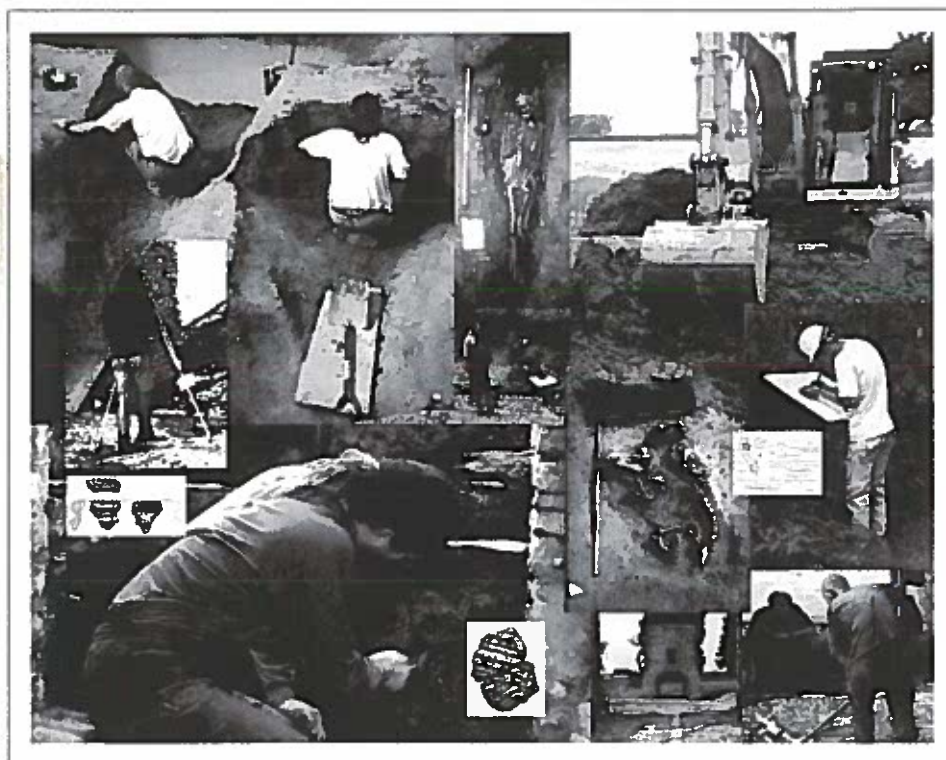


CAMBRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS LTD.

# Plot 8, Bontgoch Road Talybont.



Archaeological Watching Brief



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



CAP Report No. 187

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**Plot 8, Bontgoch Road,  
Talybont.**

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

Prepared for:  
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**CAP Report No: 187**

**Project No: 303**

**CA - HM PRN: 43142**

**Date: 13th July 2001**



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## 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 8 on land to the rear of The Black Lion Hotel, Talybont by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd. on behalf of the owners Mr & Mrs Evans. 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.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION (Figs 1&2)

#### 1.1 General Introduction

This archaeological watching brief report relates to work undertaken at Plot 8 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. Evans 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 12<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.

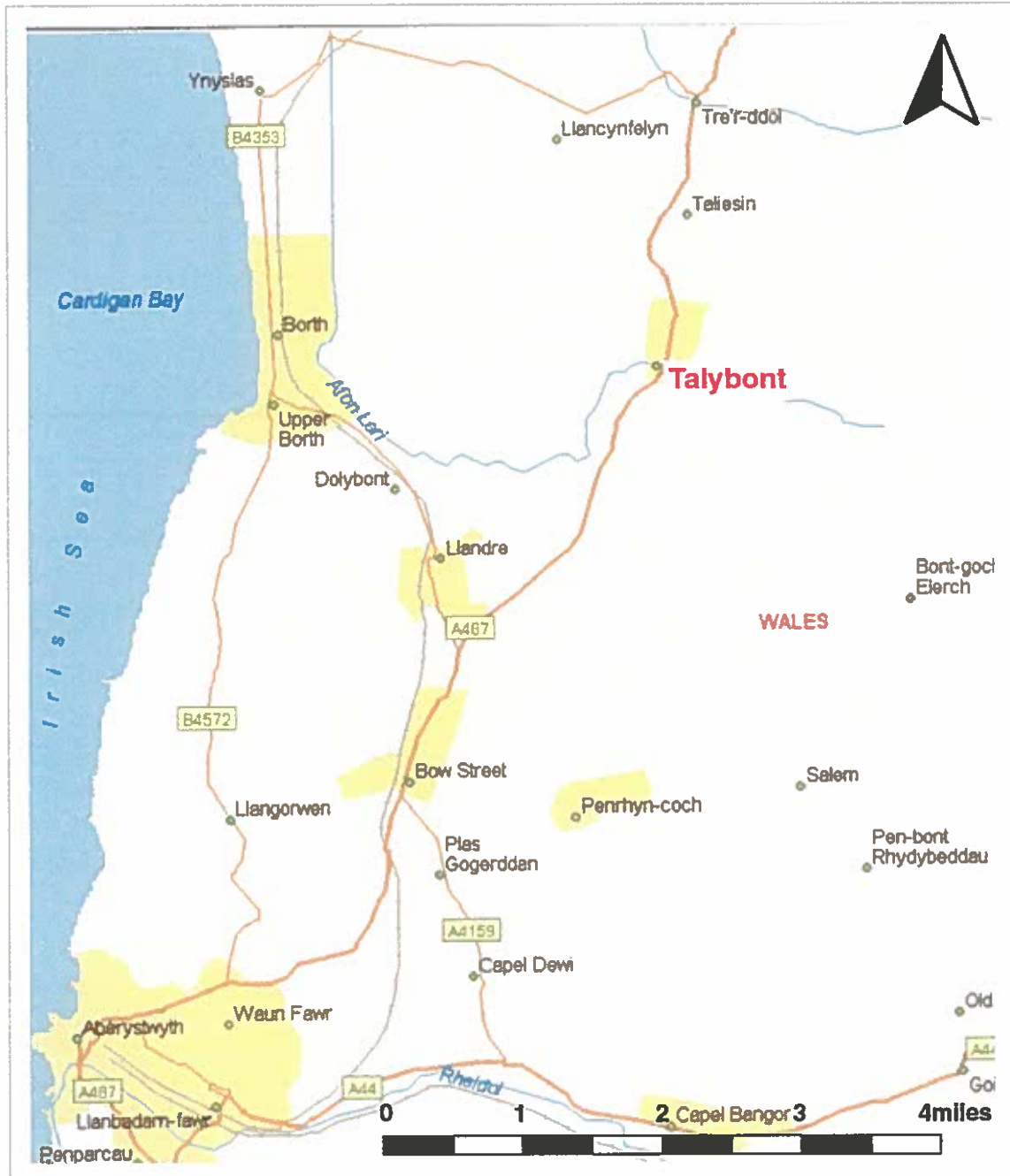


Figure 01: General Location Map

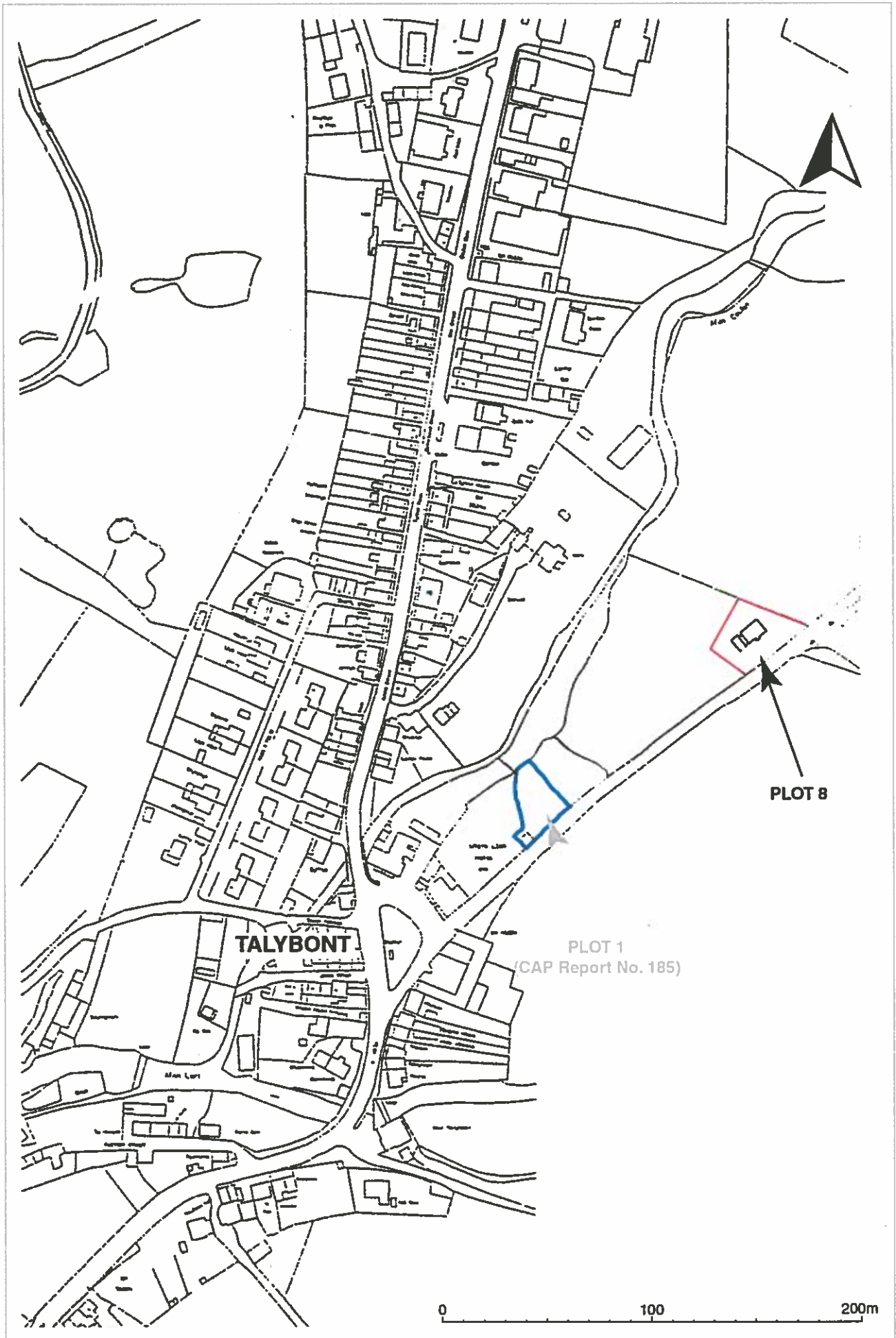


Figure 02: Map Showing Location of Plot 8.



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 overlaying mudstone and siltstone geologies.

1.4 *Landuse*

Prior to the development, the site was maintained as rough pasture.

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 north, west and eastern sides of the plot are defined by post and wire fences. The land has a south facing aspect and slopes gradually from the east down to the west. On the eastern side of the plot the land rises sharply up a bank into the adjacent field which is at a more elevated level.

## 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 then 'fieldwalked' this topsoil stripped area recovering any datable material which was evident on 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 1.05m. 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: 16m. (north/west-south/east) by 8m. (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 0.25m. with approximately 10% stone inclusions. These stone inclusions varied from sub-rounded coarse sand particles to small pebbles (1-2cm. in length). The pebble inclusions all appeared to be of a similar local geology.

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 a clay pipe stem 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)(Plate 3). This subsoil 'B' horizon was a friable reddish brown silty clay with a moderate amount of sub-rounded stone and gravel inclusions(15-20%). There were occasional pockets of cleaner dark red/brown clay within this subsoil horizon. Some of these clay pockets contained localised evidence of episodic/seasonal waterlogging with iron stained patches (Plate 4). The depth of this deposit varied up to a maximum of 0.35m.

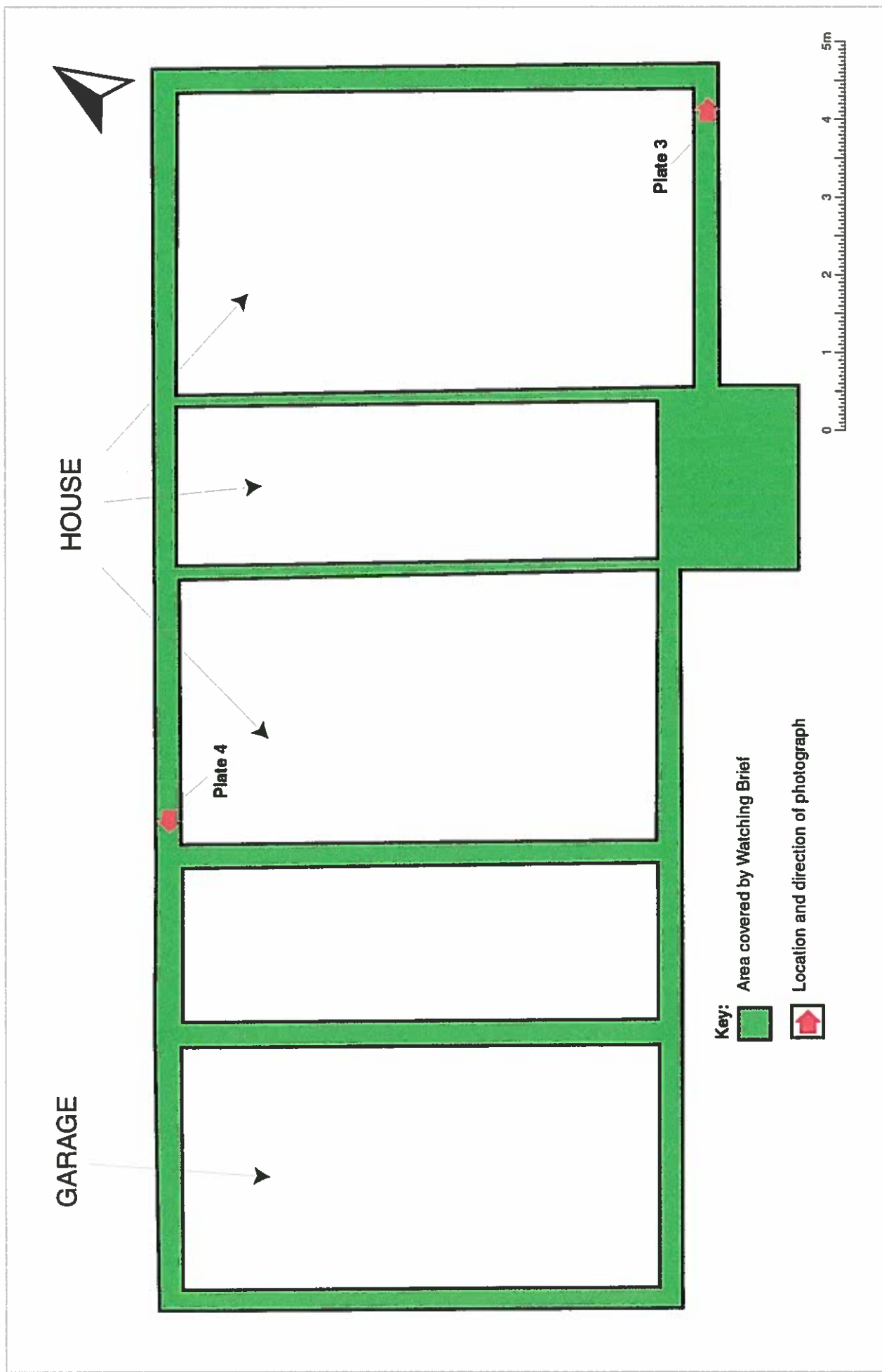
The excavation of the footings exposed the underlying natural/parent material (03)(Plate 4). This deposit was composed of interleaved bands of coarse sands, gravels and larger river cobbles. The sands were darkish brown in colour with some grains slightly cemented. The gravels varied in size from small pea grit inclusions to medium sized cobbles (0.1-0.2m. in length) and appeared to be well sorted and predominantly composed of local geologies. The rounded nature of the sands and gravels indicated that this natural deposit was the result of fluvial or glacio-fluvial depositional processes. There were also a number of larger stone blocks within this natural deposit, the largest of these blocks measured 0.4m. in length and 0.3m. in height. These larger blocks are indicative of episodes of much higher energy deposition processes. There were also with occasional pockets of silty clay within the natural which showed evidence of seasonal waterlogging/gleying.

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.

The excavation of the house plot necessitated the partial exposure of a section of the bank which was noted as being on the eastern edge of the plot boundary (Section 1.5). It was evident from the exposed section that this bank was a natural feature composed predominantly of *in situ* solid siltstone geology. From the top of the bank it was possible to see other similar lengths of banks running along the area to the north of the development plots.

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.



**Figure 03: Detailed Plan showing layout of Plot 8**  
(Area covered by Watching Brief)





**Plate 01:** Shot of Plot 8 following completion of topsoiling, looking west.

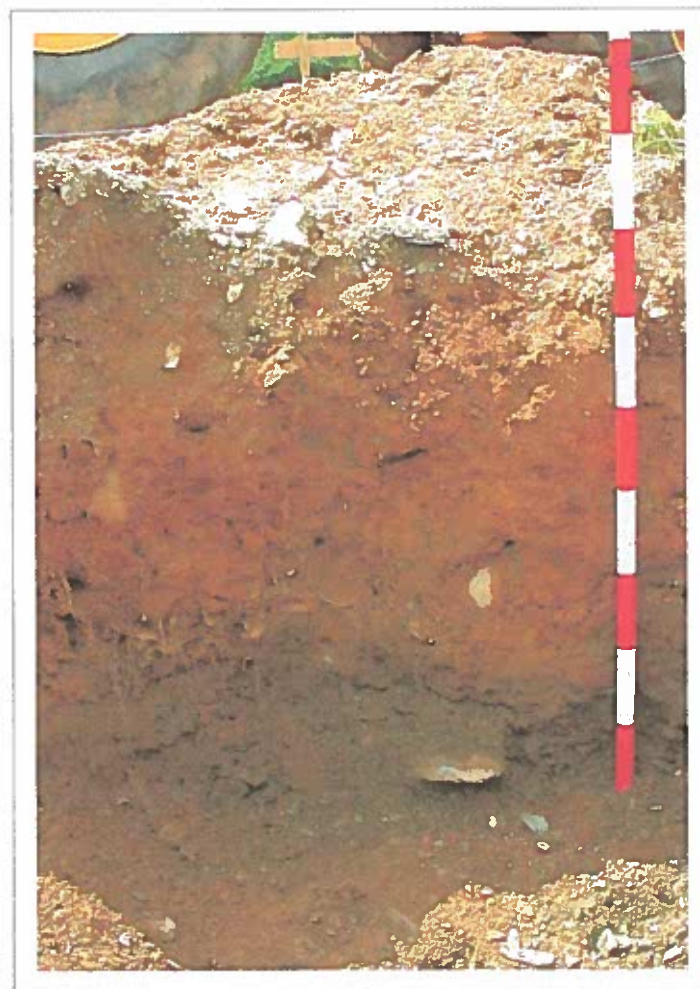


**Plate 02:** Shot of Plot 8 following excavation of footings, looking west.





**Plate 03:** Shot of natural stone deposit, looking north-east.



**Plate 04:** General soil profile, looking south.

## **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 bank which was evident on the eastern edge of the plot was revealed as a natural feature. When this bank is put into the context of the surrounding landscape and what is now known of the underlying fluvial deposits in this part of the valley it becomes clear that these banks probably mark the extent and course of previous fluvial channels.

The natural deposits exposed during the excavation of Plot 8 did vary to those exposed during the watching brief undertaken on Plot 1 (CAP Report no. 183). In plot 8 there were much cleaner bands of fluvial sands and gravels. Whereas in plot 1 the deposits were less well sorted with a much higher silt and clay content containing occasional very large blocks of stone. This indicated that plot 8 was probably located directly within a fluvial course and that plot 1 would not have been directly in the channel but close enough to be subjected to episodes of inundation and flooding.

## **5 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Thanks to: Kevin Blockley for his help and advice during the compilation of this report and thanks also to: Mr. & Mrs. Evans 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 8, BONTGOCH ROAD, TALYBONT (TYB1/01/WB)**

Site Name:	<b>Plot 8, Bontgoch Road, Talybont.</b>
Site Code:	<b>TYB8/01/WB</b>
PRN:	<b>43142</b>
NPRN :	<b>N/A</b>
SAM:	<b>N/A</b>
Other Ref No:	<b>CAP Report No. 187</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 bag</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 8, TALYBONT (TYB1/01/WB)**

- 01 Topsoil
- 02 Subsoil
- 03 Natural



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



## FINDS CATALOGUE

### PLOT 8, TALYBONT (TYB8/01/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 1680 - 1730  
**BSM** – Bristol/Staffordshire Mottled  
**BW** – Blackware, C17-C18  
**BC** – Bone China, late C18 – C20  
**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, C18-C20  
**LRE** – Local Red Earthenware C19.  
**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, 1750 - 1830  
**SGW** – South Glamorgan Ware  
**SW** – Slipware (see BSS)  
**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 8, TALYBONT (TYB8/01/WB)****CONTEXT 1:**

FABRIC TYPE	NO. OF SHERDS	WEIGHT	DATE (Century)
LRE	1	5g	19 <sup>th</sup>
IYW	1	5g	18 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>
BC	1	15g	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>
PW	3	17g	1750 – 1830
SW	1	7g	1680 – 1730
Clay pipe stem	1	6g	Not closely datable



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

# Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief

Site: Land at Talybont

Prepared for: **MR + MRS EVANS**

Site Location: SN 655 892

*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 8 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

Design Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at Talybont

- 5 Subsoil stripping under archaeological supervision
- 6 Further inspection to identify archaeological features and recording

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



Record Number will be allocated prior to on site work commencing, to be used on all site records.

- 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.

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