

Archaeological Watching Brief Report for land at

# **DOLYDD LLANWNDA**

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For Dwr Cymru/Costain Ltd

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Claire Statter BA AIfA

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report for land at

# DOLYDD LLANWNDA

Client:	Dwr Cymru/Costain Ltd
Local Authority:	Gwynedd Council
NGR:	247568,357156
Planning App:	N/A
Author(s):	C Statter
Doc Ref:	LP0817C-AWB-v1.2
Date:	May 09
Site Code:	DOL/WRS 08

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A trading name of the L – P : Partnership Ltd.

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# Abstract

This report concerns an archaeological watching brief carried out in Dolydd, Llanwnda NGR 247568,357156. The work consisted of the monitoring of the open cut trenching for a water main rehabilitation scheme. The work was carried out in April 2009 on behalf of Dwr Cymru.

The site lies within an area of agricultural activity comprising open pasture.

The Archaeological Watching Brief revealed a series of natural deposits including topsoil and natural stone.

No archaeological features were present on the site.

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out in Dolydd, Llanwnda by Claire Statter of L – P : Archaeology on behalf of Dwr Cymru/Costain Ltd.
- 1.2. The site is located to the south of Llanwnda along the A487, NGR 247568,357156 (FIGURE 1). The local authority is Gwynedd Council.
- 1.3. The site does not contain any scheduled monuments or listed buildings.
- 1.4. The watching brief monitored the open cut trenching for a section of a new water pipe, measuring 87m in length.
- 1.5. The principle aim of the watching brief was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits. A full list of the watching brief objectives can be found in Section 4 of this report.
- 1.6. L – P : Archaeology allotted a site code of DOL/WRS 08 for this site.

## 2. Planning Background

2.1. Planning Policy Wales, adopted in 2002, and the associated Welsh Office Circulars 60/96 and 61/96 replaced the earlier Department of the Environment PPG 16 “Archaeology and Planning” issued in November 1990.

2.2. These documents provide guidance for planning authorities, property owners and developers as well as other relevant bodies or individuals on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains within a planning context and are used to guide the adopted Local or Unitary Development Plan Policies relating to archaeology.

2.3. *Planning Policy Wales* (2002) outlines the Welsh Assembly's planning policies. The historic environment is discussed within Chapter 6. Welsh Office Circulars 60/96 - Planning and Historic Environment: Archaeology, and Welsh Office Circular 61/96 - Planning and the Historic Environment; Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas, advise on legislation and procedures relating to historic buildings, conservation areas and archaeology.

2.4. The local authority is Gwynedd Council. The current Unitary Development Plan was adopted in 2001. It should be noted that an updated draft Unitary Development Plan was deposited in the Summer of 2004 and is in the process of public consultation.

2.5. The current Unitary Development Plan Policy B7 refers to archaeology:

Proposals that will damage or destroy archaeological remains of national importance (whether scheduled or not) or their setting will be refused.

A development which affects other archaeological remains will be permitted only if the need for the development overrides the significance of the archaeological remains.

In areas where there are likely to be archaeological remains, the developer will be required to commission either an archaeological assessment and/or field evaluation in order to determine the archaeological impact of the proposed development before the planning authority determines the application. The assessment/evaluation results must be submitted with the planning application, in addition to a plan showing how the impact of the proposal on the archaeological remains will be mitigated.

If a proposed development will have an adverse impact on archaeological remains, then the

developer should prepare sympathetic plans, which retain the remains in situ. Planning conditions or agreements will be used in appropriate cases to ensure that the work of excavating and recording the remains takes place prior to commencement of the development.

Schemes that will facilitate the management and interpretation of archaeological sites for educational or tourism purposes will be supported.

**2.6.** These works have been carried out upon the request of Ashley Batten of Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service.



## **3. Geology & Topography**

### **3.1. GEOLOGY**

3.1.1. The underlying solid geology has been recorded around the site area as Llandeilo, Llanvirn and Arenig Sedimentary rock types (BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY). The solid geology was not encountered during excavations.

3.1.2. The groundworks on the site revealed natural deposits including topsoil and subsoil which overlay the natural glacial deposit of Diamicton Till at 0.6m BGL.

### **3.2. TOPOGRAPHY**

3.2.1. The site is located c. 650m to the south of Llanwnda along the A487.

3.2.2. The land is currently an open field.

## 4. Methodology

- 4.1. This section will address the methodology employed during the archaeological monitoring on the site to L – P : Archaeology's standards and watching brief procedures.
- 4.2. Groundworks were carried out by a combination of machine excavation utilising 10 tonne excavator and hand excavation by Dwr Cymru's groundworks contractor.
- 4.3. A suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist monitored all groundworks.
- 4.4. All features were recorded stratigraphically and levels were recorded in metres Below Ground Level (BGL).
- 4.5. A full photographic record was taken using 35mm black & white, 35mm colour slide and digital media. A photographic index was completed on site.
- 4.6. All features were drawn using appropriate scale for each feature. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10.
- 4.7. A detailed methodology can be found in the specification document written for this project (STATTER 2008).

## 5. Archaeological & Historic Background

- 5.1. This section does not set out to present a complete history of Dolydd from earliest times, nor will it examine every artefact found in the local area. Rather, this section shall give a basic overview to aid in understanding the development of the site.
- 5.2. Very little is known about the area around Dolydd and its history.
- 5.3. A search of the Historic Environment Record revealed one point of interest. That was an earthwork enclosure of unknown date named Hen Gastell, located c.620m to the south west of the open cut trenching.
- 5.4. It has been suggested by Hopewell (2005) that the Roman road Segontium to Tomen Y Mur ran close to the site area roughly along the line of the current A487. However there was no evidence for this road on the site with no Roman finds being recovered. From looking at various sources and the lack of evidence on site it appears that the road does not run through this area but the Segontium to Tomen Y Mur is in fact the current A4085 as suggested by Margary (1967).
- 5.5. The site and the area surrounding it was mostly agricultural land. It can therefore be assumed that the site and surrounding area was been used continuously as agricultural land for either crops or grazing. There has never been any development on the site itself.

## 6. Results

6.1. This section examines the results of the archaeological monitoring carried out in Dolydd, Llanwnda, undertaken in April 2009.

6.2. In this report context numbers are indicated by brackets, with round brackets indicating fills and deposits (01) and square brackets indicating cut features [02]. Structures are indicated by underlined numbers 03. All levels are given in meters Below Ground Level (BGL).



Plate 1 - Topsoil strip. Facing North West. Scale 1m

6.3. The open cut section of the new pipeline measured 87m in length. The topsoil was stripped in a 4m wide strip. A 0.5m wide trench was then excavated for the laying of the pipe.

6.4. The first context recorded on site was a mid to dark brown loam topsoil (100). This deposit measured 0.15m thick and contained root matter from the overlying grass. Please see FIGURE 2 for a representative sample of the stratigraphy taken from the centre of the trench.

6.5. Sealed by (100) was (101), a mid brown loam measuring 0.25m thick. This deposit was seen as the subsoil across the site and had small to medium gravel inclusions.

6.6. Below (101) was (102) a mid brown orange silty loam. This deposit is thought to be the upper natural deposit in the area due to its predominantly gravel nature. The deposit measured 0.2m thick.



Plate 2 - Excavation for new pipe. Facing North West. Scale 1m

- 6.7.(102) sealed deposit (103) a compact layer of beige gravel and compacted stones. It is thought that this deposit is the natural till as discussed in section 3 of this report. This deposit extended beyond the base of the trench at 1.05m BGL.
- 6.8.No archaeological features or deposits were recorded during the works.

## 7. Summary & Conclusions

7.1.The Archaeological Watching Brief consisted of the monitoring of the open cut trenching for a new water pipe in Dolydd, Llanwnda in April 2009.

7.2.Fieldwork was carried out by Claire Statter of L – P : Archaeology on behalf of Dwr Cymru/Costain Ltd.

7.3.Historic research indicated that the area had been predominantly used for agriculture throughout its past.

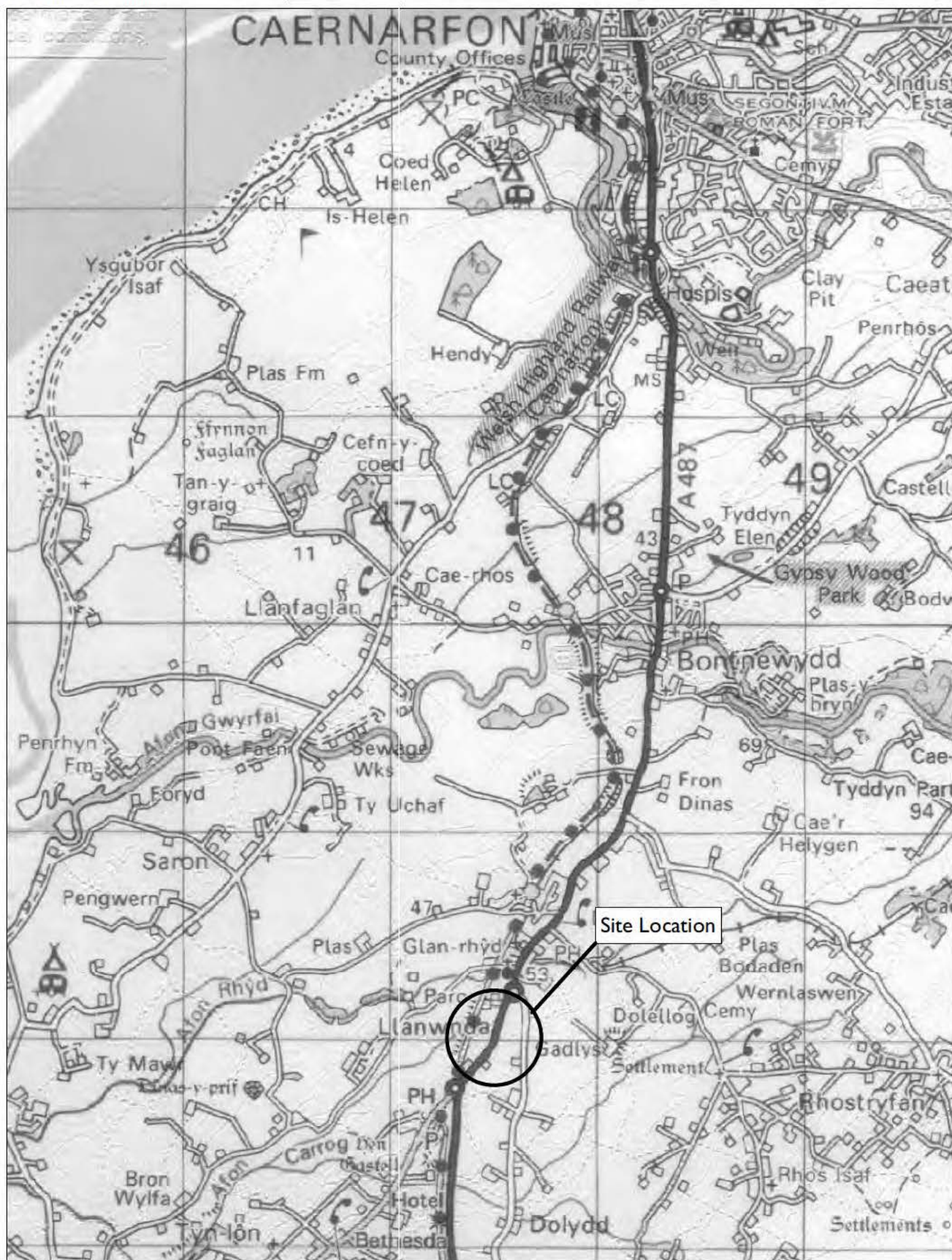
7.4.The deposits recorded on site included natural topsoil and natural superficial deposits. The natural till was seen at a depth of 0.6m BGL.

7.5.No further archaeological features were recorded on site.

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# FIGURES

FIGURE I // Site Location



Scale 1:10 @ A4

0 1,500m

PROJECT // 0817C - Dolydd, Llanwddfa

DESCRIPTION // Site Location

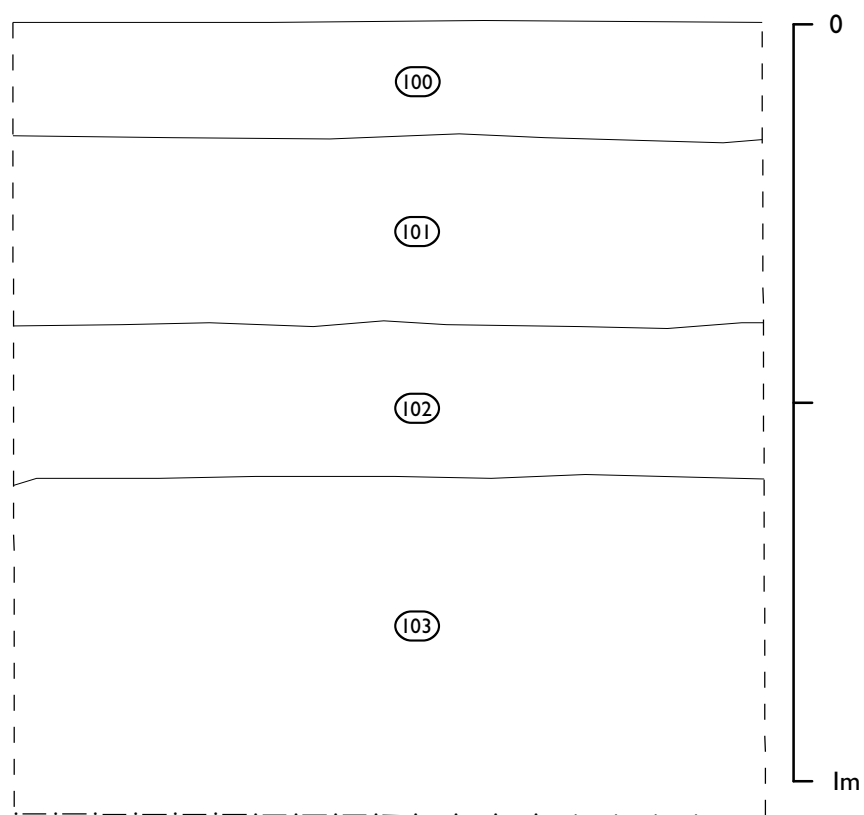
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FIGURE 2 // Representative section



Scale 1:10 @ A4

PROJECT // 0817C - Dolydd, Llanwnda

DESCRIPTION // Representative section

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# SOURCES CONSULTED

## APPENDIX I

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# BIBLIOGRAPHIC

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MARGARY, I.D 1967. *Roman Roads in Britain*. John Baker, London

STATTER,C 2008. *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Dolydd Llanwnda*.  
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