

# **BECA BAKERY PLOT NUMBER 4, EFAILWEN, CARMARTHENSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
SEPTEMBER 2005



Prepared by: Cambria Archaeology  
For: Mr. Harold Bibby



A R C H A E O L O G  
**CAMBRIA**  
A R C H A E O L O G Y

**ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY**

REPORT NO. 2006/123  
PROJECT RECORD NO. 62178

October 2006

**BECA BAKERY PLOT NUMBER 4, EFAILWEN,  
CARMARTHENSHIRE  
WATCHING BRIEF**

By

Richard Ramsey

*Cambria Archaeology is the marketing name of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited.*

*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.*

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  
Email: [cambria@cambria.org.uk](mailto:cambria@cambria.org.uk) Website:  
[www.cambria.org.uk](http://www.cambria.org.uk)  
Fax: 01558 823133  
Email: [cambria@cambria.org.uk](mailto:cambria@cambria.org.uk)  
Website: [www.cambria.org.uk](http://www.cambria.org.uk)

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







# **EFAILWEN, BECA BAKERY, NUMBER 4, CARMARTHENSHIRE WATCHING BRIEF**

**REPORT NUMBER 2006/123**

**October 2006**

This report has been prepared by:

Richard Ramsey

Position: Archaeologist

Signature ..... Date

This report has been checked and approved by

K. Murphy

Position: Principal Archaeologist

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







## CONTENTS

<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>RESULTS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Figure 1. Location map, based on the Ordnance Survey.</b>	<b>4</b>

## ILLUSTRATIONS

**Photo 1:** Looking north across the building plot at the revealed service trench.

**Photo 2:** General view of Plot 4 after completion of the topsoil strip.

.

## **SUMMARY**

*Over the course of a single day an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the turf and topsoil strip for a residential development at Plot 4, Beca Bakery, Efailwen, Carmarthenshire. The plot is one of six building plots proposed for the site of the former bakery that lies within 2km of the prehistoric monument complex centred on Glandy Cross.*

*No archaeologically significant deposits or features were revealed either within the topsoil or cut into the natural subsoil, and after 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 proposed groundworks for six building plots on the area formerly occupied by the Beca Bakery, at Efailwen, Carmarthenshire at NGR SN1354625394.

This watching brief was required by the planning authority as it was considered possible that important archaeological remains associated with the prehistoric monument complex of Glandy Cross may be encountered. An archaeological condition was therefore required in relation to Planning Application W/07001 and W/09642 for the whole development.

This watching brief is for plot number 4 only (centred on SN 1357525390) and was commissioned by Mr. Bibby, the owner and developer of this plot. The watching brief took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2006 while the turf and topsoil strip took place.

The surrounding area contains a number of recorded sites in the regional Historic Environment Record. Listed below, using each one's Primary Record Number (PRN), are the prehistoric or potentially prehistoric sites most immediately close to the development area. More recent medieval and post medieval sites are not included:

- PRN 1034 (SN1317252), Maenpica Standing Stone, probably Bronze Age. Recently a series of "folly" standing stones have been positioned in the field on the other side of the track, one of which shows signs of having been used as a gatepost.
- PRN 13236 (SN13462562), White Stone. Probably not prehistoric, this stone is more likely to be a Boundary stone from the medieval or post-medieval period.
- PRN 1063 (SN13852540), Rhos Maen Hir; Capel Nebo Stone. Standing Stone. Probably Bronze Age. A fine standing stone used as a gatepost on a boundary.
- PRN 14299 (SN138256), Yr Allor. A stone axe factory. Probably Neolithic. A large amount of material was recovered here in 1991.
- PRN 9771 (SN13662580), Maen-Gwyn. Round Barrow. Probably Bronze Age. Degraded by ploughing and with a hedge-line across its centre.
- PRN 14280 (SN13152497), Lan. Round Barrow. Probably Bronze Age. Now very reduced in height. Lumps of white quartz found cleared to the field boundaries may have originally been part of the fabric of this barrow that continues to be eroded.

In addition to the above there are at least twenty more sites, of a prehistoric ritual and funerary type, around and beyond Glandy Cross which lies some 1.5km to the north of the development area.

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 360 degree excavator using a toothless grading bucket carried out the topsoil strip having first removed the turf and, in places where the drainage on the site was bad, reed-cover with a toothed bucket. The average depth of the topsoil was 0.30m which was seen to overlay natural subsoil deposits of a gleyed purplish grey clay soil in the north-western part of the site and an orange brown silty clay soil on the south side of the plot. These two different natural subsoils reflected the lack of good drainage in the north-western part of the plot compared with the well drained soils elsewhere. A layer of broken shale hard standing was revealed at the north-eastern edge of the site which continued beyond the excavations in the direction of the former bakery site. This probably represents the periphery of the former car parking area of Beca bakery and is not archaeologically significant, at least in terms of the potential prehistoric archaeological resource.

An approximately 0.75m wide linear trench filled with a mixed yellowish brown clay soil was revealed cut into the natural subsoil and aligned roughly north south across the whole site (Photo.2). This appeared to be a modern service trench associated with the former bakery.

No other deposits or features were revealed during the topsoil strip.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified during the watching brief for plot 4. However, given the size of the development of the whole 6 plots, prehistoric activity could be encountered, but any such features will have been severely compromised in the area of the bakery building and hard standing. This was found to be the case with plot 6 which was previously excavated and built over, but two thirds of the overall site has yet to be investigated during groundworks for the four remaining building plots.





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:** Looking north across the building plot at the revealed service trench.



**Photo 2:** General view of Plot 4 after completion of the topsoil strip, looking south. Note the hard standing in the foreground.

# **EFAILWEN, BECA BAKERY, NUMBER 4, CARMARTHENSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**REPORT NUMBER 2006/123**

**October 2006**

This report has been prepared by:

Richard Ramsey

Position: Archaeologist

Signature ..... Date

This report has been checked and approved by

K. Murphy

Position: Principal archaeologist

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