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**ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY
FIELD OPERATIONS**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
GROUND INVESTIGATIONS**

AT

**PARC CYNOG WINDFARM
PARC CYNOG FARM
Pendine, Carmarthenshire**

MAY 2000

Project Record Number 40912

Prepared
by
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for
Oceans Engineering Ltd.

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PARC CYNOG WINDFARM,
PARC CYNOG FARM, PENDINE, CARMARTHENSHIRE**

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SUMMARY

Because of the proximity of Parc Cynog Iron Age hillfort which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (PRN 3843; SAM Carm138) ground investigations on the site of a proposed windfarm at Parc Cynog, Pendine, Carmarthenshire, required an archaeological watching brief. The investigations took the form of small trial pits excavated close to the proposed sites of the wind turbines. The main objective of the watching brief was to record the underlying stratigraphy on the site and to use the information gained to devise an appropriate approach for monitoring the construction of the windfarm later in the year. It is clear from the trial pits that the most likely position for any archaeological interests is below the topsoil and on, or cut into the surface of the underlying sub-soil. Therefore, it is recommended that the main focus of the future archaeological works on the site be aimed at monitoring the topsoil stripping and recording the surface of the sub-soil.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT COMMISSION

A wind farm is being constructed on land at Parc Cynog Farm, Pendine, Carmarthenshire. A condition was attached to the consent that an archaeological watching brief was to be undertaken on all groundworks, because the proposed site is close to Parc Cynog Iron Age hillfort which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (PRN 3843; SAM Carm138). Oceans Engineering Limited commissioned Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology (ACA) Field Operations to carry out the watching brief.

1.2 SCOPE OF PROJECT

This element of the project involved monitoring the excavation of a number of geotechnical test pits and small trenches for anchor points for temporary anemometrical masts. The aim of the monitoring was to acquire information on the nature of the underlying deposits which could be used to inform decisions regarding the extent and methodology of the archaeological works to be carried out during the main construction phase.

1.3 REPORT OUTLINE

This report describes the physical environment of the site (Section 2) before summarising the watching brief results and the conclusions (Section 3). This report is an interim statement and does not cover the history of the site or landscape development (for a site history see Murphy and Bishop 1995¹).

1.4 ABBREVIATIONS

Sites recorded on the county Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) will be identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Any new sites discovered during the course of the project will be allocated a new PRN and identified by their NGR.

¹ Murphy K & Bishop S 1995 *Parc Cynog Wind Cluster: Archaeological Study*. DAT report No.30538. Llandeilo.

2. SUMMARY OF WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

2.1 LOCATION

The windfarm site occupies a number of fields, centred on NGR SN20500940, on a southeast facing slope overlooking Carmarthen Bay at a height of c.155m above Ordnance Datum. The turbines are, where possible, to be placed in existing hedgelines to minimise the amount of ground loss.

2.2 GEOLOGY AND SOIL COVER

At Parc Cynog Brown earths of the Milford Series overlay the drift geology of red marls and sandstones which derived from the underlying Lower Old Red Sandstone.

2.3 METHODOLOGY

The trial pits and mast anchor point trenches were excavated using a JCB with a toothed bucket and they measured c.2m x 0.6m (the width of the bucket). Pit depths varied according to the relative depth of the surface of the bedrock, but most averaged between 1.2m and 1.5m, the deepest pit was 2.2m. Once excavated the pit sides were visually examined and brief notes were taken on the nature of the exposed stratigraphic sequence. At least one side of each test pit monitored was photographed using colour slide and monochrome 35mm film.

2.3.1 OBJECTIVES

Monitoring of this phase of the project had two objectives, the first and main aim was to assess the nature of the underlying deposits so that recommendations could be made regarding further archaeological works during the main construction phase of the wind cluster. The second objective was to identify and record any features or deposits of archaeological interest exposed within the trial pits.

2.4 FIELDWORK RESULTS

The stratigraphic sequences exposed in the pits and the trenches were consistent across the site, and in general terms consisted of a red/brown slightly clay topsoil overlying a loose red/brown loamy soil with abundant shattered bedrock, the frequency of the bedrock fragments increased with depth. No archaeological features were recorded in any of the trial pits or trenches.

2.5 CONCLUSIONS

Monitoring the groundworks at this stage has allowed assessment of the underlying stratigraphy across the site and provided valuable information for

deciding the scope of further archaeological works. The test pits and trenches have shown that the likely zone of archaeological interest is the surface of the underlying sub-soil with shattered bedrock, immediately below the topsoil.

The main construction phase of the windfarm will include the construction of new access roads and large base pads for the turbines, which will result in significant ground disturbance. The road lines and the base pad sites are to be stripped of topsoil and the subsoil excavated to the required depth for construction purposes. Therefore, it is recommended, based on the evidence of this watching brief, that the topsoil stripping along the new road lines and the base pad sites be monitored and the surface of the sub-soil recorded, because it is during this operation that archaeological features and deposits are likely to be encountered.

APPENDIX ONE: CATALOGUE OF WATCHING BRIEF ARCHIVE

The project archive has been indexed and catalogued according to National Monument Record (NMR) categories and contains the following:

- A.** Copy of final report.
- B.** Site records, including context record sheets and site notebook.
- D.** Site photographs - catalogue, colour slide and B/W contact sheets.
- I.** Archive report and draft copies of final report.
- M.** Miscellaneous correspondence.

There is no material in categories **C, E, F, G, H, J, K, L** and **N**.

The archive is currently held by Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology Field Operations, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire as project number 40912.