

DELFRYN, CROSSHANDS HENLLAN AMGOED ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



Prepared
by
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for
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**DELFRYN, CROSSHANDS, HENLLAN AMGOED
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REPORT NUMBER: 2005/136
PROJECT NUMBER: 55788

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**Report prepared by
Cambria Archaeology Field Services**

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Position: Principal Archaeological Officer 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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DELFRYN, CROSSHANDS, HENLLAN AMGOED ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

The construction of new building on a former garden plot at Delfryn, Henllan Amgoed (NGR SN19402290) required an archaeological watching brief. The site lay within a rich prehistoric landscape and was surrounded by a number of round barrows, which formed part of a barrow cemetery and a chambered tomb. These sites all lay within 20m of the development site. Cambria Archaeology Field Operations were commissioned to carry out the watching brief in September 2005.

The excavation of the foundation trenches was monitored and this revealed a clay-filled feature cutting the shale bedrock in the western foundation trench. The feature was filled by clean orange clay. This site was wooded until its clearance approximately ten years ago and it is not certain, from the exposed section, whether the feature represents a former tree bole, or whether it is related to the prehistoric burial monuments in the vicinity.



Plate 1: General view across the site during the excavation of the foundation trenches.

INTRODUCTION

Project background

Plans to construct a new building on a former garden plot at Delfryn, Henllan Amgoed (NGR SN19402290) required an archaeological watching brief. The site lay within a rich prehistoric landscape and was surrounded by a number of prehistoric burial monuments. These are three round barrows (PRNs 937, 938, 939) – which formed part of a barrow cemetery (PRN 14421) – and a chambered tomb (PRN 940) that is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. These sites all lay within 50m of the development site and it was considered likely that other features were present within the development site. Historic map evidence revealed that the site had not been previously developed, which suggested that buried archaeological remains could have survived on the site.

Cambria Archaeology Field Operations were commissioned to carry out the watching brief in September 2005.

The watching brief methodology and scope of the report

The stripped area and the foundation trenches were examined and all features and deposits noted. The site was photographed using digital format. 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 Historic Environment Record held by Cambria Archaeology at their offices in Llandeilo. All grid references are prefixed with NGR (National Grid Reference).

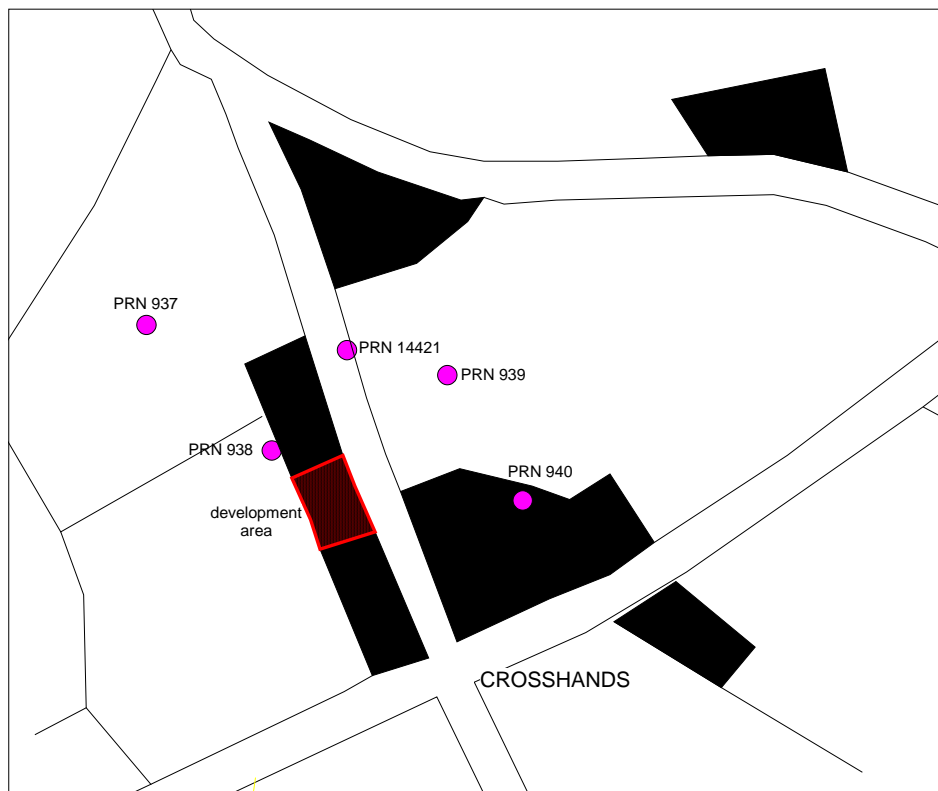


Figure 1 Location plan showing the location of the watching brief area in relation to the surrounding prehistoric features.

WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

A site visit was carried out after the site had been stripped and during the excavation of the foundations trenches for the new building. The exposed surface and the foundation trenches were examined and a feature cutting the shale bedrock was noted in the southern end of the west foundation trench.

The cut feature (Plate 2)

The cut feature was only recorded in section and it did not appear to extend across the foundation trench.

It consisted of steep curving sides and it was filled with a grey/orange clay. The cut measured 1.6m at the top, 1.4m at the bottom and it was c.0.8m deep. Although the fill was mottled it appeared to be a single deposit. No artefacts or suitable dating material was visible in the exposed section nor recovered during the excavation of the trench.



Plate 2: The cut feature.

DISCUSSION

The site lies within a rich prehistoric landscape that contains extensive remains of funerary monuments dating from the Neolithic and Bronze Age, indicating a long history of burial in this area.

The site was cleared of trees approximately ten years ago and it is possible that the feature represents a former tree bole. However, given the richness and amount of surrounding archaeological features it is also possible that this feature is associated with a prehistoric burial.

SOURCES