

PHASE ONE DEVELOPMENT AREA, PRIORY FARM, MONKTON, PEMBROKE, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 2015

(NGR SM 9745 0161)



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
For: JG Hale Construction Ltd



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**PHASE ONE DEVELOPMENT AREA,
PRIORY FARM, MONKTON, PEMBROKE,
PEMBROKESHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
2015**

Gan / By

Charles Enright

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SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Hale Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with Phase One of a residential development at Priory Farm in Monkton, Pembrokeshire.

The development is located in an archaeologically sensitive area of Pembroke that lies to the west of the medieval Priory of Monkton (PRN 3273), which was founded in the 12th century. There is a strong possibility that archaeological material associated with the medieval priory may extend into the application area and that this could be adversely affected by the development.

As a consequence a condition was placed on the application stating that no development should take place until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been implemented. It was agreed with the archaeological advisors to the planning authority that an archaeological watching brief was required to monitor ground works during the early stages of the development when the development area was stripped by mechanical excavator.

The HER records demonstrated that no known designated or non-designated archaeological assets existed within the development area but a number of medieval structures are present in the wider area. Overall the greatest potential for archaeological deposits is greatest for early-post medieval remains, particularly associated with Monkton Priory.

Site visits were made by a DAT archaeologist during ground works that had the potential to expose, damage or even destroy archaeological remains. On each instance the attending archaeologist observed sufficient evidence that no identifiable archaeological remains or deposits were significantly impacted upon by the development

Excavation revealed how much the underlying bedrock geology varied across the development area. The underlying limestone bedrock was frequently observed to be protruding through the subsoil as shallow as 0.30m below the ground surface. In contrast elsewhere large deep fissures in the bedrock, some greater than 4.0m deep, were filled with soft silty soil. The only potential archaeological feature (albeit relatively recent in date) was a possible length of gully extending from the north-south boundary of the development area; unfortunately it was not possible to make any precise judgement as to its age or function.

Although no evidence of surviving archaeological remains associated with medieval activity were observed within the Phase One development area, the overall proposed residential development lies within an area of known archaeological activity and the potential for associated structures, features and artefacts to survive within the wider area still exists.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

1.1.1 DAT Archaeological services were commissioned by Carl Haynes of Hale Construction Ltd to provide an archaeological scheme of works to address the potential impacts of Phase One of a proposed residential development on land at Priory Farm, Monkton, Pembroke (centered on NGR SM 9745 0161; Figure 1) (Planning Application Number 13/0377/PA).

1.1.2 The proposed development (Figure 2) is a large residential development in an archaeologically sensitive area of Pembroke that lies to the west of the medieval Priory of Monkton (PRN 3273), which was founded in the 12th century. In the field to the north of the development is situated a Scheduled Ancient Monument; a medieval dovecote thought to have been one of the buildings attached to the Priory at Monkton (SAM PE415; PRN 3274).

1.1.3 There is a strong possibility that archaeological material associated with the medieval priory may extend into the application area and that any remains surviving as buried archaeological features will be adversely affected by the proposed development.

1.1.4 As a consequence of this the following condition has been placed on the present application:

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 historic environment interests whilst enabling development

1.1.5 This condition has been placed on the development by Pembrokeshire County Council following advice from Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the planning authority, as the application area lies within close proximity to several sites of archaeological and historical interest.

1.1.6 It was agreed that an archaeological watching brief was required to monitor the ground works during the early stages of the development when the development area was stripped by mechanical excavator.

1.1.7 The purpose of a watching brief, as laid down in the IFA S&G AWB is:

- To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.
- To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment.

1.2 Scope of 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 works. The WSI outlined methodologies for:

- Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which the watching brief should be undertaken.
- 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 ground works.
- To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

1.3 Report Outline

- 1.3.1 This report 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 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; Scheduled Ancient Monument – SAM; Written Scheme of Investigation – WSI; RCAHMS – 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 Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo SA19 6AF.

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

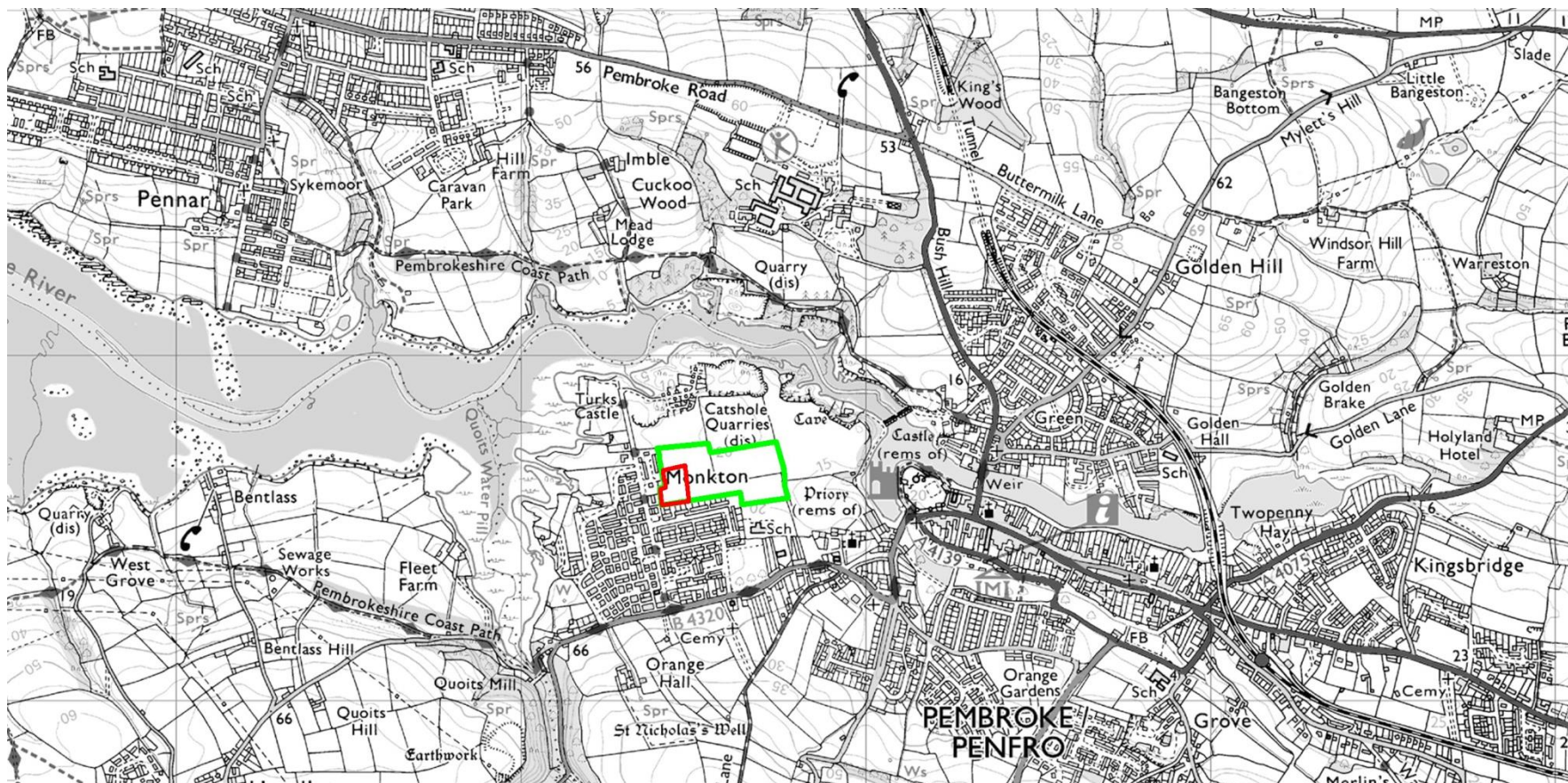


Figure 1: Site location map based on the Ordnance Survey 1:25, 000 scale map. Red border outlines area of Phase One and the green border outlines the overall development area (see Figure 2)

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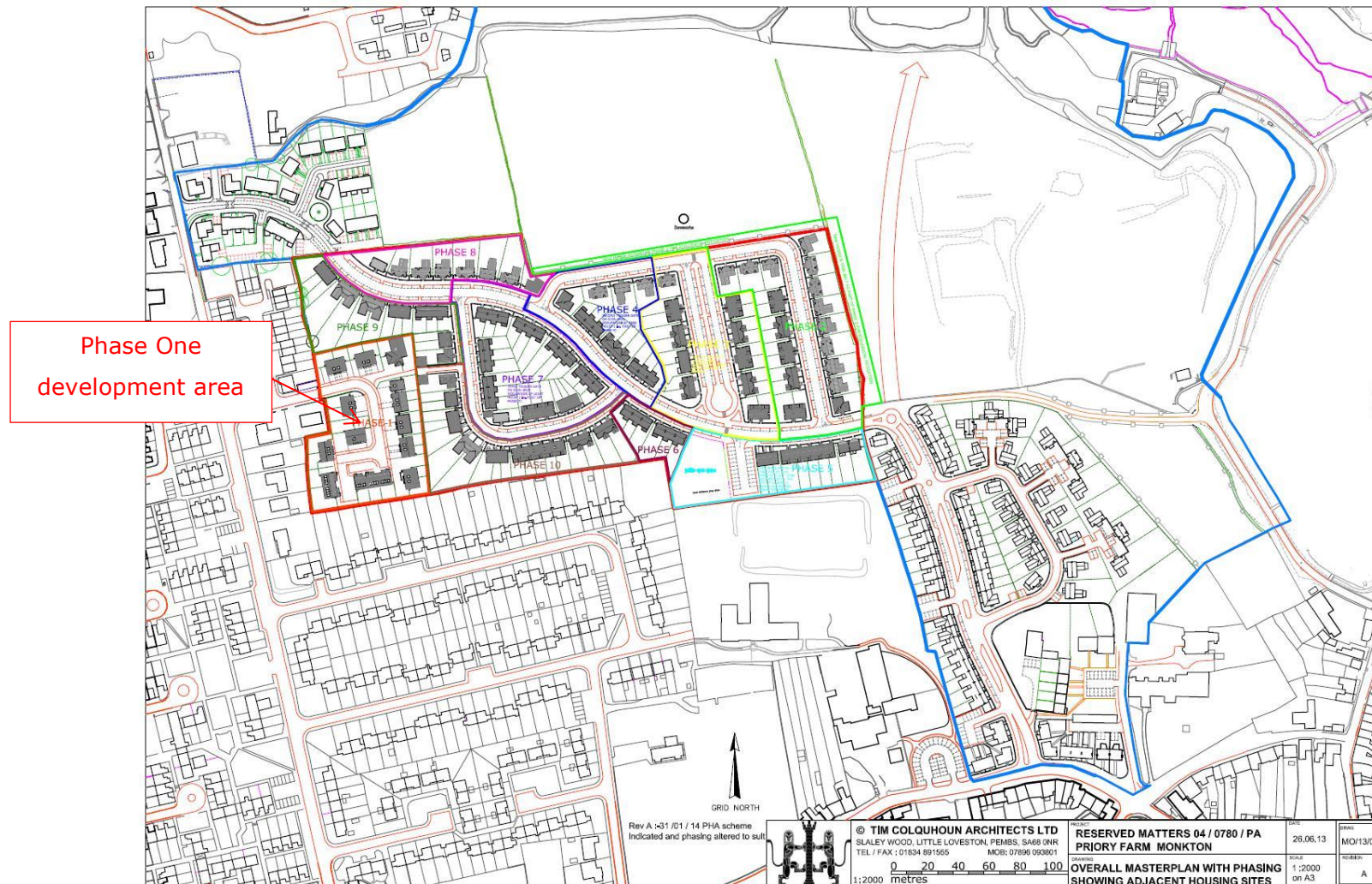


Figure 2: Plan showing the whole area proposed for development. Plan supplied by client.

2. THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 The development will take place on the northeastern fringes of Monkton, approximately 1.5km from the centre of Monkton at NGR SM 9745 0161 (centre of the Phase One development; Figures 1 and 2).
- 2.1.1 The development area consists of an enclosed field system lying on flat low lying ground, approximately 20m OD.

2.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

- 2.2.1 The following information has been extracted from the Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust and the RCAHMW Coflein database.
- 2.2.2 The proposed development lies in an archaeologically rich area of Pembroke that lies to the west of the medieval Priory of Monkton (PRN 3273) which was founded in the 12th century. In the field to the north of the development is situated a Scheduled Ancient Monument; a medieval dovecote thought to have been one of the buildings attached to the Priory at Monkton (SAM PE415; PRN 3274).
- 2.2.3 There has been no previous archaeological assessment of this particular site area, but a search of available archaeological records has been carried out during the preparation of the WSI using the information held on the Dyfed Historic Environment Record (HER) and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) National Monuments Record (NMR) viewed on the online database COFLEIN. This does not provide a full archaeological background to the site but merely places it in its wider archaeological context.
- 2.2.4 No known designated or non-designated historical assets lie within the development area. The earliest site recorded on the HER lies 0.5km to the northeast of the Phase One development area where a collection of flints from Cathole Cave (PRN 12187; PE435) have been recovered. The cave was also found to contain a large assemblage of animal bone and Mesolithic flint implements were also recovered (PRN 12188) suggesting extended occupation of the site. Aside from this the majority of sites in the wider area appear to be of medieval – modern structures.
- 2.2.5 Monkton Priory is situated approximately 300m south east of Phase One of the development site. Monkton Priory Church (PRN 3273) was formerly a Benedictine Priory Church established in 1098. To the south east of the church lies Monkton Old Hall (PRN 3272), possibly the priory gatehouse or guesthouse.
- 2.2.6 To the west of the church lies Priory Farm, still containing elements of the medieval priory including the farmhouse (PRN 7218), a late medieval fortified 1st floor hall of tower. It is thought that elements of priory farm may extend into the development area and additional medieval remains may be present.
- 2.2.7 A medieval dovecote thought to be associated with the priory is located to the north of the development area. It has been suggested that the dovecote may have once sat within a walled garden.
- 2.2.8 In 2003 a geophysical survey was conducted on land to the immediate north of Monkton Priory Church. The results of the evaluation indicated that several anomalies that were thought to be possible archaeological features were

impossible to identify in the field and their nature or cause remained uncertain. However, the evaluation found evidence of previously unknown building foundations on high ground to the immediate west of Priory Farm, and their possible association with upstanding walls suggests that there was considerable potential in this particular area for gaining a better understanding of the extent and layout of Monkton Priory.

- 2.2.9 Figure 3 illustrates the distribution of archaeological sites around the area of the proposed development and a summary of each of the sites can be found in Appendix 1.
- 2.2.10 Overall the archaeological potential of the site was greatest for early – post medieval remains, particularly associated with Monkton Priory, but there may also be potential for later prehistoric activity within the development area.

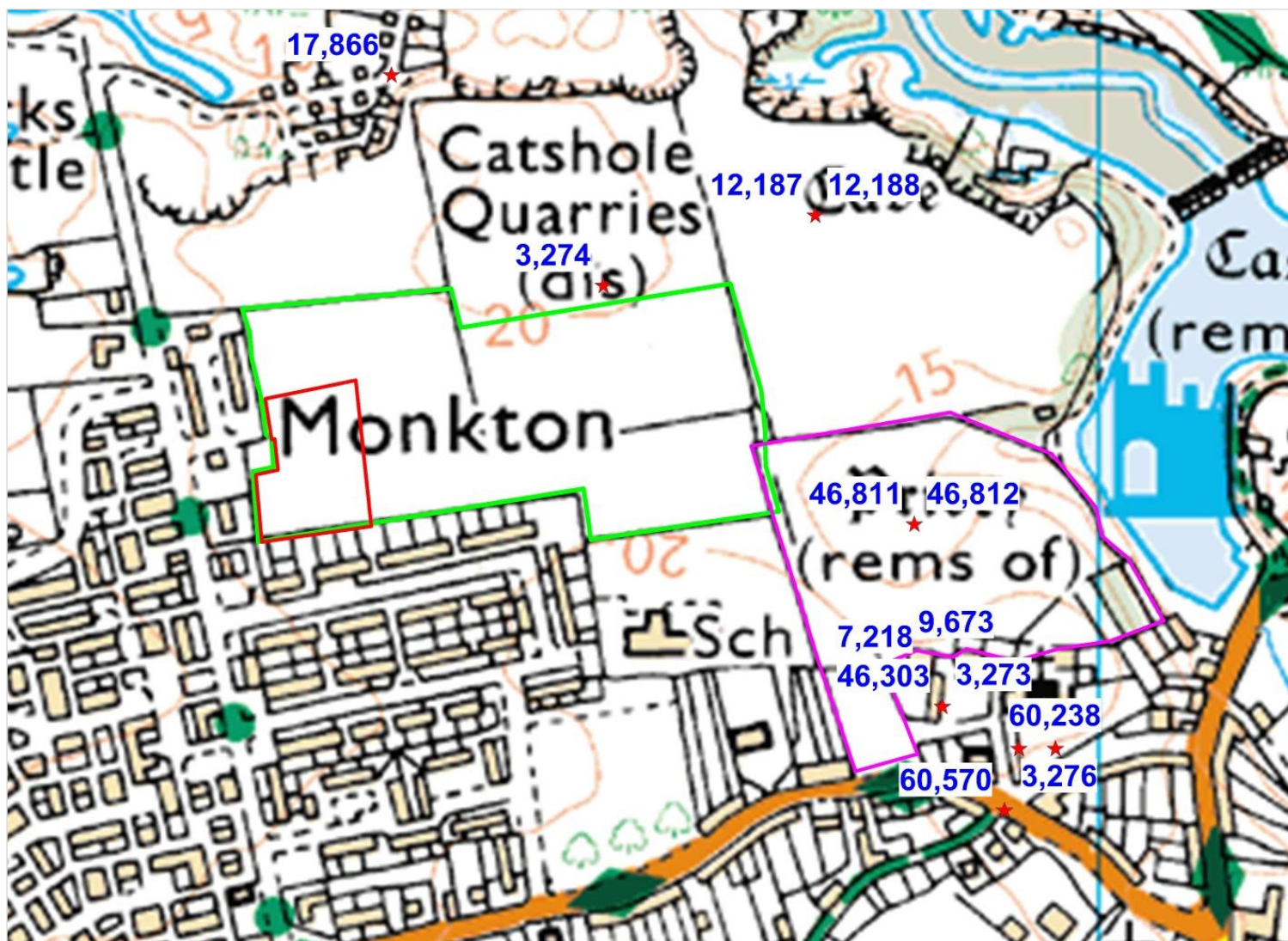


Figure 3: Plan showing the archaeological and historical sites listed in Table 1. The Phase 1 development area is outlined in red. The total area within which potential development is to take place is outlined in green. The area subjected to archaeological evaluation in 2005 is outlined in pink.

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale Explorer 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 100020930

3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 Site visits were made on the 27th & 29th May, 10th, 12th & 29th June and the 12th of August to undertake the archaeological watching brief during ground works that had the potential to expose, damage or even destroy underlying archaeological remains.
- 3.1.2 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual³ used by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services.

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 have adopted the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available on-site for inspection if required.

4. RESULTS

- 4.1 An archaeologist was on site during the initial topsoil strip by mechanical excavator to the interface with the subsoil (Photo 1). The machine stripping of the topsoil revealed undulating limestone bedrock ranging from 0.30-0.50cm in depth below friable subsoil consisting of a very dark brown loam (Photo 2). Frequent finds of post medieval pottery dating to the 19th and 20th centuries were recovered from the topsoil (Photo 3).



Photo 1: General shot of area topsoil stripped to subsoil interface. Looking northwest towards the contractor's compound.



Photo 2: Viewing east - example of area of limestone bedrock just below topsoil.



Photo 3: A selection of the post medieval finds collected during the topsoil strip.

- 4.2 An east-west aligned linear feature was observed extending from the north-south boundary for approximately 10m but then appeared to abruptly terminate as it approached an area of protruding limestone bedrock. The feature was approximately 0.60m wide and was cut into the subsoil and contained a very dark silty fill. A number of pieces of post medieval glazed ware, brick and ash were recovered but not retained. Excavation of the feature found it to be approximately 0.10m deep (Photo 4).
- 4.3 No other features, finds or deposits of potential archaeological significance were observed during the topsoil strip.



Photo 4: Looking east - excavated section through linear feature.

- 4.4 In addition to watching the initial topsoil strip a DAT archaeologist attended the site to watch the excavation of the foundations for the buildings on the 29th of June, 2015. The foundation trench was intended to be excavated to a depth of approximately 0.5m but because of the accumulation of soft soil in the fissures located between the undulating bedrock the trenches had to be excavated to a depth of up to 4.0m in certain areas.

- 4.5 During the excavation of the building foundations the attending archaeologist did not observe anything of a possible archaeological nature. Photos 5 and 6 show examples of sections of excavated foundation trench that illustrate the undulating nature of the bedrock geology.



Photo 5: Looking south – showing a section of excavated foundation trench illustrating the undulating nature of the natural bedrock geology.



Photo 6: Looking south – showing a section of foundation trench showing an example of one of the silt filled deep fissures present across site.

- 4.6 A final site visit was made on the 12th of August to inspect the foundation trenches in the northern corner of the area of the Phase One development. As previously noted in past site visits the undulating bedrock geology was still evident and no suggestion of archaeological features was detected.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The results of the archaeological watching brief have demonstrated that the ground works during the Phase One development did not impact upon any significant archaeological remains or deposits.
- 5.2 Excavation revealed how much the underlying bedrock geology varied across the development area. The underlying limestone bedrock was frequently observed to be protruding through the subsoil as shallow as 0.30m below the ground surface. In contrast elsewhere large deep fissures in the bedrock, some greater than 4.0m deep, were filled with soft silty soil.
- 5.3 The characteristics of the linear feature extending from the north-south boundary would suggest it is of relatively modern date. It is probably a small gully based on its general characteristics but it is not possible to answer why it terminates so abruptly.
- 5.4 Subsequent to the final site visit on the 12th of August 2015 it was decided that a large enough sample of foundation trenches had been inspected to make the informed decision that significant archaeological deposits were unlikely to be encountered in the remaining development area. It was decided that any further archaeological watching brief in the area of Phase One could be limited to topsoil stripping only.
- 5.5 Discussions with the site contractors indicated that no further topsoil stripping in the area of the Phase One development was required and therefore the watching brief was concluded.
- 5.6 However, it is worth noting that Phase One is only the first phase of a much larger residential development project whose eastern boundary runs very close to the remains of Monkton Priory and the listed buildings of Priory Farm. Therefore the proposed residential development site as a whole lies in an area of potentially high archaeological significance and the possibility of archaeological deposits being present in the wider area still remains. Therefore future phases of this development may well require an archaeological watching brief during ground works.

6.0 SOURCES

6.1 Publications

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

6.2 Database

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

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

6.3 Map

Ordnance Survey Map. 2003. 1:25 000. Pembrokeshire

Appendix 1 – Summary of archaeological assets within the vicinity of the development site

PRN No.	NPRN No.	Name	Description	National Grid Ref	Site Type	Period	Designation
3273	300439	Monkton Priory Church	<p>Monkton Priory Church is now a parish church but was formerly a Benedictine Priory church. It was established in 1098. The priory was finally suppressed in 1535-9. Little now survives from the conventual buildings, which were located to the north of the church. The remains of a vaulted undercroft in the church vestry appear to have formed part of the east range of the conventual buildings. These may have been arranged around a cloister to the north of the nave, and 'old walls' are labelled on 19th century Ordnance Survey maps to the north, in the area of the present vicarage. The extent of the priory precinct within which the conventual and other monastic buildings lay has not been certainly established but the churchyard appears coterminous with its eastern half, while Priory Farm almost certainly occupies its western half.</p> <p>The priory, as a parish church, came to be the focus of civilian settlement and a township - 'Monkton', from which the priory received its name (having been known as 'Pembroke Priory' throughout the medieval period) - had developed by the 14th century.</p> <p>To the southeast lies Monkton Old Hall (PRN 3272) possibly the priory gatehouse or guesthouse.</p> <p>To the west of the church lies Priory Farm and elements of the medieval priory are thought to be incorporated into these more recent farm buildings and include the farmhouse/tower house (PRN 7218), a late medieval fortified 1st floor hall or tower. The core of this building may have been the Prior's lodging of the priory as it is not unusual to find such buildings being adapted as high status residences following the Reformation.</p>	SM9796201451	Church	Medieval	Grade I Listed Building ref 6330
3274	22623	Monkton Dovecote	<p>A possible medieval dovecot associated with Monkton Priory (PRN 3273). A cylindrical stone structure with a corbelled roof. There is some doubt about this structure, the nesting boxes continue across a blocked door in the S side and it is suggested from this, and from its situation 360m distant from Priory Farm, on a circular mound at the highest point of the field, that it may originally have</p>	SM97650175	Dovecote	Medieval	SAM PE415 Grade II* Listed Building ref

			been a windmill. Fenton noted that the dovecote stood in a walled park.				6327
3276		Monkton Graveyard Cross	It is recorded in Archaeologia Cambrensis (1882) that the churchyard cross was pulled down circa 1847 and some of the pieces placed within the church tower. The present cross (said to be in the same location as the original) is modern and set in a circular socket stone, measuring 1.2m diameter by 0.26m high, that resembles an old millstone. The socket stone may be the original stone from the former medieval churchyard cross. The cross is situated on a modern square five-stepped platform that bears a commemorative inscription To the Glory of God and the Memory of the Unnumbered Dead over three steps on its eastern side; commemorating disarticulated human skeletons recovered from between the nave and chancel during restoration and building work in the church in the late 19th century. The monument is located in the churchyard to the south of St. Nicholas' Priory church.	SM97970142	Monument	Modern	
7218	30096	Monkton Priory Farmhouse	Much altered 14th-15th century tower-house, part of the monastic buildings of Monkton Priory, possibly the Prior's house. It is not unusual to find such buildings being adapted as high status residences following the Reformation. Altered in 19th and 20th century as a farmhouse. CADW suggest it was probably a first floor hall and solar in the main range, over an unvaulted ground floor, with a tower with chamber over a vaulted kitchen.	SM9787801478	Tower house	Medieval	Grade II* Listed Building ref 6328
9673		Monkton Prior Farm Outbuilding	A rectangular E-W building to the east of the farmhouse of Priory Farm, comprising a single storey with loft over, constructed from locally quarried limestone rubble, beneath a slate gabled roof. There are 2 wide full-height arches in the north wall and the truncated respond for a third at the east end of the building. This suggests that the building originated as a medieval conventual building, although most of the present masonry is post-medieval. Some of the openings in the south wall have two-centred heads, possibly later rather than earlier.	SM97920148	Outbuilding	Medieval	Grade II* Listed Building ref 6329

12187	92727	Catshole Cave	Collection of flints from Catshole Cave including developed gravette points, lateral gravers, elongated blades (some with secondary working), fragmentary oval blade with secondary working, a fragmentary point with blunted back, a fragmentary blade with minute vertical flaking down each side and waste material. The cave also contained a large assemblage of animal bone suggesting occupation of the site, which appears to have included flint tool manufacture and repair as well as a range of other activities. Mesolithic flint implements were also recovered (see PRN 12188).	SM9789201832	Findspot	Palaeolithic	SAM PE435
12188	92727	Catshole Cave	The Mesolithic component of a large lithics collection recovered from Catshole Cave. The bulk of the material recovered during excavation was Palaeolithic in date (PRN 12187), with the Mesolithic element consisting of a fragmentary microlith, a 'rod' worked down both sides and some waste material.	SM9789201832	Findspot	Mesolithic	SAM PE435
17866		Catshole Quarries	Old quarry, east part a Welsh Water pumping station, centre a machine store and a gypsy camp. KM 1997	SM975019	Quarry	Post-medieval	
46303	408341	Monkton priory Farm Granary	Gable ended, three storey stone built agricultural building. Known as Old Granary but original function unknown as interior gutted. Rubble stone, two-storey outbuilding with slate roof. It has a C20 lean-to built on and it lies within the curtilage of Priory Farmhouse (PRN 7218). Building shown on 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. There may be medieval elements incorporated into it. LRW May 2003	SM97890145	Granary	Medieval/ Post-medieval	
46811		Monkton Priory Farm Enclosure	In 2005 an archaeological evaluation did not support this interpretation. The features identified by geophysical survey were found to be of either modern, post-medieval or natural origin. PP 2005 Geophysical anomalies representing a possible iron age 'concentric antenna' enclosure, with probable early medieval ecclesiastical re-use as a cemetery, +/- or church as a precursor to the medieval Monkton Priory. NDL 2003	SM97870158	Enclosure	Iron Age?	
46812		Monkton Priory Farm Ridge &	In 2005 an archaeological evaluation did not support this interpretation. The features identified by geophysical survey were found to be of either modern, post-medieval	SM97870158	Ridge & Furrow	Medieval/ Post-	

		Furrow	<p>or natural origin. PP 2005</p> <p>Geophysical survey undertaken (by Stratascan) in the field immediately north of Monkton Priory, Pembroke (PRN 3273), revealed a complex of anomalies discovered through magnetometry. They included several parallel anomalies interpreted by the surveyor's as remnant ridge & furrow. The features overlay, and may have truncated an earlier enclosure PRN 46811. NDL 2003</p>			medieval	
60238		Monkton Churchyard Walls & Gate	Churchyard walls to Monkton church, uncertain date probably mostly C19, partly on high retaining walls that may be medieval.	SM9794401420	Churchyard wall	Post-medieval	Grade II Listed Building ref 6331
60570		Monkton Old Conduit	Grade II listed conduit. Situated on pavement outside Verger's Cottage, at junction of lane called The Old Conduit and main road. Water supply conduit dated 1864, presumably connected to ancient water supply from St Nicholas Well.	SM9793401376		Post-medieval	Grade II Listed Building ref 84940

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August 2015**

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by
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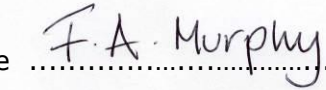
Llofnod / Signature  Dyddiad / Date 28/08/15

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 Manager DAT Archaeological Services

Llofnod / Signature  Dyddiad / Date 08/09/15

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

