

Cambrian Archaeological Projects Limited

RESEARCH DESIGN AND SPECIFICATION FOR AN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

LAND TO REAR OF CASTLE INN

NEWPORT

PEMBROKESHIRE

Prepared for:
Ross Cambel
Castle Hotel
Newport
Pembrokeshire

Project No: 250

Date: 19 June 2000

Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd
Waen Old Farmhouse
Llidiartywaen
Llanidloes
Powys SY18 6JT
Telephone/Fax: 01686 413857
E-mail: cambarch@ukf.net

Site: Land to rear of castle Hotel, Newport, Pembrokeshire

Site location: NGR SM 0565 3913

Application Nos: NP 99/554 & NP 00/173

1 Introduction

Mr Ross Cambel of the Castle Hotel, Newport has applied for planning permission to build a new residential development with access road and car park on land to the rear of Castle Hotel, Newport.

Since the proposed site is located within an archaeologically sensitive area in the core of the medieval town and it has been deemed necessary that an archaeological evaluation of the site be undertaken. Previous work nearby has located well preserved remains on Castle street (as noted in the brief), but it is thought that the current plot may be to the rear of the street frontage and locate property boundaries, pits, etc.

This Specification has been prepared by Kevin Blockley, Director, Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd, against a brief drawn up by Louise Austin of Archaeolog Cambria Archaeology, Heritage Management (hereafter ACA-HM).

2 Aims and research objectives

The aim of the desk top study and archaeological trial trenching will be to provide information that will enable an informed and reasonable planning decision to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the area of the proposed development.

The objectives will be as follows:

- To locate any archaeological features and deposits within the study area.
- To assess the survival, quality, condition and significance of any archaeological features, deposits, and structures within the study area.

3 Methodology

Desk top study

Undertake a study of all readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, aerial/ground photographic and oral sources in order to provide an historical framework for the surviving archaeological remains. The sources consulted will include:

- The Regional Sites and Monuments Record (Archaeolog Cambria Archaeology, Llandeilo).
- National Library of Wales (Aberystwyth).
- Royal Commission on Ancient & Historical Monuments in Wales (Aberystwyth).
- Publications relevant to the site (local library).

The report of the desk top study will include copies of all cartographic sources consulted, transcriptions of documents consulted, copies of all plans and photographic data. All sources consulted will also be listed in an appendix.

Excavation strategy

The evaluation will be carried out by qualified Cambrian Archaeological Projects staff using proven archaeological techniques. The site will be open for monitoring by Louise Austin (ACA-HM).

Three evaluation trenches as set out on the plan with the brief and 1.5m wide will be excavated.

The upper levels in each trench will be removed using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All archaeological levels will then be cleaned, photographed and sampled for dating material manually.

The level of natural soils beneath the archaeology will be tested for in one location in each trench, either by pit or auguring, although the subsoil is thought to be close to the surface.

The following techniques will be employed for the excavation of the trench:

- Removal of topsoil and overburden by machine.
- Planning of all exposed surfaces planned to a scale of 1:20, related to Ordnance Datum.
- Limited excavation of features exposed to ascertain their date, extent and function.
- Location of natural soils at one location in each of the trenches.
- Backfill all trenches after monitoring by Louise Austin (ACA-HM).

All of the above stages will comply with the procedures and guidance contained in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991), and the *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994).

Recording methods

Recording will be carried out using Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd recording systems, using a continuous number sequence for all contexts. All records will be checked and cross-referenced during the course of the excavation. Plans will be drawn to a scale of 1:20 scale and sections at 1:10 scale (on drafting film). Photographs will be taken in 35 mm colour transparencies and black and white negatives. Vertical photography, where required, will be in colour.

Should excavation go to a depth greater than 1.2 m one or more the trench edges will be battered.

Environmental sampling

A program of environmental sampling is not thought necessary on this site, but should any features or deposits be located that may be suitable for environmental or technological sampling, these will be conducted with reference to the procedures in *A Guide to Sampling of Archaeological Deposits for Environmental Analysis* (P Murphy & P Wiltshire 1994).

Other sampling

Should suitable deposits be located radiocarbon sampling will be conducted in an attempt to date the archaeological deposits. Samples will be submitted to Gerry Mc Cormac, Queen's University of Belfast.

Artefacts

Archaeological artefacts recovered during the excavation will be cleaned and labeled with the site code. A single number sequence will be allocated to all small finds. The artefacts will be stored appropriately until they are deposited with the museum. All ceramic, bone and stone artefacts will be cleaned and processed during the course of the excavation, and the results input into the site strategy and decision making.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (Kate Hunter of Newport Museum).

Post-excavation

A catalogue of all artefacts will be prepared, by context, with weight and quantification noted, and a sketch of all significant finds made.

Pottery will be analysed to the standards outlined in *Guidelines for the Preparation of Pottery Archives* (Study Group of Roman Pottery and IFA). All other material will follow *Guidelines for Finds Work* (IFA).

The final project archive will follow the recommendations of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

Final report

A full report will be made available within one month of the completion of the on site work.

A summary report will be submitted to the editor of the CBA's *Archaeology in Wales*, for inclusion in the annual Archaeological Notes section. Summary report will also be submitted to national period journals, such as *Medieval Archaeology* and *Post-Medieval Archaeology*, where appropriate.

The structure of the final report will vary depending upon the findings of the excavations, but will include:

- An introduction (location; previous work; methods; recording; archive; summary of results).
- Stratigraphic description.
- Quantified reports on the pottery, small finds, and building materials.
- Specialist reports on the faunal remains (including human bones), environmental samples, and technological samples.
- Discussion of the documentary material.
- Discussion of the results and assessment of its significance.
- Conclusions.
- Bibliography.

The report will be fully illustrated with a location plan, period plans of the archaeological sequence, and finds information discussed. Two copies of the report will be sent to Ross Cambel and two copies to ACA-HM.

Archive

The site archive will be prepared in accordance with *MAP 2*, Appendix 3 (English Heritage 1991) and be submitted to the local museum. The archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent before transfer and will contain a site matrix.

4. Resources and programming

The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified Cambrian Archaeological Projects staff, and freelance specialists (listed below).

The excavation team will comprise the following:

Director – Ian Halfpenney

Archaeological Assistants x 2

The specialist support team comprises:

- Kevin Blockley – administration, quality control.
- Astrid Caseldine - environmental analysis.
- Paul Courtney – pottery and small finds reports
- Frances Cripwell - marine molluscs, human remains.
- Kate Hunter - consolidation of finds.
- Gerry Mc Cormac - radiocarbon dating.
- Attila Csaba – small finds and pottery illustration.

Equipment

The project will use existing Cambrian Archaeological Projects equipment.

Programming

The archaeological presence on site will conform to the requirements of Ross Camble. The excavation will be undertaken over a period of five days, and post-excavation work will be undertaken immediately after the fieldwork.

The current plan is for the evaluation to be undertaken during the week of the 26-30 June 2000. It is suggested that ACA-HM monitoring could take place on the 29 June 2000 (subject to confirmation).

Insurance

Cambrian Archaeological Projects is an affiliated member of the CBA, and holds Insurance through the CBA insurance service. Public Liability Insurance is for £5,000,000 in any one accident.

Health and Safety and IFA Code of Conduct

Staff of Cambrian Archaeological Projects will adhere to the *Health and Safety at Work Act*, 1974.

All work will be undertaken with due regard to the *Institute of Field Archaeologist's Code of Conduct*; the *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*; *Guidelines for Finds Work*; *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations*.