

DERWEN FAWR, CRUG-Y-BAR

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



Prepared by
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For
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ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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**DERWEN FAWR, CRUG-Y-BAR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

By

Nigel Page

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DERWEN FAWR, CRUG-Y-BAR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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This report has been prepared by Nigel Page

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This report has been checked and approved by Ken Murphy

Position: Principal Archaeologist – Field Services

Signature Date

on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or presentation of this report

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

SUMMARY

Proposals to construct an all weather paddock at Derwen Fawr, Crug-y-Bar (NGR SN65563908) required an archaeological watching brief because the new paddock lies *c.*40m away from the line of a Roman road. It is also possible that Derwen Fawr, formerly known as Ynysau-ganol, is the site of a 15th – 17th century gentry house.

The watching brief was carried out in October 2005 and no archaeological features were noted.

INTRODUCTION

Project background

The owners of Derwen Fawr, Crug-y-Bar are constructing an all weather paddock in a field just south of the farmyard area at NGR SN65563908. The new paddock lies close to the line of a Roman road: at its closest the paddock is within 40m of the road. Therefore, the Local Planning Authority placed an archaeological condition on the construction that required a watching brief during topsoil stripping. Cambria Archaeology Field Operations were commissioned to carry out the watching brief in October 2005.

The watching brief methodology and scope of the report

The construction of the paddock required the stripping of the topsoil and the laying of a stone and gravel base covered with sand. It was decided in consultation with the Local Planning Authority's archaeological advisors, Cambria Archaeology – Heritage Management, that an area down the centre of the new paddock would be stripped and examined by an archaeologist (Plate 1). If the results of this examination were negative the rest of the paddock could be stripped without further archaeological intervention.

This report details the results of the watching brief and places those results in their local and regional context. 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).

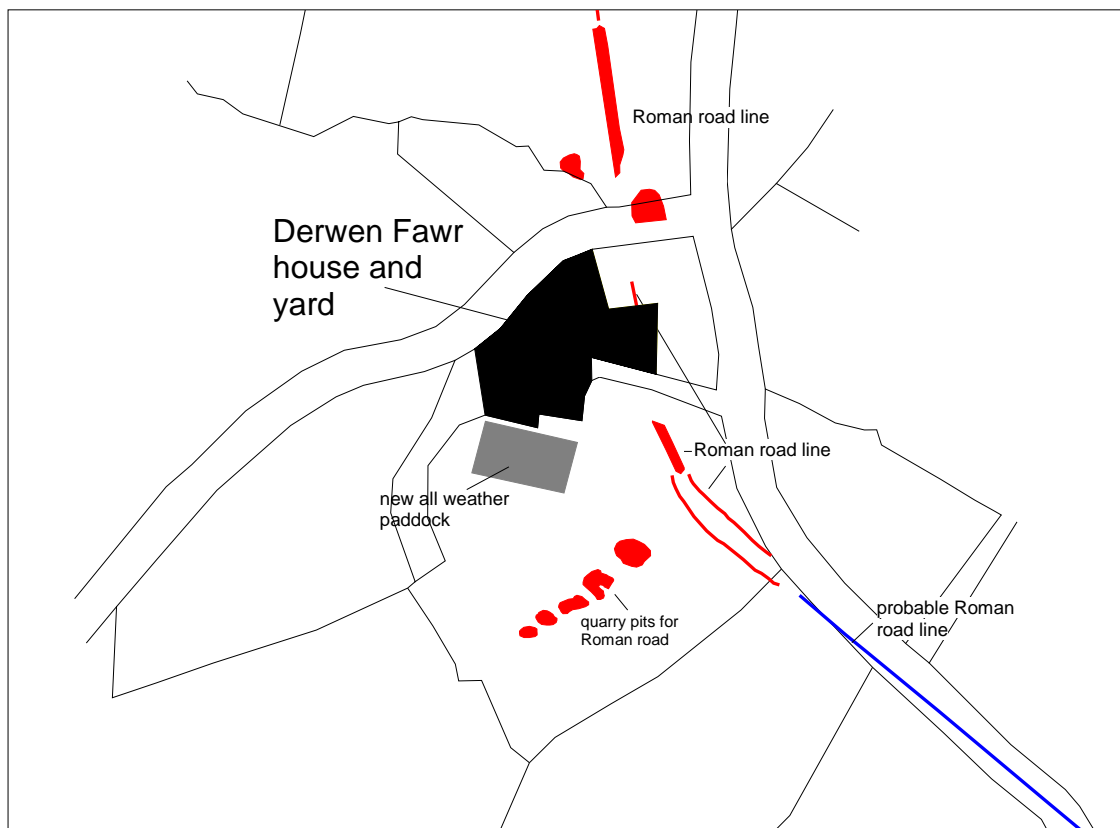


Figure 1: Location plan showing the watching brief area and the line of the Roman road.

THE WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

Site location

The new paddock was to be constructed in a flat pasture field immediately to the south of the farmyard area (Figure 1) at Derwen Fawr. It measured c.35m x 20m and occupied a total area of c.700 square metres. Derwen Fawr was formerly known as Ynysau-ganol and it was one three farms known as Ynysau: Ynysau-uchaf is to the north and Ynysau-isaf is to the south. It is thought that Ynysau-ganol may be the site of a former gentry house (PRN 25689) dating from the 15th to the 17th century (Jones 1987, 199), but there is no visible evidence to support that.

The Roman road

A segment (PRN 33997) of the Roman road (PRN 51972) that linked forts at Llandovery and Pumsaint, which is c.1.5km to the north of the site, runs through the eastern edge of the field (Figure 1). The road line in this section is based on cropmark and earthwork evidence plotted from aerial photographs during a recent survey of Roman roads undertaken by Cambria Archaeology on behalf of Cadw (Schlee 2004).

Several small quarry pits, which are presumed to be Roman pits dug to extract stone for the road, were also noted on aerial photographs in the same field.

The watching brief

Construction required the removal of approximately 10cm of topsoil across the area of the new paddock. Only the centre strip was monitored and no archaeological features were noted.



Plate 1: The centre line of the new paddock area following the removal of approximately 10cm of topsoil. The supposed Roman road line runs in front of the hedge in the background.

CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological features were noted.

Despite the presence of the Roman road and several Roman quarry pits and the possibility of Derwen Fawr being the site of a 15th century gentry house no archaeological features extended in the watching brief area. Therefore the construction of the new paddock has no archaeological implications.

REFERENCES

- Jones F 1987 *Historic Carmarthenshire homes and their families.*
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- Schlee D 2004 *Roman Military Roads, Forts and Vici.* Llandeilo. Cambria
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