# WATCHING BRIEF AT NETPOOL, CARDIGAN MARCH 2006



General view of Netpool prior to excavation for the new slipway.

Paratowyd gan: Archaeoleg Cambria Ar gyfer: Cyngor Sir Ceredigion Prepared by: Cambria Archaeology For: Ceredigion County Council





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# WATCHING BRIEF AT NETPOOL, CARDIGAN MARCH 2006

#### Gan / By

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#### SUMMARY

Five site visits were made during excavation for a new slipway at Netpool, Cardigan, in order to record revealed archaeological deposits. Little of archaeological interest was apparent, as it was clear that the excavations were mainly cutting through recently deposited rubble. Following the five site visits it was decided that no further archaeological work was required.

#### INTRODUCTION

Cambria Archaeology-Heritage Management, as advisors to Ceredigion County Council Planning Department, identified potential impacts on the archaeological resource during construction work at Netpool, Cardigan (national grid reference SN 1733 4610, planning application no A051099). The work consisted of the construction of a new slipway, which necessitated the excavation of foundation trenches.

Netpool was the main boat-building centre at Cardigan during the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries, and possibly earlier. There is therefore a high possibility that the remains of boatyards survive with, in the waterlogged deposits close to the river, the likelihood of preserved timbers and other organic material.

The planning authority required this watching brief as it was considered possible that important archaeological remains associated with the maritime history of Cardigan survive below ground.

#### OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the watching brief were to characterise and record the extent, chronology and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits identified during the groundworks.

#### RESULTS

Five site visits (2nd, 6th, 8th, 13th and 16th of March 2006) were made to monitor the construction of the new slipway, including the excavation of foundation trenches c. 1.5m deep. It was apparent that much of what was being excavated was modern rubble and waste, including painted timbers, brick and concrete. This modern deposit was in places the full depth of the foundation trenches, but generally was c. 1m thick. It overlay a c. 0.2m thick, stiff, blue marine/estuarine clay. This deposit has been recently contaminated as it contained brick and concrete fragments. It overlay shattered shale bedrock. There was no evidence for any deposits or artefacts associated with the boat building industry or, indeed, of any artefacts pre-dating the mid-to-late 20th century.

On the basis of the above it was decided that the works were not having an impact on archaeological deposits and therefore no further work was undertaken.

#### CONCLUSIONS

No evidence for the boat building industry survived, and the area had been used for rubble dumping in the late 20th century. It is not known whether this dumping is purely localised and that archaeological deposits associated with Cardigan's maritime history survive upstream and downstream of the new Netpool slipway.

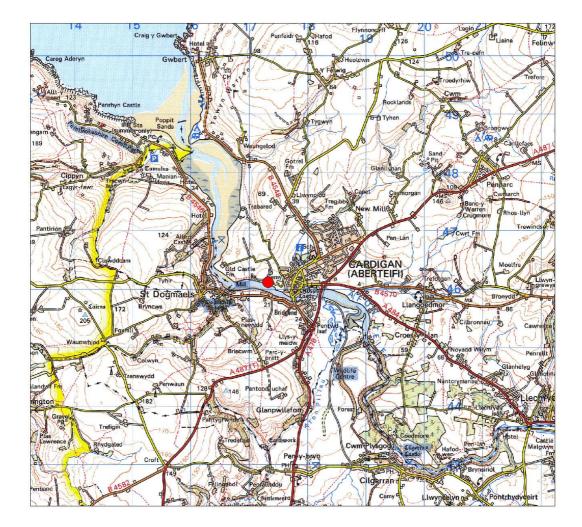


Figure 1. Location map, based on the Ordnance Survey.

Reproduced from the 1995 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Cambria Archaeology, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A



**Photo 1:** General view of site prior to excavation.



Photo 2: General view showing sequence of deposits.



Photo 3: Detail of deposits in trench.



Photo 4: General view showing beginning of construction.

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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

G Hughes

Swydd / Position: Trust Director

Llofnod / Signature ..... Dyddiad / Date

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

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadausydd gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

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