

# OLD RECTORY, MANORDEIFI, LLECHRYD, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust  
For: Mr Nic North



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## DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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# OLD RECTORY, MANORDEIFI, LLECHRYD, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Gan / By

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<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<b><i>Summary</i></b>	<b>1</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Project Commission</b>	
<b>Scope of the Project</b>	
<b>Report Outline</b>	
<b>Abbreviations</b>	
<b>Illustrations</b>	
<b>THE SITE</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Location</b>	
<b>Archaeological Background</b>	
<b>WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Methodology</b>	
<b>Results</b>	
<b><i>Cattle Byre</i></b>	
<b><i>Storeroom</i></b>	
<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>SOURCES</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Figure 1:</b> Location map based on the Ordnance Survey	<b>6</b>
<b>Figure 2:</b> Extract of 1 <sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey Map	<b>7</b>
<b>Figure 3:</b> Extract of 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey Map	<b>8</b>
<b>Photo 1:</b> Northwest view of cattle byre with trough/ drain to right	<b>9</b>
<b>Photo 2:</b> Southeast end of cattle byre following groundworks.	<b>9</b>
<b>Photo 3:</b> General working shot of cattle byre groundworks.	<b>10</b>
<b>Photo 4:</b> Storeroom facing northwest showing exposed bedrock.	<b>10</b>
<b>Photo 5:</b> Cattle byre and storeroom undergoing conversion.	<b>11</b>
<b>Photo 6:</b> Northwest outbuilding prior to conversion	<b>11</b>

**OLD RECTORY, MANORDEIFI, LLECHRYD, PEMBROKESHIRE:  
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**Summary**

*A planning application (number 04/0948/PA) has been submitted to Pembrokeshire County Council for the conversion of two outbuildings at the Old Rectory, Manordeifi, Pembrokeshire (NGR SN 2288 4304).*

*The proposed development site is located within an area of known archaeological interest and it was recommended that an archaeological watching brief be conducted during excavations within the outbuildings.*

*To comply with the recommendation Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were commissioned by Bell Designs, acting as agents for Mr Nic North, to conduct the archaeological watching brief.*

*The watching brief identified a former drain of probable post-medieval date running through the former cattle byre part of the structure that was not deemed to be particular archaeological significance. No further archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the groundworks monitored.*

*It appears that the proposed development has had a minimal impact upon the archaeological resource of the area.*

## INTRODUCTION

### Project Commission

Plans were submitted for the conversion of outbuildings to holiday cottages at the Old Rectory, Manordeifi, Llechryd, Pembrokeshire (Planning Application Number 04/0948/PA; NGR SN 2288 4304). The proposed development site is located within an area of known archaeological interest and to protect this interest a watching brief condition was recommended on the planning application whereby

*'The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeologist is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area, so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted'.*

To comply with this recommendation Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field services were commissioned by Bell Designs, acting as agents to Mr Nic North, to undertake the archaeological watching brief that was conducted in March 2009.

### Scope of the Project

The project was designed to record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the proposed redevelopment.

### Report Outline

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

### Abbreviations

Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER<sup>1</sup>) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR).

### Illustrations

Record photographs are included at back of the report. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale and are illustrative only.

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<sup>1</sup> Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Llandeilo.

## **THE SITE**

### **Location**

The site is located to the southeast of Llechyd, Pembrokeshire (NGR SN 2293 4301) and is situated on a north facing hillside at a height of c.40m above Ordnance Datum.

### **Archaeological Background**

No known archaeological sites are located within the area of outbuildings. However, the site is located to the east of the Grade II Listed Old Rectory (PRN 7261; NGR SN 2293 4301), and the site of Llandyrys medieval moated homestead (PRN 11006; NGR SN 2300 4300). To the northwest of the development site is located the medieval church of St David (PRN 2077; NGR SN 2283 4316), which would have formed the nucleus for any medieval settlement at Manordeifi. The dedication of the church to St David, a 'Celtic' saint, may suggest that an early medieval ecclesiastical foundation was once located at Manordeifi.

Map evidence has revealed that the outbuildings have been in existence since the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century (Tithe Map, 1838). The Apportionment lists that the proposed development site formed part of a c.18ha glebe consisting of a house, church and garden occupied by the Rev Thomas James (Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1838). No house appears to be depicted on the Tithe Map within or in close proximity to the development site. However, located to the northwest of the site (NGR SN 2263 4313) is a deserted settlement site traditionally known as the 'Parsonage' (PRN 7262). It is likely that this is the site of the house and garden listed in the Apportionment as in the occupancy of the Rev Thomas James.

## WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

### Methodology

The archaeological watching brief comprised a single visit to the development site to monitor the lowering of the floor levels in the southeast outbuilding (NGR SN 2288 4302). The groundworks were to be undertaken in the two rooms of the outbuilding, a 10.9m x 4.8m former possible cattle byre and adjacent 3m x 4.8m storeroom.

### Results

#### Cattle Byre

Context Number	Description	Depth
Layer 001	Subsoil  Firm mid orange brown sandy clay containing occasional small to medium angular stone.	0.30m
Layer 002	Natural  Shattered shale bedrock	0.15m

**Table 1:** Context descriptions for cattle byre.

Prior to the archaeological watching brief the concrete floor of the building had been removed. Scarring left on the internal walls of the building indicated this floor was c.0.3m thick. A c.1m wide x c.0.15m deep northwest – southeast aligned former drain was present that ran the whole length of the cattle byre.

The groundworks revealed that the southwest part of the outbuilding had been constructed directly onto the shattered shale bedrock (001). This was visible as a c.3m wide band running the length of the room. To the northeast the building was constructed on the subsoil (002) with no sign of any foundations or footings.

No significant archaeological features or deposits were present.

#### Storeroom

The lowering of the floor level in the storeroom was not archaeologically monitored as the shattered shale bedrock was visible throughout the room.

## CONCLUSION

The groundworks monitored during the course of the watching brief revealed a former drain through the length of the former cattle byre. The drain is likely to have been contemporary with the construction of the building, and thus of post-medieval date. Drains are integral parts of cattle byres with their primary function allowing animal waste products to exit the building as easily as possible. The feature is not considered to be of particular archaeological significance.

No further archaeological features or deposits were revealed.

The results of the watching brief indicate that the proposed development would have had a minimal impact on the archaeological resource. The results indicate that no significant remains were present within the footprints of the buildings, the majority of the footprint of the building being constructed directly onto underlying bedrock, the construction of which may have involved levelling groundworks which would have removed any earlier archaeological remains. The results do not discount the potential for archaeological remains to survive in the wider area outside of the footprints of the buildings.

## **SOURCES**

### **Map**

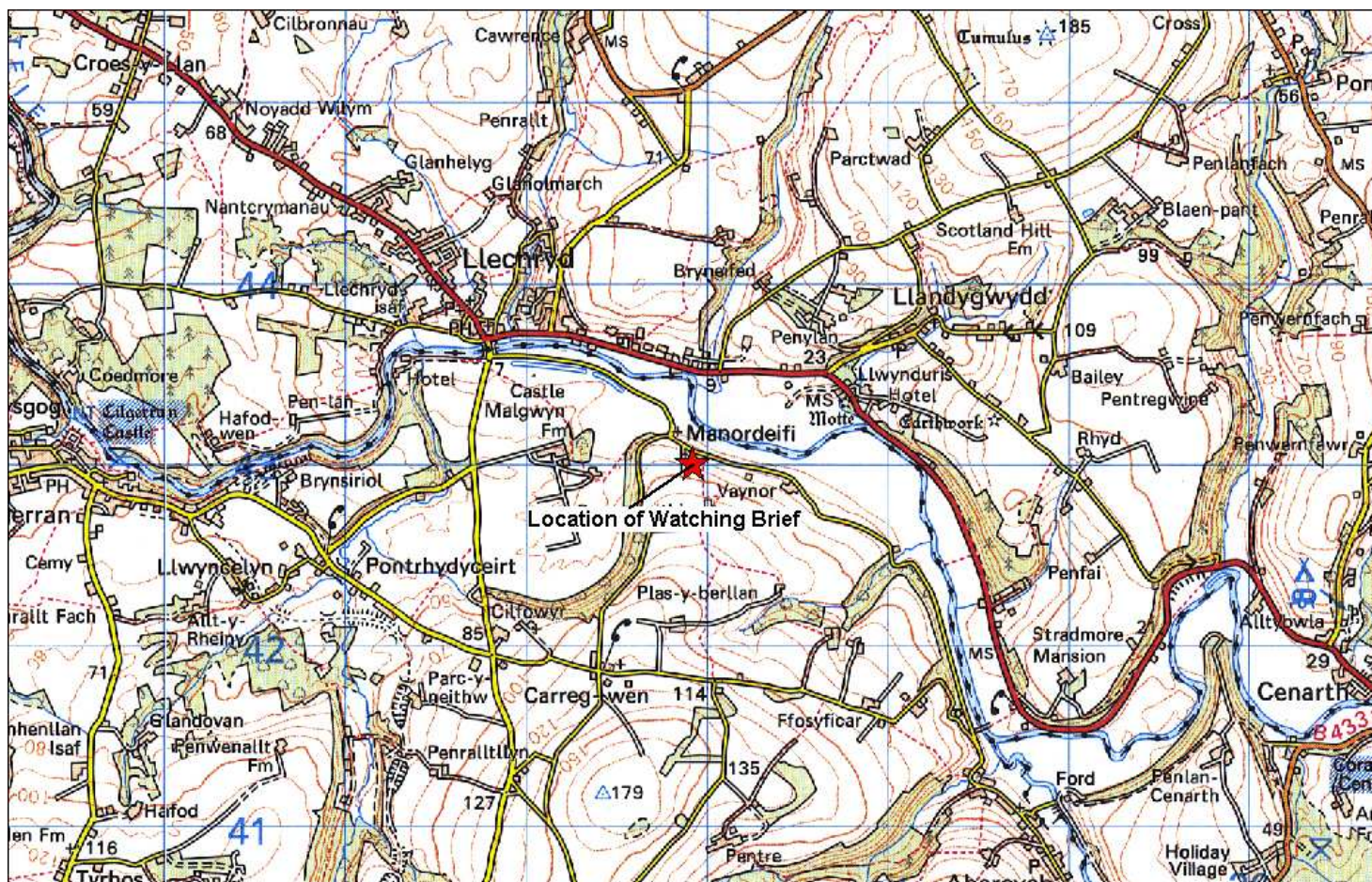
Ordnance Survey 1890 1:10560 Cardiganshire Sheet IV SE

Ordnance Survey 1906 1:10560 Cardiganshire Sheet IV SE

Ordnance Survey 1997 1:50,000 Landranger

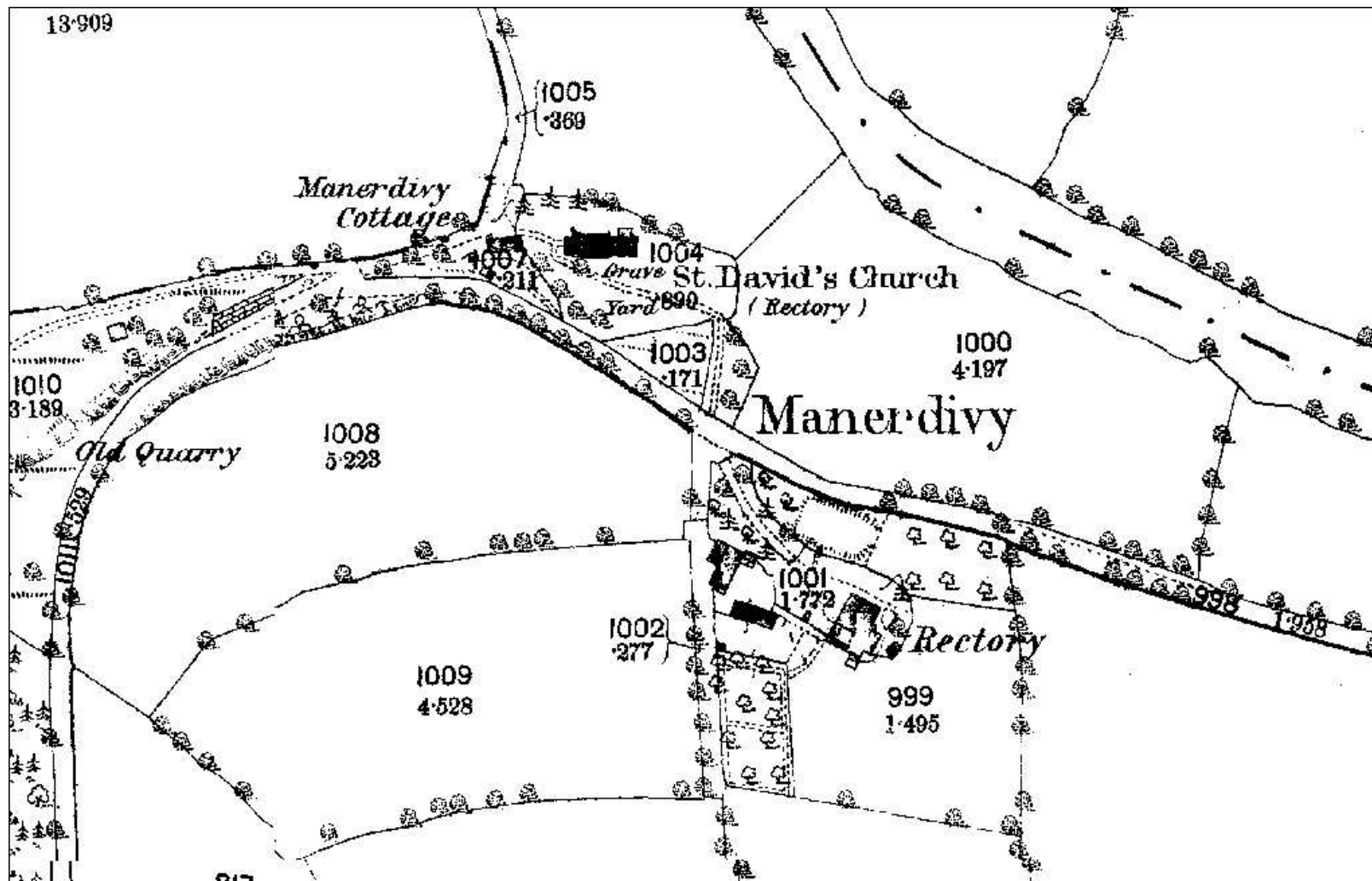
Tithe Map and Apportionment 1838 Manerdivy Parish





**Figure 1:** Location map based on the Ordnance Survey (1997)

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**Figure 2:** Extract of 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey Map (1890)







**Photo 1:** Northwest view of cattle byre with trough/drain to right.



**Photo 2:** Southeast end of cattle byre following groundworks.





**Photo 3:** General working shot of cattle byre groundworks.



**Photo 4:** Storeroom facing northwest showing exposed bedrock.





**Photo 5:** Cattle byre and store room undergoing conversion.



**Photo 6:** Northwest outbuilding prior to conversion.

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**April 2009**

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Simon Ratty

Swydd / Position: 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

James Meek

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.  
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Head of Field Services

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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