

APRIL 2003



FAIRY BANK, BETHESDA, NARBERTH

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Report No. 2003/47

Report Prepared for:
WILLIS AND HOLE LTD

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2003/47
PROJECT RECORD NO. 47834

APRIL 2003

FAIRY BANK, BETHESDA,
NARBERTH

By

H Wilson and K Murphy

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Our Record No. 47834
Our Report No. 2003/47

7 April 2003

Archaeological watching brief on a new agricultural building at Fairy Bank, Bethesda, near Narberth (SN1065718600)

In a letter to Pembrokeshire County Council dated 20 November 2002 Lucy Rowley-Williams, Development Control Officer of Cambria Archaeology, recommended that a pre-determination archaeological evaluation should be carried out on the proposed site of a new agricultural building at Fairy Bank, Bethesda, near Narberth.

The proposed building lay on the projected line of the Roman road west of Carmarthen. This road line had been plotted from aerial photographs taken in the early 1990s. Although intermittent, the road can be traced with confidence from Carmarthen to just west of Wiston, Pembrokeshire. Around Fairy Bank the sections of road are frequent, and therefore its course can be projected with confidence.

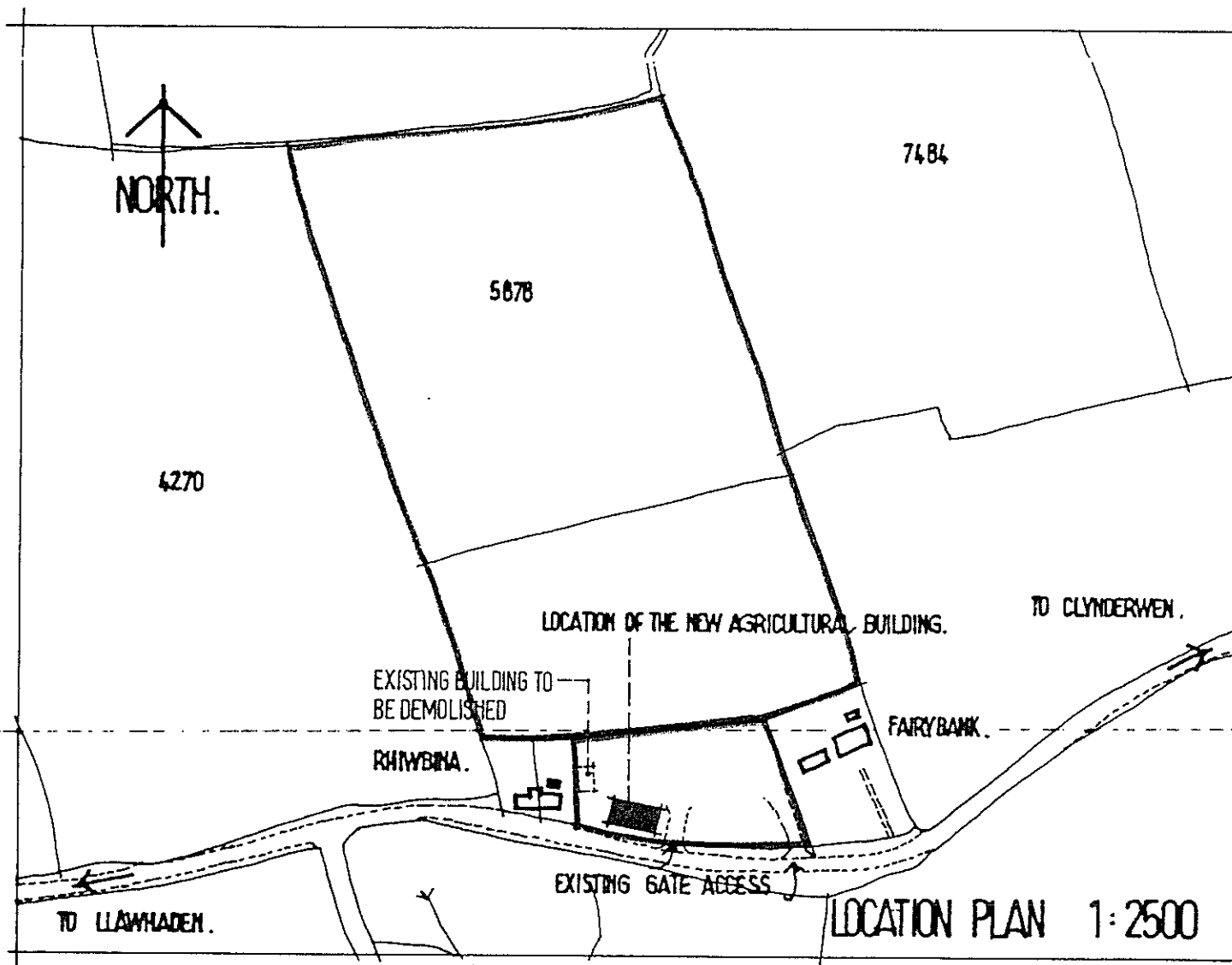
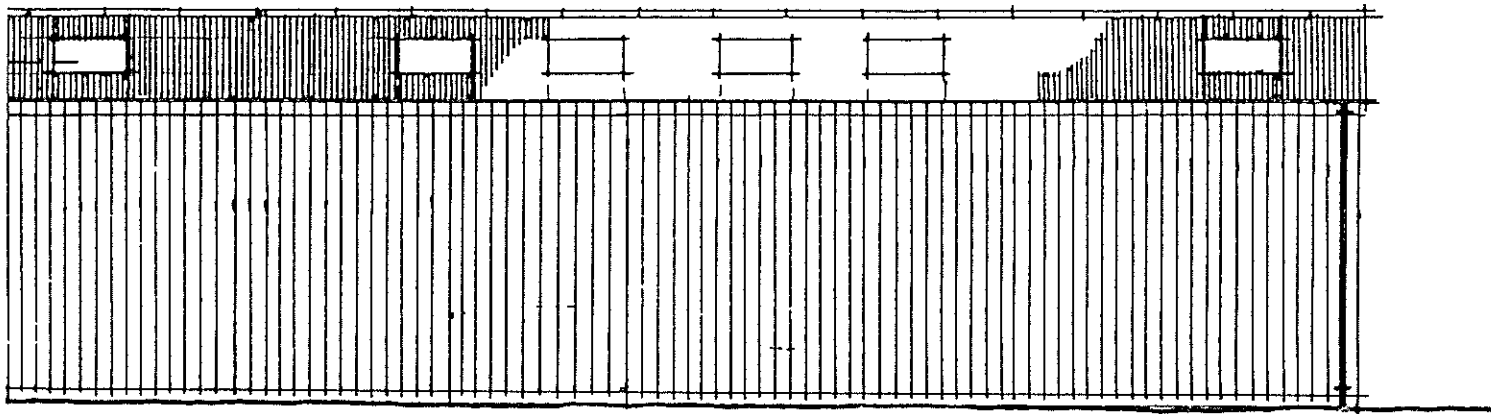
The project architects agreed to re-site the proposed building some 20-25m to the south of the road, thereby negating the need for pre-determination evaluation. However, the Development Control Officer recommended that an archaeological watching brief should be maintained during ground-works of the new buildings. H Wilson of Cambria Archaeology carried out the watching brief on 31 March 2003 by means of two site visits.

Topsoil had been partly scraped away prior to the watching brief. Excavation of the c. 9m long east-end wall and c. 9m long west-end wall foundation trenches were observed. The open foundation trenches of c. 18m south-side wall and a medial wall parallel to the end walls were observed following their excavation. The proposed building will be open on its northern side, and therefore no foundations were here required. All the excavated trenches were approximately 0.4m to 0.5m wide and 0.6m deep. Nothing of archaeological interest was noted. Below topsoil lay undisturbed geological deposits consisting of a yellowish silty-clay containing occasional small-medium sized angular stones. These stones were more frequent towards the bottom of the trenches suggesting that the underlying Ordovician shale bedrock was not too far down.

It would seem therefore that moving the building 20m – 25m to the south of its original proposed site preserved archaeological deposits associated with the Roman road.

Yours sincerely

Ken Murphy
enclosed: architect's plan showing location of building



REV. A. Height to eaves reduced & building re-positioned.

17.12.2002

PROPOSED NEW AGRICULTURAL BUILDING ON LAND ADJACENT TO FAIRYBANK,

PROPOSED PLANS AND ELEVATIONS.

SCALE. 1:100.

DATE. 11.6.2002.

JOB. 1303 / 01.A

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NARBERTH**

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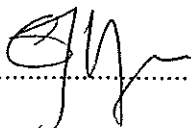
This report has been prepared by K. Murphy

Position Principal Archaeologists

Signature  Date 7/09/03

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

Position Trust Director

Signature  Date 7/4/03

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may have
on the content or presentation of this report