

LAND TO THE REAR OF 26 HIGH STREET, LLANDYBIE, CARMARTHENSHIRE:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological
Trust
For Davies Richards



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CARMARTHENSHIRE:**

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Gan / By

Simon Ratty

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Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by Simon Ratty

Swydd / Position: Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
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Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

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

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Summary

A planning application (application number E/13721) was submitted to develop a plot of land adjoining 26 High Street, Llandybie, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN61711555).

There are no known archaeological sites within the boundary of the development site. However, the site is located immediately to the east of the suggested line of the Roman road which linked the forts of Loughor and Llandeilo. To the east of the development site is located the medieval parish church of St Tybie (PRN 824 at NGR SN61831555). St Tybie's church would have formed the nucleus of any medieval settlement at Llandybie, which may have extended as far as the development site.

Given the potential for the presence of archaeological features and deposits on the site planning permission was granted with a condition that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during the groundworks for the development.

In order to comply with this planning condition Davies Richards Design Partnership commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to carry out the archaeological watching brief. The watching brief was undertaken in March 2008.

No archaeological features or deposits were noted during the course of the watching brief.

1.INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

Plans to develop a plot of land adjoining 26 High Street, Llandybie, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN61711555) required an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken. The development site does not contain any known archaeological sites. However, the close proximity of the site to the suggested course of the Roman road between the forts of Loughour and Llandeilo, along with the presence of the medieval church of St Tybie nearby, resulted in an archaeological watching brief condition being recommended by the Local Planning Authority's (LPA) archaeological advisor¹. Davies Richards Design Partnership commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to carry out the archaeological watching brief, which was carried out in March 2008.

1.2 Scope of the Project

The project was designed to record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during all major episodes of earth moving or ground breaking, such as topsoil stripping and deep cutting.

1.3 Report Outline

This report describes the location of the site along with its archaeological background (Section 2) before summarising the watching brief results and the conclusions based on those results (Section 3).

1.4 Abbreviations

Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER²) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR).

¹ Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management Section.

² Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Llandeilo

2.THE SITE

2.1 Location

The site is located at NGR SN61711555, which is a short distance to the north west of the centre of the village of Llandybie. Topographically the site lies on a moderate southeast-facing slope and is situated at a height of c.60m above Ordnance Datum.

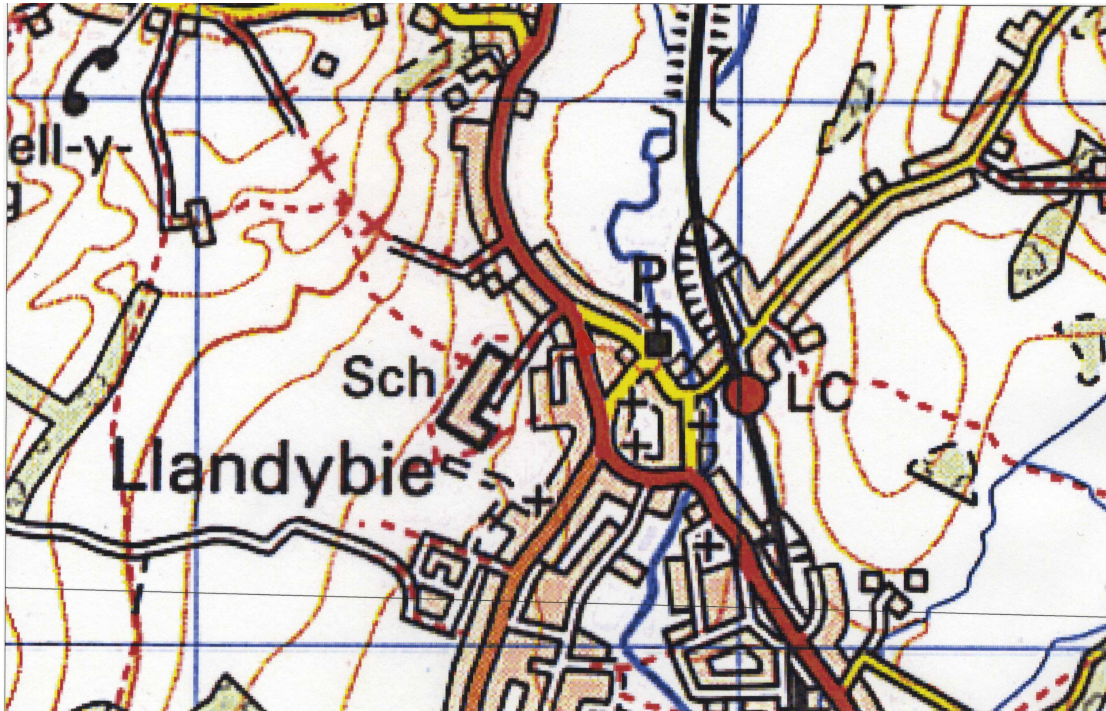


Figure 1: Extract of OS 1:50000 map showing development area in red.

Reproduced from the 1997 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd., The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A

2.2 Historic landscape development

A search of the regional HER revealed no known archaeological sites within the area covered by the watching brief, although it is in relative close proximity to both the suggested course of the Roman road between the forts at Loughor and Llandeilo, and the medieval church of St Tybie. The church would have been close to the nucleus of any medieval settlement at Llandybie.

Map evidence reveals that the development site has remained broadly undeveloped since the latter part of the 19th century and that it appears to have formed part of the gardens of No 26 High Street Llandybie.

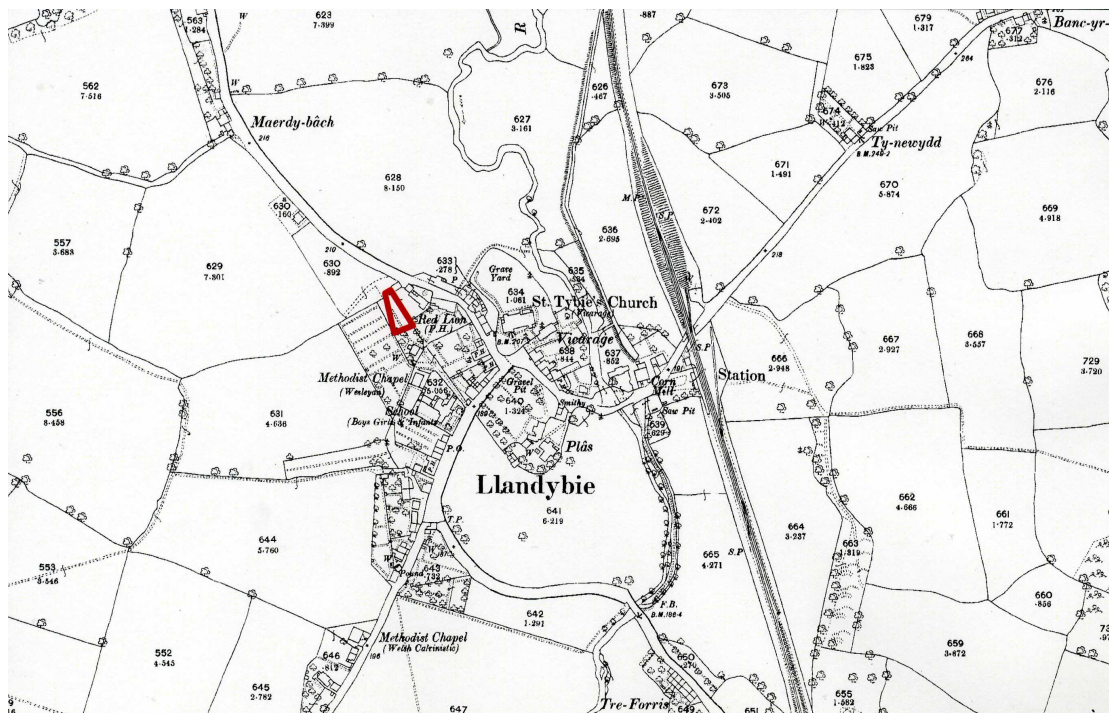


Figure 2: Extract of 1st edition 1:2500 OS map (1878) showing development area bounded in red.



Figure 3: Extract of 2nd edition 1:2500 OS map (1906) showing development area in red.

3.SUMMARY OF WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

3.1 Watching Brief Methodology

The watching brief comprised two site visits by an archaeologist to monitor groundworks being undertaken prior to any construction being undertaken.

3.2 Watching Brief Results

An initial site visit was undertaken to monitor groundworks at the site, during the course of which no archaeological features or deposits were noted.

A second site visit was made to monitor the excavation of a c10m long by 1.10m wide foundation trench for a retaining wall. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70m. The stratigraphic sequence was consistent throughout the trench, with a 0.40m deep topsoil of dark greyish brown clay silt containing a high proportion of ash and modern debris in the form of glazed pottery and brick. This overlay a mid-orange sandy clay of moderate compaction containing c.10% small sub-angular stones.

No significant archaeological features or deposits were observed during the course of the watching brief.

3.3 Conclusion

Despite the site being located in a potentially archaeologically sensitive area, the groundworks required for the construction of the new property had no significant impact on the archaeological resource of Llandybie.

SOURCES

Database

The Regional Historic Environment Record, housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust at its offices in Llandeilo

Cartographic

Ordnance Survey, 1:10560 Quarter Sheet SN61NW 1964

Ordnance Survey, 1:10560 Quarter Sheet SN61SW 1965

Ordnance Survey, 1:10560 1st Edition Carmarthenshire Sheet XXXXI SE 1891

Ordnance Survey, 1:10560 2nd Edition Carmarthenshire Sheet XXXXI SE 1907