

LAND AT BROCASTLE
BRIDGEND
BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH

PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

CA PROJECT: 1818
CA REPORT: 04197

Author:	Derek Evans
Approved:	Clifford Bateman
Signed:
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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25 000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:5000)

SUMMARY

Site Name: Land at Brocastle
Location: Bridgend, Bridgend County Borough
NGR: SS 935 775
Type: Programme of archaeological recording
Date: September to November 2004
Location of Archive: To be deposited with the National Museum of Wales
Site Code: BRB 04

A programme of archaeological recording was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology (CA) during groundworks associated with business and industrial development and the construction of a new roundabout junction at Brocastle, Bridgend, Bridgend County Borough.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and no artefactual material predating the modern period was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between September and November 2004 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out a programme of archaeological recording for WynThomasGordonLewis (on behalf of the Welsh Development Agency) on land at Brocastle, Bridgend, Bridgend County Borough (centred on NGR: SS 935 775; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 Planning permissions were granted for business and industrial development of the land and the installation of a new roundabout junction off the A48, on condition that a programme of archaeological recording was undertaken during construction works for the new roundabout and associated access roads and during the excavation of storm and foul water drainage services around the site perimeter. The objective of the archaeological work was to record any archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.3 The archaeological fieldwork was carried out in accordance with a brief for archaeological recording prepared by Mr Neil Maylan, Senior Development Control Officer for the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (Curatorial Division) and with a subsequent written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2004) that was approved by the local planning authority acting on the advice of Mr Maylan. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999).

The site

- 1.4 The site currently comprises enclosed agricultural land, predominately pasture, with occasional outbuildings. It is sited immediately north of the A48 (Fig. 2).
- 1.5 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as Porthkerry Formation of the Lower Lias period (BGS 1990).

Archaeological background

- 1.6 The site has been the subject of a Cultural Heritage Assessment which consulted all available archaeological and historical information to summarise the archaeological

potential of the area (CAT 1997). The reader is directed towards this document for an in-depth study of the site's history; a summary of this research follows:

- 1.7 Although the development area lies close to the former route of the Romano-British road from Cardiff to Carmarthen and within an area of known archaeological potential, no archaeological sites or artefacts are recorded within the proposed development area itself, excepting buildings recorded on the 1840 tithe and apportionment map.

Methodology

- 1.8 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2004). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks, comprising the mechanical excavations for the new roundabout footprint and associated access roads (Area 4), two drainage channels around the site's perimeter (Areas 1 and 5), and the excavation of two 'borrow pits' (Areas 2 and 3). A small distance of the drainage channel and associated pumping station at the north-western limit of the site and the area through the existing farm yard in the south were not monitored (see Fig. 2 for location and extent).
- 1.9 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with the CA Technical Manual 1: *Excavation Recording Manual* (1996).
- 1.10 Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the finds and site archive will be deposited with the National Museum of Wales.

2. RESULTS

- 2.1 A broadly analogous stratigraphic sequence was identified within the five excavated areas. Geological substrate, comprising broken mudstone in a blue clay matrix, was revealed within Areas 1 and 5 at a depth of 1.3m-1.5m below the present ground level (BPGL). A comparable deposit was also recorded in Area 3 at a noticeably higher level (0.5m BPGL).

- 2.2 This deposit was sealed by natural yellow clays which varied in thickness from 0.25m in Area 3 to 1.1m deep in Area 1. This natural clay was the earliest deposit encountered in Area 4. It was sealed throughout the observed groundworks by a silty clay subsoil which in turn was overlain by the modern topsoil.
- 2.3 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the observed groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material predating the modern period was recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), no archaeological deposits or features were observed during the current groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that remains associated with the Romano-British activity in the area do not extend as far as the current development area. Additionally, given the shallow nature of the groundworks undertaken closest to the presumed former route of the Romano-British road (the main body of the roundabout footprint, Area 4, was excavated to subsoil level only), it is likely that any archaeological deposits which may exist within the development area were not exposed, and may therefore remain *in situ*.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 4.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Michael Rowe and Derek Evans. This report was compiled by Derek Evans. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Derek Evans and Michael Rowe, and prepared for deposition by Sam Inder. The project was managed for CA by Clifford Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1990 *England and Wales, Sheet 262: Bridgend*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2004 *Land at Brocastle, Bridgend: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Recording*

CAT (Cotswold Archaeological Trust) 1997 *Brocastle Farm, Bridgend: Archaeological Assessment* Typescript Report No. **97493**

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area 1	
101	Topsoil – mid greyish-brown clayey silt. Depth 0.15m
102	Subsoil – similar to 101, but lighter in colour and clayier in composition. Depth 0.25m
103	Natural substrate – pale grey-yellow slightly silty clay; some mudstone present. Depth 1.1m
104	Mudstone in a dark blue clayey matrix. Depth >2m
Area 2	
201	Topsoil – mid greyish-brown clayey silt. Depth 0.25m
202	Subsoil – similar to 201, but lighter in colour and clayier in composition. Depth >50mm
Area 3	
301	Topsoil – mid greyish-brown clayey silt. Depth 0.25m
302	Subsoil – similar to 301, but lighter in colour and clayier in composition. Depth 0.1m
303	Natural substrate – pale grey-yellow slightly silty clay; some mudstone present. Depth 0.25m
304	Mudstone in a dark blue clayey matrix
Area 4	
401	Topsoil – mid greyish-brown clayey silt. Depth 0.25m
402	Subsoil – similar to 401, but lighter in colour and clayier in composition. Depth 0.1m
403	Natural substrate – pale grey-yellow slightly silty clay; some mudstone present. Depth >0.55m. Exposed in eastern arm of access road; main body of roundabout excavated to subsoil level only
Area 5	
501	Topsoil – mid greyish-brown clayey silt. Depth 0.2m
502	Subsoil – similar to 501, but lighter in colour and clayier in composition. Depth 0.2m
503	Natural substrate – pale grey-yellow slightly silty clay; some mudstone present. Depth 0.9m
504	Mudstone in a dark blue clayey matrix. Depth >2.2m