

# **WATCHING BRIEF AT NEWHOUSE FARM, LUDCHURCH, PEMBROKESHIRE JULY 2007**



Prepared by Cambria Archaeology  
For Mr Glyn Jones



# ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2007/63  
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 63180

Gorffennaf 2007  
July 2007

WATCHING BRIEF AT NEWHOUSE FARM, LUDCHURCH, PEMBROKESHIRE  
JULY 2007

Gan / By

Philip Poucher

*Archaeoleg Cambria yw enw marchnata Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyfyngedig.  
Cambria Archaeology is the marketing name of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited.*

*Paratowyd yr adroddiad yma at ddefnydd y cwsmer yn unig. Ni dderbynnir cyfrifoldeb gan Ymddiriedolaeth  
Archaeolegol Dyfed am ei ddefnyddio gan unrhyw berson na phersonau eraill a fydd yn ei ddarllen neu ddibynnu ar y  
gwybodaeth y mae'n ei gynnwys*

*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.*

ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA  
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf  
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir  
Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF  
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121  
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131  
Ffacs: 01558 823133  
Ebost: [cambria@cambria.org.uk](mailto:cambria@cambria.org.uk)  
Gwefan: [www.cambria.org.uk](http://www.cambria.org.uk)

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

Cwmni cyfyngedig (1198990) ynghyd ag elusen gofrestredig (504616) yw'r Ymddiriedolaeth. 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

**WATCHING BRIEF AT NEWHOUSE FARM, LUDCHURCH,  
PEMROKESHIRE  
JULY 2007**

**RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2007/63**

**Gorffennaf 2007  
July 2007**

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by Philip Poucher

Swydd / Position: Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature ..... Dyddiad / Date

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith  
This report has been checked and approved by

ar ran Archaeoleg Cambria, Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.  
on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Senior Project Manager

Llofnod / Signature ..... Dyddiad / 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

## **CONTENTS**

<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>RESULTS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>3</b>

## **ILLUSTRATIONS**

**Figure 1:** Location map

**Photo 1:** General view of excavation work after removal of the first c500mm.

**Photo 2:** W facing photo showing remnants of one of the plough marks.

## **NEWHOUSE FARM, LUDCHURCH, PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

### **SUMMARY**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on ground works to the rear of farm buildings at Newhouse Farm, Ludchurch, Pembrokeshire, SN 1563 1172. The work was undertaken by Cambria Archaeology on behalf of Mr Glyn Jones in July 2007.

A watching brief was deemed necessary because the site was located c150-200m from a possible prehistoric defended enclosure identified from aerial photographs. It was possible therefore that the site could overlie archaeology relating to this defended enclosure or related features. The plans are to build on the site, involving the removal of material to create an area level to current adjacent farm sheds prior to the excavation of foundation trenches.

The area was initially machine stripped down c500mm, using a grading bucket. Material was lifted into trailers and taken away from site, deposited in a neighbouring field. An archaeologist was present during the stripping of the first c500mm. A small area towards the western end of the site was machine stripped down a further c300mm to confirm that the material visible throughout the area was natural subsoil. After on-site consultation it was decided that an archaeologist need not be present for the excavation of the remaining material.

The site lay in the corner of a field of improved pasture, slightly down-slope from the possible defended enclosure, of which nothing is visible above ground. On-site examination revealed evidence of agricultural ploughing but no evidence of archaeological features or deposits, suggesting activity relating to the possible defended enclosure either did not extend into this area, or the evidence has been destroyed by subsequent agricultural activity.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Project Background**

A planning application for work to the rear of Newhouse Farm, Ludchurch, Pembrokeshire (NGR SN15631172), was approved with an attached condition that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during the required groundworks.

The applicant Mr Glyn Jones commissioned Cambria Archaeology Field Services to carry out the watching brief in July 2007.

### **The watching brief methodology and scope of the report**

Construction work required the excavation of a large area (c25m by 20m), levelling and reducing the ground level to the same level as the adjacent farm sheds prior to the excavation of any foundation trenches. The excavation was carried out by mechanical excavator with a grading bucket, removing the topsoil to a depth of c500mm. The spoil was lifted into trailers and removed to an adjacent field. A visit was made to the site during the removal of the first c500mm to record any features or deposits of archaeological interest.

This report outlines the main watching brief results before discussing the impact of the works based on the on-site observations and the known archaeological potential of the area. All grid references are prefixed with NGR (National Grid Reference).

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

The site is located on the southern edge of a field of improved pasture, to the north-west of the traditional farmstead complex of Newhouse Farm. The farmstead lies close to an important prehistoric ridgeway along which lie many ancient monuments. There are no recorded archaeological sites within the development area but adjacent to the site a possible prehistoric defended enclosure has been identified from aerial photographs. Little is known of this particular site but from the detail visible on the aerial photograph it shows similarities to a class of Iron Age defended settlement that have been recorded within this region. One of the earliest detailed maps of the area, the Lampeter Velfrey parish tithe map of c1842, shows this landscape much as it is today, although some field boundaries have been removed to allow for the creation of some larger land parcels.

## **RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF**

A site visit was made during the removal of c500mm of topsoil from the site. Underneath the topsoil a mottled yellow-orange clayey-silt subsoil was revealed across the site, with patches of crushed red sandstone. After the removal of this topsoil a small strip of c300mm was further excavated towards the western end of the site to confirm that the subsoil was a natural occurring deposit and did not overlie any earlier archaeological deposits.

Several narrow linear features were revealed cutting into the subsoil, mainly within the south-western corner of the site. These linear features ran in an east-west direction, parallel to the nearby field boundary, measuring between 0.15m and 0.20m wide and running for up to 12m, and all very shallow. The fills were similar, consisting of mid grey-brown clayey-silt, similar to

the topsoil. One linear also contained fragments of coal. It seems very likely these features represent plough marks, the coal suggests later post medieval or modern ploughing.

Although it was possible the site may have lain across part of an outer ditch to the possible defended enclosure, no further archaeological features or layers were identified either cut into or overlying the natural subsoil.

Site stripping was due to continue to bring the ground level down to the same level as adjacent farm sheds, which would result in a greater depth of deposits excavated at the western end due to the gentle west-east slope. However, after on-site consultation it was clear nothing of archaeological interest was visible and therefore it was unnecessary for an archaeologist to be present during these works.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The excavations at Newhouse farm revealed evidence of late post medieval/modern plough marks underlying the topsoil, but revealed nothing relating to the adjacent possible prehistoric defended enclosure or any other archaeological features or deposits.



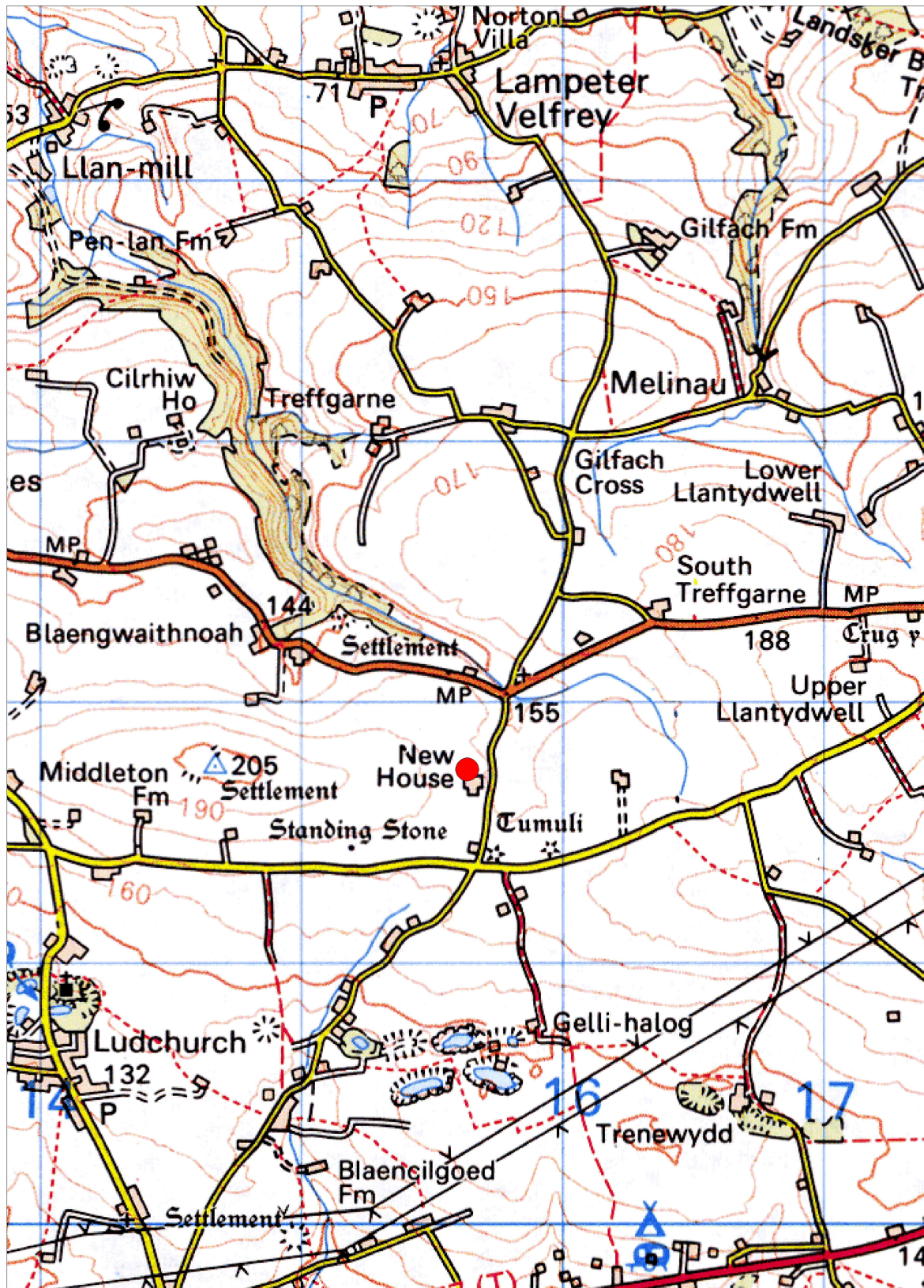


Figure 1. Location map, based on the Ordnance Survey.

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:** General view of excavation work after removal of the first c500mm.



**Photo 2:** W facing photo showing remnants of one of the plough marks.