

Non Technical Summary

The following report is the result of work undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd. on behalf of Len Alban on a new housing development at New Inn, Pencader, Carmarthenshire. The site lies on the main road between Carmarthen and Lampeter some 2 miles northeast of Pencader.

During the course of the watching brief no archaeological features or deposits were revealed.

1 Introduction

The following text details the findings and work undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd. on an archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to Maes Y Coed, New Inn, Pencader, Carmarthenshire (SN4710036600) (Figs. 1, 2 & 3).

CAP Ltd. were invited to submit a tender for an archaeological watching brief, in accordance with the project brief prepared by Cambria Archaeology – Heritage Management (CA-HM). This tender was successful and the work was carried out accordingly by CAP Ltd. in December 2002.

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

1.1 Planning Background

An archaeological condition was attached to planning application TM/01884 in line with PG (W) and the Welsh Office Circular 60/96 – 'Planning and Historic Environment: Archaeology'.

1.2 Site Description

The site of the proposed application is one of archaeological interest as the site may contain the buried archaeology containing the possible remains of a Roman Road. Known segments of the road exist at: SN48369388246 to 4812938553; SN4776637858 to 4767837658; SN4762537533 to 4759637492; SN4748537250 to 4733236944. The line of the road runs in a northeast-southwest direction roughly following the Teifi Valley (Fig. 4).

1.3 Soils and Geology

According to the soil survey of England and Wales the main soil association is that of Denbigh 1 which is a well drained fine loamy and fine silty soil over rock. The underlying geology is that of the Llandovery Series.

1.3 Landuse

Prior to the development the land was used as rough pasture.

2 Aims and Objectives

In accordance with IFA's *Standards and guidance*, the primary objective of this watching brief was to ensure that any previously unrecorded archaeological features and deposits exposed during the ground disturbance works and subsequent development of the site were adequately recorded and interpreted.

3 Methodology

A mechanical excavator with a 1m wide toothed bucket was used for the removal of topsoil, surface material and vegetation to a maximum depth of 0.2 m.

The archaeological contractor then '*field walked*' the area to recover any dateable material which was evident on the surface and to identify any exposed features.

After this initial ground clearance, the foundation trenches were excavated using a mechanical digger with a 0.6m toothed bucket, to a maximum depth of 1m below the present ground surface.

Inspection and limited cleaning of the trenches was then undertaken in order to ascertain whether or not archaeological features were present.

Where features were present, limited excavation was undertaken to establish the date, depth, preservation, extent, function and relationship to other features.

Recording of the trenches was in three formats:

- i) *Photographic record* - Photographs were taken in 35mm Colour slide and Digital formats
- ii) *Drawn record* - Site drawings, plans and sections, were produced at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 on drafting film. Finished drawings have been related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.
- iii) *Written record* - Written records were produced using a continuous numbering sequence for all contexts.

An environmental sampling and sampling and processing strategy was in place should the archaeological deposits warrant it.

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

4 Results of the Watching Brief

Numbers in brackets in the following section refer to context numbers allocated during the watching brief.

The initial topsoil stripping (Plate 1) of the site revealed no archaeological features or deposits. The underlying subsoil (2) consisted of a red/brown fine silty clay and extended to a depth of 0.4m below the present ground surface. Excavation of the foundation trenches revealed only the natural bedrock between 0.4m to 1m below the present ground surface (Plates 2 and 3).

5 Conclusions

During the watching brief no archaeological features or deposits were located within the development area. It is therefore likely that any remains of the suspected Roman Road lie to the south of the development area possibly following the line of the existing road.

6 Acknowledgements

Thanks to Kevin Blockley for his help and advice during the compilation of this report and also to Len Alban and the on site contractors for their help and compliance.

7 References

7.1 References

Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief, Cambria Archaeology Heritage Management. TM/01884 Proposed Residential Dwelling on land adjacent to Maes Y Coed, New Inn, Pencader.

IFA Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief

7.2 Cartographic Sources

British Geological Service, 1979, *Geological Survey Ten Mile Map: South Sheet*. BGS.

Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983, *Soils of England and Wales: Sheet 2 Wales*. SSEW.