

Archaeological Watching Brief Glandy Cross Wood Carmarthenshire December 2023

Report No. LP4348B-WBR-v1 Mola Project Number LP4348B

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract
Crynodeb
1. Introduction
2. Site Background
3. Aims
4. Methodology
5. Results
6. Summary and Conclusions
7. Crynodeb a Chasgliadau
8. Archive
9. Bibliography
Sources Consulted
Figures

Table of Figures

Table of Plates

TABLE OF FIGURES

- Figure 1 Site Location General
- Figure 2 Site Detail Trackway
- Figure 3 Location of Monuments

TABLE OF PLATES

- Plate I Track Extension Pre Construction
- Plate 2 Track Extension Complete
- Plate 3 Cross section of rafting
- Plate 4 Standing Stone PRN9757 Facing South
- Plate 5 Standing Stone PRN9757 Protection
- Plate 6 Possible New Standing Stone
- Plate 7 Location of Burnt Mound PRN9767
- Plate 8 Post Medieval Boundary Wall facing south

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) on works associated with the extension of the track network in the form of rafted trackway to provide vehicle access within woodland at Glandy Cross Wood, Clunderwen, Carmarthenshire This report has been prepared by Benjamin Sleep of MOLA on behalf of Trees and Timber Estate Partnership.

The purpose of archaeological watching brief was two-fold: To attempt to locate and ensure protection buffers of existing HER monuments recorded within the site and to monitor any intrusive groundworks on site that may encounter further unknown archaeological remains.

All three HER monuments within the site were successfully identified, their locations confirmed and steps taken to ensure their continued protection. An additional possible standing stone had been located by the owner and has been recorded and protected. None of the trackway extension works came close to these locations.

Works to extend the existing trackway network comprised brush clearance along the route, followed by the laying of the track in a raft system; laying of imported stone atop the cut brush material, with the track atop the ground surface. As such, no intrusive groundworks were observed and no standing archaeological remains were identified on or near the route of the trackway extension.

The aims and objectives of the watching brief have been met and no further archaeological work is required, it is recommended that the condition be discharged.

Crynodeb

Rhoddodd Amgueddfa Archaeoleg Llundain (MOLA) orchwyl gwylio ar waith yn ymwneud ag ymestyn y rhwydwaith llwybrau ar ffurf llwybr rafft er mwyn i gerbydau allu mynd i Goedwig Glandy Cross, Clunderwen, Sir Gaerfyrddin. Lluniwyd yr adroddiad hwn gan Benjamin Sleet o MOLA ar ran Partneriaeth yr Ystad Goed a Phren.

Roedd pwrpas deublyg yn perthyn i'r gorchwyl gwylio archaeolegol, sef: Ceisio canfod a gwarchod clustogfeydd diogelu cofadeiliau Cofnodion Amgylchedd Hanesyddol a gofnodir o fewn y safle a monitro unrhyw waith tir ymwthiol a wneir ar y safle rhag ofn y deuir ar draws ychwaneg o olion archaeolegol na wyddys amdanynt.

Llwyddwyd i ddod o hyd i'r tri chofadail a leolir o fewn y safle, cadarnhawyd eu lleoliad a chymerwyd camau i sicrhau y byddant yn parhau i gael eu diogelu. Mae'r perchennog wedi dod o hyd i faen hir posibl arall, ac mae hwnnw wedi cael ei gofnodi a'i ddiogelu. O ran y gwaith i ymestyn y llwybr, ni ddaeth unrhyw ran o'r gwaith hwnnw yn agos at y lleoliadau hyn.

Roedd y gwaith i ymestyn rhwydwaith y llwybrau yn cynnwys clirio prysglwyni a gosod y llwybr ar ffurf system rafft; gosod cerrig a gludwyd i'r safle ar ben y prysglwyni a dorrwyd, a rhoi'r llwybr ar ben arwyneb y tir. Ni welwyd unrhyw waith tir ymwthiol ac ni ddaethpwyd o hyd i olion archaeolegol a oedd yn sefyll ar neu wrth ymyl trywydd y llwybr estynedig.

Bodlonwyd nodau ac amcanion y gorchwyl gwylio ac nid oes angen mynd i'r afael ag ychwaneg o waith archaeolegol. Argymhellir y dylid rhyddhau'r amod.

1. Introduction

- 1.1.This archaeological watching brief report (WBR) has been prepared by Sam Birchall and Benjamin Sleep of Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) on behalf of Duncan Winton at Trees and Timber Estate Partnership. Monitoring took place o three occasions between summer 2022 and early spring 2023. The Project Manager was Benjamin Sleep of MOLA.
- 1.2. The watching brief was undertaken on works to extend an existing track network in woodland (hereafter "the site") at Glandy Cross Wood, Efailwen, Glandy Cross, Clunderwen, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 213580, 227450 (FIGURE 1). The site land is separated into a series of small woodland parcels, north west of the settlement at Glandy Cross (FIGURE 2).
- 1.3. Monitoring was undertaken according to the terms of the agreed WSI (TUFFEY & SLEEP 2022) The purpose of this monitoring was two-fold: To attempt to locate and ensure protection buffers of existing HER monuments recorded within the site and to monitor any intrusive groundworks on site that may encounter further unknown archaeological remains. These aims were achieved.
- 1.4. The local authority is Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC), who take advice on matters concerning archaeology and development from Dyfed Archaeological Trust Development Management (DAT DM)
- 1.5. The site code for this project is LP4348B.

2. Site Background

2.1.PLANNING BACKGROUND

2.1.1. Full detail of the relevant national and local policy is presented in Section 2 of the WSI.

2.2.DEVELOPMENT

- **2.2.1.** Planning permission was sought for the construction of a rafted trackway to allow for the access of vehicles for the uplifting of harvested timber within at Glandy Cross Wood, Efailwen, Glandy Cross, Clunderwen, SA66 7RS. The project planning reference is: PL/03434.
- 2.2.2. On matters concerning archaeology, CCC takes advice from Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT). The following recommendations for archaeological mitigation were made by Mike Ings (DAT) in response to correspondence from Rhodri Griffths (CCC), and are summarised below:

No development shall take place until a qualified and competent archaeologist has submitted a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for approval in writing by the local planning authority. This WSI will describe the different stages of the work and demonstrate that it has been fully resourced and given adequate time. On behalf of the local planning authority, their archaeological advisors (DAT DM) will monitor all aspects of this work through to the final discharging of the condition. This work will not be deemed complete until all aspects of the WSI have been addressed and the final report submitted and approved.

Reason: to protect historic environment interests whilst enabling development

2.2.3. Further advice has also been sought on woodland restoration, with regard to the felling and restocking of trees near archaeologically sensitive areas. The following recommendations have been made by Alice Pyper (DAT) with regards to this issue:

Regarding the felling and restocking I can find no record of a Glastir Woodland Restoration consultation for this area, though I have had another look at the Felling Licence Application. If I can assume the areas you are looking to fell and thin, are those which we were consulted on under FLA 43 19-20, I see that the sites which are most

vulnerable are PRN 9767 Burnt Mound SN13622718, and PRN 9757 Standing Stone SN13602717 descriptions below. I would advise that before felling operations are carried out that a thorough inspection of the area is carried out to try and identify the whereabouts of these features. The area should be marked out to show an area of archaeological sensitivity — at least a 10 meter buffer around them — and contractors made aware of these features. If possible, no machines should enter this area and trees should be felled to ensure they will not fall onto the area or the features with in it.

Regarding restocking, planting should not take place within the area either, which should be managed as open space within the woodland.

2.2.4. The WSI was submitted and agreed in February 2022. This document reports on the results of the locating and protection of known monuments and archaeological monitoring of the trackway extension to enable the discharging of the condition.

2.3.GEOLOGY

- **2.3.1.** Superficial geology in the area consists of Head, which is a poorly sorted and poorly stratified deposit of rock debris and/or clayery hill wash, associated with the flow of soils downhill, often linked with the melting of ice lenses.
- **2.3.2.** The bedrock belongs to the Foel Trych formation, which is currently not described on the BGS nor anywhere else (BGS 2023).

2.4. TOPOGRAPHY AND SITE CONDITIONS

- **2.4.1.** The site is located at the western edge of the Carmarthenshire county boundary and comprises c.37 ha of mostly flat woodland. The site is at an elevation of 150-200m above sea level, and is planted predominately with Japanese Larch and Sitka Spruce trees.
- **2.4.2.** The site is located in the Glandy Cross Registered Historical Landscape Area which consists of fairly regular fields with dispersed farms and cottages along with Prehistoric ritual and funerary monuments, as defined by Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT 2022).

2.5.ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.5.1. The following historic background is drawn from the available HER resource

and the archaeological advice as issued by Dyfed Archaeological Trust. HER monument numbers are given as (PRN1234) and scheduled monuments are given as (CM0123).

PREHISTORIC

- 2.5.2. The hinterlands around the site are known for their Neolithic and Bronze Age archaeology. In Llandissilio on the border between Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire, c.6km southwest of site, is a 700m long Cursus monument (PRN14305) which may be related to a monument complex at Glandy Cross. Further Neolithic sites are noted much closer, with standing stones and chambered tombs (PRN1023 & PRN1135) along with an enclosure (PRN1024) in the wider area south of the development site.
- 2.5.3. The area closer to the settlement of Glandy Cross (c.500m southeast of site boundary) exhibits a broad range of Neolithic and Bronze Age features of a ritual or funerary nature. A report on the results of salvage recording and surface collection in the area by Cambria Archaeology describes the area as "rich in prehistoric material...which suggest Glandy Cross is one of, if not the, most important monument complexes in West Wales" (BESTLEY 2000: 3). These results included most notably a series of monuments including standing stones (PRN1000), two barrows (PRN1083 & PRN9753), ring cairns (PRN667 & PRN13034), and an axe manufacturing centre (PRN14810) from a monument complex (PRN42571).
- **2.5.4.** A barrow cemetery is also noted (PRN1238) along with a series of barrows or potential barrows (PRN1224 PRN1223, PRN1225, PRN1013, PRN1050) all dating from the Bronze Age. These are clustered c.500-800m to the southwest and south of the site. Another barrow is noted closer to the site c.250m west of the edge of Glandy Cross wood (PRN9758).
- **2.5.5.** Scheduled monuments are noted in the area in the form of a cairn: Glandymawr Cairn Circle (CM050) as well as a henge (CM051) and a stone circle (CM052).
- 2.5.6. Within the site itself two Prehistoric monuments are highlighted in the HER (FIGURE 3), these are a Bronze Age standing stone, Troed y Rhiw (PRN9757) and

a Bronze Age burnt mound, Ffynnon-lwyd (PRN9767). The burnt mound was noted during a walkover survey of site in 1981 — however it has not been formally excavated, its presence was inferred from a spread of burnt stones located on the topsoil. The standing stone which is located near the edge of the field used as a heath was observed in 1984, other stones in the vicinity were also noted and may be related to its function. An attempt was made to locate the standing stone during a regional survey of funerary sites in 2000-1 but the surveyor was "...unable to access and assess site due to dense vegetational cover. The footpath indicated on our map and point of access to the area was totally overgrown and impassable" (BESTLEY 2001).

POST-MEDIEVAL

- 2.5.7. There is little representation in the HER for the Iron Age, Roman and Medieval Periods near the development area, however, a number of Post Medieval features are present including farmsteads (PRN24054, PRN112532, PRN12535 & PRN12534) in all directions around the site, along with a cottage (PRN94413) to the north east and a pillow mound (PRN 9766) and quarry to the south and west (PRN19752). Within the site itself a Post Medieval boundary wall is noted (PRN 9768).
- **2.5.8.** The site came into possession of Tress and Timber Estates Partnership in 2020, it is understood that the site was originally planted in 1987, three years after the three listed monuments in the HER were located.

3. Aims

3.1.GENERAL AIMS

- **3.1.1.** The general aims of the watching brief are outlined below:
- **3.1.2.** To identify all archaeological remains revealed during the course of any intrusive groundworks undertaken on site.
- **3.1.3.** To ensure preservation by record of all archaeological remains encountered, and the retrieval of finds.
- **3.1.4.** To ensure that the significance of the historic environment of the site is investigated, evidenced, recorded and made publicly accessible in line with Welsh Legislation as far as permitted within the scope of these works.

3.2. SPECIFIC AIMS

- **3.2.1.** The following aim(s) are derived from recommendations as outlined by Dyfed Archaeological Trust:
- **3.2.2.** To formally locate the following monuments: Standing Stone (PRN9757) and Burnt Mound (PRN9767);
- **3.2.3.** To ensure that a 10m buffer can be put in place around these features so as to prevent harm to the heritage assets.

4. Methodology

- **4.1.**For a full description of the archaeological methodology please refer to the WSI (TUFFEY & SLEEP 2022).
- **4.2.**The watching brief took place across three visits between July 2022 to March2023. The monitoring was undertaken by Benjamin Sleep of MOLA.
- **4.3.**Monitoring of the groundworks included the walking of the full length of the proposed track extension prior to works, monitoring of the clearance the placement of the rafted stone.
- **4.4.** All three recorded HER points for the site were navigated to and their corresponding remains successfully located and a strategy devised for their effective protection.
- **4.5.** All works were undertaken according to the methodology and terms set forth in the WSI and adhering to the CIfA standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (CHARTERED INSTITUTE FOR ARCHAEOLOGISTS 2014).

5. Results

5.1.TRACKWAY EXTENSION

5.1.1. Works to extend the existing track network were undertaken in July 2022.



Plate 1 - Track Extension — Pre Construction

5.1.2. The route of the extension followed an existing extraction rack, already clear of trees and covered in extensive undergrowth (PLATE 1). Prior to works to clear



Plate 2 - Track Extension - Complete

the brush, the full length of the extension route was walked to check for standing archaeological remains that may be affected by works. None were identified along the route or at least 10m either side.



Plate 3 - Cross section of rafting

5.1.3. Brush was cut and laid and the stone imported and laid on top of the cut brush as a buffer (PLATE 2)(PLATE 3). This is known as a raft system and as such no intrusive groundworks were observed as a result of the works.

5.2.LOCATION OF MONUMENTS

STANDING STONE PRN9757

5.2.1. This standing stone was successfully located suing the coordinates associated with the HER record.



Plate 4 - Standing Stone PRN9757 - Facing South

5.2.2. The condition the standing stone was generally good. A single tree had grown adjacent, however this tree was quite mature at time of recording and had not

- had any visible impact on the position of the standing stone.
- **5.2.3.** Some tree felling was scheduled to take place in the vicinity of PRN9757 and a suitable buffer was achieved to protect the monument at the suggestion of the owner, to reduce a number of surrounding trees to approx 1.5m high marked stumps forming a physical and long lasting boundary marker to protect the monument and its immediate surrounds from damage.



Plate 5 - Standing Stone PRN9757 — Protection

5.2.4. A visit to site in March 2023 confirmed that the protection measures had been successful and the stone was within a ring of preserved woodland and scrub as seen in PLATE 5.

POSSIBLE NEW STANDING STONE

- **5.2.5.** During the monitoring visit, the owner notified of the location of another possible standing stone.
- **5.2.6.** This stone was located further north than PRN9757 and was considerably taller at 1.56 m tall by 0.95 m wide. The form and position appeared similar to that of PRN9757 and as such it is reasonable to assume it could be of Prehistoric origin.
- **5.2.7.** Similar protection was provided to this possible standing stone, with a ring of surround trees cut to 1.5m high stumps and marked as a physical barrier.



Plate 6 - Possible New Standing Stone

BURNT MOUND PRN9767

5.2.8. The recorded HER monument location for the burnt mound appeared to correspond with an area near a small stream as described in the listing. This area of woodland was heavily overgrown and no ground surface could be seen. Some exposed areas at the edges of the stream were examined for evidence of burnt flint, but none was seen.



Plate 7 - Location of Burnt Mound PRN9767

5.2.9. No further evidence was found that could confirm or rule out the identity of this area as a genuine burnt mound, however it is clear that the location of the HER monument did correspond with a mound and as such this area has also been subject to portection.

POST MEDIEVAL BOUNDARY WALL PRN9768

5.2.10.This feature was also positively identified according to its recorded location in the HER.



Plate 8 - Post Medieval Boundary Wall facing south

5.2.11. As the wall provides and obstacle for vehicles and is between lines of existing stock it will not be disturbed by future works.

6. Summary and Conclusions

- **6.1.**An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) on works associated with the extension of the track network in the form of rafted trackway to provide vehicle access within woodland at Glandy Cross Wood, Clunderwen, Carmarthenshire.
- **6.2.**The purpose of archaeological watching brief was two-fold: To attempt to locate and ensure protection buffers of existing HER monuments recorded within the site and to monitor any intrusive groundworks on site that may encounter further unknown archaeological remains.
- **6.3.**Works to the extend the trackway did not require any intrusive groundworks, nor did walking the route identify any further above ground archaeological remains.
- **6.4.**All three existing HER monuments were successfully identified. These monuments were originally identified and recorded in 1984, at which time the site had yet to be subject plantation. Examination of these features showed substantial undergrowth on both the Post Medieval walling (PRN9768) and the possible Burnt Mound (PRN9767) and a small tree adjacent to standing stone (PRN9757) however this growth did not include large mature trees and thus the resultant damage has been avoided.
- **6.5.**A further possible standing stone was discovered, recorded and protected. It is recommended that photographs of this possible standing stone are reviewed by the Carmarthenshire HER.
- **6.6.**The protection measures devised initially by the owner are permanent, with physical barriers to prevent accidental damage and the location of each monument incorporated into the management plan for the woodland to ensure continued protection and
- **6.7.**The Glandy Cross Wood site forms part of a wider Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary and monumental landscape, identified in previous surveys of Glandy Cross and the wider West Carmarthenshire region and protective measures in place will ensure their significance is maintained.
- 6.8. The aims and objectives of the watching brief have been met and no further

archaeological discharged.	work	is	required,	it	is	recommended	that	the	condition	be

7. Crynodeb a Chasgliadau

- 7.1.Rhoddodd Amgueddfa Archaeoleg Llundain (MOLA) orchwyl gwylio ar waith yn ymwneud ag ymestyn y rhwydwaith llwybrau ar ffurf llwybr rafft er mwyn i gerbydau allu mynd i Goedwig Glandy Cross, Clunderwen, Sir Gaerfyrddin.
- 7.2.Roedd pwrpas deublyg yn perthyn i'r gorchwyl gwylio archaeolegol, sef: Ceisio canfod a gwarchod clustogfeydd diogelu cofadeiliau Cofnodion Amgylchedd Hanesyddol a gofnodir o fewn y safle a monitro unrhyw waith tir ymwthiol a wneir ar y safle rhag ofn y deuir ar draws ychwaneg o olion archaeolegol na wyddys amdanynt.
- 7.3.Nid oedd angen mynd i'r afael ag unrhyw waith tir ymwthiol ar gyfer ymestyn y llwybr, ac ni ddaethpwyd o hyd i ychwaneg o olion archaeolegol uwchben y tir ar ôl cerdded ar hyd y trywydd.
- 7.4.Llwyddwyd i ddod o hyd i'r tri chofadail Cofnodion Amgylchedd Hanesyddol. Yn wreiddiol, cafodd y cofadeiliau hyn eu canfod a'u cofnodi ym 1984; yr adeg honno, nid oedd coed wedi'u plannu ar y tir. Ar ôl archwilio'r nodweddion hyn, gwelwyd isdyfiant sylweddol ar y wal Ôl-ganoloesol (PRN9768) a'r Twmpath Llosg posibl (PRN9767) a gwelwyd coeden fechan wrth ymyl y maen hir (PRN9757) fodd bynnag, nid oedd y tyfiant hwn yn cynnwys coed llawndwf mawr, ac o'r herwydd llwyddwyd i osgoi unrhyw ddifrod.
- 7.5.Daethpwyd o hyd i faen hir posibl arall, a chafodd ei gofnodi a'i ddiogelu. Argymhellir y dylai Cofnodion Amgylchedd Hanesyddol Sir Gaerfyrddin adolygu ffotograffau o'r maen hir posibl hwn.
- 7.6.Mae'r mesurau diogelu a ddyfeisiwyd yn wreiddiol gan y perchennog yn rhai parhaol, ac maent yn cynnwys rhwystrau ffisegol ar gyfer atal difrod damweiniol. Hefyd, caiff lleoliadau'r cofadeiliau eu cynnwys yng nghynllun rheoli'r goedwig, er mwyn sicrhau y byddant yn parhau i gael eu diogelu.
- 7.7. Mae safle Coedwig Glandy Cross yn rhan o safle angladdol a choffaol ehangach o'r Oes Neolithig a'r Oes Efydd, y daethpwyd o hyd iddo mewn arolygon blaenorol a gynhaliwyd ar Glandy Cross a rhanbarth ehangach Gorllewin Sir Gaerfyrddin, a bydd y mesurau diogelu sydd ar waith yn sicrhau y caiff eu harwyddocâd ei warchod.

ag	ychwan	eg o wait	h archae	olegol.	Argymhe	ellir y dy	lid rhyd	ldhau'r a	ımod.	

8. Archive

- 8.1. There is no physical archive
- **8.2.**The digital archive consists of:
 - 32 x Photographs in both raw and jpeg format
 - 1x scans of notebook
 - 1x raw survey data .csv file
 - 1x .pdf of the Written Scheme of Investigation
 - 1x .pdf of the Watching Brief Report
 - **8.2.2.** The digital archive will be deposited with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW).
- 8.3. The project archive can be identified with the following unique codes
 - MOLA Project Code LP4348B
 - HER Event PRN: Pending.
 - Carmarthenshire County Museum Accession Number: **Pending.**

SOURCES CONSULTED

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FIGURES





