

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **Ogmore Castle, Vale of Glamorgan**

Archaeological Watching Brief



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Report No. 1057

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### Archaeological Watching Brief

Produced for: Cadw

Edited by:

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Date:

Authorised by:

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Position:

Date:

By

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Report No. 1057

March 2012



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## **Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out at Ogmores Castle, St Brides Major, Vale of Glamorgan, on behalf of Cadw. A small and shallow square hole was excavated by sub-contractors of Atlas AV Ltd. as a foundation for an audio interpretation post near to the site entrance. The hole was found to contain several clay pipe stem fragments and small sherds of glazed pottery. After recording the hole was filled with concrete as a base for the metal post. No archaeological features were observed or disturbed during this process.*

## **1. Introduction**

In accordance with instructions provided by Cadw to Atlas AV Ltd, an audio interpretation post was to be inserted in flat ground (10m OD) near the south-western entrance to Ogmores Castle, St Brides Major (NGR: SS 8806 7739, Fig. 1).

The purpose of the watching brief was to record any archaeological features uncovered during the excavation of the hole for the base of the interpretation post.

The watching brief was carried out on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2012 by Dr Iestyn Jones for Archaeology Wales Ltd.

## **2. Historic Background**

Ogmores Castle, a Listed Building and Scheduled Ancient Monument, is located on the southern banks of the Ewenny river in the Vale of Glamorgan. It was established by William of Londres in 1116. The castle became property of the Duchy of Lancaster in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and remained so until 1399 when it was taken by the crown. The castle structure was abandoned in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, however the associated Court House building remained in use until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (RCAHMW 2012).

## **3. Watching Brief Results**

A single hole was excavated to provide a concrete foundation for the metal interpretation post. The hole was located 7.5m north-east of the entrance gate, on the south-western of the site, and 2.4m north of the southern boundary fence (plate 2). The hole measured 0.6m x 0.6m and was hand excavated to a maximum depth of 25cm (plate 1). No archaeological features were observed. A small assemblage of clay pipe stems and glazed post-medieval ceramic sherds (not retained) were revealed 0.2m below ground level. (plate 3) These were found on the surface of a yellow/brown sand containing occasional coal fragments (plate 1). This deposit was excavated for 0.05m, but no further artefacts were recovered.

## **4. Conclusion**

No archaeological features were discovered or disturbed during the excavation of the interpretation post base. The artefacts recovered from the small excavation probably relate to 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century use of the site.

## **5. Acknowledgments**

Thanks to Mr. Alan Williams, Operations Manager (Atlas AV Ltd) for his cooperation during the watching brief.

## 6. Bibliography

RCAHMW. 2008. Coflein. Ogmore Castle, Site details.  
<http://www.coflein.gov.uk/en/site/93019/details/OGMORE+CASTLE/> (Accessed  
21/03/2012).



Fig. 1  
Location of  
interpretation  
board





Scale = 1m and 0.5m

Plate 1.

Hole for base of  
interpretation  
post, showing  
pipe stem  
fragments in situ  
(looking N)





Scale = 1m

Plate 2.

Location of hole.  
Castle in  
background  
(view from SW)





Plate 3.  
Pipe stem  
fragments and  
sherds of  
ceramic vessels

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