

# QUARRY COTTAGE, HODGESTON, PEMBROKESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
APRIL 2007



Prepared by: Cambria Archaeology  
For: Mr. Giles Birt



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PEMBROKESHIRE  
WATCHING BRIEF**

By

Richard Ramsey

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# **QUARRY COTTAGE, HODGESTON, PEMBROKESHIRE WATCHING BRIEF**

**REPORT NUMBER 2007/23**

**April 2007**

This report has been prepared by:

Richard Ramsey

Position: Archaeologist

Signature ..... Date

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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

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## **SUMMARY**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the topsoil strip and foundation footing excavation for a residential development at Quarry Cottage, Hodgeston, Pembrokeshire.*

*The excavations revealed only made ground deposits comprising dumped building demolition material used to fill in a former quarry.*

*No archaeologically significant deposits or features relating to medieval Hodgeston were revealed.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Cambria Archaeology Heritage Management, as advisors to Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, identified potential impacts on the archaeological resource during proposed groundworks for a building plot at Quarry Cottage, Hodgeston, Pembrokeshire.

The watching brief was required by the planning authority as it was considered possible that important archaeological remains associated with the medieval occupation of Hodgeston may be encountered. An archaeological condition was therefore required in relation to Planning Application NP/06/469.

The watching brief centred on ground to the west of Quarry Cottage at NGR SS 03109930 and was commissioned by Mr. Giles Birt, as agent for Mr. Graham Aspley the owner and developer of the plot. The watching brief was undertaken on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2007 during groundworks for the building foundations.

The surrounding area contains two sites recorded in the regional Historic Environment Record (HER). Listed below, using each one's Primary Record Number (PRN), are the sites most immediately close to the development area.

- PRN 4185 (SS02929945), Hodgeston Moat, is a square medieval moated enclosure with the well-preserved earthworks of its surrounding moat much in evidence. It is a scheduled ancient monument (SAM Pe 246).
- PRN 4187 (SS02949938), Hodgeston Church (unknown dedication). The church is of medieval origin, dating to at least 1291 (Taxatio listing). The present building was largely rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century but still has a 14<sup>th</sup> century chancel and earlier, possibly 13<sup>th</sup> century, nave. It is a Grade II listed building (Listed Building No. 2789).

Map evidence: first edition 25" Ordnance Survey of 1869, shows a working quarry on the site although this appears to have fallen into disuse by the time of the publication of the second edition 6" Ordnance Survey map of 1906. Quarry Cottage is marked on all editions of the Ordnance Survey maps, but the current building is a modern renovation undertaken by the present owner, Mr. Graham Aspley.

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 JCB excavator using a toothless grading bucket carried out the excavation of the rectangular building footing. The footing measured 10.0m east to west by 7.0m north to south with a porch footing measuring 2.0m by 2.8m projecting centrally from its south side. The maximum depth required for the footing was 0.70m below the present ground surface, although the depth of the excavations in places exceeded this due to the looseness of the underlying ground.

There was minimal turf and topsoil cover which gave way to a mass of loosely compacted building demolition debris comprising a mix of stone, roofing slate, shattered mortar, concrete block fragments and assorted rubbish. This dumped material was present to the full depth of the excavations on the eastern side of the footing whilst on the western side limestone bedrock was encountered at depths varying from 0.3m to 0.8m. The exposed limestone was seen to fall away steeply on its eastern side and represented part of the western edge of the former quarry. The demolition debris layers represented dumped material used to infill the former limestone quarry and make up the ground to the west of the quarry edge. Other than the quarry itself no archaeologically significant features were encountered, although a buried soil horizon was exposed to the west of the quarry which represented a former ground surface, but no archaeological features or deposits were noted in that context either.

No other significant archaeological deposits or features were revealed during the groundworks.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The footings for the new building were excavated through dumped building demolition rubble which had been used as infill for the disused limestone quarry. Part of the western edge of the quarry was exposed during the excavations and a buried soil horizon was noted which represented a former ground surface some 0.35m below the present ground surface. No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified, either within the former quarry or on its western edge.

The groundworks for the new building, therefore, posed no threat to the archaeological resource of Hodgeston.





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

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Figure 2. Extract from first edition six inch Ordnance Survey map, 1881



Figure 3. Extract from 2nd edition six inch Ordnance Survey map, 1906



**Photo 1:** Looking west across the footprint of the house foundation



**Photo 2:** View looking west showing quarry infill during groundworks

## **SOURCES**

### **Database**

The Regional Historic Environment Record, housed with Cambria Archaeology

### **Cartographic**

Ordnance Survey, 1:10560 Pembrokeshire Sheet XL SE 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1881

Ordnance Survey, 1:10560 Pembrokeshire Sheet XL SE 2nd Edition 1906