

CASTLEVIEW RESIDENTIAL HOME

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



Prepared
by
Cambria Archaeology
For
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CASTLEVIEW RESIDENTIAL HOME ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

By

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CASTLEVIEW RESIDENTIAL HOME, LLAWHADEN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

A new drain was being inserted at the Castleview Residential Home in Llawhaden, Pembrokeshire. Castleview is located adjacent to the western boundary of Llawhaden Castle, a scheduled ancient monument, so an archaeological watching brief was required on the excavation of the drain.

No archaeological features or deposits were noted.

INTRODUCTION

Project background

The excavation of a new drain at Castleview Residential Home (NGR SN07351743) required an archaeological watching brief because of its proximity to Llawhaden Castle (PRN 3580 SAM PE24). The new drain was to run from northwest of Castleview along the southern section of a disused quarry to the northeast corner of the house. The line passed inside the scheduled area for the castle.

Cambria Archaeology Field Operations were commissioned by Willis and Hole Ltd. on behalf of Castleview's owner to undertake the watching brief in late July 2005.

The watching brief methodology and scope of the report

The excavation of the drain trench was monitored and all deposits and structures exposed recorded. This report outlines the main watching brief results before discussing the impact of the works based on the on-site observations and the known archaeological potential of the area. Known archaeological sites mentioned in the text are annotated with their Primary Record Number (PRN) as recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record held by Cambria Archaeology at their offices in Llandeilo. All grid references are prefixed with NGR (National Grid Reference).

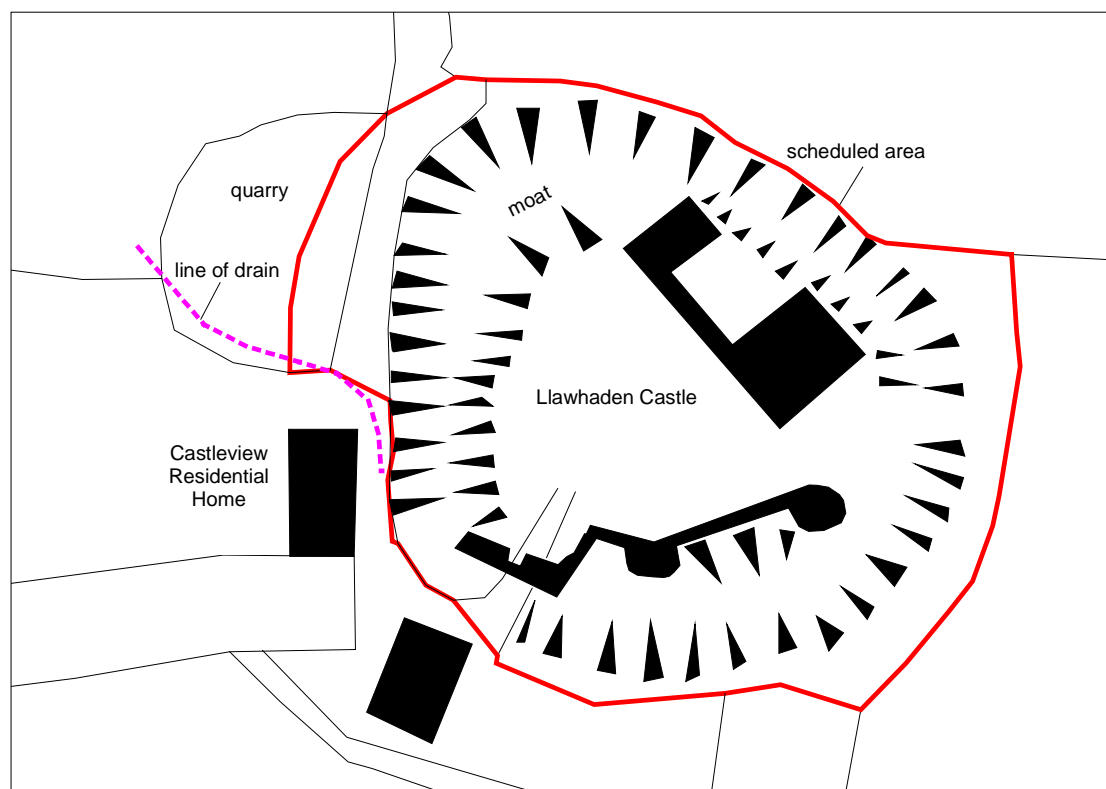


Figure 1: Plan showing location of new drain

THE RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

Llawhaden Castle

Llawhaden Castle was established in the 12th century as a timber structure surrounded by a moat and defensive bank. The moat survives, but the bank was levelled when the castle was rebuilt in stone during the 13th century.

In 1280 the castle was restyled into a fortified house for Bishop Thomas Bek. The massive gatehouse (Plate 1) was added in the later 14th century. The castle was apparently demolished in the mid 16th century, since which time the site was used as a source of building stone.



Plate 1: Llawhaden Castle gatehouse, with the drain trench visible in the foreground.

The watching brief results

The drain ran from northwest of Castleview around the southern edge of a modern disused quarry to join existing services at the northeast corner of the house. The line appears to have crossed the southern section of the scheduled area surrounding the castle, but it was outside the line of the moat.

Trenching operations were carried out by a mechanical excavator fitted with a c.1m wide toothed bucket. For the most part, the trench was excavated through topsoil and modern overburden and no archaeological features were noted in the trench.



Plate 2: A general view north along the drain trench.

CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological features or deposits were noted in the drain trench. Therefore, despite the proximity of Llawhaden Castle the excavation of the drain trench had no impact on the archaeological resource.