

# WATCHING BRIEF AT BEECHWOOD, LLANDEILO, CARMARTHENSHIRE

MARCH-APRIL 2005



Paratowyd gan: Archaeoleg Cambria  
Ar gyfer: Midas Construction  
Prepared by: Cambria Archaeology  
For: Midas Construction



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## ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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### WATCHING BRIEF AT BEECHWOOD, LLANDEILO, CARMARTHENSHIRE

Gan / By

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**Photo 3:** Excavation for drains

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## **SUMMARY**

Several site visits by archaeologists working for Cambria Archaeology were made during the initial stages of construction of four industrial units at Beechwood, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire in order to record archaeological deposits revealed by ground-works. Carmarthenshire County Council planning department had imposed an archaeological planning condition as the development lay on the projected line of the Roman road running between the Roman forts at Llandeilo and Llandovery. No trace of the Roman road was seen during the watching brief. Nothing else of archaeological interest was recorded.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Cambria Archaeology-Heritage Management as advisors to Carmarthenshire County Council Planning Department identified potential impacts on the archaeological resource by the development of four industrial units at Beechwood on the outskirts of Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire (SN 62312330). Initially a desk-top assessment followed by a scheme of archaeological works was required as a planning condition, but this was later reduced to an archaeological watching brief during construction.

The main contactors, Midas Construction, contacted Cambria Archaeology Field Services in January 2005 requesting an estimate and for undertaking a watching brief. This was provided and Cambria Archaeology was commissioned to undertake the work in a letter received from Midas Construction on 29 January 2005.

The Beechwood development lies on the projected line of the Roman road from the Roman fort at Llandeilo, 1.2km to the southwest, and the Roman fort at Llandovery, 18km to the northeast. The exact course of the road to the northeast of Llandeilo is not known for certain, and it may pass close to the Beechwood development rather than through it.

The project objectives were to characterise and record the extent, chronology and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits identified during the groundworks.

## **RESULTS**

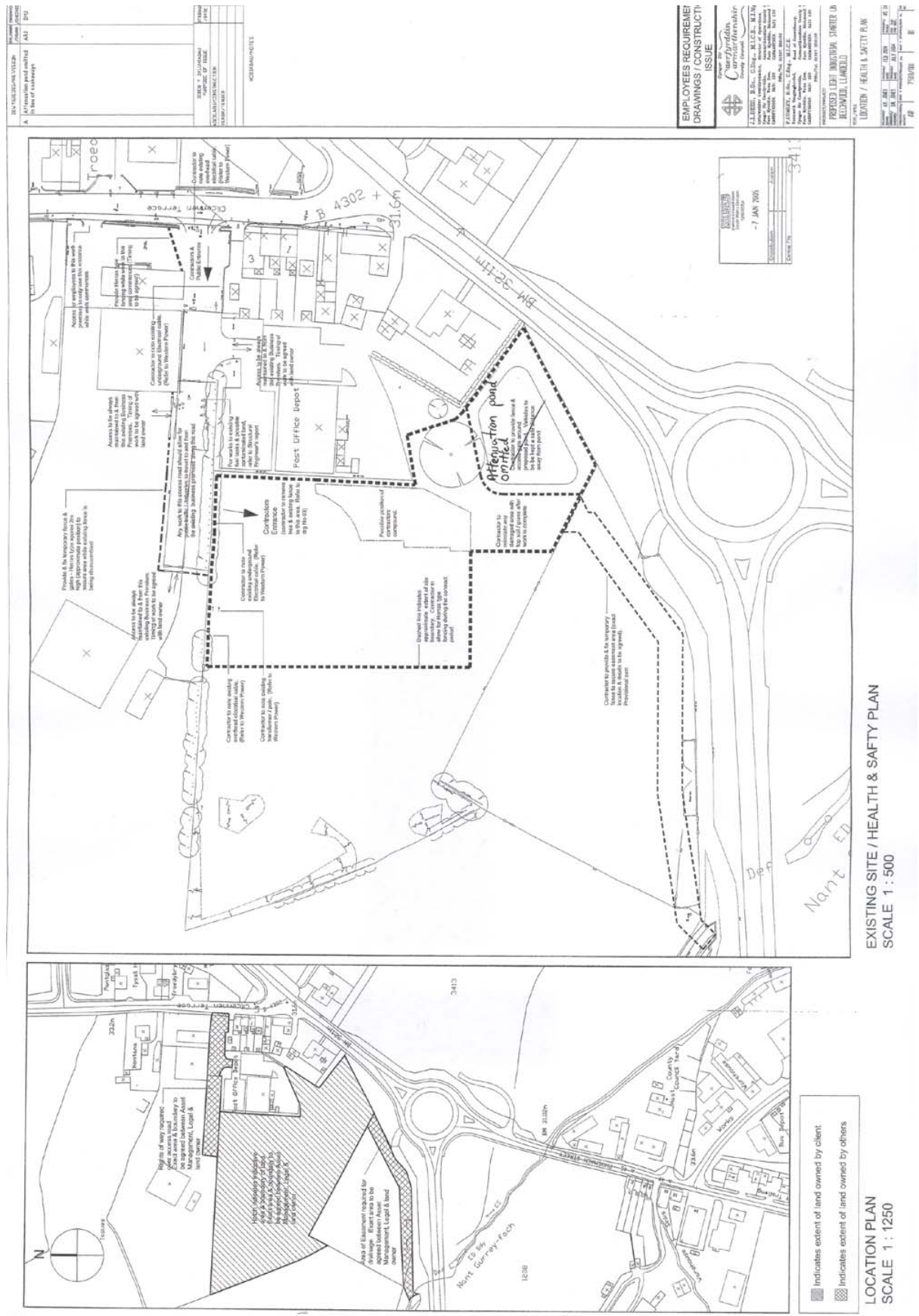
The Beechwood development lies on the northern outskirts of Llandeilo on a river terrace of the River Tywi. The land prior to development was improved pasture.

Topsoil stripping for the development was monitored during several intermittent site visits. Deeper excavations for roads, a balancing pond and drains were also archaeologically monitored. The topsoil strip and road excavations were undertaken using wide, toothless ditching bucket resulting in a clean excavated surface ideal for the identification of archaeological remains.

Topsoil consisted a smooth, almost stone-free, mid-brown silty loam soil. This overlay fluvial glacial mid-brown and orangey-brown silts. The depth of these deposits was not recorded but they seemed to be in excess of 2m. A quantity of 18th through to early 20th century pottery and glass, flecks of coal and small fragments of other imported material was recorded at the base of the topsoil. Nothing else of archaeological interest was noted.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified during the watching brief on the ground-works for the four industrial units.







**Photo 1:** Initial stages of topsoil clearance.



**Photo 2:** Final stages of topsoil clearance.



**Photo 3:** Excavation for drains.



**Photo 4:** Excavation of the balancing pond.



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

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw  
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