

WATCHING BRIEF AT SOUTH PEMBROKESHIRE HOSPITAL, PEMBROKE DOCK, PEMBROKESHIRE



Paratowyd gan: Archaeoleg Cambria
Ar gyfer: Pembrokeshire and Derwen
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Gan / By

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	1
INTRODUCTION	2
RESULTS	2
CONCLUSIONS	3

ILLUSTRATIONS

Photo 1: View north, of groundworks for new access road and entrance

Photo 2: Air raid shelter No. 1, prior to demolition, looking southwest

Photo 3: Looking NE during groundworks and demolition of shelter No.1

Photo 4: Interior of air raid shelter No. 2 during demolition looking east

SUMMARY

Two site visits were made during initial groundworks for new building works at South Pembrokeshire Hospital, Pembroke Dock, in order to record revealed archaeological deposits. Apart from the presence of two World War II air raid shelters nothing of archaeological interest was apparent, and after consultation with the archaeological advisor to the planning authority it was decided that no further archaeological work was required.

INTRODUCTION

Cambria Archaeology Heritage Management, as advisors to Pembrokeshire County Council Planning Department, identified potential impacts on the archaeological resource during construction work at South Pembrokeshire Hospital, Pembroke Dock, Pembrokeshire (SM 9579703473). Generally, the works consisted of the demolition of parts of the existing main hospital buildings and ancillary structures and their replacement with an extension to the hospital accompanied by improved access arrangements.

Directly to the north of the hospital lies the site of Paterchurch Tower, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (PE 380) which is recorded in the Regional Sites and Monuments Record as primary Record Number (PRN) 3261. This building has been identified both as the surviving tower of a medieval church or alternatively as a medieval domestic dwelling. The records show that during the construction of the dockyard in 1844 a total of at least 28 human burials (PRN 36800) were encountered at the site and subsequently re-interred (PRN 36881) within the area now occupied by South Pembrokeshire Hospital.

This watching brief was required by the planning authority as it was considered possible that important archaeological remains associated with both the original cemetery and the subsequent re-interments could be encountered.

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

RESULTS

Site visits were undertaken on two occasions during the initial groundwork excavations for the new building and access works at South Pembrokeshire hospital.

During the watching brief the groundworks revealed only "made" ground deposits associated with the original construction of the hospital and its ancillary buildings, and several service trenches. Where the excavations were deeper, undisturbed homogeneous subsoil layers were encountered, this being most apparent in the garden area to the south of the hospital mortuary. No archaeologically significant features or deposits were encountered there.

During groundworks and landscaping on the steep bank to the south of the hospital two World War II air raid shelters were encountered. The most easterly of the shelters, Shelter No.1, was totally demolished whilst part of shelter No. 2 immediately to the west was due to be spared because of its proximity to a tree protected by a Preservation Order. A photographic record of both shelters and cursory measured survey was undertaken of both shelters and this record will be held in the Regional Sites and Monuments Record.

No other archaeologically significant features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief.

On the basis of the above it was decided that the works were not having an impact on archaeological deposits and therefore no further work was undertaken.

CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological features or deposits associated with the cemetery site or the re-interred burials from 1844 were identified during the watching brief. The location and recording of the two World War II air raid shelters encountered and destroyed, or partly destroyed, during the groundworks are a relatively important addition to the wartime historic archive of Pembroke Dock.

No other archaeologically significant features or deposits were identified during the watching brief.



Photo 1: Looking north during groundworks for new access road and entrance.



Photo 2: Air raid shelter No.1 prior to demolition, looking southwest.



Photo 3: Looking NE during groundworks and demolition of shelter No. 1.



Photo 4: Interior of air raid shelter No. 2 during demolition, looking east.

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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.

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