

9-10 HIGH STREET CARDIGAN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING

BRIEF



Report prepared
by
Cambria Archaeology Field Services
for
Trevor Hopkins Associates on behalf
Of Phil Evans and Sons



CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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PROJECT RECORD NO. 63513

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9-10 HIGH STREET CARDIGAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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**9-10 HIGH STREET, CARDIGAN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

CONTENTS	PAGE
Summary	1
1. Introduction	2
2. The site	3
3. Summary of watching brief results	4
4. Conclusions	5
Sources	6
Archive deposition	6
Figure 1: Location plan	3
Plate 1: Foundation trench section showing stratigraphy	4
Plate 2: New foundation trenches near completion	5

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SUMMARY

Phil Evans and Sons with Trevor Hopkins Associates are constructing two new dwellings at the rear of 9 and 10 High Street, Cardigan (NGR SN 1772 4605). The development site lies within the historic core of medieval Cardigan and the Local planning Authority's (LPA) archaeological advisors recommended that a condition for an archaeological watching brief was attached to the planning consent (Reference No.A051259LB). This recommendation was accepted by the LPA and Trevor Hopkins Associates commissioned Cambria Archaeology Field Services to carry out the watching brief in December 2007.

No features of archaeological significance were noted.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project commission

Phil Evans and Sons with Trevor Hopkins Associates are constructing two new dwellings at the rear of 9 and 10 High Street, Cardigan (NGR SN 1772 4605). The development site lies within the historic core of medieval Cardigan and the Local planning Authority's (LPA) archaeological advisors recommended that a condition for an archaeological watching brief was attached to the planning consent (Reference No.AO51259LB). This recommendation was accepted by the LPA and Trevor Hopkins Associates commissioned Cambria Archaeology Field Services to carry out the watching brief in December 2007.

1.2 Scope of the project

The project was designed to record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during the site clearance works and trench cutting operations.

1.3 Report outline

This report describes the physical environment of the site (Section 2) before summarising the watching brief results and the conclusions based on those results (Section 3).

1.4 Abbreviations

Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR).

2. THE SITE

2.1 Location

This site lies within the core of medieval Cardigan and it is likely that the High Street area had been developed by the early 13th century, with the area containing 9-10 High Street possibly established during the later 12th century. The present properties along High Street occupy plots that still correspond to the medieval burgrave plots laid out as the area was being developed. The general history of Cardigan has been covered elsewhere (Lewis 1999; Cook and Poucher forthcoming) and is not repeated here.



Figure 1: Location plan showing the watching brief site and the route of the medieval town wall (dashed line).

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3. SUMMARY OF WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

3.1 Methodology

The watching brief was undertaken on 4 December 2007. A cottage that had stood on the site had been demolished and all of the soil from the small rear garden removed to subsoil level. Most of the footing trenches required for the construction of the new dwellings had been excavated except for the one adjacent to the lane on the north side and half of the central trench.

The footing trenches had been machine excavated by a 3.5 ton "mini" digger using a toothed bucket. The footing trenches were nominally 0.6m wide but a bit wider as the top of the sections had collapsed. In most places these trenches were around 1.4m deep. Although some of the bottoms of the trenches were partly obscured it was obvious from the sections that they were all dug well into the natural subsoils (Plate 1).

3.2 Results

In general the subsoils consisted of a lower deposit or deposits of gravel overlain by a sandier layer. There were no obvious features cutting these deposits, except for the shallow footings of the former cottage.

Near the top of the footing trenches there were very large water worn stones, possibly derived from the foundations of the former cottage. A number of very large slate floor slabs up to 50mm thick were present within the area of the former cottage, although some of these had been lifted and moved during the course of the present groundworks. The former cottage was of single storey, but may have had extra accommodation in the roof space, given the height of the roofline visible in the east gable wall of the adjoining property (Plate 2).

The only other feature seen cutting the natural was a relatively modern, probable sewer pit trench containing a ceramic pipe when the central trench and the north trench were excavated.



Plate 1: Foundation trench section showing natural gravel overlain by natural sand with modern construction layers at the top. View to east.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Although most of the groundworks had taken place on this site prior to the archaeological visit it is considered that nothing of significant archaeological value was damaged or removed.



Plate 2: New foundation trenches near completion. Note the scar of roofline of the former cottage in the adjacent property.

SOURCES

- Cook N & Poucher P (forthcoming) *Historic Town Survey Cardigan and Tregaron. Part II Cardigan Town*. Unpublished report copy to be held by regional HER, Llandeilo.
- Lewis W J 1990 *'The Gateway to Wales' a History of Cardigan*. Carmarthen: Dyfed County Council.

ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

Cambria HER will initially hold the archive.

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This report has been checked and approved by Nigel Page
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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