

LAND ADJACENT TO AWELON, LLANFAIR ROAD, LAMPETER

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

FEBRUARY 2007



Prepared by Cambria Archaeology
For Mr Paul Miller



ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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**LAND AT AWELON, LLANFAIR ROAD, LAMPETER
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

REPORT NUMBER 2007/09

February 2007

This report has been prepared by Nikki Cook

Position: Project Manager

Signature Date

This report has been checked and approved by Nigel Page

on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position: Senior Project Manager

Signature Date

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau sydd
gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

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

**LAND ADJACENT TO AWELON, LLANFAIR ROAD, LAMPETER
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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**LAND ADJACENT TO AWELON, LLANFAIR ROAD, LAMPETER
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SUMMARY

A planning application was submitted by Mrs M Miller to build a new house on a plot of land adjacent to the track to Awelon, Llanfair Road, Lampeter, Ceredigion (NGR SN6138050230). The plot lies within a short distance of the known course of the Roman road from Carmarthen to Llanfair Clydogau, and also close to the Mill Race which served the former 19th century Pandy Fulling Mill located 200m to the southwest. Planning permission was granted with a condition that required an archaeological watching brief be carried out during any groundworks on site.

To comply with the condition Mr Paul Miller commissioned Cambria Archaeology Field Services to carry out the watching brief in February 2007.

No features of archaeological interest were noted.

INTRODUCTION

Project Background

A planning application (A060360) was submitted by Mrs M Miller to build a new house on a plot of land adjacent to the track to Awelon, Llanfair Road, Lampeter, Ceredigion (NGR SN6138050230) (see Figure 1). Planning permission was granted with a condition attached requiring an archaeological watching brief. This required the developer to ensure that a suitably qualified archaeologist was present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area, and to facilitate the implementation of the archaeological watching brief in accordance with the standards laid down by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA).

To comply with the condition Mr Paul Miller contracted Cambria Archaeology Field Services to carry out the watching brief in February 2007.

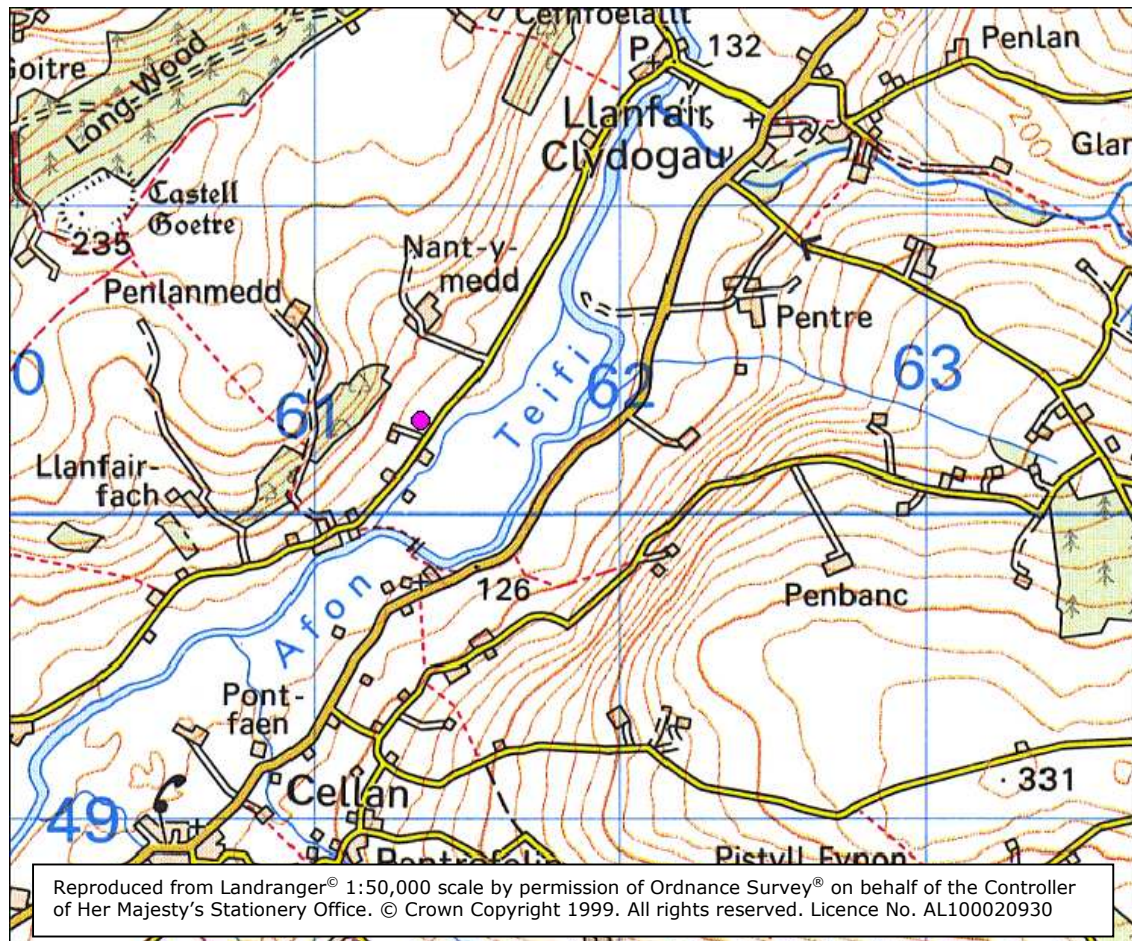


Figure 1 Location of proposed development

Watching brief specification

The objectives of the watching brief project were to observe, investigate and record any archaeological features or deposits revealed during the ground preparation works and digging of footings for the proposed new development. The results of the fieldwork were to be assessed and related to their local,

regional and wider contexts, with a report summarising the results submitted to Mr Miller on completion of the watching brief.

Methodology and scope of report

The watching brief consisted of a site visit during the groundworks, which had involved topsoil stripping across the whole development plot and some excavation and levelling to ready the ground for construction.

This report summarises the archaeological background to the site and discusses the results of the watching brief.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development area lies close to the buried remains of a known segment of the Roman Road which linked Carmarthen with Llanfair Clydogau (PRN 3382) (see Figure 2), with the road visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs (Schlee 2004).

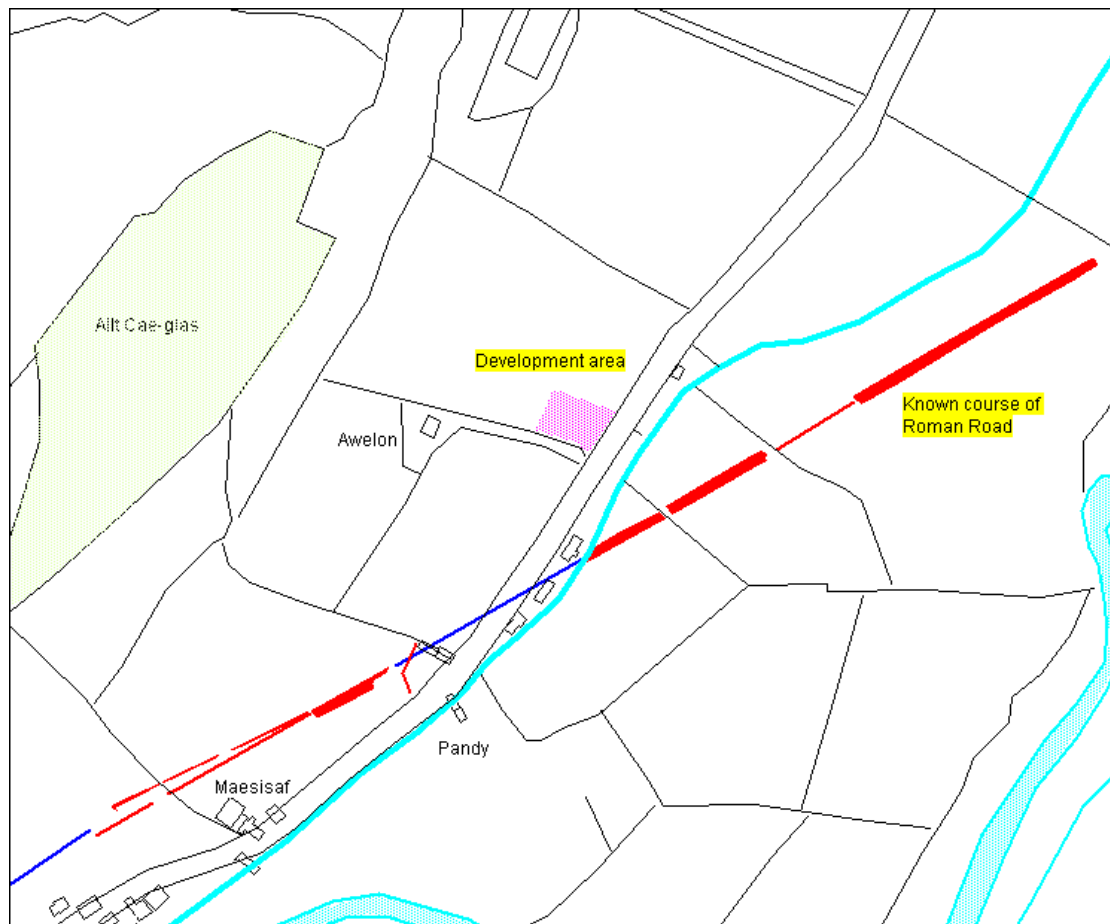


Figure 2 Location of development in relation to the Roman Road

The Ordnance Survey 1st and 2nd Edition 25" maps published in the late 19th and early 20th century show this land to be undeveloped pastureland, with the site lying close to the mill race which served both the Pandy Fulling Mill and the Llanfair corn mill located to the southwest of the site (see Figure 3). Both mills are of likely 19th century date: the Llanfair Mill is shown on the 1859 Tithe Map

and Apportionment for Llanfair Clydogau Parish, although the fulling mill is not depicted. However, the Pandy mill is depicted on the 1st Edition OS map published in 1891 and therefore must have been constructed sometime between these two dates.

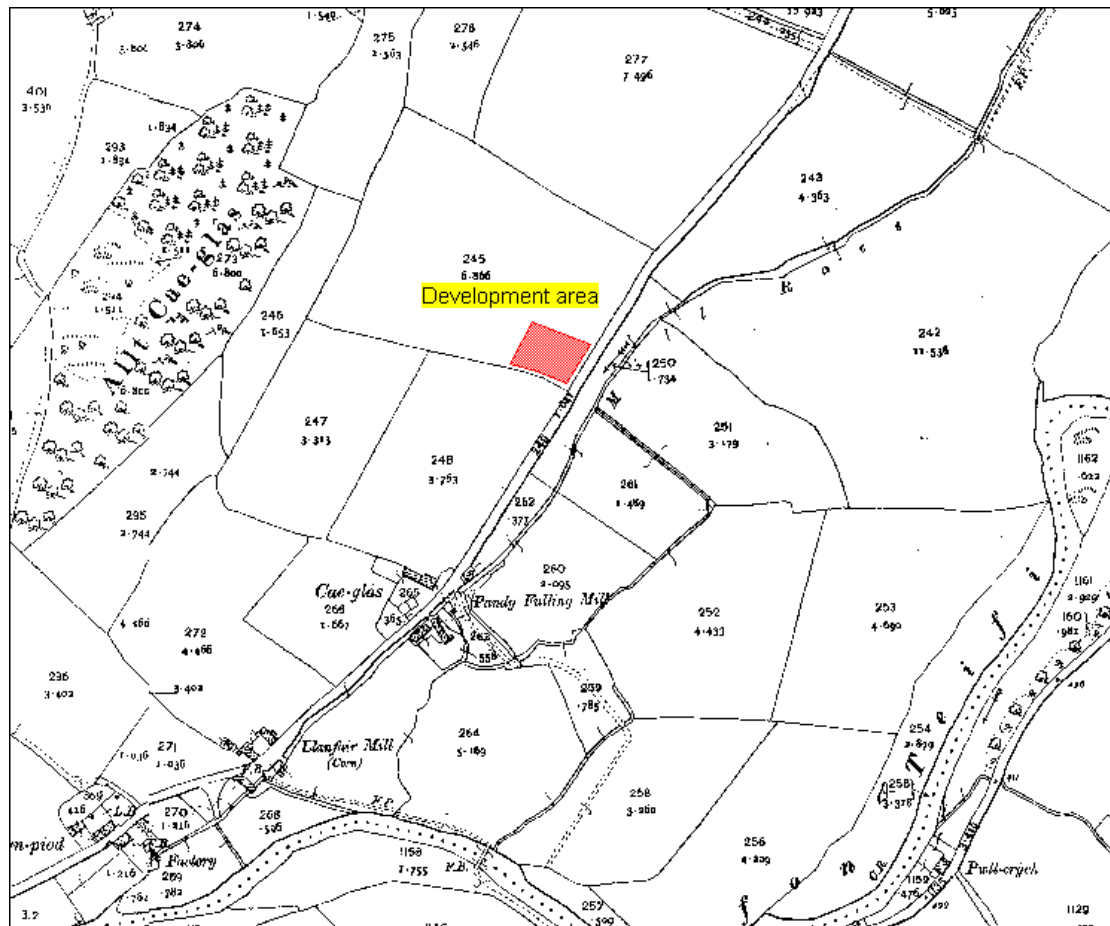


Figure 3 Extract from the OS 2nd Edition 25" map, published c.1910

WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

A visit was made to the site on February 5th 2007. The area of land under development is situated adjacent to the track leading to Awelon, Llanfair Road, Lampeter, Ceredigion, centred at SN6138050230, with access opening onto the Llanfair Road. Planning permission has been granted for the erection of a new house at the corner of a pasture field which gently slopes to the southeast towards the Afon Teifi.

Considerable groundworks had already been undertaken across the development site prior to the field visit, which had been stripped of topsoil, and levelled to a maximum depth of 1.2m below the existing turfline by cutting into the hillslope on the northernmost extent of the development. Footings had already been dug to a depth of a further 1m into the freshly levelled surface and the complete imprint of the new house laid out. At the time of the field visit, hardcore material was being spread by machine over the entrance to the site and reinforcing rods inserted into the base of the metre deep footings in preparation for an impending delivery of concrete (see Plate 1).



Plate 1: General view across the watching brief area

No archaeological features were observed in the imprint of the development, nor in the visible sections cut into the gentle hillslope on the northern side of the site. No features were observed in the sections revealed by the footings, which had been dug into the silty clay natural.

Any archaeological features which might have been expected in the development area would have most likely been visible in the c.0.25m band of red/brown silty clay loam which lay beneath the c.0.6m deep brown topsoil layer visible in section. This red/brown loam in turn overlay the natural yellow-grey clay natural, which may also have had archaeological features cut into the top of it. The development area had already been cleared of both the topsoil and red/brown horizons down to the natural, with an additional clearance of the natural to level the site in preparation for the footings. No archaeological features were therefore recorded.

A large number of sub-rounded and sub-angular small and medium-sized stones were visible within the excavated layers, with occasional larger stones also apparent. The numerous stones contained within the matrix of the development are typical of glacial moraine or till deposited by the retreating glacier which carved out the Teifi valley during the last Ice Age. An extremely large boulder had been uncovered during groundworks and moved to the edge of the site at SN6135950252 (see Plate 2), and was most likely a glacial erratic.



Plate 2 Large boulder uncovered during groundworks and cleared to the edge of the development

CONCLUSION

No archaeological features were noted within the development area, although the potential archaeological horizons had been largely cleared before Cambria Archaeology Field Services had been contracted to undertake the watching brief. However, despite the location of the site c.70m from the edge of the Roman Road, it was separated from it by the Mill Race which served the post-medieval corn and fulling mills to the southwest of the site. Historic cartographic sources showed no previous development of the land, and it is unlikely that the development has had any significant impact on the archaeological resource.

Sources

Schlee, D 2004 '*Roman Military Roads, Forts and Vici*' unpublished Cambria Archaeology Report no. 2004-95, Llandeilo: Cambria Archaeology

Aerial photos

AP oblique/RCAHMW/RCAHMW/1995/BW print/955207-49-50;
AP oblique/RCAHMW/RCAHMW/1995/colour slide/2429-50;Mm

Cartographic sources

Tithe Map and Apportionment	1859
1st Edition 25" OS Map	1861
2nd Edition 25" OS Map	1910

Site photos



Plate 3 General view of the site looking N



Plate 4 Detail of section in the levelled northernmost extent of development



Plate 5 Detail of section within the footings