WATCHING BRIEF AT BRYNGLAS, LLANDDAROG SEPTEMBER 2006



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Figure 1: Location map

Photo 1: General view of building work.

Photo 2: Typical section revealed in foundation trenches.

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SUMMARY

A site visit was made during foundation excavation for an extension to Brynglas, Llanddarog in order to record revealed archaeological deposits. Nothing of archaeological interest was apparent, and following the single site visit, and in consultation with the archaeological advisor to the planning authority, it was decided that no further archaeological work was required.

INTRODUCTION

Cambria Archaeology-Heritage Management, as advisors to Carmarthenshire County Council Planning Department, identified potential impacts on the archaeological resource during construction work at Brynglas, Llanddarog (national grid reference SN 50380 16530, planning application no W/12292). The building work consisted of the construction of an extension to the side of the detached house, replacing and enlarging on an earlier extension, and the construction of a garage, replacing an earlier garage.

Brynglas lies c.50m from the boundary wall of St Twrog's Church, a 19th century church built on the site of its Medieval predecessor, with the possibility of Early Medieval origins. Such early churches are likely to have provided a central core of any Medieval settlement in Llanddarog, the layout of which is not fully understood. The situation of Brynglas so close to the church therefore raises the possibility of unrecorded early settlement remains occurring in this area, which would be disturbed by the excavation of foundation trenches.

This watching brief was required by the planning authority as it was considered possible that early settlement may extend into this development area.

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

A single site visit was made to the site on 22 September 2006. The site had been prepared with topsoil removed prior to the site visit but the foundation trenches were excavated whilst the archaeologist was present. The trenches were approximately 0.70m wide and 0.9m deep. For the most part the trenches were dug through undisturbed subsoil and natural shale. Only a thin layer of subsoil survived on top of the shale, at most 0.2m thick. No features were visible and no artefacts were recovered from this deposit. Geological variations in the natural shale were visible but again no features were visible cutting into it and no artefacts were recovered. A brief investigation of the removed topsoil also failed to reveal any artefacts.

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 deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed during the watching brief.

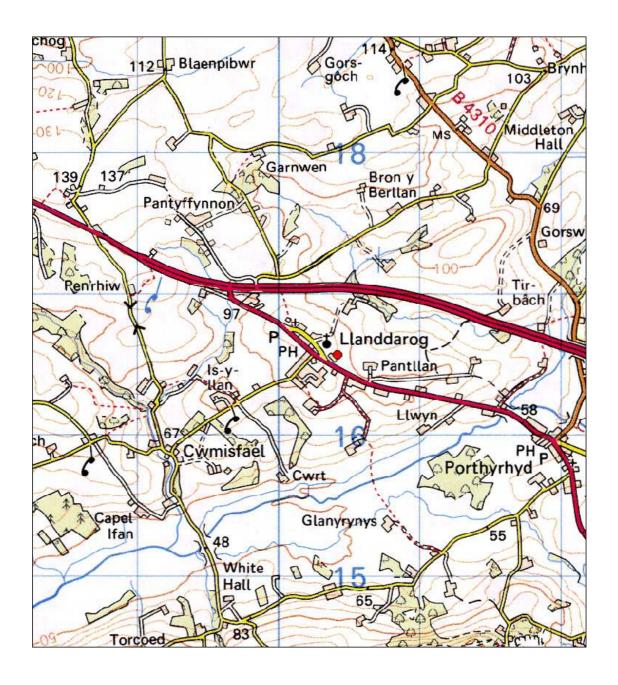


Figure 1. Location map, based on the Ordnance Survey.

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 building work.



Photo 2: Typical section revealed in foundation trenches.

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