

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST LTD



**WESLEY
CHAPEL
JOHN STREET, CARMARTHEN**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
DAT RECORD No. 115
JULY 1995

Commissioned by: Jollypark Limited

Report by: K. Murphy and N.D.Ludlow
of
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd
The Shire Hall
8 Carmarthen Street
Llandeilo
Dyfed SA19 6AF

Tel (01558) 823121

Fax (01558) 823133



REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING-BRIEF CARRIED OUT AT WESLEY
HOUSE, JOHN STREET, CARMARTHEN, DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW
JOB CENTRE

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST PROJECT NO. 115

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Content and scope of the watching-brief

1.2 Purpose and methodologies of the watching-brief

2.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING-BRIEF

2.1 Archaeological interest

2.2 Results of the watching-brief

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On 2 March 1995 Dyfed Archaeological Trust received a letter from Liberty Properties Limited in which Liberty Properties Limited stated that they were the intended developers of a site known as Wesley House, John Street, Carmarthen. A condition in their valid planning permission required them to implement a programme of archaeological work. Following correspondence on the proposed programme of archaeological work, Dyfed Archaeological Trust was employed by Jollypark Limited to undertake necessary watching-brief.

1.1 Content and scope of the watching-brief

An archaeological watching-brief is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during an operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons - normally a development or other construction project - within a specified area where archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report.

The watching-brief will be intended to allow, subject to resources, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits in advance of their disturbance or destruction and to provide an opportunity, if necessary, for the watching archaeologist to alert all interested parties to the presence of an archaeological find for which the resources allocated to the watching-brief are insufficient to support satisfactory treatment.

The watching-brief is not intended as a substitute for contingent excavation.

The client will be supplied with 3 copies of an archaeological report of the results of the watching-brief. The report will be fully representative of all the information recovered. A copy of the report will also be deposited with the Dyfed Sites and Monuments Record housed with the Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

1.2 Purpose and methodologies of the watching-brief

The purpose of the watching-brief is to undertake as complete a record as possible of any archaeological features affected by the client's scheme of works. In the case of larger archaeological sites it will seldom be possible or necessary to undertake a record of the entire site; the record will be undertaken only on those areas of the site that may be affected. The work will be closely observed by an archaeologist from the Field Operations section who will also undertake a full drawn, written and photographic record of any archaeological features which may be disturbed by the scheme, and any artefact or find exposed during the works. Recording will be carried out where necessary and when convenient: it is the Field Operations section's aim to minimise any disruption to the client's schedule. However, if archaeological features may be lost during the scheme, it may be necessary for the Field Operations section to request a postponement of the works in order that the archaeology may be recorded. Larger areas affected may require fuller excavation and/or survey.

2 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING-BRIEF

2.1 Archaeological interest

There is a threefold archaeological interest in the site: first, the probability that buried remains associated with the Ebenezer Chapel (Welsh Wesleyan Chapel) built in 1824 may be found; second, the possibility that the chapel may have been built over the line of a Civil War defence or bulwark, and third, the expectation that organic deposits containing important palaeoenvironmental evidence will be encountered - in the Medieval Period the area comprised a marsh.

2.2 Results of the watching-brief

Prior to the digging of new foundation trenches, Wesley Chapel had been demolished, the site cleared of rubble and debris and a thin layer of hardcore laid. Several site visits were made during piling operations to assess the nature of deep deposits, but it was not until the excavation of the foundation trenches that any systematic archaeological examination of the site was undertaken.

Footings of Wesley House were noted in several of the new foundation trenches, but nothing else of interest associated with the building was observed. On the north and north-east side of the site subsoil consisting of yellow orange/yellow silty clay lay close to the surface and was interleaved with bands of silts, fine gravels and other fluvio-glacial deposits. On the south side of the site the foundation trenches cut through building debris of late nineteenth and twentieth century date.

Nothing of archaeological interest was noted during the watching-brief. There was no evidence for buried remains associated with the chapel apart from the wall foundations noted above, nor was there any evidence for a Civil War defence. No organic deposits were noted. No archaeological features were recorded and no artefacts recovered.