

# **WISTON OVERHEAD POWER LINES PEMBROKESHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
SEPTEMBER 2005



Paratowyd gan: Archaeoleg Cambria  
Ar gyfer: Western Power Distribution  
Prepared by: Cambria Archaeology  
For: Western Power Distribution



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## ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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## WISTON OVERHEAD POWER LINES, PEMBROKESHIRE WATCHING BRIEF

Gan / By

**Pete Crane BA Hons MIFA**

*Archaeoleg Cambria yw enw marchnata Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyfyngedig.  
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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

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

**Photo 1:** General view west, poles erected in trenches 3 to 1

**Photo 2:** Trench 1

**Photo 3:** Trench 4

**Photo 4:** General view of earthing trench

**Map 1:** Part of Wiston Tithe map

**Map 2:** Location of trenches/poles

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## **SUMMARY**

*Two site visits were made while holes were dug for supporting poles and a trench for an earthing cable in a field near Wiston in order to record revealed archaeological deposits. Nothing of archaeological interest was apparent.*

## INTRODUCTION

Cambria Archaeology-Heritage Management, as advisors to Pembrokeshire County Council Planning Department, identified potential impacts on the archaeological resource during proposed groundworks by Weston Power Distribution in a field near Wiston, Pembrokeshire (SN 0078016890). The groundworks consisted of 4 trenches to support poles for overhead power lines and a trench to contain an earthing cable. The fieldwork took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2005.

The area of the field contains three record locations in the regional Historic Environment Record:

- Record no. 7402 (SN007168) A collection of Neolithic flints containing a leaf-shaped arrowhead, two flint cores, two blades and seven waste flakes. Although this collection is small (12 flints) its make-up of largely manufacturing material, suggests a small-scale flint working site.
- Record no. 12163 (SN0079716855) Surface irregularities initially considered as a potential Round Barrow but later amended to probable natural feature.
- Record no. 12822 (009170) Finds suggesting a possible post medieval dwelling.

The route of the overhead power lines crosses diagonally across this field. The field straddles the southern side of a ridge slope and extends down to a stream. Within the field there is a small spring. From the ridge there would have been open views from the east (now blocked by trees) through to the south and extensive views to the southwest and west (see front cover and photo 1). This topography would suit a prehistoric funeral site (round barrow) and with the spring and adjacent stream would have provided an ideal settlement location.

The planning authority required this watching brief as it was considered possible that important archaeological remains associated with, prehistoric or post medieval periods might be encountered.

The objectives of the watching brief were to characterise and record the extent, chronology and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits identified during the groundworks.

## RESULTS

The field was under long pasture, probably for hay. There were a number of undulations in the field but all could be natural. The weather at the time of the fieldwork was overcast with a little light rain overnight, the soil conditions were good for noticing any archaeological features, if they had been encountered.

A JCB type digger using the back excavator with a narrow toothed bucket undertook all excavation. The four trenches dug for posts within the field (T1-T4 see map at end of report) were all of similar dimensions, c. 0.3 to 0.4m wide, 1.8m long and 1.8m deep at the deepest point. Trenches 1 and 2 had 0.2 to 0.3 depth of topsoil/plough soil of mid brown clay loam with small stones. Below the topsoil was orange rab. Trench 3 had c. 0.2m of topsoil and then down onto orange clay. Trench 4 was similar to 3 but with deeper more root disturbed topsoil, as well as the upper part of the subsoil.

From trench 4 a supply cable trench was dug southwest before cutting east, about 8m south of the electricity pole location, through a boundary bank, made of soil. This bank stood 0.5m higher than the field with a 2m wide ditch, some 1.8m below the top of the bank on its west side. It was covered in trees of oaks, ash, thorn, and hazel, as well as honeysuckle and bramble. This bank had a post and wire fence, but no sign of any hedge.

An earthing trench continued south for about 30m from where the cable supply trench turned eastwards. This trench was similar width and about 0.6m deep, and with similar depth of topsoil as found elsewhere. From the topsoil were recovered two sherds of glazed pottery, probably dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. One of these sherds was very abraded the other less so. Suggesting that they had been the plough soil for some time. The lower portion of topsoil had a lens of darker soil. However, it is considered that this darker soil is unlikely to come from occupation, more likely from burning alongside the boundary. The pottery sherds could well have been deposited with farmyard manure.

While on site the opportunity was taken to inspect the cable supply trench dug by owner to the east, with his permission (B to C on enclosed map). This trench was c. 0.4m wide, 0.5m deep and 100m long. The owner had not noticed any features or artefacts and none were visible at the time of the visit. However, this trench had been dug some time ago and the sections of which were very dry. It would have been difficult to notice any archaeological features within this trench should they have occurred.

From discussion with the farmer, in whose field the electricity poles had been placed, he remembered the flints (7402) coming from near the house "Tynewdd" by the road and SN 0069016910 may well be a more accurate location.

The Wiston Tithe (map 1843 See below) shows a house and garden (schedule number 1085, just above 1086) under the ownership of Joseph Tombs. The field was divided north south at the spring location and east of this field was further divided into 5 portions (schedule number 1086-1091). The Ordnance Survey 1891 still shows the current field divided north south at the spring line, but the eastern part was no longer sub-divided. A footpath ran from the house then recorded as Red House, on or near the same location as "Tynewdd", to the spring.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified during the watching brief. However, with the Neolithic flint finds and the topographic location this area has archaeological potential, especially near the spring or stream.



**Photo 1:** General view west, pole erected in trenches 3 to 1



**Photo 2:** Trench 1



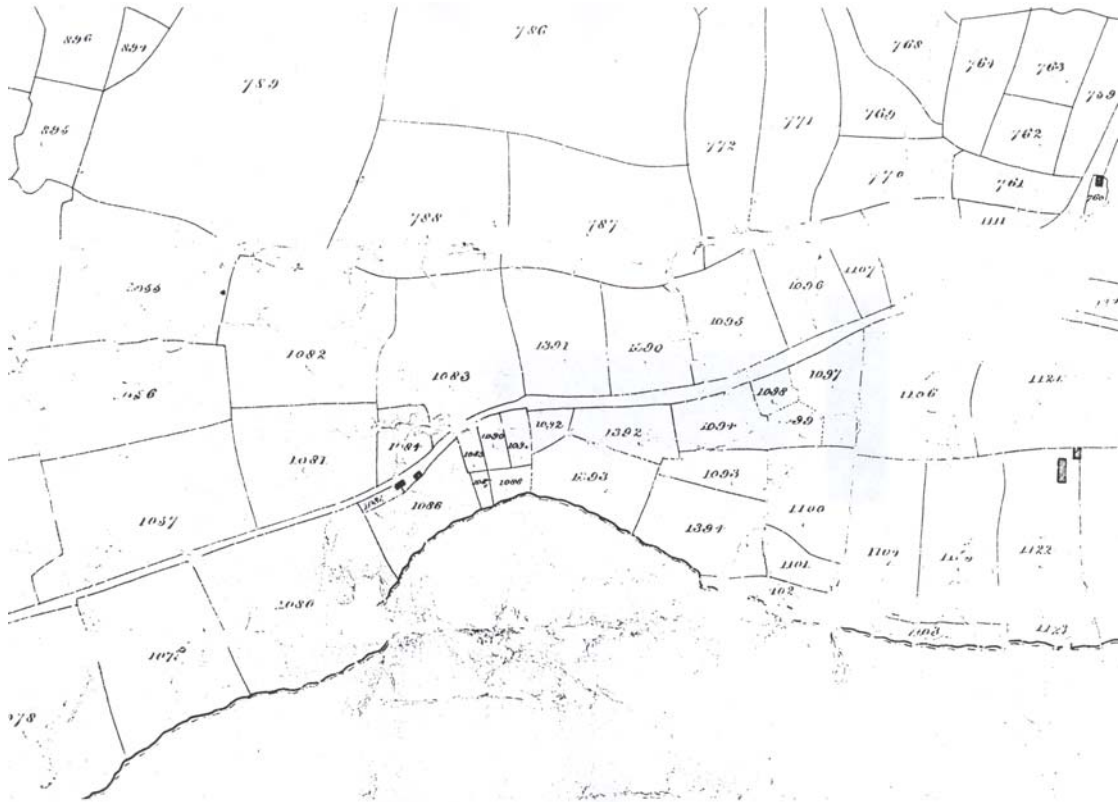


**Photo 3:** Trench 4

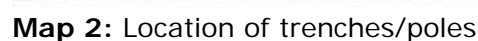


**Photo 4:** General view of earthing trench, view south





**Map 1:** Part of Wiston Tithe map 1843?



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Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan:  
This report has been prepared by:

Pete Crane BA Hons MIFA

Swydd / Position: Senior Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature ..... Dyddiad / Date

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

Ken Murphy

Swydd / Position: Principal Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature ..... Dyddiad / Date

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

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw  
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