

Case Study: A477 St Clears to Red Roses Improvement

The Welsh Assembly Government proposed improvement works along the A477 between St Clears and Red Roses, in Carmarthenshire, southwest Wales. Before the project could start, an assessment of archaeological risk was essential along the entire stretch of road.

AB Heritage Limited was commissioned by Gifford to manage the archaeological and heritage input into the 9.3km long road improvement works.

The initial works involved the production of a full Cultural Heritage Environmental Statement (ES) as part of the EIA. This identified a number of known features of archaeological interest, along with other areas of archaeological potential. These included the scheduled remains of the Dol Garn earthwork enclosure, believed to be of Iron Age or Romano-British date. In addition, AB Heritage identified a number of listed structures (including the Grade II Listed Pont Newydd Bridge), an earthwork at Llanddowror Castell that was historically recorded as a potential motte earthwork, and a large area of prehistoric potential associated with the nearby remains of a Neolithic Henge.

The form, extent and significance of the areas meant AB Heritage led a careful and phased approach to the investigation and management of the historic environment. Working closely with the client, AB Heritage designed and implemented a suitable mitigation strategy, allowing the project to avoid, reduce and compensate for any adverse impact of the proposed development.

As part of the ES works AB Heritage designed a suite of investigation works on behalf of our client to manage the project risk associated with the presence of archaeology. The investigations included progressing a programme of geophysical survey over c. 30 hectares of land, developing a strategy for archaeological evaluation trenching and implementing archaeological strip, map and sample of intrusive groundworks.

AB Heritage also secured Scheduled Monument Consent for our client, associated with the development of the road within the limits of the Dol Garn Scheduled Monument.



Key Factors

- **AB Heritage developed and managed an extensive suite of archaeological works, successfully managing the project risk associated with the presence of significant archaeological remains along the line of the 9.3km stretch of road.**
- **Work included the production of a Cultural Heritage ES and the management of the outline archaeological mitigation strategy. This included management of geophysical survey, development of a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching, agreement for areas of archaeological strip, map and sample, as well as gaining Scheduled Monument Consent and various programmes of historic building recording.**

Client:	Welsh Assembly Government
Location:	Carmarthenshire, South-West Wales
AB Heritage Input:	Cultural Heritage Environmental Statement and Mitigation
Date of AB Heritage Works:	May 2010 - ongoing

