

# WATCHING BRIEF AT ROCK COTTAGE, LLANRHIAN, PEMBROKESHIRE

JUNE 2005



Paratowyd gan: Archaeoleg Cambria  
Ar gyfer: Mr D Berry  
Prepared by: Cambria Archaeology  
For: Mr D Berry



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### WATCHING BRIEF AT ROCK COTTAGE, LLANRHIAN, PEMBROKESHIRE

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## CONTENTS

<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>RESULTS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>2</b>

## ILLUSTRATIONS

**Photo 1:** East side of Rock Cottage.

**Photo 2:** Interior of Rock Cottage showing fireplace.

**Photo 3:** North end of Rock Cottage.

**Photo 4:** West side of Rock Cottage showing bedrock.

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## **SUMMARY**

*A site visit was made during initial ground breaking during construction work at Rock Cottage, Llanrhian, Pembrokeshire, in order to record revealed archaeological deposits. Nothing of archaeological interest was apparent in the ground works, although the cottage itself was of some interest and a brief description was made and photographs taken in order to record it prior improvement. Following the single site visit on 15 June 2005, and in 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 Rock Cottage, Llanrhian Pembrokeshire (SM 81973141).

Rock Cottage lies in the centre of Llanrhian village, opposite the medieval parish church. The planning permission allowed for the restoration and modernisation of the cottage and the construction of an extension to the west side of the cottage.

The planning authority required this watching brief as it was considered possible that important archaeological remains pre-dating the cottage survived below ground.

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**

A site visit was made during initial ground-works. Rock Cottage lies gable end on to the main road through the village, and is cut into a rocky slope. The main element of the ground works involved consisted of the removal of part of this slope down to the level of the cottage floor immediately alongside the western side of the cottage in order to construct an extension. This slope consisted of shale (rab) bedrock overlain by thin topsoil. Nothing of archaeological interest was noted during its removal.

Rock Cottage is a single-celled, single storey building with a shed/cart house added to the south end. It is stone built, the lower courses of roughly squared field boulders, the upper courses of more angular quarried stone. It has been lime-washed and painted. The southern end of the western wall is formed from bedrock where the cottage has been cut into the slope. A tin roof covers modern roof timbers. There is single window in the north gable end, a central door in the east wall, and a small chimney window in the east wall. Internally the building is one room with a large fireplace containing a crude bread oven in the east end. Traces of a support for a crog-loft exist in the northern end of the room.

The village of Llanrhian remained undeveloped until the mid 19th century. On the parish tithe map of 1844 a building is shown in the approximate location of Rock Cottage itself, but because of the poor quality of the map it is unclear whether this is the cottage itself. Later in the 19th century, the 1889 Ordnance Survey map shows the cottage, but as a much longer building than now exists.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified during the watching brief. Rock Cottage is small and of primitive design and construction. It nevertheless dates to the second half of the 19th century.



**Photo 1:** East side of Rock Cottage.



**Photo 2:** Interior of Rock Cottage showing fireplace.





**Photo 3:** North end of Rock Cottage.



**Photo 4:** West side of Rock Cottage showing bedrock.

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**June 2005  
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This report has been prepared by:

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Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith  
This report has been checked and approved by

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ar ran Archaeoleg Cambria, Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.  
on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

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