# TYDDYN DOLWERDD, NEWPORT, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust For: Christine and David Lloyd





#### DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2010/43 RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 99814

> Medi 2010 September 2010

## TYDDYN DOLWERDD, NEWPORT, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Gan / By

### **Richard Ramsey**

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: <u>info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk</u> 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

#### TYDDYN DOLWERDD, NEWPORT, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION.

CONTENTS	P	AGE
SUMMARY		1
INTRODUCT	TION	2
Proje	ect Commission	2
Scop	e of the Project	2
Repo	rt Outline	2
Abbr	eviations	2
Illust	rations	
THE SITE		3
Locat	tion	3
Histo	rical and Archaeological Background	3
	Historic Background	3
	Description and essential historic landscape components	4
METHODOL	OGY	7
RESULTS O	F THE EVALUATION	8
Tren	ch 1	8
Trench 2		8
CONCLUSION		10
SOURCES		11
FIGURES		
Figure 1:	Location map based on Ordnance Survey	12
Figure 2:	Extract from the Newport Estate map of George Bowen of Llwyngwair from 1758	13
Figure 3:	Extract from the tithe map of 1844, showing the development area occupying the southern end of field No. 518	14
Figure 4:	Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1:10560 scale map of 1908	15
Figure 5:	Detail from Ordnance Survey 1:10560 scale map of 1908 adapted to show the schematic location of the evaluation trenches (T1 and T2), Tyddyn Dolwerdd, and the present boundary arrangements at the site.	16
Figure 6:	Surveyed plan of the excavation trenches with revealed feature	17

### PHOTOGRAPHS

**Front Cover:** General view across the site, looking north-east.

Photo 1:	Overall view of Trench 1, looking north-east	18
Photo 2:	Overall view of Trench 1, looking south-west	18
Photo 3:	Overall view of Trench 2, looking south-west	19

Photo 4:	Overall view of Trench 2, looking north-east	19
Photo 5:	Linear feature 102 prior to excavation. View south	20
Photo 6:	Linear feature 102 after partial excavation. View south	20
Photo 7:	Linear feature 104 prior to excavation. View south	21
Photo 8:	View south of linear feature 202 cut by stone-filled pit 208	21
Photo 9:	View south-east of partially excavated pit 208	22
Photo 10:	View south of unexcavated linear feature 204	22
Photo 11:	View south of unexcavated linear feature 206	23

#### TYDDYN DOLWERDD, NEWPORT, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

#### Summary

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were commissioned by Christine and David Lloyd to undertake an archaeological evaluation, ahead of a proposed building development, on land adjacent to Tyddyn Dolwerdd, Newport, Pembrokeshire (centred on NGR SN 0557 3934). The evaluation was called for as part of the planning process (Planning application number 10/118) by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Pak planning authority on the recommendation of its archaeological advisors. The site lies in close proximity to the known extent of the medieval township of Newport and it is considered that any development would have a damaging impact on any underlying archaeological remains.

Two 20m long by 1.9m wide trial trenches were excavated on and close to the footprint of the proposed building in order to assess the character and extent of any significant archaeological features and deposits on the site.

The excavations revealed the presence of several linear features, all aligned approximately north to south, cut into the undisturbed natural subsoil. The alignment and spacing of the linear features suggested that they resulted from either land drainage arrangements or ploughing; no dating evidence was recovered from the soil fills of any of these features. A circular pit that contained modern pottery and a high percentage of small and medium size stones was revealed cutting the most northerly linear feature in Trench 2; this pit was considered to be modern and of unknown function.

The excavation trenches were placed on or close to the footprint of the proposed buildings and covered a reasonable percentage of the area that is most likely to be affected by groundworks for the proposed development. The results of the excavation suggest that there would be no major threat to the archaeological resource from the proposed building development. However the evaluation results do not preclude the possibility that important archaeological remains survive elsewhere on the site or in the vicinity.

#### INTRODUCTION

#### Project commission

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were commissioned by Christine and David Lloyd to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a *c*.0.3ha area of land adjacent to the western boundary of the property Tyddyn Dolwerdd, Newport, Pembrokeshire (centred on NGR SN 0557 3934). A planning application (Planning Reference 10/118) proposing to build a residential dwelling and outbuildings on the land was referred to the archaeological advisors<sup>1</sup> to Pembrokeshire Coast National Park planning authority who noted that the site lay very close to the historic medieval core of the town; the potential, therefore, for encountering medieval archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area is considered to be high. Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management recommended that, prior to any groundworks being carried out at the site, an archaeological trial trench excavation should be undertaken to evaluate the presence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the area of the development.

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services carried out the archaeological evaluation between 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2010. The work undertaken complied with a Written Scheme of Investigation that had been prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services and approved by the archaeological advisors to the local planning authority.

#### Scope of the project

The object of the evaluation was to provide information on the character, extent, date, state of preservation and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the area of the development, in order that an assessment of the likely impact of the proposed development on any remains could be determined. The results of the evaluation will inform the scope of any further archaeological works that may be required to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeological resource.

#### Report outline

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

#### Abbreviations

Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER<sup>2</sup>) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM). Altitude is expressed to either Ordnance Datum (OD) or to a temporary Site Datum (SD) in the excavation area.

#### Illustrations

Photographic images, drawings, and printed map extracts are to be found at the back of the report. Note that the printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale and are illustrative only.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management (DAT-HM).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Shire Hall, Llandeilo.

#### THE SITE

#### Location

The proposed development area lies at NGR SN 0557 3934 (13m OD), on the eastern side of the relatively newly-built house named Tyddyn Dolwerdd, some 160m due west of Long Street, in Newport, north Pembrokeshire. The site comprises an approximately rectangular, gently sloping (down from southwest to northeast) enclosed pasture field, covering an area of *c*.0.31 hectares. It is bounded to the south by terraced housing beyond a ditch and post and wire fence; to the west by a static caravan park beyond a low boundary bank with vegetation; to the north by a single dwelling, farm outbuildings and farmland beyond a post and wire fence and mature deciduous trees, and to the east by the yard and vegetable garden of Tyddyn Dolwerdd beyond a newly constructed boundary bank and post and wire fence. The entrance to the site is situated at the northeast corner of the field at the north end of the eastern boundary. Discrete areas of reed growth, especially at the eastern and northern margins of the development area, indicate the poor natural drainage of the site.

Ordovician sedimentary rocks, which outcrop in many locations, represent the solid geology of the area in and around Newport; the drift geology comprises a complex mix of fluvio-glacial deposits of sand, gravel and clay (British Geological Survey). Within the proposed development area only fluvio-glacial orange-yellow sandy clay was encountered beneath the overlying topsoil, with no representation of the Ordovician bedrock. However, several very large boulders, glacial erratics, were removed from the fluvio-glacial clay subsoil during the excavations.

#### Historical and Archaeological Background

A good outline history of Newport is contained in the Newport and Carningli parish section of a Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Landscape Characterisation report prepared for Cadw (Murphy and Ludlow 2003). The appropriate section, 361 Newport, is reprinted in full below with the addition of relevant Primary Record Numbers (PRNs) for further reference.

#### Historic Background

A small area of modern Pembrokeshire, comprising the built-up area of Newport town. It lies within the medieval Cantref of Cemaes. Cemaes was brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 by the Fitzmartins who established their castle at Nevern on the site of an Iron Age fort. Cemaes remained in Anglo-Norman hands until 1191 when Rhys ap Gruffudd retook it. He strengthened Nevern Castle, but Welsh supremacy was short-lived for Rhys died in 1197 and in the same year William Fitzmartin regained control of Cemaes. Instead of refortifying Nevern, William established a new castle at Newport (possibly the Old Castle earthworks by the Nevern estuary (PRN 1468)) and founded a new town. In c.1241, Nicholas Fitzmartin confirmed in a charter privileges bestowed on the town by his father, William. The early years of the town were not easy for the new settlers. In 1215, Newport Castle was destroyed by Llywelyn ap Iorwerth, and the Fitzmartins did not regain control until about 1230, but in 1257 the castle was once again razed to the ground, this time by Llywelyn ap Gruffudd. By 1276-77 the castle was back in the hands of the Fitzmartins who retained it, as well as the Barony of Cemaes, until 1326, when the Audleys succeeded them.

Excavation and survey have shown that the town was originally laid out with burgage plots – long building plots - along two main streets, Long Street and St Mary's Street, with the castle now known as the Old Castle (PRN 1468) between them close to the shore of the Nevern estuary. Properties on these streets towards the estuary did not survive long, perhaps as a result of attacks by the Welsh, and by the end of the 13th century, if not earlier, these burgage plots had been abandoned and were not used again.

Possibly following the attacks of 1215 or 1257 the castle was re-founded at its present site (PRN 1499) dominating the southern end of the town. A grid of new streets and the parish church of St Mary (PRN 1504) were also established in the same area. The town, however, did not flourish for in 1434 a survey lists 233 burgage plots but only 76 burgage holders. By 1594, 211 plots are recorded, but only 44 are occupied, and most of these are at the southern end of the town. Many house plots lay unused until the eve of the modern period as Richard Fenton noted in the early 19th century that 'the chasms in its depopulated streets are filling up fast with buildings'. Clearly Fenton witnessed rebuilding that is evident in the town today, represented by numerous good-quality 19th century houses. The castle, which had been in decay since the late medieval period, was re-occupied in 1859 and the gatehouse was converted into a house; other additions followed.

Despite the decay evidenced in the town, Newport had several small but important industries. The town's economy was based on agriculture, fishing and coastal trade. Newport had been the centre of a medieval and early postmedieval pottery industry, but the emergence of the town as a trading port really began in the 16th century when cloth and wool were exported. As a result, a considerable textile industry developed in the town's hinterland. Exports also included the products of the numerous local quarries. The town was also noted for its herring fishery.

Changes in the silting-up of the estuary caused a new quay to be established at The Parrog, with shipbuilding facilities, storehouses and limekilns. It flourished well into the 19th century - 97 vessels visited the port in 1884 - but decline set in soon afterwards. Newport has largely not developed beyond its medieval limits, but 20th century housing occupies a pocket around Cnwc-y-grogwydd, to the west of the town, the site of a medieval gallows (and possible early medieval religious site). The economy during the late 20th and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries has been dominated by leisure, including a yacht club on The Parrog, and tourism, with a number of caravan parks. Newport is now an attractive option for middleclass home-buyers, which has imparted a genteel aspect to the town.

#### Description and essential historic landscape components

Newport historic landscape character area is mainly composed of the houses, gardens, shops, school, roads and other infrastructure of the town, but includes pockets of fields and other open ground between the built-up areas. The town lies on gentle north-facing slopes that run down to the south bank of the Nevern estuary. The medieval castle and church are located on the higher ground on the south side of the town. The core of the town is centred on the east-west A487(T) road and several narrow side-streets which form a loose grid pattern to the north and south.

Parrog, situated on the estuary, is a secondary centre, which is now connected to the town proper by linear development, and there is also linear development along the A487(T) and Bridge Street to the northeast. The late 12th century – 13th century layout of the town still exerts a strong influence over the modern topography, with many houses located hard against the street frontage within medieval burgage plots.

The large, cruciform parish church (PRN 1504) was extensively rebuilt in the early 19th century and much of the medieval detail has been lost, except the fine 15th-16th century west tower. The castle (PRN1499) is a single enclosure, with drumtowers and a twin-tower gatehouse, with masonry of 13th-14th century date, with 19th century additions. Apart from the parish church and the castle, almost the entire older building stock was constructed in the 19th century. This and the almost universal use of local dolerite and shale building stone provide Newport with a very strong and distinctive architectural signature. There is a fairly even mixture of cement rendered and bare stone. The render on many houses has recently been removed to reveal bare stone, usually un-coursed rubble. Close examination of this reveals that the masonry had been lime-washed prior to being covered with cement. The grey-blue and warm brown dolerite stone is normally roughly coursed, with consideration given to contrasting stone colour, and in some instances courses of slate slab give a more formal appearance to the buildings. Modern machine-cut non-local slate is the main roofing material. Within the core of the town most dwellings are in terraces. These are not singlebuild terraces, but rather each house has developed individually within its own burgage plot, resulting in a great range of building type from single storey vernacular cottages to three storey houses in the Georgian tradition. Two storey houses, however, dominate, with most examples in the polite 'Georgian' tradition, and many retaining period detailing such as porches, door cases and box-sash windows. Commercial properties including the Castle Hotel and the three-storey Llwyngwair Arms, and chapels such as the Ebenezer and Bethlehem, are of the same period and in the same building tradition as the dwellings. A similar building style and use of local stone can be found on the Parrog Road and on The Parrog itself, but here detached houses are as common as the terraces. The use of local stone in roadside and garden walls is also a notable feature of the town. Nearly all modern development is from the second half of the 20th century or later. This includes new, detached houses on the fringes of the town, and small estates of houses and bungalows at the town's edge as well as within the town's historic core. Facilities to serve the local community and visiting tourists such as a library, new school, doctors' surgery, car parks and tourist information office are located in the town. A modern yacht club is located on the stone breakwater at The Parrog and a campsite and caravan park lie on the periphery of the town. Small fields now encircled by houses provide a rural feel to parts of this area, in particular close to the estuary. These fields are of pasture and are enclosed by banks topped with often over-grown hedges. Most of the recorded archaeology is related to components of the town described above - the castle and church - or to other standing buildings such as a late 18th century mill. Other sites such as several 19th century limekilns testify to the former importance of maritime trade. Unusually for a town a Neolithic chambered tomb, Carreg Coetan Authur (PRN 1462), is a prominent historic component, although it is now somewhat overwhelmed by neighbouring modern housing. (Murphy and Ludlow 2003).

Map evidence clearly shows the linear plots to the rear of most of the properties on the street frontages of Long Street and St. Mary's Street (see Figs. 2, 3, 4 and 5), and various archaeological excavations have confirmed that these appear to respect the original medieval burgage plot boundaries established after the initial Anglo-Norman settlement. The burgage plots to the rear of the properties on the west side of Long Street extend westwards as far as the shallow stream Afon Felin which acts as a natural boundary; this appears to be the western limit of the early urban development of Newport. The eastern limit of the burgage plots to the rear of the properties on the east side of St. Mary's Street is again a shallow stream, Afon Ysgolhegion. The original focus of the Anglo-Norman settlement in Newport, then, was close to the Nevern estuary where the first castle was established (Old Castle PRN 1468, marked as 'Intrenchment' on Fig. 2), with the two parallel main streets of houses and burgage plots bounded by the two streams spreading to the south for some 500m or so.

The archaeological excavations (PRN 32130) undertaken on Long Street ahead of the building of the new primary school (Murphy 1991) revealed archaeological

features representing former burgage plot boundaries, buildings on the street frontage, gravel-filled drainage ditches, pits, plough furrows and spade-dug trenches interpreted as the remains of lazy beds. Nearly all the features were shown to be cut into the natural clay subsoil and some were only 0.2m below the surface of the topsoil. The fact that the burgage plots and buildings in that area of Long Street were abandoned very early, for whatever reason, and were never again built upon, meant that valuable evidence had been preserved; this afforded the rare opportunity for archaeologists to examine in detail the earliest stratigraphy of medieval Newport. The excavations revealed such insights as to how the burgage plots were first laid out, as it was possible to closely examine the undisturbed remains of the boundary ditches. This type of evidence, coupled with the concentrated academic analysis such as that undertaken by Nicky Bignall (Bignall 1991) has made Newport a focal area in the field of medieval Welsh town studies and archaeological research.

The proposed development area at Tyddyn Dolwerdd lies just 75m to the east of Afon Felin, it therefore lies beyond the urban boundary of the early town. There are no archaeological sites recorded in the regional HER within the proposed development site itself and no sites of specific archaeological or historic interest are depicted within the bounds of the site on any of the available map sources.

The earliest map consulted showing the development area in any detail is an estate map from 1758 (Figure 2) which shows the area as 'Meadowland' at that time. The tithe map (Figure 3) and apportionment of 1844 again depicts the area as a field, with little or no change in the boundary arrangements since 1758. The first edition 6-inch Ordnance Survey map of 1891 (Figure 4) shows that the site boundary had changed to more or less as it appears today with no change by the time of the publication of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of 1908 (Figure 5). As far as the detailed map evidence goes there is no major change until the recent building of Tyddyn Dolwerdd and the establishment of the new boundary bank between it and the proposed development area. In recent years also a new sewage service pipe was inserted within the development area running close to and inside the western boundary (pers comm Christine Lloyd).

The location of Carreg Coetan Arthur Neolithic burial chamber (PRN 1462) in the town, some 450m due east of the proposed development area, highlights the potential for the presence of further evidence of prehistoric archaeological activity around the Nevern estuary, Newport sands and their hinterland; indeed, during the excavations in Long Street a small assemblage of flints, including several Mesolithic microliths, and a stone tranchet axe were found. Those artefacts predate Carreg Coetan Arthur, which has been dated to around 3500BC (radiocarbon date of burnt wood from cremations excavated from the tomb), but serve to further indicate the potential presence of prehistoric archaeological features or deposits in the area.

There are no other significant archaeological sites within 300m of the development area recorded on the HER database.

Aerial photographs consulted show no cropmarks, parchmarks, or other indications of buried archaeological activity within the proposed development area.

#### METHODOLOGY

The methodology for the evaluation was laid out within the written scheme of investigation prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services and approved by the archaeological advisors to the planning authority prior to the works commencing. The fieldwork followed this methodology.

Two approximately 20m long by 1.9m wide trenches were machine excavated by a one ton 360 degree tracked mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil was removed down to the top of any archaeological features, or down to the natural subsoil if no archaeology was revealed; each trench was subsequently cleaned by hand in order to determine further the presence and extent of any archaeological features or deposits. After hand trowelling the exposed trench surface, including any archaeologically significant features or deposits revealed were photographed using digital cameras and scaled plans were drawn. All archaeological features were then test excavated to establish their character and again photographed and drawn to scale. All deposits and features were given individual context numbers and recorded by context on annotated drawings or on context record sheets.

The locations of the trenches and the archaeological features contained in them were surveyed using an electronic distance measuring theodolite (EDM) and related to the surrounding field boundaries. All levels on the site were based on a site datum (SD).

The evaluation was carried out over the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2010.

#### **RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION**

#### Trench 1

Trench 1 (T1) was excavated towards the southwest corner of the site (Figure 6) and measured 21m long by 1.9m wide, aligned down slope from south-west to north-east across part of the footprint of the proposed building (Photos 1 and 2).

An average 0.2m depth of homogeneous light brown silty clay topsoil<sup>3</sup> (context 100) was removed from along the length of the trench. The topsoil directly overlay a stiff, yet friable, orange-brown silty sandy clay natural subsoil (context 101), probably of fluvio-glacial origin.

At a distance of some 10.6m along the trench from its northeast end, a linear feature of c.0.9m in width (context 102) was revealed cut into the natural subsoil and crossing through the trench in an approximately north to south alignment (Photo 5). The fill of 102 (context 103) was a soil deposit indistinguishable in character to that of the topsoil. Partial excavation of the fill showed the linear cut feature to be 0.08m deep and flat bottomed with gently sloping sides (Photo 6).

Some 4.8m to the south-east of 102 another linear feature (context 104) was revealed cut into the natural clay subsoil (Photo 7). This feature was again aligned approximately north to south crossing through the trench. The feature (context 104) was 0.6m wide, 0.07m deep and contained a soil fill (context 105) identical to that contained in linear feature 102. This feature was also shown to be flat bottomed with gently sloping sides.

No dating evidence was found in the soil fills of either 102 or 104. They may represent evidence of drainage arrangements or plough marks; but it is equally possible that they represent evidence for former cultivation beds of uncertain dates. They are not considered to represent former boundary ditches as they are too shallow and too close together.

No other archaeologically significant features or deposits were revealed in Trench 1.

#### Trench 2

Trench 2 (T2) was excavated further to the east and north of, but roughly parallel with, Trench 1 (Figure 6) and again partly overlay the footprint of the proposed development (Photos 3 and 4). The trench was 21m long by 1.9m wide.

An average 0.28m depth of homogeneous mid brown silty clay topsoil<sup>4</sup> (context 200) was removed from along the length of the trench. The topsoil directly overlay a stiff, yet friable, orange-brown silty sandy clay natural subsoil (context 201), which was identical to that exposed in Trench 1.

At a distance of some 2m along the trench from its north-east end, a linear feature of an average 0.6m width (context 202) was revealed cut into the natural subsoil and continuing beyond the northerly side of the excavation trench in an approximately north to south alignment (Photo 8 and Figure 6). The fill of 202 (context 203) was a soil deposit indistinguishable in character to that of the topsoil. Partial excavation of the fill showed the linear cut feature to be 0.06m deep and generally flat bottomed with gently sloping sides.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Containing less than 10% coarse components comprising a mix of small angular, sub angular and rounded stones, a high % of organic root material, and infrequent small pieces of coal.
<sup>4</sup> Containing less than 10% coarse components comprising a mix of small angular, sub angular and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Containing less than 10% coarse components comprising a mix of small angular, sub angular and rounded stones, a high % of organic root material, and infrequent small pieces of coal; some modern glazed pottery was also noted from this context.

The southerly end of 202 was cut by a later, apparently circular and pit-like, feature (context 208) that was only partially revealed within the excavation trench and exposed in the section (Photos 8 and 9). The fill of the pit (context  $209)^5$  was very loose and friable and contained a high percentage of stone. Excavation of the exposed part of the pit demonstrated it to have steeply sloping sides and cut to a depth of at least 0.35m into the natural subsoil. Modern pottery was recovered from the fill.

Some 2.6m to the southeast of 202 another linear feature (context 204) was revealed cut into the natural clay subsoil (Photo 10 and Figure 6). It was again aligned approximately north to south, and extended beyond both sides of the excavation trench. The linear feature 204 was c.0.8m wide and contained a soil fill (context 205) which appeared identical to that contained in linear feature 202.

A third linear feature (context 206) was revealed some 3.5m to the southeast of 204 (Photo 11 and Figure 6). This too was cut into the natural subsoil, continued beyond both sides of the excavation trench, and was on a similar north to south alignment as both 202 and 204. Its soil fill (context 207) appeared identical to the fills of 202 and 204 (203 and 205 respectively).

Linear features 204 and 206 were not investigated further, as they were considered to be so similar to feature 202 and the two linear features within Trench 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> A soil matrix identical to that of the topsoil but containing more than 40% small and medium angular and sub-angular stones, and two sherds of modern cream coloured glazed pottery.

#### CONCLUSION

The two evaluation trenches revealed the presence of five linear archaeological features (102, 104, 202, 204 and 206). All of the features were aligned approximately north to south and were cut into the undisturbed natural subsoil. The alignment and spacing of the features suggests that they resulted from either land drainage arrangements or ploughing; however, no dating evidence was recovered from the soil fills of any of the features.

A circular pit (208) that contained modern pottery and a high percentage of small and medium size stones was revealed cutting the most northerly linear feature (202) in Trench 2; this pit was considered to be modern, but not enough of it was excavated to enable a full characterization.

It is considered possible that the series of linear features could be medieval or post-medieval in date and associated with former agricultural practices. All the detailed map evidence shows that since at least 1758 and up to the modern era the proposed development area has been given over to agricultural use. The excavations, limited though they were, revealed no evidence for buildings or other occupation of the site. If the hypothesis that the western limits of medieval Newport lay along the line of the Afon Felin is correct, then the development area lies outside its bounds.

The silting up of the Nevern estuary and the resultant shift in the location of the quay to The Parrog in the late medieval and post-medieval periods saw the development of the Parrog Road close to the western side of the development area. The hypothesis that this may have encouraged settlement activity along its route, and into the site area at Tyddyn Dolwerdd also appears to have been negated by the excavation results.

The excavation trenches were placed on or close to the footprint of the proposed buildings and covered a reasonable percentage of the area that is most likely to be affected by groundworks for the proposed development. The results of the excavation suggest that there would be no major threat to the archaeological resource from the proposed building development. However the evaluation results do not preclude the possibility that important archaeological remains survive elsewhere on the site or in the vicinity.

#### SOURCES

#### Database

The Regional Historic Environment Record, housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Shire Hall, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF.

#### **Published and Unpublished**

Davies, M 1983 Pembrokeshire Children in History. Gomer Press.

Bignall, V M 1991 *Newport (Trefdraeth) in West Wales. An anaysis of the origins, planning and development of a Norman new town.* An Undergraduate Dissertation, St. David's University College, Lampeter.

Murphy, K & Ludlow, N 2003 *Historic Landscape Characterisation of Pen Caer, Newport and Carningli, Manorbier, and Stackpole Warren.* Dyfed Archaeological Trust Report No. 2003/6 for CADW.

Murphy, K 1994 *Excavations in Three Burgage Plots in the Medieval Town of Newport, Dyfed 1991,* in Medieval Archaeology Vol.XXXVIII.

Rees, S 1992 Dyfed: A Guide to Ancient and Historic Wales. CADW HMSO.

#### Cartographic

Bowen, E Map of South Wales 1729

British Geological Survey, 1:250000 Geological Map of Wales  $1^{\rm st}$  Edition Solid 1994

Saxton's Map of Pembrokeshire 1580

Tithe Map and Apportionment for the Parish of Newport 1844

Ordnance Survey 1:10560 1<sup>st</sup> edition Pembrokeshire Sheet V SE 1891

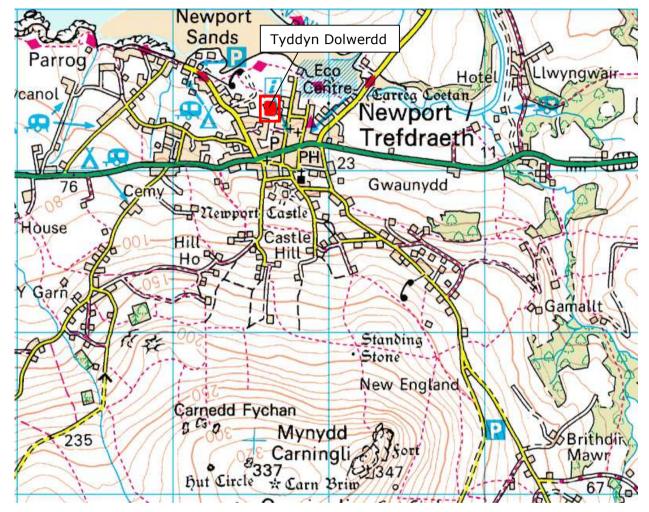
Ordnance Survey 1:10560 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Pembrokeshire Sheet V SE 1908

Ordnance Survey 1:10560 Quarter Sheet SN 03 NE 1964

Ordnance Survey 1:25000 Explorer Map OL35

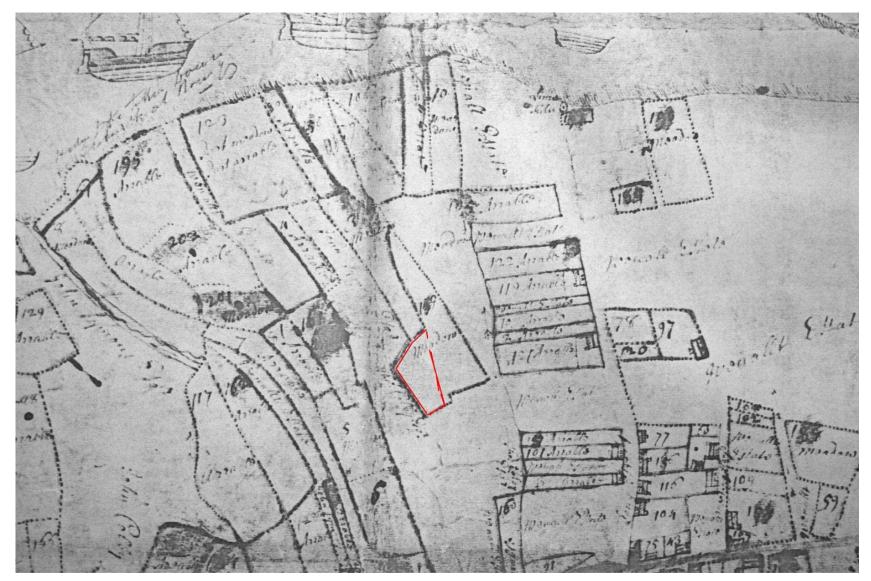
Rees, W South Wales and the Border in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century 1932

Tenements of Land belonging to George Bowen Esq. Of Llwyngwair surveyed by Henry John 1758

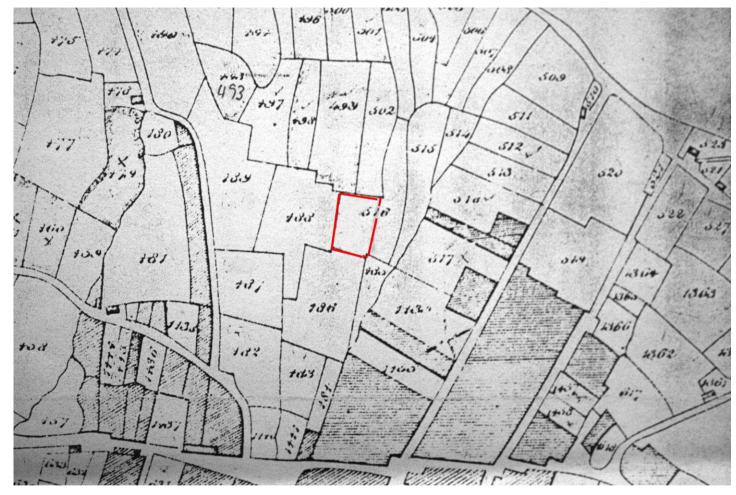


**Figure 1:** Location map based on Ordnance Survey, evaluation area marked by the red square symbol.

Reproduced from the 1987 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 from the Newport Estate map of George Bowen of Llwyngwair from 1758, showing the location of the development area bound in red, and marked as being meadow at that time.



**Figure 3:** Extract from the tithe map of 1844, showing the development area occupying the southern end of field No. 518 and under pasture.

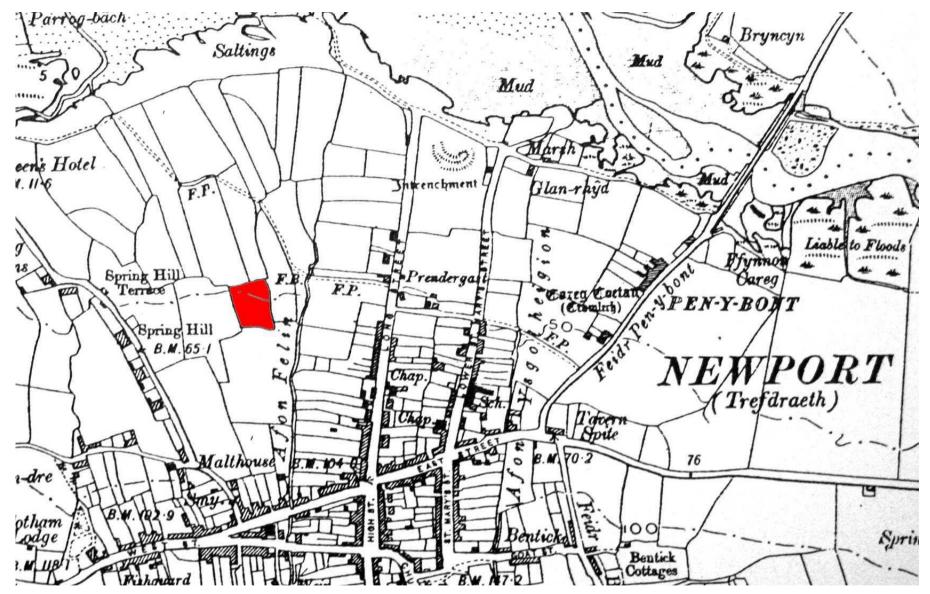
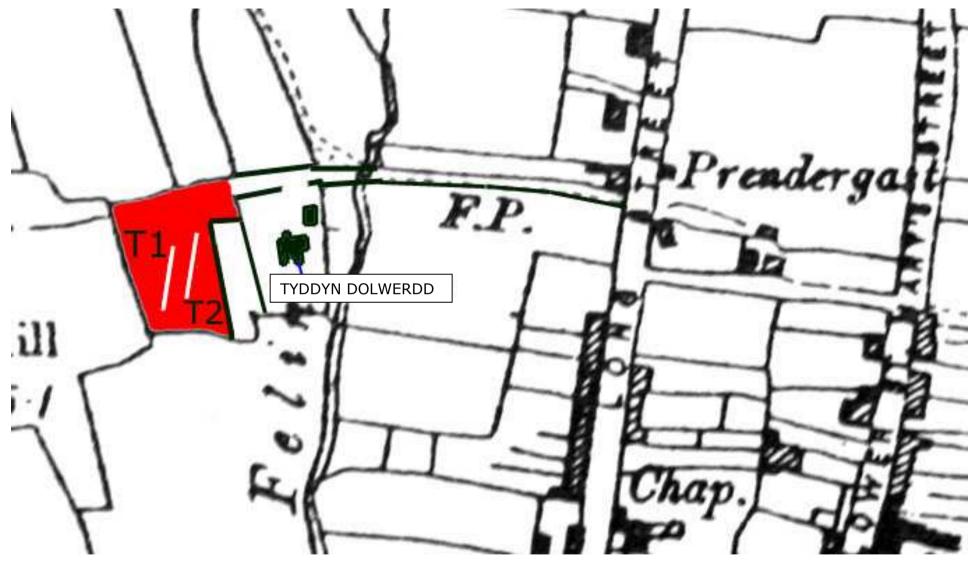
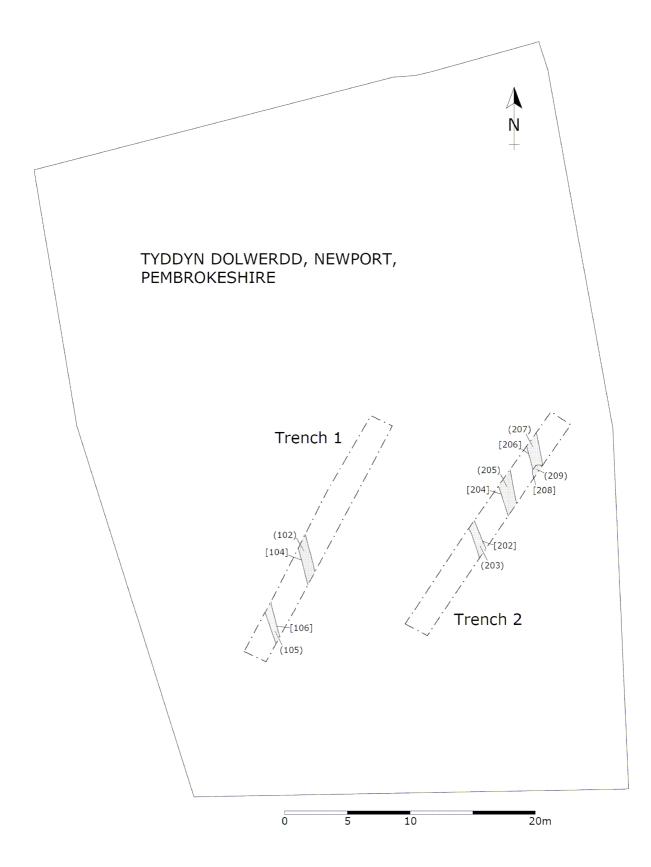


Figure 4: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1:10560 scale map of 1908, the development area is marked in red.



**Figure 5:** Detail from Ordnance Survey 1:10560 scale map of 1908 adapted to show the schematic location of the evaluation trenches (T1 and T2), Tyddyn Dolwerdd, and the present boundary arrangements at the site.





#### **PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo 1: Overall view of Trench 1, looking north-east, 2 x 1m scales



Photo 2: Overall view of Trench 1, looking south-west, 2 x 1m scales



**Photo 3:** Overall view of Trench 2, looking south-west, 4 x 1m scales



**Photo 4:** Overall view of Trench 2, looking north-east, 4 x 1m scales



**Photo 5:** Linear feature 102 prior to excavation. View south, 2 x1m scales.



**Photo 6:** Linear feature 102 after partial excavation. View south, 1m and 0.5m scales.



**Photo 7:** Linear feature 104, prior to excavation. View south, 2 x 1m scales.



**Photo 8:** View south of linear feature 202 cut by stone-filled pit 208.  $2 \times 1m$  and  $1 \times 0.5m$  scales.



**Photo 9:** View south-east of partially excavated pit 208 and the resultant section.  $2 \times 1m$  scales and  $1 \times 0.5m$  scale.



**Photo 10:** View south of unexcavated linear feature 204  $1 \times 1m$  and  $1 \times 0.5m$  scales.



**Photo 11:** View south of unexcavated linear feature 206. 1 x 1m and 1x 0.5m scales.

# TYDDYN DOLWERDD, NEWPORT, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2010/43 RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 99814

#### Medi 2010 September 2010

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

#### **Richard Ramsey**

Swydd / Position: Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature ..... Dyddiad / Date 10/09/2010

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith This report has been checked and approved by

#### James Meek

Swydd / Position: Head of Field Services

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

James Musle

Llofnod / Signature

Dyddiad / Date 10/09/2010

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