

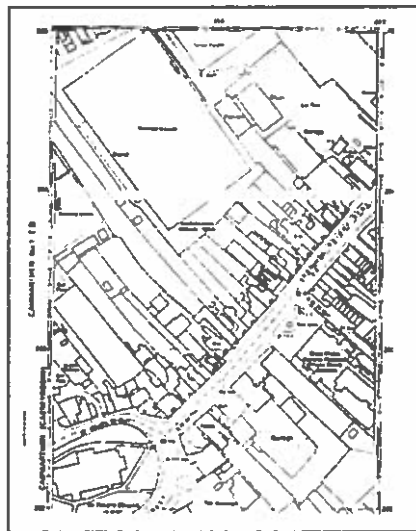


CAMBRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS

Richmond Park, Carmarthen

**Archaeological Watching Brief
on groundwork's associated with a new
Vision Gantry at the town Football Club Pitch.**

By Richard S Jones, MA



CAP Project No: 237 / Report No: 134



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**Prepared for:
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Project No: 237 / Report No: 134

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CONTENTS

i) List of Illustrations

1. Introduction

2. Methodology

3. The Watching Brief

4. Conclusions

5. Acknowledgements

Appendix

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List of Illustrations:

Fig 1 - Location map of Carmarthan Town Football Club and vision gantry trench

Fig 2 - Engineers ground plan of Vision Gantry

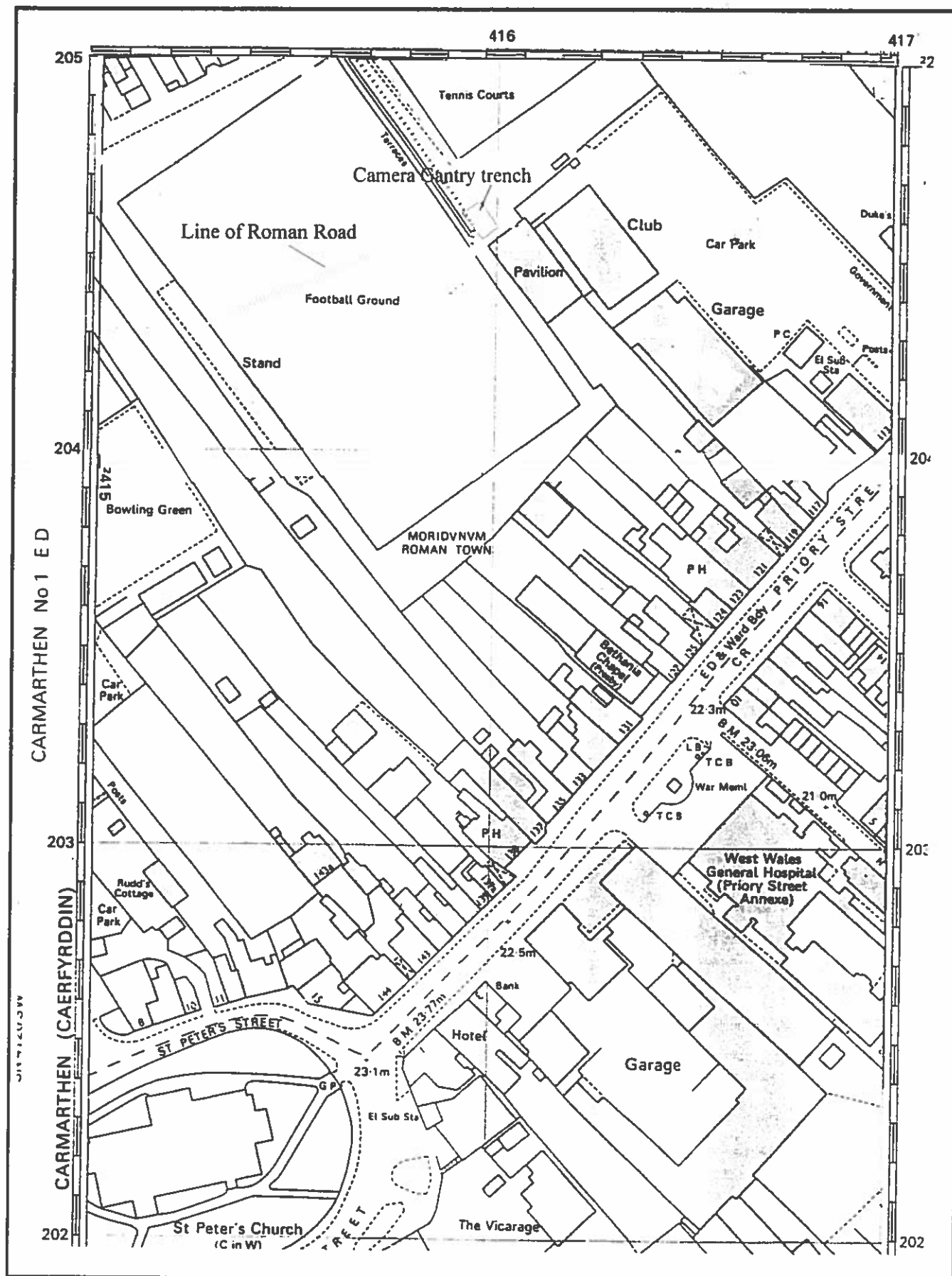


Fig 1: Location plan showing position of Camera gantry trench in relation to Roman road
Scale: 1: 25000

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Carmarthan Town Football Club, Richmond Park, (SN415204) proposed to build a new Camera or Vision Gantry almost immediately adjacent the Club's turnstiles and its Pavilion (see Fig 2). This proposed development work lay within the area of the Roman Town of Carmarthan, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Carm 234). As such *Cadw* required that the groundwork's be monitored by an archaeologist, as such Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd were commissioned by the Football Club to undertake this monitoring. This report details the results of that work.
- 1.2 The proposed groundwork's lay at around the National Grid Reference SN 4159 2046 and were within the bounds of the Roman Town of *Moridunum*. The presence of archaeological deposits, particularly that of Roman, across a large area surrounding the Football Club has been demonstrated by aerial Photography and previous archaeological field work undertaken in the 1960's and 1970's by Professor Barri Jones, and further investigations in the 80's by Dyfed Archaeological Trust. Other archaeological work in 1995, 1996 and 1998 further reinforced the existence of well preserved Roman deposits and structures within and around the immediate vicinity of the Football pitch.
- 1.3 Within the area of the proposed development work previous field work had revealed the presence of a Roman road following a north-east to south-west orientation. Because of this orientation it was more than likely that this Roman road continued directly beneath the proposed groundwork's. With this taken into consideration all necessary care and attention was taken so as not to disturb any archaeologically sensitive layers and deposits.

2 Methodology

- 2.1 The trench for the Vision Gantry was too measure 6.5 m long x 3.5 wide, the longest length running parallel to the pitch in a north-west to south-easterly direction. The depth of this trench was too be no deeper than 30 cm, becoming shallower toward the NW end. The mitigation strategy of limiting the depth of the trench to a maximum of 30 cm was too ensure that very little or no damage was inflicted on significant archaeological deposits. Following the excavation of this trench a protective layer of geotextile and sand was laid down and then covered with a raft of reinforced concrete. On top of this base was too be placed a 5.5 m high gantry with a 1.1 m high galvanised barrier.
- 2.2 At the time of the development work the area under monitoring was clear of any surface debris. The initial ground surface or trackway comprised of laid/rolled and compacted grey gravel Chipping's or 'scalpings' 2-3 cm in size. In order to cut through this compacted surface a 3.5 ton mini digger with a toothed 1 metre wide bucket was initially used to a maximum depth of only 25cm. Following removal of this surface the trench was then hand shovelled and scraped to the required depth. This work was archaeologically monitored throughout and any archaeological remains discovered were kept and recorded. Photographs were appropriated of the work being performed as well as post-excavation shots.

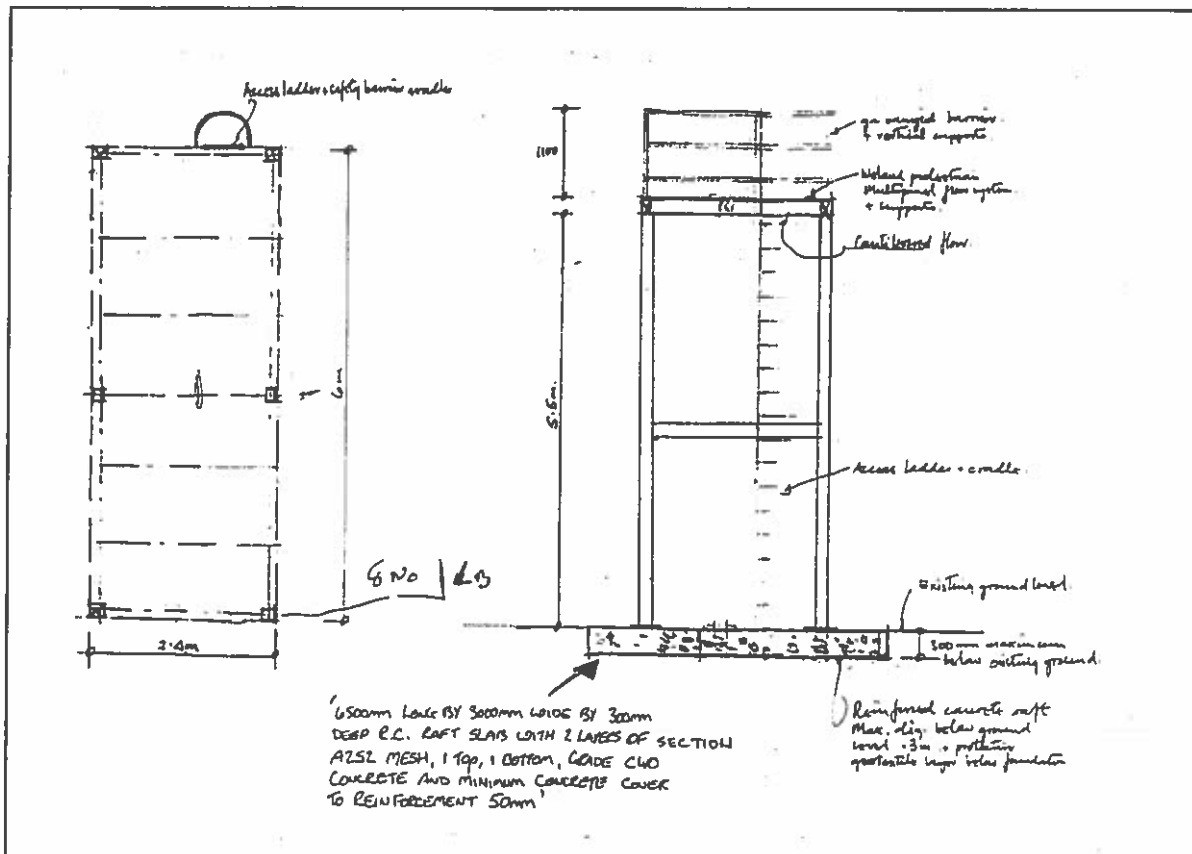


Fig 2: Engineers drawing of proposed Camera gantry at Carmarthen Football ground

3 The Watching Brief

- 3.1 The initial modern compacted surface trackway reached a depth of only c. 8 cm (1). Directly below this deposit was a dark brown clay soil c. 10 cm deep. This deposit comprised of sub-angular stones between 3 cm – 10 cm in size (2). Below this surface was a further mid-brown soil (3) that reached a depth of c. 10-12 cm. This soil comprised of small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones no larger than 1 cm in size. At the far south-eastern corner of the trench within this deposit a modern blue plastic water-pipe was uncovered. Also within this deposit, seemingly near its base, was discovered two sherds of 18th century pottery, North Devonshire green glaze ware. To compliment this an 18th century clay pipe stem was also unearthed along with a highly corroded George III penny with a barely readable date of what appears to be 1772. All of these finds were discovered toward the southern end of the trench, as the northern tapering end only cut into this deposit until the 3.5 m mark.
- 3.2 Once this depth had been reached the above deposit (3) was examined and trowel scraped in certain areas for evidence of the deposits immediately below. This was primarily done as a precautionary measure so as to make sure no significant archaeology was going to be damaged. The deposit (3) appeared to lie directly upon a stony rubble surface (4) with sub-angular stones varying in size from 5-15 cm.. This deposit appeared to be a rubble make-up and in the small areas examined only appeared to have a depth of approx. 10 cm. In the 'key-hole' areas examined this deposit appeared to lie directly above a compacted surface (5) with rounded and sub-rounded stones, varying in size from 10 cm to 20 cm.. Because of the surfaces compact character and stone fabric, it was assumed that this surface may well have been the continuation of the Roman road previously discovered during previous years field-work. No Roman finds were discovered. Because of the tapering of the trenches depth to the north, the sides or limits of this track/road? were not revealed. Satisfied that no archaeologically sensitive layers were exposed at the required depth of 30 cm, and no damage would ensue the compact surface 10-12 cm below, the base of the trench was to be further covered in a precautionary and protective layer of sand to a thickness of approx. 5-10 cm.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 The groundwork for the construction of the vision gantry at Carmarthan Football Club did very little, if any damage to any *significant* archaeology. Because of mitigation strategies limiting the groundwork to a depth of 30 cm max, all archaeologically sensitive deposits below are still well preserved, particularly in reference to the possibility of the continuation of the Roman Road. Although a round stone paved compact surface does indeed appear to exist below the required construction depth as was evaluated, any further interpretations as to its extent, character and period would be speculative without having excavated further, although it would seem likely that this surface is indeed the continuation of the Roman Road.
- 4.2 The only other archaeology revealed, at a 25-30 cm depth, appeared to be an 18th century deposit, and because of the dateable coin discovered, would appear to be no earlier than 1772. Above this deposit no other finds were discovered.
- 4.3 All finds and photographs will be archived and stored at Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd.

5 Acknowledgements

- 5.1 Thanks to all present during the groundwork's at Carmarthan Football Club, particularly to the contractors for their understanding.

Appendix – Summary of Investigated contexts and Finds

CONTEXTS

- (1) Modern trackway surface – grey gravel chippings or scalpings laid and rolled to a compact surface. Approx. 8 cm thick.
- (2) Dark brown clay soil - Comprised of sub-angular stones between 3 cm – 10 cm in size. c. 10 cm deep.
- (3) Mid brown soil - Small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones no larger than 1 cm in size. c. 10-12 cm deep.
- (4) Stony rubble layer - Sub-angular stones varying in size 5-15 cm. c. 10 cm deep
- (5) Compact surface - Rounded and sub-rounded stones between 10-20 cm in size. Depth unknown.

FINDS – All within deposit (3)

- i) Two sherds of 18th century pottery, North Devonshire green glaze ware; 18th century clay pipe stem; George III penny dated to 1772.
- No finds of Roman or medieval date were recovered.
 - All Photographs and finds will be kept on archive at Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd.