

PENRHIW, PLOT 1, WOLF'S CASTLE PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

JULY 2007



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological
Trust Ltd.
For Mr C Wolsey/ Barnstead
Developments



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DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

REPORT NO. 2008/106
PROJECT RECORD NO. 94525

November 2008

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PEMBROKESHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

By

R Ramsey

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Position: Project Manager

Signature Date

This report has been checked and approved by
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position:

Signature Date

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

A planning application was submitted by private developers to build a new house on a plot of land at Penrhiw, Wolf's Castle, Pembrokeshire (NGR SM95642663). The plot lies close to the site of the medieval, motte and bailey, Wolf's Castle, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and within an area that may have attracted medieval settlement. Planning permission was granted with a condition that required an archaeological watching brief on the site preparation works, particularly the topsoil stripping.

To comply with the condition Mr C Wolsey/Barnstead Developments commissioned Cambria Archaeology Field Services (now Dyfed Archaeological Trust) to carry out the watching brief in July 2007.

No features of archaeological interest were noted.

INTRODUCTION

Project background

A planning application (No.06/1211/PA) was submitted by Mr C. Wolsey, *via* the agency of FB Fisher Associates, to build a new house on a plot of land at Penrhiw, Wolf's Castle, Pembrokeshire (NGR SM9563826627). The site lies close to areas of archaeological importance. In order to safeguard the archaeological resource of the area, planning permission was granted with a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during any major episodes of earth moving, notably the topsoil stripping and excavation of the new foundation and service trenches.

To comply with the condition the developers contracted Dyfed Archaeological Trust (formerly Cambria Archaeology) Field Services to carry out the watching brief in July 2007.

The watching brief methodology and scope of the report

The watching brief consisted of the attendance on the site of an archaeologist during the groundworks, which involved topsoil stripping across the whole development plot and some excavation and levelling to prepare the ground for construction.

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

Any archaeological sites mentioned in the text that are recorded in the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER) are identified, for reference and location, by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and National Grid Reference (NGR). The HER is housed with the Dyfed Archaeological Trust at its offices in Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire.

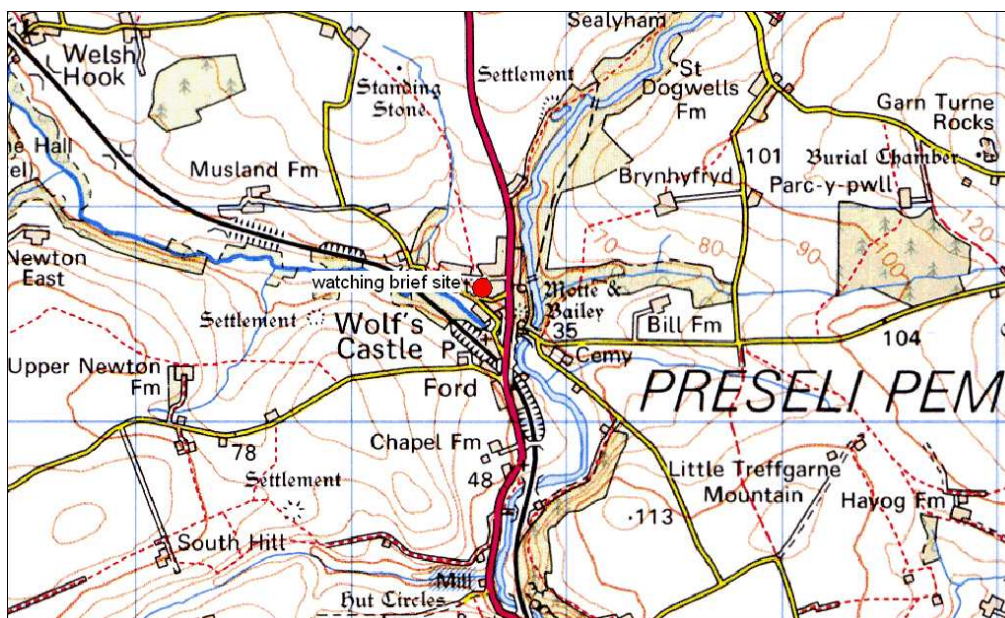


Figure 1: Location plan of watching brief site.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed new house site lies c.200m to the northwest of the remains of the medieval motte and bailey castle, Wolf's Castle (PRN 2402), which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (PE254). It also lies close to the site of a now lost early medieval carved stone (PRN 47485).

The stone, which has supposedly been buried somewhere just to the north of Wolf's Castle, dates from the 7th – 9th century AD, which suggests that there may already have been some form of settlement in the vicinity before the castle was established in the 13th century.

WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

A site visit was made following the topsoil stripping and during the groundworks required to level the site (Plates 2 and 3). The stratigraphical sequence was uniform across the site, with between 0.2m and 0.3m of dark orange brown silty clay topsoil seen to directly overlie the natural shale bedrock.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed.

DISCUSSION

Despite the potentially sensitive location of the site, the groundworks required for the construction of the new house revealed no features of archaeological interest and therefore had no impact on the archaeological resource at Wolf's Castle.



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



Plate 2: A view northwest across the site during groundworks.



Plate 3: A detail of the natural deposits revealed by the groundworks, looking north.

SOURCES

Databases

The Regional Historic Environment Record, housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust in Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire

Cartographic

Ordnance Survey, 1:10560 Quarter Sheet SM92NE 1964

Ordnance Survey, 1:10560 1st Edition Pembrokeshire Sheet XVI SE 1891

Ordnance Survey, 1:10560 2nd Edition Pembrokeshire Sheet XVI SE 1908

Ordnance Survey, 1:10560 4th Edition Pembrokeshire Sheet XVI SE 1953

Aerial Photographs

Meridian Airmaps SM92NE Frame 10536