

# **5 MAENOR HELYG, PEMBREY, CARMARTHENSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services  
For: Mr Mark Galbraith





## DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2017/49  
RHIF Y DIGWYLLIAD / EVENT RECORD NO. 110737

Awst 2017  
August 2017

# 5 MAENOR HELYG, PEMBREY, CARMARTHENSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Gan / By

**Hubert Wilson**

*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.*



**BUDDSODDWYR | INVESTORS  
MEWN POBL | IN PEOPLE**

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf  
Corner House, 6 Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir  
Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF  
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121  
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131  
Epost: [info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)  
Gwefan: [www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk](http://www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk)

*Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited*  
Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo,  
Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF  
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121  
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131  
Email: [info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)  
Website: [www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](http://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: Professor B Burnham. CYFARWYDDWR DIRECTOR: K Murphy BA MCIfA*



## **5 MAENOR HELYG, PEMBREY, CARMARTHENSHIRE**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

#### **CONTENTS**

	<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Project Proposals and Commission</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Scope of the Project</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Report Outline</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Abbreviations</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Illustrations</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>THE SITE</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>2.1 Location and Topography</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>3.1 Fieldwork</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>3.2 Timetabling of Fieldwork</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>3.3 Post Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>RESULTS AND DISCUSSION</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>SOURCES</b>	<b>18</b>
	<b>APPENDIX I - PROJECT ARCHIVE</b>	<b>18</b>

#### **FIGURES**

<b>Figure 1:</b>	Site location of proposed development	<b>4</b>
<b>Figure 2:</b>	Extract from OS 1 <sup>st</sup> edition (1880) map showing location of multiple burials (PRN1641), property boundary and development site	<b>5</b>
<b>Figure 3:</b>	Extract from South Wales Evening Post newspaper detailing the coroner's report on the human bones found to the north of 5 Maenor Helyg, Pembrey	<b>6</b>
<b>Figure 4:</b>	Location of foundation trenches within property and in relation to multiple burials (PRN 1641)	<b>8</b>

#### **TABLES**

<b>Table 1:</b>	Archaeological and historical timeline for Wales	<b>3</b>
-----------------	--	----------

#### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

<b>Photo 1:</b>	View north along T1	<b>10</b>
<b>Photo 2:</b>	East facing section in T1	<b>11</b>
<b>Photo 3:</b>	Looking north along T2	<b>12</b>
<b>Photo 4:</b>	Looking north along T3	<b>14</b>

<b>Photo 5:</b>	West facing section in southern half of T3	15
<b>Photo 6:</b>	West facing section in northern half of T3	15
<b>Photo 7:</b>	View west along T4	16
<b>Photo 8:</b>	View north towards development after completion of groundworks	17

**5 MAENOR HELYG, PEMBREY, CARMARTHENSHIRE**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**SUMMARY**

*DAT Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr Mark Galbraith of No 5 Maenor Helyg, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, to undertake a watching brief during groundworks for a proposed garage in the garden of the above address.*

*The requirement for a scheme of archaeological mitigation has been placed upon the development proposals (Planning Application Ref No. S/34877) by Carmarthenshire County Council Local Planning Authority following advice from their archaeological advisors, Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management.*

*The condition had been placed on the planning decision because the development area lies in close proximity to the site of a probable multiple burial or cemetery (PRN 1641) whose location is recorded to the north of the proposed development.*

*The watching brief was undertaken on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2017. A 360° excavator fitted with a toothed ditching bucket was used to excavate the foundation trenches.*

*The watching brief indicated that the development site was devoid of any archaeological remains or deposits. The trench sections revealed a soil profile consisting of topsoil and dark garden soil, beneath which stood approximately 0.6m of windblown sand.*

*This watching brief demonstrates that the groundworks associated with this development did not impact upon any archaeological remains or deposits. Nevertheless, although no significant archaeological remains were revealed within the development area, there is still potential that significant archaeological deposits could be present in its vicinity.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **Project Proposals and Commission**

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr Mark Galbraith to provide an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new garage within the garden of No 5, Maenor Helyg, Pembrey (NGR SN42720103).
- 1.1.2 The requirement for the watching brief was placed on the development as a condition on planning permission following advice from the archaeological advisor to the planning authority (Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management). The condition states:
- The developer shall ensure that a professionally qualified archaeologist is present during the undertaking of any ground works, so that an archaeological watching brief can be carried out. The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.*
- 1.1.3 The archaeological potential of the site is considered high because the development area lies in close proximity to the probable site of an undated multiple burial or cemetery (PRN 1641).

### **1.2 Scope of the Project**

- 1.2.1 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) for a watching brief was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services prior to the commencement of the works, which was approved by the archaeological advisor to the planning authority prior to the commencement of the works. The project objectives were:
- Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which DAT Archaeological Services will undertake the watching brief.
  - To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
  - To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed groundworks.
  - To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the groundworks.
  - To produce an archive and report of any results.
- 1.2.2 The overall work was summarised as: *"Archaeological attendance during groundworks associated with the construction of a new garage within the garden of No 5, Maenor Helyg, Pembrey which are likely to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains. Appropriate investigation and recording of any such remains will be undertaken if revealed. A report and archive of the results of the works will be prepared."*
- 1.2.3 The archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and their codes of conduct (CIfA 2014).

### **1.3 Report Outline**

- 1.3.1 This report describes the location of the development works along with its archaeological background, and provides a summary and discussion of the archaeological watching brief and its results.



## 1.4 Abbreviations

1.4.1 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). Sites recorded on the National Monument Record (NMR) held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) are identified by their National Primary Record Number (NPRN). Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM). Altitude is expressed to Ordnance Datum (OD). References to cartographic and documentary evidence and published sources will be given in brackets throughout the text, with full details listed in the sources section at the rear of the report.

## 1.5 Illustrations

1.5.1 Photographic images are to be found within the report. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale.

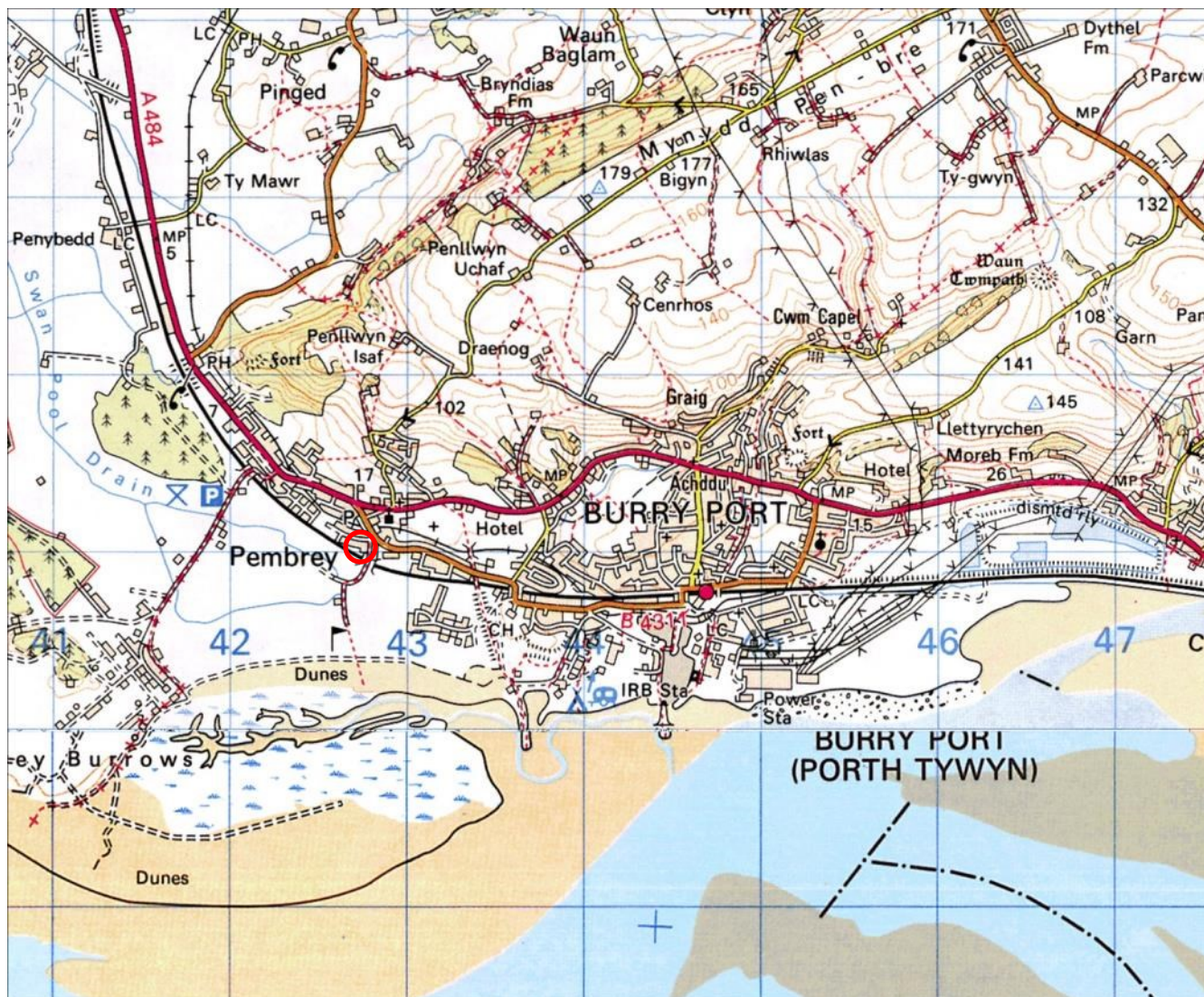
## 1.6 Timeline

1.6.1 The following timeline is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text.

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 1086	
Medieval Period –	1086 – 1536	
Post-medieval Period <sup>1</sup> –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20 <sup>th</sup> century onwards	

**Table 1:** Archaeological and historical timeline for Wales

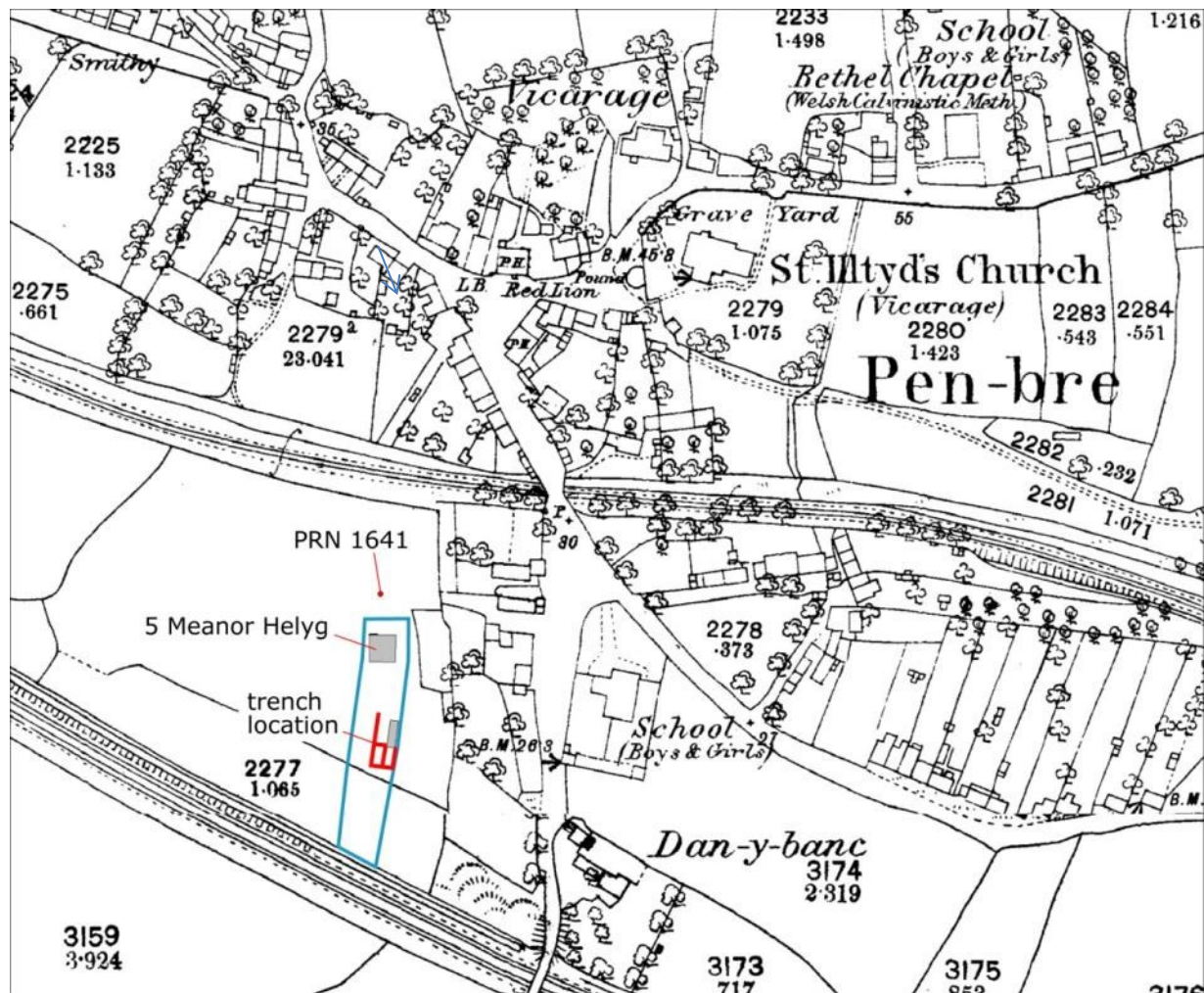
<sup>1</sup> The post-medieval and industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional Historic Environment Record as held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust



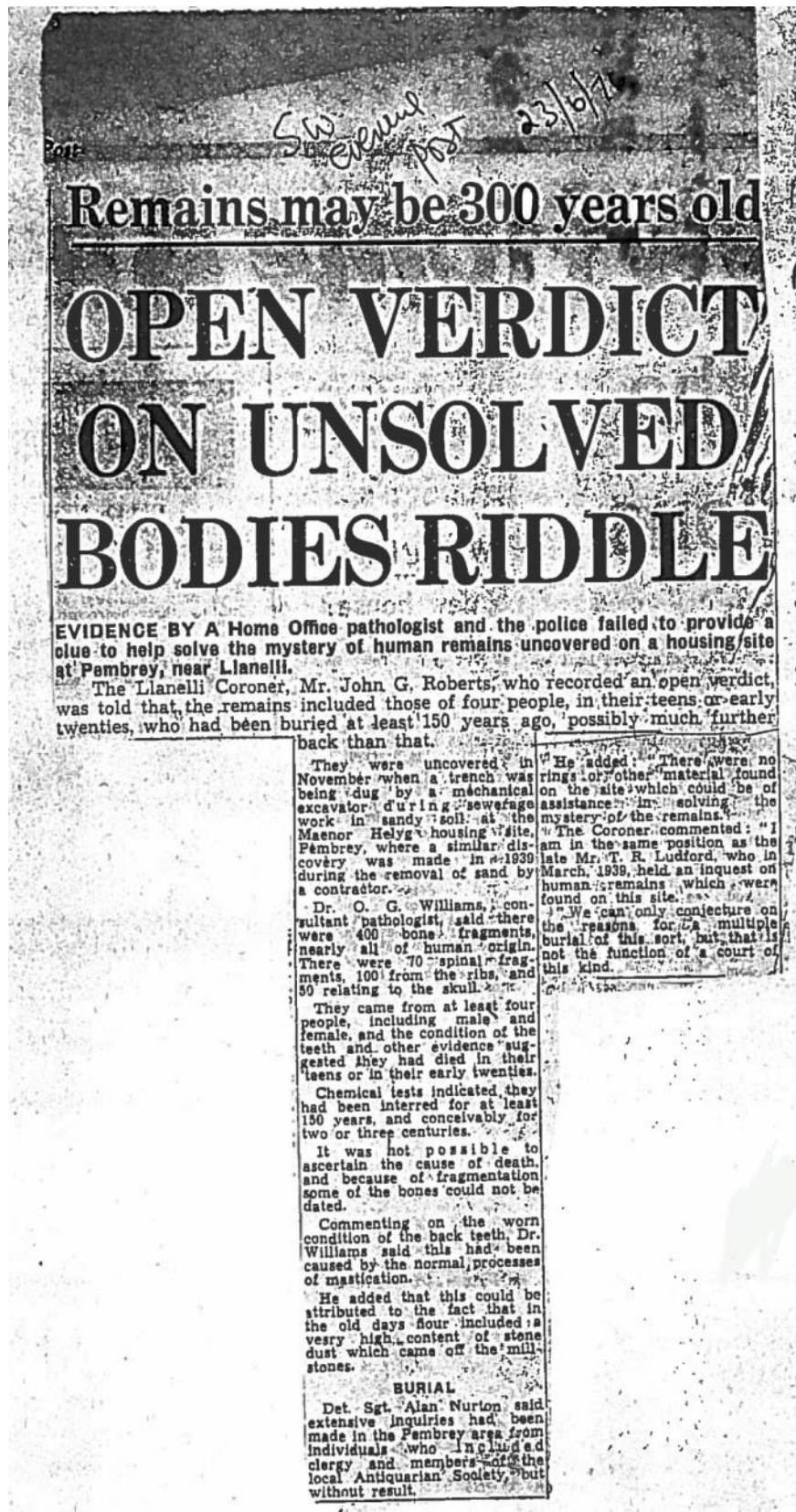
**Figure 1:** Site location of proposed development (red circle).

Reproduced from the 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. 100020930





**Figure 2:** Extract from the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition showing location of multiple burials (PRN 1641), property boundary (blue) and trench locations (red).



**Figure 3:** Extract from the South Wales Evening Post newspaper (dated 23/06/76), detailing the coroner's report on the human bones found to the north of 5 Maenor Helyg, Pembrey.

## **2. THE SITE**

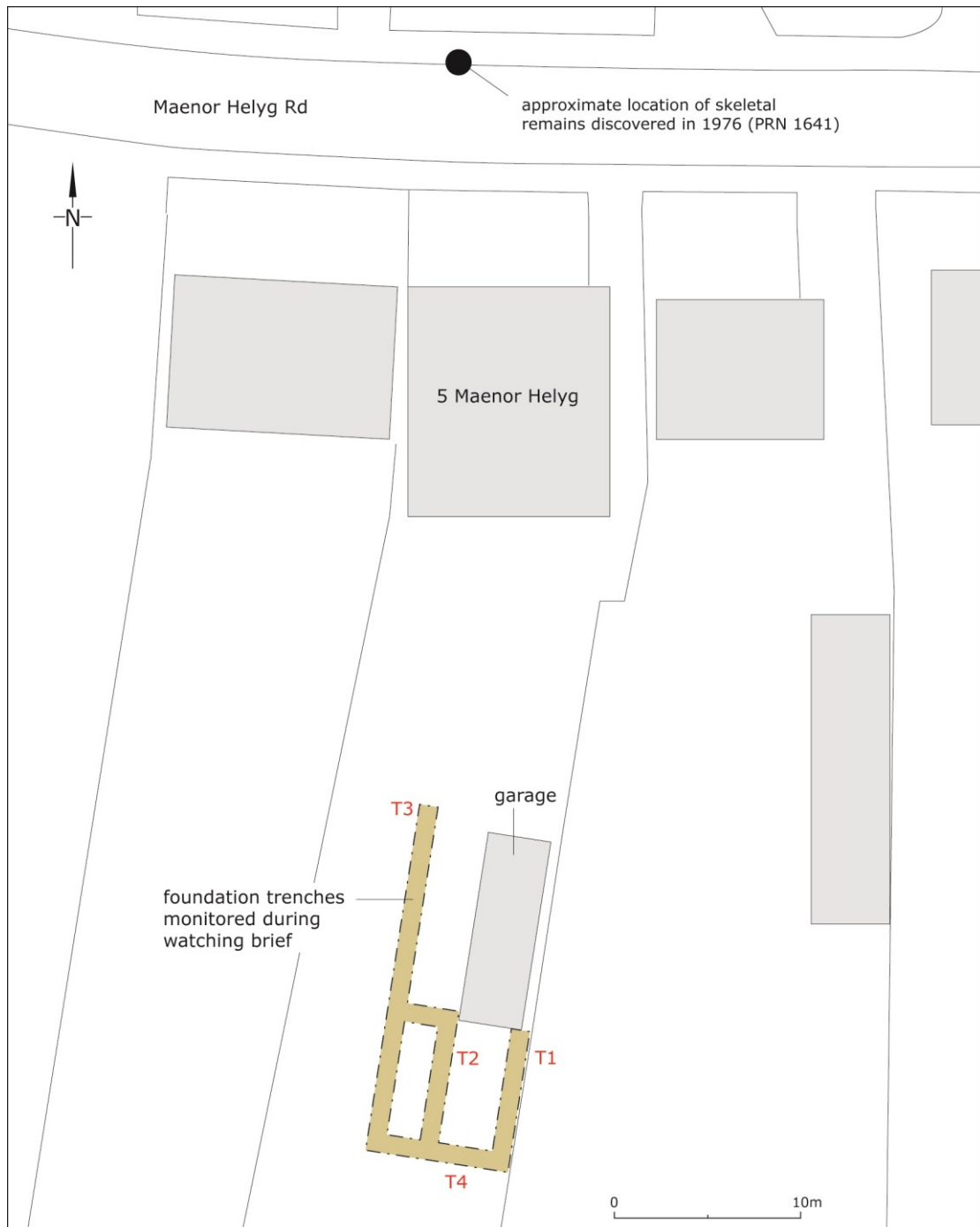
### **2.1 Location and Topography**

- 2.1.1 The development site is situated in the garden of No5 Maenor Helyg on the southern margins of the village of Pembrey which lies 19kms south of Carmarthen town and 7.5kms east of Llanelli town (Figure 1).
- 2.1.2 The majority of the garden is under grass and the northern half slopes very gently from north to south. It is situated between sea level and the 10m contour. The underlying superficial geology is windblown sand, and the underlying geology is the South Wales Upper Coal Measures Formation (based on information from the British Geological Survey <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

### **2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 2.2.1 The Ordnance Survey record the discovery in the 1930s of at least 5 inhumation skeletons during the quarrying of sand in this area, although the exact location is not given. Further remains (PRN 1641) were discovered in the area in 1976 (Figure 3) when a mechanical excavator was excavating a trench for sewerage to the north of the proposed development. A Home Office Pathologist examined the remains at the time and concluded the bones were from at least four individuals; both male and female. The pathologist could not determine exactly how old the burials were, although they were considered to have been buried for at least 150 years and possibly even longer. There is no further documentary evidence that may help indicate why and when these burials were carried out at this location and we do not know the extent of this cemetery.
- 2.2.2 Historic maps shed no light on why burials are at this location. Prior to the construction of houses in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the parish tithe and later maps (Figure 2) show the area as one of agricultural fields. Neither are there any records within the Historic Environment Record in the vicinity of the burials or the surrounding area that help our understanding of the reasons why this cemetery exists and what period it might originate from.
- 2.2.3 Consequently, not knowing the extent of the cemetery, there was a possibility that archaeological material associated with these burials may have extended into the application area and that any remains surviving as buried archaeological features would be adversely affected by the proposed development.





**Figure 4:** Location of foundation trenches within property and in relation to multiple burials (PRN 1641).

### **3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork**

- 3.1.1 A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at the site which had the potential to expose, damage or destroy underlying archaeological remains.
- 3.1.2 Ground reduction work was undertaken by the site contractors; using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothed ditching bucket. It had been intended to use a toothless grading bucket but the narrowness of the trenches precluded this and a toothed ditching bucket had to be used. The nature of the windblown sand subsoil allowed for this, as any archaeological features or deposits would have been clearly identifiable during the excavations, even with the disadvantage of using a toothed bucket.
- 3.1.3 All archaeological deposits revealed during the groundworks were examined and recorded to an appropriate level.
- 3.1.4 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual<sup>2</sup> used by DAT Archaeological Services.
- 3.1.5 The work followed the Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief as laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) and adhered to their code of conduct (CIfA 2014).

#### **3.2 Timetabling of Fieldwork**

- 3.2.1 The watching brief took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2017. The weather during the day was fine and dry.

#### **3.3 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving**

- 3.3.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork will be collated into a site archive structured in accordance with specifications in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2011), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 3.3.2 The results of the fieldwork have been assessed in local, regional and wider contexts. The report includes a desk-based research element to ensure that the site is placed within its wider archaeological context.
- 3.3.3 A report fully representative of the results of the fieldwork has been prepared.

#### **4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

- 4.1 The four foundation trenches excavated during the watching brief are labelled T1, T2, T3 and T4 (see Figure 4).
- 4.2 The north end of T1 butted up against a garage wall and ran southwards alongside a breeze block, boundary wall for 7.6m. It was approximately 1m wide. Its base cut through the natural windblown sand for its entire length (Figure 4, Photo 1). The trench was stepped once achieving a maximum depth of 1.05m; a typical profile can be seen in Photo 2, consisting of 0.45m of topsoil and dark garden soil, beneath which stood approximately 0.6m of sand. No cuts or deposits of archaeological or historical significance were observed within the trench.



**Photo 1:** View north along T1. 1m scale.





**Photo 2:** East facing section in T1 showing extent of windblown sand.  
1m scale





**Photo 3:** Looking north along T2. 1m scale

- 4.3 The north end of T2 was situated beside the SW corner of a garage. It ran for 7.6m and was stepped twice, reaching a depth of 1.05m at its southern end. Its base cut through natural windblown sand for its entire length. A small patch of clay was seen at the bottom of the trench towards the south end. No cuts or deposits of archaeological or historical significance were observed within this trench (Figure 4, Photo3).
- 4.4 T3 was aligned in north-south and was 18.6m long by 1m wide. It was stepped three times and its base cut through natural windblown sand for its entire length, achieving a maximum depth of 1.3m (Figure 4, Photo 4). A lens of clay was observed approximately 1.5m long and 0.15m thick near the base at the southern end. It is probably associated with the patch of clay seen at the bottom of T2 (Photo 5). The sand deposits in the northern half of the trench were within 0.2m of the garden surface (Photo 6). The section in T3 clearly showed the sand gently sloping down to the south. No cuts or deposits of archaeological significance were observed within this trench.
- 4.5 T4 was aligned east-west and was 7.7m long and 1m wide. Its section was approximately 1.05m deep comprising 0.45m of topsoil and garden soil with 0.6m of windblown sand beneath. No cuts or deposits of archaeological interest were observed within this trench (Figure 4, Photo 7)





**Photo 4:** Looking north along T3. 1m scale





**Photo 5:** West facing section along southern half of T3 showing clay lens within sand. 1m scale



**Photo 6:** West facing section in northern half of T3 showing windblown sand very close to the surface of the garden. 1m scale





**Photo 7:** View west along T4. 1m scale





**Photo 8:** View north towards development site after completion of groundworks.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 This watching brief has revealed that there is no evidence for any inhumations within the development area. Nor was there any evidence of banks, walls or ditches that could be associated with a burial ground or cemetery.
- 5.2 Although no archaeological deposits were identified within the development site, it is still possible that significant archaeological remains could lie within the vicinity of the development.

## **6. SOURCES**

### **Database:**

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

RCAHMW Coflein Database <http://www.coflein.gov.uk/>

Cof Cymru - National Historic Assets of Wales

<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/recordsv1/cof-cymru/?lang=en>

### **Bibliography**

Brown, D, 2011, *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum

CIfA 2014, *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, December 2014

CIfA 2014, *Code of Conduct*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, December 2014

### **Websites**

British Geological Survey: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>  
- accessed 27/01/2016

## **APPENDIX I**

### **PROJECT ARCHIVE**

Project Number: FS16\_087

ERN: 110737

16 Digital photographs; Film Number 110737

1x Photo catalogue



**5 MAENOR HELYG, PEMBREY, CARMARTHENSHIRE**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2017/49  
RHIF Y DIGWYLLIAD / EVENT RECORD NO. 110737

Awst2017  
August 2017

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

**Hubert Wilson**

Swydd / Position: **Archaeologist**

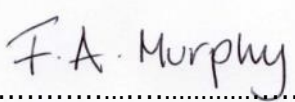
Llofnod / Signature .....  ..... Date: 11/08/2017

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

**Fran Murphy**

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

Swydd / Position: **Project Officer DAT Archaeological Services**

Llofnod / Signature .....  ..... Date: 14/09/2017

*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*



**BUDDSODDWYR | INVESTORS**  
**MEWN POBL | IN PEOPLE**

