

# AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT LONG MAINS, MONKTON, PEMBROKESHIRE

July 2005



Paratowyd gan Archaeoleg Cambria  
Ar gyfer Mr Wyn Jenkins, Priory  
Farm, Monkton  
Prepared by Cambria Archaeology  
For Mr Wyn Jenkins, Priory  
Farm, Monkton



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# ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT LONG MAINS, MONKTON PEMBROKESHIRE

Gan / By

**Duncan Schlee**

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ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA  
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf  
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir  
Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF  
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121  
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131  
Ffacs: 01558 823133  
Ebost: [cambria@cambria.org.uk](mailto:cambria@cambria.org.uk) Gwefan:  
[www.cambria.org.uk](http://www.cambria.org.uk)

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY  
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited  
The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo,  
Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF  
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121  
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131  
Fax: 01558 823133  
Email: [cambria@cambria.org.uk](mailto:cambria@cambria.org.uk) Website:  
[www.cambria.org.uk](http://www.cambria.org.uk)

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**Figure 1:** Site and trench location plan

**Photo 1:** Trench 1

**Photo 2:** Trench 2

**Photo 3:** Trench 3

**Photo 4:** Trench 4

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT LONG MAINS  
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**1.0 SUMMARY**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Long Mains, Monkton, Pembrokeshire to evaluate the potential impact of a proposed housing development upon any archaeological features or deposits that might exist at the site. Based on the results of geophysical survey on nearby land at Priory Farm, it had been anticipated that features associated with a possible Iron Age enclosure and a later radial field system associated with a pre-norman ecclesiastical settlement might be encountered. In addition, features associated with Monkton Priory and prehistoric finds from the vicinity might be expected. Following the largely negative results of the Priory Farm evaluation, the Long Mains evaluation was limited to 4 machine excavated trenches. No features of archaeological significance were identified within the evaluation area.

## **2.0 INTRODUCTION**

In response to a planning application for housing development on land at Long Mains, Monkton, Pembrokeshire (NGR SM97440177), Cambria Archaeology - Heritage Management (acting as advisors to Pembrokeshire County Council), requested an archaeological evaluation to assess the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource in order to meet the archaeological planning condition.

The plot lies within the vicinity of the medieval Monkton Priory, and 330m from a dovecote of possible medieval origin, suggesting the surrounding land formed part of the monastic holding. The presence of prehistoric artefacts recovered from Priory Farm and the nearby Catshole Quarry Caves (to the north of the Long Mains site), suggests evidence of prehistoric settlement might also be encountered.

A geophysical survey undertaken as part of 'stage 1' of the archaeological evaluation of nearby land at Priory Farm (also proposed for housing development) identified a complex of anomalies thought possibly to indicate the presence of an Iron Age enclosure of the 'concentric antenna' type, with radial field boundaries relating to the re-use of the site as a pre-norman ecclesiastical settlement. Following field evaluation, the geophysical anomalies were mostly found to be of natural or modern origin. In the light of this, the likelihood of archaeologically sensitive features or deposits being encountered at the Long Mains site was reduced.

Following submission of a detailed specification for the work, Cambria Archaeology were again commissioned by Mr and Mrs Jenkins of Priory Farm, Monkton to undertake the archaeological evaluation of the proposed development area at Long Mains in July of 2005. This report presents the results of this fieldwork.

## **3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The evaluation process aimed to evaluate the remaining geophysical anomalies and other apparently blank areas identified within the proposed development area, in order to ascertain the presence, absence, character, distribution and relative importance of archaeological features or deposits. This information will be used to inform the local authority of any archaeological mitigation that might be required as part of the planning process.

## **4.0 METHODOLOGY**

Four trenches were machine excavated using a 1.5m wide toothless bucket. The trenches were located (using hand tapes measuring from field boundaries and other landmarks) in order to coincide with the locations of access roads for the proposed housing development. Trenches were excavated to a depth of approximately 1.0m into the silt subsoil, or to the top of natural bedrock (whichever level was encountered first). Possible archaeological features were hand excavated. The trenches were recorded in plan and section.

## **5.0 RESULTS**

### **Trench 1**

This trench was cut to a length of 17.5m. Solid limestone bedrock was exposed along the entire length of the trench at a depth of 0.20m to the north and 1.0m to the south. No features of archaeological significance were identified.

### **Trench 2**

This trench was cut to a length of 18.5m and a maximum width of 3.0m. Limestone rubble, possibly up-cast from the quarry immediately to the north of the site was encountered directly below the turf layer. This was found to overlie approximately 0.20m of silt. Limestone bedrock was encountered at a depth of approximately 0.45m. No features of archaeological significance were identified.

### **Trench 3**

This trench was cut to a length of 18.5m and a maximum depth of 0.80m. No limestone bedrock was exposed. The base of a posthole, probably the remains of a former field boundary represented on historic Ordnance Survey maps was identified. Other possible features were excavated and found to be the result of tree roots or animal burrows. No other archaeologically significant features were identified.

### **Trench 4**

This trench was cut to a length of 18.0m and a general depth of 0.45m. A deeper excavation at the south end encountered bedrock at 1.20m below ground level. No features of archaeological significance were identified.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION**

The turf/topsoil layer was generally 0.20m thick and did not appear to have been recently ploughed. Occasional post-medieval ceramic fragments were present within the turf layer across the entire evaluation area. The soil profile consisted of an apparently homogenous mid yellow silt, with organic content and bioturbation diminishing with depth. The silts became a paler yellow and more compact with depth. Occasional charcoal flecks were dispersed within the upper 0.45m or so of the silt, probably worked into the soil at the time of deposition or later through bioturbation. Directly above the limestone bedrock the soil changed to a much darker brown. This appeared to be a mineral or chemical phenomenon caused by contact between the silt and limestone rather than a buried organic horizon. There were no clear interfaces or buried horizons within the sub-soil to suggest a specific level at which any archaeological cut features might be revealed. The trenches were cut either to the top of the bedrock or to a sufficient depth into the silty sub-soil to have revealed any features present.

## **7.0 CONCLUSIONS**

The results of the archaeological evaluation show that no features of archaeological significance were encountered within the excavated trenches.

## **8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Jenkins for their hospitality and assistance and to all the Cambria staff involved in the project.

## **9.0 SOURCES**

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Ludlow N. 2002 'Priory Farm, Monkton, Pembroke - A Stage 1 Archaeological Evaluation'. Cambria Report No. 47309

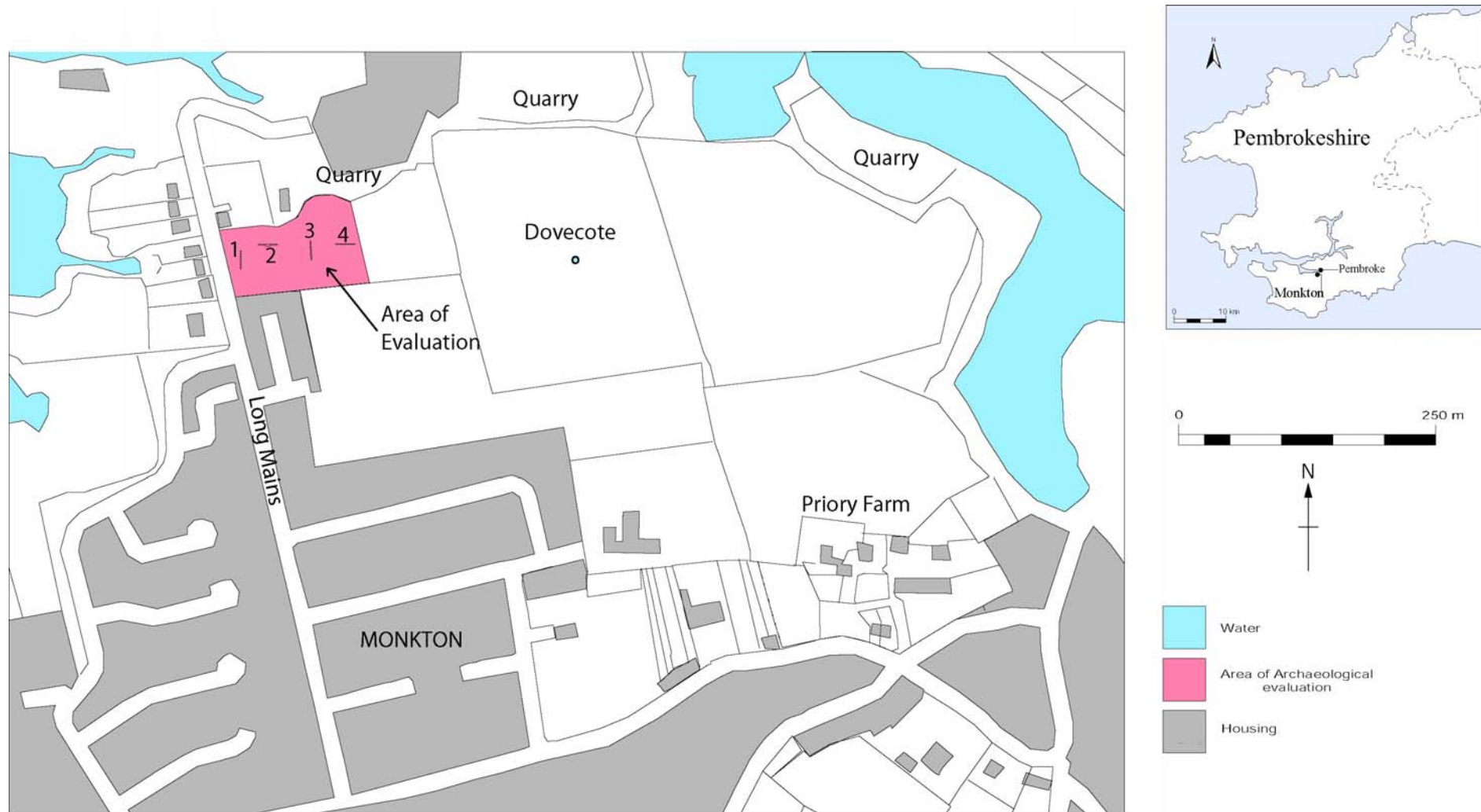


Figure 1: Site and trench location plan





**Photo 1:** Trench 1 looking south



**Photo 2:** Trench 2 looking west



**Photo3:** Trench 3 looking south



**Photo 4:** Trench 4 looking east



**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT  
PRIORY FARM,  
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July 2005**

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan:  
This report has been prepared by:

Duncan Schlee

Swydd / Position: Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature ..... Dyddiad / Date

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

Niel Ludlow

Swydd / Position: Project Officer (Field Services)

Llofnod / Signature ..... Dyddiad / Date

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

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