

LAND ADJACENT TO LAUREL COTTAGE, ST. FLORENCE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



Prepared
by
Cambria Archaeology
For
HAROLD METCALFE PARTNERSHIP



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By

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**LAND ADJACENT TO LAUREL COTTAGE, ST. FLORENCE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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SUMMARY

A plot of land adjacent to Laurel Cottage, St. Florence, Pembrokeshire (NGR SN08170119), was developed into two new dwellings. The site lay *c.*40m to the west of St. Florencius' Church and within the historic core of the village. The church was first mentioned in the mid-13th century. The village has grown around the church. Therefore, a watching brief was required to record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during the development works. The scheme architects, Harold Metcalfe Partnership, acting on behalf of a private client, commissioned Cambria Archaeology Field Services to undertake the watching brief in November 2005.

Prior to this development the site was the garden for the adjacent Laurel Cottage. The level of the garden had been raised sometime in the past by the dumping of rubble and the importing of topsoil. Much of this made ground was removed as the site was levelled for construction.

No archaeological features or deposits were noted during the site visits.

INTRODUCTION

Project background

A plot of land adjacent to Laurel Cottage, St. Florence, Pembrokeshire (NGR SN08170119), was developed into two new dwellings. The site lay a short distance to the west of St. Florencius' Church and within what is thought to be the medieval core of the village. Therefore, a watching brief was required to record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during the development works. The scheme architects, Harold Metcalfe Partnership, acting on behalf of a private client, commissioned Cambria Archaeology Field Services to undertake the watching brief in November 2005.

The watching brief methodology and scope of the report

The construction method required the levelling of the site prior to the excavation of the foundation trenches. The levelling and part of the foundation excavations were monitored. 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).

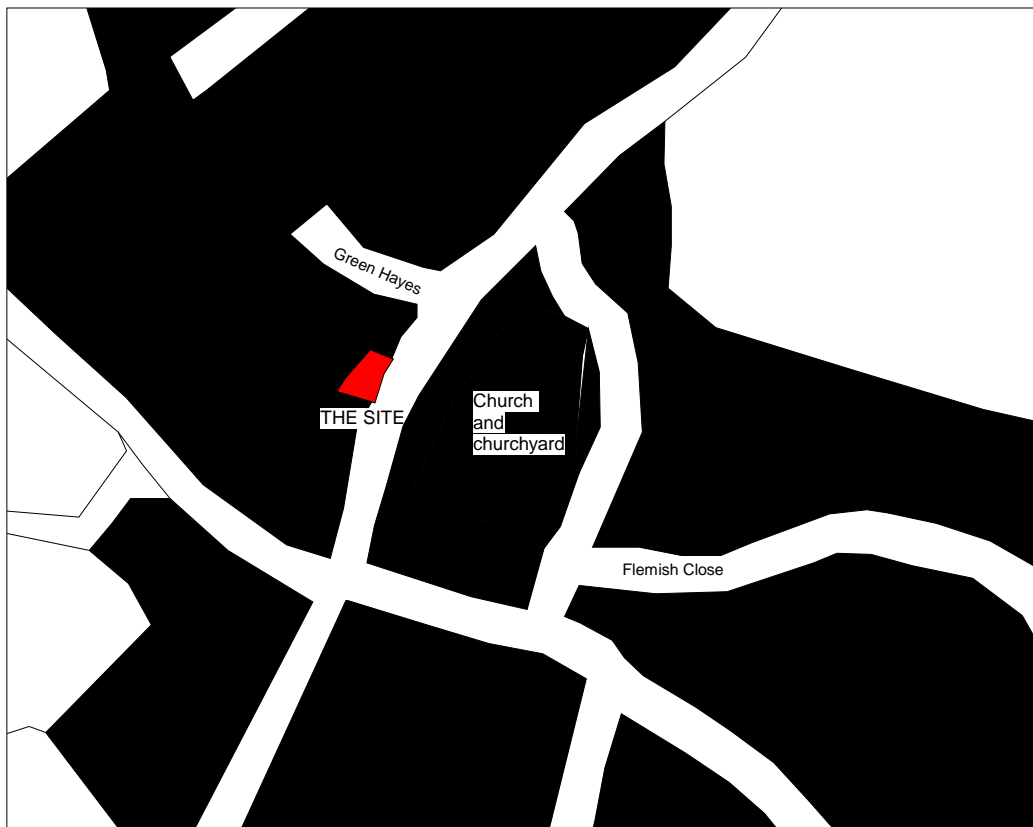


Figure 1 Location plan showing the location of the development in relation to the medieval church and churchyard and its central position in the village of St. Florence.

WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

Site visits were undertaken during the levelling of the site and during the excavation of the rear foundation trenches. The levelling works removed up to 0.75m of topsoil and rubble, which appeared to have been deposited across the site to raise the level of the garden of Laurel Cottage.

Towards the front of the site the levelling exposed the light to mid brown subsoil and no archaeological features or deposits were exposed on any part of the site.



Plate 1: The rear foundation trenches.

DISCUSSION

No archaeological features or deposits were exposed by either the site clearance works or the foundation trench cutting. Therefore, despite its location within the historic core of the village this site does not appear to have been developed in the past.