

YNYS TOMENLLE CSO SITE, HENDY, CARMARTHENSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

November 2009



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For: Black and Veatch Ltd



ymddiriedolaeth archaeolegol
DYFED
archaeological trust

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

**RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2009/85
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 98517**

Tachwedd 2009
November 2009

**YNYS TOMENLLE CSO SITE, HENDY,
CARMARTHENSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Gan / By

ANDREW SHOBBROOK

Paratowyd yr adroddiad yma at ddefnydd y cwsmer yn unig. Ni dderbynnir cyfrifoldeb gan Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf am ei ddefnyddio gan unrhyw berson na phersonau eraill a fydd yn ei ddarllen neu ddibynnu ar y gwybodaeth y mae'n ei gynnwys

The report has been prepared for the specific use of the client. Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited can accept no responsibility for its use by any other person or persons who may read it or rely on the information it contains.

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: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Gwefan: www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk

*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: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Website: www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk*

Cwmni cyfyngedig (1198990) ynghyd ag elusen gofrestredig (504616) yw'r Ymddiriedolaeth. The Trust is both a Limited Company (No. 1198990) and a Registered Charity (No. 504616)

**CADEIRYDD CHAIRMAN: C R MUSSON MBE B Arch FSA MIFA. CYFARWYDDWR
DIRECTOR: K MURPHY BA MIFA**

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	1
1 INTRODUCTION	2
1.1 Project Commission	2
1.2 Scope of the Project	2
1.3 Report Outline	2
1.4 Abbreviations	2
1.5 Illustrations	2
2 THE SITE	3
2.1 Location	3
2.2 Archaeological Background	3
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF	3
4 RESULTS	4
5 CONCLUSIONS	5
6 SOURCES	6

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Location map of watching brief site based on the modern Ordnance Survey	7
Figure 2: Extract of 1 st edition Ordnance Survey Map (1879) showing area of sewer divert works.	8
Figure 3: Extract of 2 nd edition Ordnance Survey Map (1906) showing area of sewer divert works.	8
Figure 4: Dwr Cymru map showing sewer pipe route. Red line shows sewer divert	13

TABLES

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales	10
Table 2: Recorded archaeological sites within close proximity to sewer divert area.	10
Table 3: Soil descriptions for Manhole inspection pit	11

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1: South east facing representative section of settling Manhole inspection	10
Photo 2: General working shot sewer pipe	10
Photo 3: South-east facing view of backfilled drainage ditch	11
Photo 4: South-east facing section of modern drainage ditch	12
Photo 5: North-west facing section of modern drainage ditch	12

YNYS TOMENLLE CSO SITE, HENDY, CARMARTHENSHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

This report has been produced by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services in response to a request from Black and Veatch Limited, acting as agent for Dwr Cymru, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new divert of sewage pipeline near Hendy, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN 912 080).

The existing sewer pipe leads south from Heol Iscoed to the River Lougher on a northwest-southeast route, the section that leads northwest from the river bank has now become redundant due to the natural shift of the rivers course and therefore it was required that a new 40 metre divert of the sewer pipeline was to be constructed to lead to the present river bank edge. The construction process would involve the excavation of a square pit for the new head wall, which is situated within the immediate location of the riverbank, two manhole covers at either end of the new divert and a 40 metre stretch of new pipe cut trench which would adjoin the new head wall to the existing pipe.

A search of the Regional HERs revealed that the proposed area of the sewer contained no known recorded archaeological sites, although seven archaeological sites are recorded in close proximity. The sites range in date from the Early Medieval period up to the medieval period. None of these sites would be directly affected by the new stretch of pipe. However, given the presence of archaeological sites in close proximity to the development area the potential for hitherto unknown archaeological features and deposits being encountered is considered high. Given that the sewer divert route lies close to an area of archaeological interest it was recommended that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during all major episodes of ground breaking and topsoil stripping.

An area measuring 30 by 8 metres was stripped to the natural subsoil to form a sewer divert corridor, within which was revealed a northwest-southeast aligned presumed drainage ditch. The alignment suggests that the ditch lead straight to the river to drain the surrounding agricultural land. The fill of the ditch contained modern ceramic and glass fragments, which would suggest a modern date or that it was cleaned out in the modern period.

The ground works associated with the sewer renewal works appear to have had a minimal affect on the buried archaeological resource.

INTRODUCTION

Project Commission

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were commissioned by Black and Veatch Limited, acting as agent for Dwr Cymru, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground-works ahead of the construction of a new divert of a sewer pipeline near Hendy, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN 912 080).

A Written Scheme of Investigation detailing the proposed archaeological works and methodology was prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust and was approved by all parties prior to the works commencing.

Scope of the Project

The project was designed to record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during earth moving or ground breaking associated with the construction of the sewer pipeline divert.

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) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). The HER information comes from both the Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT) and also Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT).

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.

THE SITE

Location and Topography

The development is located at NGR SM 912 080 to the South of the village of Hendy near Pontarddulais, Carmarthenshire. Situated at a height of 10 c.m above Ordnance Survey, the underlying solid geology of the watching brief area consists of Westphalian ('coal measures') of the Silesian series (British Geological Survey, 1994).

Archaeological Background

A search of the Regional HER revealed that the proposed route of the sewer divert contained no known recorded archaeological sites. Seven archaeological sites are recorded in close proximity to the development area (see table 2), ranging in date from the Early Medieval period up to the medieval period. None of the sites would be directly affected by the new stretch of pipe.

The route of the sewer divert lies in close proximity to a number of sites of archaeological and historical interest, including two Scheduled Ancient Monuments, the earthwork remains of Ystum Enlli Castle Mound (Scheduled Ancient Monument No.CM096; DAT PRN 701) and Hendy Earthwork which is a Scheduled rectangular enclosure of medieval date (CM097; DAT PRN702). There are also five other archaeological sites situated on the opposite side of the river which are still in close enough proximity to be mentioned in this report: Lan Teiliauo Talypont (GGAT PRN05256w), the site of an early medieval church and outer enclosure also dated to the early medieval period (GGAT PRN05667w); St Teilo's old Parish church, a medieval church (GGAT PRN00621) and medieval church yard (GGAT PRN00863w); and the most southerly being the site of 'Talybont Castle (Castell Hu; Banc-Rhyfe, GGAT PRN00196w), a medieval motte and bailey. The presence of these types of sites gives an indication of the medieval riverside activity within this area and its importance as a strategic military position and as a focus for Christianity.

Map evidence indicates that from at least the early 19th century the development area was utilised as agricultural land (Tithe Map 1842, Ordnance Survey, 1879 and 1906). The present field in which the sewer pipe divert is situated is shown on the 1842 tithe map as being two fields with a field boundary running north-south, situated to the east of the proposed new stretch of sewer,. This field boundary can still be seen on the 1906 Ordnance survey map, which means that the field boundary was removed sometime after 1906. The field in which the pipe route follows is labelled on the Llanedy tithe map of 1842 as field 193, and that a Mr Griffith Vaughn of the Pontarddulais Hotel was renting the field. The landowner's name of field 193 is illegible.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Methodology

The archaeological watching brief methodology consisted of five site visits being undertaken to monitor the ground-works ahead of the construction of the new head wall, the new trench cut for the sewer pipe and two excavations for the manhole inspection pits. The watching brief visits were undertaken on the 23rd-25th of September and again on the 28th and 30th of the same month. A visit was undertaken on the 23rd, although no groundworks were carried out due to problems with machinery.

Results

A 30 metre by 8 metre pipe corridor was stripped to a depth of 0.16m, which then revealed the natural subsoil. During this process a drainage ditch was revealed, positioned on a northwest-southeast alignment, suggesting it was aligned to lead straight to the river. It is considered most likely that the feature represents a drainage ditch to drain the surrounding agricultural land. The ditch measured 2.15 metres wide and 0.40 metres in depth. The fill of the feature contained some redeposited natural soil, which may suggest that there was formerly a bank on one side of the ditch, which was pushed back into the ditch as deliberate backfilling.

The trench cut for the new sewer pipe, measured 40 m in length and a maximum of 3m in depth. Whilst cutting the trench north from the river bank it was noted that the upper levels of the river bank consisted of an accumulation of silt sand layers with large amounts of modern debris, such as rubber tyres and tin cans.

At around 20m from the river edge a yellow natural alluvial layer began to be exposed. It is considered likely that the ground to the south of this point would be largely comprised of an accumulation of naturally deposited alluvial river deposits.

CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during topsoil stripping and trench cutting ahead of the construction of the new sewer divert at Ynys Tomenlle, Hendy, Carmarthenshire by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services.

Groundworks immediately adjacent to the north of the existing river revealed a large quantity of modern debris within the river bank. The debris was not visible around 20m from the edge of the river, where a depth of natural alluvial deposits was revealed.

A single linear feature of probable modern date was revealed within the sewer divert area, which was aligned in such a way that it is considered likely it represents a drainage ditch associated with the improvement of agricultural land.

The area in which the new cut for the sewer pipe was situated is low lying and prone to flooding, therefore the lack of archaeological evidence could be attributed to this. Such marginal land may have been seasonally used for agricultural or grazing purposes, but would not be suitable for settlement. It is considered that the dryer land away from the Lougher estuary has a higher archaeological potential due to it being dryer and less prone to flooding. The two scheduled medieval earthworks on the western side of the River in Carmarthenshire, Ystum Enlli Castle Mound and Hendy Earthwork, are obviously located on natural high points within the River estuary, exploiting the higher and drier ground.

SOURCES

Map

Tithe Map and Apportionment 1842 Llanedy, Carmarthenshire.

Ordnance Survey 1879 1:10560 Carmarthenshire Sheet LV SW

Ordnance Survey 1906 1:10560 Pembrokeshire Sheet LV SW

Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Land Ranger Swansea & Gower.

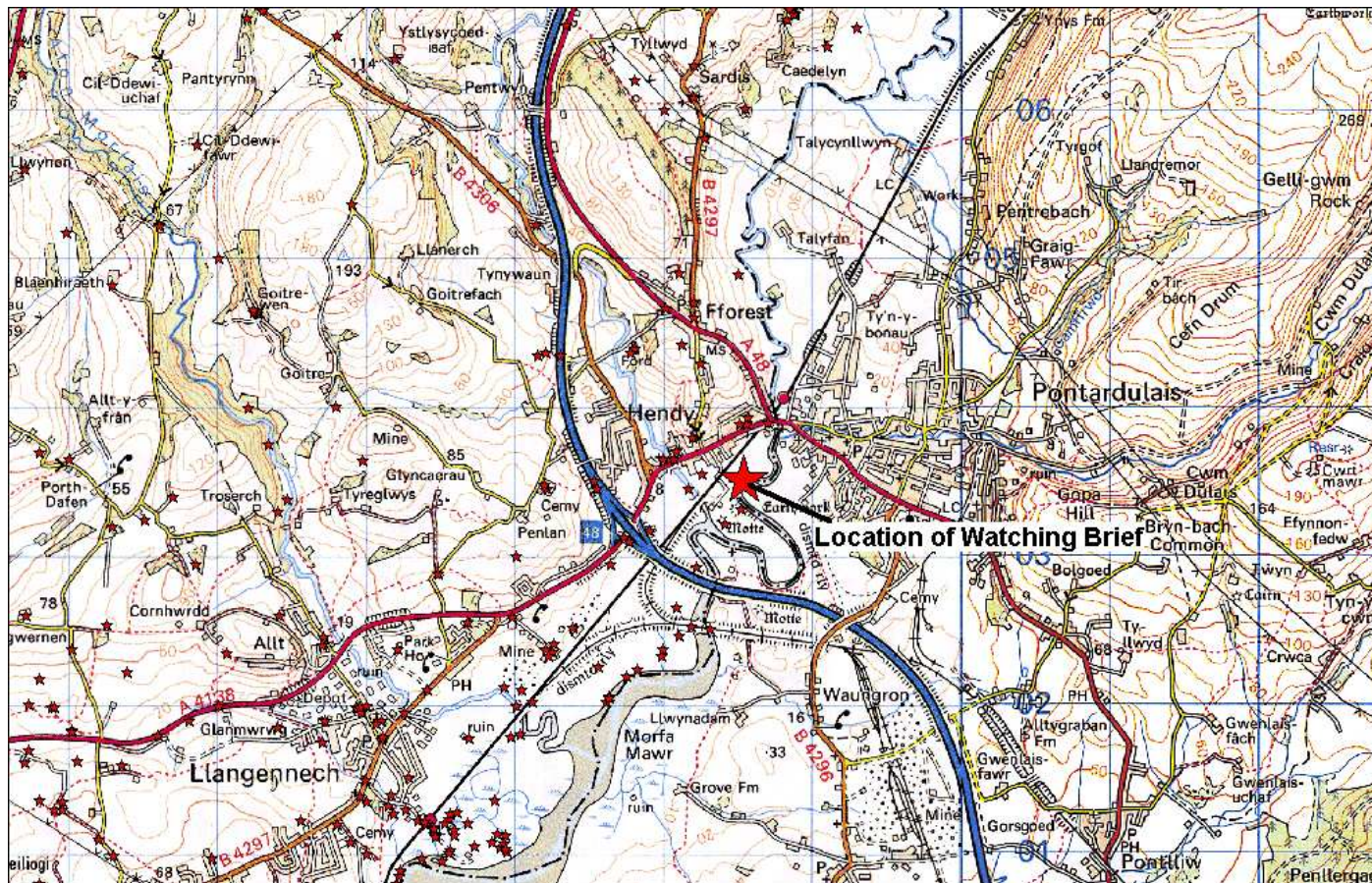


Figure 1: Location map of watching brief site based on the Ordnance Survey.

Reproduced from the 1995 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

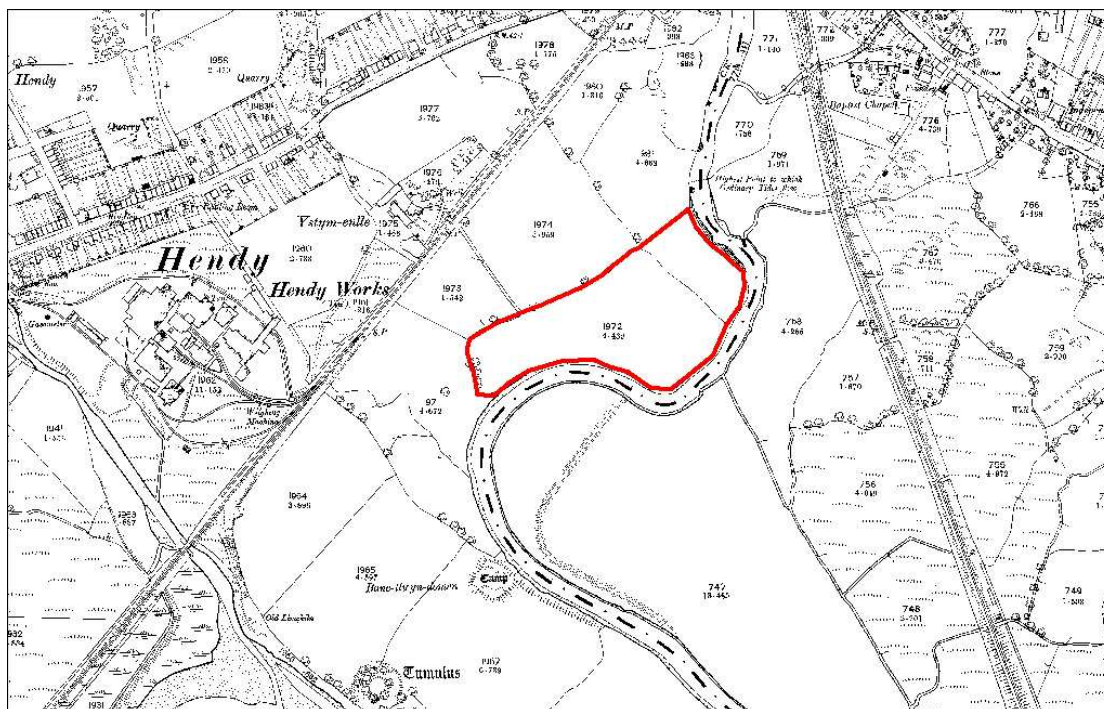


Figure 2: Extract of 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map (1879) showing area of sewer divert works.

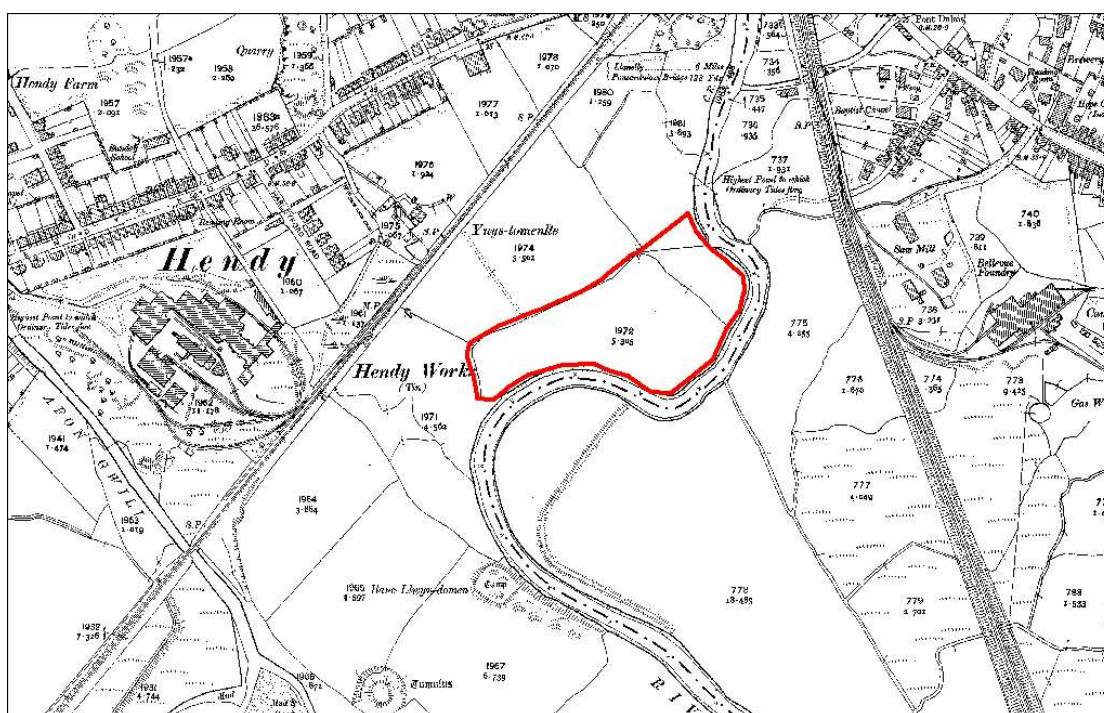


Figure 3: Extract of 2nd edition Ordnance Survey Map (1906) showing area of sewer divert works.

PERIOD	APPROXIMATE DATE
Palaeolithic	c.225,000 BC – 10,000 BC
Mesolithic	c.10,000 BC – c.3500 BC
Neolithic	c.3500 BC – c.2000 BC
Bronze Age	c.2000 BC – c.600 BC
Iron Age	c.600 BC – 43 AD
Roman	43 AD – 410 AD
Early Medieval	410 AD - 1066
Medieval	1066 - 1485
Post Medieval	1485 – c.1900
Modern	c.1900 onwards

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales.

PRN	NGR	SITE NAME	FORM	PERIOD
702	SN58520332	Ystum Enlli Castle Mound	Earthwork	Medieval
701	SN58410322	Hendy Earthwork	Earthwork	Medieval
05256w	SN584030	Lan Teiliauo	Church	Early Medieval
05667w	SN584030	Landeilo Talybont Church	Holy well	Early Medieval
00863w	SN584030	St Teilo's churchyard Talybont	Churchyard	Medieval
00621w	SN584030	St Teilo's old parish church	Church	Medieval
00196w	SN58680267	Talybont Castle (Castell Hu; Banc-Rhyfe)	Motte	Medieval

Table 2: Recorded archaeological sites within close proximity to sewer divert area.**Manhole inspection pit**

NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	DEPTH
Layer 100	Topsoil Mid greyish brown silt clay with 0.02mm-0.06mm particles. Occasional small sub angular stones. Compaction friable.	0.16m
Layer 101	Subsoil Light greyish brown silt clay with 0.02mm-0.06mm particles. Compaction friable.	0.23m
Layer 102	Natural Mid yellowish brown silt clay with 0.02mm-0.06mm particles. Rare small sub angular stones. Firm compaction.	Maximum depth unknown

Table 3: Soil descriptions for Manhole inspection pit.



Photo 1: South east facing representative section of settling Manhole inspection pit.



Photo 2: General working shot sewer pipe.



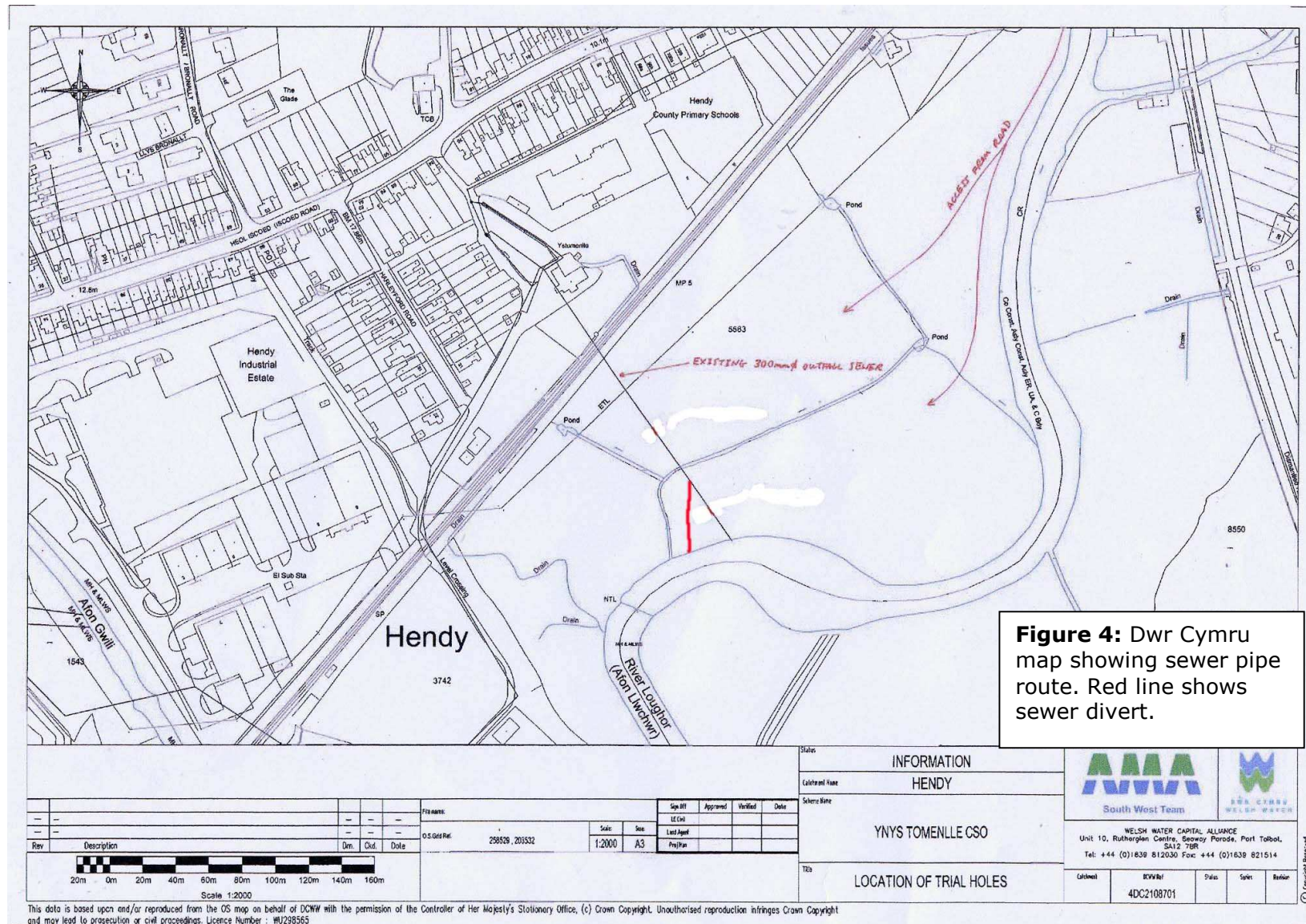
Photo 3: South-east facing view of backfilled drainage ditch.



Photo 4: South-east facing section of modern drainage ditch.



Photo 5: North-west facing section of modern drainage ditch.



YNYS TOMENLLE CSO SITE, HENDY, CARMARTHENSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

**RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2009/85
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 98517**

Tachwedd 2009
November 2009

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

Andrew Shobbrook

Swydd / Position: Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature 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 Date

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

*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*