

PROPOSED HOUSE BUILDING AT PLOT 2, WOODSTOCK, PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

September 2006



Prepared
by
Cambria Archaeology
for
Mr. Owen Griffiths



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October 2006

**BUILDING PLOT 2,
WOODSTOCK, PEMBROKESHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

REPORT NUMBER: 2006/117
PROJECT NUMBER: 62159

**Report prepared by
Cambria Archaeology Field Services**

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REPORT NUMBER: 2006/117
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This report has been compiled by Richard Ramsey

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On behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during topsoil stripping at the more southerly (Plot 2) of two building plots on land adjacent to Court Farm, Woodstock, Pembrokeshire (NGR SN 02148 25623). An archaeological watching brief condition had been attached to the planning consent because of the close proximity of the plot to the Parc Capel (PRN 1283) medieval chapel site and Woodstock Ring (PRN 1284) which may be of either Iron Age or medieval date. In addition, the Regional Historic Environment Record shows that Court farm itself may have been the location for a medieval courthouse. The potential, therefore, for significant archaeological features or deposits within the vicinity of the building plots appears high.

During the topsoil strip for Plot 2, however, only undisturbed subsoil was revealed and no archaeological features or deposits were observed.



Photo 1: General view across the watching brief area, looking northeast, after topsoil strip

INTRODUCTION

Project background

Planning consent (**06/0167/PA**) has been granted for the construction of a dwelling at a plot of land (Plot 2) adjacent to Court Farm, Woodstock, Clarboston Road, Pembrokeshire. The planning consent had a condition attached that required an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during any groundwork excavations on the development area. To comply with the condition the current owner of the land, Mr. Owen Griffiths, commissioned Cambria Archaeology Field Services to carry out the watching brief in September 2006.

The watching brief methodology and scope of the report

The watching brief consisted of two brief site visits during the topsoil strip prior to excavation of the foundation. This report summarises the archaeological background to the site and discusses the results of the watching brief.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Building plot 2 (Fig.1) consists of a triangular piece of land measuring approximately 50 metres in length from west to east by 40 metres northeast to southwest by 35 metres northwest to southeast. The plot lies to the southwest of Court Farm and adjacent to the B 4329 mountain road running between Haverfordwest and Cardigan. Court Farm is recorded in the regional Historic Environment Record, housed with Cambria Archaeology in Llandeilo, as place-name evidence for the possible location of a medieval courthouse (PRN 13223).

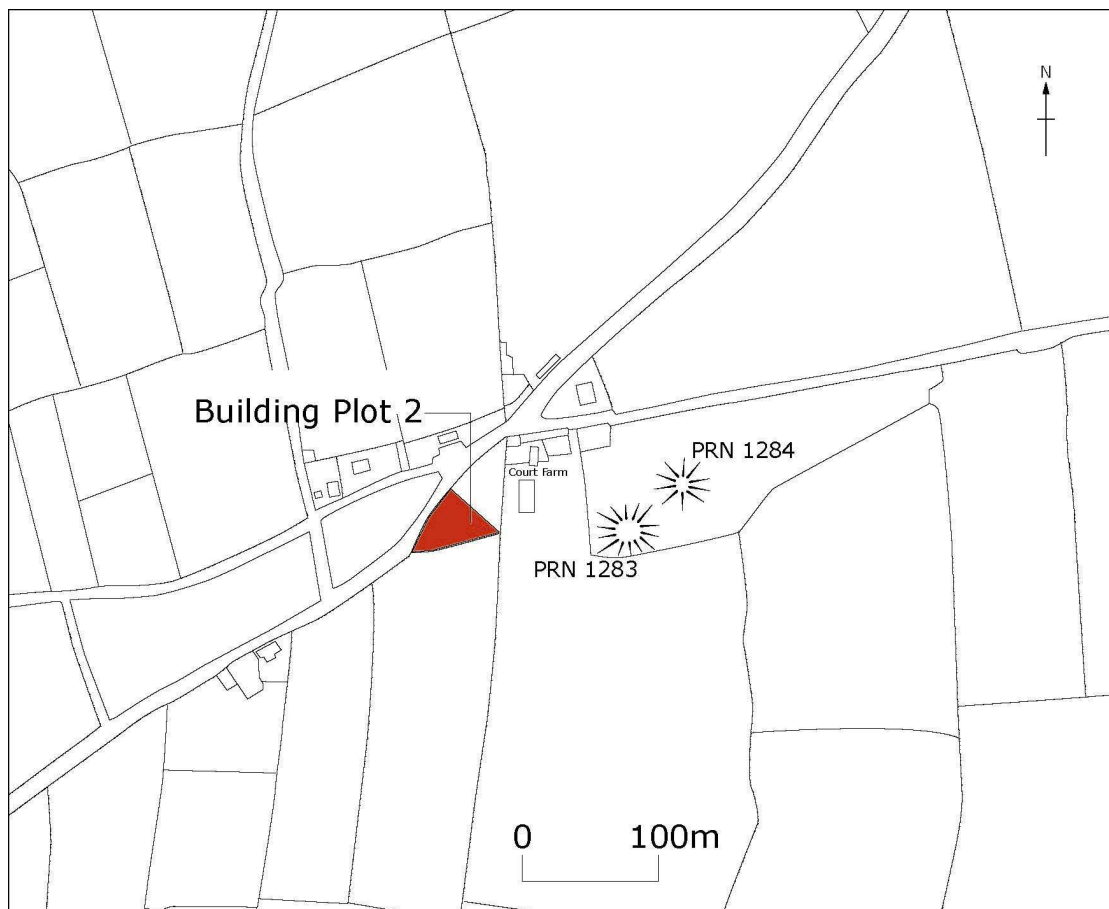


Figure 1. Location of building plot 2 in relation to the archaeological sites

Some 100m or so to the east of the development area lies the rectilinear earthwork remains of Parc Capel (PRN 1283) which is the site of the former medieval chapel of ease to Ambleston, and conferred upon Slebech Commandery between 1152 and 1176. Also associated with this site was a cemetery which had become disused by about 1800.

Close by to the northeast of Parc Capel, in the same field, lies the square enclosure earthwork known as Woodstock Ring (PRN 1284). Opinion is divided as to whether this site is Iron Age or Medieval in date, either way it still represents an important part of the local archaeological resource.

WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

The site was visited during the topsoil strip for the proposed building footprint. The topsoil, measuring on average only 0.25m deep, comprised a dark orange brown friable silty clay loam containing 15% small angular fragments of shattered shale, occasional small coal fragments, and a few sherds of post medieval and modern pottery. The removal of the topsoil revealed a light orange brown compact, but friable, undisturbed natural subsoil that contained 20% medium and small angular fragments of shattered shale.

There were no features or deposits of archaeological interest observed in the exposed subsoil.

CONCLUSION

Although the site lies close to an archaeologically sensitive area, the footprint of the new building poses no direct threat to the archaeological resource.



Photo.2: General view of the site area. Plot 1 footings in foreground with Plot 2 after topsoil strip, beyond, looking southwest



Figure 2: Extract from the First Edition 6" Ordnance Survey map of 1891, location of building plot No. 2 shown in red

SOURCES

Databases

The Regional Historic Environment Record, housed with Cambria Archaeology

CARN – Core Archaeological Record Index hosted by the Royal Commission of Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales

Maps

Ordnance Survey 1891, *Pembrokeshire Sheet XVII SW* 1st Edition 6" to 1 mile

Ordnance Survey 1908, *Pembrokeshire Sheet XVII SW* 2nd Edition 6" to 1 mile

Ordnance Survey 1964, *Quarter Sheet SN02NW* 1:10,560

Aerial Photographs

Meridian Airmaps frames 25719 and 25720 1955