

**ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY  
FIELD OPERATIONS**



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**LAMPETER CSO  
LAMPETER  
Ceredigion**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF**

**Project No. 40914**

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Report prepared  
by  
ACA Field Operations  
for  
**Tilbury Douglas Construction Ltd.**

Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology  
The Shire Hall  
Carmarthen Street  
Llandeilo  
Carmarthenshire  
SA19 6AF

## **LAMPETER CSO ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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## SUMMARY

The construction of the new Lampeter Combined Sewage Outfall pipeline between Peterwell School and Bridge Street required a programme of archaeological assessment and monitoring. The assessment phase of the project highlighted several areas of potential archaeological interest along the pipeline route, the most notable of which was the point at which it would cross the suspected line of the Carmarthen - Llanio Roman road (PRN 29498) on the floodplain between the Lampeter Sewage Treatment Works and Bridge St. to the south of the town. Topsoil stripping and deep trench cutting operations were monitored along the route, but no features of archaeological interest were observed.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 PROJECT COMMISSION**

An archaeological assessment of the route of the proposed new Lampeter Combined Sewer Outfall pipeline between Peterwell School and Bridge St. Highlighted several areas of archaeological potential which would require recording during pipe laying operations. In particular, the route was to cross the line of the Roman road from Carmarthen to Llanio, which had been previously traced skirting the town in the area between the Lampeter Sewage Treatment Works and Bridge St. In March 1999 Tilbury Douglas Construction Ltd commissioned Cambria Archaeology Field Operations to carry out an archaeological watching brief along the pipeline corridor during topsoil stripping and deep trench cutting.

### **1.2 SCOPE OF PROJECT**

The aim of the project was to investigate the topsoil stripping and the subsequent pipe trench cutting with a series of watching briefs along the entire route. More intensive monitoring would occur between the Sewage Treatment Works and Bridge St.

### **1.3 REPORT OUTLINE**

This report describes the physical environment of the site (Section 2) before summarising the watching brief results (Section 3) and the conclusions (Section 4) based on the results of Sections 2 and 3. Supporting data, including detailed records of the watching brief (Appendix One), are given in a series of appendices.

### **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.

Archaeological features and contexts will be referred to using the continuous three-figure numbering system (e.g.001) employed by Archaeology Cambria Archaeology Field Section.

## **2. THE RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF**

### **2.1 LOCATION**

Lampeter is situated on the north bank of the river Teifi on the valley floor. It is bounded by two tributaries of the Teifi - Afon Dulas to the east and Nant Creuddyn to the west. The geology of the area is composed of Undivided Llandovery shales of the Silurian epoch. The soils comprise of Denbigh1 (typical brown earths) in the town and Teme (typical brown alluvial soils) on the flood plain to the south.

The route of the pipe- corridor skirts the southwestern edge of the town from Peterwell School to Bridge St. The land slopes very gently from north to south, falling from 115m to approximately 110m OD on the valley floor.

### **2.2 METHODS AND LIMITATIONS**

A series of site visits were made during the topsoil stripping and deep trench cutting to examine the exposed deposits and to record any features of archaeological interest. Some of the visits were affected by bad weather when waterlogged conditions potentially obscured any archaeological features which may have been present.

### **2.3 THE WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS**

Monitoring of the early stages of the works from the Sports Hall to Greenfield Terrace exposed nothing but made ground. Only one archaeological feature was observed along the entire pipeline route - 3 parallel linear soil marks, c.2m x 0.20m, of darker colouration than the subsoil, more akin to the topsoil, running diagonally NW to SE in the area stripped between the sewage works and the river. These are interpretable as plough marks.

### **2.4. CONCLUSIONS**

The results from the watching brief were intended to establish if any notable archaeological remains were present. This does not seem to be the case. However, the fact that no evidence for the Roman road was discovered is significant in itself. There are several possible explanations for the apparent absence of the road, it may be that in the area immediately west of the bridge the road has been eroded by the movement of the river or some other process, it may lay outside the pipe-line corridor, or it may be below the depth of the pipeline.

## **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.
- J.** Publication drawings.
- M.** Miscellaneous correspondence.

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

The archive is currently held by Archaeoleg Cambria Archaeology Field Operations, Llandeilo, Dyfed as project number 40914.

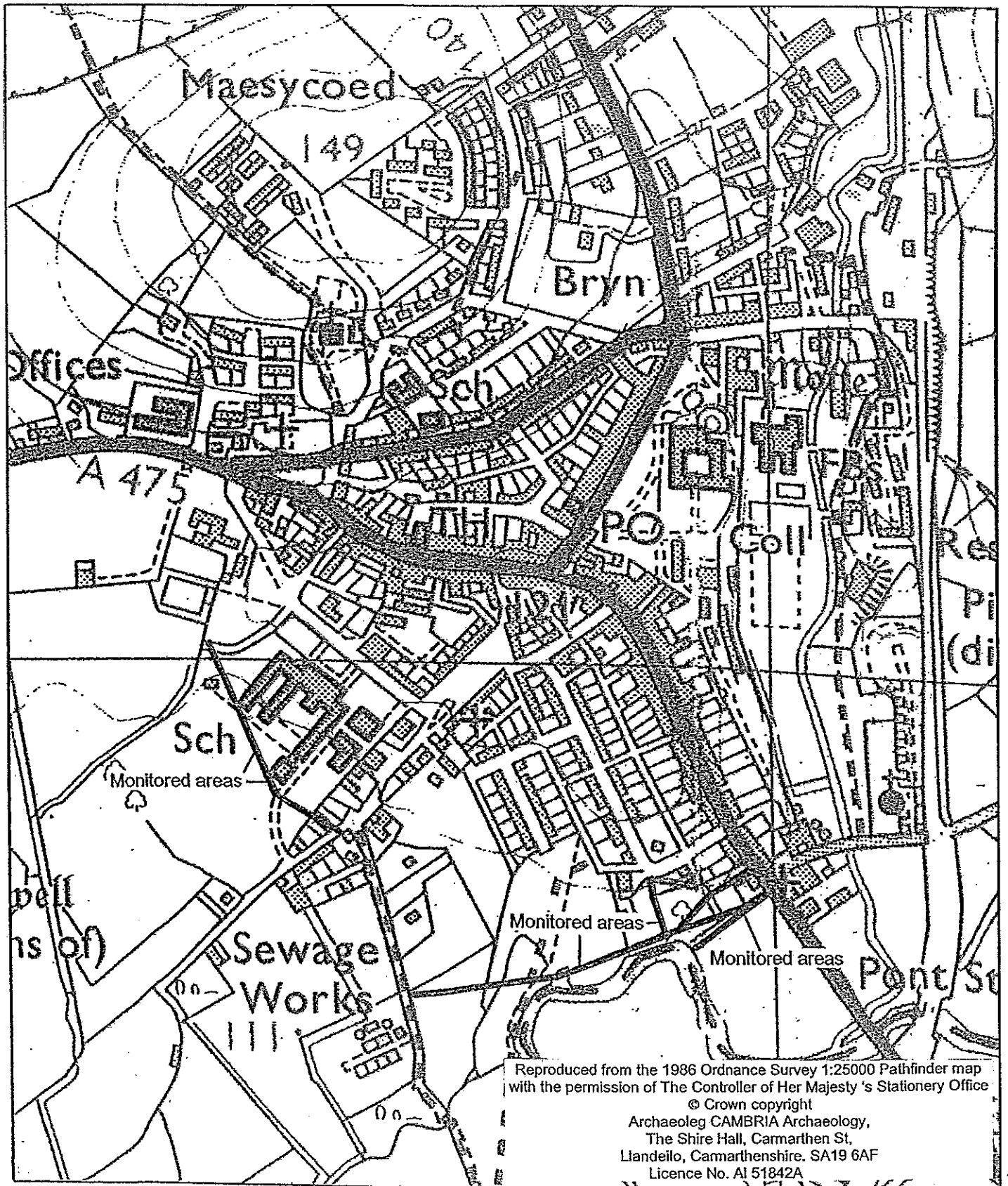


Figure One: Lampeter - location plan of monitored areas.