

# 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



# **ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY**

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2006/71  
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 56902

June 2006  
Mehefin 2006

## **WATCHING BRIEF AT NETPOOL, CARDIGAN MARCH 2006**

Gan / By

**K Murphy and H Wilson**

*Archaeoleg Cambria yw enw marchnata Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyfyngedig.  
Cambria Archaeology is the marketing name of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited.*

*Paratowyd yr adroddiad yma at ddefnydd y cwsmer yn unig. Ni dderbynnir cyfrifoldeb gan  
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed am ei ddefnyddio gan unrhyw berson na phersonau eraill  
a fydd yn ei ddarllen neu ddibynnu ar y gwybodaeth y mae'n ei gynnwys*

*The report has been prepared for the specific use of the client. The Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd can  
accept no responsibility for its use by any other person or persons who may read it or rely on  
the information it contains.*

ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA  
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf  
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir  
Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF  
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121  
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131  
Ffacs: 01558 823133  
Ebost: cambria@cambria.org.uk Gwefan:  
www.cambria.org.uk

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY  
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited  
The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo,  
Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF  
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121  
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131  
Fax: 01558 823133  
Email: cambria@cambria.org.uk Website:  
www.cambria.org.uk

Cwmni cyfyngedig (1198990) ynghyd ag elusen gofrestredig (504616) yw'r Ymddiriedolaeth. The Trust is both a Limited Company (No. 1198990) and a Registered Charity (No. 504616)

**CADEIRYDD CHAIRMAN: C R MUSSON MBE B Arch FSA MIFA. CYFARWYDDWR DIRECTOR: E G  
HUGHES BA FSA MIFA**

## **CONTENTS**

<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>RESULTS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>2</b>

## **ILLUSTRATIONS**

Figure 1: Location map

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.

## **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.



**WATCHING BRIEF AT NETPOOL,  
CARDIGAN  
MARCH 2006**

**RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2006/71**

**June 2006  
Mehefin 2006**

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan:  
This report has been prepared by:

Ken Murphy BA MIFA

Swydd / Position: Principal Archaeologist

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

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