

Feb 2005

# WATCHING BRIEF AT PORTHMYNAWYD



Prepared by Cambria Archaeology  
as part of a Service Level Agreement  
with Pembrokeshire Coast National  
Park Authority



A R C H A E O L O G  
**CAMBRIA**  
A R C H A E O L O G Y

# ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2005/17  
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 53869

Chwefror 2005  
February 2005

## Watching Brief at Porthmynawyd

Gan / By

Polly Groom

*Archaeolog Cambria yw enw marchnata Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyfyngedig.  
Cambria Archaeology is the marketing name of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited.*

*Paratowyd yr adroddiad yma at ddefnydd y cwsmer yn unig. Ni dderbynnir cyfrifoldeb gan Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed am ei ddefnyddio gan unrhyw berson na phersonau eraill a fydd yn ei ddarllen neu ddibynnu ar y gwybodaeth y mae'n ei gynnwys*

*The report has been prepared for the specific use of the client. The Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd can accept no responsibility for its use by any other person or persons who may read it or rely on the information it contains.*

ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA  
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf  
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA19  
6AF  
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121  
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131  
Ffacs: 01558 823133  
Ebost: cambria@cambria.org.uk Gwefan: www.cambria.org.uk

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY  
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited  
The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire  
SA19 6AF  
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121  
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131  
Fax: 01558 823133  
Email: cambria@cambria.org.uk Website: www.cambria.org.uk

*Cwmni cyfyngedig (1198990) ynghyd ag elusen gofrestredig (504616) yw'r Ymddiriedolaeth. The Trust is both a Limited Company (No. 1198990) and a Registered Charity (No. 504616)*  
CADEIRYDD CHAIRMAN: C R MUSSON MBE B Arch FSA MIFA. CYFARWYDDWR DIRECTOR: E G HUGHES BA FSA MIFA

## **CONTENTS**

<b>Summary</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Proposed Works</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Methodology</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Results</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Management Recommendations</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Appendix</b>	<b>10</b>

## **LIST OF FIGURES**

<b>Figure 1: The valley at Porthmynawyd</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Figure 2: The new footpath</b>	<b>9</b>

## **LIST OF MAPS**

<b>Map 1: Showing recorded archaeological sites</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Map 2: Showing the existing and new routes of the footpath</b>	<b>8</b>

## SUMMARY

A watching brief was carried out at Porthmynawyd, Brawdy, during works to alter the route of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Trail. Although prehistoric flint scatters have been recorded nearby, the path runs along a steep hillside, and there was little likelihood of any *in situ* preservation. Two slight hollows at the top of the proposed route were identified as possibly being archaeologically significant, so ground disturbing works were carried out under archaeological supervision.

No artefacts were recovered during the work. The new path appears to clip the edge of a possible spoil heap, consisting of very disturbed stony material. This may be associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> century lime industry, represented by three limekilns in the base of the valley.

## INTRODUCTION

Porthmynawyd, in the community of Brawdy, is a small, south-facing cove at grid reference SM828220. At low tide a substantial, sandy beach is exposed, but the beach shelf is very slight, so at high tide the beach consists only of a strip of shingle. The beach is approached by a narrow, steep-sided valley which carries a small, fast-flowing stream fed by several springs.

Recorded archaeology consisted of a limekiln (PRN 23747) and several prehistoric sites. On its west side, the beach is overlooked by a promontory fort (PRN 2784) which also yielded evidence for Roman occupation (PRN 4324). A number of flint scatters are also recorded (PRNs 2914 – 2917, 9836). These sites are depicted on Map 1, and listed in the Appendix.



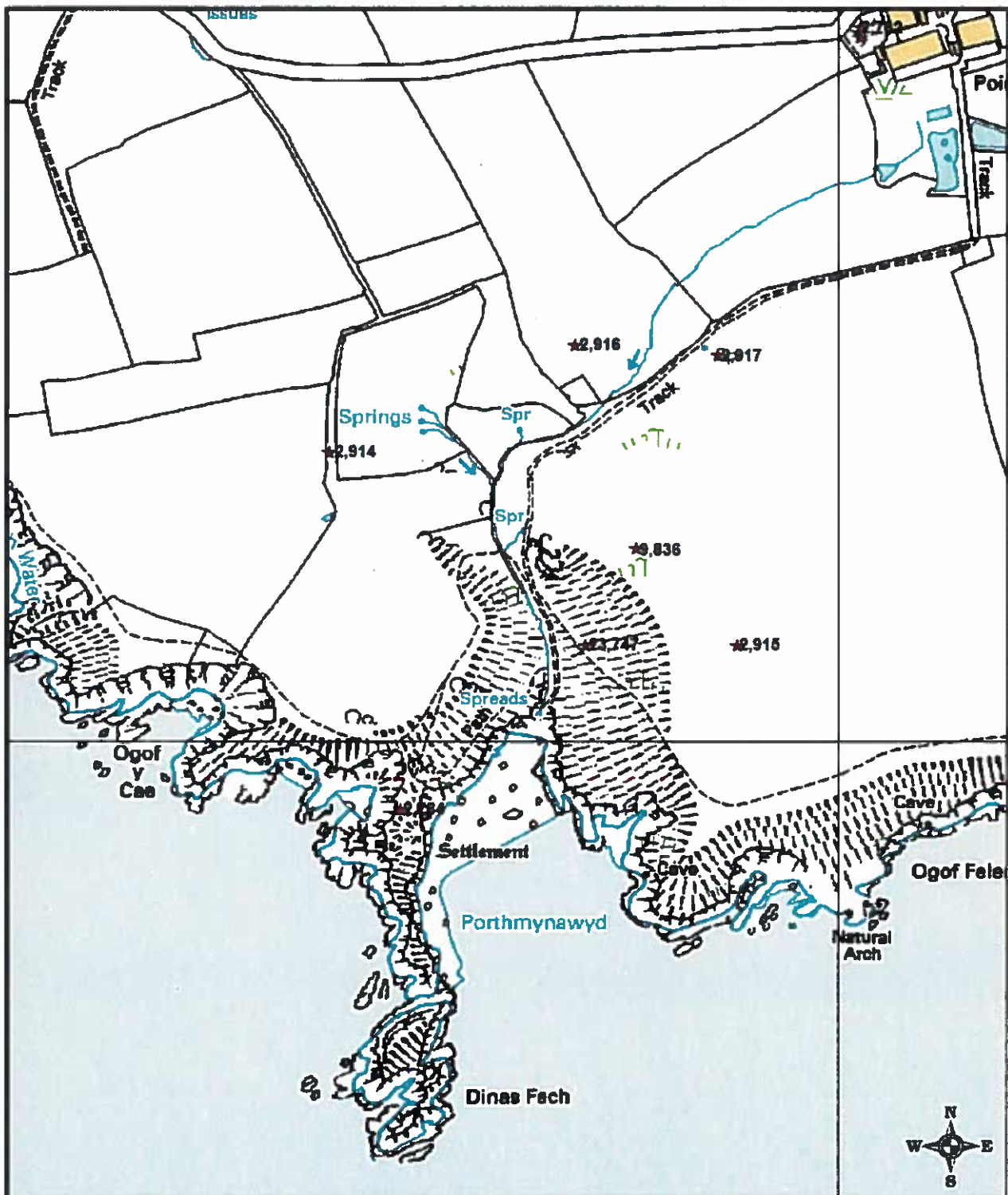
**Figure 1:** Photograph showing the steep-sided valley at Porthmynawyd. It was unlikely that any *in-situ* flint scatters would survive on these hills.

# Porthmynawyd

## Map 1

SMR records

Scale 1:2500



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.  
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority - copyright for rosewood unit number 100022534

Report: J:\porthmynawyd\porthmynawyd.doc

**Map 1: Showing recorded archaeological sites at Porthmynawyd.**

## PROPOSED WORKS

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Trail runs down a long, steep flight of steps on the east side of Porthmynawyd. Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA) wished to divert the path further to the east, in order to by-pass the steps. This also allows the path to run down a shallower gradient, avoiding altogether the need for steps.

It was proposed that the work be carried out by machine, with a small digger cutting a level strip into the hillside, approx. 1.5m wide.

Due to the recorded presence of flint scatters in the immediate area, and the prehistoric activity attested to by the hillfort, a field visit was undertaken by PCNPA and Cambria Archaeology before any works were begun. It was decided that the slope of the hillsides was so steep that it was exceedingly unlikely that there would be any preservation of flint scatters *in situ* – any artefacts recovered were far more likely to have been washed downslope and re-deposited.

However, two hollows were noted at the top of the proposed route, and it was thought that they may potentially contain less disturbed deposits. The hollows were around 2m in width, and ‘scooped’ back into the hillside. In front of the hollows are slight mounds – possibly either spoil heaps, or, alternatively, flattened terraces. They are quite slight features, more visible from a distance than from close up. Consequently, it was decided that work at the top of the new path should be carried out under archaeological supervision.

Another cause for concern came at the bottom of the path, where the new route would pass behind the remains of two limekilns (PRN 23747). The field visit revealed that the loading platform above the two kilns survived, with a short stretch of trackway running up to it to allow the kilns to be charged straight from a cart. A flattened area immediately east of the kilns was probably a turning circle for carts. A ruined building, seen on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map, survived further north of this complex (PRN 52533) and a further limekiln was also noted to the northwest (PRN 52534). Neither of these features would be affected by the proposed works. The suggested route was slightly altered, in order to ensure that no damage would occur to the complex of features around the kilns.

## METHODOLOGY

The work was begun on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005, with the PCNPA archaeologist in attendance whilst the top part of the path was cut. The path was cut with a small digger, with the resulting spoil being pushed slightly downslope to form a level terrace. The archaeologist carried out a visual inspection of the spoil, as well as examining the revealed section for any artefacts or features.

No significant features were noted, and no artefacts were recovered. Consequently, no drawn record was produced, but digital photographs and field notes comprise the primary record of this work.

## RESULTS

For the most part, the stratigraphy was very simple, consisting of only two contexts. A dense, dark brown/black layer, rich in organics, overlies an orangey-brown sandy clay, with a large number of angular stone inclusions. This appears to be the natural.

The depth of the overburden varies along the length of the path, from approx. 200mm to 500mm. The depth which the path has been dug into the sandy clay consequently also varies, but the maximum depth of excavation was around 600mm. The new path is approx. 1.5m wide.

The stratigraphy only differed from this where the path cut immediately below the two hollows. In both cases, a very stoney layer was seen between the overburden and the sandy-clay. The material consisted of around 65% stone, in a loose, crumbly mid-brown matrix. This layer appeared to be highly disturbed, and was noted to contain a high number of small quartz pieces. The depth of this layer varied, but was generally less than 200mm.

## INTERPRETATION

The simple stratigraphy, along with the lack of archaeological features, suggests that what was observed on this hillside was the result of natural processes – an organic topsoil moving downslope from the level ground at the top of the valley.

The more stony material encountered in the two hollows gave the appearance of being very disturbed, and the most likely explanation seems to be that the new path is, in this area, clipping the edge of a spoil heap, resulting from small-scale excavations which produced the two hollows originally noted. These excavations may be related to the 19<sup>th</sup> century lime industry. The possible spoil heap was allocated PRN 52532.

An alternative explanation may be that these features are actually platforms, terraced into the hillside. The nature or date is unknown. It is also possible that these features are the result of animal burrowing, for which there is plenty of evidence in the area. However, animal burrowing does not explain the large amounts of stone in the 'spoil' compared with the surrounding soil.

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

No specific management recommendations were made for the upper part of the new path. It is recommended that the lower section of the path be monitored occasionally, to check that walkers are not forming their own path across the lime kilns.

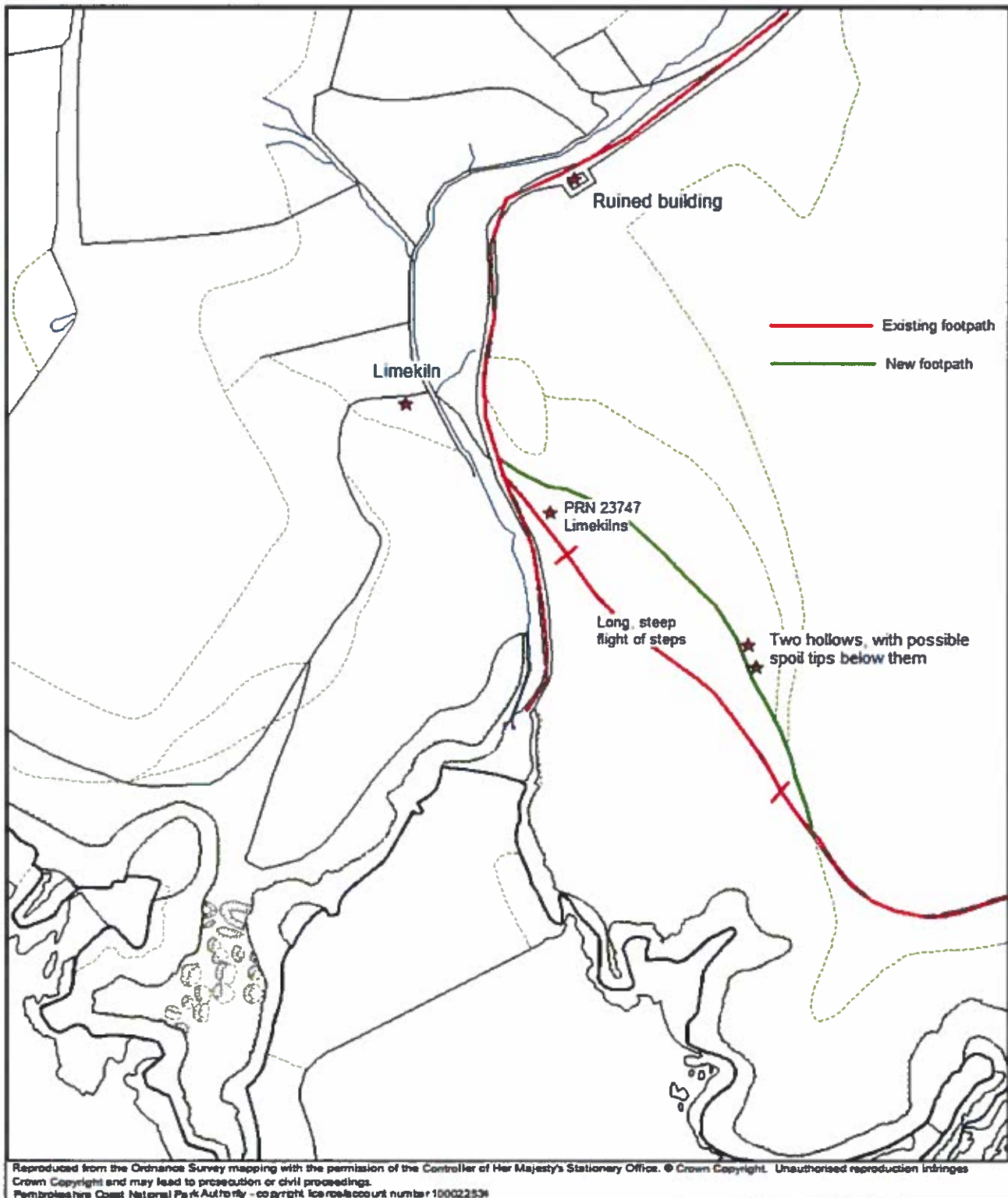


# Porthmynawyd

## Map 2

Route of new path and sites identified

Scale 1:2500



Topographic map of Porthmynawyd

Map 2: Showing the line of the existing and new footpaths.





**Figure 2:** Showing the new footpath cut into the hillside.

## **SOURCES**

Ordnance Survey first edition, 1891, Pembrokeshire sheet XXI.NW

Ordnance Survey second edition, 1908, Pembrokeshire sheet XXI.NW

## APPENDIX

### Archaeological sites previously recorded in the SMR.

PRN	NAME	SITE TYPE	DATE	DESCRIPTION
2784	DINAS FACH; DINASOEDD	HILLFORT	Iron Age	Low survey priority. Possible small outer bank & ditch. Inner bank and ditch 2m high. Simple linear entrance. Possible interior features represented by a series of platforms. PC 1994
2914	DINAS FACH	FLINTWORKING FLOOR	Mesolithic; Neolithic	
2915	PORTHMYNAWYD	FLINTWORKING FLOOR	Mesolithic; Neolithic	Not seen. KM 1996
2916	POINTS CASTLE	FLINTWORKING FLOOR	Mesolithic; Neolithic	
2917	POINTS CASTLE	FLINTWORKING FLOOR	Mesolithic; Neolithic	
4324	DINAS FACH	HILLFORT OCCUPATION	Roman	
9836	POINTZ CASTLE	FLINTWORKING FLOOR	Mesolithic	
23747	PORTHMYNAWYD	LIME KILN	Post Med	The site is very overgrown, with at least two lime kilns built into valley side. They are stone built but now collapsed. It was not possible to record more detail without clearance. There is a possible site of a third kiln c.50m to the north of the other two.


## WATCHING BRIEF AT PORTHMYNAWYD

**RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2005/17**

**Chwefror 2005  
February 2005**

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by Polly Groom

Swydd / Position: Archaeologist (Pembrokeshire Coast National Park)

Llofnod / Signature .....  ..... Dyddiad / Date 16/2/05

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith  
This report has been checked and approved by

Louise Austin

ar ran Archaeoleg Cambria, Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.  
on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Principal Archaeologist (Heritage Management)

Llofnod / Signature  ..... Dyddiad / Date 17/2/2005

Yn unol â'n nôd i rod-di gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau sydd gennych ar  
gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may have  
on the content or presentation of this report