

# **WATCHING BRIEF AT THE HUNTSMAN'S INN, ROSEMARKET, PEMBROKESHIRE: SEPTEMBER 2006**



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## **WATCHING BRIEF AT THE HUNTSMAN'S INN, ROSEMARKET, PEMBROKESHIRE: SEPTEMBER 2006**

By

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**Photo 1:** General view during topsoil strip

**Photo 2:** Section through circular pit adjacent to the eastern site boundary

**Photo 3:** Linear ditch in section

**Photo 4:** General view of excavated building footings

## **SUMMARY**

*Two site visits were made during foundation excavation for a new house adjacent to the Huntsman's Inn, Rosemarket, Pembrokeshire, in order to record revealed archaeological deposits. Little of archaeological interest was apparent, and following the site visits, 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 Pembrokeshire County Council Planning Department, identified potential impacts on the archaeological resource during building work at land adjacent to the Huntsman's Inn, Rosemarket, Pembrokeshire (national grid reference SM 95235 08205, planning application no 05/1241/PA). The building work consisted of the construction of a house.

This watching brief was required by the planning authority as it was considered possible that important archaeological remains associated with the medieval/later settlement of Rosemarket and/or with the Iron Age defended settlement known as Rosemarket Rath may be encountered.

## **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**

An area of land to the rear of The Huntsman's Inn measuring approximately 11.0m east to west by 17.0m north to south was topsoil stripped by a mini digger using a toothless grading bucket. The soil was a very dark reddish brown friable silty clay loam containing 20% angular fragments of old red sandstone. The topsoil varied gradually in depth from 0.25m at the northern edge of the site to 0.50m deep at the southern edge where it was retained by a hedge bank, and beyond which the present ground surface slopes away quite steeply.

The topsoil overlay a natural subsoil which comprised a compact reddish brown friable clay with 80% shattered/degrading old red sandstone bedrock.

A circular pit-like feature was seen to be cut into the natural subsoil adjacent to the eastern boundary some 4.7m due north of the southeast corner of the site. The feature was 1.30m in diameter and during groundworks for a service trench it was partially excavated and revealed in section (see Photo. 2) to be 0.5m in depth and filled with soil identical in type and quality to the removed topsoil. There was no evidence to indicate that this feature was archaeologically significant.

A 0.75m wide linear ditch was exposed cut into the subsoil to a depth of 0.35m, continuing beyond the excavation to the east and west, and running parallel to the hedgebank boundary some 6.0m away at the south edge of the site. During excavation of the foundation footings for the building the resultant sections showed that this feature had nearly vertical sides, a slightly concave base and was filled with a compact very dark reddish brown silty clay soil containing 65% small and medium size angular fragments of old red sandstone. Some organic root material and a few sherds of white glaze ceramic pottery were also observed in the fill. Again, there was no evidence to indicate that this feature was archaeologically significant, at least in the context of prehistoric or medieval Rosemarket. It seems likely that it represents a former boundary ditch given its location parallel to the existing southern boundary.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The removal of the topsoil down to natural subsoil exposed only two features, neither of which exhibited any evidence to indicate that they were, in the context of prehistoric or medieval Rosemarket at least, archaeologically significant.





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

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**Photo 1:** General view during topsoil strip, looking southeast



**Photo 2:** Section through circular pit adjacent to the eastern site boundary, looking east





**Photo 3:** Linear ditch in section, looking west



**Photo 4:** General view of excavated footings, looking northwest

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**October 2006**

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