

**ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY**  
**DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**

**ASHFIELD ROW-  
LLANGADOG WATERMAIN  
RENEWAL SCHEME**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**  
**JANUARY 1997**

**Project Record No.33552**

Prepared for Dwr Cymru / Welsh Water  
by M. Trethowan

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd  
Shire Hall  
8 Carmarthen Street  
Llandeilo  
Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF

Dyfed Archaeological Trust is a Limited Company (No. 1198990)  
and a Registered Charity (No. 504616)

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
ASHFIELD ROW - LLANGADOG WATERMAIN RENEWAL SCHEME**

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
Summary	2
Acknowledgements	2
1. Introduction	3
2. The site	4
3. Summary of watching brief results	5
4. Conclusions	6
Appendix One: Catalogue of watching brief archive	7
Bibliography	8
Figure One: Location plan	

## **SUMMARY**

During a renewal scheme on the Ashfield Row to Llangadog watermain the works passed close to the Parish church of St Cadog's in the village of Llangadog, Carmarthenshire. The watermain route was along Church Street which is one of the oldest parts of the village; the road itself may have medieval origins. The only features of archaeological interest were a number of earlier road surfaces and make-up layers. In all five build-up layers were recorded.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This report was prepared by M. Trethowan, Project Officer, Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology Field Operations. The fieldwork was carried out by N. Page, N. Ludlow, M. Trethowan.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project commission**

Dwr Cymru were advised by the regional archaeological curators, Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology Curatorial Section, that a watching brief would be required for part of the route of the Ashfield Row to Llangadog watermain renewal scheme. Consequently Dwr Cymru commissioned Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology Field Operations to carry out the work on the section of the route past St. Cadog's Church (PRN 4049; NGR SN 7062 2845) in the village of Llangadog.

### **1.2 Scope of project**

The project was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994). It comprised a number of field visits to record any features or deposits exposed during the cutting of the pipe trench.

### **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 is given in Appendix 1.

### **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 Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology Field Section.

## **2. THE SITE**

### **2.1 Location**

The watching brief was conducted on the section of the pipeline route along Church Street as it passed St. Cadog's Church (PRN 4049; NGR SN 7062 2845) in the centre of the village of Llangadog (PRN 12781) (Figure 1). The watermain was contained within the existing road line, and for part of its length was confined to the existing watermain trench.

Church Street is one of the oldest parts of the village and formed part of the medieval borough of Llangadog (Soulsby and Jones 1977, 31) The borough was established under the patronage of the bishops of St David's, although it is likely that settlement had begun before the bishops gained control.

In 1283 a priory was founded at Llangadog by Thomas Bek, Bishop of St. David's, which was dedicated to Saints Maurice and Thomas. However it was only in use until 1287 when it was transferred to Abergwili. The precise location of the priory is unknown and its buildings are not thought to have been very substantial (Soulsby and Jones, 1977).

St. Cadog's church was established at the beginning of the fourteenth century and is dedicated to a Celtic saint, although Soulsby and Jones (Section 7, 1977) state there was possibly an early religious house on this site before the medieval church was constructed.

### **3. SUMMARY OF WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS**

#### **3.1 Methodology**

A number of site visits were made during the works and all features and deposits were recorded. Recording took place during and following the cutting of the trench and the laying of the pipe so as to minimise any disruption. Site notes were taken during all visits; context record numbers (e.g. 001; 010) were only allocated to the most significant features or deposits. Those numbers are used in the following discussion.

#### **3.2 Fieldwork results**

The excavated trench was 0.5 metres wide and between 0.7m and 1 metre deep. Sections recorded along the course of the trench revealed five make-up layers for road surfaces, including the present day surface. These layers were numbered 001 to 005 inclusive, and a description of each is given below. The monitored section of the trench revealed that contexts 001 to 005 were directly above natural shale bedrock (006) or natural clay containing frequent shale inclusions (007).

Context descriptions and approximate depths:

- 001 = Modern compact tarmac surface and hard-core road make-up. (0.10m)
- 002 = Dark grey compact clay, with frequent medium angular shale inclusions. (0.08m)
- 003 = Light grey compact clay, with frequent small and medium angular shale inclusions. (0.10m)
- 004 = Reddish grey compact clay, containing frequent medium angular inclusions. (0.11m)
- 005 = Grey compact clay containing moderate medium angular shale inclusions. (0.06m)
- 006 = Natural shale bedrock. (>0.53 metres)
- 007 = Compact natural orangey grey clay containing frequent medium angular shale inclusions. (>0.44metres)

A natural increase in the level of the bedrock occurred within the monitored section. A rise in the bedrock level, of approximately 0.3 metres, occurred at Location 1 (see Figure 1 - between house numbers 1 and 2, Church Street). The bedrock level then decreased at Location 2 (between house numbers 4 and 5, Church Street) to a level deeper than the excavated trench, revealing the natural clay (007) described above.

No associated artefacts were found within any of the above contexts

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

The monitored section of the pipeline trench revealed five build up layers for road surfaces including the present day surface. The absence of associated artefacts within these layers prevents precise dating, although it does substantiate that Church Street is one of the oldest areas within the medieval borough of Llangadog.

No evidence of the priory, established in 1283 by the Bishop of St. David's, was discovered during this watching brief. The site of the priory therefore remains unknown although the monitored section of the pipeline can now be discounted as a possibility.

No burials were discovered during the watching brief thus discounting the theory that an earlier graveyard extended further west than the present day boundary.

## **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.
- G.** List of references, including primary and secondary sources.
- I.** Archive report and draft copies of final report.
- J.** Publication drawings.
- M.** Miscellaneous correspondence.

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

The archive is currently held by Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology Field Operations, Llandeilo, Dyfed as project number 33552.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Soulsby I  
&  
Jones D      1977    *Historic Towns in the Borough of Dinefwr*. University College,  
Cardiff.

