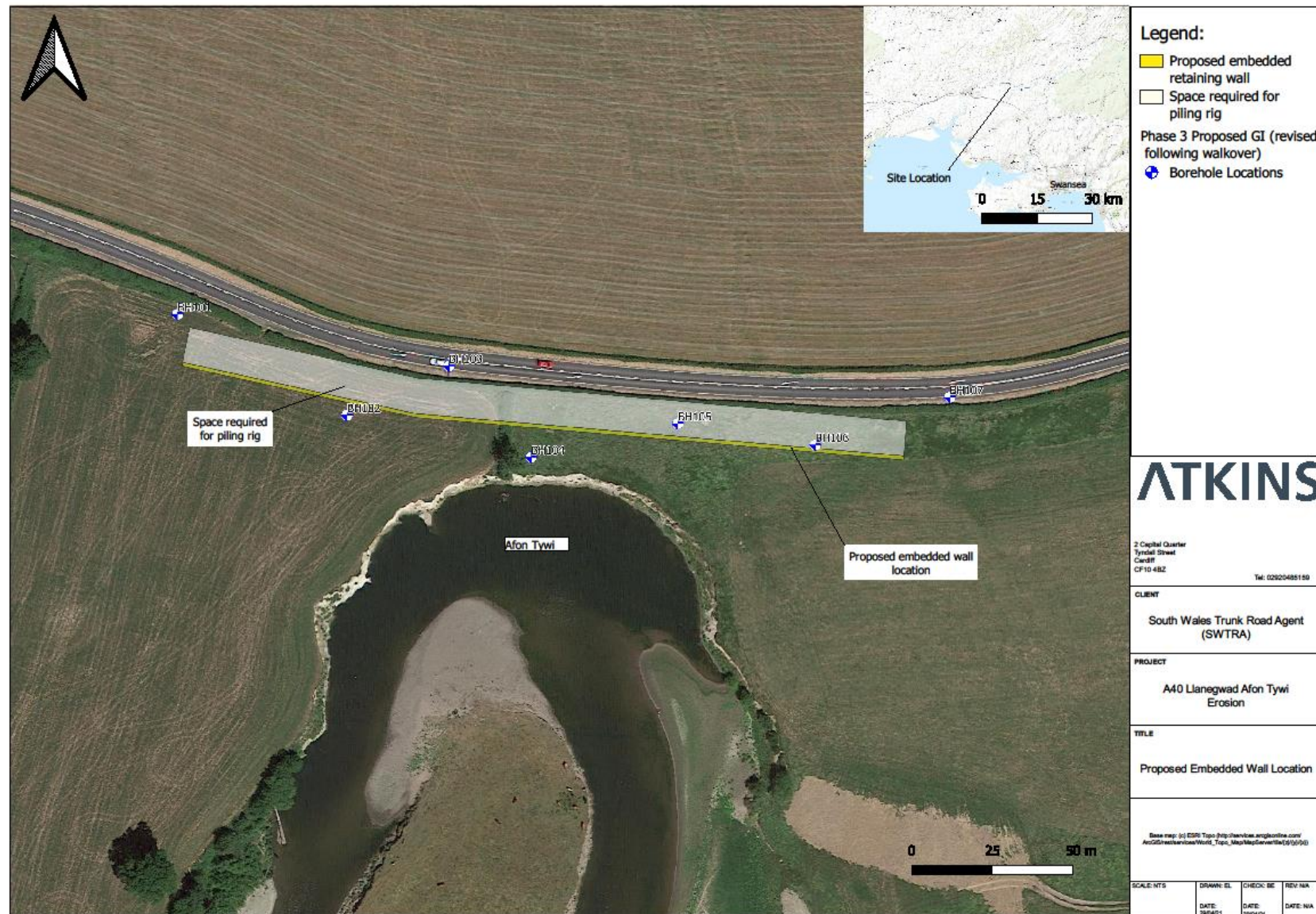


Figure 2: Area proposed for topsoil stripping between river meander and A40 road (Supplied by Atkins).

2. WATCHING BRIEF

2.1 The definition of archaeological watching brief, taken from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA S&G: AWB) is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.

2.2 The purpose of a watching brief, as laid down in the CIfA S&G AWB is:

- to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works;
- to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment.

2.3 This document provides a scheme of works for:

Archaeological attendance and recording during groundworks associated with the proposed topsoil stripping on the River Tywi between Carmarthen and Llandeilo near the village of Llanegwad. An archaeologist will be needed on site during all groundworks which have the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains. A report shall be prepared on the results of the watching brief, and an archive created of all finds, records, photographs and plans created by this mitigation strategy.

3. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

3.1 Provision of a WSI to outline the methodology by which DAT Archaeological Services will undertake the watching brief.

3.2 To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.

3.3 To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.

3.4 To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.

3.5 To produce an archive and report of any results.

4. FIELDWORK

4.1 An archaeologist will be present during the topsoil stripping within the area between the river meander and the A40 road (Figure 2).

4.2 The attending archaeologist will observe the surface of the stripped areas (and spoil heaps) for features and finds. Should areas of archaeology be identified, these will be hand cleaned and an assessment of the remains

made. Any archaeological features or deposits revealed during the watching brief will be examined and recorded to an appropriate level⁵.

- 4.3 The archaeologist will have the power to stop earth moving machines if potential archaeological remains are revealed. Such areas should then be defined and investigated by the archaeologist, either by hand or through use of machines under full archaeological supervision. These areas must not be tracked over or further disturbed until archaeological recording has been completed. It will be possible for the development to continue in those areas where no archaeological remains have been revealed. It may be necessary to demarcate such areas and prevent vehicles moving across them until the archaeology has been appropriately dealt with. Additional archaeologists may be required to assist with the recording depending on the significance of the remains identified.
- 4.4 All groundworks where there is a potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains should be undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket to create as level and clean a surface as possible, to enable quick archaeological reconnaissance of the excavated areas to determine if any significant archaeological remains are present.
- 4.5 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits will conform to best current professional practice and be carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual⁶ used by DAT Archaeological Services. Significant archaeological features or deposits will be drawn at a suitable scale (no less than 1:20) and photographed in an appropriate format.
- 4.6 All archaeologically significant finds will be retained and, where possible, related to the contexts from which they derived. Finds will be temporarily stored by DAT Archaeological Services in stable conditions. All finds, except those deemed to be Treasure, will remain the property of the landowner.
- 4.7 Under the 1996 Treasure Act, "treasure" can be summarised as:
- Any object other than a coin containing at least 10% gold or silver and at least 300 years old;
 - Any prehistoric assemblage of base metal;
 - Coins found together which contain 10% gold or silver (but no single coins) and groups of at least 10 coins of other metals, provided they are at least 300 years old;
 - Any object found associated with treasure except unworked natural objects; and
 - Any object which would have been Treasure Trove before the 1996 Act but not covered above.
- 4.8 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the development, or that archaeological remains of high significance are exposed, DAT Archaeological Services shall have the power to halt any ground works and shall inform the site agent/project manager and the curatorial officer and prepare a written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the curatorial officer, DAT Archaeological Services shall, if required, implement on behalf of the Client a contingency scheme for salvage excavation of affected archaeological features. In these instances

⁵ It is important that to ensure professional and appropriate recording adequate time must be made available to the visiting archaeologist to record any archaeological features or deposits exposed following the topsoil strip.

⁶ DAT Archaeological Services have adopted the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available on-site for inspection if required.

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

- 4.9 Should any human remains be encountered the District Coroner's Office and the Police will be notified immediately. All human remains will, where possible, be left *in situ*. If preservation *in situ* is not possible all statutory permissions will be obtained in writing before removal begins.

5. POST-FIELDWORK REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

- 5.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork will be collated into a site archive structured in accordance with the specifications in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2007), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 5.2 The results of the fieldwork will be assessed in local, regional and wider contexts. The report will include a desk-based research element to ensure that the site is placed within its wider archaeological context.
- 5.3 A report that is fully representative of the results of the fieldwork will be prepared and four copies will be sent to the client for dissemination to all relevant parties.
- 5.4 A summary of the project results, excluding any confidential information, may be prepared for wider dissemination (e.g. Archaeology in Wales and special interest and period-specific journals).
- 5.5 The project archive, including all artefacts and ecofacts (excepting those which may be deemed to be Treasure Trove) will be deposited with an appropriate body following agreement with the landowner.
- 5.6 A copy of the final report will be deposited with the regional HER within six months of the completion of the project.

6. STAFF

- 6.1 This project will be managed by Fran Murphy, Head of DAT Archaeological Services.
- 6.2 The fieldwork will be undertaken by members of DAT Archaeological Services, with support of other members of the team if surveying or further archaeological assistance is needed.

7. QUALITY ASSURANCE

- 7.1 The appointed Archaeological Contractor should have considerable experience of undertaking all categories of archaeological fieldwork and always operate to best professional practice; adhering to CIfA guidelines where appropriate. The appointed Archaeological Contractor should be a Registered Organisation with CIfA and all staff should abide by their code of conduct and adhere to their relevant standards and guidance.
- 7.2 The appointed Archaeological Contractor should operate robust internal monitoring procedures that ensure that the standard of each project is maintained from commencement to completion.

8 MONITORING

- 8.1 The fieldwork may need to be monitored by Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management (DAT-DM), in their role as archaeological advisors to the planning authority, who should be provided access to the site at any time during the works.

9. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 9.1 All permanent members of staff should be CSCS registered.
- 9.2 Service information should be obtained prior to the start of the works.
- 9.3 A health and safety risk assessment must be prepared prior to the works commencing to ensure that all potential risks are minimised.
- 9.4 The site staff will go through the health and safety risk assessment prior to works commencing and all site staff must sign the document to confirm that they have read, understood and will comply with the document.
- 9.5 All site inductions, H&S procedures, H&S constraints and site rules of the client or any on-site contractor should be made known to the archaeological staff at the start of the works.
- 9.6 All relevant health and safety regulations must be followed, including compliance with Welsh Government guidelines on working practices during the current Covid-19 Pandemic, and guidance issued by CIfA.
- 9.7 CIfA recommends that ROs should ensure that their own risk assessments and local site operating procedures take account of [Prospect's COVID-19 site working advice](#) (updated 4 May).. If the site cannot operate in line with this guidance, it must not open or continue to stay open.
- 9.8 The project risk assessment should detail the precautions put in place to reduce the spread of Covid-19 coronavirus during fieldwork.
- 9.9 Safety helmets, high visibility vests and boots are to be used by all site personnel as necessary. The developer will make all site staff aware of any other PPE that may be required.
- 9.10 Working with machinery: all staff must ensure that their presence on site is communicated to all relevant site contractor staff, especially the machine operator. The archaeologist observing the topsoil stripping by machine will establish a safe working procedure with the machine operator at the start of work. This will include explaining the purpose of the works itself and the method by which the trenches shall be machined. This will include ensuring that the machine driver is aware that topsoil is stripped carefully to avoid disturbing archaeology. This will also include discussing the methodology for safe working, ensuring that no machining is done without an archaeologist being present.

10. ARBITRATION

- 10.1 Any dispute or disagreement arising out of a contract in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision to the Chartered Institute of Archaeologist's arbitration scheme.