

LOGLANE HOUSE, LAUGHARNE CARMARTHENSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



Report prepared
by
Dyfed Archaeological Trust
for
Mrs Joanna Legge



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**LOGLANE HOUSE, LAUGHARNE
CARMARTHENSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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**LOGLANE HOUSE, LAUGHARNE, CARMARTHENSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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LOGLANE HOUSE, LAUGHARNE, CARMARTHENSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

Water pipe renewal works at Longlane House, Laugharne, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN30241135) required an archaeological watching brief. The watching brief was necessary because of the proximity of the medieval parish church, just to the north of the site, and the discovery of a cist grave cemetery of probable early medieval date a short distance to the south.

Mrs Joanna Legge commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to carry out the watching brief in May 2008.

The water pipe trench ran from Church Street along the southeast boundary of the modern burial ground and into the southwest corner of the grounds of Longlane House.

No archaeological features were present in the pipe trench and the installation of the pipe had no archaeological impacts.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project commission

Water pipe renewal works at Longlane House, Laugharne, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN30241135) required an archaeological watching brief. The watching brief was necessary because of the proximity of the medieval parish church, which is located c.80m to the north and the discovery of a cist grave cemetery of probable early-medieval date a short distance to the south.

Mrs Joanna Legge commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to carry out the watching brief in May 2008.

1.2 Scope of the project

The watching brief was designed to record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during trench cutting operations for the new water pipe.

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 those results.

1.4 Abbreviations

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

2. THE SITE

2.1 Location

The new water pipe trench ran from the east side of the A4066, Church Street, along the southeast side of the modern graveyard and into the grounds of Longlane House. The site is located on the northern edge of the town of Laugharne, on the south side of the parish church. There is a substantial slope up from Church Street to Longlane House (Plate 1).

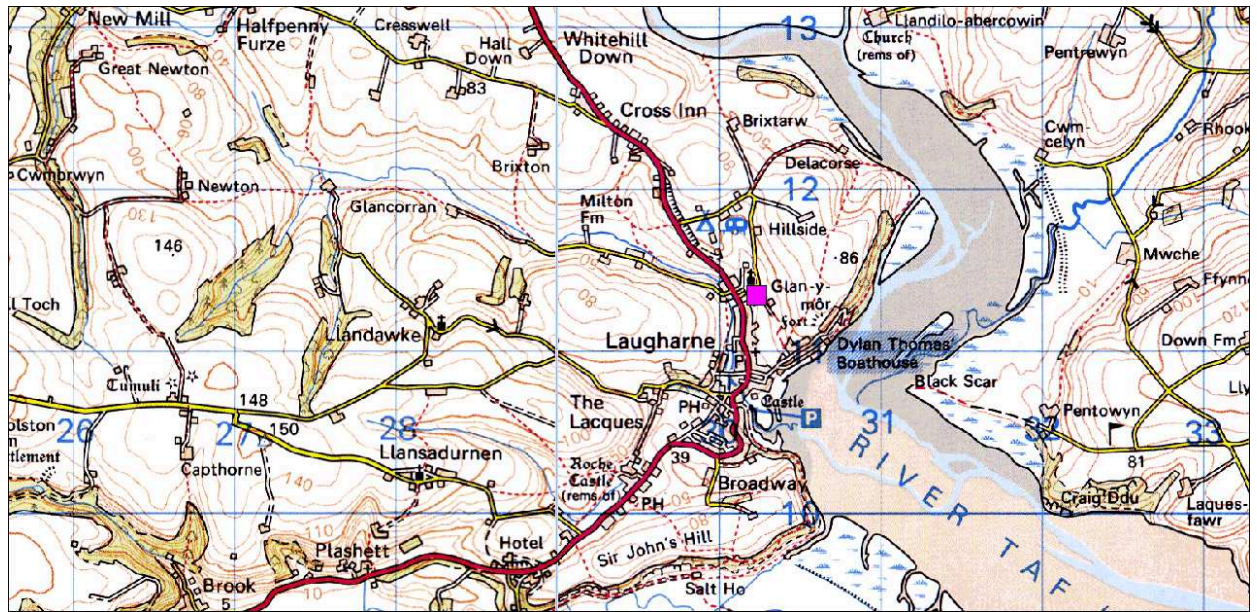


Figure 1: Location map showing the watching brief area (pink square).

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, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A

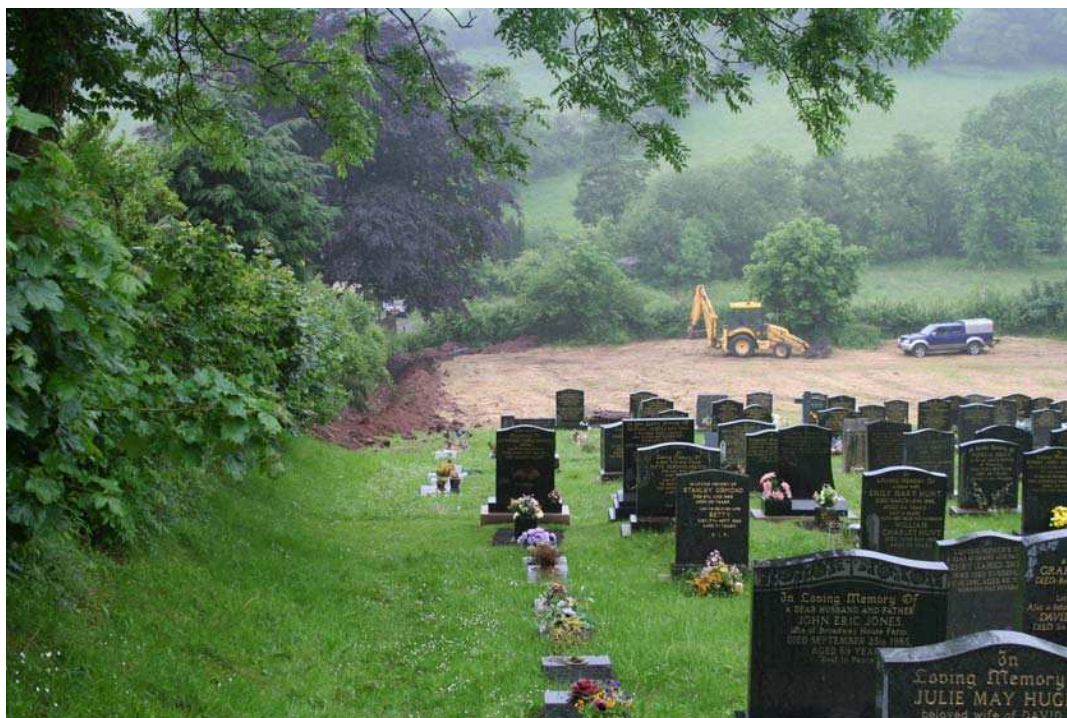


Plate 1: View southwest showing the slope from Longlane House to Church Street. The water pipe trench is visible running along the hedge line.

2.2 The known archaeological resource

The medieval parish church (PRN 2163: NGR SN30211143) may have been constructed on an earlier site, a possibility that is supported by the presence of early medieval inscribed stones within the churchyard and the discovery of a number of probable early medieval cist graves (PRN 11610; NGR SN30191128) approximately 100m south of the church (Figure 2). It is thought that the church originally sat within a much larger early medieval enclosure (Ludlow 2004). A medieval midden (PRN 11631; NGR SN30191128) was also recorded close to the cist graves.

Longlane House sits within what was formerly an extensive medieval strip or open field system, parts of which are still traceable in the existing field boundaries to the east of the site. On the Laugharne Township tithe map and apportionment, produced in the 1840s, the site is marked as 'Slang' (a narrow strip of land between fields).

Other than the construction of Longlane House and the use of the adjacent field (called Church Field on the tithe map) to the north for the modern graveyard, the landscape has changed little in this area since the later medieval period.

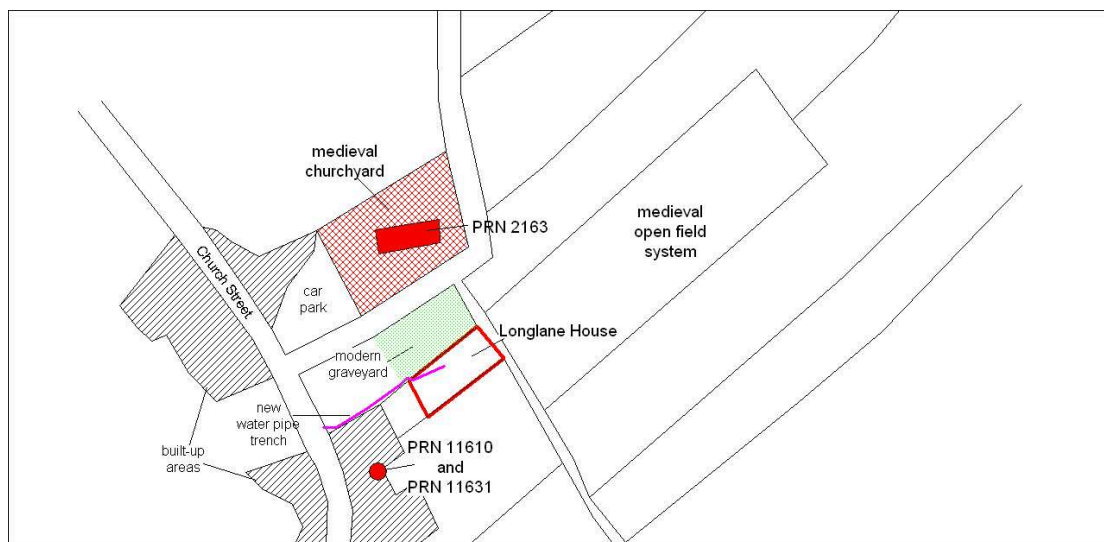


Figure 2: Plan showing location of known archaeological sites and the new water pipe trench.

3. SUMMARY OF WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

3.1 Methodology

The watching brief consisted of a site visit to inspect the new water pipe trench. Time was made available to examine and record the trench by photography and rapid site notes.

3.2 Results

The trench ran along the southeast boundary of the modern graveyard and was up to c.0.9m deep. The exposed trench sides showed a homogenous layer of red/brown clayey loam, which may have been colluvium (hillwash), underlying the turf cover (Plate 2). Because of the known presence of cist graves to the south of the site the trench sides were examined for signs of grave cuts or burials.

No archaeological features or deposits were present within the trench.



Plate 1: View northeast along the pipe trench.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Despite the potentially sensitive location of the new water pipe trench there were no archaeological features or deposits present within the trench. Therefore, the installation of the new water pipe had no archaeological impact.

SOURCES

Cartographic sources

Laugharne Township parish tithe map (1846?) and apportionment (1842?)

Unpublished sources

Ludlow N 2004 *Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project Stage 2: Assessment And Fieldwork Carmarthenshire Part 2a: Gazetteer Of Sites*. Llandeilo. Report for Cadw. DAT report Number 2004/2

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
SPECIFICATION**

REPORT NUMBER 2008/53

June 2008

This report has been prepared by Nigel Page

Position: Head of Field Services

Signature Date

This report has been checked and approved by Ken Murphy
on behalf of, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position: Director

Signature Date

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