

# 12 THE PARADE, CARMARTHEN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



Prepared  
by  
Cambria Archaeology  
for  
Mr D A Jones



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**12 THE PARADE, CARMARTHEN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

REPORT NUMBER: 2006/95  
PROJECT NUMBER: 61993

**Report prepared by  
Cambria Archaeology Field Services**

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REPORT NUMBER: 2006/95  
PROJECT NUMBER: 61993

August 2006

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This report has been checked and approved by Ken Murphy

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

**12 THE PARADE, CARMARTHEN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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## **12 THE PARADE, CARMARTHEN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

### **SUMMARY**

Plans to erect a new garage in the garden of 12 The Parade, Carmarthen (NGR SN41592012), required an archaeological watching brief on the extensive groundworks carried out during its construction. The watching brief was necessary because 12 The Parade is located on the line of the southern defences of the Roman town of *Moridunum*. Cambria Archaeology Field Services were commissioned to carry out the watching brief in July 2006.

The lines of the defences of the Roman town have been well established for some time and traces of the clay rampart were recorded during excavations carried out on a site immediately north of this watching brief in the late 1970s. This suggested that the houses on The Parade were constructed on the line of the Roman rampart.

Construction of the garage required the level of part of the garden to be reduced by c.2m. It was this reduction operation that was monitored during this watching brief. A buried soil horizon was recorded c.1m below the present ground surface, which may have been an earlier garden soil buried by subsequent landscaping. Yellow clay visible below the buried soil may have been derived from the rampart.

The results from this watching brief and previous archaeological work in this part of Carmarthen suggests that the defences have been heavily truncated and in some places removed by later activity.



Plate 1: General view across watching brief area during excavation.

## INTRODUCTION

### Project background

A planning application to erect a new garage in the garden of 12 The Parade, Carmarthen (NGR SN41592012), was approved with an attached condition that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during the groundworks required for its construction.

The applicant, Mr D A Jones commissioned Cambria Archaeology Field Services to carry out the watching brief in July 2006.

### The watching brief methodology and scope of the report

Construction of the garage required the excavation of a large area of the existing garden in order to provide access at road level, which was 2m below the level of the garden. The excavation was carried out by mechanical excavator with the spoil being dumped straight into lorries and removed from the site. Visits were made to the site during the excavation to record any features or deposits of archaeological interest.

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. Any 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).

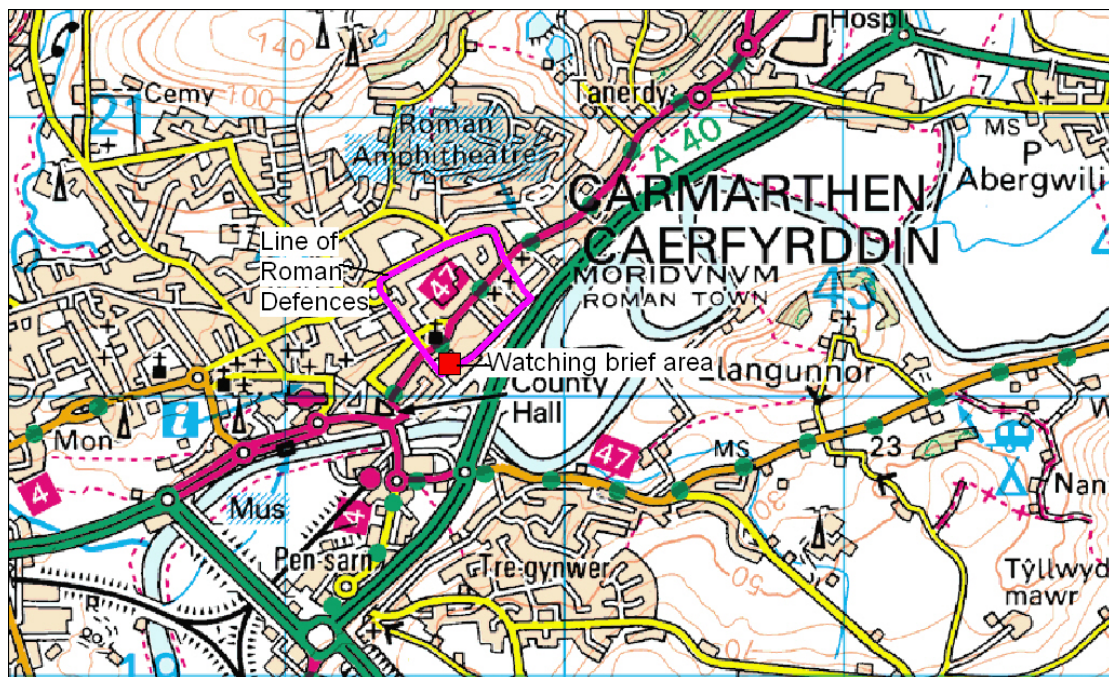


Figure 1: Location plan of watching brief area showing the line of the defences of the Roman town (pink outline).

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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Number 12 The Parade is located on the line of the southern defences of the Roman town of *Moridunum* (Fig. 1). The line of the defences has been well established in this area through various episodes of excavation and recording from the late 1970s onwards, including some salvage recording on, or adjacent to this site in 1994 (James 2003, 195-196).

Excavations in 1976 and 1978 on land to the north of 12 The Parade revealed evidence for the tail of the clay rampart, which suggests that the houses of The Parade are constructed on the line of the rampart, with the defensive ditches along the line of road (James 1980, Fig. 2.3).

Salvage recording of a former garden between 12 and 12a The Parade in 1994 revealed that the area had been terraced and truncated in the past, which had seemingly removed any evidence of the defences in this area (James 2003, 195-196).

## THE RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

Visits were made during the excavation to reduce the level of the garden. The method of excavation meant that little was observable except in the sides of the excavated area. This showed a buried soil horizon, c.1m below the present garden surface (Plate 2), that may have been a former garden soil buried by what appears to have been fairly recent build up. A lighter clay material (visible in the bottom left hand corner of Plate 2) below the buried soil may have been material derived from the Roman rampart, although this is far from certain. If this material was from the rampart it was not clear whether it was in situ or redeposited.

The only finds recovered were a few sherds of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century transfer printed ware pottery.



Plate 2: Detail of the buried soil horizon in the northern edge of the excavated area.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The excavations for the new garage provided a good opportunity to investigate the line of the southern defences of the Roman town. However, it appears from this watching brief and previous work that the defences have been heavily truncated, if not almost completely removed during the construction of the houses along The Parade and later landscaping works.



## SOURCES

- |         |      |   |
|---------|------|---|
| James H | 2003 | <i>Roman Carmarthen: excavations 1978-1993</i> . Britannia Monograph Series No. 20. London. Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies. |
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