

BRYNSEINCYN SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF (G1356)

Report No. 240

**Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust**

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Archaeological Watching Brief (G1356)

prepared for Welsh Water/Dwr Cymru

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF (G1356)

1. INTRODUCTION

Dwr Cymru Welsh Water proposed to construct a new sewage treatment works south-west of Llanidan (SH48156640), and to lay a pipeline between the new works and a pumping station north of Trefarthen (SH49156665). It was recommended by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service, acting as advisors to Welsh Water, that a watching brief be maintained during the construction of the pipeline and the treatment works.

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (Contracts Section) submitted a project design and costings to carry out a watching brief during the construction. These were accepted and the Contracts Section was engaged to carry out the work.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

The sewage treatment works and the pipeline were examined before and following the initial topsoil strip, and the pipeline was further examined during the digging of the pipe trench.

The stripped areas were walked, and any potential features were marked and examined by a combination of trowelling and hoeing. The location of all such sites was marked onto a map at a scale of 1:2500. Photographs were taken of all potential features.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 General

The initial field visit prior to top-soil stripping did not reveal any potential sites, other than a large mound forming part of a field boundary located just outside the easement fence which was thought to be the result of recent field clearance.

Following the top-soil strip one potential site was noted at SH48906670, which consisted of an area of large stones occupying an 8.0m stretch of the corridor. This was further examined and the results are described below.

The only other areas of potential interest were black patches observed on the surface of the subsoil, which at first were thought to be caused by burning. However, on closer inspection these were seen to be caused by a discolouration of the bedrock which reached the stripped surface at various points.

Monitoring of the excavation of the pipe trench revealed a number of land drains across a wet area, but no archaeological sites of importance.

3.2 Description of the stone feature

3.2.1 Summary description

At first sight, the area appeared to contain two sections of walling emerging from the north section which curved towards each other, suggesting the presence of a circular structure. However, after an initial clean, it could be seen that the stones formed the fragmentary remains of two straight walls at right angles to one another, which would meet under the north section. The appearance of the curve came from plough scattered stones which had been dragged from the wall.

No dating evidence was found other than modern post medieval debris contained within the topsoil, and no charcoal was visible.

3.2.2 Detailed description

One length of wall crossed the trench at a slight angle, in a rough north-south direction, although the southern half was visible only as a series of stone holes from which stones had been removed mixed amongst small stone rubble. The other wall orientated east-west was situated east of the first wall, and was only part visible for about 1.3m in length under the north section. Both walls were just under a metre wide, and consisted of parallel facing stones, which were sub-angular blocks varying in size from 0.3m to 0.7m in length with a width of 0.3m. There was no visible remaining wall core, though the adjacent stone scatters contained smaller stones which could have come from the core. The lengths of wall were found at a maximum depth of 0.3m and were contained within the reddish brown sandy clay subsoil beneath the topsoil.

The area was revisited during the digging of the pipe trench, when it could be seen that the walls were sitting on a yellow brown clayey silt, beneath the reddish brown sandy clay subsoil.

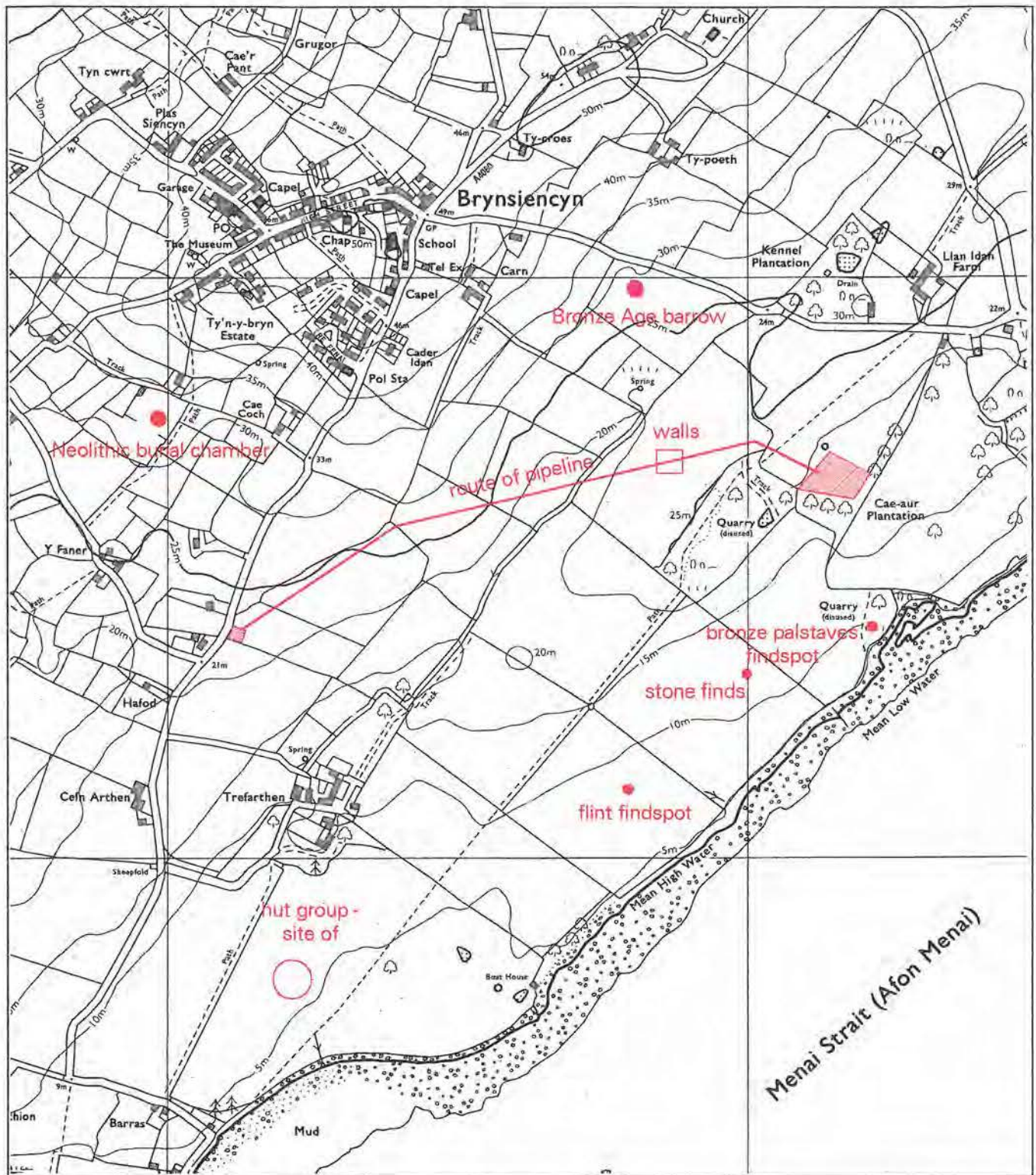
3.2.3 Conclusions

The lack of any discernible occupation layers associated with the walls suggests that they are the remains of an old field system. The existing field system at Trefarthen was laid out in the mid 19th century by Vaynol Estate. The remains uncovered therefore pre-date that reorganisation, but unfortunately no information was found which could date their origin.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank all those involved with the construction of the Treatment Works for their co-operation whilst monitoring took place.

Brynsiencyn Sewage Treatment Works (G1356)



Title : General location map and location of sites of archaeological interest



Project no. G 1356

Scale 1 : 10,000

Client : Dwr Cymru / Welsh Water