

19

07/11/94

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST LTD

**REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED
WATERMAIN AT MIDDLE MILL, SOLVA, PEMBROKESHIRE (CON94/16)**

DAT PRN 28246

Client: Dwr Cymru

Project Officers: Neil Ludlow & Pete Crane

Report by: Neil Ludlow

Dated: 7 November 1994

Dyfed Archaeological Trust
Shire Hall
Carmarthen Street
LLANDEILO
Dyfed SA19 6AF
Tel: 0558 823121

The Trust is a limited company (No.1198990) and a registered
charity (No.504616)

REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED WATERMAIN AT MIDDLE MILL, SOLVA, PEMBROKESHIRE (CON94/16)

1.0 RECOMMENDATIONS (prepared by Curatorial Section)

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Methodology; content and scope of archaeological assessment

2.2 List of sources consulted

unpublished

aerial photographs

published

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGY

3.1 Summary

3.2 Register of archaeological sites and areas of archaeological interest

3.3 Annotated engineer's plan at 1:2500 scale indicating areas of archaeological interest

4.0 APPENDIX

4.1 Copy of part of 'The Parish of Whitchurch ', Tithe map and apportionment, 1838.

1.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1. The Report provides a comprehensive description of all the archaeological sites, buildings, historic landscape features and street furniture which should be regarded as constraints and sensitive areas during the construction of the pipeline. It is **recommended** therefore that due note and regard be taken of the contents of the Report by the Scheme Engineer and contractor.

1.2. It is also **recommended** that an archaeological watching brief be carried out, by a professional archaeologist, on the construction of the line between Lower Kingheriot farm down to the vicinity of enclosure 10,414.

1.3. It is **recommended** that a small contingency provision be made for the Scheme engineer to call out a professional archaeologist for advice or recording on a site visit, should any other possible archaeological find, structure or feature be revealed during construction .

Heather James,
Principal Archaeological Officer,
Heritage Management,
Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

08.11.94

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Details of a proposed watermain at Middle Mill, Pembrokeshire, 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

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Sites and Monuments Record.

National Library of Wales, Maps of the Estate of the Lord Bishop of St Davids 1422.7 no.74, 'Middle Mill (Corn Mill), n.d., c.1815.

National Library of Wales, NLW Colln. B.488, 'a Survey of the Lands in Whitechurch...surveyed Dec. 1760', by Harvey John.

Ordnance Survey, 'Original Survey Drawings', sheet 183, 1810, 2" to the mile.

Pembrokeshire Record Office, D/LJ Sales prop. JH 'Sale Plan of Carfega', 1871.

Pembrokeshire Record Office, DB/13/87 'Land between Middle Mill and Llandeloy', n.d.

Preseli District Council, 1984, *Middle Mill Village Plan*.

Rural Surveys Research Unit, 1988, *The Common Lands of England and Wales*

'The Parish of Whitchurch', Tithe map and apportionment, 1838.

aerial photographs

Copies held by Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

(J A Storey & Partners, 1983)
40/83/153-155

(Geonex, 1992)
56/92/141-146

published

Charles, B. G., 1993, *The Place Names of Pembrokeshire*.

Conway Davies, J. (ed.), 1946, *Episcopal Acts Relating to the Welsh Dioceses*, Vol. I.

Green, F. (ed.), 1927, *Menevia Sacra by Edward Yardley, STB*.

James, D. W., 1981, *St Davids and Dewisland: A Social History*.

Jones, F., 1969, *The Lordships and Manors of Dewisland IV*, Journal of the Historical Society of the Church in Wales Vol. 19, No. 24.

Jones, F., 1970, *The Lordships and Manors of Dewsland V*, Journal of the Historical Society of the Church in Wales Vol. 20, No. 25.

Lewis, S., 1833, *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales*.

Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 First Edition, Pembrokeshire, Sheets XV.13, XV.14, 1889.

Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 Second Edition, Pembrokeshire, Sheets XV.13, XV.14, 1907.

Ordnance Survey, 1843, *Index to Tithe Survey*, Old Series, Sheet 40, 1" to a mile.

Owen, H. (ed.), 1892, *The Description of Pembrokeshire by George Owen*, Vol I.

Owen, H. (ed.), 1897, *The Description of Pembrokeshire by George Owen*, Vol II.

RCAHMW, 1925, *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire*, County of Pembroke.

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

Williams, G., 1988, *Recent Work on Rural Settlement in Later Prehistoric and Early Historic Dyfed*, The Antiquaries Journal Vol. LXVIII, Part 1.

Willis-Bund, J. W. (ed.), 1902, *The Black Book of St Davids*.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGY

3.1 Summary

The SW end of the route begins at the pumping station, and follows the unclassified Solva - Middle Mill road for the first $\frac{1}{4}$ of its length. It crosses open country for a short distance, but the E half runs along the unclassified Middle Mill - Kingheriot road. The stretches of trench along the road will have little impact on any archaeology, as they will largely cut through road make-up.

The route landscape is dominated by the narrow, steep-sided valley of the Afon Solfach, which flows S entering the sea at Solva to the S. The valley sides are largely rough pasture and waste, partly common land (14064). To the E of the valley is mainly a patchwork of large regular pasture. However, the proposed route itself lies in an area of narrower field strips that are possibly a relic of a medieval open field (10445). In the assessment area the tithe schedule lists mainly pasture and meadow.

Prehistoric

There is not a great deal of evidence for the prehistoric period along the proposed route. The neolithic chambered tomb at Kingheriot (2750) was destroyed in the 19th century; however, the site lies just S of the proposed route. In the course of this study a possible small defended enclosure from the Iron Age was recognised on aerial photographs (10414).

Medieval

Throughout the medieval period Middle Mill was regarded as part of the vill of Solva, in the lordship of Pebidiog, directly controlled by the bishops of St Davids. The parish of Whitchurch within which the area lies was assessed as a part of 'Welsh Hundred', the demesne of the bishops, and the parish church was formerly a chapelry of the Cathedral under the patronage of the precentor and chapter. Moreover, the cursal prebends of the cathedral were divided between Whitchurch and St Davids (Owen, 1897, 289-301). The area's links with the cathedral and chapter were to remain strong until recent times.

The vill of Solva, and its corn mill (ie Middle Mill), are recorded in 'The Black Book of St Davids', a survey of the lands of the bishopric made in 1326. '*Adam de Solva (and) Jevan ap Adam...hold 2 bovates of land (at Solva) paying yearly 3s 5d at Michaelmas.*' Among services owed was '*suit at the mills of St Davids, Solva and Pwllcarrog*' (Willis-Bund, 1902, 49-53).

During the post-medieval period various lands of the bishopric were sold off for cash. In the 17th century 2500 acres of land including Middle Mill were sold by the bishopric to Humphrey Hill,

a mercer of the City of London, for £2500 (James, 1981, 145). Most of it was land leased to families figuring prominently as canons and vicars choral at St Davids Cathedral (Green, 1927, 287-335).

Apart from the mill itself (4397, below) there is little structural evidence for the medieval period. However, landscape features may have their origins in the middle ages. A system of long narrow fields in the E part of the assessment area (10445) may represent the later enclosure of a medieval open field; the tithe map for Whichchurch parish, 1838, shows that a now enclosed field a little to the N of the route was, as late as the 19th century, still an open field allocated as strips. In addition, 2 blocks of common land (14000 and 14064) may be medieval in origin.

Post-medieval

Most of the sites listed below belong to the post-medieval period. Corn mill (4397) continued to operate, and still retains its water wheel, while some industrial continuity is represented by the siting of an early 20th century mechanised woollen mill (4600), still in production, next to it. In addition, both granite quarrying and gravel extraction occurred in the area in the 18th-19th centuries. A major factor in the industrial and commercial development of Middle Mill was the growth of Solva as a seaport in the late 18th-early 19th centuries (Lewis, 1833).

Most of the structural post medieval evidence is, however, in the form of fair sized but compact farmsteads, the homes of tenant farmers. The landscape in this area changed considerably between the tithe survey for Whichchurch parish of 1838 and the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 First Edition of 1889, particularly the field boundaries and tracks. The relict open field N of the assessment area has been noted above; many further field boundaries were established after 1838. The present system of roads and tracks was very poorly defined, Middle Mill Common (14064), for instance, appearing to be a right of way in its entirety. Few buildings are depicted at Middle Mill on the tithe map, whereas in contrast Lower Kingheriot farm (29525) formed the centre of a minor nucleation around a square or green. See Appendix 4.1 for a copy of the tithe map.

One further interesting feature of the tithe schedule is the amount of property in and around Middle Mill owned by the Trustees of, respectively, the Baptist, the Presbyterian and the Independent Chapel. Middle Mill had its own Baptist chapel by 1833 (Lewis, 1833), and other denominations were well represented in the parish; nonetheless, a great deal of non-conformist acquisition of former episcopal land has occurred here.

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.

14064. (SM 805 257) Middle Mill. Common. Occupies a steep slope down to the Solfach, now much overgrown. Shown on 'The Parish of Whitchurch', Tithe map and apportionment, 1838 as a large open space, of the same area as today but unfenced. Grade 5 land; heath. Gravel extraction has subsequently taken place over much of its area.

This area of common land does not appear to have a name, carries no communal rights and is now under private ownership. Little of its history is known but it may be medieval in origin (Rural Surveys Research Unit, 1988, Pembs. 303).

15649. (SM 8053 2572) Gravel Pit. Disused; still open but now much overgrown. Late 18th-early 19th century; already termed 'old gravel pit' (ie disused) on Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 First Edition, Pembrokeshire, Sheet XV.13, 1889.

16579. (SM 8060 2585) Middle Mill Bridge. Bridge constructed from locally quarried Solva granite. Small bridge with 3 round headed, barrel-vaulted arches; their voussoirs are rough and undressed. The 2 W arches span the Solfach while the E arch lies over corn mill leat (29518) below, which joins the Solfach a little downstream of the bridge. The upper part of the bridge and its parapet are in poor repair but have been subject to recent substandard repointing.

The bridge appears to be a post-1838 construction. The tithe map for Whitchurch parish, 1838, does show a bridge but a little to the N of the present structure, which is depicted in its present location on the Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 First Edition, Pembrokeshire, Sheet XV.13 1889.

29518. (SM 80 25) Corn Mill Leat. A branch of the Solfach is diverted apprx. 200m upstream of the bridge, where a weir directs water into a NW-SE leat. The leat supplies the overshot water wheel at the corn mill (4397); both appear to have their origins in the medieval period.

4600. (SM 5060 5090) Woollen Mill/Cloth Factory. Established in 1907 by the Griffiths family, owners of a carding mill in St Davids, under the name of Thomas Griffiths & Son. For some time the 2 mills worked in partnership, successfully exporting

throughout the United Kingdom (James, 1981, 220). In 1981 the mill was a successful carpet factory and is still operational.

Long N-S building with a lower, and later, aisle to the W. Appears to be masonry construction but is rendered throughout. Steel frame windows in contemporary square openings. All roofs corrugated asbestos sheeting. The core of the building appears early 20th century contemporary with the firm's establishment; it appears on the Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 Second Edition, Pembrokeshire, Sheet XV.13, 1907, presumably newly-built.

4397. (SM 8060 2590) Middle Mill Corn Mill. The present corn millhouse is a long, E-W building forming the N side of an open yard. It has been extensively refurbished but can be seen to be constructed from locally quarried Solva granite. Unrendered. Large quoins. Windows square headed with granite surrounds, possibly original. Slate gable roof. Mid 19th century - it is shown in a slightly different location, and with a different plan, on the tithe map for Whitchurch parish of 1838. The annexe adjoining the S side of the millhouse appears to be contemporary and displays (?inserted) brick pigeon holes in the walls. There is a further detached annexe on the W side of the yard, again probably mid 19th century. A small kiln is also associated with the mill.

The millhouse still features an iron overshot water wheel, probably 1850-1900. However, it is no longer operational.

The mill is thought to be the 'mill at Solva' mentioned in 'The Black Book of St Davids' of 1326 (Willis-Bund, 1902, 49). An earlier mill layout is certainly depicted on the tithe map.

29519. (SM 8060 2590) Letter Box. A Victorian letter box lies in the roadside wall of the corn mill detached annexe.

23771. (SM 8063 2588) Llanwas Arms. Former Public House, established 1838-1889 (depicted on Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 First Edition, Pembrokeshire, Sheets XV.13, 1889, as 'Llanunwas Arms'). Still in business in the 1960s. 'Llanunwas/Llanwas' is the name of a large farmstead in the parish.

Unrendered. A fine 3-bay building with a well proportioned façade, with 5 windows and central 'stable' door. Large quoins. Slate gable roof with decorative ridge tiles. 2 end chimneys.

The proposed route leaves the road, following a trackway E to Clyn Ysptyty farm.

10616. (SM 808 257) Clyn Ysptyty. Farm, the name containing a 'hospital' element normally associated with the medieval Order

of the Knights Hospitaller of St John. Already referred to under this name by 1610 (Charles, 1992, 339).

The proposed route then turns N to cross country, following a N-S stream and hedge boundary up a fairly steep slope. The hedgebank may be of some age, displaying hawthorn, blackthorn and gorse in addition to a number of species of tree; it represents a (later) boundary of possible field system (10445) below. The neighbouring field to the E undulates noticeably; however, the irregularities are without definition and are probably natural.

29520 (SM 8076 2588) Quarry. Disused ?granite quarry in field to W of proposed route, still partly open. Established by 1889 (marked on Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 First Edition, Pembrokeshire, Sheet XV.13, 1889); marked, but not labelled, on the Second Edition of 1907.

10445. (SM 81 26) Field System. The fields S of the unclassified road between Lower Kingheriot and Kingheriot farms show an axial series of S-shaped boundaries which trend roughly N-S over some distance. Short E-W boundaries demarcate small rectangular strip fields. The whole has the appearance of the later enclosure of a medieval open field system but the date of the origin of this pattern at Middle Mill is not known. The hedgebanks are mainly hawthorn.

The tithe map for Whitchurch parish, 1838, shows that a now enclosed field a little to the N of the route was, as late as the 19th century, still an open field allocated as strips. (Appendix 1)

The proposed route returns to follow the unclassified road to Kingheriot farm.

10414. (SM 8077 2603) Earthwork/Parchmark. A substantial earthwork enclosure is clearly visible on aerial photographs (PCNP 40/83/152; 56/92/143). A bank, largely traceable as a parchmark enclosing an area c.20m in diameter, appears to be surrounded by a ditch c.5m wide. The hedgebank to the W of the enclosure curves out to follow the line of the bank. There is a possible circular parchmark, but much smaller and very doubtful, at the N end of the same field.

The earthwork is comparable in size and form with the small defended enclosures of the Iron Age, of which the interior of Pembrokeshire is rich (Williams, 1988); however, they are rare nearer the coast. The proposed route passes along the hedgebank that follows the counterscarp of the S section of the possible ditch, and evidence for the nature of the earthwork may thus be exposed.

29521. (SM 8080 2600) Wellfield and Maes-y-ffynnon. A semi-detached pair of dwellings, first shown on the Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 First Edition, Pembrokeshire, Sheet XV.13, 1889. Both have been much renovated, and display new windows and roofs. Little 19th century fabric survives.

29522. (SM 8090 2610) Dinas-y-fran. Dwelling, marked on the tithe map for Whitchurch parish, 1838. Recently completely renovated, few original details surviving.

29523. (SM 8091 2611) Yr Hafod. Dwelling, marked on the tithe map for Whitchurch parish, 1838, as 'cottage and garden'. The form of the building suggests a possible former longhouse. Single storey, asbestos sheet roof. Renovated.

29524. (SM 8090 2607) The Fold. Dwelling, former smallholding. The long E-W barn/byre is marked on the tithe map for Whitchurch parish, 1838, as part of 'homestead'. Local granite construction, now ruinous. Asbestos sheeting roof.

The present house is first shown on Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 Second Edition, Pembrokeshire, Sheet XV.13, 1907. Rendered, modern windows. Few original details.

2750. (SM 810 261) Kingheriot. Chambered Tomb. Possible site of a chambered tomb from the Neolithic period (New Stone Age). Now gone. RCAHM, 1925, 413 no.1176 describes the site thus '*in the long narrow field which separates the farms of Kingheriot and Lower Kingheriot there stood a small and perfect cromlech until about the year 1850, when it was destroyed.*'

The site of the chambered tomb lies just under 10m S of the proposed route. This is, then, an area of great archaeological sensitivity; the tomb will have been the centre of a complex of neolithic funerary/ritual features.

14000. (SM 809 261) Lower Kingheriot. Common. A small block of common land, now enclosed. Common ownership survives, with rights of sheep pasture. Grade 5 land; heath. Little of its history is known but it may be medieval in origin (Rural Surveys Research Unit, 1988, Pembs. 207).

29525. (SM 8098 2612) Lower Kingheriot. Farm. Farm complex forming 3 sides of an irregular yard. Marked, but not named, on Ordnance Survey, 'Original Survey Drawings', sheet 183, 1810, and in its present location, as 'homestead', on the tithe map for Whitchurch parish, 1838.

The farmhouse (and outbuildings) are constructed from locally quarried Solva granite. It has been little modernised, and is now empty. Rendered. 3 bays; façade with 4 windows and central door, all square headed, the first floor window heads lying just below the eaves. Corrugated asbestos roof. ?18th century. The outbuildings dispaly both iron sheeting and asbestos roofs.

29526. (SM 8120 2615) Kingheriot. Farm. Farm complex around large square yard. First depicted on Ordnance Survey, 'Original Survey Drawings', sheet 183, 1810, as 'Kingharod' and is unchanged in layout from the tithe map for Whitchurch parish, 1838.

The name, 'Kingheriot' (first recorded as 'Kynysherryot' in 1543) is not associated with the medieval rent called heriot, but is probably a contraction of a Welsh word - either 'cynhariad' (warriors) or the personal name 'Cynhorged' (Charles, 1992, 340).

The farmhouse is an imposing late 18th-early 19th century 3-bay structure, constructed from locally quarried Solva granite. The façade is lit by 5 original 8-pane sash windows beneath square heads, with granite surrounds. Central door. The windows in the gable ends may be contemporary. Slate gable roof with plain ridge tiles. 2 masonry end chimneys.

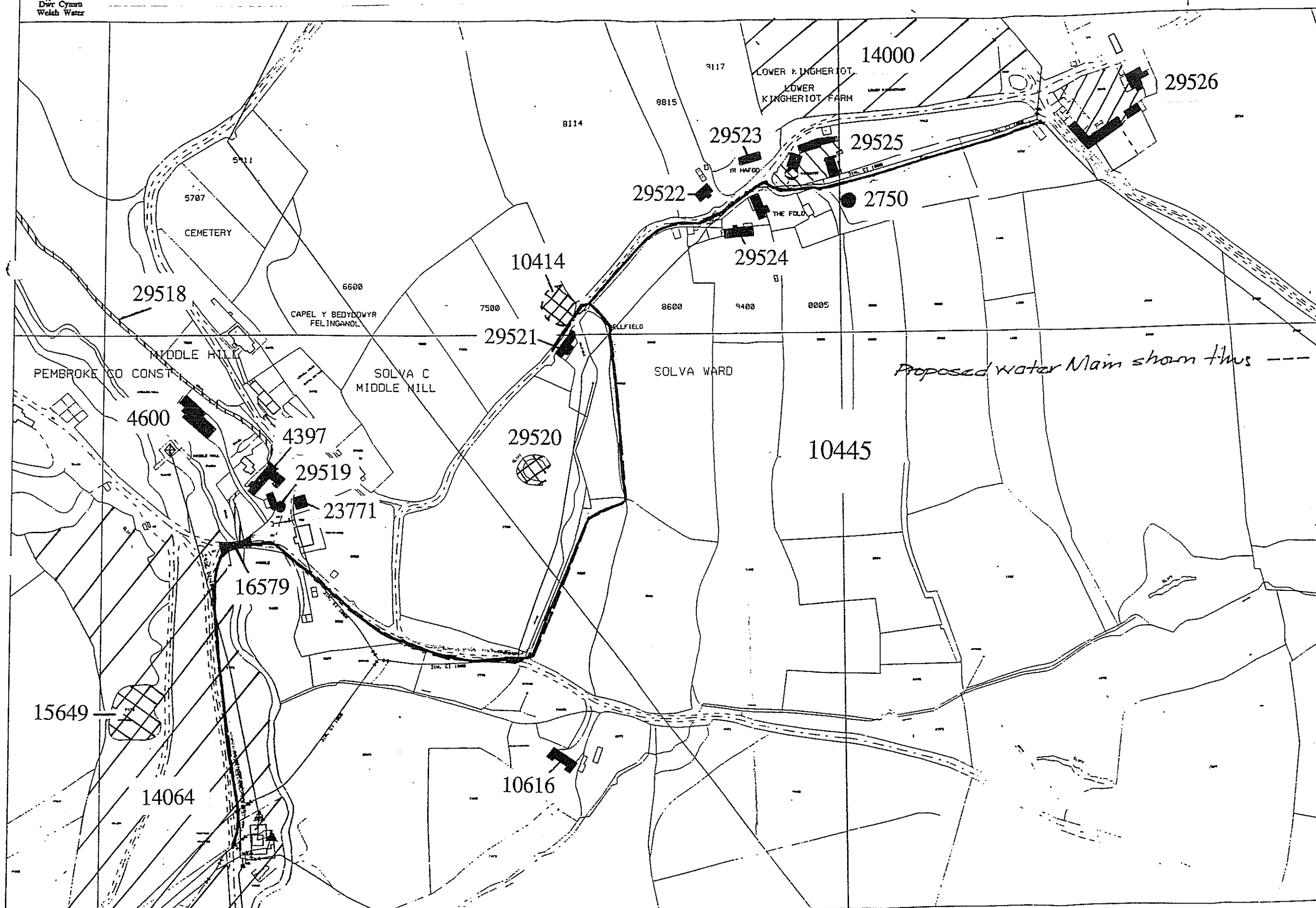
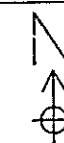
The outbuildings are all modern but appear to follow the line of earlier buildings.



Dŵr Cymru
Welsh Water

3.3 Annotated engineer's plan at 1:2500 scale indicating areas of archaeological interest

JUL 19 1994



KEY

- BEND
- ⊗ SLUICE VALVE
- ⌒ BUTTERFLY VALVE
- └─ END OF PIPE FTNG
- └─ WASHOUT
- ^{PH} HYDRANT
- └^{SP} TAPPINGS

EXACT LOCATIONS OF ALL APPARATUS
TO BE DETERMINED ON SITE.

SCALE: 1:2500



4.1 Copy of part of 'The Parish of Whitchurch', Tithe map and apportionment, 1838.