

**CHURCH LANE, ST DOGMAELS,
PEMBROKESHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
2015
(NGR SN 1637 4593)**



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
For: Mrs Sian Williams



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2015**

Gan / By

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**CHURCH LANE, ST DOGMAELS, PEMBROKESHIRE:
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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Church Lane, St Dogmaels, Ceredigion (NGR 1637 4539) in order to address an archaeological condition placed upon the planning decision for the proposed development plot (Planning Application Number 12/0356/PA).

The site possibly lies within the former precinct of the medieval abbey of St Dogmaels, which dates from the 12th century. The abbey is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM PE073). The foundations for most of the cruciform abbey church survive and indicate that unusually there was no entrance to the abbey church on the west and visitors would have accessed the nave through the north door, quite possibly via a route along Church Lane to the north of the precinct. It would have passed through a gatehouse whose location is no longer known, but is conceivably within or close to the area of the proposed development. The monks entered through a door on the south that connected the church to the cloister. Thus the potential for below ground archaeological remains associated with medieval monastic activity exists within the development area and this evidence could have been adversely affected by the proposed development.

A single trench, aligned north-south was machine excavated within the development area. It measured approximately c.10m by 2m and significant archaeological deposits were encountered at a depth of approximately 0.45m below the current ground surface. Unfortunately determining the full extent of the archaeological deposits within the development area was beyond the scope of this evaluation. However, within the limited area of the trench the remains of substantial stone built structures were revealed in the northern half of the trench including a well preserved stone flagged drain, linear gully and the footings for at least two large stone walls. At the southern end of the trench several possible pit-like features were also identified.

All of the features observed appeared to extend beyond the extents of the excavated trench suggesting the likely survival of further archaeological deposits within the wider development area.

Artefacts recovered during the excavation included fragmented pieces of pottery the majority of which came from deposits associated with the footings of stone wall [115]. The pottery has been identified as Dyfed gravel tempered ware and of medieval date; 13th or 14th century.

The dimensions and construction methods of the drain and walls strongly suggest that they are associated with the nearby medieval abbey of St Dogmaels, whose importance is nationally recognised. Therefore they potentially form part of a nationally important monument. It is possible, though cannot be proven, that these remains form part of what may have once been a gatehouse to the abbey.

It is likely that further archaeological mitigation will be required if development is to proceed because of the potential significance of the archaeological deposits and the high possibility that they extend into the wider development area.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mrs Sian Williams to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed dwelling on land at Church Lane, St Dogmaels, Pembrokeshire (Planning Application number 12/0356/PA).

1.1.2 Planning permission has been granted for the development by Pembrokeshire County Council Planning Authority but under the guidance of the archaeological advisor to the planning authority (Dyfed Archaeological Trust Planning Services) the following condition has been placed on the planning application decision:

No development shall take place until the applicant or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority Reason: To protect archaeological interests within the site and to accord with policy 84 of the Joint Unitary Development Plan for Pembrokeshire (adopted 13 July 2006).

1.1.3 The requirement for the archaeological investigation had been placed upon the development as the site lies within the former precinct of the medieval abbey of St Dogmaels (NGR 1637 4593; Figure 1). The abbey dates from the 12th century and the ruins are now in the care of Cadw and are a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM PE073).

1.1.4 The purpose of the evaluation was to provide information on the character, and significance of any below ground archaeological remains that may be present within the development area.

1.2 Scope of Project

1.2.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological evaluation was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services prior to the commencement of works.

1.2.2 The evaluation was designed to provide information on the character, extent, date, state of preservation and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the area. The evaluation would record the identified remains and make a judgement in terms of whether a more detailed programme of archaeological works should be implemented in advance of the development.

1.3 Report Outline

1.3.1 This report provides a summary and discussion of the archaeological evaluation and its results, and puts those results within their regional and national context.

1.4 Abbreviations

1.4.1 Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record¹ (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services – DAT-FS; Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management – DAT-HM;

¹ Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo SA19 6AF.

Scheduled Ancient Monument – SAM; Written Scheme of Investigation – WSI; RCAHMW – Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

1.5 Illustrations

1.5.1 Printed map extracts are not necessarily produced to their original scale.

1.6 Timeline

1.6.1 The following timeline (Table 1) 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 ² –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20 th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales.

² 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

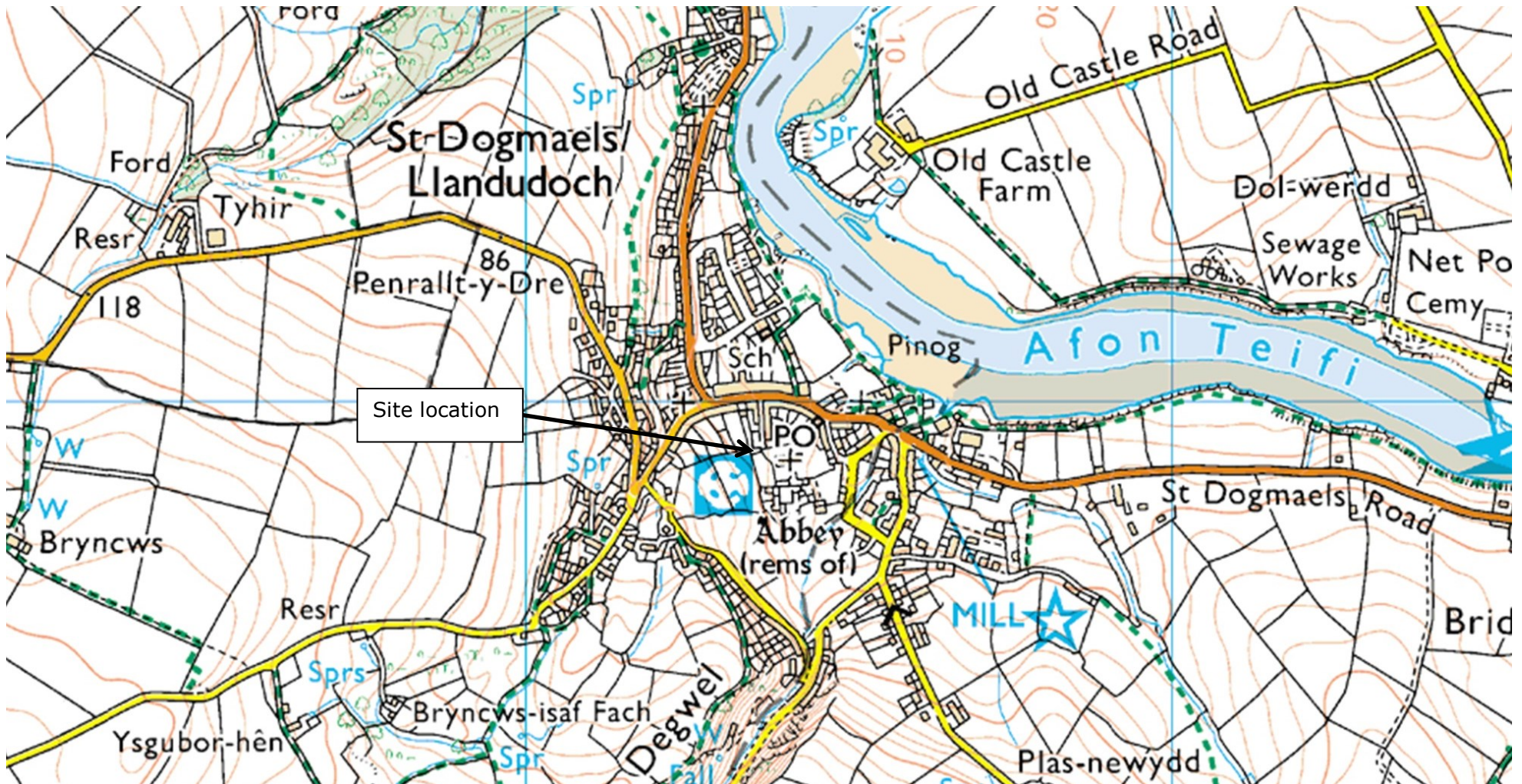


Figure 1: Site location of proposed development based upon the Ordnance Survey.

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale Explorer Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office,
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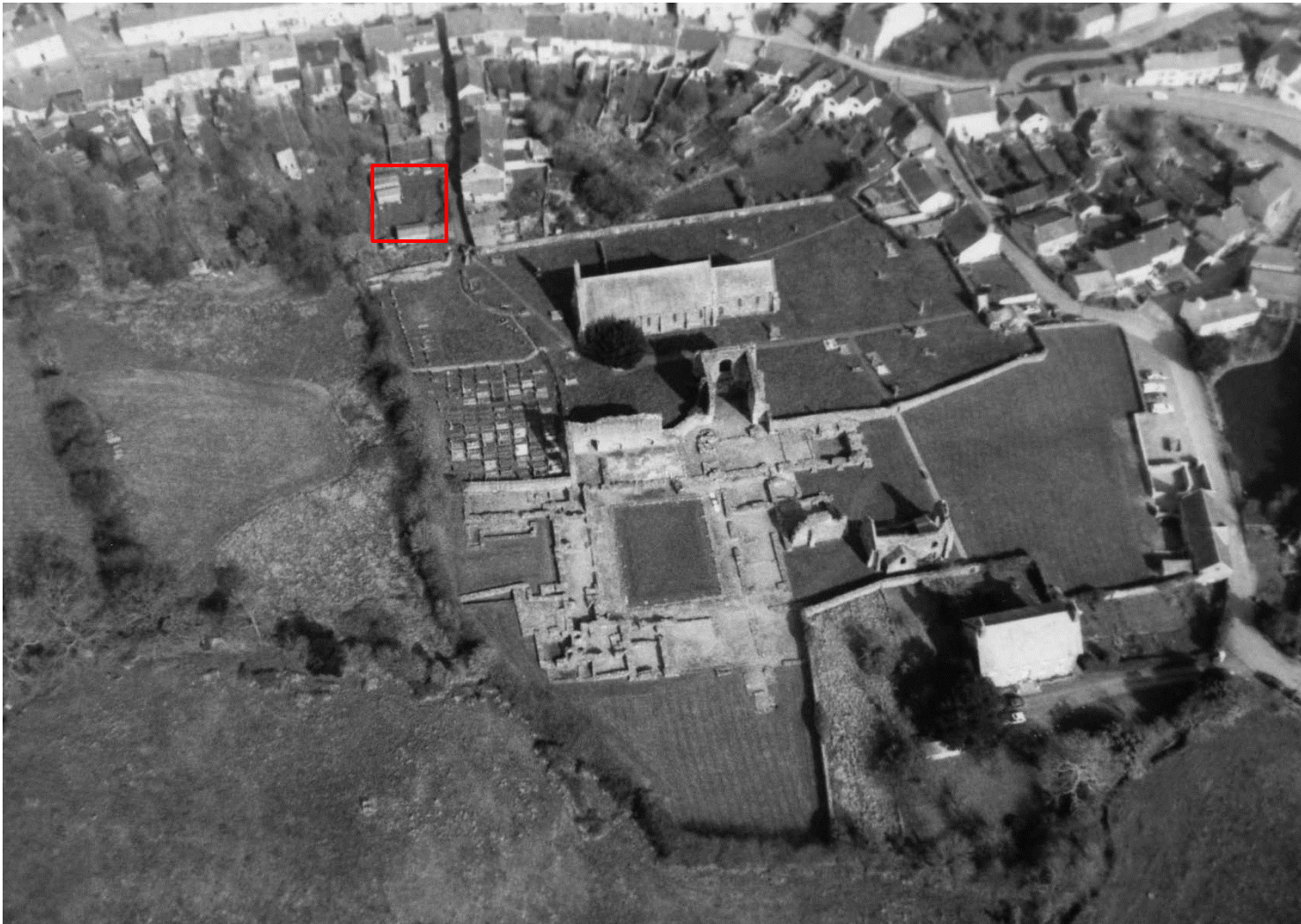


Photo 1: Aerial photograph taken in 1995. The abbey can be seen in the foreground of the photo and the garden plot where the evaluation was undertaken has been outlined in red. (DAT AP ref: AP95-41.33)

2. THE SITE

2.1 Site Location

- 2.1.1 The development area is a small undeveloped plot of land located at the southern end of Church Lane in the village of St Dogmaels (NGR 1637 4593).
- 2.1.2 Church Lane is a narrow lane that connects the High Street to the Victorian parish church and the medieval ruins of St Dogmaels Abbey.
- 2.1.3 The development area comprises a raised enclosed former garden that is currently under grass. Two garages are situated in the northwestern part of the area, and another garage is located outside of the garden to the south (Figure 5).

2.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

Historic Landscape Character Area.

- 2.2.1 St Dogmaels forms a recognised Historic Landscape Character Area Ref No 411 and is summarised below:

This is a small historic landscape character area represented by the built-up area of the large village of St Dogmaels. St Dogmaels is dominated by an ecclesiastical presence, in the form of the Tironian (Benedictine) abbey of St Dogmaels. This was established by Robert FitzMartin as a priory in 1113; it was raised to abbey status in 1120. It occupies a much earlier monastic site. FitzMartin's foundation charter described the house as the 'old church' of Llandudoch. The six Early Christian Monuments from the site suggest a continuous ecclesiastical presence from the 6th century onwards, which was wealthy enough to be attacked by Vikings in 988. A possible earlier monastic enclosure observed as a line of continuous property boundaries at St Dogmaels may or may not continue a curving bank recorded through geophysics south of the later abbey buildings. The abbey church was begun during the early 12th century. Although never completed to its original extensive plan, it had developed into a large church by the mid-13th century, central to an extensive range of masonry conventual buildings occupying a precinct that was at least 4ha in extent. The complex still forms the defining element of today's landscape.

A settlement had developed outside the abbey by the later medieval period, directly held by the barony which may have been keen to exploit the economic potential provided by the abbey's presence. The lords of Cemais are also recorded as having established a market here. The settlement was a manor, described as one of the 'three corporate towns' of Cemais in 1603 (along with Newport and Nevern), but it never appears to have been a borough. It may have remained fairly small through the medieval period. However, it was large enough to be served by a parish church dedicated to St Thomas (the abbey church being non-parochial), which stood opposite the abbey, but which has now gone. The abbey, and perhaps the settlement, were served by a mill immediately east of the abbey, and the monks had rights to an extensive fishery on the Teifi estuary. A devotional, or pilgrimage chapel was established in the steep valley of Cwm Degwell to the south.

The abbey was dissolved in 1536 when the buildings were leased to John Bradshaw of Presteigne. He built a mansion for himself within the precinct, from stone robbed from the conventual buildings, but this was short-lived and the site was described as a ruin in 1603. It was bought by David Parry of Neuadd Trefawr in 1646, but does not appear to have been inhabited, and the ruins passed into the ownership of the Anglican Church, who may

briefly have relocated the parish church into the abbey. However, a new parish church was established, on its present site, in the early 18th century (which was rebuilt in 1847) followed by the construction of the vicarage (and the coach-house) in 1866.

HER Information

- 2.2.2 The information described in Table 2 is taken from the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, and describes sites lying within close vicinity to the proposed development. Figure 2 illustrates the distribution of these sites
- 2.2.3 Most of the sites listed in Table 2 are of medieval origin and associated with St Dogmaels abbey (PRN 1090) (Photo 1). The ruined abbey dates from the 12th century and the ruins are now in the care of Cadw and are a scheduled ancient monument SAM PE073.
- 2.2.4 The Norman Abbey of St Mary at St Dogmaels that was a Tironensian monastery and was the 'mother house' of two nearby priories, Caldey and Pill. Originally the church was planned to have an aisled nave with an apsidal eastern end and transept chapels but was never completed. It was remodelled in 13th century, with a simple nave and a lengthened eastern end over a small crypt. Further altered in the 14th century, when the western end was built and a northwestern door added, and in the early 16th century, when the north transept was given fan vaulting. South of the church lie the monastic buildings, and a detached building of the late 13th century, possibly an infirmary chapel or infirmary, lies to the southeast. Although the Abbey church walls survive to a substantial height, elsewhere, the monastery buildings are represented by low walls or foundations, except for the infirmary which has three intact walls, and part of the rough stone vault. During the 17th and 20th centuries much of the abbey site appears to have been used for agricultural purposes, with some abbey buildings used as agricultural buildings and other buildings constructed over parts of the site. A great deal of stone robbing has obviously occurred and much reduced the abbey buildings. The location of the site of the Bradshaw family mansion is unknown. They are believed to have lived at the abbey after purchasing the property from the Crown in the late 1530's after the Dissolution of the abbey. It is possible that the present Vicarage, south of the abbey, overlies the mansion site.
- 2.2.5 The foundations for most of the cruciform abbey church survive and indicate that unusually there was no entrance to the church in the west and visitors would have accessed the nave through the north door, quite probably via a route along Church Lane passing through a gatehouse whose location is no longer known. The monks entered through a door on the south that connected the church to the cloister.
- 2.2.6 The church which stands to the north of the medieval abbey is a much later building and dates to the Victorian era (PRN 4998).
- 2.2.7 The 1838 parish tithe map (Figure 3) shows no building within the proposed development area. The 1890 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2500 map (Figure 4) demonstrates clearly that the current character of the town had been established by this date but again suggests at the time of mapping that no structures were obvious in the area proposed for development. The development area has been used as a garden in the past, and as housing for 3 garages.

PRN No.	NPRN No.	Name	Description	National Grid Ref	Site Type	Period
1090	94164	ST DOGMAELS ABBEY SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT PE073	Ruined site of the Norman Abbey of St Mary at St Dogmaels that was founded in 1115 by the Fitzmartin family, Lords of Cemais. It was a Tironensian monastery and was the 'mother house' of two nearby priories, Caldey and Pill. Originally the church was planned to have an aisled nave with an apsidal eastern end and transept chapels but was never completed. It was remodelled in 13th century, with a simple nave and a lengthened eastern end over a small crypt. Further altered in the 14th century, when the western end was built and a northwestern door added, and in the early 16th century, when the north transept was given fan vaulting. South of the church lie the monastic buildings, and a detached building of the late 13th century, possibly an infirmary chapel or infirmary, lies to the southeast. Although the Abbey church walls survive to a substantial height, elsewhere, the monastery buildings are represented by low walls or foundations, except for the infirmary which has three intact walls, and part of the rough stone vault. During the 17th and 20th centuries much of the abbey site appears to have been used for agricultural purposes, with some abbey buildings used as agricultural buildings and other buildings constructed over parts of the site. A great deal of stone robbing has obviously occurred and much reduced the abbey buildings. The location of the site of the Bradshaw family mansion is unknown. They are believed to have lived at the abbey after purchasing the property from the Crown in the late 1530's after the Dissolution of the abbey. It is possible that the present Vicarage, south of the abbey, overlies the mansion site. Grade I Listed Building Ref 13102	SN16414586	Abbey	Medieval
1215	401267	SAGRANUS STONE	Group I Early Christian Monument (Latin- and Ogam-inscribed stone), of probable 5th - 6th century date, now in St Dogmaels church (PRN 4998). It was first recorded in the 1690s when it stood in the ruins of St Dogmaels Abbey. The SAGRANUS stone was known as the Rosetta Stone of the Ogam Alphabet by Celtic Scholars seeking to translate and	SN16404591	Early Christian Monument	Early medieval

			understand the Irish Ogam Alphabet during the 19th century. The stone is bilingual (Irish and Latin) and bears witness not only to the importance of Latin in post-Roman Wales, but also to the considerable influence of the Irish in West Wales during the centuries after the Roman withdrawal. By the end of the 5th century, Pembrokeshire was undoubtedly settled and governed by Irish incomers of the Deisi tribe. The stone bears the Latin inscription SAGRANI FILI CUNOTAMI in an alphabetic style which is held to date to the 5th or early 6th century AD. Along the left angle of the face of the stone is the Irish Ogam translation SAGRANI MAQI CUNATAMI (Sagranus son of Cunatamos).			
1216		ST DOGMAELS EARLY CHRISTIAN MONUMENT	Group II Early Christian Monument (incomplete cross-carved slab), of probable 8th century date, now in St Dogmaels Church (PRN 4998). It was first recorded in the 1870s among the ruins of St Dogmaels Abbey.	SN16404591	Early Christian Monument	Early medieval
1217		ST DOGMAELS EARLY CHRISTIAN MONUMENT	Group II ECM (fragmentary carved pillar), of probable 8th - early 9th century date, now in St Dogmaels Church PRN 4998. It was first recorded in the 1870s among the ruins of St Dogmaels Abbey. Possibly +/- in situ. Part of an inscribed stone dating to the 8th-9th centuries AD and bearing the image of a Latin ring-cross.	SN16404591	Early Christian Monument	Early medieval
1222		ST DOGMAELS EARLY MEDIEVAL A SITE	St Dogmaels early medieval A site - high-probability early medieval origins. Site of the post-Conquest St Dogmaels Abbey (PRN 1090) and post-medieval church (PRN 4998), within probable location of the documented early medieval monastery of 'Llandudoch'. Possible earlier enclosure, observed as continuous property boundaries and a curving bank recorded through geophysics. 'Noddfa' or sanctuary land is recorded. Six Group I-II ECMs on the site (PRNs 1215-1219, 1221 & 47484). The association of St Dogmaels with the early Christian saints Dogmael (or Dogfael) and Tydecho suggests that	SN16404590	Early medieval A site	Early medieval

			there was a monastic community in the St Dogmaels area from the 5th century AD, which appears to have thrived throughout the "Age of the Saints." The history of this monastic community (called a 'clas' in mediaeval Welsh) is poorly understood. It has been suggested that a church dedicated to St Dogmael was founded within the parish during the fifth century AD. There are records of cist-burials (typical of early Christian sites) being found in the vicinity of the iron age fort at Caerau. 19th century historians were of the opinion that this may have been the site of an early monastic settlement, perhaps that of St Dogmael himself. This theory was reinforced by the proximity of a field called Yr Hen Fynachlog (The Old Monastery). However, the significance of these names and discoveries is in reality difficult to ascertain in the light of present knowledge.			
4998		ST THOMAS THE MARTYR	<p>Post-medieval church, built de novo in c.1700 over part of the precinct of St Dogmaels Abbey PRN 1090. NDL 2003</p> <p>A church is reported to have been built on the present site c.1700; the original church being sited a short distance to the east at the site of the Church School. The present parish church is almost wholly 19th century in its architecture, dating to the period 1848-52 when it was rebuilt according to the design of A. Ashpitel, a London architect. The former Bier House, lychgate and steps at the eastern entrance into the churchyard are also Grade 2 listed structures. RPS 2000</p>	SN1640645910	Church	Post medieval
59204		TYMELYN	<p>Situated just N of lychgate to parish churchyard.</p> <p>Early 19th century house, altered in late 19th century, whitewashed roughcast with slate roof and later yellow brick end stacks. Two-storey three-window front of plate glass sashes and centre door with timber pilasters and shelf hood on brackets. Painted slate plinth. Conspicuous in views of parish church and abbey ruins.</p> <p>Grade II Listed Building Ref 13085</p>	SN1646945929	House	Post medieval
59207		WALL ALONG S	Situated between churchyard and abbey grounds, running	SN1645045883	Wall	Post

		SIDE OF CHURCHYARD	between the NW end of the abbey and the Bier House by the lychgate. Later 19 th century rubble stone wall with rough stone coping and one pointed doorway aligned with similar doorway in wall to rear of the Vicarage. Grade II Listed Building Ref 13089			medieval
59212		TYRHEDYN	Situated in terraced row between Church Street and Church Lane. Dated 1877, but possibly slightly earlier. House in brown rubble stone banded in blue slate. Three storeys, double fronted with paired bracket eaves and sash windows with marginal glazing bars. Apparently built after Pembroke House, adjoining, though with similar door case and eaves detail. One of the least altered banded stone fronts in the centre of Saint Dogmaels. Grade II Listed Building Ref 13094	SN1637745996	House	Post medieval
59213		CANNON HOUSE	Situated towards W end of terraced row running W from Church Lane. Later 19 th century terraced house, unpainted stucco, slate roof and banded stone E end stack. Listed for its well-preserved character in a heavily altered terrace. Grade II Listed Building Ref 13095	SN1631445990	House	Post medieval

Table 2: Archaeological and historical sites recorded on the regional HER lying within close vicinity to the proposed development.
Figure 2 illustrates the distribution of these sites.

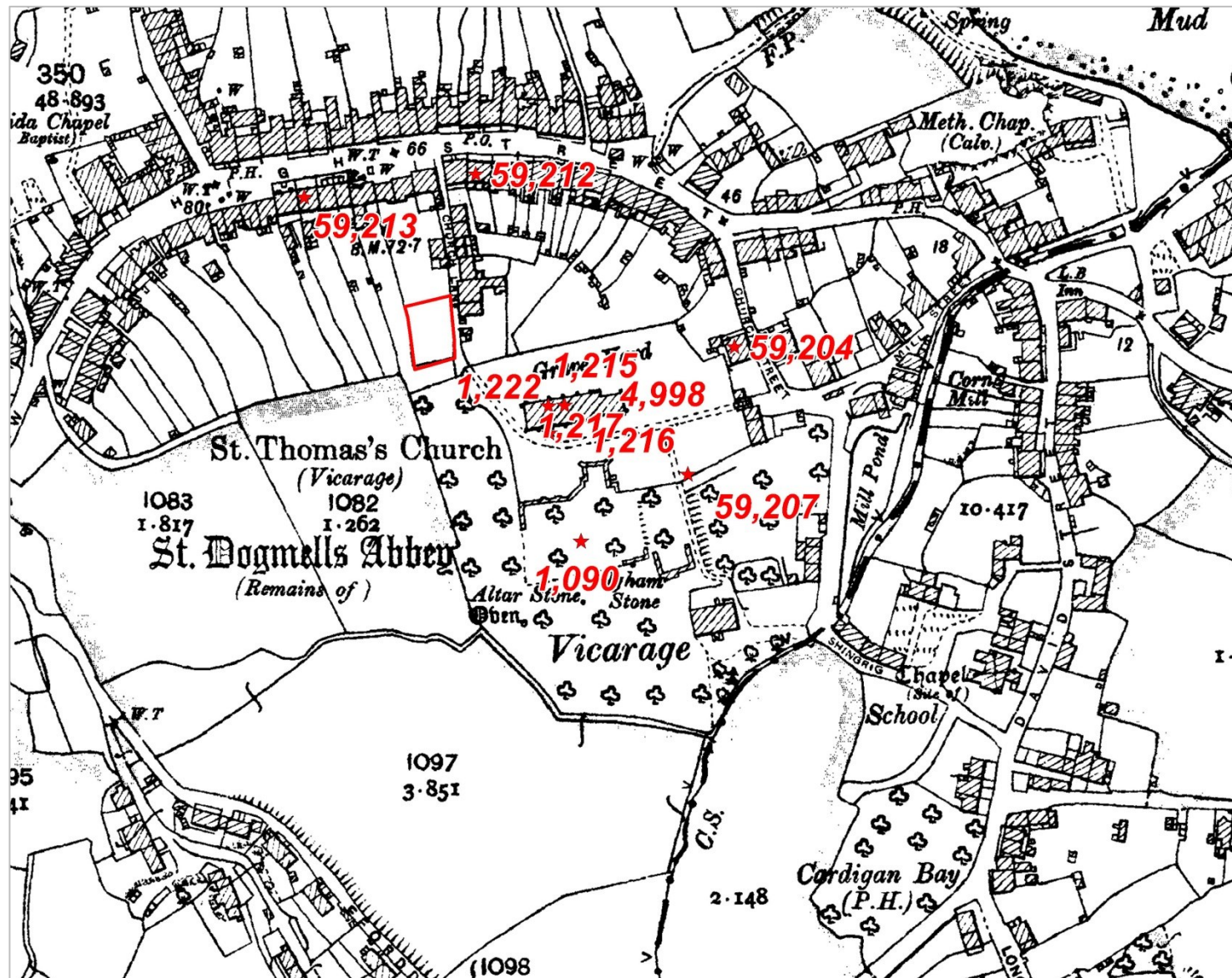


Figure 2: Plan showing the archaeological and historical sites in close vicinity to the development, based on an extract from the 1906 OS 2nd edition 1:2500 map. Development area outlined in red. Sites are listed in Table 2

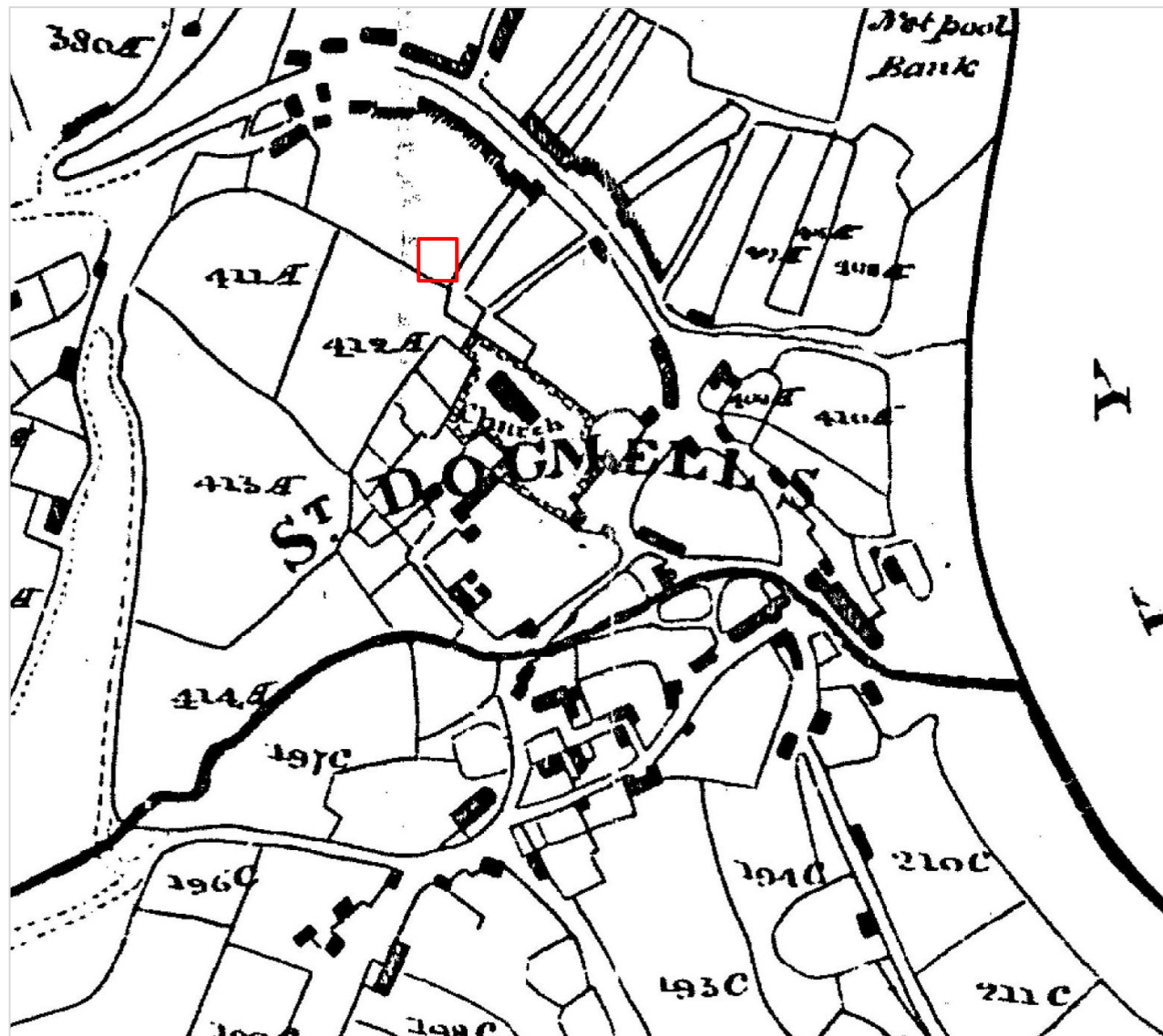


Figure 3: Extract from the 1838 parish tithe map. The approximate position of the proposed development site is highlighted in red.

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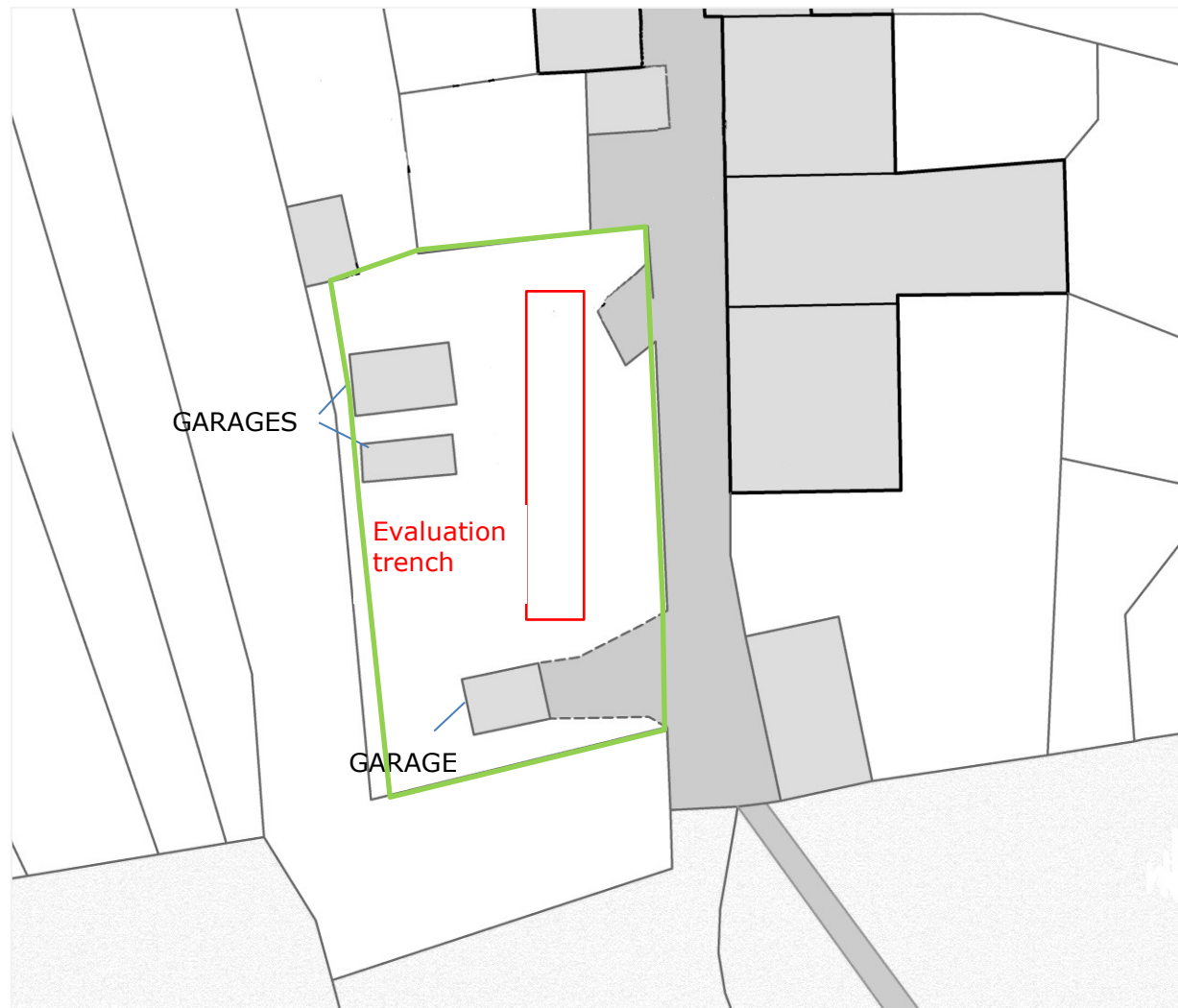


Figure 5: Sketch plan showing the location of the evaluation trench. The development area is outlined in green. Not to scale.

3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 To ascertain the significance and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits, it was proposed that a phase of trial trench evaluation was implemented. Initially, the proposal was to open a T-shaped trial trench, measuring approximately 10m east-west and 9/10m north-south. However, due to the constraints of working inside the small garden the machine had limited manoeuvrability and it was only possible to excavate a single linear trench 12m long and 2.5m wide, on a north-south alignment (Figure 5).
- 3.1.2 The trench was excavated using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed bucket. All non-archaeologically significant overburden was removed, and the trench was excavated down onto archaeological levels.
- 3.1.3 Following machine excavation, the trench was hand cleaned using trowels to elucidate the remains. Certain areas were re-troweled a number of times to improve the definition of features. Sample excavation was undertaken of a number of the archaeological features.
- 3.1.4 All deposits were recorded by archaeological context recording sheet, scale drawing, photography and site note books. All individual deposits were numbered using the open-ended numbering system in accordance with Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services Recording Manual³. Trench plans and sections were recorded by means of measured drawings and sketches. A photographic record was maintained using digital cameras.
- 3.1.5 The trench was located in relation to surrounding features and buildings using a Trimble 5600 TST and the results imported into GIS.
- 3.1.6 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 12th and 13th of May, 2015.

3.2 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving

- 3.2.1 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 2007), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 3.2.2 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 Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services use the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available for inspection if required.

4. EVALUATION RESULTS

- 4.1 All individual archaeological deposits or features were numbered using the open-ended numbering system and each numbered deposit was described. A summary of the descriptions are listed in Table 3.
- 4.2 The excavation of the trench showed the development area appears to be overlain by a deep deposit of humic silty loam (101), averaging approximately 0.45m to 0.85m in depth. This deep uniform deposit has probably accumulated to this depth over progressive years of the site being used as a garden plot.
- 4.3 Below (101) there was a distinct difference between the southern and the northern halves of the evaluation trench.
- 4.4 A scaled plan was drawn of the evaluation trench and this is illustrated in Figure 6. It may be useful to refer to this plan along with the following description of results

Southern half of trench (Figure 6)



Photo 2: Machine excavation of southern end of trench showing clearly the orange/brown silty clay (103) lying below dark garden soil (101). Facing northwest

- 4.5 Machine excavation began at the southern end of the trench. Layer (101) was excavated to its interface with very distinct compacted orange/brown silty clay (103, 104) (Photo 2).
- 4.6 At the southern end of the evaluation trench were 2 features [106, 107] cutting the natural silty clay (103) (Figure 6).
- 4.7 Sample excavation was undertaken of [106] and [107], which appeared on first inspection to be 2 possible circular pit-like features. Feature [107] was half sectioned but excavation revealed it to be very shallow, only c. 0.06m deep (Photo 4). Feature [106] was located in the southeast corner of the trench so its full extent and character could not be defined as its edges continued under the trench sections (Photo 3). The visible fill was excavated in its entirety which revealed a shallow cut, approximately

0.08m to 0.10m deep, with gentle sloping sides, containing some medium and small stones. No archaeological artefacts were recovered from either feature but occasional charcoal flecks were observed within the fills of both. It was not possible to determine the function of these features during the course of this evaluation.



Photo 3: Excavated feature [106] located in the southeast corner of the evaluation trench. Facing south. 0.5m scale



Photo 4: Shallow circular feature [107]. Half sectioned. Facing west. 1m scale

Northern half of trench (Figure 6 & 7)

- 4.8 As the machine excavation of the trench progressed, a clear change in the soil was observed underlying (101). Below (101) towards the north a layer of dark brown/grey sandy silt (102) with a gritty friable appearance, containing charcoal, a few pottery sherds and a large number of large and medium stones, some of which showed signs of having been shaped or faced, was exposed. The layer was approximately 0.15m in depth and protruding through it were obvious amounts of stone. The removal of (102) began to reveal the remains of a number of stone walls [113, 115] and a stone built drain [109] (Photo 5).
- 4.9 In the east facing section of the trench layer (102) could be seen petering out roughly 0.70m southwards from the southern edge of drain [109].
- 4.10 In the east facing section of the trench above stone drain [109] a thin layer of dirty orange/brown silty clay (104) (see Figure 7) could clearly be seen below layer (102) overlying drain [109] and the fill of gully [111] but abruptly ending above the southern edge of stone wall [113]. This layer was inconsistent across the trench and could not be seen overlying wall [113] in the west facing trench section. It was very similar to the clean natural orange/ brown silty clay (103) seen further to the southern end of the trench but was dirtier containing noticeable amounts of charcoal. The extent of layer (104) was not recorded in plan as some of it had been removed during the early stages of machining due to the fact that it was so similar to (103).
- 4.11 To the north of the abrupt end of layer (104)(Figure 7) and below (102) was a loose brown/grey sandy silt, very similar in character to (102), containing many medium and large angular stones, and only deviating slightly in being slighter lighter in colour. This layer varied considerably in depth over this northern end of the trench but its removal by hand

excavation exposed the remains of stone walls [113, 115] lying to the north of drain [109].



Photo 5: In the process of removing deposit (102) to reveal stone drain [109] and further stone walls at northern end of trench. Facing northwest

4.12 The remains of stone drain [109] and walls [113,115] were all aligned east-west and extended into the sides of the trench (Photo 6).



Photo 6: The remains of stone walls [113, 115] and stone drain [109] located towards the northern end of the evaluation trench. Facing southeast. 1m scale



Photo 7: Stone built structures located in the midsection of the trench. Left: drain [109]; centre: gully [111]; right: wall [113]. Facing west. 1m scale

- 4.13 The exposed section of drain [109] appeared to be well preserved and constructed of large stone slabs (Photo 8). Aligned roughly east-west, it was c. 0.80m wide from outer edge to outer edge. Stone flags covered a straight sided linear drain constructed from stone, with a stone lined base, measuring 0.26m wide and 0.20m deep.
- 4.14 A section was excavated through the drain. No archaeological artefacts were recovered from the fill contained within the drain.
- 4.15 A linear gully was revealed running parallel between the stone drain [109] and the remains of wall [113] to the south (Photo 7). The gully comprised a 0.22m wide depression the bottom of which was neatly lined with flat stones. The gully sides were formed from structures [109] and [113]. The gully was c.0.10m deep from the top of stone drain [109].
- 4.16 The remains of stone wall [113] indicated that the wall was approximately 1.0m wide and constructed from local stone. The structure had largely been robbed of stone but enough remained of the wall on the eastern side of the trench to show that both south and north sides were constructed from faced stones, with an inner stone rubble core (Photo 9). Where the stone had been removed a cut [119] was clearly visible that defined the edge of the former wall on its northern side.



Photo 8: View west of the section of drain after removal of drain fill. The gully can be seen abutting the drain on the right hand side of the image. 0.50m scale



Photo 9: View south of the northern end of the trench. 1m scale

- 4.14 Further to the north was evidence of another east-west aligned wall [115]. This wall measured approximately 0.80m wide and its southern edge was approximately 1.4m away from the northern edge of wall [113]. (Photo 10). Where the wall ran into the western side of the trench several courses of the wall survived and the wall was only 0.45m below the ground surface at this point. Running parallel with wall [115] on its southern side was evidence of a cut [114] c. 0.60m wide, as measured from the southern edge of wall [115] (shown as a dashed line in Photo 10). The fill (120) of this cut contained noticeable quantities of Dyfed Gravel Tempered Ware pottery (Photo 11) that have been dated to the 13th of 14th century, and judged as coming from cooking pots of large jars (D Williams pers com).
- 4.15 To the north of wall [115] was a discrete area of large flat stones [116] set within a mixed deposit (118) that extended to the end of the trench. In the area surrounding (116) there was a noticeable amount of charcoal and ash.

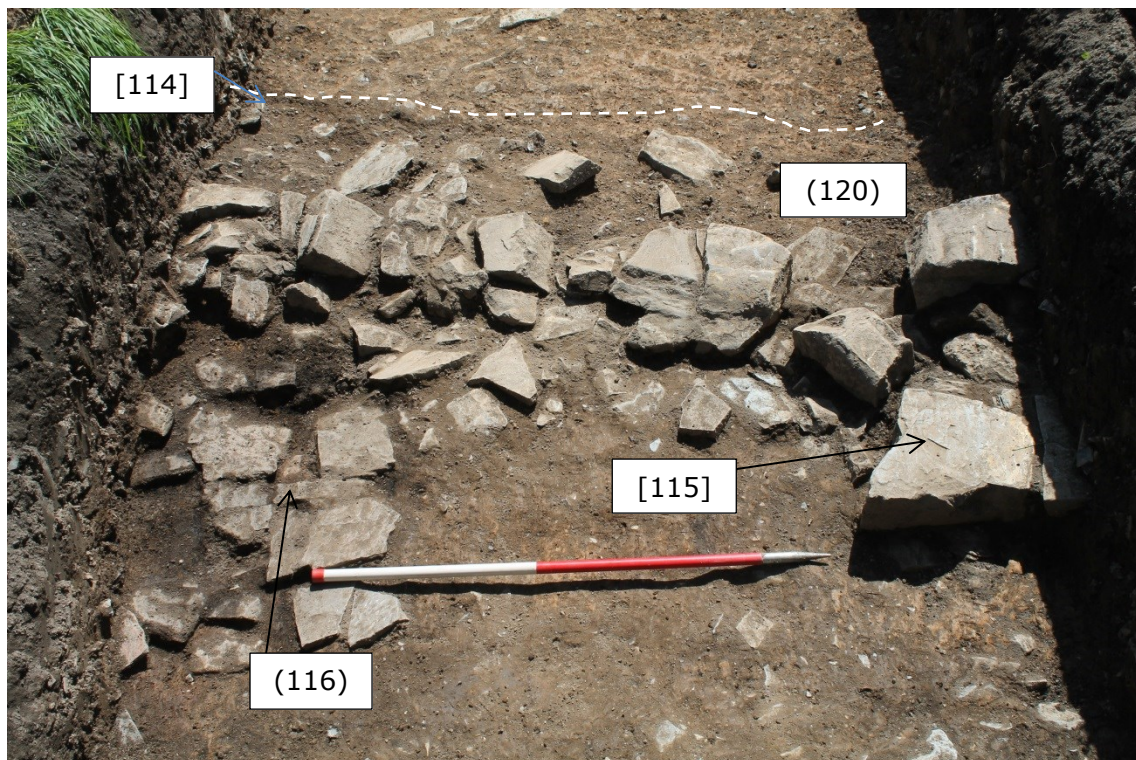


Photo 10: Stone wall [115] and possible remains of a floor surface [116] at northern end of trench. Facing south. 1m scale

- 4.16 A general overview photograph of the trench upon completion of the evaluation can be seen in photo 12. This shows the extent of the excavated structural remains in the foreground and the possible pit-like features in the background (south).



Photo 11: Example of pottery fragments recovered from (120), identified as Dyfed Gravel Tempered Ware dating to the 13th or 14th century. 0.25m scale



Photo 12: General overview photo of trench looking south after excavation to archaeological levels had been completed.

Deposit/feature No.	Description
101	<p>Topsoil – humic dark grey almost black. Very friable silty loam, well turned over garden soil. Fluctuating depth between 0.45-0.85m across site.</p> <p>Inclusions – occasional (less than 5%) irregular stones 5-10cm and frequent small irregular stones (2-3cm).</p> <p>Contains un-stratified fragments of post medieval and modern pottery.</p>
102	Dark brown/grey sandy silt. Approximately 0.15m in depth. Gritty friable material. Possibly demolition material that extends across the northern end of the trench overlying the archaeological stone structures but fades away to the south, once past limits of stone drain [109].
103	Natural deposit of orange/brown silty clay clearly visible in southern end of trench. Features [106] & [107] cut this layer as does the cut for the stone drain [109].
104	Orange/brown silty clay partially overlying drain structure [109] as recorded in the east facing section but not in the west facing trench section. Thin layer – only c.0.08m depth but clearly seen in section. Appears to be re-deposited natural. Very difficult to identify the difference between this and (103) during machining, so its true extent in plan is not known.
105	<p>A brown/grey sandy silt. Very similar to (102) in consistency only deviating slightly in shade of colour – slightly lighter.</p> <p>Contains regular medium and large angular stone inclusions.</p>
106	Cut – shallow sub-circular cut pit like feature. Located in the southeast corner of the trench. The full extent of the feature was not revealed. 0.08m to 0.10m deep.
107	Cut – very shallow circular feature. Approx. 0.80m in diameter and 0.06m deep. Flat bottomed. Truncated pit?
108	Fill of [107]. Brown/orange silty clay loam. Fill is darker and slightly more silty than natural (102).
109	Stone drain structure, aligned roughly east-west, c. 0.80m wide from outer edge to outer edge. Stone flags cover a straight sided linear drain constructed from stone, with a stone lined base, measuring 0.26m wide and 0.20m deep.
110	Fill of stone drain [110]. A grey/brown silty loam containing some flat small and medium stones. Small section of fill excavated against west facing section but no finds recovered.
111	Linear gully running parallel to stone drain [109] to the north and the remains of wall [113] to the south. The gully comprises a 0.22m wide depression the bottom of which is neatly lined with flat stones. The gully sides are formed from structures [109] and [113]. The gully is c.0.10m deep from the top of stone drain [109].
112	Fill of gully [111]. Friable dark grey silt. Excavated. No finds.
113	Stone wall. Remnant of a stone wall c.0.90m wide running

	roughly east-west, parallel with gully [111] and drain [109]. Surviving stone work to east, elsewhere the stone has been substantially robbed out but cut for wall clearly visible. Constructed from local stone, faced on north and south sides.
114	Linear cut running parallel with wall [115]. Southern edge of cut set c. 0.60m away from south face of wall [115] that forms the northern side of cut. Not excavated. Cuts deposit (117).
115	Stone wall. Remnant of a stone wall aligned roughly east-west, c. 0.80m wide. Made of local stone, Faced on north and south sides. Robbed of stone in places. Where wall runs into east facing trench section the wall is only 0.45m below the current ground surface.
116	Deposit of stone. Discrete area of levelled stone, possibly indicative of a former floor. Indications of ash and burnt material surrounding and overlying the levelled stones. Not excavated.
117	Brown/orange dirty silty clay, containing some small stones and charcoal. Not excavated. Cut by [114] and [119].
118	Unexcavated area of dark brown sand silt, context number possibly representative of more than one deposit; indications of burnt material within this area. Not excavated.
119	Linear cut for wall [113]. Filled by (121). Not excavated. Cuts deposit (117).
120	Fill of cut [114]. Loose medium brown sandy silt, containing noticeable amounts of medium and large stones, and some pottery sherds. Not excavated.
121	Fill of cut [119]. Not excavated.

Table 3: Descriptions of individually recorded archaeological deposits and features recorded during the evaluation.

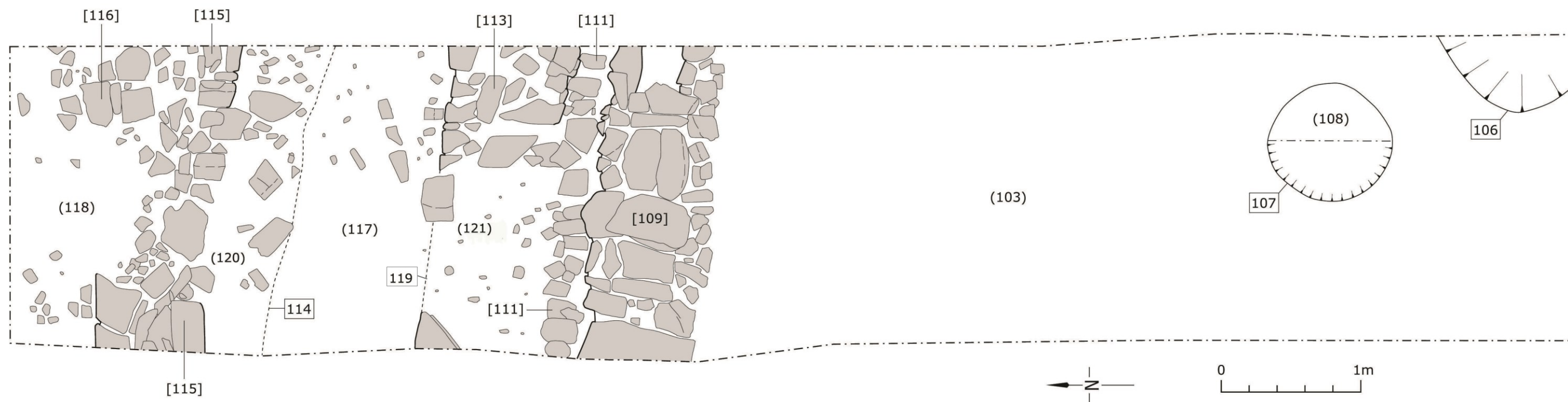


Figure 6: Plan of the evaluation trench at Church Lane, St Dogmaels.

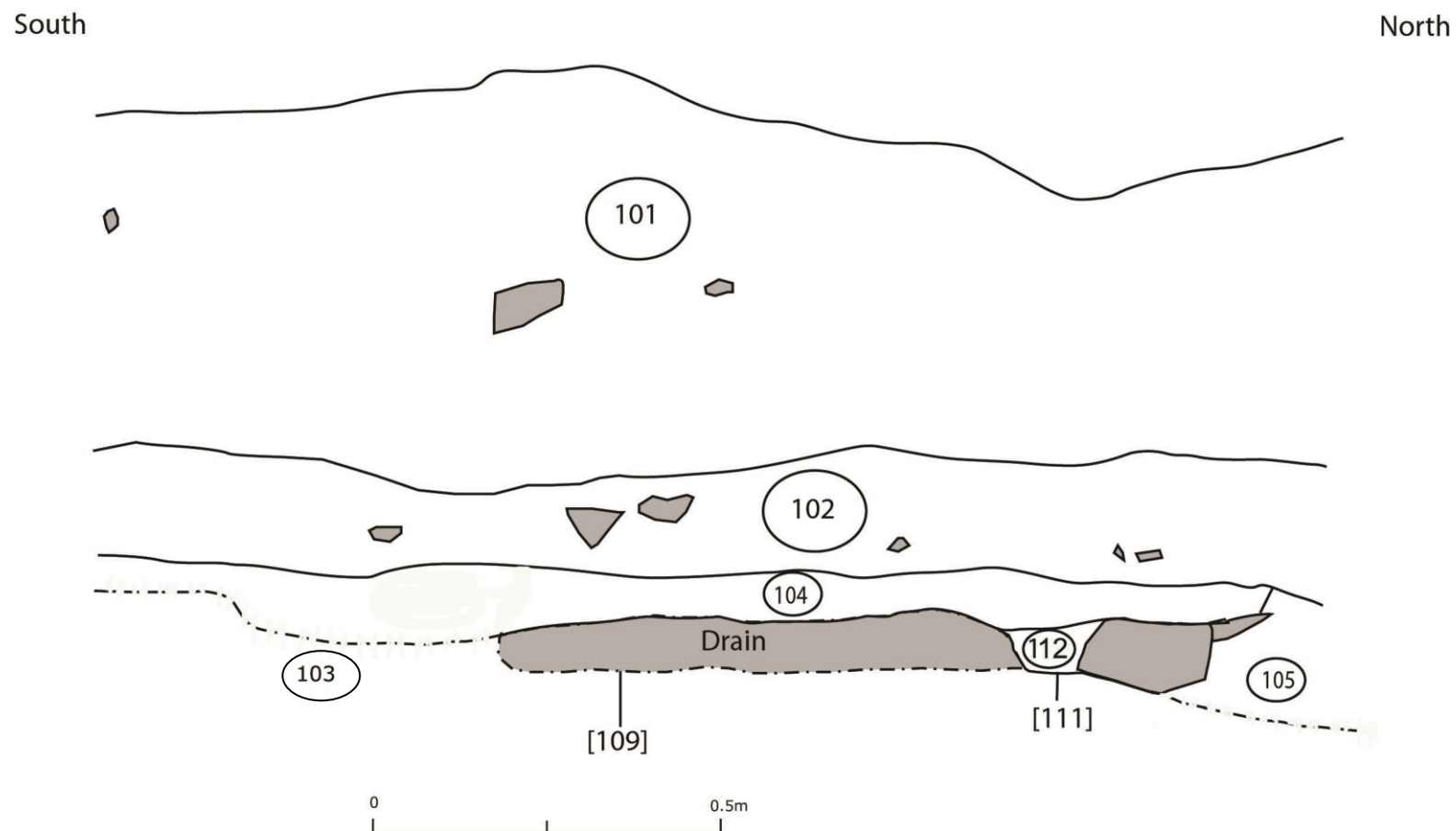


Figure 7: The east facing trench section above stone drain [109].

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 This evaluation has identified substantial, well preserved archaeological remains throughout the evaluation trench including associated stone built structural remains of a drain, gully and wall footings, as well as possible pit-like features.
- 5.2 The pottery sherds recovered from archaeological deposits indicate that the structures date to the medieval period, perhaps 13th or 14th century but securely within a medieval timeframe.
- 5.3 The dimensions and construction methods of the drain and walls strongly suggest that they are associated with the nearby medieval abbey of St Dogmaels, whose importance is nationally recognised. Therefore they potentially form part of a nationally important monument. It is possible, though cannot be proven, that these remains form part of what may have once been a gatehouse to the abbey, through which access was gained to the abbey church from the village.
- 5.4 Unfortunately, determining the full extent of the archaeological deposits within the garden plot was beyond the scope of this evaluation. However the well preserved remains exposed within the evaluation trench indicate that further archaeological deposits may well exist within the whole of the development area and beyond. The first evidence of archaeological remains was encountered at a depth of approximately 0.45m below the current ground level.
- 5.5 It is understood that there is a planning requirement that any new dwelling is constructed at the same level as the road called Church Lane. This would involve reducing the current ground level of the development area considerably.
- 5.6 Spot heights were recorded along the bottom of the evaluation trench (on the top of archaeological levels) and along the road surface of Church Lane. These measurements indicate that on average a further 0.50m of deposits would have to be removed from the levels attained within the evaluation trench, to reach the current level of the road along Church Lane.
- 5.7 Therefore the existing planning condition requiring the level of the development area to be reduced to the current level of Church lane would significantly impact, if not destroy, surviving archaeological remains, that by their suggested association with the abbey of St Dogmaels , are potentially of national importance.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 If the surviving archaeological remains within the development area cannot be preserved *in situ* then it is likely that further archaeological mitigation would be required prior to development. This is expected to include full excavation of all archaeological deposits and features that will be impacted upon by the development.

7. SOURCES

7.1 Publications

Brown, D.H., 2007. *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*. Institute of Field Archaeologists.

7.2 Database

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record.

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

7.3 Map

St Dogmaels Parish Tithe Map 1838 and Apportionment 1838

Ordnance Survey 1890 1:2500 1st edition Pembrokeshire

Ordnance Survey 1906 1:2500 2nd edition Pembrokeshire

Ordnance Survey 2003 1:25 000 Pembrokeshire

CHURCH LANE, ST DOGMAELS, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION 2015

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

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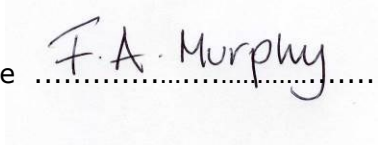
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Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
This report has been checked and approved by

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Yn unol â'n nôd i rod-di 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

