



**Written Scheme of Investigation
for
Priory Street Hospital
Priory Street
Carmarthen**

This Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by Border Archaeology
for Mr. D.H.W.Davies

Site Location: NGR SN41702027

Received 31/1/02

Planning Application No: W/03686

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January 2002

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation is Border Archaeology's response to an instruction to prepare an archaeological programme of work issued by Mr D. Davies in regard of his development of modern flat accommodation at the former Priory Street Hospital Carmarthen (ref: NGR SN 41702027) and continue from and take into account the works already undertaken on the site by Border Archaeology.
- 1.2 The criteria for this scheme of works is described within the brief issued by Cambria Archaeology on the 18th December 2001 and such amendments as agreed by Ms Louise Austin at the meeting held at the site on the 24th January 2002 chaired by Mr David Green of Carmarthenshire County Council. This archaeological proposal has been prepared for submission to Cambria Archaeology acting on behalf of Carmarthenshire County Council as a strategy to evaluate the sensitivity and archaeological value of the site, within specific and specified areas, prior to the (approved) continuation of building works. It outlines an archaeological programme of work, the purpose of which is to evaluate and record all archaeological materials, features, earthworks, structures and finds, to provide a satisfactory record of such and to record whatever such entities might be destroyed by the proposed development. This programme of work comprises a documentary study (not specifically required), detailed excavations as are deemed appropriate, detailed deposition of all finds etc and a comprehensive Report.
- 1.3 The area of work on the site is located as per the map supplied to Border Archaeology by Mr Davies and utilises the Area A, B, C & D site sub-divisions as agreed by Cambria Archaeology.

2.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objective of this programme of works is defined in paragraph 1.2 (above) and its aim is substantially to add if possible to the available information concerning the Roman activity believed to have been contained within the site as revealed during the previous limited site clearance and archaeological observation conducted by Border Archaeology, both reports of which have been filed with Cambria Archaeology. The desktop study was undertaken to properly inform the evaluation programme of the historic importance & narrative of the site.
- 2.2 An additional secondary aim of this programme of work is to provide sufficient information and results to be able to put the site and its deposits, features & structures within the wider context of Roman Carmarthen both in terms of the Report that follows this programme of works and its consideration of the other archaeological work effectuated within the site by Border Archaeology.

- 2.3 A detailed programme is proposed, differing as to its definition within the different areas of the site but in strict adherence to the requirements defined by Cambria Archaeology at the 24th January site meeting.
- 2.4 It is proposed by Mr Davies and his technical advisers that *preservation in situ* - after the completion of the agreed archaeological programme of works - will be the only engineering option acceptable to all the relevant interested parties in areas B, C & D. A strategy for dealing with this aspect of the works is *ultra vires* of this Proposal and the technical details of such are assumed to be subject to the approval of Carmarthenshire County Council and Cambria Archaeology.

3.0 SCHEME OF WORKS

3.1 The Desk Top Study

Border Archaeology has undertaken a desktop review of all available documentary information including previous local archaeological investigations and has consulted the county SMR, the County Records Office, Heather James's publication and its own records of past in the town.

Additionally as part of Border's QA procedure, geological and soil maps have been consulted.

3.2 The Evaluation Programme

Area A

Border Archaeology is required to excavate baulks 7, 8 & 9 The strategy for each of these three locations - having first cleared each area of the substantial debris and pile tipped soil - will be to remove overburden manually to the top of the first archaeological horizon or natural.

Excavation: in the event of significant features being discovered during this evaluation phase and in order to resolve expeditiously all outstanding questions about the remaining archaeology within this very limited area, it is intended that these will be excavated to reveal their full value and importance. Cambria Archaeology will be kept fully informed of such decisions and their advice, guidance and permission sought.

Please note that it has been agreed by Mr D. Davies that this sub-area will be cordoned-off sufficiently securely to allow the unimpeded completion of this phase of the works

Area B

Border Archaeology will clean back two areas each 5m x 5m as per the plan supplied by Cambria Archaeology in order to determine the boundaries of the features, their interdependent relationship and the possibility of additional archaeological features. Within each area, but outside of the archaeological features, a 2m x 1m trial area will be excavated to explore the nature of context 004 and to establish the extent of the previously recorded features. It should be noted that the exact location of these trial areas is to be agreed following the detailed cleaning and investigation of the identified areas.

Additionally, four trial areas - each 2m x 1m - will be excavated along the building perimeter footprint to determine if deposit 004 is natural boulder clay or if it is associated with additional features and deposits. Each of these trial will be (half) excavated to 750mm where no additional archaeology has been located.

After consultation with Ms Louise Austin, it is agreed that the exact position of these trial holes will be agreed at a site meeting, thus allowing the building footprint to inform but not necessarily determine their relative positions.

Please note that Mr D. Davies has confirmed for this area also that it will be sufficiently cordoned-off to allow the unimpeded completion of this phase of the works. The methods for covering and protecting area B will be dependent on the results from the specified archaeological works.

- 3.2.2 Full written and drawn records of all excavated contexts will be made, these being in accordance with Border Archaeology's Fieldwork Site Recording Manual All features will be specifically listed and numbered.**
- 3.2.3 All significant deposits, features and structures located will be recorded using separate context sheets (where appropriate) in order to fulfill the aims of the project specification and to resolve questions relating to their likely date, nature, extent, condition and relationship to adjacent features.**
- 3.2.4 The depth and complexity of significant deposits across the whole site will be evaluated. Written, drawn and photographic records will be made of the stratigraphy within all trench areas where appropriate.**

All spoil and removed material will be visually examined and sorted for artifacts, which will be recorded and retained.

- 3.2.5 All important features, deposits and structures will be photographed using 35mm SLR cameras (monochrome and colour transparency film). Records will include**

overall trench and site plans (scales of 1:20 and 1:50 respectively) All such site information will be linked to OS present datum

- 3.2.6 Human remains, if discovered, will not be excavated at this time but removed in their entirety before construction work begins. Such arrangements are at the discretion of H.M. Coroner whose instructions will be sought. All such activity would be carried with due reverence in accordance with the guidelines in IFA technical paper No 13.
- 3.2.7 A paleoenvironmental sampling strategy is included within this part of the programme based upon the condition of sub-surface deposits (where applicable). The sampling criteria will adhere to "A Guide to Sampling Archaeological Deposits for Environmental Analysis" (Murphy & Wiltshire 1994)
- 3.2.8 Deposits containing potential macro & micro plant, seed and pollen remains will be collected using 10 or 20 litre samples. Any clear stratified deposits will be sampled using monolith boxes taken at specified depths.
- 3.2.9 A detailed account of all sub-surface deposits to include the natural geomorphological processes within & below the archaeological stratification will be provided.
- 3.2.10 Company staff under the direct supervision of Dr George Nash will undertake all bulk environmental sampling using flotation analysis in addition to mollusa and soil analysis. Micro and macro plant remains will be sent where applicable to the University of Bristol for identification. All human and animal remains will be initially be analysed by the company's staff with referral assistance from Professor Richard West.

Area C

It was agreed at the January 24th 2002 meeting that additional information as to spatial location, photographic recording etc was required to fulfill the (conceded) minimal requirement for this area of the site.

After careful reference to its records, Border Archaeology can confirm that such information of location, a 1:20 scale plan and photographs can be provided and this will be supplied week commencing 28th January 2002 in a supplementary report.

Discussions as to its detail & interpretation will be conducted by Dr George Nash on behalf of Border Archaeology with Ms Louise Austin.

Confirmation will then be sought from Cambria Archaeology and it is hoped that this on-going consultation phase will not impede the commencement of the rest of this programme of works.

Area D

The new engineering solution to the desired *preservation in situ* of any archaeological remains in this area has changed radically any interaction with existing and presumed archaeology.

Such interaction is limited to the drilling of three bore holes after cutting through the concrete foundations of the original cellarage.

The dimensions of the bore drill are 150mm and thus any meaningful archaeological observation is rendered impossible; however, Dr George Nash will inspect the said drilling and determine what if any archaeological inferences can be drawn from his observations and/or recovered matter.

Such conclusions as Dr Nash may draw from his supervisory role will be conveyed to Cambria Archaeology in the form of a written Report containing the locations of the bore holes and the results of his conclusions & observations.

The results of this engineering activity may or may not require a different construction solution than that currently proposed but it is our understanding that such relevant information is outside the scope of this present scheme of works.

4.0 ARCHIVE COMPILATION

- 4.1 The site archive will be assembled under the direct supervision of Dr George Nash and will contain all data collected during the evaluation including records, photographs, finds and environmental samples. The archive will be quantified, ordered and internally consistent. Indexing will include a plan showing the location & reference number of sections and where practicable photograph locations or directions of view.
- 4.2 All records created during fieldwork will be checked for consistency and accuracy.
- 4.3 Archive consolidation will be undertaken immediately following the conclusion of fieldwork.
- 4.4 The archive shall be assembled in accordance with the guidelines set out in English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects 2*.

- 4.5 All primary field work documentation and records will be preserved and will form part of the site archive.
- 4.6 The archive will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines published in Guidelines for the preparation of Excavation Archives for long-term storage (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990) and Standards in the Museum care of archaeological collections (Museum and Galleries Commission, 1994). Deposition will take place after completion of the works.
- 4.7 The agreement of Abergwili Museum to receive the archive will be sought forthwith and such acceptance will be communicated to Cambria Archaeology verbally with confirmation in writing.

5.0 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Report will clearly and accurately incorporate information gained from documentary evidence and the excavation programme.
- 5.2 The Report will contain a full site plan showing the location of all recorded features etc as well as trench plans, sections, detailed drawings and a comprehensive photographic record. Trenches will be drawn in relation to the nearby buildings and roads.
- 5.3 Included will also be summaries of artifactual assemblages discovered (if applicable)
- 5.3 Copies of the Report will be sent to Mr. D. Davies, Ms. Louise Austin of Cambria Archaeology, Mr David Green of Carmarthenshire County Council and the Sites & Monuments Record.
- 5.4 All the previous work undertaken by Border Archaeology on the site will be incorporated in a single site interpretation & narrative and this will form the basis for the considerations for publication in an appropriate academic journal. Also included will be a statement of those remains excavated and those surviving & this will additionally inform the single site narrative

6.0 STAFF

Dr George Nash, Technical Director, has completed the documentary study and will direct the site excavations. Company staff will include Paul Jones, James Archer, Thomas Wellicome, Austin Gough, George Children MA, Nicola Hancox and Stuart Whatley MA

All such staff engaged in site excavation works possess recognised archaeological qualifications.

Overall project management remains the responsibility of Neil Shurety.

7.0 BORDER ARCHAEOLOGY OPERATING STANDARDS

All projects are carried out in accordance with IFA Standards and Guidance or Draft Standards and Guidance (where applicable) as detailed within the Company's Site Recording Manual.

A pre-works risk assessment will be completed and lodged in the site Health & Safety File.

Quality Audit procedure

As an example of best practice currently being introduced by the Company, a periodic - normally deemed to be weekly & where appropriate - summary Report of (site) activities for sensitive & important site works will be produced for transmission to Mr. D.Davies, Cambria Archaeology and CADW (if so required).

This is in no way intended as a substitute for the normal reporting requirements but as a means of demonstrating measurable progress to clients, facilitating the monitoring process and as an internal QA procedure.

8.0 COPYRIGHT

Border Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides a license to the client for the use of the report by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification to use the documentation for their statutory functions and to provide copies of it to third parties as an incidental to such functions.

9.0 POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT

The nature and character of any finds will determine the level of Post-Excavation Assessment and guidance will be sought from Cambria Archaeology as to their requirements as appropriate.

All post-ex assessment work will be carried out through levels 1-3 and will comply with MAP2 Appendix 4.

A programme of works will be produced after the completion of works outlining the necessary stages of post-excavation activity to be undertaken and the concomitant time scales.

9.1 As part of this process, the following issues will be addressed & resolved to Cambria Archaeology's satisfaction.

- (1) The written, drawn and photographic records will be of sufficient quality to facilitate publication where appropriate.
- (2) Data concerning complete, identifiable and itemised objects will be transferred on to Archaeological Object Record Sheets
- (3) All finds and other items that are to be subject to subsequent analysis will be so processed by suitable specialists, whose details will be made known to Cambria Archaeology.
- (4) All metal finds of archaeological interest will be x-radiographed
- (5) Where applicable, all items that are deemed to be within agreed conservation criteria will be conserved by an appropriately qualified archaeological conservator or laboratory recognised by the Conservation Unit of the Museum & Galleries Commission.
- (6) Where appropriate, specialists will be employed to assess & analyse, as required and agreed, all metalwork, bone, organic material, industrial waste, ceramic & lithic material and glass.

9.2 The Company's usual panel of specialist contractors (listed below) will form the first stage of any Assessment procedure undertaken, subject to the decision of Dr Nash to engage their services.

Medieval pottery	- Stephanie Ratkai and Stuart Whatley
Pottery (other)	- Mark Corney (Bristol University) and Stuart Whatley
Osteological analysis	- Dr George Nash & Professor Richard West
Soil analysis & flotation	- Dr George Nash Border Archaeology & Bristol University

Quaternary & Macro Flora Remains

- Professor Michael Walker University
Of Wales, Lampeter

The following qualitative issues should be noted:

- 1. No external archaeological conservator or specialist will be engaged on a specified project without the express approval of Cambria Archaeology.**
- 2. Mark Corney of Bristol University who is an acknowledged Roman expert will visit the site to advise on developing issues. His visit will be advised to Cambria Archaeology who will be invited to attend a site meeting with him.**

- 9.3 Border Archaeology will provide one member of staff suitably qualified - with an MA in Post Excavation studies - to be responsible on a daily basis under the direction of Dr George Nash for all such developing post-excavation issues & finds.

10.0 MONITORING & PUBLICATION

Cambria Archaeology has been advised of the proposed date of the start of the Scheme of Works which is Thursday 31st January 2002 with an expected duration of two weeks on site and Border Archaeology will adhere to any reasonable requirements made.

An appropriate extract will be made of each phase of work and sent to Archaeology in Wales. All archaeological works will also be summarised and submitted to an appropriate academic journal.

11.0 STATEMENT OF RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

At a meeting between Ms Louise Austin and Neil Shurety on 8th January 2002, Border Archaeology stated its objection to an effectively double registration procedure which it deems onerous and unreasonable in that Border Archaeology is already registered with the Welsh Trusts and its work acceptable to CADW and English Heritage. It was agreed by Ms Austin that amplification of the site director's (directly) relevant experience & qualifications would be acceptable.

Site Director and the company's technical director: Dr George Nash (PhD, MPhil)

Personal relevant details: Lecturer (part time) at Bristol University, broadcaster and author on archaeological matters.

Personal site experience (roman relevance): - (1) excavations - Baltic Exchange London, Weybridge Farm Essex, Worcester City Walls Worcester, Old Ford Street London, Essex Street London and Isle of Dogs London. (2) geophysical surveys Bruton Somerset and Bradford on Avon.

Border Archaeology's (roman) site works of which Dr Nash was site director.

Leintwardine *Branogenium* Herefordshire - Millfield House site - SMC required
- Watling St site - SMC required
Mill Lane/Bathhouse - SMC required

Cirencester Gloucestershire - Ashcroft Gardens

Clyro Hay -on -Wye Powys site bordering roman marching camp

Carmarthen Priory Street Hospital
Archaeological observations for Welsh Water
in historic core of town since Spring 2001