

WATCHING BRIEF GLEBE HOUSE, MARLOES, PEMBROKESHIRE

JUNE 2005



Paratowyd gan: Archaeoleg Cambria
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Photo 1: General view of building work.

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Photo 4: External view of the Iron Age enclosure defensive bank from the northeast.

SUMMARY

A site visit was made during initial ground breaking during new building works at Glebe House, Marloes in order to record revealed archaeological deposits. Little of archaeological interest was apparent, and following the single site visit, 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 Coast National Park Authority identified potential impacts on the archaeological resource during construction work at Glebe House, Marloes, Pembrokeshire (SM 79580835). The building work consisted of some demolition of extensions to the existing house construction of larger extensions.

Glebe House dates to the later 19th century - it is shown on the 1875 1:2500 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map - with several later extensions. It lies within a small, circular earthwork enclosure c. 45m diameter, considered to be of Iron Age date (recorded on the Regional Sites and Monuments Record as number 2959). The enclosure has been divided into two halves by a boundary running approximately east to west, with Glebe House in the northern half and Foxdale in the southern half. The earthwork defensive circuit of the enclosure is now hardly detectable as such, apart from to the east and northeast of Glebe House where the garden boundary consists of an earth and stone boundary bank up to 3m wide and externally up to 2m high. Internally it is only 1m high. Immediately to the north of Glebe House and to the east of Foxdale the bank has been removed. To the south of Foxdale the defensive bank survives as a hedge bank. To the west of Glebe House and Foxdale the line of the defensive bank lies beneath a public road and had been removed by the end of the 19th century. Apart from a slight depression on the northeast side of the site there is no trace of a defensive ditch external to the defensive bank.

This watching brief was required by the planning authority as it was considered possible that important archaeological remains associated with the Iron Age enclosure 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 single site visit was made on the 14 June 2005 during groundwork operations. Foundations for two extensions, one to the north of the house and one to the east had been excavated. To the north the trenches were dug through concrete and rubble with stiff brown clay encountered at c. 0.2m below the ground surface. Nothing else of interest was noted. A concrete raft foundation over services trenches excavated through a loose black garden soil lay to the east of the house. Subsoil was not encountered here, and black soil continued down to the base of the foundation trenches at c. 0.6m below ground level.

CONCLUSIONS

Little of archaeological interest was noted, and it is likely that building work associated with house construction and later additions has destroyed most deposits associated with the Iron Age enclosure in the vicinity of the house. The stiff brown clay to the north of the house may be the remains of the Iron Age defensive bank. It is likely that important Iron Age deposits survive in the garden area to the east of Glebe House.



Photo 1: General view of building work.



Photo 2: General view of building work.



Photo 3: General view of building work.



Photo 4: External view of the Iron Age enclosure defensive bank from the northeast.

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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.

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