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# SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT LLANDDANIEL, YNYS MÔN **ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF (G2051)**

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## Archaeological Watching Brief

GAT Project No. G2051

Report No. 770

January 2009



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SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT  
LLANDDANIEL, YNYS MÔN  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF (G2051)**

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REPORT NUMBER **770**

**Prepared for *Daniel Contractors Ltd.*  
by John Roberts**



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# SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT LLANDDANIEL, YNYS MÔN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF (G2051)

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## SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT, LLANDDANIEL FAB, YNYS MÔN

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF (G2051)

*An archaeological watching brief has been conducted during groundworks associated with a sewer replacement project located near Llanddaniel Fab, Ynys Môn (NGRSH49708201 to SH50703001).*

*The watching brief was conducted during the excavation of the ducting trench for the sewer pipe. The objective of the watching brief was to ensure that any previously unrecorded archaeological features exposed by the works were adequately recorded and interpreted. Information retained within the Regional Historic Environment Record indicated that the development site was located within the vicinity of known prehistoric archaeology, including Bryn Celli Ddu Burial Chamber (PRN 2694).*

*The sewer replacement trench was situated between Bryn Celli Ddu Burial Chamber car park and Llanddaniel Fab village and was excavated within the existing local road and road verge. The total length of the trench was 700.0m and it was excavated to an average depth of 0.80m. No evidence for prehistoric or any other archaeological activity was identified within the confines of the ducting trench. Evidence for modern disturbance including road surfacing and previous ducting work was recorded.*

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust was commissioned by Daniel Contractors Ltd. to conduct an archaeological watching brief during a sewer replacement project located near Llanddaniel, Ynys Môn (NGRSH49708201 to SH50703001). The works will involve replacing c.700.0m of rising main to the southeast of Llanddaniel Fab village. The work was to be conducted along an existing road line, utilising the road and verge.

No brief was prepared for this work by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services (GAPS), but guidance was given with recommendations for an *intermittent watching brief* during works (see Appendix I for a definition). Reference was also made to the guidelines and definitions specified in *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching brief* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994, rev. 2001).

### 2.0 METHODOLOGY

The watching brief was undertaken between the 08<sup>th</sup> October and 27<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

The aim of the watching brief was to monitor all relevant groundworks during the initial service trench excavation. The trench measured 0.45m in width and 0.80m in depth (average). The overall length of the sewer replacement line was 700.0m. A JCB 3CX wheeled excavator was used throughout the watching brief.

A photographic record was maintained throughout. The archive is held by GAT under the project number **G2051**.

### 3.0 TOPOGRAPHY

The sewer replacement route located Bryn Celli Ddu Burial Chamber car park and Llanddaniel Fab village (NGR SH49708201 to SH50703001). The route was located along an existing road network and associated verge and was excavated through the existing road surface.

### 4.0 RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

The ducting trench was opened from the entrance to the Bryn Celli Ddu Burial Chamber car park and continued in a northwesterly direction, terminating to the immediate

southeast of Llanddaniel Fab, with a completed excavation length of 700.0m. The ducting trench was opened in 50.0m lengths and the watching brief was timetabled accordingly.

At the start point, full excavation depth varied between 0.85m- 0.92m (Plate 02) and contained, below the road surface, a 0.55m thick sub-base of silt-clay (Plate 01). This deposit formed the foundation level of the road.

Located at c.150.0m to the northwest of the car park alongside the east entrance of 'Siwgar Plwm' infants nursery, two redundant sewer pipes were identified, one parallel to the trench in the southern section, and one crossing the trench at 45°, about 15.0m south of the east entrance to the nursery. The ducting trench comprised heavily disturbed backfill, and no identifiable archaeological contexts were noted.

At c.220m west of the 'Siwgwr Plwm' nursery the ducting trench contained 0.20m of turf and chippings overlying a mid brown silt-clay between 0.45m and 0.60m deep, with small to large sub-angular shale blocks and occasional charcoal flecks, indicative of a disturbed and heavily bioturbated topsoil deposit. This deposit overlaid dark orange-brown silt-clay subsoil, interpreted as glacial in origin. No archaeological features were noted along this stretch, although it was the first location where glacial activity was identified.

Located c.450m northwest of the 'Siwgwr Plwm' nursery, two major service trenches were identified.

Located at c.490.0m northwest of the 'Siwgwr Plwm' nursery, a storm drain encapsulated in concrete piping was identified, along the west side of the trench, with a 0.10m steel water main pipe along the east side of the trench (Plates 03 and 04). The latter had disturbed the entire excavation depth. The former was laid at a depth about half that of the present trench, leaving some undisturbed subsoil. Bedrock was also identified at this location and was extant throughout the majority of the northwestern end of the project, as far as Fron Heulog cottages. The bedrock was extant to a depth of 0.20m below the existing road surface (Plate 05). At the location of Cae Mawr cottages the ducting trench contained deposits of glacial drift beneath a layer of rough stones. The stone-rich deposit was interpreted as possibly part of an earlier phase of road (Plate 06).

The final 50.0m length of ducting trench was limited to modern utilities already extant and associated backfilling (Plate 07). Sewer replacement excavated to a depth of 0.70m; existing utilities were covered in concrete as elsewhere on the project (Plate 08). The sewer replacement line terminated to the north of the Cae Mawr cottages.

## **6.0 CONCLUSION**

No archaeological activity was identified within the confines of the ducting trench excavation. The activity within the trench was mainly limited to road construction and previous utility work. A possible earlier road surface was identified near Cae Mawr cottages, extant as a stone-rich layer. Glacial activity was also identified within the latter half of the route, whilst bedrock was identified within the final c.150.0m of the route, where it was extant at a shallow depth.

The results of the watching brief raised two important points regarding the extent of archaeological potential on such projects. Whilst the road through Llanddaniel Fab was considered a minor, rural road, the extent of modern activity, represented both by the road itself and underlying utilities, had a significant impact on the below ground deposits (including the natural subsoil). Conversely, the replacement area within the verge c.220.0m west of Siwgwr Plwm Nursery (para. 4.0), contained only bioturbation and natural subsoil and evidence of modern disturbance was fairly limited. Whilst no archaeological activity was identified at this location the results emphasised the point that, even in an area with close proximity to such heavily disturbed areas as the road, the impact on the below ground deposits was minor and the potential for archaeological activity could remain within the localised area.



As a general point this illustrated two things: 1) that the disturbance of even a fairly minor, rural road can have a significant impact on the below ground deposits and 2) that in very close proximity to such heavily disturbed areas there is potential for at least cut features, if not archaeological deposits, to survive.

## **7.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

IFA. 2001. *Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001 Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief.*

## Appendix I

### Definition of an archaeological watching brief

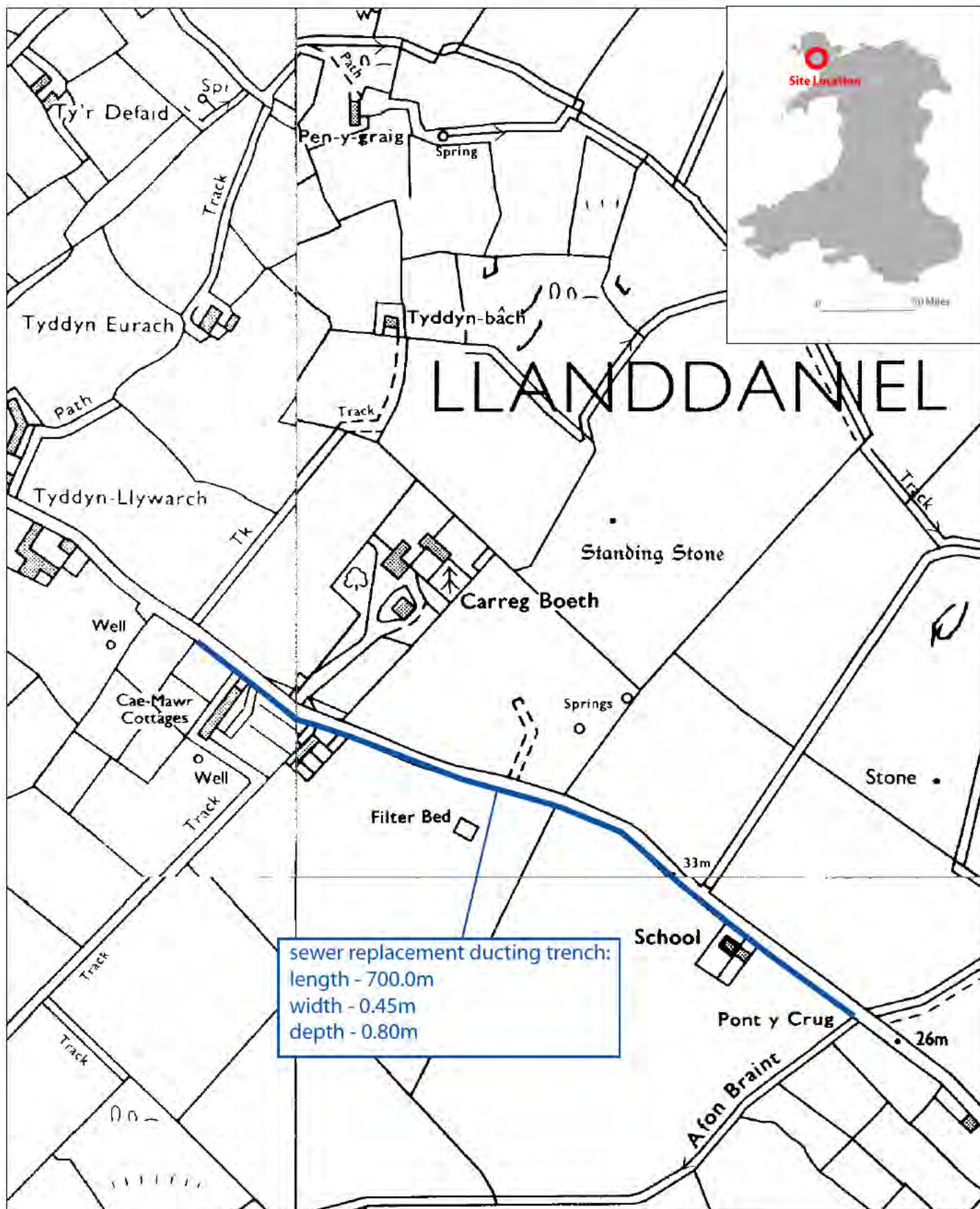
(Reproduced from IFA. 2001. *Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001 Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*)

The definition of an archaeological watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.

This definition and *Standard* do not cover chance observations, which should lead to an appropriate archaeological project being designed and implemented, nor do they apply to monitoring for preservation of remains *in situ*.

An archaeological watching brief is divided in to four categories according the IFA. 2001. *Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001 Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*:

- comprehensive (present during all ground disturbance)
- intensive (present during sensitive ground disturbance)
- intermittent (viewing the trenches after machining)
- partial (as and when seems appropriate).





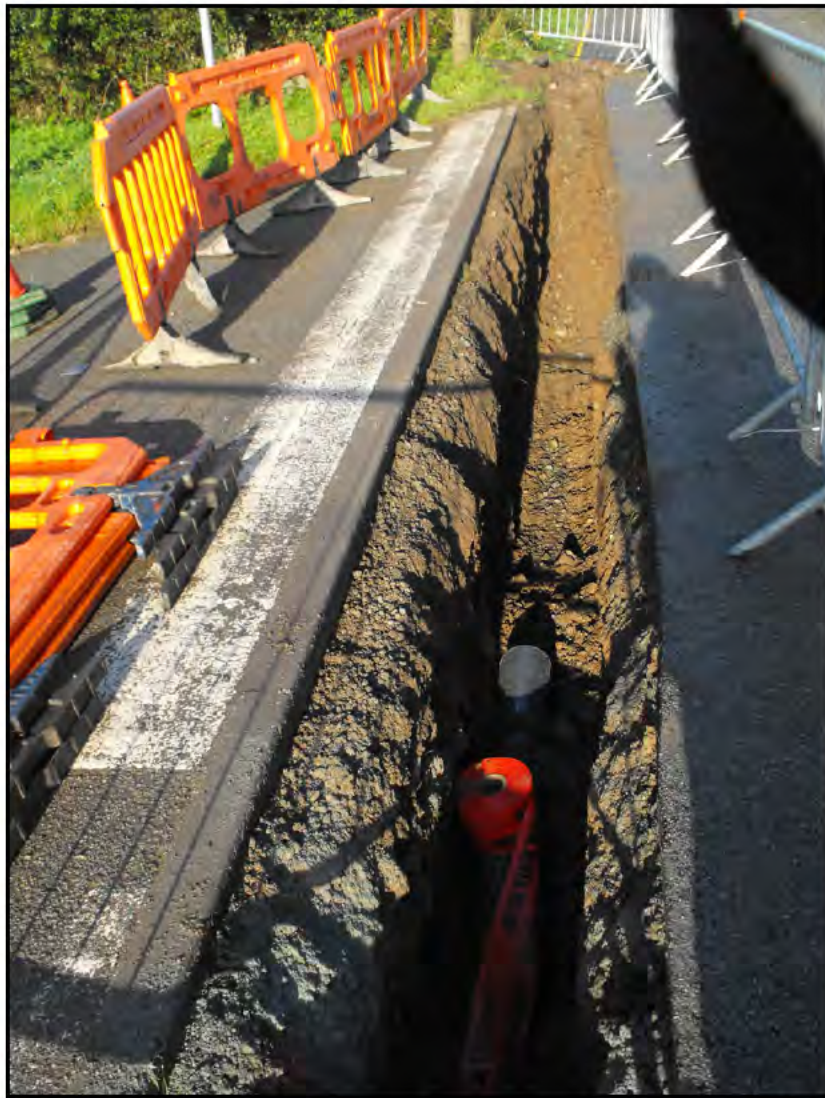


Plate 01: Ducting trench for sewer replacement project. Location: entrance to Bryn Celli Ddu car park (view southeast)



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