

PALACE VIEW, LAMPHEY PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



Prepared
by
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for
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**PALACE VIEW, LAMPHEY, PEMBROKESHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

By
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**PALACE VIEW, LAMPHEY, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

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PALACE VIEW, LAMPHEY, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

A planning application was submitted by Mr Martin Powell (Application number 06/1535/PA) for the construction of two new dwellings on a plot of land known as Palace View, Ridgeway Road, Lamphey, Pembrokeshire (NGR SN01860065).

There are no known archaeological sites within the boundary of the development site. However, the site lies to the south of the medieval Lamphey Palace (PRN 3507: NGR SN081840090), whilst to the south west of the development plot is the site of a medieval house of which only the chimney remains (PRN 6649: NGR SN01650055).

Given the potential for archaeological remains and deposits to be present on the site planning permission was granted with a condition that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during the groundworks for the development.

In order to comply with this planning condition Mr Martin Powell, commissioned Cambria Archaeology Field Services to carry out the archaeological watching brief. The actual watching brief was undertaken in February 2008.

There were no archaeological features present.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

Plans to construct two new dwellings on a plot of land at Palace View, Lamphey, Pembrokeshire (NGR SN01860065) required an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken. The proposed development site does not contain any known archaeological features or deposits. However, the close proximity of the site to the medieval Lamphey Palace (PRN 3507: NGR SN081840090), and to the site of a medieval house of which only the chimney remains (PRN 6649: NGR SN01650055), resulted in an archaeological watching brief condition being recommended by the Local Planning Authority's (LPA) archaeological advisor ¹

1.2 Scope of the Project

The project was designed to record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during all major episodes of earth moving or ground breaking, such as topsoil stripping and deep cutting.

1.3 Report Outline

This report describes the location of the site along with its archaeological background (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 (HER²) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR).

¹ Cambria Archaeology Heritage Management Section recommended the condition .

² Held and managed by Cambria Archaeology, The Shire Hall, Llandeilo

2.THE SITE

2.1 Location

The site is located at NGR SN53890840 and occupies a broadly rectangular plot fronting on to Ridgeway Road, Lamphey and to the south of Lamphey Palace. Topographically the site is broadly level and at a height of 10m above Ordnance Datum.

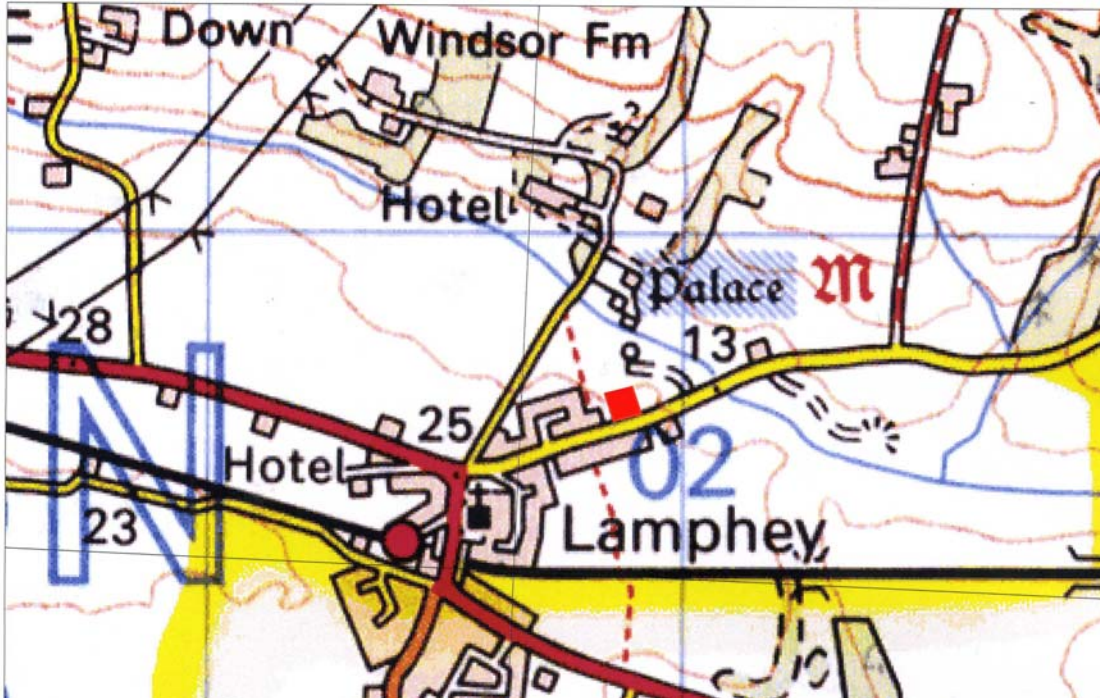


Figure 1: Location map of site. Development area shown as red square to right of centre.

Reproduced from the 2002 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

2.2 Historic landscape development

A search of the regional HER revealed no known archaeological sites within the area covered by the watching brief, although it is in relatively close proximity to the medieval Lamphey Palace and the site of a medieval house. Map regression has revealed the site was once occupied by a single structure fronting onto the road (Ordnance Survey (OS) 1866 & 1907). The purpose of the structure is unclear from the map evidence, however it is known a cottage once occupied the site but this was suggested to have been located to the west of the structure depicted on the maps, was of a mid 20th century date and had been demolished in 2007

Map regression has also revealed the boundaries of the site have changed little since the 19th century.

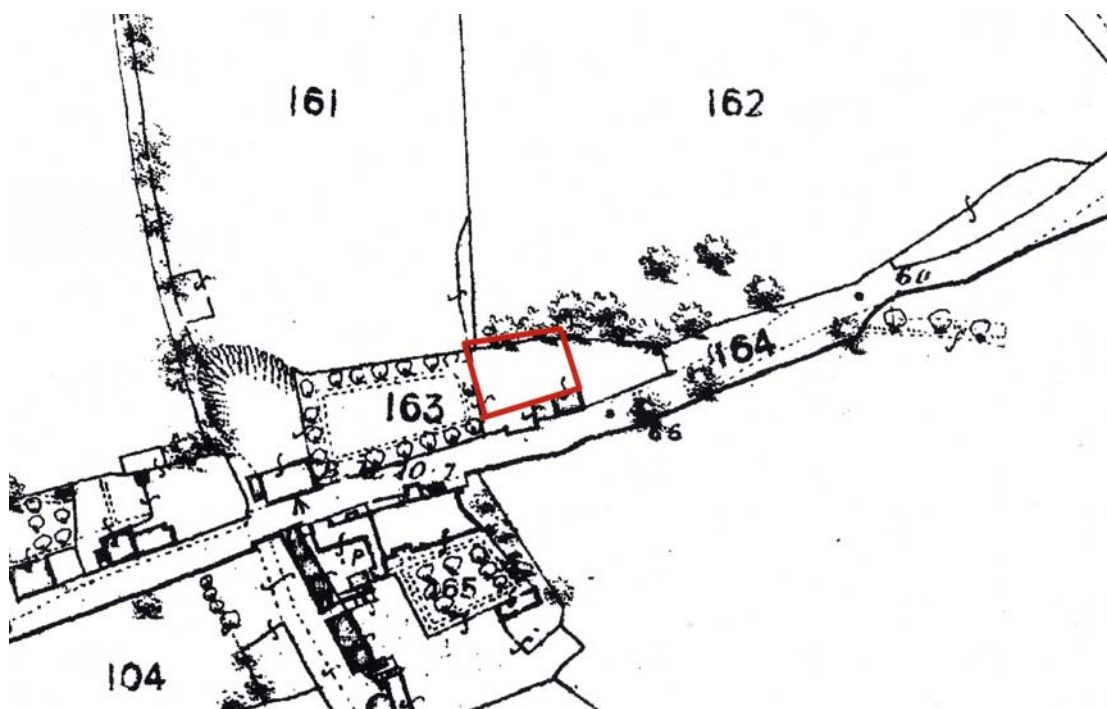


Figure 2: Detail of 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map showing site bounded in red.

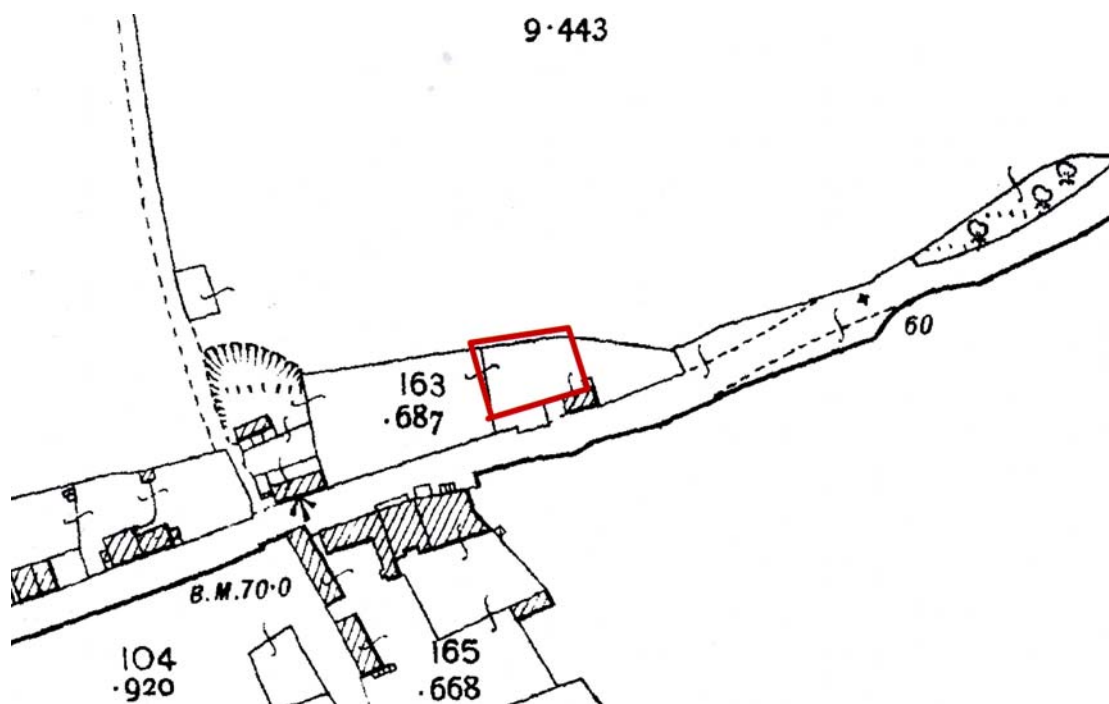


Figure 3: Detail of 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map showing site bounded in red.

3.SUMMARY OF WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

3.1 Watching Brief Methodology

The watching brief methodology comprised of a site visit to monitor any major episode of earth moving or ground breaking such as topsoil stripping and deep cutting.

3.2 Results

On arrival the site had been cleared at an unknown date with grass re growing on the site. During the site visit it was noted a small area of concrete footings, relating to the cottage which once was located on the site, survived. In addition to this a section of stone wall bonded with mortar was noted in the north western corner of the site. This wall was suggested to have formerly run in a broadly southeasterly direction across the site and continued into the adjacent property. This wall had been demolished prior to the site visit being undertaken, and only the short length noted survived. However map regression has revealed a boundary which conforms to the line of the wall.



Plate 1: Surviving concrete footing associated with former cottage on site.

The only other feature noted during the site visit was a wall running along the front of the plot. This had been partially demolished to allow the machine to access the site. The wall was of concrete and stone construction and rendered with cement. This wall being topped with decorative cast iron pierced panelling.

The groundworks carried out during the course of the site visit consisted of the excavation of foundation trenches. These were cut to a maximum depth of 1.2m and with widths of 0.90m for the external walls and 0.50m for the internal walls.

The stratigraphical sequence noted during the groundworks was broadly the same across the site with a dark brown silty clay topsoil, with maximum depth of 0.28m overlying a mid orange sandy clay with a maximum depth of 0.82m. An outcrop of shale was also noted during the groundworks and appeared to be rising towards the east of the site. No archaeological features or deposits were noted in the sections of the foundation trenches excavated.

3.3 Conclusion

Despite the site being located in a potentially sensitive area no significant archaeological features or deposits were noted during the course of the watching brief.



Plate 2: Wall located along frontage of plot showing decorative ironwork.



Plate 3: Partially demolished boundary wall in northwest corner of site.



Plate 4: Post excavation shot of foundation trenches.



Plate 5: Shale outcropping noted in foundation trench.

SOURCES

Map

Ordnance Survey 1866 Pembrokeshire Sheet XL SW 1st edition 1:2500
Ordnance Survey 1907 Pembrokeshire Sheet XL SW 2nd edition 1:2500
Ordnance Survey 2002 Landranger Sheet 158 Tenby and Pembroke 1:50,000

Published Sources

Rees S 1992 *A Guide to Ancient and Historic Wales: Dyfed*. London: HMSO.

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This report has been prepared by Simon Ratty

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This report has been checked and approved on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed
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