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DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST LTD

**REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON THE
WATER MAINS RENEWAL AT RHOS, PEMBROKESHIRE, SEPTEMBER
1994**

(DAT PRN ~~29527~~) 47259

Client: Dwr Cymru

Project Officer: N D Ludlow

Report by: N D Ludlow

Dated: 11 November 1994

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

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charity (No. 504616)

REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON THE WATER MAINS RENEWAL AT RHOS, PEMBROKESHIRE, SEPTEMBER 1994

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Details of a water mains renewal at Rhos, Pembrokeshire, were forwarded by Teifion Rees of Dwr Cymru to Dyfed Archaeological Trust on 28 April 1994.

Following the initial comments made by the Heritage Management Section of the 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. This desk top assessment was produced by Dyfed Archaeological Trust in July 1994. Dwr Cymru accepted the recommendations in the report and commissioned a watching brief to be carried out on any archaeology affected by the scheme prior to and/or during the work, as part of the mitigation strategy. An archaeological report on the results of the watching brief was also commissioned.

Dyfed Archaeological Trust's Field Section were accordingly advised of the proposed schedule of works in September 1994.

1.1 Content and scope of the watching brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during an operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons - normally a development or other construction project - within a specified area where archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.

The watching brief will be intended to allow, subject to resources, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits in advance of their disturbance or destruction and to provide an opportunity, if necessary, for the watching archaeologist to alert all interested parties to the presence of an archaeological find for which the resources allocated to the watching brief are insufficient to support satisfactory treatment.

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

The client will be supplied with 4 copies of an archaeological report of the results of the watching brief. The report will be fully representative of all the information recovered. Normally it should be read in conjunction with the desk-top assessment for the scheme which provides the historical framework for the watching brief. Two copies of the report will also be deposited with Dyfed Sites and Monuments Record.

1.2 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 normally involves consultation of the desk-top assessment for the scheme and/or consultation of Dyfed Sites and Monuments Record, which is maintained by Dyfed Archaeological Trust's Heritage Management Section, for those sites affected by the scheme.

The client will normally advise Dyfed Archaeological Trust's Field Operations Section of any changes in the proposed works resulting from their consultation of the desk-top assessment, and of any sites which may still be affected by the scheme. The client will 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 WATCHING BRIEF (Fig. 1)

2.1 Archaeological Summary

Throughout its entire length the proposed watermain renewal scheme lies within Picton Park, first laid out in the later 17th century and modified in the later 18th century. The landscape is a fairly level, fertile and low-lying plateau, averaging 50m above sea level, and is today characterised by large regular enclosed paddocks and woodland plantations. The park was created around Picton Castle (3605) which, unusually, remained in occupation long after the medieval period and remains so to this day.

The N end of the proposed route begins near the main entrance to the park (6664), passing through it in roughly a NW-SE direction and passing close to a motte (3606) to terminate in an area of planted woodland. An archaeological watching brief was commissioned on the scheme due to the extreme archaeological importance of Picton Park, in the contexts of its prehistoric, medieval and later use.

Refer to the desk top assessment (Ludlow, N., and Ramsey, R., 30 July 1994) for more detailed site history, above-ground archaeology and landscape history.

2.2 Construction Techniques

The installation of the new watermain involved the excavation of a series of 13 pits along the line of the existing watermain, through which the new alcatheene pipeline was then threaded. The pits averaged 2m by 1m, and 1m in depth. The N 8 pits were located in marshy ground and sloping pasture; those to the SE lay in planted woodland.

The excavation of the pits along the pipeline permitted examination of their cut sections for any below-ground archaeological features that may have crossed the pipeline pits.

2.3 The Pit Sections (Fig. 1)

The N end of the pipeline route lies in an area of very wet, marshy ground, supporting mainly rushes. The earthworks of former (18th-19th century) drainage channels cross the area; one supplies the semi-ornamental pond lying just E of the route here.

PIT 1

Landuse: Marshland with rushes. Some rough grazing.

Dimensions: 2m E-W, 1m N-S, 2m deep

Section: 0-0.04m - Topsoil

0.04-0.3m - Grey-brown clay loam (waterlogged)

0.3-2.0m - Very mixed material, featuring predominantly stiff yellow clay with lenses of clay loam. The disturbed backfill of the existing pipeline trench.

4

2

2

Finds: None
(Spoilheap checked)

PIT 6

Landuse: Pasture.
Dimensions: 2m N-S, 1m E-W, 1m deep
Section: 0-0.08m - Topsoil
 0.08-0.3m - Grey-brown clay loam
 0.3-1m - Weathered shale bedrock with yellow clay lenses

Archaeology: None
Finds: None
(Spoilheap checked)

Between Pits 6 and 7 the slope levels out. Immediately to the E was a second semi-ornamental pond, now silted and dry. The channel that fed the pond, and adjacent former hedgebank, can be seen running away to the SW. Neither is cut by the pits.

PIT 7

Landuse: Pasture.
Dimensions: 2m N-S, 1m E-W, 1m deep
Section: 0-0.08m - Topsoil
 0.08-0.2m - Brown clay loam
 0.2-0.5m - Yellow clay grading into weathered shale
 in a greyer clay matrix
 0.5m-1m - Dark grey shaley clay
Archaeology: None
Finds: 1 fragment of 19th-20th century brick
(Spoilheap checked)

PIT 8

Landuse: Pasture.
Dimensions: 2m N-S, 1m E-W, 1m deep
Section: 0-0.08m - Topsoil
 0.08-1m - Yellow clay with ferrous mottling; little
 shale
Archaeology: None
Finds: None
(Spoilheap checked)

Pit 8 lies on the N side of a hedgebank separating the N facing pasture from an area of planted woodland to the S. The woodland is now poorly maintained. It consists of areas of broadleaved woodland surrounded by belts of conifers.

PIT 9

Landuse: Planted woodland.

Dimensions: 2m E-W, 1m N-S, 1m deep
Section: 0-0.08m - Topsoil
 0.08-1m - Yellow-grey clay; little shale
Archaeology: None
Finds: None
(Spoilheap checked)

PIT 10

Landuse: Planted woodland.
Dimensions: 2m E-W, 1m N-S, 1m deep
Section: 0-0.1m - Topsoil
 0.1-1m - Yellow-grey clay, reddish in bottom;
 little shale
Archaeology: None
Finds: None
(Spoilheap checked)

PIT 11

Landuse: Planted woodland.
Dimensions: 2m E-W, 1m N-S, 1m deep
Section: 0-0.1m - Topsoil
 0.1-0.3 - Clay disturbed by root action; grey-
 brown, reddish in bottom
Archaeology: None
Finds: None
(Spoilheap checked)

PIT 12

Landuse: Planted woodland.
Dimensions: 2m E-W, 1m N-S, 1m deep
Section: 0-0.1m - Topsoil
 0.1-0.3 - Clay disturbed by root action; grey-
 brown, reddish in bottom
Archaeology: None
Finds: None
(Spoilheap checked)

PIT 13

Landuse: Planted woodland.
Dimensions: 2m E-W, 1m N-S, 1m deep
Section: 0-0.1m - Topsoil
 0.1-0.3 - Clay disturbed by root action; grey-
 brown, reddish in bottom
Archaeology: None
Finds: None
(Spoilheap checked)

Pit 13 lies adjacent to, but does not cut, an avenue leading N in a straight line from Picton Castle motte (DAT PRN 3606). This is now overgrown and part of the surrounding woodland, but is still

distinguishable in places as a linear depression.

2.4 Discussion

It can be seen from the above account that no below-ground archaeology was encountered in the pits excavated for the pipeline renewal.

The pits were excavated through open country that, since the late 18th century, has been pasture and planted woodland. None of the pits affected any of the features in the park that are known from above ground features, earthworks or map evidence. The pits revealed no archaeological evidence for any features associated with motte (3606) nor for any medieval settlement associated with the castle.

The topsoil is rather thin and displays little evidence of former ploughing.

The almost complete absence of any finds is remarkable; the normal stray sherds of pottery found during such work were not represented at all.

However, the pits represent only a very small sample of the area of archaeological interest; the absence of features in such small and widely separated excavations is not an indication of scarcity of potential archaeological deposits.

3.0 THE FINDS

1 fragment of 19th-20th century brick (discarded).

No further dateable artefacts, such as pottery or glass, were discovered.

4.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The full watching brief archive will be deposited at the National Monuments Record, housed with the RCAHM (Wales), Crown Buildings, Plas Crug, Aberystwyth Dyfed SY23 1NJ.

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dyfed Archaeological Trust's Field Operations Section acknowledges the invaluable assistance provided by the Heritage Management Section. Thanks are offered to Teifion Rees and Peter Horton of Dwr Cymru, and to the site workers for their cooperation.

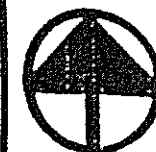
6.0 REFERENCES

Ludlow, N., and Ramsey, R., 1994, *Report on the archaeological implications of the proposed watermains renewal at Rhos, Pembrokeshire*, (Dwr Cymru desk top assessment).

TITLE Rhos P.A.H. WATER MAIN RENEWAL.

OWNER

OCCUPYER



AREA MANAGER

DEBEN DAVIES,
FISHGUARD ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,
WITHYBUSH,
HAVERFORDWEST.

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SCALE 1:2500

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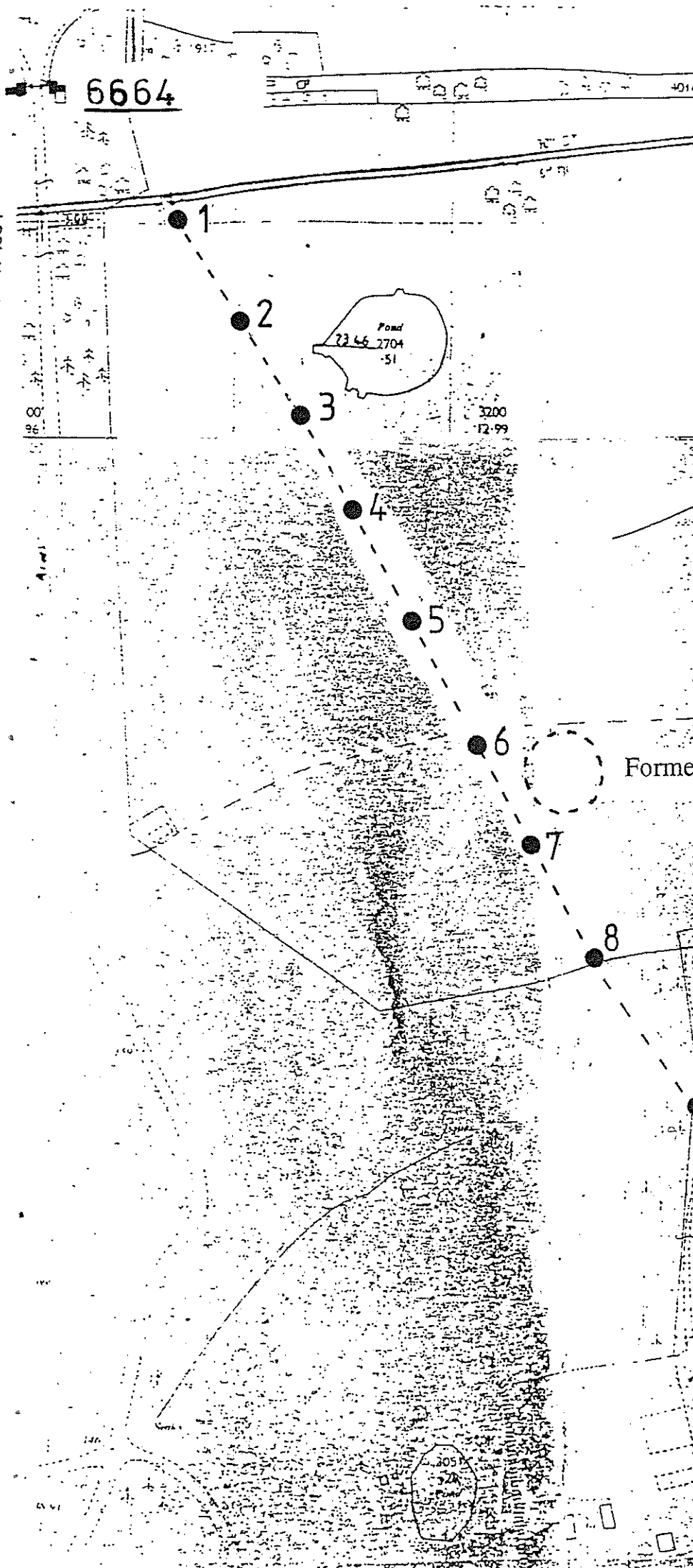


FIGURE 7.1 Engineers' plan at 1:2500 scale annotated to show areas of archaeological interest and watermain renewal pit locations.

Pits numbered 1 - 13