

ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY



St. JOHN'S CHURCH, TEMPLETON

01/03/2000

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON
THE A 478 TEMPLETON FOOTWAY SCHEME,
FEBRUARY-MARCH 2000**

Project Record No. 40600

Report prepared for Pembrokeshire County Council
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A 478 TEMPLETON VILLAGE FOOTWAY SCHEME, St. JOHN'S CHURCH, TEMPLETON, PEMBS.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF FEBRUARY- MARCH 2000

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The watching brief is not intended as a substitute for contingent archaeological excavation.

The client will be supplied with three copies of an archaeological report of the findings of the watching brief. This report will be fully representative of all the information recovered. A copy of the report will also be deposited with Dyfed Sites and Monuments Record.

1.3 Purpose and Methodologies of the Watching Brief

The purpose of the watching brief is to undertake as complete a record as possible of any archaeological features affected by the client's scheme of works. In the case of larger archaeological sites it will seldom be possible or necessary to undertake a record of the entire site; the record will be undertaken only on those areas of the site that may be affected.

The primary stage of the watching brief for any scheme involves consultation of the Dyfed Sites and Monuments Record, which is maintained by *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology* Heritage Management Section, the client will normally advise *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology* Field Operations Section of any changes in the proposed works which may be affected by the scheme. The client will normally also provide the Field Operations Section with a proposed schedule of works in order that a full field study may be performed on any affected site prior to the commencement of the works.

Work on or around those affected sites will be subject to the watching brief. The work will be closely observed by an archaeologist from the Field Operations Section who will also undertake a full drawn, written and photographic record of any archaeological features which may be disturbed by the scheme, and any artefact or find exposed during the works. Recording will be carried out where necessary and when convenient; it is the Field Operations Section's aim to minimise any disruption to the client's schedule. However, if archaeological features may be lost during the scheme, it may be necessary for the Field Operations Section to request a postponement of the works in order that the archaeology may be recorded. Larger areas affected may require fuller excavation and/or survey.

2.0 THE SITE

2.1 Site Location and Topography

The village of Templeton (NGR SN1130 1170), in the county of Pembrokeshire, lies on either side of the A 478 on a south facing slope some 3 kilometres south of the small town of Narberth (Fig. 1). The southern edge of the settlement lies approximately on the 90 metre OD contour whilst the northern edge rises to about

manufacture of fire bricks. Production continued for over fifty years until the final firing in 1924. Templeton Station served only as a freight station for the brickworks until 1906 when it was opened to both freight and passenger trains thus further enhancing communications to and from the village. The station closed in 1965 and the buildings and platform have been removed.

St. John's Church, built in 1859, is relatively modern although local legend suggests that it is situated on the site of a former medieval hospice built by the Knights Templar. However, as previously stated, there is no supporting historical evidence for this, but it is known that there was an old building on the site which had been used for many years as a Unitarian meeting house.

3.0 METHODOLOGIES and RESULTS

3.1 Description of Ground Works

The groundworks and demolition work undertaken on the St. John's churchyard boundary section of the Templeton Footway Scheme were the only part of the scheme subject to the archaeological watching brief.

The works involved the demolition of the entire western boundary wall of the churchyard by machine, a length of about 34 metres (Fig. 2). The boundary wall was effectively a retaining wall for the churchyard deposits which were then also removed by machine to an average distance of 2.3 metres back, or east, from the former wall for its whole length. At approximately half way along the wall the gate pillars and entrance ramp were also demolished and the churchyard deposits excavated back some 2 metres in order to maintain and rebuild the entrance ramp and set back the retaining wall. The footings for the new retaining wall on the street frontage were dug to an average depth of 0.45 metres below existing road levels.

These groundworks were undertaken to enable the building of a 1.8 metre wide footway between the church boundary and the main road, and took place over four discrete days in February and March 2000.

3.2 Observations and Findings

The western side of the churchyard slopes down from the south west corner of the church to the north, south and west to its respective boundaries. Thus the exposed section of churchyard deposits revealed after the demolition of the retaining walls and entrance ramp exhibited a distinctly convex profile. The deepest deposits were revealed at the entrance ramp (chainage point 284.000 metres on Fig. 2) with the remaining profile falling away on either side, or to the north and south, of this point. In addition, the road itself slopes gradually down from north to south.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

The groundworks and western churchyard boundary wall demolition revealed made ground deposits retained by the former churchyard wall. In addition, these deposits were shown to seal, at least at the southern end of the excavations, a buried soil. It is suggested that this buried soil was the *in situ* ground surface at the time that the boundary wall was erected and the churchyard soils deposited behind it.

St. John's church was built in 1859, and with the lack of any dating evidence earlier than this observed within the excavated deposits during the watching brief, it is further suggested that all the made ground deposits are contemporary with or later than this date.

The window glass, lead came fragments, and single piece of dressed oolitic limestone appear nearly identical with the lattice windows in the southern wall of the church and possibly represent fragments of a previous, original (from 1859) window which was replaced or repaired.

No datable material was found within the buried soil

5.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive, which is held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust in Llandeilo, will be indexed according to the relevant National Monuments Record (NMR) material categories.

6.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The fieldwork was carried out by Richard Ramsey, Hubert Wilson and Neil Ludlow who are all *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology* Field Operations staff. Many thanks are due to Mervyn John of James Kingston Ltd. for his help and assistance during the watching brief.

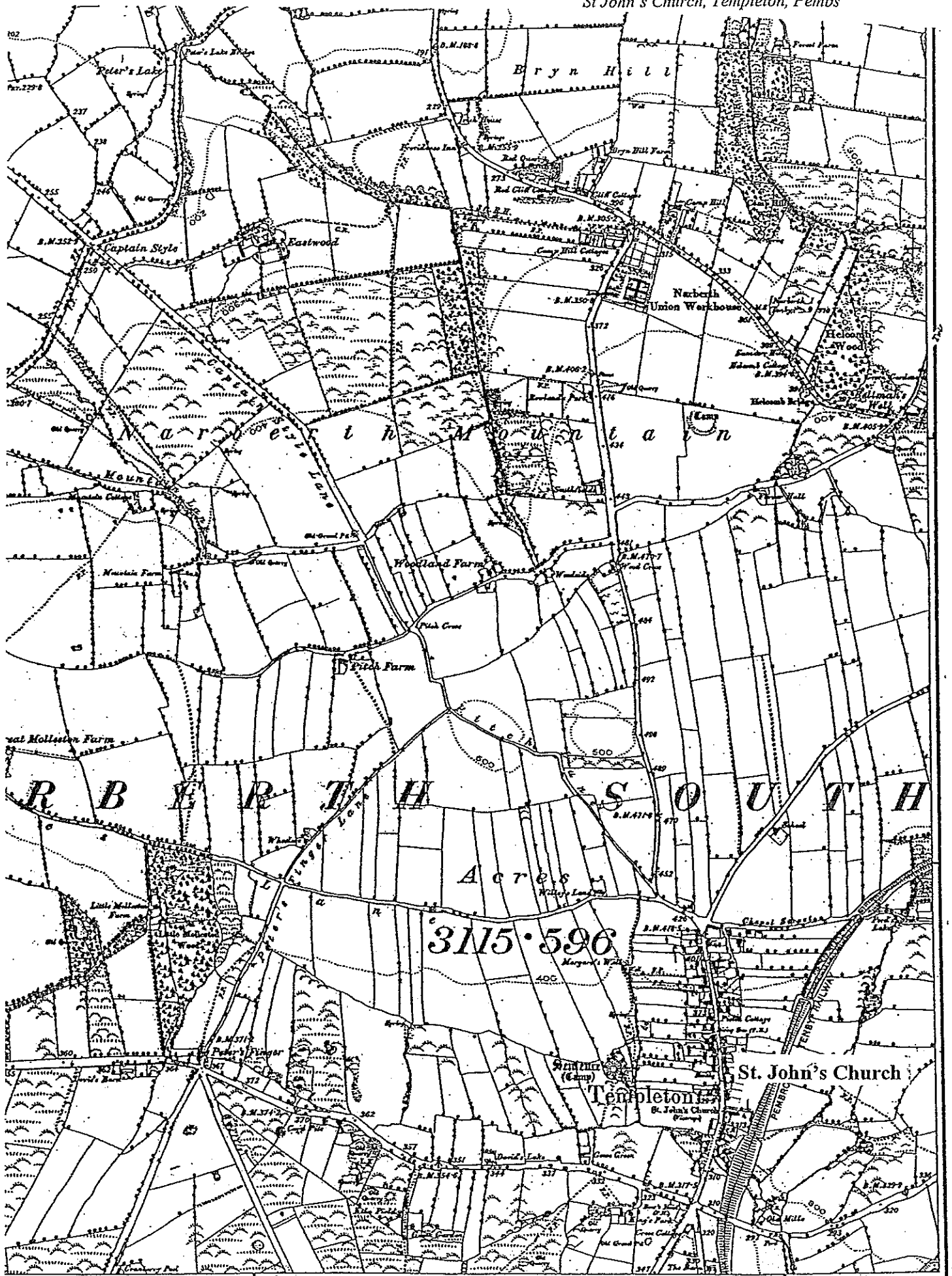


Fig. 1 Templeton: location map

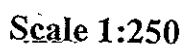




Illustration 1 showing the site of the footway scheme at St John's Church.



Illustration 2. Detail of the construction work.

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