

# EGLWYSWRW WATER MAIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



Prepared  
by  
Cambria Archaeology  
for  
DWR CYMRU



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**EGLWYSWRW WATER MAIN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

By

Cambria Archaeology Field Services

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# **EGLWYSWRW WATER MAIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Report No.2005/134

November 2005

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Position: Principal Archaeological Officer Field Services

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on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

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

**EGLWYSWRW WATER MAIN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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## **EGLWYSRW WATER MAIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

### **SUMMARY**

*Dwr Cymru laid a new water main at Eglwysrw, Pembrokeshire (NGR SN13943835 - SN14113848). The water main started from close to the castle at the southern end of the village and finished just south of the church. Previous archaeological work in the village has revealed evidence for medieval burial and it is possible that the original burial ground extended beyond the present churchyard. Therefore, it was felt appropriate that a watching brief should be carried out on the excavation of the new water main trench in order to record any features or deposits disturbed by the works. Cambria Archaeology Field Operations were commissioned to carry out the watching brief in September 2005.*



Plate 1: view northeast along the southern end of the new water main trench.



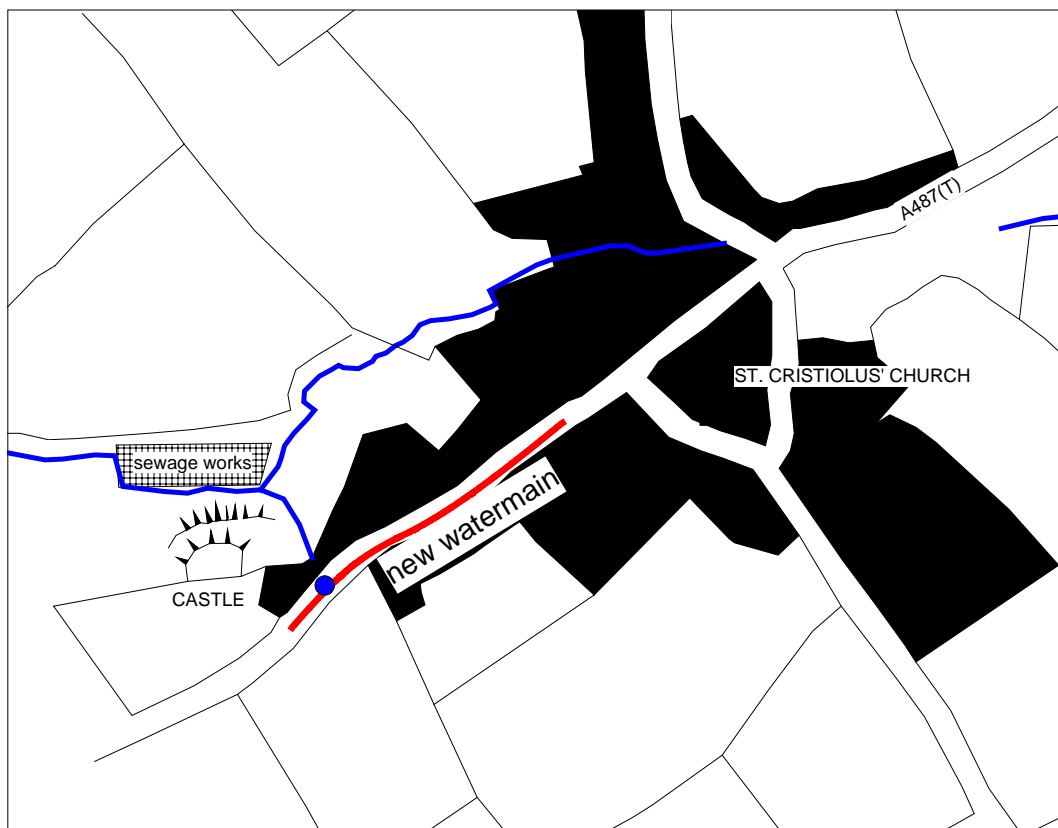
## INTRODUCTION

### Project background

Dwr Cymru replaced a water main at Eglwysrw, Pembrokeshire (NGR SN13943835 - SN14113848). The new main runs for c.200m along part of the A487(T), through the centre of the village (Fig 1; Plate 1). Archaeological work carried out in Eglwysrw during recent years has revealed evidence of medieval burials during road widening works along the south side of the church (Ludlow 1998). There is a strong local tradition that burials have been found in other parts of the village, suggesting that the original churchyard may have been substantially bigger than present (Ludlow 1998, 44; Schlee 2005, 1). The new water main trench was also starting in close proximity to the castle. Therefore, given the archaeological potential of the village a watching brief was required on the works to record any archaeological features or deposits exposed in the new water main trench. Cambria Archaeology Field Operations were commissioned to carry out the watching brief in September 2005.

### The watching brief methodology and scope of the report

The excavation of the trench for the new water main was monitored and all deposits and structures exposed recorded. This report outlines the main watching brief results before discussing the impact of the works based on the on-site observations and the known archaeological potential of the area. Known archaeological sites mentioned in the text are annotated with their Primary Record Number (PRN) as recorded in the Historic Environment Record held by Cambria Archaeology at their offices in Llandeilo. All grid references are prefixed with NGR (National Grid Reference).



*Figure 1 Location plan showing the location of the water main in relation to the known archaeological sites and features in the village of Eglwysrw. The slate slab is marked with a blue circle.*

## **WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS**

Site visits were undertaken throughout the excavation of the new water main trench. These revealed only one possible archaeological feature, a pitched slate slab at approximately NGR SN13963837. Even though only a small portion of the slab was visible its form and position were sufficiently at variance with the surrounding deposits for it to be considered of archaeological potential.

### **Possible stale slab structure (Plate 2)**

The slate slab was of the same local slate used for 25 cist, or stone-lined, graves that were recorded close to the church in 1996 (Ludlow 1998, 28). There was not enough evidence recovered during this watching brief to make any interpretation regarding the slab.



*Plate 2: The slate slab exposed in the side of the water main trench.*

## **Discussion**

The only possible feature of archaeological interest was a single slate slab partially exposed in the side of the new water main trench. There has been enough evidence from elsewhere in the village of slab lined cist graves to have made this slab worthy of note. However, there was no other associated evidence, such as a visible grave cut or other stones, to suggest that this was part of a grave or any other type of structure.

## **SOURCES**

- |          |      |   |
|----------|------|---|
| Ludlow N | 1998 | <i>St Cristiolus' Churchyard, Eglwyswrw archaeological excavation and watching brief, April - September 1996.</i> ACA project number 35707. |
| Schlee D | 2005 | Archaeological recording at The Armoury, Eglwyswrw, Pembrokeshire<br>ACA project number 55333.  |