

# **A MINE WATCHING POST NEAR WATERSTON, PEMBROKESHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING**

**DECEMBER 2004**



Report No. 2004/114

Paratowyd gan Archaeoleg Cambria  
ar gyfer Posford Haskoning.  
Prepared by Cambria Archaeology  
for Posford Haskoning



**ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY**

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**Rhagfyr 2004**  
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**[NEAR WATERSTON, PEMBROKESHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING**

**Gan / By**

**Duncan Schlee**

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Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau sydd gennych ar  
gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

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

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## **1.0 SUMMARY**

Recording of the standing remains of a Second World War 'mine watchers post' (PRN34964) at SM3908604553 was undertaken by Cambria Archaeology in December 2004. The recording of this feature had been identified as part of the mitigation for potential impacts upon archaeological features identified during an earlier environmental impact assessment (also undertaken by Cambria Archaeology) for the Dragon Liquid Natural Gas storage terminal at Waterston, Milford Haven.

## **2.0 INTRODUCTION**

This document is an interim report on the recording of standing remains of a mine watchers post located at SM3908604553, adjacent to the Dragon LNG storage facility. At the time of recording, detailed development plans indicated that the feature was no longer threatened by the development. Nevertheless, the recording was undertaken to ensure against any subsequent damage to the site or changes to the development plan.

In this report internal and external elevations and a ground plan are presented, along with a description of the building fabric. No attempt to discuss the nature and extent of military sites in the region generally will be made at this juncture. This work will eventually form part of a larger report (Cambria Archaeology, forthcoming).

### **2.1 Background information**

This feature was identified by Roger Thomas (Thomas, 1994, RT no. 159) as part of the survey of military sites in Pembrokeshire, but has been inaccessible until recently due to thick overgrowth. The building is presumed to be associated with the Second World War site at Newton Wear and the mine depot at RNAD Blackbridge, Milford Haven (PRN 28801).

Although little can be said, concerning the feature specifically, beyond a description of its form and fabric, it is recognised that the importance of such features have until recently been undervalued as a cultural and historical resource. Many Second World War sites have been redeveloped or have deteriorated in condition beyond repair. Coastal defences have also been subject to damage from coastal erosion and vandalism.

While in isolation, small individual sites may not appear worthy of special consideration, together they represent the remains of extensive defence and communications networks developed during the First and Second World Wars, of which surprisingly little evidence and understanding remains. The feature was therefore identified as under potential threat in the initial stages of the development proposals and the production of an archaeological record of the feature was recommended.

### **2.2 Methodology**

Ivy and bramble growth was removed from the interior and exterior of the building before a photographic record was undertaken. All external and internal elevations were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and a measured ground plan was made. In the light of the nature of the feature and the absence of immediate threat to the fabric, no further recording was necessary. A description of the fabric and form of the building was prepared (see below).

### **2.3 Description of the building**

The mine watchers post is a small, red brick built rectangular building with a concrete roof. It is mostly intact and in generally good condition. It is positioned on the brink of the coastal slopes, with views overlooking Milford Haven, primarily to the south, but also to the southeast and southwest.

The building is rectangular, in plan measuring 2.52m on its south and north sides by 2.0m on the east and west sides. The walls are 0.35m thick. It consists of one room internally measuring 1.83m by 1.35m. Due to a build-up of soil around and within the feature, the total height of the building was not ascertained with certainty, but 2.12m currently stands above ground level. The bricks measure 0.23m by 0.08m by 0.11m and are laid as alternate headers and stretchers, with a single course of headers at the level of the window openings. 20 courses are visible above ground level. No laid interior floor surface was observed.

The post is entered through a door opening (0.54m wide) on the north side but a red brick 'blast wall' (1.70m by 0.35m) is constructed to the north, forming a passage (0.60m wide) allowing access from the east and west (see Figure 1). Some bricks have fallen from the upper ends of the blast wall.

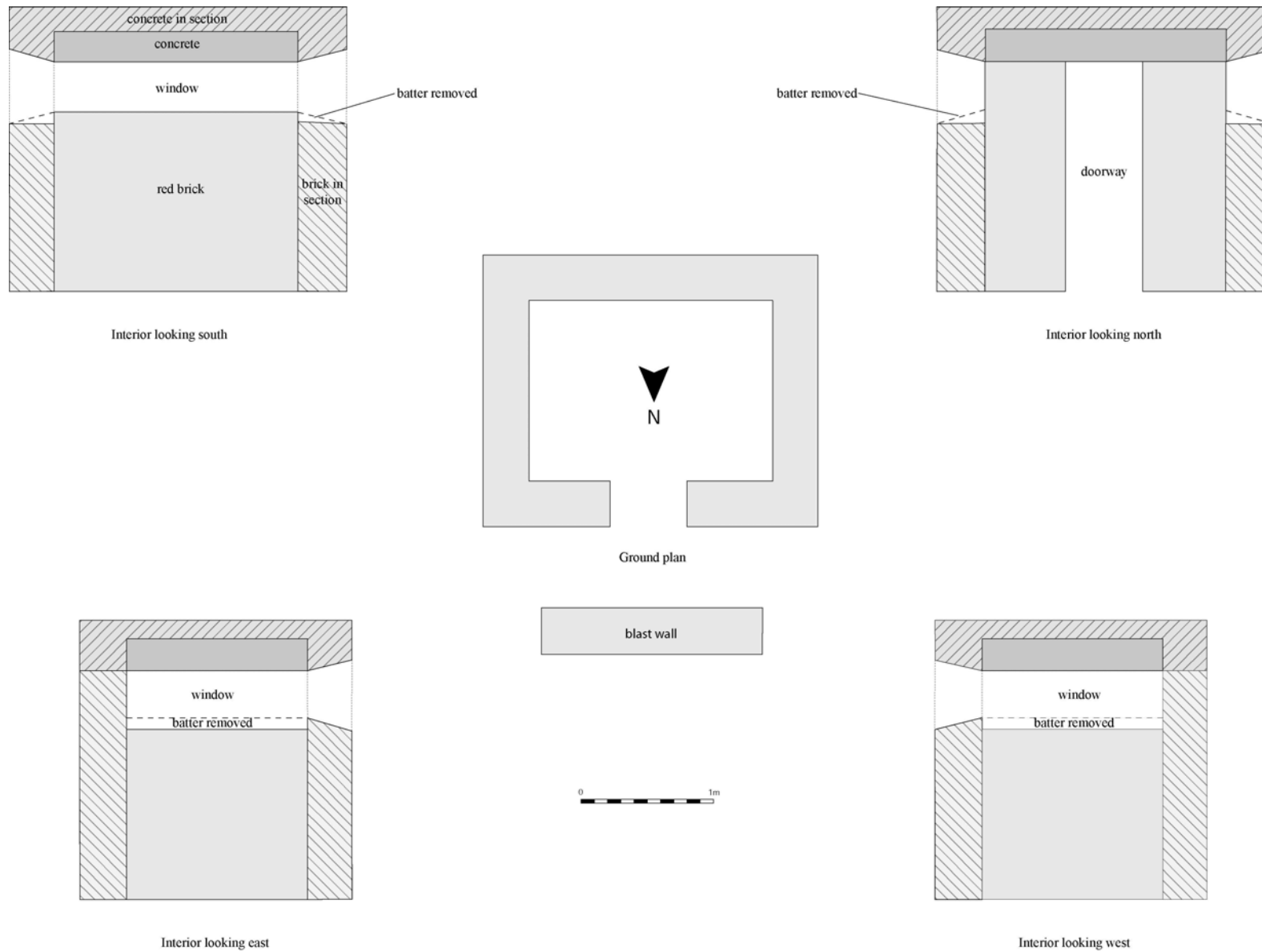
There are window openings on the south, east and west sides, each 1.30m from ground level. These are battered top and bottom so that the interior opening is 0.36m high while the exterior opening is 0.56m high. The southern opening is 1.80m wide, the others 1.36m wide. The lower batters have been removed from the east and west window openings.

The concrete roof is 0.20m thick internally, but 0.38m thick at the corners where it is supported by brick columns, each measuring 0.35m by 0.35m and 0.42m high from the base of the window openings.

No internal fixtures or fittings (or scars to suggest their presence) were observed.

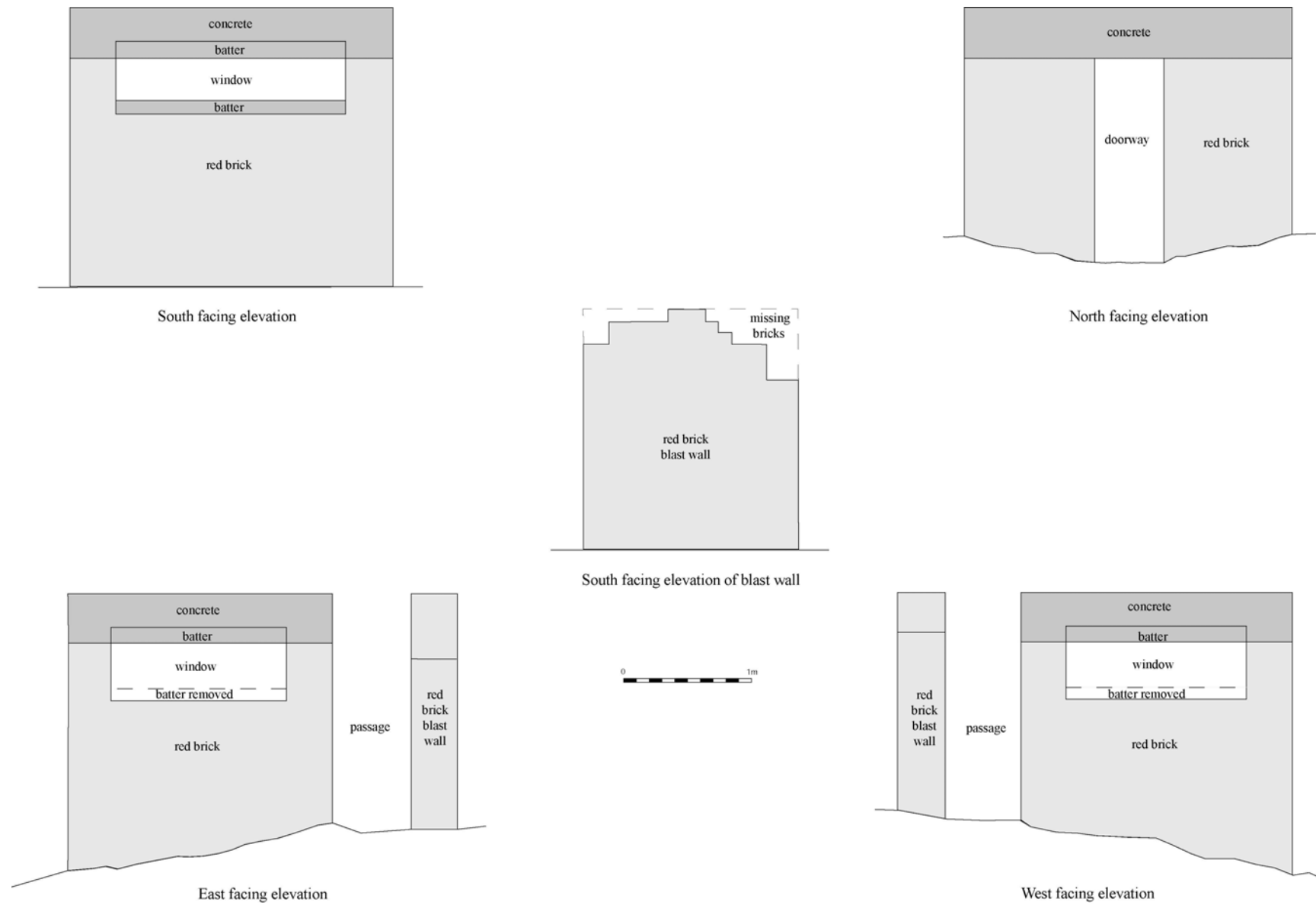
### **3.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Thomas, Roger JC 1994 *Survey of 19th and 20th Century Military Buildings of Pembrokeshire*. Unpublished report on behalf of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, the Welsh Development Agency and Cadw. Copy held in Regional SMR



**Figure 1:** Ground plan and internal elevations





**Figure 2:** External elevations





**Photo 1:** Photograph of east facing side of mine watching post (looking westward)



**Photo 2:** Photograph of west facing side of mine watching post (looking eastward)





**Photo 3:** Photograph showing south and west facing sides (looking to northeast)