

FAIRVIEW, ROBESTON WATHEN, PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

MAY 2007



Prepared
by
Cambria Archaeology
for
Mr and Mrs R Maidment



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FAIRVIEW, ROBESTON WATHEN, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

By

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FAIRVIEW, ROBESTON WATHEN, PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

A planning application was submitted by Mr and Mrs R Maidment to alter and extend their house, Fairview, at Robeston Wathen, Pembrokeshire (NGR SN 0837415742). The house lies in close proximity to Robeston Wathen church, a medieval building. Given the potential for the presence of archaeological features or deposits associated with the church, planning permission was granted with a condition that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during the groundworks.

In order to comply with the planning condition the developers commissioned Cambria Archaeology Field Services to carry out the watching brief in May 2007.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the watching brief.



Plate 1: General view across the watching brief area, looking east

INTRODUCTION

Project background

A planning application (No. 06/1179/PA) was submitted by Mr and Mrs Maidment to alter and extend their house, Fairview, at Robeston Wathen, Pembrokeshire (NGR SN 0837415742). The house lies in close proximity to Robeston Wathen church, a medieval building. Given this fact, Cambria Archaeology Heritage Management, as advisors to the Planning Department of Pembrokeshire County Council, recommended that a watching brief condition should be attached to the planning application, should it receive a positive determination, in order to protect potential archaeological interests.

Planning permission was granted with a condition that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during the groundworks for the house extension.

To comply with the condition Mr and Mrs Maidment commissioned Cambria Archaeology Field Services to carry out the watching brief in May 2007.

The watching brief methodology and scope of the report

The watching brief consisted of a site visit during the groundworks for the house extension, which involved rubble removal and topsoil stripping in the area to the rear of Fairview.

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

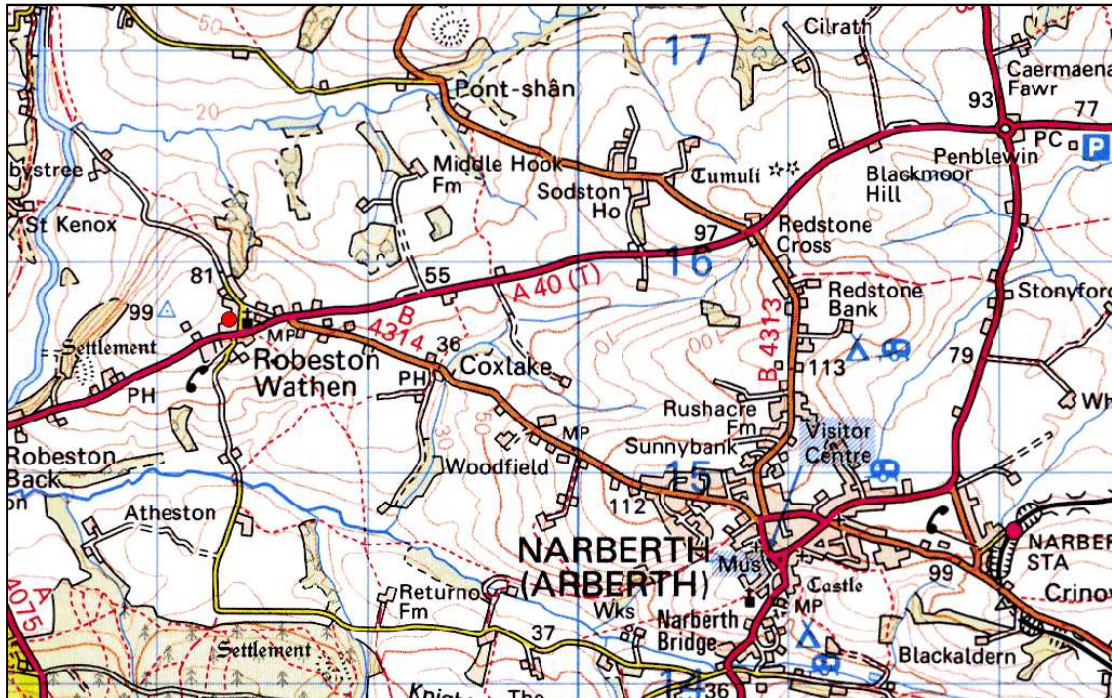


Figure 1 Location plan of development area Reproduced from the 1:50000 Landranger Map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence No.100043738.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The house is situated in close proximity to Robeston Wathen church (PRN 3587), which lies some 30m or so across the road to the northeast at NGR SN 08451574. The church, which has no known dedication, is medieval in origin with a chancel, nave, and south transept all thought to be 14th century in date. The tower, a commanding landmark from its hilltop location, is likely to be early 15th century. The church was heavily restored from 1875 with a new north aisle being added that replaced the former north transept.

The present church is a Grade II listed building (Listed Building No. 6092).

WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

A site visit was made during the topsoil strip and rubble removal in preparation for the excavation of the footings for the new extension. An area measuring approximately 8.5m north to south by 10.0m east to west to the rear (west side) of the house was machine stripped to an average depth of 0.35m. The removed material comprised a natural yellowish brown sandy clay soil which revealed only a mix of natural clay and degrading sandstone bedrock.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed.

DISCUSSION

Despite the potentially sensitive location of the site, the groundworks required for the house extension had no archaeological impact.



Plate 2: View south across the site.



Plate 3: View southwest across the site during the groundworks.

SOURCES CONSULTED

Database

The Regional Historic Environment Record, housed with Cambria Archaeology

Written

Ludlow N 1998, *South Pembrokeshire Churches*, unpublished Church report for CADW: Welsh Historic Monuments, DAT 48, PRN 57048 and 57044

Cartographic

Ordnance Survey, 1:10000 Quarter Sheet SN01NE 1964

Ordnance Survey, 1: 50000 Landranger First Series Sheet 158 1974