

## **Evaluation at Dinefwr Park, Llandeilo**

### **Non-Technical Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Dinefwr Park, on the site of a proposed toilet and shower block within a planned caravan park. The park lies within the confines of a walled garden, and is near to the site of the newly discovered Roman fort within Dinefwr Park. No features of archaeological significance were revealed, and no finds recovered.*

### **Introduction**

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of the construction of a toilet and shower block on the site of a planned caravan park, adjacent to Dinefwr Farm (SN 62063 22949). The evaluation was undertaken primarily to ascertain the depth of the topsoil, and therefore the depth at which any surviving archaeology might be found. Preservation in situ was considered to be the preferred management option for archaeology on the site, and consequently any archaeological features encountered were to be recorded but not excavated.

The work was undertaken by Dr Amelia Pannett of Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

The work was undertaken to a Specification prepared by Amelia Pannett for Cambrian Archaeological Projects against a Brief prepared by Charles Hill at Cambria Archaeological Trust.

All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and Guidance: for an archaeological watching briefs* and current Health and Safety legislation.

### **Background**

The site of the planned caravan park lies within a walled garden that once functioned to provide vegetables and flower for Dinefwr House. The garden is currently overgrown and dilapidated, having suffered from many years of neglect. The walls that bound the garden are falling down in many places, and the whole internal area of the garden has been subjected to deep ploughing. The current owners plan to revamp the site, creating a park for touring caravans.

### **Archaeological evaluation**

The evaluation involved the excavation of a 10m long by 2m wide trench across the centre of the proposed building, to the top of the natural surface. The trench was excavated using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket, under close archaeological supervision. The trench was subsequently cleaned by hand.

The topsoil was found to be deep, between 450mm and 550mm in depth. It comprised a dark brown organic soil containing numerous inclusions of modern material, particularly coal, glass and terracotta pot. At the base of the topsoil, a thin subsoil was identified in patches across the trench; light grey brown and clayey, this appear to be the result of ploughing mixing the topsoil and natural yellow/orange clay. The natural soil comprised a fairly compact yellow/orange clay, with no evident features cut into it. Compact deposits of coal were found embedded into the surface of the natural in

the SE corner of the trench, but these lifted easily during cleaning and did not conceal any features.

The only finds were modern: coal, glass and terracotta pot.

### **Conclusions**

The evaluation revealed no archaeological remains. The recorded depth of the topsoil, and the evidence for deep ploughing in the area demonstrates that the proposed development is unlikely to encounter or impact on any archaeology.

### **Acknowledgements**

Thanks to Mr and Mrs Spencer for their patience with the process and their assistance on site, and to Charles Hill at Cambria Archaeology for his advice during the writing of the specification.