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DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Mawrth 2009 March 2009

BRYNBERIAN WATER MAIN REHABILITATION SCHEME PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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By Andrew Shobbrook

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Summary

Between November 2008 and January 2009 Young Brothers carried out a scheme of water mains renewal work, on behalf of Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, between Cilgwyn and Brynberian, north Pembrokeshire (between NGRs SN07693698 and SN09623530).

The water main passes through an archaeologically sensitive landscape that contains important prehistoric and early medieval monuments. These include a pair of Bronze Age standing stones, which are designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM), an Iron Age hillfort and the site of an Early Medieval carved stone, which is also a SAM.

Given the potential for the presence of archaeological remains along the route of the rehabilitation programme, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management recommended that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken in any areas of new cut and any works within 50m of the known archaeological sites.

In order to comply with this recommendation, and to protect the areas of archaeological interest, Young Brothers/Dŵr Cymru commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the rehabilitation works.

The majority of the trench excavations involved opening up already existing pipe trenches and then applying the methodology of pipe splitting, which meant that there was a minimum amount of new ground cut. Where new open cut excavation was carried out only natural deposits or modern road make-up deposits were observed.

No archaeologically significant features or deposits were discovered along the route of the water main.

INTRODUCTION

Project background

As part of a general water mains rehabilitation scheme in west Wales Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water contracted Young Brothers to carry out the refurbishment of the Brynberian part of the scheme between November 2008 and January 2009. The route of the water main lies in north Pembrokeshire (Figure 1).

The existing water main passes through an archaeologically sensitive landscape, between Cilgwyn at NGR SN07693698 and Brynberian at NGR SN09623530, that contains important prehistoric and early medieval monuments. These include a pair of Bronze Age standing stones, which are designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM), an Iron Age hillfort and the site of an Early Medieval carved stone, which is also a SAM. Given the potential for the presence of archaeological remains along this part of the route (Figure 1), Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management recommended that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during all episodes of trenching or ground breaking in the vicinity.

In order to comply with this recommendation, and to protect the areas of archaeological interest, Young Brothers/Dŵr Cymru commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services, as their archaeological contractors, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the rehabilitation works.

The watching brief methodology and scope of the report

The watching brief comprised the attendance on-site of an archaeologist, after prior notification from Young Brothers' agent, during open cutting of trenches when this took place in the defined areas of archaeological interest. The Dŵr Cymru contractors utilized the method of pipe splitting, which entailed the opening of trenches at 100 metre intervals to allow access to the old pipe; the pipe splitting machine was placed in one trench and then pushed a 100m length of linked iron rods along the existing pipe to the next trench where a pipe splitter was attached to the last rod, along with the new pipe, and then both were pulled back through the old pipe. In this way the old water main pipe was split, allowing the new pipe enough space to be threaded along the existing pipeline route, which resulted in very little disturbance to new ground and therefore less of a threat to the potential archaeological resource.

The site visits were carried out between November 2008 and January 2009. Notes were made of any revealed deposits or features, and a scaled digital photographic record of a representative section of each trench was also made whether it contained archaeological deposits or not.

This report discusses the historic and archaeological background to the sites in the vicinity of the pipeline route before summarising the results of the watching brief.

Any archaeological sites mentioned in the text that are recorded in the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER) are identified, for reference and location, by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and National Grid Reference (NGR). The HER is housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust at its offices in Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire.

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Brynberian water main runs from Cilgwyn (at NGR SN07693698) in a southeasterly direction to a point just northwest of Brynberian (at NGR SN09623530), a total distance of c.2.25km. The route rises from its west end at c.120m above Ordnance Datum (OD) to a high point of c.240m OD just beyond the mid-way point (NGR SN08903584), before dropping down to c.170m OD at its end.

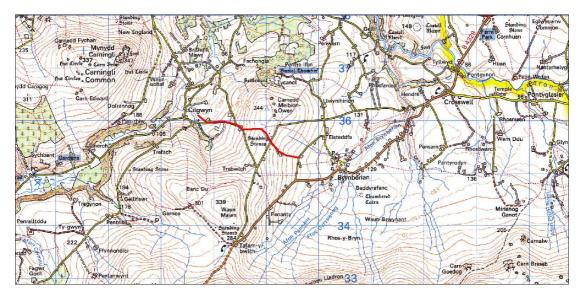


Figure 1. Route of pipeline shown in red.

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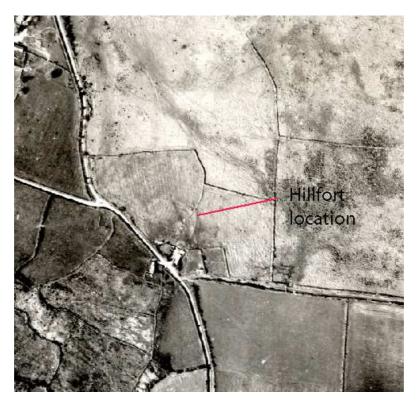


Plate 1: 1955 Meridian Aerial photo showing PRN 1478 Cil-Gwyn-Mawr Iron Age Hill fort.

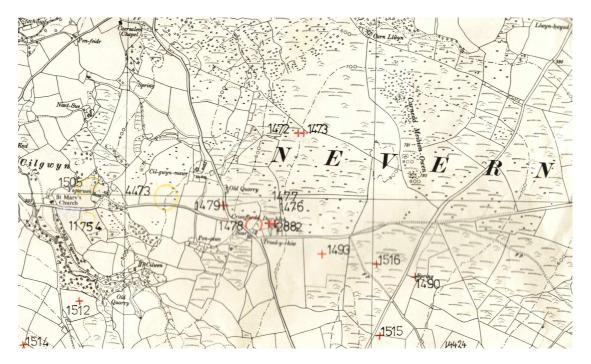


Figure 2:Quarter sheet SN03 NE showing known archaeological sites in the Cilgwyn and Brynberian area.

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HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The historic landscape

The route lies entirely within the Preseli registered Historic Landscape in Wales (HLW (D) 7) as identified in the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (published by CCW, Cadw and ICOMOS UK in 1998). A landscape characterisation study carried out by Cambria Archaeology (Murphy and Ludlow 2001) on behalf of Cadw has further divided the Preseli HLW into 27 Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCA). The pipeline route crosses the Cilgwyn HLCA (HLCA 275) and Trehaidd HLCA (HLCA 277). The main historic landscape characteristics of these areas are given below.

The Cilgwyn HLCA

The Cilgwyn HLCA lies on the northern flank of Mynydd Preseli and is characterised by dispersed settlements and small irregular fields. The present landscape had been established by the time the parish tithe map was produced in 1843. It is thought that the dispersed settlements and small irregular fields reflect the late medieval and early post-medieval enclosure of woodland and the Welsh tenurial system of land holding (Murphy and Ludlow 2001, HLCA 275). The field boundaries in the area are varied and include stone-faced banks, dry-stone

walls and stone and earth banks topped with hedges. The area is well wooded and the deciduous woodland is a major character element.

The Trehaidd HLCA

The Trehaidd HLCA is a relatively small area situated on the northern edge of Mynydd Preseli. It is characterised by dispersed settlements and roughly rectangular fields with a 'distinct east-west trend' (Murphy and Ludlow 2001, HLCA 277), which are probably the result of post-medieval or early modern enclosure. Field boundaries are generally earth banks topped with hedges. This is in contrast to the adjacent Cilgwyn HLCA where the field boundary generally includes a high proportion of stone. The main landscape use is pasture.

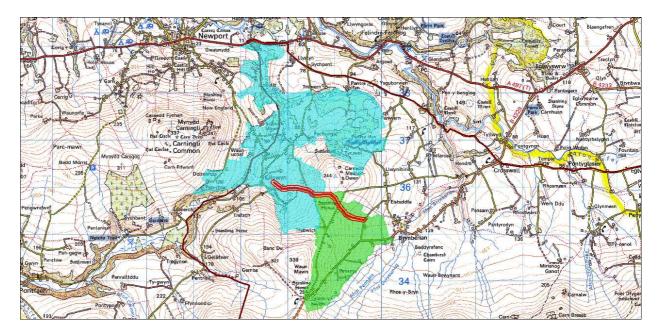


Figure 3: Plan showing the assessment area (red line) and the Cilgwyn (blue shaded area) and Trehaidd (green shaded area) HLCAs.

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THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

There are two Scheduled Ancient Monuments (PRN 1516; NGR SN09023573 and PRN 14424; NGR SN09283535) within the archaeological assessment area.

Previously recorded sites within the watching brief area

There are five sites recorded on the HER database within the assessment area.

PRN 1478 Cil-Gwyn-Mawr Iron Age Hillfort (NGR SN08513589; Plate 1; Figure 2

This site was visited and described in 2006 as part of a pan-Wales project set up to identify and record all possible prehistoric defended enclosures. The project was intended to promote the long-term management of these sites and was grant-aided by Cadw. The description from that study is included here:

'Cilgwyn Mawr is a sub-circular earthwork defended enclosure occupying a gentle west-facing slope at 190m above sea level. It measures c.55m diameter internally. The site is bisected by a substantial boundary bank, dividing the enclosure in two. The site is best preserved to the west of the boundary. Here the surrounding bank is c.5m wide, 0.5m high internally and 0.8m high externally. There is a clear entrance on the northeast side. Two slight hollows on the southwest external side of the bank are disturbances. The bank is turf-covered with many stones/boulders projecting through it. To the east of the boundary the enclosure is very poorly preserved. The defensive bank survives for just a few metres on the north side and is only just visible. Part of the interior is occupied by an old, grass-covered quarry c.1m deep, and a cottage with its garden encroaches on the southeast side of the site. The enclosure is under improved pasture. It has been ploughed occasionally in the recent past.' (Murphy et al 2007).

There has been no significant change in the site since the 2006 visit.

PRN 1505 Find spot Cilgwyn Neolithic hand axe find spot (NGR SN07783605; Figure 2)

The centre section of a flaked and ground Group VIII stone axe was recovered from somewhere in this vicinity in the 1950s. The surviving section measured 7.5cm x 5cm x 3cm thick and the broken ends of the axe had been reworked (information from HER).

There is no information surrounding the circumstances of the find, it appears to be a chance discovery, however its presence suggests Neolithic activity in the vicinity.

PRN 1516 Penlan Stones/Parc lan stones (NGR SN09023573; Figure 2)

A pair of Bronze Age standing stones, protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (PE371). The stones stand c.4m apart and are aligned roughly north-south (Cook 2006). The southern stone is c.1.5m high and triangular in plan, c.0.45m thick, and tapers to a point at the top. The north stone is shorter at c.1.3m high and is roughly rectangular in plan, $c.0.9m \times 0.25m$ tapering to a point at the top.

PRN 2882 Croesffordd Dwr-Bach Field System (NGR SN08613589; Figure 2) – includes PRN 1476 (NGR SN08613590) and PRN 1477 (NGR SN08603590)

This is a small area of ridge and furrow in the two small fields adjacent to Troedy-rhiw. The ridge and furrow is clearly visible on aerial photographs of the area running on three separate alignments, which include the interior of the former Cil-Gwyn Hillfort (PRN 1478). The ridge and furrow within the hillfort shows that the defences of the hillfort were still clearly defined when the ploughing was taking place, which was probably during the post-medieval period.

The field system also includes a row of twenty-four stones (PRN 1476: NGR SN08613590) that were erected on end and formed an unbroken line of approximately 40 feet (*c*.12m) aligned east west (RCAHM 1925, 258 no.767). A circular setting of twelve stones (PRN 1477: NGR SN08603590) was also recorded close to the west end of PRN 1476 and the two were considered '*doubtless part of the same work*' (RCAHM 1925, 258 no.767). The function of the stones is uncertain and when the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments (RCAHM) visited the site in June 1914 they concluded that the '*site calls for excavation*' (RCAHM 1925, 258 no.767). As far as is known this site has never been excavated or investigated further.

PRN 14424 Penparke Inscribed Stone (NGR SN09283535; Figure 2)

An inscribed stone of probable 8th - 9th century date, which is protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (ref: PE448). The stone was found in 1961 built into the farmyard wall at Penparke Farm. The stone is a rough cross-carved stone and is one of a large number of inscribed stones recorded on neighbouring farms. Additionally, a possible 'holy well' site (PRN 1490; NGR SN09173569) is located 140m to the north of the water main route.

The presence of an early medieval inscribed stone and the possible holy well in the area suggest the possible presence of an early medieval religious chapel and cemetery in the vicinity, although the location of such a site is unknown (Edwards 2007, 402-403).

New sites identified within the assessment area

Parc yr Odin (NGR SN08353598)

A field name recorded on the Nevern parish tithe schedule (1843). The Odin element is probably an alternative spelling of *Odyn*, meaning a kiln. Therefore, the field name translates as Kiln Park, suggesting that a kiln was present here at some point in the past. The location for the kiln is unknown.

RESULTS OF WATCHING BRIEF

A number of small trenches were cut along the line of the existing pipeline at around 100m-metre intervals in order to connect sections of pipe between lengths of splitting. These distances were sometimes shorter as the pipeline was not always linear and the former pipe trench needed to be opened in certain places to enable the pipe splitter to continue around bends in the existing pipeline.

Sections of trenches were recorded to glean an accurate account of soil depths and types that occurred along the pipeline. Some trenches were too deep to gain access safely, so these were left unrecorded. However, the trench sections were viewed from outside the trench to ascertain whether any archaeological features or deposits were revealed within them and an appropriate record of deposits was made. A total of 24 trenches were observed during the watching brief.

Trenches 1, 2, 4 – 9, 15 – 24

No archaeological features or deposits were present within these trenches. Soil descriptions and depths were recorded of all deposits revealed in the trenches, these are recorded within table 1.

Soil Layers	Soil Description					
Trench 1						
Topsoil	Mid darkish brown silty clay with occasional small sub - angular stones					
Subsoi <u>l</u>	Light darkish brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of small sub 0.27m angular stones					
Natural	Light greyish brown silty clay with rare large sub angular stones	N/A				
Trench 2						
Topsoil	Mid darkish brown silty clay containing infrequent small sub angular 0.26m stones					
Subsoil	Light greyish brown silty clay deposit containing occasional small 0.50 sub angular stones					
Natural	Light greyish brown silty clay containing rare large sub angular stones					
Trench 4						
Topsoil	mid darkish brown silty clay that had a friable compaction and contained occasional small sub angular stones					
Subsoil	light yellowish brown silty clay that contained inclusions of occasional small sub angular stones					
Natural	mid greyish brown silty clay that contained inclusions of frequent N small sub angular stones					
Trench 5						
Topsoil	Mid darkish brown silty clay containing rare small sub angular stones	0.16m				
Subsoil	Light orangey brown silty clay containing occasional small sub angular stones	0.11m				
Natural	Mid greyish brown silty clay containing occasional small sub angular stones					
Trench 6	· ·	•				
Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay containing occasional small sub angular stones	0.12m				
Subsoil	Dark brown silty clay containing frequent small sub angular stones	0.20m				
Natural	Light yellowish brown silty clay					
Trench 7	· ·	•				
Topsoil	Mid darkish brown silty clay containing occasional small sub angular	0.18m				

Table 1: Soil descriptions of excavated layers within trenches 1, 2, 4 - 9, 15 - 24

	stones					
Subsoil	Light orangey brown silty clay containing occasional small sub	0.22m				
	angular stones					
Natural	Light brownish grey silty clay containing sub angular stones with N/A occasional large sub angular stones					
Trench 8						
Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay containing rare small sub angular stones	0.10m				
Subsoil	Brown silty clay containing occasional small sub angular stones	0.20m				
Natural	Light brownish grey silty clay containing sub angular stones with occasional large sub angular stones					
Trench 9						
Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay containing occasional small sub angular stones	0.18m				
Subsoil	Light brown silty clay containing occasional small sub angular stones	0.15m				
Natural	Light greyish brown silty clay containing frequent small sub angular	N/A				
inaturai	stones	N/A				
Trench 15						
Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay containing occasional small sub angular stones	0.17m				
Subsoil	Light brown silty clay with inclusions of occasional small sub angular stones	0.22m				
Natural	Mid orangey brown silty clay with frequent small sub angular stones	N/A				
Trench 16		••/•				
Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.07m				
Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay containing frequent small sub angular stones	0.07m 0.17m				
Natural	Mid greyish brown silty clay with inclusions of frequent small sub	N/A				
Naturai	angular stones	N/A				
Trench 17						
Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.07m				
Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay containing frequent small sub angular stones	0.17m				
Natura <u>l</u>	Mid greyish brown silty clay with inclusions of frequent small sub angular stones	N/A				
Trench 18						
Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.07m				
Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay containing frequent small sub angular stones	0.17m				
Natural	Mid greyish brown silty clay with inclusions of frequent small sub					
Tronch 10	angular stones					
Trench 19	Dark brown cilty clay	0.07m				
Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay	0.07m				
Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay containing frequent small sub angular stones	0.17m N/A				
Natural	Mid greyish brown silty clay with inclusions of frequent small sub angular stones					
Trench 20						
Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay loam	0.17m				
Natural	Light orangey brown sand with frequent inclusions of small sub angular stones and occasional large sub angular stones	N/A				
Trench 21						
Topsoil	Light brownish silty clay with inclusions of small sub angular stones	0.13m				
Natural	Light greyish brown silty clay with inclusions of frequent small sub	N/A				
Tronch 22	angular stones					
Trench 22	Dark brown city day with inducions of sub-survive stores	0 10				
Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay with inclusions of sub angular stones	0.18m				
Subsoil	Mid brown silty clay containing occasional small sub angular stones	0.17m				
		NI / A				
Natural	Light yellowish brown silty clay with inclusions of occasional medium sized sub angular stones (Bedrock of grey shale reached at 0.56m)	N/A				
Natural Trench 23	Light yellowish brown silty clay with inclusions of occasional medium sized sub angular stones (Bedrock of grey shale reached at 0.56m)	-				
Natural	Light yellowish brown silty clay with inclusions of occasional medium sized sub angular stones (Bedrock of grey shale reached at 0.56m) Mid brown silty clay with inclusions of small sub angular pieces of	N/A 0.08m				
Natural Trench 23	Light yellowish brown silty clay with inclusions of occasional medium sized sub angular stones (Bedrock of grey shale reached at 0.56m) Mid brown silty clay with inclusions of small sub angular pieces of stone Light brown silty clay with inclusions of occasional small sub angular	-				
Natural Trench 23 Topsoil	Light yellowish brown silty clay with inclusions of occasional medium sized sub angular stones (Bedrock of grey shale reached at 0.56m) Mid brown silty clay with inclusions of small sub angular pieces of stone	0.08m				

Trench 24		
Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay with inclusions of small sub angular pieces of stone	0.08m
Subsoil	Light brown silty clay with inclusions of occasional small sub angular stones	0.21m
Natural	Mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional small sub angular stones	N/A

Trenches 3, 6-8, 10 – 14

Health and safety concerns allowed no direct access to these trenches, as they exceeded a depth considered being safe to work within (typically more than 1.2m depth). No archaeologically significant deposits or features were observed in the exposed sections of these trenches.

Inscribed stone (PRN 63976) SN0907635597

During the refurbishment program the contractors discovered an inscribed stone located within a boundary wall at NGR SN0907635597. The script appeared to be of 19th century origin and contained the Latin inscription '*HIC IACET'*, which translates as 'here lies', and could mark the burial place of an animal. The stone measured 0.98m along its eastern edge and was 0.10m wide on its southern tip. The width on the northern side was 0.30m and the western sides were 0.70m long.

CONCLUSION

The watching brief undertaken during of the Dŵr Cymru water main rehabilitation scheme at Brynberian did not reveal any significant archaeological deposits along its length.

Although no significant archaeological remains were observed during the watching brief, this could have been a result of the small size and width of the excavated areas. Trench sections were monitored for the presence of archaeological remains, but none were observed. No significant finds were recovered from the works, which is an indication of the absence of archaeological remains within the observed areas of new cut along the route of the rehabilitation scheme. This does not preclude the potential for archaeological remains being present in the vicinity.

The watching brief concludes that no archaeologically significant features or deposits were impacted upon by the rehabilitation scheme.

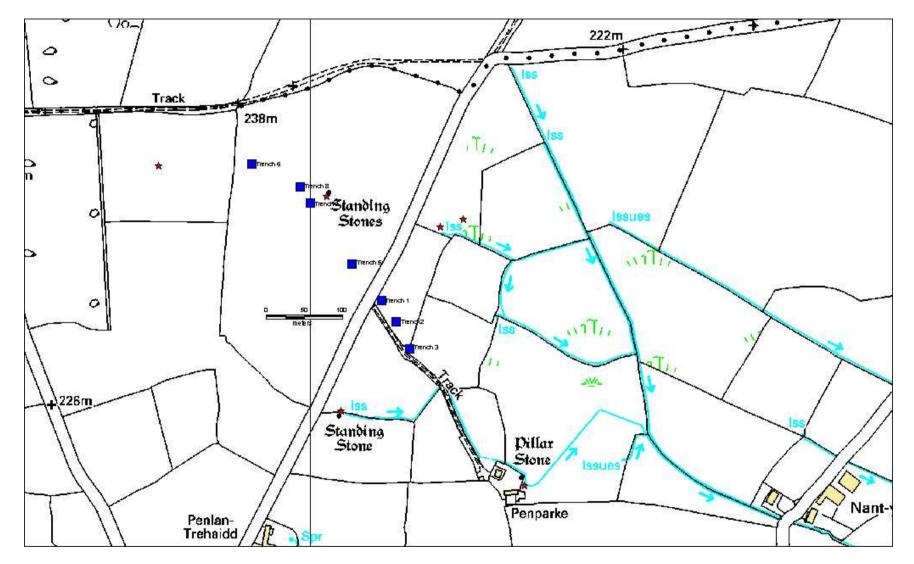


Figure 4: Eastern section of pipe route, showing numbered trenches.

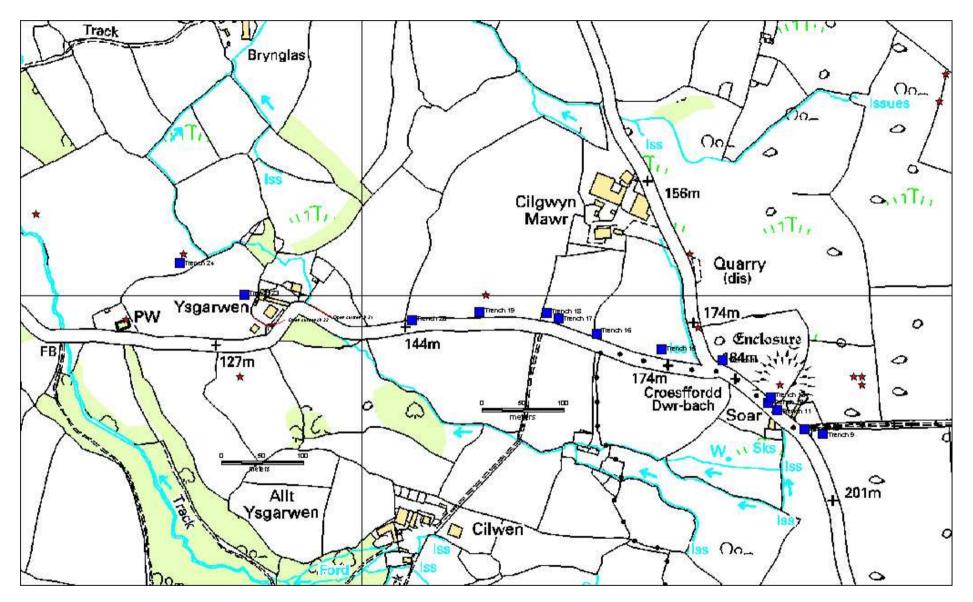


Figure 5: Western section of pipe route, showing numbered trenches.

SOURCES CONSULTED

Database

The Regional Historic Environment Record, housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust in Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire

Cartographic

Nevern parish tithe map (1843) and apportionment (1840)

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2500 map (1891) sheet XXXXII.1 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2500 map (1891) sheet XXXXII.5 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2500 map (1891) sheet XXXXII.6

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1:2500 map (1906) sheet XXXXII.1 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1:2500 map (1906) sheet XXXXII.5 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1:2500 map (1906) sheet XXXXII.6

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Plate 2: Photograph of trench 12 facing east.



Plate 3: Photograph of Iron Age Hill Fort PRN 1478.



Plate 4: Photograph of Trench 13 facing west.



Plate 5: Tree bowl feature facing south.



Plate 6: Photograph of inscribed stone facing east.

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Mawrth 2009 March 2009

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by

Andrew Shobbrook

Swydd / Position: Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith This report has been checked and approved by

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf. on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Project Manager

Llofnod / Signature

Date

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi 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

Date