

MYDDFAI, CARMARTHENSHIRE, DWR CYMRU ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

February 2010



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
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**MYDDFAI, CARMARTHENSHIRE, DWR CYMRU,
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Gan / By

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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 Myddfai area.	8
Figure 3: Extract of 2 nd edition Ordnance Survey Map (1906) showing Myddfai area.	8

TABLES

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales	9
Table 2: Recorded archaeological sites within close proximity to sewer divert area.	9
Table 3: Soil descriptions for Manhole inspection pit	9

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1: Photo of excavated footprint of building	10
Photo 2: Photo west facing showing section	10
Photo 3: Close up of sectioned hedge boundary	11

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 sewage pumping station in Myddfai, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN 7722 3001).

The new pumping station building will measure 3.70 metres in diameter and will have foundation, which measure to a depth of 3.50metres from present ground level. It was anticipated that the ground in which the new proposed building is to be constructed is possibly composed of made up ground and therefore probably not archaeologically sensitive, however a watching brief would be needed to ascertain whether this was indeed the case.

A search of the Regional HERs revealed that the proposed foundation footprint for the new pumping station contained no known recorded archaeological sites, although there are 26 archaeological sites are situated in a 290 metre circular area measuring from the buildings centre point. The sites range in date from the Early Medieval period up to the medieval period and Post Medieval period. None of these sites would be directly affected by the construction of the new Sewage Pumping Station. 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 proposed sewage pumping station is situated in 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 9 metres square was stripped to the natural subsoil to form a footprint for the building and for the archaeologist onsite to be able to view the ground and decide whether there were any archaeological features present. The footprint for the building when excavated proved to have largely contained made up ground, except for the west part of the footprint which had a hedge boundary running north south along the footprints edge which had part of its eastern side removed to provide a clear view of its makeup. The date of the hedge bank appeared to be post Medieval as a piece blue and white china was visible at the bottom of the banks makeup.

The ground works associated with the construction of the sewage pumping station 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 Sewage Pumping Station in Myddfai, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN 7722 3001).

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 SN 7722 3001 in the village of Myddfai near Llandovery, Carmarthenshire. Situated at a height of 110 c.m above Ordnance Survey.

Archaeological Background

A search of the Regional HER revealed that the proposed footprint for the new Sewage Pumping Station 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 and Post Medieval Period. None of the sites would be directly affected by the construction of the new building.

The new Sewage Pumping Station lies in close proximity to a number of sites of archaeological and historical interest, including one Scheduled Ancient Monument, the earthwork remains of Gaer Y;Castell Waunberllan (Scheduled Ancient Monument No.CM251; DAT PRN 5530) and one listed building Myddfai Church which is a Grade I Listed building a of medieval and post medieval date (; DAT PRN 4090). Although the present day church is of a medieval date the churchyard (DAT PRN 49,311) has been listed as possibly having a pre conquest foundation. (Ludlow, 2002).

Map evidence indicates that from at least the early 19th century the development area was utilised as agricultural land (Tithe Map 1838, Ordnance Survey, 1891 and 1907). The 1st edition OS map depicts a building of some kind being situated to the immediate north east of the development area. The Tithe map of the Myddfai area lists this field as being called 'Cae Ysgubor' which in English translates as field of the barn, which could possibly indicate that the 1891 map is depicting a barn or some sort of agricultural storing building.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Methodology

The archaeological watching brief methodology consisted of one half-day site visit being undertaken to monitor the ground-works ahead of the construction of the new Sewage Pumping Station.

Results

The buildings foundation footprint measured 4 metres by 4 metres and was excavated using a toothless bucket to a depth where the natural subsoil horizon was visible. Through viewing the natural subsoil it was apparent that there were no archaeological features visible. The western side of the buildings footprint, however, did require the removal of part of the north south linear field boundary, which continued parallel along the western side of the buildings footprint. By removing part of the eastern side of the field boundary a perfect section was gained to view the field boundaries make up. A single piece of blue and white china was visible at the bottom of the field boundaries make up situated just above the natural subsoil, which would suggest that the field boundary was constructed no earlier than the post medieval period.

The topsoil within the development area was a mid brown silty clay with inclusions of small sub angular stones and was a maximum depth of 0.18 metre. Underlying this mid brown topsoil was a light brown silty clay subsoil. The natural layer proved to be a mid greyish brown silty clay with inclusions of frequent small sub angular stones. This layer had a firm compaction.

CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during topsoil stripping ahead of the construction of the new sewage Pumping Station at Myddfai, Carmarthenshire by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services.

The general area in which the buildings footprint was situated did show signs of disturbance mainly centred on the footprints eastern side and middle part. Large amounts of brick and post medieval pot fragments were found here suggesting that this part of the site was largely composed of made up ground. The western part of the development area appeared to be virgin ground and not have any modern disturbance or archaeological features except for the field boundary running north south.

No further archaeological features were discovered throughout the course of the watching brief.

SOURCES

Map

Myddfai Tithe map and apportionment 1839

Ordnance Survey 1891 1:10560 Carmarthenshire Sheet XXVII SW

Ordnance Survey 1907 1:10560 Carmarthenshire Sheet XXVII SW

Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Lampeter and Llandovery.

Unpublished Sources

Ludlow, 2002. Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project, Carmarthenshire, Part 1. Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

Ludlow, 2004. Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project, Carmarthenshire, Part 2. Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

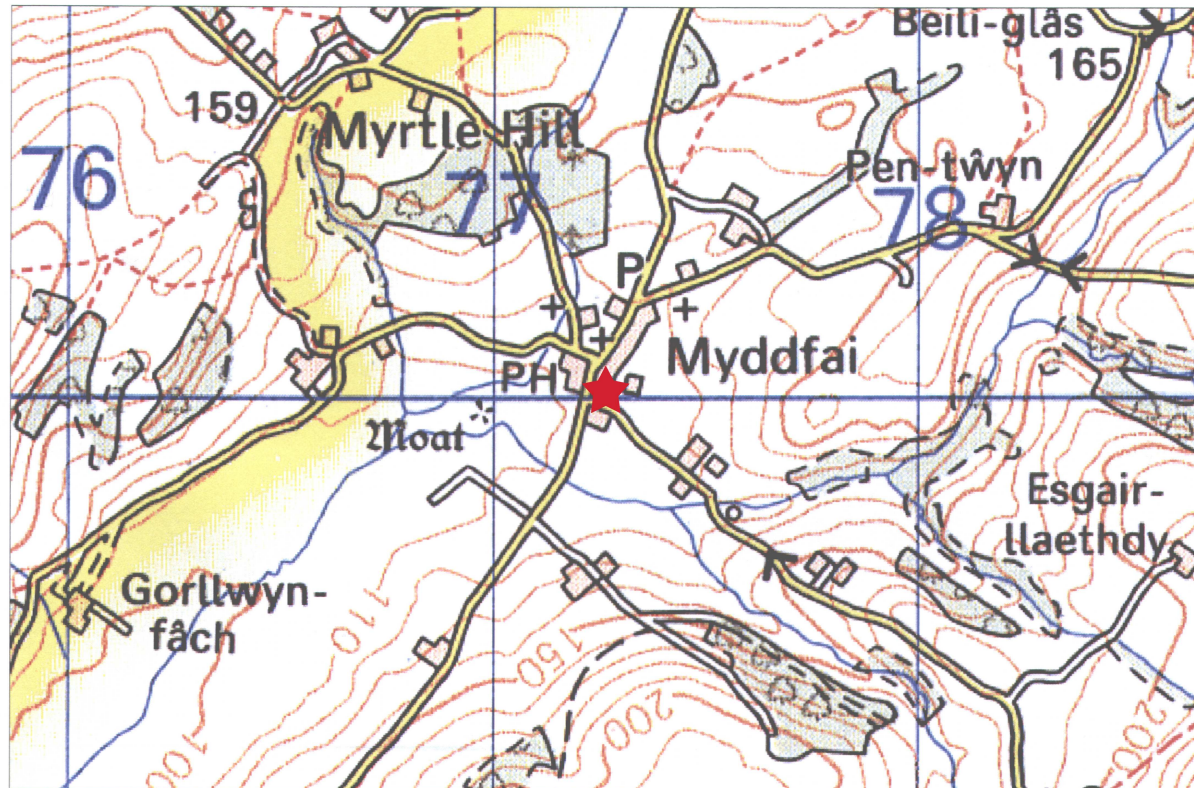
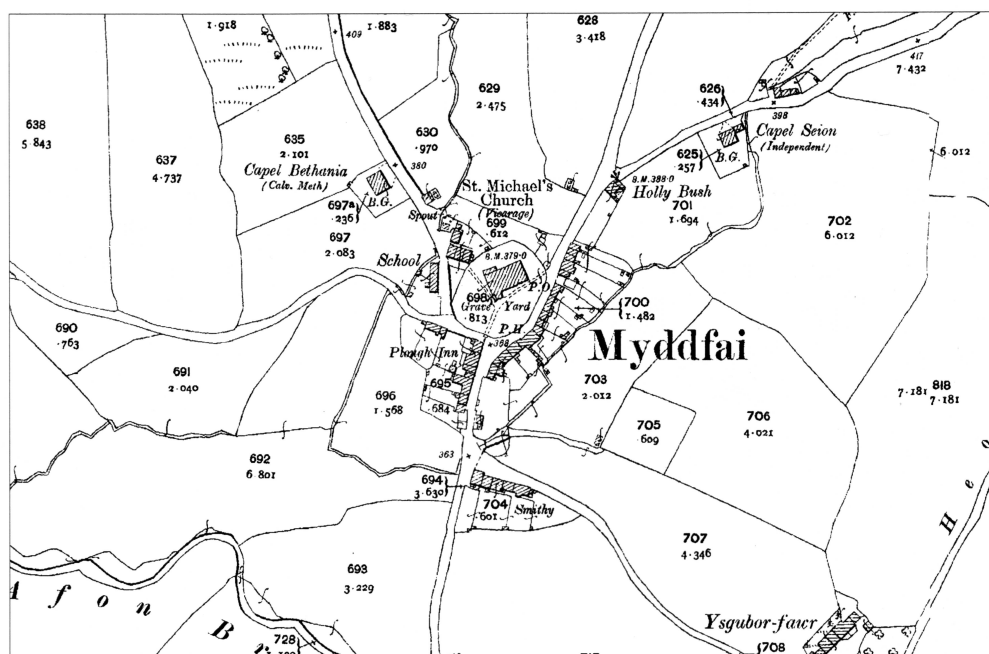


Figure 1: Location map of watching brief site based on the Ordnance Survey.

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



Report No.



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
4090	SN 7723 3013	Myddfai Church (St Michael)	Church	Medieval, Post Medieval
49,311	SN 7723 3013	MYDDFAI PARISH CHURCH; ST MICHAELS	Churchyard	Early Medieval
5530	SN 76982997	GAER Y;CASTELL WAUNBERLLAN	MOATED HOMESTEAD?	Medieval?
29629	SN 7721 3000	BRYNAMLOG	SCHOOL	Post Medieval
21945	SN 7721 2999	Documents	BLACKSMITHS WORKSHOP	Post-Medieval

Table 2: Recorded archaeological sites within close proximity to sewer divert area.**Sewage Pumping station Excavation**

NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	DEPTH
Layer 100	Topsoil Mid brown silt clay with 0.02mm-0.06mm particles. Occasional small sub angular stones. Compaction friable.	0.18m
Layer 101	Subsoil Light brown silt clay with 0.02mm-0.06mm particles. Compaction friable.	0.40m
Layer 102	Natural Mid greyish brown silt clay with 0.02mm-0.06mm particles. Frequent small sub angular stones. Firm compaction.	Maximum depth unknown

Table 3: Soil descriptions for sewage Pumping station excavation.



Photo 1: Photo south west showing excavated footprint for sewage pumping station.



Photo 2: Photo looking west showing section of bank and below excavated natural.



Photo 3: Close up photo showing earth bank section.

YNYS TOMENLLE CSO SITE, HENDY, CARMARTHENSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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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*