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DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST LTD

REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED WATERMAIN  
RENEWAL SCHEME FROM NEW MOAT TO RHYD-Y-BROWN PEMBROKESHIRE

17/12/93

Client: Dwr Cymru

Project Officer: S.M.Bishop

Report by: S.M.Bishop

Dated: 17th December 1993

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charity (No.504616)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON THE PROPOSED WATERMAIN RENEWAL SCHEME FROM NEW MOAT  
TO RHYD-Y-BROWN, PEMBROKE SHIRE

1.0 Recommendations (prepared by curatorial section)

1.1 Annotated engineer's plans (drawing nos. 20080795/PFH/1 & 20080795/PFH/2)  
at 1:2500 indicating area of proposed archaeological watching brief (prepared  
by curatorial section)

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Methodology; content and scope of archaeological assessment

2.2 List of specific sources consulted

3.0 Archaeology

3.1 Annotated engineer's plan (drawing no. 20080795/PFH/1) at 1:2500 indica-  
ting areas of archaeological interest.

4.0 Summary

5.0 Appendix

1.0 Recommendations (prepared by curatorial section)

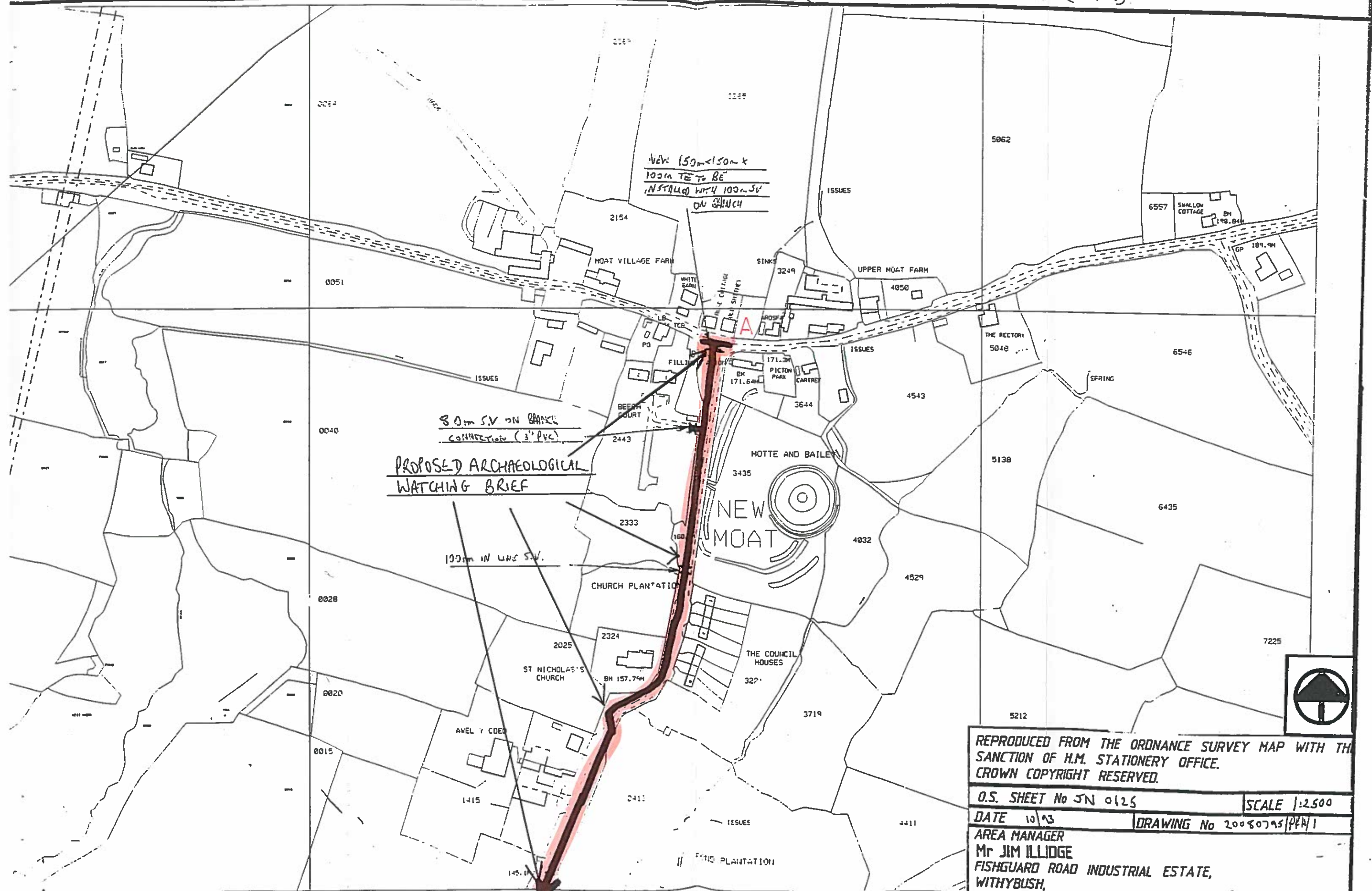
It is recommended that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during the laying of the section of pipeline between points A and B as indicated on the annotated plans below; section 1.1 refers. An opportunity should be afforded to a suitably qualified archaeological practitioner to record archaeologically significant features and recover artifacts of interest.

A report on the archaeological watching brief should be prepared and a copy deposited in the Dyfed Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

*pp. Emyr Morgan*

Mrs.H.James,  
Principal Archaeological Officer (Curatorial)

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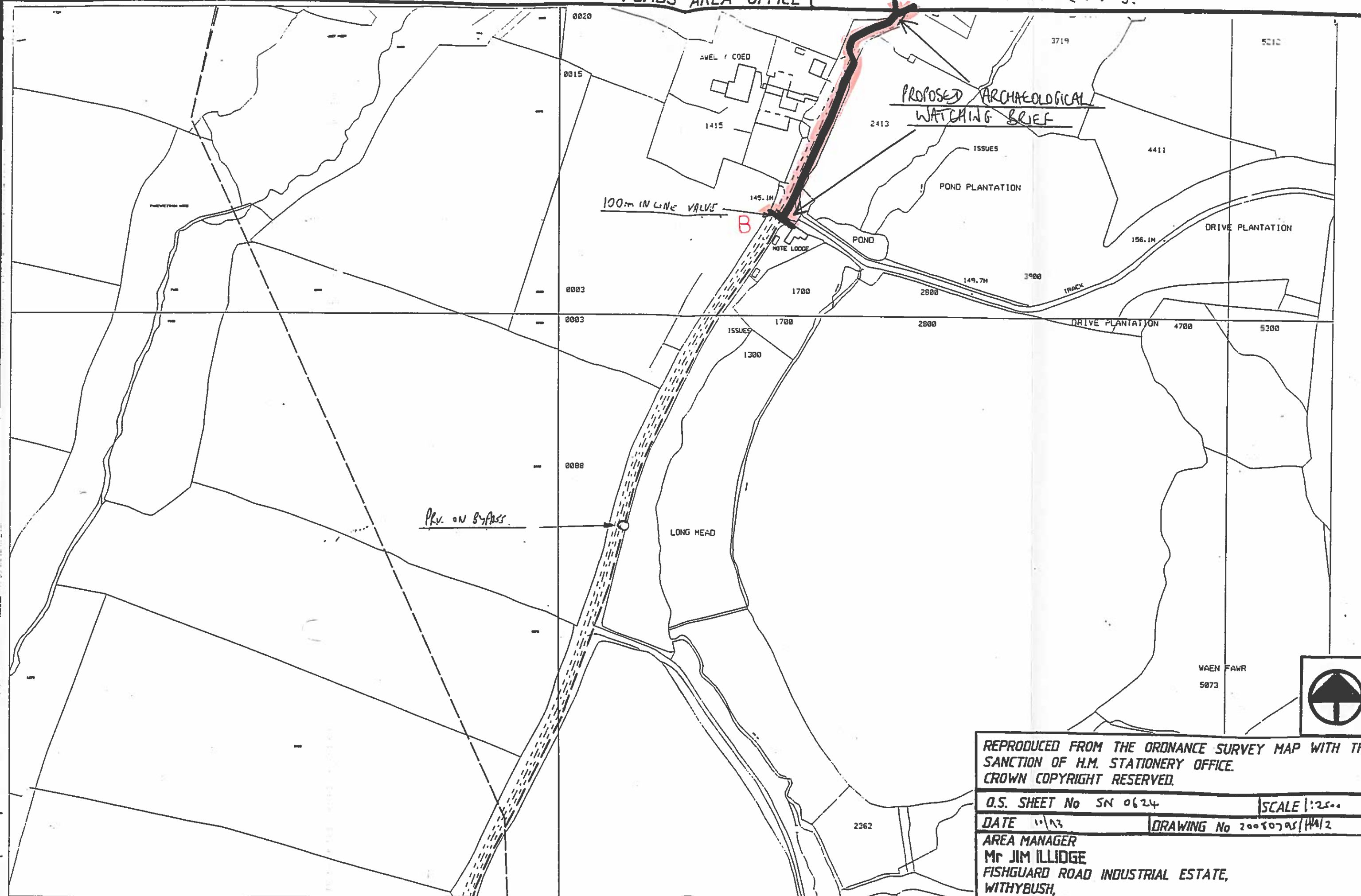


SCALE: 2500:1

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O.S. SHEET No JN 0625	SCALE 1:2500
DATE 10/93	DRAWING No 20080795/PPA/1
AREA MANAGER Mr JIM ILLIDGE FISHGUARD ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, WITHYBUSH, HAVERFORDWEST.	

PREPARED BY



SCALE: 2500:1

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SCALE 1:2500

DATE 11/13

DRAWING No 20050795/HW/2

AREA MANAGER

Mr JIM ILLIDGE

FISHGUARD ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,

WITHYBUSH,

HAVERFORDWEST.

PREPARED BY GS

CHECKED BY

## 2.0 Introduction

Details of a new watermain renewal scheme from New Moat to Rhyd-y-Brown were forwarded by Dwr Cymru's Development Officer to the Trust for comment on 20th September 1993.

Following an initial assessment of the scheme by the curatorial section of the Trust, Dwr Cymru were advised of the need for a detailed archaeological desktop assessment of the project to be prepared in order for detailed mitigatory measures to be drafted. Subsequently, in a letter dated 14th October 1993, Dwr Cymru confirmed that it wished the Trust to undertake the detailed assessment of the scheme.

This report prepared by the 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.

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 specific sources consulted

- (a) Dyfed Archaeological Trust Sites and Monuments Record
- (b) Ordnance Survey 1:2500 series, viz: 1st edition (see section 5.2), 2nd edition and national grid reconstituted plans.
- (c) Tithe map & schedule for New Moat parish (National Library of Wales collection - see section 5.3).
- (d) Original surveyor's drawings at 2" to mile (National Library of Wales collection).
- (e) Published old series 1" to mile mapping including early state (Harry Margery facsimile) and late state (Index to tithe survey 'edition').
- (f) The archaeological implications of redevelopment in the historic towns of South Pembrokeshire District - I.N.Soulsby & D.Jones, Urban Research unit, Department of Archaeology, University College, Cardiff (see section 5.1).
- (g) South Wales and the Border in the 14th century - W.Rees, 1933.
- (h) Place-names of Pembrokeshire - B.G.Charles, 1992.
- (i) Vertical Meridian air photographs.
- (j) Oblique air photographs.

### 3.0 Archaeology

Please refer to plan (section 3.1) below which should be read in conjunction with the following.

A motte and bailey castle (PRN 1320) was established at New Moat during the late 12th or early 13th century by the Bishops of St.Davids who were then in possession of the surrounding lands.

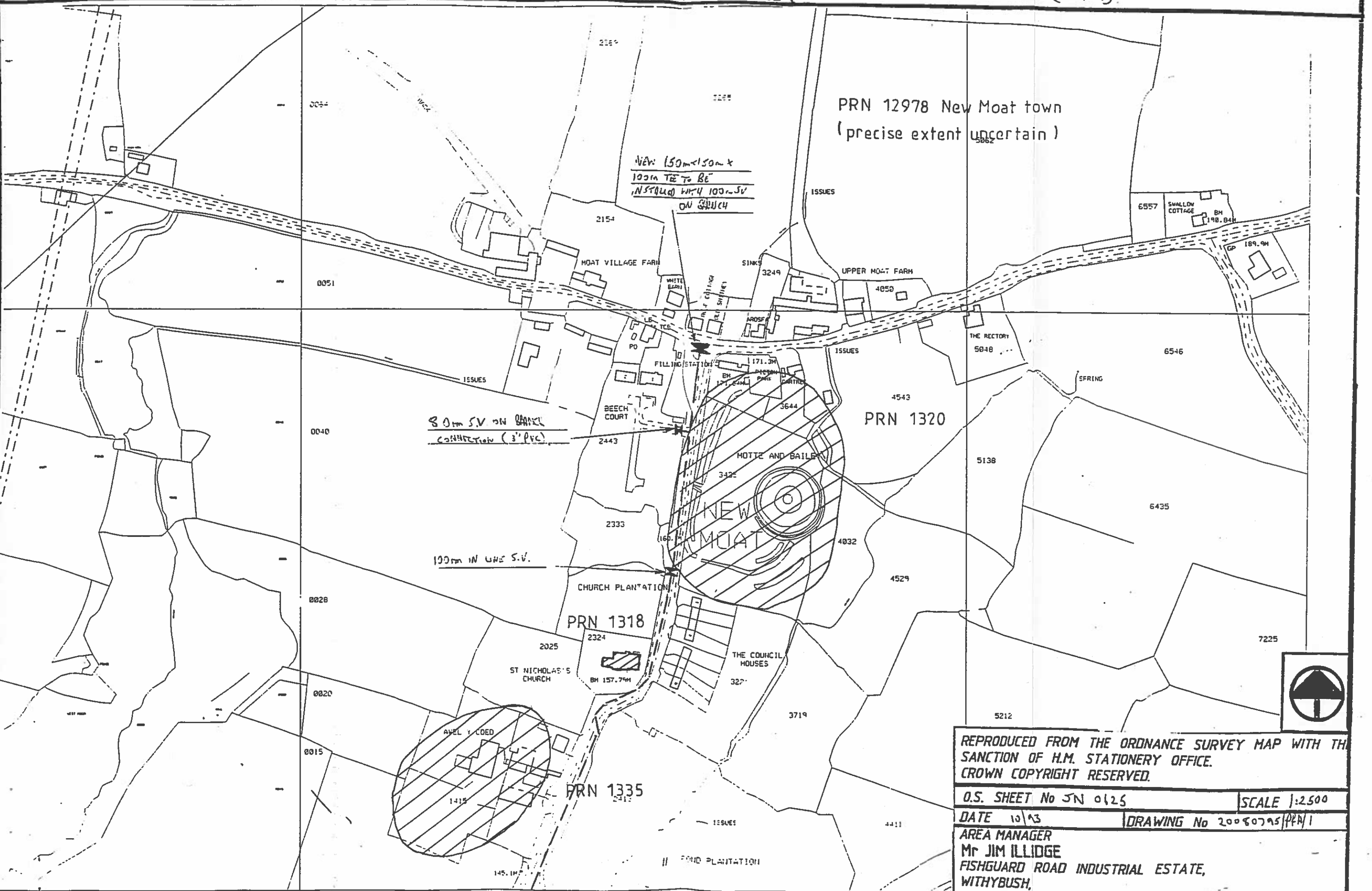
The name of New Moat implies the presence of an earlier fortification which was probably located to the south-west of the Church and indicated on earlier O.S. maps as the site of 'the mote' (PRN 1335).

In order to consolidate their hold on this 'frontier territory', a settlement or borough was established by the Bishops of St.David's in close proximity to their castle (PRN 12978). By 1326, the Black Book of St.David's records the presence of 42 tenants at New Moat of overwhelmingly (alien) English origin; a twice-yearly fair was held and the borough was still of some importance in the early 17th century when it was listed as one of the principal towns in Pembrokeshire. By the 19th century, settlement at New Moat appears to have been concentrated around the road junction to the north and north-west of the motte and bailey castle (see plan sections 5.2 and 5.3); however, the earlier (medieval) town is believed to have been located between the castle and Church. For a fuller account of the archaeological potential of New Moat, refer to section 5.1 below.

In addition to the castle and town, the Church of St.Nicholas is also believed to have been established by the early 13th century (PRN 1318).

No sites of archaeological interest appear to be affected by the proposed works to the south of New Moat village.

3.1 Annotated engineer's plan (drawing no. 20080795/PFH/1) at 1:2500 indicating areas of archaeological interest (to be read in conjunction with section 3.0 above)



REPRODUCED FROM THE ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP WITH THE  
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O.S. SHEET No 5N 0125 SCALE 1:2500

DATE 10/93 DRAWING No 20080795/PA/1

AREA MANAGER  
Mr JIM ILLIDGE  
FISHGUARD ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,  
WITHYBUSH,  
HAVERFORDWEST.

#### 4.0 Summary

The section of the proposed pipeline within New Moat village up to Mote lodge (at its southern extremity) affects an area of archaeological importance. Archaeological excavations at shrunken medieval settlements within Pembrokeshire have demonstrated the archaeological potential of road frontage locations e.g. Wiston, where archaeological evidence of medieval buildings and occupation debris were identified at (modern) road frontages. In addition, it appears that a profile of the (castle) bailey ditch may be exposed to the east and south-east of Beech Court where the ditch is truncated by the modern road.

## 5.0 Appendix

5.1 The archaeological implications of redevelopment in the historic towns of South Pembrokeshire District (New Moat only) - I.N.Soulsby & D.Jones, Urban Research unit, Department of Archaeology, University College, Cardiff.

5.2 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2500 plan - Pembrokeshire XVII.16, 1888

5.3 Tithe map for New Moat parish (village section only) - National Library of Wales collection, 1839

5.1 The archaeological implications of redevelopment in the historic towns of South Pembrokeshire District (New Moat only) - I.N.Soulsby & D.Jones, Urban Research unit, Department of Archaeology, University College, Cardiff.

## 5. NEW MOAT

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### 5.1 CONVENTIONAL HISTORY

- 5.1.1 The village of New Moat is situated some three miles to the south-west of Maenclochog and consists now of only a few houses clustered around the church and the remains of a motte. This was formerly a manor of the Bishops of St. David's who constructed the motte-and-bailey castle in either the late twelfth or early thirteenth century. The very name 'New Moat', however, implies the existence of an earlier structure within the immediate locality and this was probably located in plot 512 to the south-west of the church where the 1907 O.S. map records the site of the 'Mote'. This is still visible and there are definite traces of an earthen bank and ditch on its western side running north-east to the church. It is probable that this constitutes the outer bailey associated with the motte and appears to be distinct from the defences of the later borough which was set out to the north.
- 5.1.2 Associated with the building of the Bishop's motte was the foundation of a small borough and in 1326 some 42 tenants were recorded here holding 89 burgages. In all probability these plots were located between the castle and the church where earthworks and outlines of burgages can be seen, while Beresford (1967) suggests that the outer limit of the settlement would seem to be the perimeter bank.
- 5.1.3 New Moat is regularly mentioned in the Black Book of St. David's where it is called a manor. The burgesses listed were overwhelmingly English and held their land by deed which suggests that settlement was then (1320's) comparatively recent. There was a twice-yearly fair



at Michaelmas and on the feast of St. Nicholas. The borough was still of some importance in the early seventeenth century when Speed included it in his list of principal towns in Pembrokeshire.

## 5.2 TOPOGRAPHY

5.2.1 The Castle: The surviving remains of the former Bishop's castle consist only of a mound some 10.5 metres in height. There are no signs of masonry and it is unlikely that the castle was ever built in this material. A deep moat which originally surrounded the mound was easily filled with water.

Samuel Lewis (1833) mentions the remains of an alleged Roman Camp adjoining the motte, 'enclosing a quadrilateral area 330 yards in diameter and situated on a gentle declivity towards the south ...'. This would appear, however, to be nothing more than the bailey which accompanied the motte and there are no grounds for assuming a Roman camp.

5.2.2 The Church: St. Nicholas' Church is situated just to the south of the village on the opposite side of the road to the motte. The present structure is essentially modern with the exception of the square embattled tower at the west end. Some minor sections of the church date from the early thirteenth century which would suggest that the first building was contemporary with the castle and borough.

5.2.3 The Mill: A mill at New Moat, valued at £4.00, is consistently mentioned in the Black Book of St. David's but its location cannot be determined.

## 5.3 THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF NEW MOAT

5.3.1 New Moat has not received any attention from archaeologists; there are no archaeological finds.

#### 5.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL

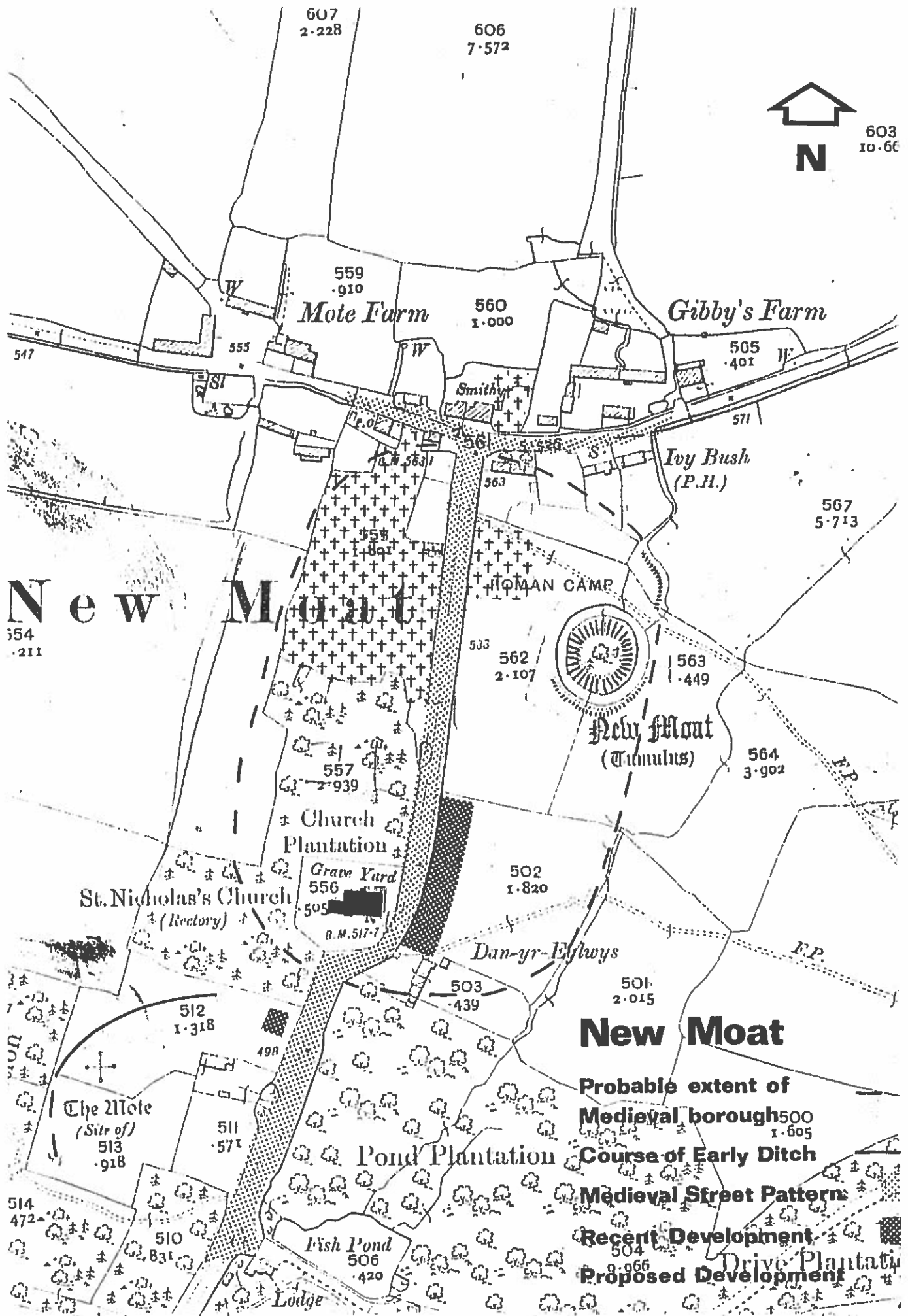
- 5.4.1 There are some indications of the antiquity of settlement at New Moat as the name itself suggests. The Ordnance Survey map of 1907 marks the general location of an earlier motte in field 512 south west of St. Nicholas' church. Fieldwork revealed traces of what was probably the outer bailey of this in the form of a shallow ditch and low outer bank cutting diagonally across the field, and running in a north-easterly direction towards the church. It was not possible to trace its course beyond this field, but the remains suggested that it had originally turned into field 513 and had the wooded slopes of enclosure 517 as its natural western limit. These defences do not appear to have been connected with the later episcopal borough which was located further north.
- 5.4.2 The presence of a Roman camp on the south side of the Bishop's motte in the area immediately adjoining it was suggested by Samuel Lewis in 1833 (5.2.1). The O.S. map of 1907, however, has it located on the north side of the motte where traces of a linear earthwork, which no longer survives, are indicated. It would appear that both authorities have misinterpreted the evidence for what must be the outer bailey of the Bishop's motte, situated on the north side of it and not to the south as Lewis suggests.
- 5.4.3 It is thought that the old episcopal borough extended from St. Nicholas' church to the Bishop's motte, covering an area which is now principally pasture. There are no indications of any post-medieval development in this vicinity apart from the presence of a small post-war council estate consisting of eight, two storey houses in field 502 fronting

the road immediately to the north of Dan-yr-Eglwys. In addition the two small enclosures in the north-east corner of 558 now constitute a small petrol station with a modern bungalow at the rear. The whole of field 558 is the proposed site of a new housing estate to be called 'Beech Court', consisting of nine small plots of which two have already been developed. The only other developments have been the conversion of the former smithy near the crossroads into two modern bungalows, and the construction of a new two-storey house on the western side. These are of little importance as they probably lie outside the confines of the medieval town.

- 4.4 It is to be concluded that the archaeological potential of New Moat is high since any damage done to the levels by recent development, none of which required foundations, will have been minimal.

## 5 FUTURE PLANNING AND ITS ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A Conservation Area is not proposed for New Moat and no long-term policy exists for the village.
- 5.2 Planning permission has been granted for the development of two housing sites at New Moat. The principal one, Beech Court, has already been discussed (5.4.3), while the second lies opposite in the north-west corner of plot 563. This is an area of prime archaeological importance which ought to contain evidence of the outer bailey of the Bishop's motte. Although planning permission for site has expired any future reapplication would require attention.



5.2 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2500 plan - Pembrokeshire XVII.16, 1888

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9-402

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9-084

XVII. 12.

626  
3-646

620  
4-033

621  
8-036

604  
6-855

608  
10-985

607  
2-228

606  
7-572

Spring

500  
1-605

The Mote 571  
(Size of)  
513  
918

Pond Plantation

504  
5-543

506  
420

Fish Pond

Drive Plantation

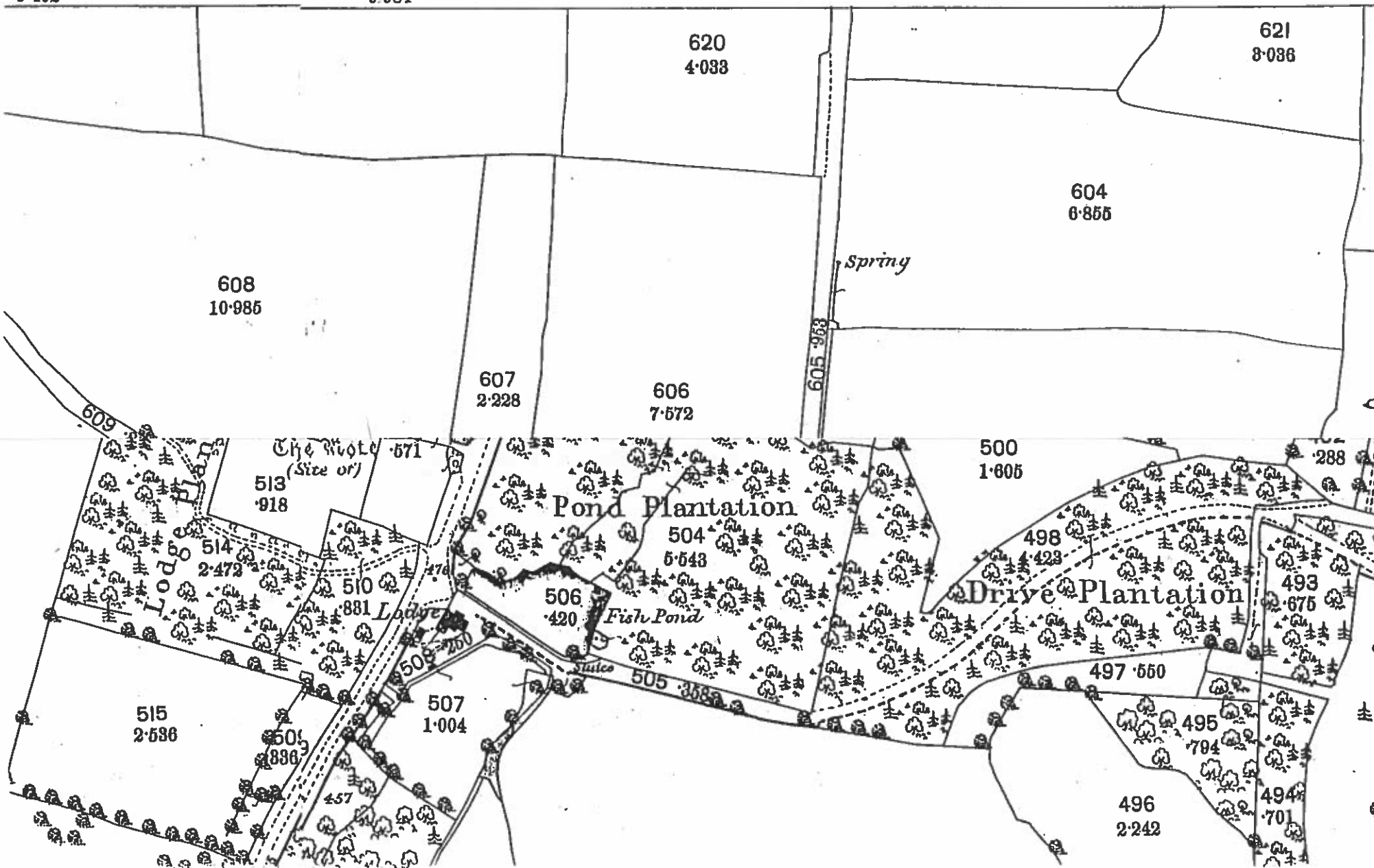
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701



5.3 Tithe map for New Moat parish (village section only) - National Library of Wales collection, 1839

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