

**PENCARN VILLAGE
DUFFRYN, NEWPORT
GWENT**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

For

BELLWAY HOMES WALES LTD

CA PROJECT: 2030
CA REPORT: 07139

AUGUST 2008



PENCARN VILLAGE
DUFFRYN, NEWPORT
GWENT

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CA PROJECT: 2030
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date	20 August 2008
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SUMMARY

Project Name: Pencarn Village
Location: Duffryn, Newport, Gwent
NGR: ST 2900 8525
Type: Watching Brief
Date: August, October and November 2005, June 2007 and ongoing
Planning Reference: 05/0387
Location of Archive: To be deposited with RCHM, Aberystwyth, Wales
Site Code: PVN 05

An archaeological watching brief is being undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of housing at Pencarn Village, Duffryn, Newport. This report is a summary of all findings to date.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest have so far been observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period has been recovered to date. However, a cast iron pipe probably associated with the boating lake which lies in the grounds of Tredegar House was identified running north-south across the development area.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August, October and November 2005 and June 2007, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out site visits as part of an ongoing archaeological watching brief for Bellway Homes Wales Ltd at Pencarn Village, Duffryn, Newport, Gwent (centred on NGR: ST 2900 8525; Fig. 1). The watching brief is being undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the residential development of the site (Planning ref: 05/0387). The objective of the watching brief is to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief is being carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2005) and approved by Newport City Council acting on the advice of Neil Maylan, Glamorgan and Gwent Archaeological Trust Curatorial, archaeological advisor to Newport City Council. The fieldwork also follows the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

The site

- 1.3 The site is located on land previously occupied by the recently demolished St. Joseph's High School, Newport. (Fig. 2). It covers approximately 3.7ha, and lies on level ground between Duffryn Drive, to the east, and Tredegar House to the west.
- 1.4 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as alluvial sands and gravels (BGS 1969).

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The proposed development area lies immediately to the east of the 17th-century Tredegar House, which incorporates an early 16th-century hall. Tredegar Park, which comprised the original grounds of the house, runs around the western and northern limits of the current site; many elements of the park's late 17th and early 18th-century layout survive. A substantial boating pond lies within the park immediately to the north of the proposed development area, and it is possible that this was encroached upon and truncated during the construction of St. Joseph's High School.

Methodology

- 1.6 The fieldwork follows the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2005). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks indicated in Fig. 2 (yellow shading).
- 1.7 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.8 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices and will be deposited with RCHM in Aberystwyth, Wales, upon completion of the project.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

- 2.1 The natural substrate, 004 and 102, comprising mixed gravels and sand was identified within the site at depths of between 0.3m and 1.3m below present ground level (bpgl). In the vicinity of plots 109-111 this was overlain by a silty clay deposit, 103, possibly representing a buried subsoil horizon. This deposit was in turn overlain by modern make-up deposits, 002 and 001. Elsewhere, the natural substrate was overlain by modern make-up layer 101.
- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

North-south pipe trench

- 2.6 A cast iron pipe, approximately 1m in diameter, was exposed by groundworks at four points along the eastern edge of the development area (Fig. 2, A, B, C and D). The pipe lay at around 1m bpgl, and appeared to run from the boating lake at the northern edge of site (A) southwards; at its southern terminus (D) it rose to approximately 2 m above the present ground level immediately to the north of an extant building (Fig.3b). A scar on the northern wall of this building suggests that a further structure once stood immediately to the north of the extant building, within which the pipe surfaced. The function of the demolished building is unknown, but it can be reasonably supposed that it was associated with the boating lake. No

features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified where the pipe had been exposed and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The pipe exposed by groundworks at the western edge of the site represents the only remains associated with Tredegar House identified during the watching brief to date. Despite the archaeological potential of the application area, the watching brief has so far identified no archaeological remains within the groundworks excavated under archaeological supervision. The identification of a buried subsoil within plots 109, 110 and 111 suggested that the natural substrate (and thus any archaeological remains) had not been truncated in this location. The absence of any buried soil horizons elsewhere may indicate that truncation has occurred across a large part of the site, probably during the construction of St. Joseph's High School.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork has been undertaken by Alastair Barber, Laurent Coleman, Derek Evans and David Kenyon. This report was written by David Cudlip. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The project is managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1969 *Geological Survey of Britain (England and Wales) Solid and Drift*. Sheet 249: Newport, 1:63360 series

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2005 *Pencarn Village, Duffryn, Newport, Gwent: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

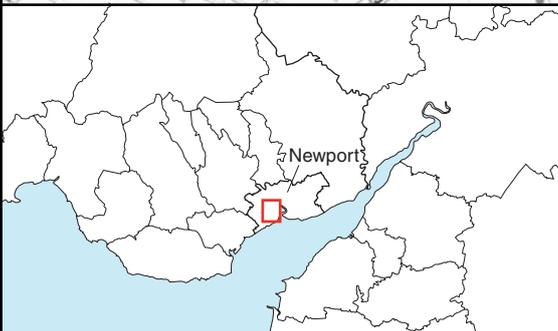
Plots 109, 110 and 111

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
01	Layer	Modern make up		0.8	1.3	NA
02	Layer	Make up		0.8	0.6	NA
03	Layer	Mid brown silty clay layer		0.8	0.3	NA
04	Layer	Sand and gravel natural		0.8		NA

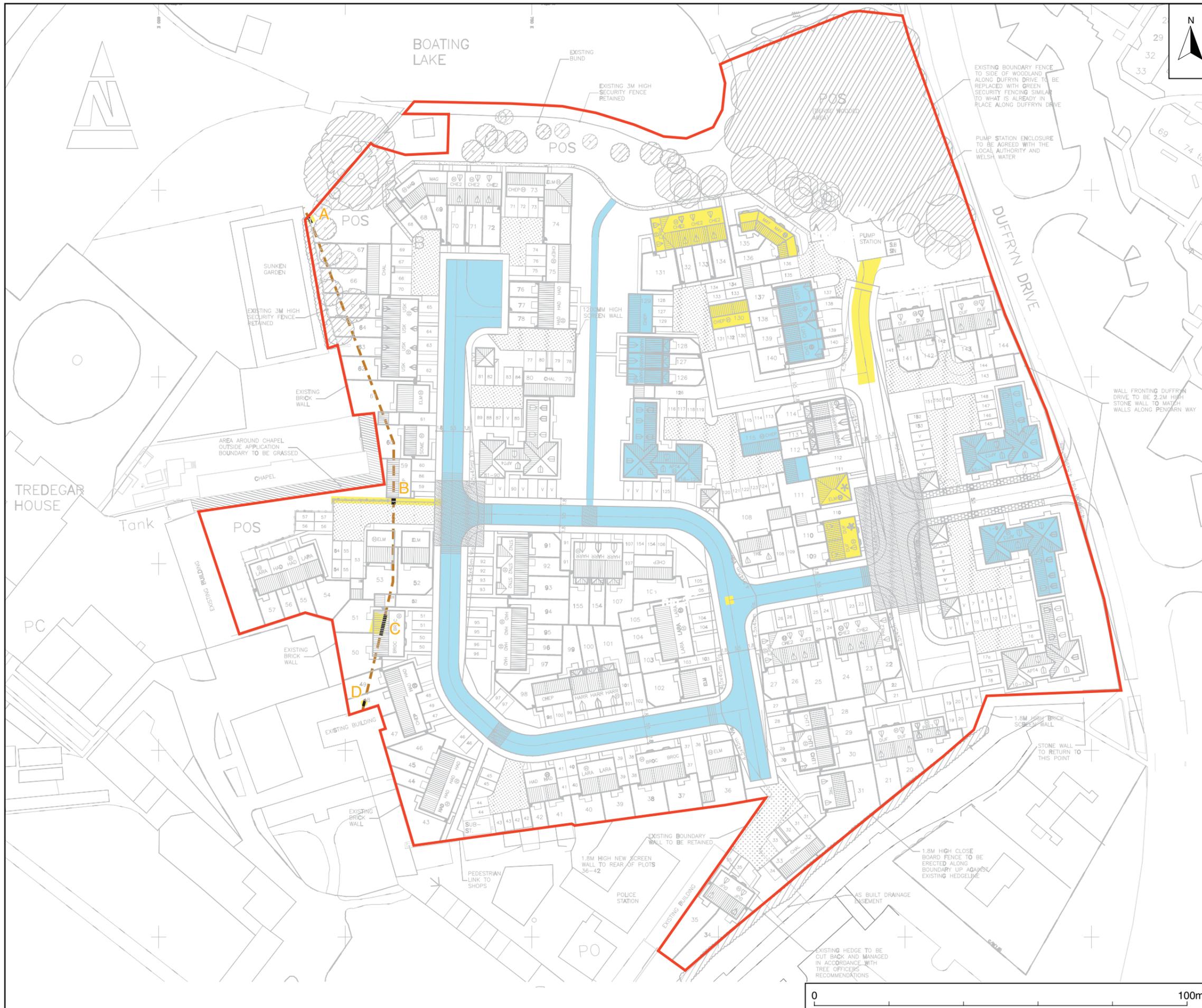
Plot 130-136

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
101	Layer	Modern make up			0.3-1.3	NA
102	Layer	Sand and gravel natural				NA

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 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE Pencarn Village, Duffryn, Newport Gwent			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
PJM	1:25,000@A4	2030	1



- site
- groundworks excavated under archaeological supervision
- groundworks not excavated under archaeological supervision
- pipe identified during excavation
- projected line of pipe



PROJECT TITLE
Pencarn Village, Duffryn, Newport Gwent

FIGURE TITLE
The site showing location of groundworks

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
PJM	1:1000@A3	2030	2



3

3 Pipe identified in Area B, looking west



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Pencarn Village, Duffryn, Newport
Gwent

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

DRAWN BY

PJM

SCALE

n/a

PROJECT NO.

2030

FIGURE NO.

3



4

<p>4 Pipe identified in Area D, looking south</p>	 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY	
	<small>PROJECT TITLE</small> Pencarn Village, Duffryn, Newport Gwent	
	<small>FIGURE TITLE</small> Photograph	
	<small>DRAWN BY</small> PJM	<small>SCALE</small> n/a
		<small>FIGURE NO.</small> 4