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Dublin Core

Title

Seeing Beneath the Sand | Gweld dan y Tywod

Subject

Coastal Archaeology

Archeoleg Arfordirol

Creator

Julian Whitewright

Publisher

Ports, Past and Present Project

Date

2023

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Relation

<https://perma.cc/A79T-A5SG>

Format

Curatescape story

Language

English

Welsh

Coverage

52.003519181794445, -4.988551644357285

Curatescape Story Item Type Metadata

Lede

The beach at Goodwick might appear flat and featureless, but looks can be deceiving.

Lede (Welsh)

Efallai bod y traeth yn Wdig yn ymddangos yn wastad ac yn undonog, ond peidiwch â chael eich twyllo.

Story

Stand on the Parrog at Goodwick when the tide is low and look across to the ferry terminal. Before you lies a large expanse of flat sand, firm to walk on, but with a myriad of ankle-deep puddles. On the far-side, below the steel gantry frame over the road are [the jumbled rocks of an old fishtrap](#). On the sand a few darker shapes can be made out poking through. More rocks? Or perhaps something a little different?

The answer is the latter, for Goodwick Sands are full of archaeological remains. Some are very recent – old keep-pots and mooring footings – while others are older, and for a maritime archaeologist, more interesting. At least two shipwrecks are located here, of which only the ends of the frames and some planks poke through ripples of the sand. They are easy to miss, even when you stand next to them, but their outlines suggest that large sections of ship hull are probably preserved beneath your feet. Their extent is only fully revealed through an overhead photograph.

The first wreck, labelled within the National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW) as ‘Goodwick Wreck 1’ is 100m NE of the Ocean Lab slipway. It is a small ship, around 15m in length and possibly lying on its side – it’s very hard to tell from the visible remains. Recent archaeological fieldwork by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) has been testing archaeological geophysics at the site to see how effective it is when used on a beach. Using this technique on an area with a known, but largely buried, shipwreck is perfect for testing how well that type of archaeological material shows up. The RCAHMW have been doing similar work at Whitesands near St Davids, and Albion Sands near Marloes.

But what about the identity of Goodwick Wreck 1? Currently the name and origin of the ship is unknown. But the NMRW has records of thirty-four vessels lost on Goodwick Sands alone, plus many more in Fishguard Bay. Once we fully understand the archaeological remains, matching it to historical records should be possible. In the meantime, we are always on the look out for old photos, postcards, paintings or other historical records that mention or show ships at Goodwick Sands.

Story (Welsh)

Ewch i sefyll ar y Parrog yn Wdig pan fo'r llanw yn isel ac edrychwch draw am derfynfa y fferi. O'ch blaen, gwelwch ehangder mawr o dywod gwastad, sy'n ddiogon cadarn i chi gerdded arno, ond sy'n cynnwys myrdd o byllau hyd at y fferau. Ar yr ochr bellaf, dan ffrâm y nenbont ddur ar ochr draw y ffordd, gwelir [creigiau cymysg hen fagl bysgod](#). Ar y tywod, gellir gweld ychydig siapiau mwy tywyll yn ymddangos. Rhagor o greigiau? Neu efallai rhywbeth ychydig yn wahanol?

Rhywbeth ychydig yn wahanol yw'r ateb, gan bod Traeth Wdig yn llawn olion archeolegol. Mae rhai yn ddiweddar iawn – hen botiau cadw a sylfeini angorfeydd – ac mae eraill yn hŷn, ac i archeolegydd môr, maent yn fwy diddorol. Lleolir o leiaf ddau longddrylliad yma, a dim ond pen y fframiau a rhai estyllod a welir o'r rhain yng nghrychau'r tywod. Mae'n hawdd eu methu, hyd yn oed pan fyddwch yn sefyll wrth eu hymyl, ond mae eu hamlinelliadau yn awgrymu ei bod yn debygol bod darnau mawr o gorff y llong wedi cael eu diogelu dan eich traed. Dim ond trwy dynnu llun o'r awyr y gellir datgelu eu maint yn llawn.

Mae'r llongddrylliad cyntaf, a gaiff ei labelu yng Nghofnod Henebion Cenedlaethol Cymru (NMRW) fel 'Llongddrylliad 1 Wdig', 100m i'r gogledd-ddwyrain o lithrfa Ocean Lab. Mae'n llong fechan, tua 15m o hyd ac yn gorwedd ar ei hochr o bosibl – mae'n anodd iawn dweud o'r olion sydd yn y golwg. Mae gwaith maes archeolegol a gynhaliwyd yn ddiweddar gan Gomisiwn Brenhinol Henebion Cymru (RCAHMW) wedi bod yn profi geoffiseg archeolegol ar y safle er mwyn gweld pa mor effeithiol ydyw pan gaiff ei ddefnyddio ar draeth. Mae defnyddio'r dechneg hon mewn safle y mae'n hysbys ei fod yn cynnwys llongddrylliad, ond y mae'r rhan fwyaf ohono dan y wyneb, yn berffaith er mwyn profi pa mor dda y mae'r math hwnnw o ddeunydd archeolegol yn ymddangos. Mae RCAHMW wedi bod yn gwneud gwaith tebyg ym Mhorth Mawr ger Tyddewi ac ar Draeth Albion ger Marloes.

Ond beth am fanylion Llongddrylliad 1 Wdig? Ar hyn o bryd, nid yw enw a chefnidir y llong yn hysbys. Ond mae NMRW yn cynnwys cofnodion am dri deg pedwar o longau a gollwyd ar Draeth Wdig yn unig, a nifer fwy ym Mae Abergwaun. Pan fyddwn yn deall yr olion archeolegol yn llawn, dylai fod modd eu cyfateb gyda chofnodion hanesyddol. Yn y cyfamser, rydym wastad yn chwilio am hen ffotograffau, cardiau post, darluniau neu gofnodion hanesyddol eraill sy'n cyfeirio at neu sy'n dangos llongau ar Draeth Wdig.

Factoid

Related Resources

“Goodwick Wreck 1”, Coflein, CBHC / RCAHMW, accessed March 24, 2022, <https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/416723/>.

“Goowick Wreck 2”, Coflein, CBHC / RCAHMW, accessed March 24, 2022, <https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/704003/>.

“Fishguard Harbour North-west Fish Trap”, Coflein, CBHC / RCAHMW, accessed March 24, 2022, <https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/407699/>.

Jeremy Martineau and Natasha de Chroustchhoff, “The Ancient Fish Traps of Fishguard Bay | Trapiau pysgod hynafol ym Mae Abergwaun,” *Ports, Past and Present*, accessed March 24, 2022, <https://portspastpresent.eu/items/show/467>.

Official Website

<https://rcahmw.gov.uk/>