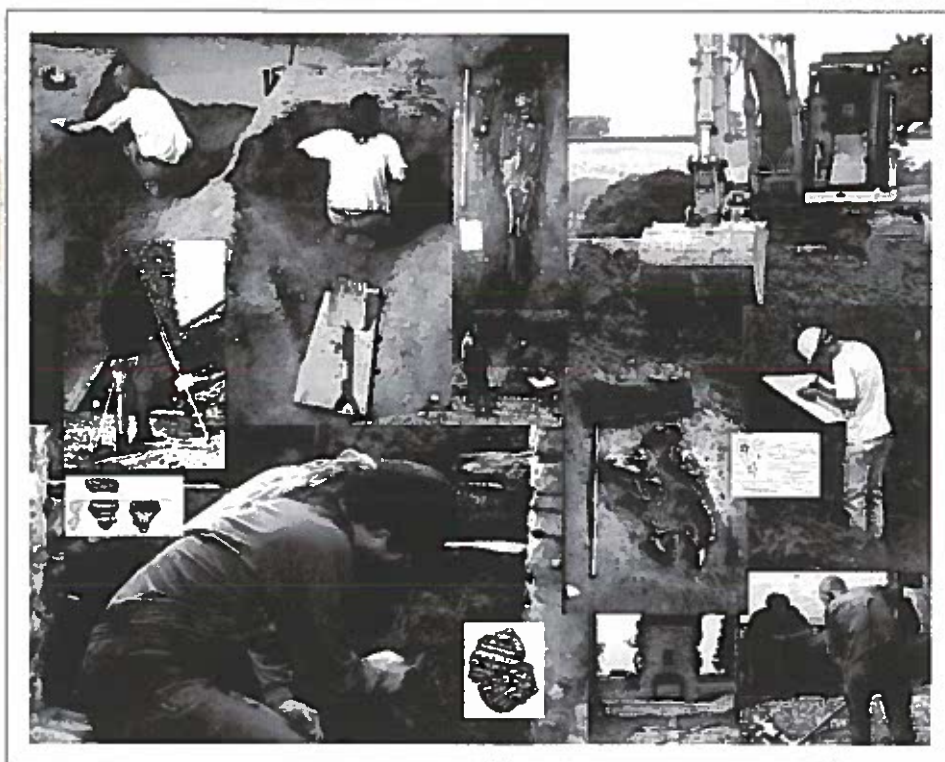


**CAMBRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS LTD.**

# **Plot 1, Bontgoch Road, Talybont.**

Archaeological Watching Brief



By  
***Ian Halfpenney, BA(Hons), MIFA***



**CAP Report No. 185**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**Plot 1, Bontgoch Road,  
Talybont.**

**BY *Ian Halfpenney, BA(Hons.), MIFA***

Prepared for:  
**Mr. R. Hughes**  
**Coed-y-Crib,**  
**Talybont,**  
**Ceredigion**

**CAP Report No: 185**

**Project No: 298**

**CA - HM PRN: 43141**

**Date: 9th July 2001**



**Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd**  
**Old Chapel**  
**Llanidloes**  
**Montgomeryshire**  
**SY18 6JR**  
**Telephone: 01686 413857**  
**Fax: 01686 411280**  
**e-mail: [cambarch@ukf.net](mailto:cambarch@ukf.net)**

# Contents

## i) LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

## ii) IFA STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE

NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY .....	Page 01
1 INTRODUCTION .....	Page 01
1.1 General Introduction .....	Page 01
1.2 Archaeological Background .....	Page 01
1.3 Soils .....	Page 02
1.4 Landuse .....	Page 02
1.5 Location & Topography .....	Page 02
2 OBJECTIVES .....	Page 02
3. METHODOLOGY .....	Page 03
4. RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF .....	Page 04
5. CONCLUSIONS .....	Page 06
6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	Page 06
APPENDIX I: CHRONOLOGICAL DIVISIONS	
APPENDIX II: ARCHIVE COVER SHEET	
APPENDIX III: CONTEXT REGISTER	
APPENDIX IV: FINDS CATALOGUE	
APPENDIX V: CURATORIAL PROJECT BRIEF	

### Copyright Notice:

*Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd. retain copyright of this report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988, and have granted a licence to Mr. R. Hughes to use and reproduce the material contained within.*

*The Ordnance Survey has granted Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd a Copyright Licence (No. AL 52163A0001) to reproduce map information; Copyright remains otherwise with the Ordnance Survey.*

## **i) List of Illustrations**

### **Figures**

**Fig 01: General Location Map.**

**Fig 02: Map showing location of Plot 1.**

**Fig 03: Plan showing layout of Plot 1.**

### **Plates**

**Plate 01: Shot of development area after topsoiling**

**Plate 02: Shot of development area after excavation of footings.**

**Plate 03: Shot of section showing gravel chippings.**

**Plate 04: Shot of section profile.**

## ii) IFA Standards and Guidance

### THE INSTITUTE OF FIELD ARCHAEOLOGISTS (IFA)

#### *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*

##### **The Standard**

An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the *Code of conduct, Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology*, and other relevant by-laws of the IFA.

##### **Definition of an archaeological watching brief**

The definition of an archaeological watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.

This definition and *Standard* do not cover chance observations, which should lead to an appropriate archaeological project being designed and implemented, nor do they apply to monitoring for preservation of remains *in situ*.

##### **Purpose of a watching brief**

The purpose of a watching brief is:

- ◆ to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.
- ◆ to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

A watching brief is not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

The objective of a watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

*The Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief was formally adopted as IFA approved practice at the Annual General Meeting of the Institute held on 14th October 1994.*



## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

*The following report details the results of a watching brief undertaken at Plot 1 on land to the rear of The Black Lion Hotel, Talybont by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd. on behalf of the owner Mr. Hughes. The work was required as part of a condition attached to a planning application for the development of a new residence on the site. The site is located within an area containing well documented archaeological remains and was therefore considered to have a high archaeological potential. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed during the ground disturbance works which were required in order to prepare the site for construction. The land had been heavily disturbed, within the last ten years, by the construction of a temporary works compound on the site.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION (Figs 1&2)

#### 1.1 General Introduction

This archaeological watching brief report relates to work undertaken at Plot 1 of a nine plot housing development on land to the rear of The Black Lion Hotel, Talybont.

The work was required as a condition of a planning application (No. 991189) submitted to Ceredigion County Council for the development of nine new residential properties with associated access, services and landscaping.

The archaeological condition was set by Ceredigion County Council, acting on advice from Cambria Archaeology - Heritage Management (CA – HM). The condition was required as the site lies within an area of archaeological sensitivity. The details of the archaeological condition were contained within an archaeological brief prepared by CA – HM (Appendix V).

It was assumed that any preserved and previously unrecorded archaeological deposits could be partially damaged or destroyed by the intended development. As a consequence, CA - HM advised that an archaeological watching brief should be undertaken during those works involving ground disturbance on the site.

In June 2001, Mr. Hughes invited Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd. to submit a tender for the archaeological watching brief in accordance with the curatorial project brief. The tender was successful and the work was carried out accordingly on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2001.

#### 1.2 Archaeological Background

The area to the north of the site has well documented lead and silver mine workings. In addition to which, to the south of the site, during the construction of a gas pipeline in 1986 a cist burial was located and investigated. Therefore, it was possible that evidence associated with the mine workings could be uncovered during the ground works. There was also the potential that further cist burials may have been exposed.

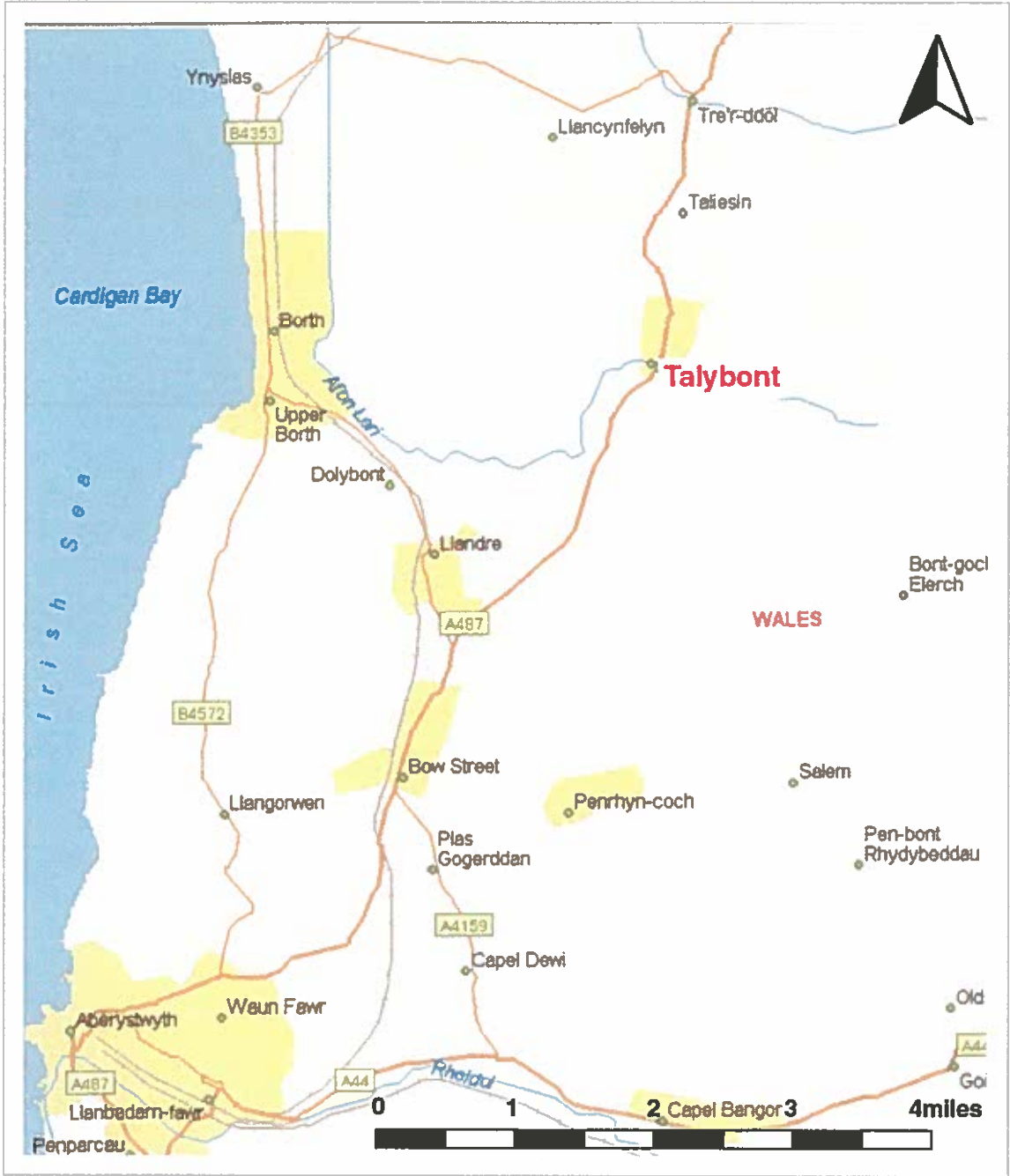


Figure 01: General Location Map



Figure 02: Map Showing Location of Plot 1.



**1.3    *Soils***

According to the Soil Survey of England and Wales the site is covered by soils which are typical brown earth soils belonging to the Denbigh 1 Soil Association. These tend to be well drained fine loamy and silty soils.

**1.4    *Landuse***

Prior to the development, the site was maintained as rough pasture with a small stable building located in the south-east corner of the site.

**1.5    *Location and Topography***

The site is located on the eastern edge of the village of Talybont and is bounded to the south by a single track road (Bontgoch Rd.). The western boundary of the plot is defined by a stone built wall. To the north is a post and wire fence and also further remains of the wall evident to the west. The eastern boundary of the plot is marked by a post and wire fence, separating the site from plot number 2 of the development. The land has a south facing aspect and is relatively flat, sloping gradually up to the north.

**2       *OBJECTIVES***

In accordance with IFA's *Standards and Guidance*, the primary objective of this assessment was to ensure that any previously unrecorded archaeological features and deposits exposed during the ground disturbance works and subsequent development of the site were adequately recorded, interpreted and reported.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

The groundworks required the stripping of the topsoil, surface material and vegetation covering the development area, to a depth of 0.25m.

A mechanical excavator with a 5ft. ditching bucket was used for the removal of this material.

The archaeological contractor maintained a watching brief throughout the machine stripping of this area recovering any datable material which was evident from the exposed surface.

Following the removal of this topsoil material the footings were excavated using a mechanical digger with a 0.6m. bucket to a maximum depth of 1.3m. below the present ground surface.

Cleaning and recording of the trenches was then undertaken by the archaeological contractor.

Recording of the trench was in three formats:

- i) Photographic record shots were taken in 35mm. colour slide, black and white and digital formats.
- ii) Drawn records were produced at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 on drafting film.
- iii) Written records were produced using a continuous numbering sequence for all contexts.

Where necessary limited excavation and cleaning of the trenches was undertaken in order to ascertain that no archaeological features were present.

An environmental sampling and processing strategy was in place should the archaeological deposits warrant it. However, in this instance it was not felt that the deposits encountered required sampling.

All works were conducted whilst adhering to current Health and Safety regulations.

All works were undertaken in accordance with The Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

#### 4 RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF (Fig. 3, Plates 1 – 4)

Numbers in brackets in the following section refer to context numbers allocated during the watching brief.

The approximate overall dimensions of the watching brief area were: 11m. (north/west-south/east) by 12m. (north/east-south/west) (Fig. 3).

The topsoil (01) 'A' horizon was composed of a friable mid brown silty clay loam. The maximum overall depth of the topsoil was 0.2m. with approximately 2% stone inclusions. These stone inclusions varied from rounded pea grit to medium sized sub-angular blocks (0.3 x 0.3m.).

Following removal of the upper 0.2m. of topsoil the exposed area (Plate 1) was 'fieldwalked' in order to recover any datable material and locate any possible archaeological features. No archaeological features were located and only a small number of post-medieval - modern pottery sherds and glass fragments were recovered.

The second phase of groundworks involved the excavation of the footings for the new buildings. These footings were excavated with a mechanical digger and a 0.6m wide bucket (Plate 2).

The footings were dug through the underlying subsoil horizon (02). This subsoil 'B' horizon was a friable mid brown silty clay with moderate – frequent sub-rounded stone inclusions. The clay content of this horizon increased with depth. Variability in the underlying natural meant that some areas of this deposit had a higher clay content whilst other areas had a higher sand and gravel content. The depth of this deposit varied up to a maximum depth of 0.4m.

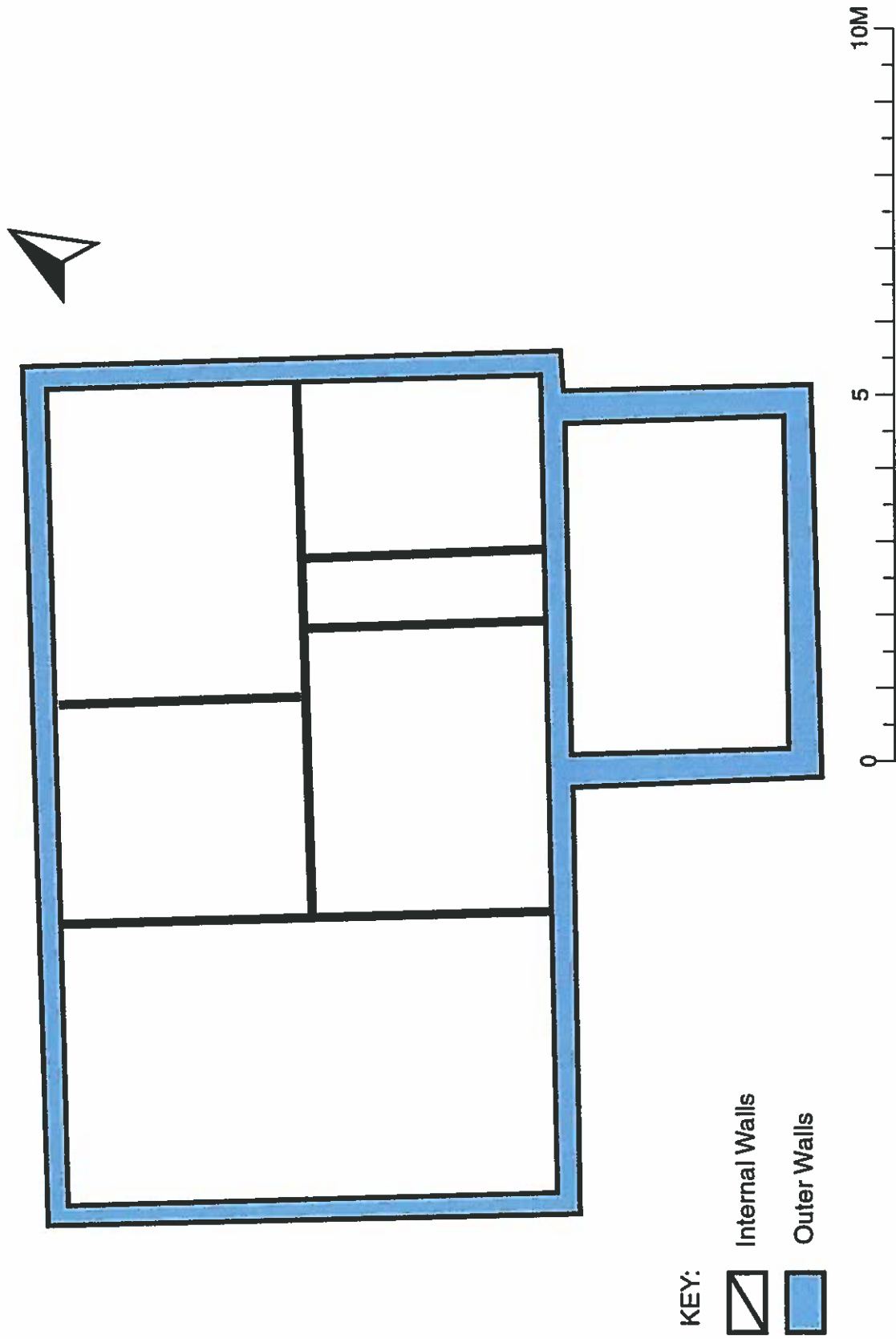
Intermixed with this subsoil material were the recent remains of a stone chipping surface with a geotextile base (04)(Plate 3). Material recovered from this deposit consisted largely of plastic waste.

The depth of the footings exposed the underlying natural/parent material (03). This deposit was composed of interleaved bands of yellow/brown clay and coarse sands and gravels. Some of the clay bands contained localised evidence of episodic/seasonal waterlogging with gleyed and iron stained patches (Plate 4). The sands were medium – coarse and darkish brown in colour. The gravels varied in size from pea grit to medium sized cobbles (0.1-0.2m. in length) and appeared to be predominantly composed of local geologies. The rounded nature of the sands and gravels and presence of clay bands indicated that this natural deposit was the result of fluvial or glacio-fluvial depositional processes. There were also a number of large stone blocks within this natural deposit. The largest of these blocks measured 0.75m. in length and 0.5m. in height. These large blocks clearly indicate a very high energy deposition process.

Following the excavation of the footings, to the required depth, the

archaeological contractor was able to 'hand clean' and inspect the exposed bases and sections of the trenches in order to recover any datable material and to ascertain that no archaeological features or deposits had been disturbed.

No archaeological features or deposits were located during the watching brief and no datable material was recovered apart from the small amount of relatively recent material from the topsoil (01) horizon and modern material from deposit 04.



**Figure 03: Plan showing layout of Plot 1**  
(Area covered by Watching Brief)





**Plate 01:** Shot of development area after topsoiling, looking south-west.



**Plate 02:** Shot of development area after excavation of footings, looking south-west.





**Plate 04:** Shot of section profile, looking south-west.



**Plate 03:** Shot of section showing gravel chippings and geotextile base, looking south-east.

## **5 CONCLUSIONS**

Despite being located within an area with a relatively high archaeological potential no archaeological deposits or features were located during the course of this watching brief.

The landowner Mr. Hughes who lives locally within the village indicated that this part of the overall housing development had been used, sometime within the last ten years, as a temporary works compound during repair work on the bridge within the village. The compound was constructed from non-intrusive porta-cabins. However, the gravel chippings and terram base indicate that the pre existing ground surface had been removed and the chippings laid to form a level base for the compound. Presumably, following the completion of the bridge repairs the chippings surface was then covered back over with topsoil material and reseeded.

Therefore, any archaeological features or deposits which may have existed on the site were probably removed during this previous phase of groundworks undertaken on the site.

## **5 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Thanks to: Kevin Blockley for his help and advice during the compilation of this report and thanks also to: Mr. Hughes and the on-site contractors for their help and compliance.



## **APPENDIX I:** **Chronological Divisions**

\_\_\_\_\_ **MODERN (1901 - )**

\_\_\_\_\_ **INDUSTRIAL ( 1700 - 1901 )**

\_\_\_\_\_ **POST-MEDIEVAL ( 1547 - 1700 )**

\_\_\_\_\_ **MEDIEVAL ( 1066 - 1547 )**

\_\_\_\_\_ **EARLY MEDIEVAL ( AD 450 - 1066 )**

\_\_\_\_\_ **ROMAN BRITAIN ( AD 43 - AD 450 )**

\_\_\_\_\_ **IRON AGE ( 700 BC - AD 43 )**

\_\_\_\_\_ **BRONZE AGE ( 2300 - 700 BC )**

\_\_\_\_\_ **NEOLITHIC ( 4000 - 2300 BC )**

\_\_\_\_\_ **MESOLITHIC ( 10,000 - 4000 BC )**

\_\_\_\_\_ **PALAEOLITHIC ( 500,000 - 10,000 BC )**

Chronological Divisions as used by the Council for British Archaeology (CBA),  
in the *British and Irish Archaeological Bibliography*.





## **APPENDIX II:** **Archive Cover Sheet**

**ARCHIVE COVER SHEET****PLOT 1, BONTGOCH ROAD, TALYBONT (TYB1/01/WB)**

Site Name:	<b>Plot 1, Bontgoch Road, Talybont.</b>
Site Code:	<b>TYB1/01/WB</b>
PRN:	<b>43141</b>
NPRN :	<b>N/A</b>
SAM:	<b>N/A</b>
Other Ref No:	<b>CAP Report No. 185</b>
NGR:	<b>SN 655892</b>
Site Type:	<b>Possible Industrial &amp; Prehistoric Remains.</b>
Project Type:	<b>Archaeological Watching Brief</b>
Project Officer:	<b>Ian Halfpenney</b>
Project Dates:	<b>July 2001</b>
Categories Present:	<b>N/A</b>
Location of Original Archive:	<b>To be arranged</b>
Location of duplicate Archives:	<b>N/A</b>
Number of Finds Boxes:	<b>1</b>
Location of Finds:	<b>To be arranged</b>
Museum Reference	<b>Not assigned</b>
Copyright:	<b>CAP Ltd.</b>
Restrictions to access:	<b>None</b>



## **APPENDIX III:** **Context Register**

**CONTEXT REGISTER**

**PLOT 1, TALYBONT (TYB1/01/WB)**

- 01 Topsoil
- 02 Subsoil
- 03 Natural
- 04 Modern Surface



## **APPENDIX IV:** **Finds Catalogue**



## FINDS CATALOGUE

### PLOT 1, TALYBONT (TYB1/01/WB)

#### Key to Pottery Fabric Abbreviations:

**BOW** – Border ware, whiteware from Surrey/Hamps border C17  
**BSW** – Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware C17-C18  
**BSS** – Bristol/Staffordshire Slipware  
**BSM** – Bristol/Staffordshire Mottled  
**BW** – Blackware, C17-C18  
**BC** – Bone China, late C18  
**CB** – Coalmeasures Buff, C17-C18  
**Cist** – Cistercian wares, C16 (Black- glazed drinking vessels in cylindrical forms)  
**CMB** – Coalmeasures Black, C17-C18  
**CMR** – Coalmeasures Red, C17-C18  
**CW** – Cream Ware, C18  
**DW** – Delft Ware  
**DWW** – Industrially produced Developed White Wares, C19-C20  
**ESW** – English Stone Ware  
**FP** – Flower Pot  
**GRE** – Lead-Glazed Red Earthenware, C17-C18  
**ISW** – Industrial Stone Ware  
**IYW** - Industrially produced Yellow ware, C19-C20  
**LRE** – Local Red Earthenware.  
**LRE (LG)** – Local Red Earthenware Lead Glazed  
**MSW** – Martincamp, late C15-early C16  
**MP** – Midland Purple  
**MW** – Mottled ware  
**NSW** – Nottingham Brown Stoneware C18  
**ND** – North Devon Gravel Tempered Ware, C17-C18  
**P(Chi)** – Chinese C18 Porcelain  
**PW** – Pearlware, C18-C19  
**SGW** – South Glamorgan Ware  
**SW** – Slipware  
**SWW** – Surrey Whiteware (Tudor Green)  
**SRS** – Staffs Red Stoneware, C18  
**SRE** – Staffs Fine Red Earthenware  
**TG** – Tudor Green, C15-C16  
**TGE** – Tin Glazed earthenware (Eng) C17-mid C18  
**ESG** – English Salt Glazed Stoneware C18  
**WdSW** – Westerwald German Stoneware, C18  
**WSG** – White Salt Glazed Stoneware  
**YSW** - Bristol or Staffs Buff Coalmeasures

## FINDS CATALOGUE

### PLOT 1, TALYBONT (TYB1/01/WB)

#### CONTEXT 1:

FABRIC TYPE	NO. OF SHERDS	WEIGHT	DATE (Century)
LRE	1	10g	19 <sup>th</sup>
ISW	1	25g	19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>
BC	1	5g	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>
PW	4	20g	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>
ND	1	3g	17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>
GREEN GLASS	1	3g	19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>
BROWN GLASS	1	2g	19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>
Tile	1	3g	Not Datable



## **APPENDIX V:** **Curatorial Project Brief**

*This design brief is only valid for six months from the above date. After this period Cambria Archaeology - Heritage Management should be contacted. Any specification resulting from this brief will only be considered for the same period. Please note that this document is written for archaeological project managers to facilitate the production of an archaeological specification of works, it is not a tender document. Any response to this brief should follow IFA Standards and Guidelines.*

*The project manager is strongly advised to visit the site before completing their specifications as there may be implications for accurately costing the project. The project manager must consult the County Sites and Monuments Record held by Cambria Archaeology - Heritage Management as part of the assessment.*

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 This document is a design brief setting out the requirements to fulfil an archaeological condition placed on planning consent for planning application 991189 for the construction of 9 dwellings on the above site. The condition has been attached to planning consent in line with PG (W) and Welsh Office Circular 60/96 - 'Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology.'

## **2.0 Site description**

- 2.1 The site is situated on land to the rear of the Black Lion Hotel, Talybont. To the north is the site of lead and silver mine workings (PRN 8333) which form part of Talybont mine. These features include dressing floors, a deep adit and spoil tips. Located to the south is a cist burial (PRN 13044) which was identified and investigated during the construction of a gas pipeline in 1986. It is likely that other cist burials survive within this area. Also identified during the pipeline investigation were a number of leats and water courses associated with the many water mills and factories of Talybont. It is also possible that leats or water channels relating to the woollen industry may run across the development area.

## **3.0 The nature of the development and the archaeological requirements**

- 3.1 The proposal is for the erection of a dwelling on plot 1 of the land at the rear of the Black Lion, Talybont.

## **4.0 Methodology**

### **4.1 Site Works**

- 4.1.1 Sufficient documentary research to enable the results of monitoring, investigation and recording to be set in their geographical, topographical, archaeological and historical context should be undertaken prior to the commencement of on site work
- 4.1.2 The following monitoring methods should be considered depending upon the type of construction methods to be used on site
1. Archaeological monitoring of top-soil clearance
  2. Inspection of subsoil for archaeological features
  3. Recording of all archaeological features in plan
  4. Rapid sample excavation to investigate features

- 4.1.3 A report should be produced following the conclusion of on site work
- 4.2 Should extensive remains be identified a review meeting will be held between the site engineer, archaeological project manager and Cambria Archaeology - Heritage Management to agree an appropriate sampling strategy
- 5.0 Objectives
- 5.1 To ensure that all archaeological features exposed during groundworks are recorded and interpreted to an acceptable standard.
- 5.2 To ensure that any significant discoveries of artefactual evidence are recorded and analysed to an acceptable standard.
- 6.0 Requirements
- 6.1 The project must be undertaken by an archaeological team of recognised competence, fully experienced in work of this character and formally acknowledged by Cambria Archaeology - Heritage Management (CA - HM) the regional archaeological curators. Details including the name, qualifications and experience of the project director and all other key personnel (including specialist staff) will be communicated to CA - HM as part of the project specification. The contractor will be expected to produce a reasonably detailed project specification although a full programme of works will not be required.
- 6.2 This specification must:
1. Provide a research design which sets out the site specific objectives of the archaeological works.
  2. Provide a timetable for the proposed works.
  3. Indicate methods of recording.
  4. State intended method of publication
- 6.3 Arrangements for long term storage and deposition of all artefacts must be agreed with the landowner and CA - HM before the commencement of fieldwork.
- 6.4 The site archive should conform to the NMR (W) agreed structure (guidelines available) and be deposited within an approved store (normally this will be the appropriate local museum and/or NMR) on completion of site analysis and publication.
- 6.5 A full report on the results of the watching brief should be prepared and presented to CA - HM within 6 weeks of completion of the site works. This report must include the following:
1. A concise non-technical summary of the project results.
  2. Location plan of identified features and structures.
  3. Where relevant section and plan drawings showing depth of deposits including present ground with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
  4. Written descriptions of all features and deposits revealed and investigated and their considered interpretation.
  5. Statement of the local and regional context of the remains identified.
  6. Full specialists descriptions of artefacts and ecofacts discovered during the works.
- 6.6 In addition two copies of the final report should be provided for the Sites and Monuments Record. CA - HM is responsible for monitoring all archaeological work within Ceredigion, the contractor must



- 6.7 Any changes to the specification that the contractor may wish to make after approval should be communicated to CA - HM and approved on behalf of Ceredigion County Council
- 6.8 CA - HM should be kept regularly informed about development both during the site works and subsequent post-excavation work.

As part of our desire to provide a quality service to all our clients we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or presentation of this design brief. Please address them to the authors below.

Suzanne Blake/ Louise Austin  
Cambria Archaeology  
The Shire Hall  
Carmarthen Street  
Llandeilo  
SA19 6AF