

# **LLANFAIR GRANGE, LLANDOVERY**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Report No. 2002/78

Report Prepared for:  
MR. R STANLEY

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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LLANFAIR GRANGE, LLANDOVERY

By

Hubert Wilson

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ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA  
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf  
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF  
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121  
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131  
Ffacs: 01558 823133  
Ebost: cambria@acadat.com Gwefan: www.acadat.com

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY  
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited  
The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF  
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121  
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131  
Fax: 01558 823133  
Email: cambria@acadat.com Website: www.acadat.com

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## **LLANFAIR GRANGE, LLANDOVERLY**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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## **SUMMARY**

A proposal to extend the Llanfair Grange Residential Home in Llandovery, Carmarthenshire (PRN 20488 - NGR SN 76993510), was submitted by the owner to the Local Planning Authority. Because the grange sits in the middle of the site of the Roman fort of *Alabum*, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (PRN 4072 - SAM Carm 188), permission was granted with the condition that all works be archaeologically monitored. A watching brief was maintained on all ground disturbance works and this revealed a small number of deposits, which all probably date from around the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. There were no deposits associated with the Roman fort.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 PROJECT COMMISSION**

The owner of Llanfair Grange Residential Home, Mr R Stanley, applied to the Local Planning Authority, for permission to construct a two storey extension at the southwest end of the grange. Permission, with attached conditions was granted. One of the conditions was that the work was carried out with archaeological monitoring. The developer commissioned Cambria Archaeology Field Operations to carry out the monitoring works.

### **1.2 SCOPE OF PROJECT**

The project comprised a watching brief on all ground disturbance works to ensure the adequate recording of any archaeological features or deposits exposed during the ground disturbance works. This report was prepared based on the results of the watching brief.

### **1.3 REPORT OUTLINE**

This report describes the physical environment of the site (Section 2) before outlining the watching brief results and the conclusions (Section 3).

### **1.4 ABBREVIATIONS**

Sites recorded on the county Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) will be identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR).

Archaeological features and contexts will be referred to using the continuous numbering system (e.g. 1; 2; 3 – Fig. 2)) employed by Cambria Archaeology Field Section.

## 2. THE SITE

### 2.1 LOCATION

Llanfair Grange (PRN 20488) lies at NGR SN 76993510, within the site of the Roman fort at Llandovery (*Alabum* - PRN 4072; NGR SN76963517; SAM Carm 188). The Grange sits in landscaped gardens that slope from north to south, or from the back of the property to the front. The main building had been terraced into the slope and the area of the watching brief was at the southwest end of the property.

The Grange was constructed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and has been known by various names throughout its history. In the 1840s it was known as Sackville Place and in 1884 it was described as 'Llanfair, formerly called St Mary's Cottage' (Jones 1987, 101). Formerly a hotel the grange is now run as a residential home.

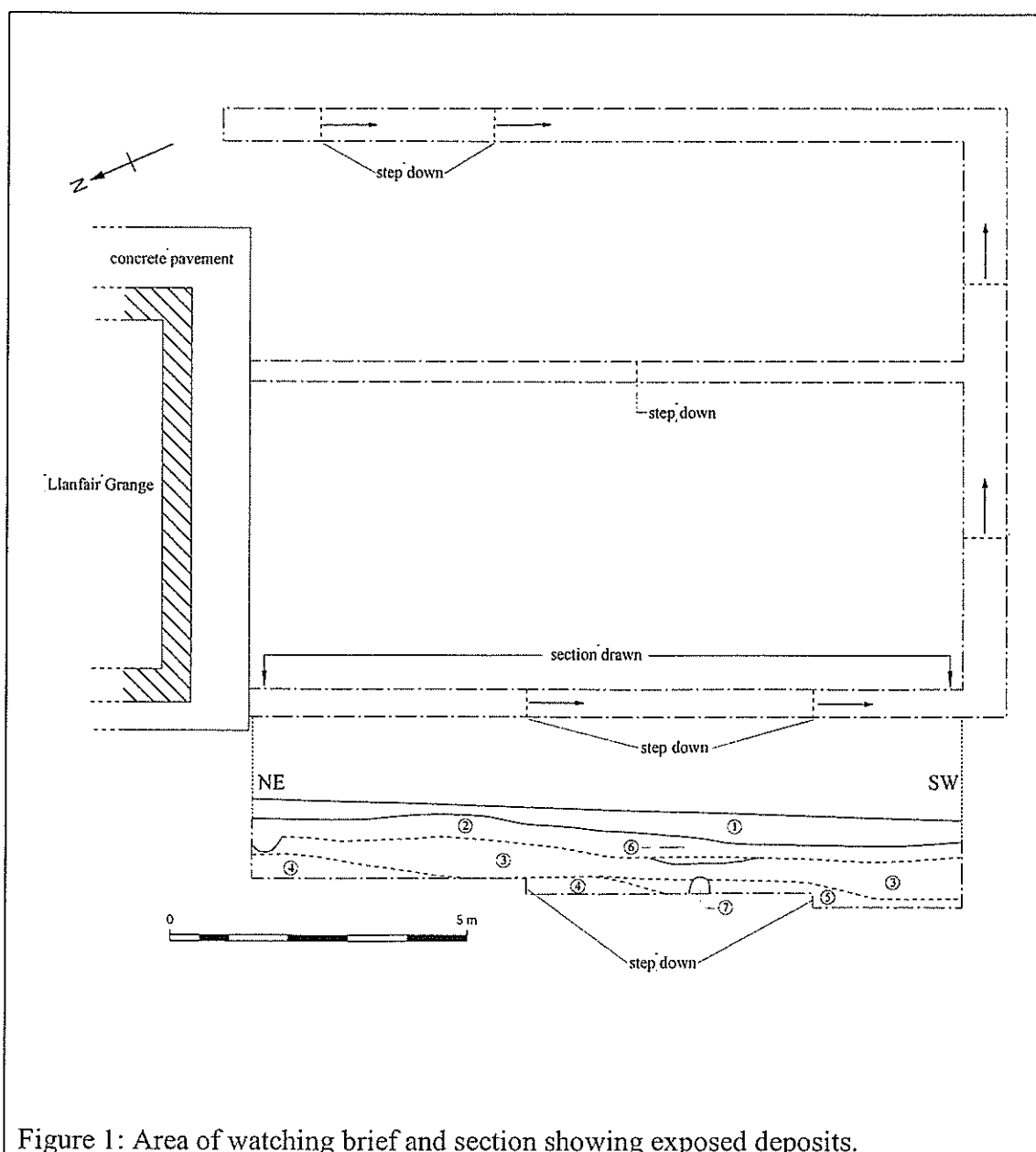


Figure 1: Area of watching brief and section showing exposed deposits.

### **3. THE WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS**

#### **3.1 METHODS**

The new extension was constructed in an area previously used as a tarmac driveway and parking. The existing tarmac surface was broken up and removed by mechanical excavator. Following the removal of the road and its sub-structure the foundation and service trenches for the extension were machine excavated. The resultant sections of the trenches were examined for features or deposits of archaeological interest.

#### **3.2 THE RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF (Fig. 2)**

The removal of the existing tarmac surface revealed a layer of loose chippings and a thin layer of sand that made up the sub-structure of the surface (1). This overlay a mixed layer of loam soil, ash and cinders (2), which in turn overlay a small deposit containing 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery and shell (6) that appeared to have been within a truncated pit. Below layer (2) and deposit (6) was a layer, up to 0.4m thick, of grey silty clay, which overlay the natural clay subsoil (5) and the weathered shale bedrock (4). A small stone-filled feature (7), which may have been a small drain cut clay layer (5).

Apart from the insertion of feature (7), the natural clay subsoil (5) and the bedrock (4) were undisturbed, although they did appear to 'step down' towards the southwest, suggesting that the area may have been terraced in the past. A recent watching brief to the rear of the property recorded that the area was terraced in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when the Grange was built (Page 1999, 1), and it seems likely that the terracing noted here dates from that time. Despite being located within the boundaries of the Roman fort of *Alabum*, there was no evidence to suggest that any of the deposits exposed during the watching brief were anything other than modern.

## **APPENDIX ONE: CATALOGUE OF WATCHING BRIEF ARCHIVE**

The project archive has been indexed and catalogued according to National Monument Record (NMR) categories and contains the following:

- A.** Copy of final report.
- D.** Site photographs – digital images.
- I.** Archive report and draft copies of final report.
- J.** Publication drawings.
- M.** Miscellaneous correspondence.

There is no material in categories **B, C, E, F, G, H, K, L** and **N**.

The archive is currently held by Cambria Archaeology Field Operations, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire as project number 46409.

## SOURCES

- Jones F      1987    *Historic Carmarthenshire Homes and Their Families.*  
Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society. Dyfed County  
Council. Carmarthen.
- Page N      1999    'Llanfair Grange, Llandovery, Carmarthenshire: archaeological  
watching brief'. Unpublished Cambria Archaeology report for  
Mr. Stanley. Llandeilo. Project Record No. 36148.

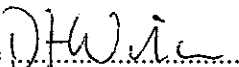
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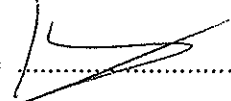
This report has been prepared by Hubert Wilson

Position Archaeologist

Signature  Date 8.11.02

This report has been checked and approved by Ken Murphy on behalf of Cambria Archaeology,  
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position Principal Archaeologist - Field Operations

Signature  Date 08/11/02

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