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DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST LTD

REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED FOUL  
WATER SEWER, CLARACH BAY/FOUL WATER RISING MAIN TO BOW STREET,  
CARDIGANSHIRE (CON94/17)

DAT PRN 28245

Client: Dwr Cymru

Project Officer: Neil Ludlow

Report by: Neil Ludlow

Dated: 30 September 1994

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WATER SEWER, CLARACH BAY/FOUL WATER RISING MAIN TO BOW STREET,  
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## 1.0 RECOMMENDATIONS (prepared by Curatorial Section)

1.1. The Report constitutes a full and comprehensive assessment of the archaeology and landscape significance of the route corridor of the Foul Water Rising Main scheme.

1.2. The most sensitive area is that between sites 5412 and 28235, i.e. where the rising main approaches and traverses Llangorwen village, principally because of the uncertainty over the possible extent of the Bronze Age cremation cemetery.

1.3. It is therefore RECOMMENDED that Dwr Cymru commission an archaeological watching brief on that part of the scheme.

1.4. It is further RECOMMENDED that every effort be made to keep works, and access to works, within the mains' fenced corridor in the approaches to and transit through Llangorwen, to minimise the disturbance of previously undisturbed ground.

Heather James, B.A., F.S.A.  
Principal Archaeological Officer (Curatorial)

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

Details of proposed foul water sewers in Clarach Bay and a proposed foul water rising main to Bow Street, Cardiganshire, were forwarded by Teifion Rees of Dwr Cymru to Dyfed Archaeological Trust for comment on 28 August 1994.

Following an initial assessment of the scheme by the Curatorial Section of Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Dwr Cymru were advised of the need for a detailed archaeological desk-top assessment of the project to be prepared in order for detailed mitigatory measures to be drafted. Subsequently, in a letter dated 1 September 1994, Dwr Cymru confirmed that it wished the Trust to undertake the detailed assessment of the scheme.

This report, prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust's Field Section, is intended to provide Dwr Cymru with sufficient information to assess the likely impact of the proposed works upon the archaeological resource and to take this into account as a material consideration in the determination of appropriate mitigatory measures.

The Trust's Curatorial Section provided a standard brief for this report and will advise Dwr Cymru on its findings and recommend further action if deemed necessary.

## 2.1 Methodology; content and scope of archaeological assessment

The primary stage of assessment of the archaeological implications of any scheme involves consultation of Dyfed Archaeological Trust's Sites and Monuments Record for the area affected by the proposed scheme.

Dyfed Archaeological Trust's Sites and Monuments Record is designated as a County Sites and Monuments Record in the Welsh Office Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16).

Consultation of the Sites and Monuments Record will establish whether any known sites or monuments are affected by the scheme. However it is important to appreciate that the Record is not and cannot ever be a complete record of all traces of human activity in the landscape. It is rather a record of past archaeological work.

Consultation of the Record is therefore followed up by a rapid search of relevant map and documentary sources, both published and manuscript. All assessments carried out by Dyfed Archaeological Trust contain a full list of sources consulted.

All available aerial photographic collections held by the Trust are consulted and, if judged necessary, collections held by other bodies will be consulted. If sites or landscapes with special interest are affected the Trust would wish to consult the appropriate period or site type specialists or societies.

All desk-top assessments involve a field visit or visits to the scheme area by a professional archaeologist to check whether any previously unknown sites or monuments are affected by the scheme and to assess the overall landscape history of the area.

## 2.2 List of sources consulted

### unpublished

'Cyfoeth-y-Brenin township in the parish of Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn', Tithe map and apportionment, 1845.

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Sites and Monuments Record.

National Library of Wales, NLW Cards. D., 'Plan of Exchange of Lands at Clarach', August 1783.

National Library of Wales, RM A106 'A Survey of Nantcollen, Glan-y-mor and Tan-y-Voel farms in the Parish of Llanbadarn Vawr, the Property of Mrs Pryse', surveyed by Rd. Davies, n.d.

National Library of Wales, RM A120 'A Map of Part of Rhoskellan Estate in the Parish of Llanbadarnfawr, Cardiganshire, belonging to...', by Thos. Lewis, 1769.

National Library of Wales, RM B86 'Cwmcynfil and Rhoskellan Estates, in the Parishes of Llanbadarn Fawr and Llanfihangel Geneurglyn, belonging to Matthew Davies', n.d.

National Library of Wales, RM C22 'A Survey of the Gogerthan Demesne and such of the Farms as adjoin thereto... the property of Mrs Pryse', by Rd. Davies, 1787.

Ordnance Survey, 'Original Survey Drawings', sheet 324, 1823, revised 1831-3, 2" to the mile.

### aerial photographs

Copies held in the National Monuments Record, RCAHM, Aberystwyth

(RAF)

106G/UK/1457 4069-4074 (1946)

CPE/UK/2509 5082-5083 (1948)

540/40 5054-5055 (1948)

541/545 4061-4065 (1951)

543/887 0034 (1960)

### published

Briggs, C. S., 1994, *The Bronze Age in Cardiganshire*, Cardiganshire County History.

Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 First Edition, Cardiganshire, Sheets VI.5, VI.6, 1888.

Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 Second Edition, Cardiganshire, Sheets VI.5, VI.6, 1905.

Ordnance Survey, 1837, *Index to Tithe Survey*, Old Series, Sheet 59, 1" to a mile.

Rees, W., 1932, *South Wales and the Borders in the XIV Century*, NW Sheet.

Smith, P., 1988, *Houses of the Welsh Countryside*.

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGY

#### 3.1 Summary

The the proposed route largely runs alongside the Afon Clarach, straightened during the 1780s (28247), passing through the river flats of the N bank. The geology adjacent to the river comprises alluvial silt, with an area of higher ground - the valley slope - running S of the unclassified Bow Street-Clarach Bay road. E of Llangorwen the former loops of the river are easily identified on the ground; to the W, however, this is not the case though they are clearly visible on aerial photographs.

The entire assessment area is now rough pasture, with some waste ground to the W; an area at the extreme W end has been encroached upon by the neighbouring caravan park. It is apparent from 18th century estate maps (National Library of Wales, RM A106, RM A120, RM B86, RM C22), however, that some arable was practised on the drier ground.

#### *Prehistoric*

Llangorwen churchyard is built over a possible Bronze Age cremation cemetery (10451). This has not been confirmed by any recent work and the vicinity of the church is thus of great archaeological sensitivity.

#### *Medieval*

Rees, 1932, depicts the area in the medieval period as common meadow land in the Manor of Lampadervawr, centred on Aberystwyth. Llangorwen is the site of a medieval settlement 'Cronwern(ew)' (10913), with a chapel (12439) and possibly a mill (28237). The chapel will have been a chapel-of-ease to Llanfihangel Geneu'r Glyn; until recently the surrounding area formed the township of Cyfoeth-y-brenin within that parish.

Chapel and settlement may have lain on the site of, or immediately N of the present church, on the proposed route.

#### *Post-medieval*

The settlement at Llangorwen, as it is today, is entirely the product of the 19th century. During the 18th century it consisted of only a smithy (28238), an 'old' (disused?) mill (28237) and several cottages. On contemporary estate maps (*ibid.*) it is not even given a name.

By the 18th century the village site and the land to the E had become part of the Rhoscellan estate, while the W area had been swallowed up by the extensive Gogerddan estate.

#### *19th-20th centuries*

The present church at Llangorwen, 'All Saints' (5412), and the



vicarage (19216) belong to the later 19th century. It is now the centre of the civil parish of Llangorwen, a name not derived from the church dedication but presumably a corruption of the medieval name 'Cronwern(ew)'. To this day the settlement is also referred to as simply 'Clarach'.

With the exception of those formed by the river, field boundaries have changed little since the 18th century.

### 3.2 Register of archaeological sites and areas of archaeological interest

The reference numbers in the following catalogue are those allocated in the Dyfed Sites and Monuments Record. These numbers are shown on the following annotated engineer's maps.

28247. (SN 58 83; 59 83) Afon Clarach. The Afon Clarach W of Llangorwen was straightened and 'canalised' during the 1780s, having previously followed a meandering course (National Library of Wales, NLW Cards. D., 1783). E of Llangorwen some straightening has also occurred, a loop immediately E of the church and depicted on National Library of Wales RM B86 still being traceable on the ground.

28234. (SN 5925 8379) Footbridge. A footbridge across the Afon Clarach is marked on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Sheet VI.5 of 1888 and 1905. It is now gone. No bridge is clearly marked on earlier maps but the adjacent field to the N is named Cae Tan-y-fford on National Library of Wales RM A106 (n.d., late 18th century). It connected 2 fields belonging to Nantcollen farm in the Gogerddan Estate.

28235. (SN 597 839) Cae Glyb. Field name marked on National Library of Wales RM A106 (n.d., late 18th century). Possible 'glebe' element? (see 28233 below). If so, possibly medieval in origin - it predates 19th century church.

28237. (SN 6005 8392) Mill. Possible medieval/early post-medieval mill site. Two buildings are marked in a field called 'Felin Fach' (little mill) on National Library of Wales RM A120 and B86 (1769 and c.1800). They are unlabelled, but the lane leading E of the nearby crossroads is marked 'Old Mill Leats' on the latter map.

The E building survives and is still named 'Felin Fach'. It has been extensively modernised and all openings etc. have been rebuilt. However, it still displays a long, single storey annexe to the E, with a slate gable, likewise modernised.

19216. (SN6018 8392) Llangorwen Vicarage. The vicarage stands at the edge of the rising ground N of the Afon clarach. The main wing is of 3 bays and faces S. Facade with a central door and 2 bay windows on the ground floor, and 3 square headed windows on the first floor. Slate gable roof with 2 end chimneys. Rendered throughout. A 2 storey wing lies at right angles to the N wall, again with a slate gable roof and end chimney. On the E end of the main block is a further 2 storey annexe, parallel with but set back from the facade. Slate gable roof with chimney in S slope - ?kitchen. The E end wall is unrendered and can be seen to be of shale with yellow brick window surrounds. All chimney pots are decorative. The whole is later 19th century, contemporary with church (5412).

28236. (SN 6033 8384) Llangorwen. ?Bronze Age cremations/cremation cemetery. During the construction of the present church an urn containing human bone was apparently encountered on the S side below the E nave gable. More were found during grave digging, in an area 'blackened by fire' (Briggs, 1994, 198 no. 245).

10913. (SN604 838) 'Cronwern(ew)'. Possible site of medieval settlement. Marked, as 'Cronwernew', on Rees, W., 1932 *South Wales and the Borders in the XIV Century*, NW Sheet.

28238. (SN 6025 8392) Smithy. A roadside building is marked 'Smith's shop' on National Library of Wales RM B86, c.1800. Now gone, presumably swept away when All Saints Church (5412) was constructed in the later 19th century.

12439. (SN604 839) ?All Saints Chapel. Possible medieval chapel marked on Rees, W., 1932 *South Wales and the Borders in the XIV Century*, NW Sheet. Nothing further is known although a building is marked to the N of the site of the present church, on National Library of Wales RM B86, c.1800 and absent from later maps. It is, however, unlabelled.

The field in which the present church (5412) stands displays a number of irregularities that are visible on the ground. In particular, immediately N of the churchyard is the W end of an extensive, subrectangular hollow, the W and N edges of which are well defined. While there is nothing further to suggest that the features have archaeological significance, the area is highly sensitive.

5412. (SN6033 8384) All Saints Church, Llangorwen. Church. Not an immediate successor of possible medieval chapel 12439, above - later 19th century. Constructed before 1869 (Briggs, 1994, 198, citing Morgan, 1869, *Aberystwyth Guide*, 100) in a neo-gothic, 'early english', style.

The church is of 2 cell plan, with a nave of 4 bays, defined by stepped buttresses, and a chancel of 2 bays. There is no W door, the church being entered via a S porch. Construction throughout is of large, squared (but unframed) limy shale ashlar. Ornamentation is rather plain. The W gable carries an octagonal bell-cote which continues down the wall face as a turret, separating the 2 simple lancet windows. The 3 E bays in the nave are lit by a simple lancet in either wall. The chancel side walls are unpierced; in the E end wall is a group of 3 simple lancets with a blind quatrefoil opening above the central light. The boiler room and chimney on the N wall are contemporary. Slate roofs.

The churchyard is raised above the surrounding field and defined by a rough shale wall. It features a number of yew trees.

19218. (SN6028 8478) Pont Llangorwen. Bridge. A bridge is shown on the site in 1769. The present structure, however, is different from that shown, and later - probably contemporary with the church, with the churchyard wall of which it is contiguous and of the same construction. Small, narrow humpbacked bridge of roughly squared shale. Simple parapet. Full centred semicircular arch over the Clarach, with a double row of voussoirs, the lower row set back.

7071. (SN6028 8375) Pen-y-bont. Cottage. Smith's 'end-entry, chimney-backing-on-entry type B' cottage in which the main door is to one side of the fireplace (Smith, 1988, 318 fig. 185 b).

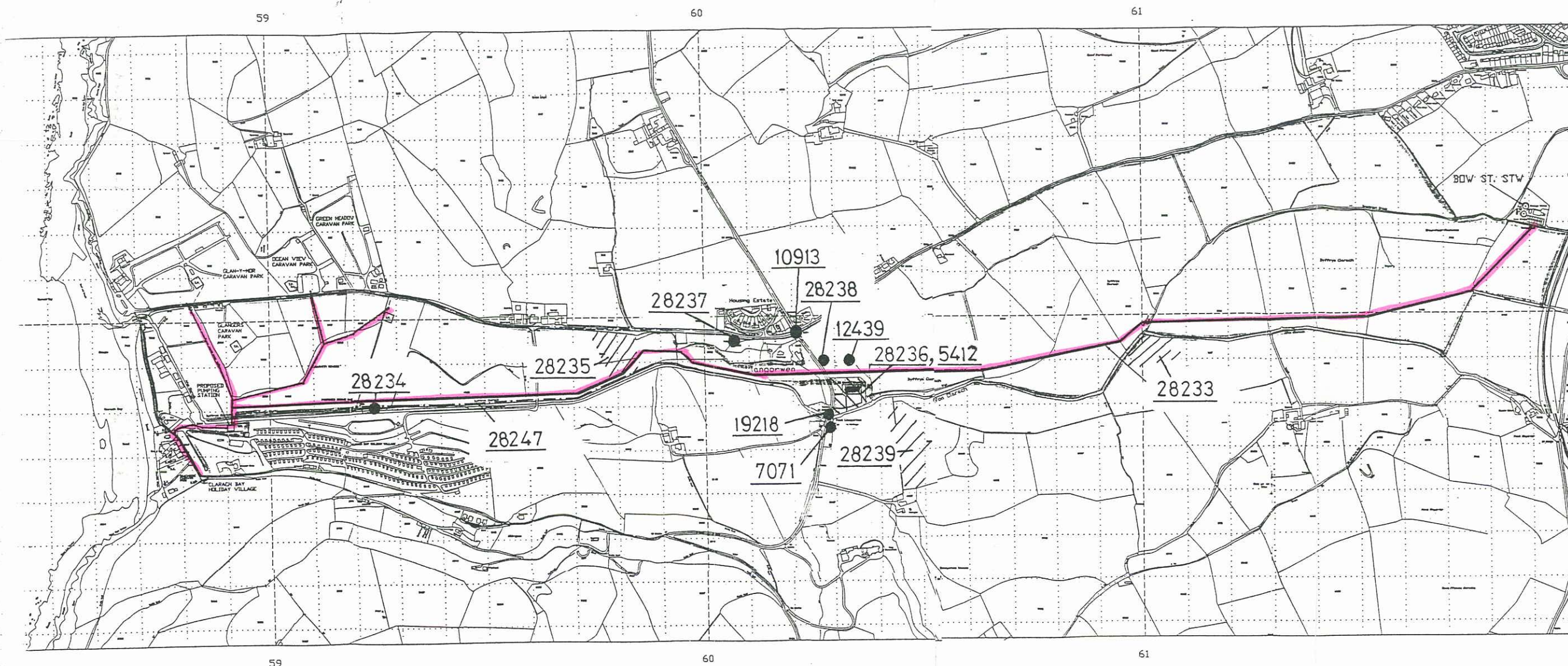
2 cell building of whitewashed shale. In both long walls are 2 square windows, the S of which on the W wall has been converted into a bay window. The fireplace is in the S wall with the square headed door to the E. Slate gable roof. The lean-to along the E wall appears closely contemporary but is not shown by Smith, *op. cit.* The E parapet of bridge (19218) butts against a further lean-to on the N wall.

Undated, ?18th century. Marked, but not named, on National Library of Wales RM A120 and RM B86 (1769 & c.1800).

28239. (SN 604 836) Cae Kiln. Field name, marked on National Library of Wales RM B86 (c.1800). Not observed in the field.

28233. (SN 610 839) Glebe. Field name marked on marked on National Library of Wales RM C22 (1787). The name implies that the field was part of a clergyman's benefice. Possibly associated with the medieval All Saints Chapel (12439) - the name predates 19th century church - or with a further religious establishment.





PROPOSED RISING MAIN - 1:5000 ROUTE PLAN



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Scheme  
CLARACH BAY SEWERAGE

Title  
PRELIMINARY ROUTE OF  
RISING MAIN FROM CLARACH

Scale	1:5000	Drawn	T.A.J.	Checked
Initiated	A.J.N.	Date	JUNE '94	Approved