

WATCHING BRIEF AT THE PENINSULAR SITE NELSON QUAY, MILFORD HAVEN PEMBROKESHIRE

APRIL 2005



Paratowyd gan: Archaeoleg Cambria
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Gan / By

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Photo 1: Stone rubble quay construction material overlain by demolition debris

Photo 2: Concrete setting for demolished steel frame building

1.0 SUMMARY

Two site visits were made to monitor and record any archaeologically significant features or deposits revealed during the preparation of footings for a new Visitors Center building at the Peninsular site on Nelson Quay, Milford Haven. No significant features or deposits were encountered.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Potential impacts upon archaeological features and deposits were identified by Cambria Archaeology- Heritage Management, in the proposed development of the Peninsular Site, Nelson Quay, Milford Haven (SM9017505656). This prompted a brief requesting a written scheme of archaeological works as a planning condition on the development, on behalf of Pembrokeshire County Council. An archaeological desk-top study was subsequently undertaken by Cardiff Archaeological Consultants.

The development includes the construction of a new Visitors Center on the quay-side. An Ice Factory and other features associated with the fishing industry were previously located in the area, and it was anticipated in the Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation prepared by Cardiff Archaeological Consultants that some of these features might be impacted upon during groundworks for the new building.

As a result, Cambria Archaeology were commissioned by Keith R Pearce Ltd to undertake a watching brief at the site to record any significant features encountered during preparation of the footings for the Visitors Center.

The project objectives were to characterise and record the extent, chronology and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits identified during the groundworks. Little of significance other than building foundations were anticipated to survive at the site. These could be recorded during intermittent site visits during the development.

3.0 RESULTS

On the first site visit, it became apparent on the commencement of the groundworks that all traces of the original quayside structures and ground surfaces had previously been entirely removed and replaced by steel frame structures, presumably some time after the second World War. These in turn appear to have been entirely demolished and removed by the 1990s when the site was cleared for the visit of the 'Tall Ships'.

Below a compacted chippings surface was approximately 0.40m of mixed demolition debris lying directly above a deposit of coarse stone rubble. This deposit was the construction material for the quay. No original surfaces survived. Concrete settings for a steel building frame were observed at intervals, set into the stone rubble. These were sealed by the demolition debris and no surfaces associated with this structure survived.

A subsequent visit to the site confirmed that no archaeologically significant features or deposits survived within the area of the footings for the new building.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified during the watching brief on the preparation of the footings for the visitor center. The structures represented on historic maps appear to have been demolished and entirely removed at least within the area of the footings.

Railings, bollards, the lifting crane and other fittings that survive on the quayside were not directly impacted upon by the current groundworks. It is assumed that they will be retained *in-situ* to become a feature of the quayside development. The protection of these features should be ensured during the construction phase of the development.

With the exception of confirming the assumed retention of the surviving quayside fixtures and fittings *in-situ*, (or their recording if they are to be removed) there appears to be little need for further archaeological involvement at the site.



Photo 1: Stone rubble quay construction material overlain by demolition debris



Photo 2: Concrete setting for demolished steel frame building

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Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
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ar ran Archaeoleg Cambria, Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

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

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