

SCCW21



The Strand and Carriers Lane, Cardigan, Wales

Archaeological Watching Brief

Headland Archaeology Midlands & West
Unit 1 | Clearview Court | Twyford Rd | Hereford HR2 6JR

on behalf of Welsh Water Capital Delivery Alliance

Draft v.1
27/07/2022

PROJECT INFORMATION:

PROJECT NAME	The Strand and Carriers Lane, Cardigan, Wales
TYPE OF WORK	Archaeological Watching Brief
CLIENT	Welsh Water Capital Delivery Alliance
PROJECT CODE	SCCW21
NGR	SN 17853 46014 to SN 17844 45918
PARISH	Ceredigion, Cardigan
LOCAL AUTHORITY	Dyfed Archaeological Trust
FIELDWORK DATES	8th November – 2nd December 2021
OASIS REF.	headland1-507744
ARCHIVE REPOSITORY	National Museum of Wales

PROJECT TEAM:

PROJECT MANAGER	Luke Craddock-Bennett
AUTHOR	Laura James
FIELDWORK	Rachel Robertson and Hywel Keen
GRAPHICS	Tom Watson

PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook an intermittent archaeological watching brief at The Strand and Carriers Lane, Cardigan, Wales between 8th November and 2nd December 2021. The work was undertaken in consultation with Dyfed Archaeological Trust which recommended a monitoring presence on groundworks associated with a rising main and discharge chamber. The development site was located near Cardigan Castle and the River Teifi and had the potential for medieval archaeological deposits. Two stone walls relating to buildings visible on historic OS mapping (1892-1914) and a cobbled surface of unknown date were identified beneath the modern road surface.

Cynhaliodd Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd brîff gwylio archaeolegol ysbeidiol yn Y Strand a Carriers Lane, Aberteifi, Cymru rhwng 8^{fed} o Dachwedd a'r 2il o Rhagfyr 2021. Ymgwymerwyd â'r gwaith efo uymgyngoriad Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed dyma'n argymell presenoldeb monitro a'r gwaith a oedd yn gysylltiedig â phrif siambr gynyddol a siambr rhyddhau. Lleolwyd safle'r datblygiad ger Castell Aberteifi ac Afon Teifi, felli roedd ganddo'r potensial ar gyfer dyddodion archeolegol canoloesol. Nodwyd dwy wal gerrig yn ymwneud ag adeiladau sydd yn ewladwy ar fapio hanesyddol yr AO (1892-1914) ac wyneb coblyn o ddyddiad anhysbys o dan wyneb y ffordd fodern.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>1.</u>	<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	<u>1</u>
	1.1. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION	1
	1.2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	1
	1.3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	2
<u>2.</u>	<u>METHODOLOGY</u>	<u>2</u>
	2.1. SITE WORKS	2
	2.2. RECORDING	2
	2.3. REPORTING AND ARCHIVES	2
<u>3.</u>	<u>RESULTS</u>	<u>2</u>
	3.1. ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING	2
	3.2. FINDS	3
	3.3. ENVIRONMENTAL	3
<u>4.</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>5.</u>	<u>REFERENCES</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>6.</u>	<u>APPENDICES</u>	<u>5</u>
	APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS	5
	APPENDIX 2 DES / OASIS / HER ENTRY	10

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Illus 1 Site location showing chainage locations.

Illus 2 Photo showing intact cobbling surface (1007) in west facing section at CH083

Illus 3 Photo showing dry stone wall (1009) crossing the trench at CH120

THE STRAND AND CARRIERS LANE, CARDIGAN, WALES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1. INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned to provide an archaeological watching brief on groundworks associated with the installation of a rising main and discharge chamber located on The Strand and Carriers Lane, Cardigan. This work was undertaken on behalf of the Welsh Water Capital Delivery Alliance.

A WSI was submitted and agreed with the Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT). Monitoring took place from Chainage 50 to 140 as agreed with the client.

Monitoring was undertaken between 8th November and 2nd December 2021 by Rachel Robertson and Hywell Keen.

1.1. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The monitored works were located between NGR SN 17853 46014 and SN 17844 45918 in the south of the town of Cardigan, in the county of Ceredigion. The works were located in the vicinity of Cardigan Castle and to the north of the River Teifi.

The bedrock geology of the site is part of the Nantmel Mudstones Formation, overlain by superficial deposits of Devensian Till (British Geological Survey website; <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>).

1.2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The modern settlement of Cardigan was developed around the Norman castle which was built c.1093.

Cardigan is a complex urban historic landscape character area lying mainly on gently sloping south-facing land on the banks of the Afon Teifi. Older elements of the town are mainly confined within the circuit of the medieval town walls, with a focus on the remains of the medieval castle and bridge at the southern end of the High Street.

Teifi valley slate is the principal building material in the older buildings – the medieval remains of Cardigan Castle, the medieval St Mary's Church, and Cardigan Bridge – and was used down to the end of the 19th century. On better quality buildings it is cut and coursed but is uncoursed rubble on many structures. Banded Teifi valley slate in conjunction with squared, warm brown stone is used on some buildings close to the river. The opening of brickworks at Cardigan in the late 19th century marked the decline of stone.

Carriers Lane, and the work under investigation, is located in the historic core of the town, in the immediate vicinity of the scheduled Cardigan Castle and the medieval town wall. It runs from the foot of the castle and alongside the river Teifi. The works, therefore, have the potential to expose features and deposits associated with medieval activity.

1.3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are outlined within the written scheme of investigation (Bain, 2021). The primary objectives were:

- To ensure the excavation and recording of any archaeological remains that would be disturbed by the groundworks;
- To establish the integrity and state of preservation of archaeological features or deposits that may be present within the areas disturbed during the development;
- To produce and deposit a satisfactory archive and disseminate the results of the work via grey literature reporting and publication as appropriate.

The results of the investigation will be used to describe the significance of heritage assets potentially affected by the development with the resulting archive (finds and records), organised and deposited with The National Museum of Wales to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit

2. METHODOLOGY

All work was carried out according to the agreed WSI (Bain, 2021). All work followed the relevant CIfA and regional Standards and Guidance (CIfA, 2020).

2.1. SITE WORKS

Work on site took place intermittently between 8th November and 2nd December 2021. The previously undisturbed areas were excavated by a mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision. The width of the trench was 1.5m along the scheme. Monitoring ceased at the contractors required depth which was between 1.3m and 2.0m below the existing ground surface.

2.2. RECORDING

All recording followed the Headland Manual and CIfA Standards and Guidance (CIfA, 2020). All contexts, small finds and environmental samples were given unique numbers. All recording was undertaken on pro forma record sheets. Where

stratified deposits were encountered, a 'Harris' matrix was compiled. Digital photographs on a minimum 10mp camera were taken as the site photographic archive.

2.3. REPORTING AND ARCHIVES

All aspects of the reporting and archive will be undertaken in accordance with guidelines published by the CIfA on behalf of the Archaeological Archives Forum (July 2007). The archive will be deposited with the National Museum of Wales.

3. RESULTS

Full context descriptions are presented in Appendix 1.1 and full photographic registers are presented in Appendix 1.2. Contexts are identified numerically in sequence with deposits indicated by rounded brackets. Selected technical detail is utilised below to describe the remains found and to inform the interpretation and dating completed and presented in this report.

3.1. ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Monitoring of groundworks took place between Chainage 50 in the north and Chainage 140 at the southern end of the scheme (Illus 1). The tarmac road surface (1000) formed the upper deposit (0.2m in depth) for the full length of the trench. This was underlain with its own bedding layer (1001) also 0.2m deep.

Directly beneath these deposits, at approximately Chainage location 100, was a short length of intact cobbling (1007). This was 7.0m long truncated by a modern service feature. The deposit comprised a single layer of rounded cobbles all measuring approximately 0.12m x 0.07m which lay on their sides within a grey, clayey coarse sand matrix (Illus 2). This deposit was encountered directly underneath the Tarmac and bedding layers and sitting on top of (1006). No finds were recovered from this deposit.

Underneath the tarmac and bedding deposits, along the majority of the trench, deposit (1006), a yellow-brown silty clay, was observed containing frequent large inclusions in the form of shale slabs

which were mostly found lying horizontally. This deposit varied from 0.3-0.6m in depth along the trench.

Deposit (1008), also containing shale slabs, was observed beneath deposit (1006). This was found at a depth of more than 0.7m and for health and safety reasons a closer inspection could not be completed. It was a firm, mid orangey brown, silty clay deposit with frequent natural slate and shale inclusions. This deposit was mostly likely a colluvial deposit. The interface between (1006) and (1008) was sharp and defined which implies a possible levelling of the deposit. It is possible that the surface of this deposit may have acted as the foundation for a roadway, though no dateable material was recovered. Deposit (1008) varied from 0.3m – 1.0m in depth throughout the trench and was not fully excavated.

At approximately chainage location 120, where Carriers Lane intersects with The Strand, a drystone wall (1009) was encountered which crossed the trench and ran parallel with The Strand road to the east (Illus 3). Orientated northwest to southeast, measuring 1.5m long, 0.5m wide, and 1.0m deep this wall was left in situ. The wall was butted by the deposit to the north (1006) and that to the south (1010). It overlay deposit (1008). This indicates that deposits (1010) and (1006) and the upper tarmac and bedding deposits post-dated the construction of this wall.

To the south of the wall (1009), from chainage locations 121 to 140, the nature of the deposits changed. Beneath the existing road surface the upper deposit (1010) consisted of a light yellow-brown silty clay with frequent stone inclusions, which was similar to deposit (1006). This deposit also contained brick inclusions, some with vent holes indicating a modern date.

Below deposit (1010) lay deposit (1011) which was similar to (1008) but had a higher clay content. It was a friable, yellowish-grey, silty clay with frequent large slate and shale slab inclusions and was more riverine in its composition which, along with the fact that it sloped away to the south, could indicate that it was originally part of the river bank and was later reclaimed. The presence of a wall

stub (1012) directly on top of this layer, indicates that this deposit may have been modified and that the interface between it and (1010) perhaps marks another area of levelling between the two deposits.

Wall (1012) was observed in the western section of the trench and was located at chainage location 140. The nature of this wall was similar to (1009) a dry stone wall with no mortar present. Its orientation could not be identified. It was 0.5m wide and 0.5m deep and was directly on top of deposit (1011) and beneath deposit (1010).

3.2. FINDS

No finds were recovered from the works however it was noted that modern construction materials including ceramic building material, bricks, and Glass were found in deposits (1006) and (1008) indicating these are not natural layers.

3.3. ENVIRONMENTAL

No environmental samples were taken during these works.

4. DISCUSSION

The results of the watching brief showed that deposits underlying the modern road surface were made up of previously disturbed ground. All contained evidence of mixed soil and material from the natural substrate as well as other building materials such as brick, CBM, and slate slabs. These deposits showed clear and sharp interfaces suggesting levelling had occurred between them, presumably relating to different phases of road surfacing.

One small area of cobbles (1007) was seen directly below the modern tarmac and bedding layer which was only a single course thick and most likely part of a former phase of road construction.

There were two small walls identified during the works, only one of which was fully uncovered. Wall (1009) ran across the trench on a northwest to southeast orientation and cuts across the current alignment of The Strand. The orientation and location of the wall appears to correlate with a building visible on The Ordnance Survey 25" map

(1892-1914) which appears to have been demolished as part of road realignment in the 20th Century. The material of the wall was slate slabs which correspond with the building material used in the local area. Wall (1012) was also made of the same materials and corresponds to the location of a further building visible on historic OS mapping and subsequently demolished.

In conclusion, the works predominantly identified re-deposited material relating to previous phases of road construction and repair. Two walls and a cobbled surface relating to earlier phases of town development were recorded.

5. REFERENCES

Archaeological Archives Forum Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (published by the IfA 2007).

Bain, K., 2021. The Strand and Carriers Lane, Cardigan, Wales Archaeological written scheme of investigation. Headland Archaeology.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological material;

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives;

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. Standard and Guidance an archaeological watching brief;

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. Code of Conduct;

English Heritage Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: the MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide (2015).

National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales: National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017. <http://www.welshmuseumsfederation.org/en/new-s-archive/resources-landing/Collections/national-standard-and-guidance-for-collecting-and-depositing-archaeological-archives-in-wales-2017.html>

Richards, J.C., Richards, J., and Robinson, D., (Eds), 2000. Digital Archives from Excavation and Fieldwork: Guide to Good Practice (Second Edition), Archaeology Data Service;

Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1993. Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections: Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland;

Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1995. Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive, The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums: Guidelines for use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales;

The Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2018. Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs). <http://www.ggat.org.uk/her/downloads/Guidance%20for%20the%20Submission%20of%20Data%20to%20Welsh%20HERs.pdf>

Watkinson D & Neal V First aid for finds, (Third Edition 1998).

6. APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

1.1 Chain Location register

Trench	CH055-080	1.5 x 20m, 1.60-2.00m deep		N/S
<p>Under the Tarmac and bedding deposit, there was a thick layer of possible construction debris or made ground that contained slate and shale. Under this deposit lay a natural deposit possible colluvial nature, also containing natural slate inclusions. trench deposits were cut by services.</p>				
1000	D	Tarmac		0.2m
1001	D	Bedding layer of made ground		0.2m
1006	D	Friable mid yellowish brown, clayey silt deposit that contained very frequent large stones mostly slate but some rounded stones.		~0.5m
1008	D	Firm, mid orangey brown, silty clay deposit with natural slate frequent inclusions		~0.6-1.5m

Trench	CH080-115	1.5 x 30m, 1.40-1.54m deep		N/S
<p>The same deposits were seen here with some larger slate blocks appearing. These blocks at first were interpreted as a floor surface however as more were found at different levels this interpretation was changed to the appearance of natural rocks that had been machine stripped to appear more anthropogenic. There was also a Cobbled layer seen directly underneath the tarmac and bedding layers. visible for approx 7m and cut by a service trench.</p>				
1000	D	Tarmac		0.2m
1001	D	Bedding layer of made ground		0.2m
1003	St	natural slate fragments that formed a horizontal layer		
1005	St	natural slate fragments that formed a layer		
1006	D	Friable mid yellowish brown, clayey silt deposit that contained very frequent large stones mostly slate but some rounded stones.		~0.5m

1007	St	small cobbles of same approximate size (L0.12m, W0.07m) laid vertically within a grey clayey coarse sand matrix. Cobbling of a road surface.	7m Length in section
1008	D	Firm, mid orangey-brown, silty clay deposit with natural slate frequent inclusions	~0.6-1.5m

Trench CH115-120		1.5 x 6m, 1.50-1.60m deep	N/S
<p>The same deposits as previous areas with a dry stone wall visible at the southern end near the bend to the Southwest and following the alignment of the Strand. This wall was under the lower natural silty layer. Described as a river wall as no other abutting walls were observed to interpret as a building.</p>			
1000	D	Tarmac	0.2m
1001	D	Bedding layer of made ground	0.2m
1006	D	Friable mid yellowish brown, clayey silt deposit that contained very frequent large stones mostly slate but some rounded stones.	~0.5m
1008	D	Firm, mid orangey brown, silty clay deposit with natural slate frequent inclusions	~0.6-1.5m
1009	St	Dry stone wall running NW/SE with no wall cut. No mortar present. Possible retaining wall for river bank	1.5m long, 0.5m wide, 1.0m depth

Trench CH121-140		1.5 x 20m, 1.30-1.50m deep	NE/SW
<p>With the turn to southwest and beyond the wall the deposits were similar but slightly different and becoming shallower to the southwest. In the western section a wall was seen similar to dry stone wall to the north which did not extend into trench.</p>			
1000	D	Tarmac	0.2m
1001	D	Bedding layer of made ground	0.2m
1010	D	Friable, mid to light yellowish-brown silty clay with rounded and angular stone inclusions and some building material included	~0.5m

1011	D	Friable, yellowish grey, silty clay with very frequent large slate inclusions mostly lying horizontally	~0.3m
1012	St	Dry stone wall similar to [1009] seen in western section only	0.5m wide, 0.5m deep

1.2 Photographic register

Photo #	Digital #	Main Context	Other Contexts	Description	Facing
1000	107-0095	1003		Plan of possible surface	N
1001	107-0096	1003	1002, 1005	south facing section of trench	N
1002	107-0097	1003	1002, 1005	general shot of trench	N
1003	107-0098	1003	1002, 1005	Plan of possible surface	E
1004	107-0099	1003	1002, 1005	Plan of possible surface	E
1005	107-0100	1001	1002	east facing section of trench	W
1006	107-0101	1001	1002, 1005	south facing section of trench	N
1007	107-0103	1001	1002, 1006	1005, east facing section of trench	W
1008	107-0104	1001	1002, 1006	1005, west facing section of trench	E
1009	107-0106	1001	1002, 1006	1004, east facing section of trench	W
1010	107-0107	1005		general shot of slate slab in section	E
1011	107-0108	1005		general shot of slate slab in section	E
1012	107-0109	1005		plan shot of slate slab	E
1013	107-0110	1005		plan shot of slate slab	E
1014	107-0111	1005		plan shot of slate slab	E
1015	107-0112	1005		west facing sec of trench showing slate slab in section	E
1016	107-0113	1001	1002, 1008	1007, west facing section of trench showing possible structure	E

1017	107-0114	1001	1002, 1008	1007, general shot of west facing section showing possible structure	E
1018	107-0115	1001	1002, 1007	west facing section of trench showing possible structure	E
1019	107-0116	1001	1002, 1007	west facing section of trench showing possible structure	E
1020	107-0117	1001	1002, 1008	east facing section of trench	W
1021	107-0118			east facing section of trench showing cable	W
1022	107-0119			VOID	NW
1023	107-0120			East facing section of trench	NW
1024	107-0121			VOID	NW
1025	107-0122			General shot of trench	N
1026	107-0123			South end of trench	N
1027	107-0124			north end of trench	N
1028	107-0125			VOID	S
1029	107-0126			general shot of carriers lane	S
1030	107-0127			general shot of trench	SW
1031	107-0128			detailed shot of section	S
1032	107-0129	1009		exposed wall	SW
1033	107-0130	1009		exposed wall detail	S
1034	107-0131			VOID	N
1035	107-0132			detail of south facing section	N
1036	107-0133			general view of south east facing section	NW
1037	107-0134			general shot of trench	N
1038	107-0135			view of trench at junction	NE
1039	107-0136			south east facing section	NW

1040	107-0137	detail of south east facing section	W
1041	107-0138	south east facing section	SW
1042	107-0139	detail south east facing section	NW
1043	107-0140	deep excavation for pump	N
1044	107-0141	general shot of south east facing section	NW
1045	107-0142	general shot of south east facing section	NW

APPENDIX 2 DES / OASIS / HER ENTRY

Summary for headland1-507744

OASIS ID (UID)	headland1-507744
Project Name	Watching Brief at The Strand and Carriers Lane, Cardigan, Wales
Sitename	The Strand and Carriers Lane, Cardigan, Wales
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	SCCW21
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
Project Dates	08-Nov-2021 - 02-Dec-2021
Location	The Strand and Carriers Lane, Cardigan, Wales NGR : SN 18047 46053 LL : 52.0828478393008, -4.65689575570635 12 Fig : 218047,246053
Administrative Areas	Country : Wales County : Dyfed District : Ceredigion Parish : Cardigan
Project Methodology	archaeological watching brief on groundworks associated with a rising main and discharge chamber located on The Strand and Carriers Lane, Cardigan
Project Results	
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Dyfed Archaeological Trust - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	L, James
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

ILLUS 1 SITE LOCATION

ILLUS 2 PHOTO SHOWING INTACT COBBLING SURFACE (1007) IN WEST FACING SECTION AT CH083

ILLUS 3 PHOTO SHOWING DRY STONE WALL (1009) CROSSING THE TRENCH AT CH120

Strand & Carrier's Lane
 Aberteifi/Cardigan
 Ceredigion



0 200km
 1:12,500,000 @ A4



0 30m
 1:1,500 @ A4

- development boundary
- unmonitored area
- chainage point



Headland Archaeology Midlands & West
 Unit 1 | Clearview Court | Twyford Rd | Hereford HR2 6JR
 t 01432 364 901
 e midlandsandwest@headlandarchaeology.com
 w www.headlandarchaeology.com

ILLUS 1 Site location



ILLUS 2 Photo showing intact cobbling surface (1007) in west facing section at CH083



ILLUS 3 Photo showing dry stone wall (1009) crossing the trench at CH120