

CARMARTHEN TOWN AFC ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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for
Carmarthen Town AFC



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July 2007

**CARMARTHEN TOWN AFC
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

REPORT NUMBER: 2007/62
PROJECT NUMBER: 63179

**Report prepared by
Cambria Archaeology Field Services**

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**CARMARTHEN TOWN AFC
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

SUMMARY

A planning application was submitted by Carmarthen Town AFC to build an extension to the existing clubhouse at their Richmond Park ground (NGR SN41612045). The clubhouse lies within the core of the Roman Town of Moridunum. The majority of the Roman town is protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (CM234), although the watching brief site is not included. Previous archaeological work in and around the site has highlighted the enormous archaeological potential of the site. Therefore, the Local Planning Authority's archaeological advisors recommended that an archaeological watching brief be carried out on all groundworks.

To comply with the condition Carmarthen Town AFC commissioned Cambria Archaeology Field Services to carry out the watching brief in August 2006.

The works consisted of the demolition of an existing building and the removal of the concrete floor. Following the removal of the floor, five pits were excavated to a depth of 0.6m below floor level for new concrete pads.

No features of archaeological interest were noted in the pits, which clearly did not go deep enough to disturb the Roman deposits.

INTRODUCTION

Project background

A planning application was submitted by Carmarthen Town AFC to build an extension to their existing clubhouse at their Richmond Park ground (NGR SN41612045). Planning permission was granted with a condition that required an archaeological watching brief on major episodes of earth moving.

To comply with the condition Carmarthen Town AFC contracted Cambria Archaeology Field Services to carry out the watching brief in July 2007.

The watching brief methodology and scope of the report

The watching brief consisted of a site visit following the groundworks, which consisted of the demolition of an existing building and the removal of a concrete floor. Once the floor was removed five pits were excavated to a depth of 600mm to take new concrete pads. Photographs were taken during the site visit, but unfortunately a malfunction meant that did not develop. Therefore, there is no photographic evidence. However, this has not influenced or jeopardised the results of the watching brief.

This report summarises the archaeological background to the site and discusses the results of the watching brief.

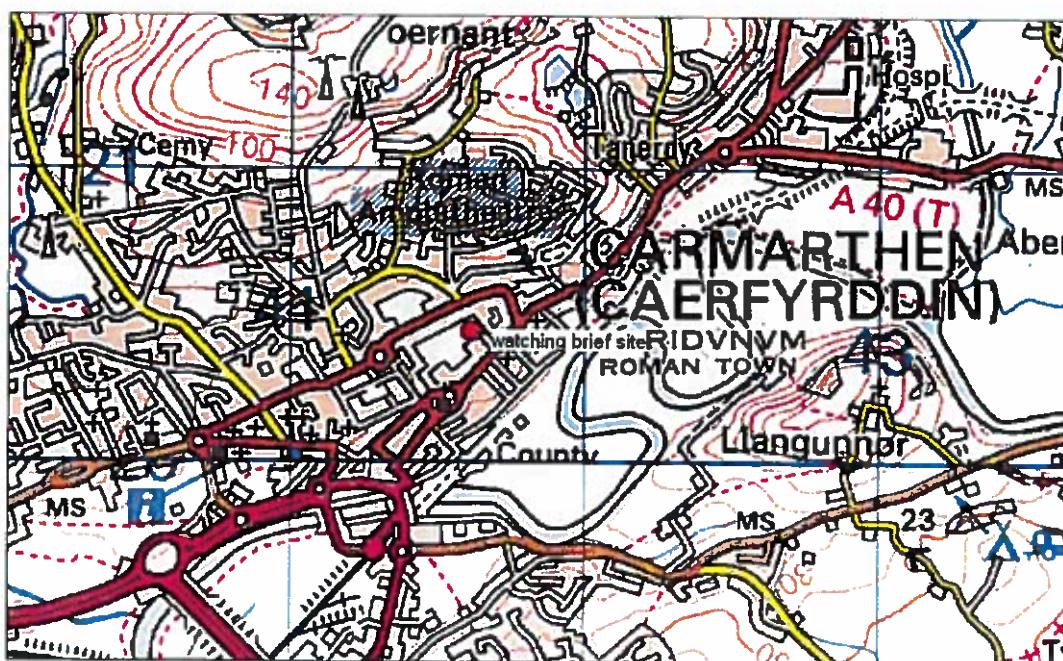


Figure 1: Location plan of watching brief site.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The clubhouse lies within the centre of the Roman town of *Moridunum*. It occupies a position close to the centre of the town and is in the supposed vicinity of the major Roman municipal buildings such as the forum. Extensive archaeological excavation, evaluation and monitoring has taken place in this part of Carmarthen, which has shown that the Roman deposits survive in good condition in this part of the town.

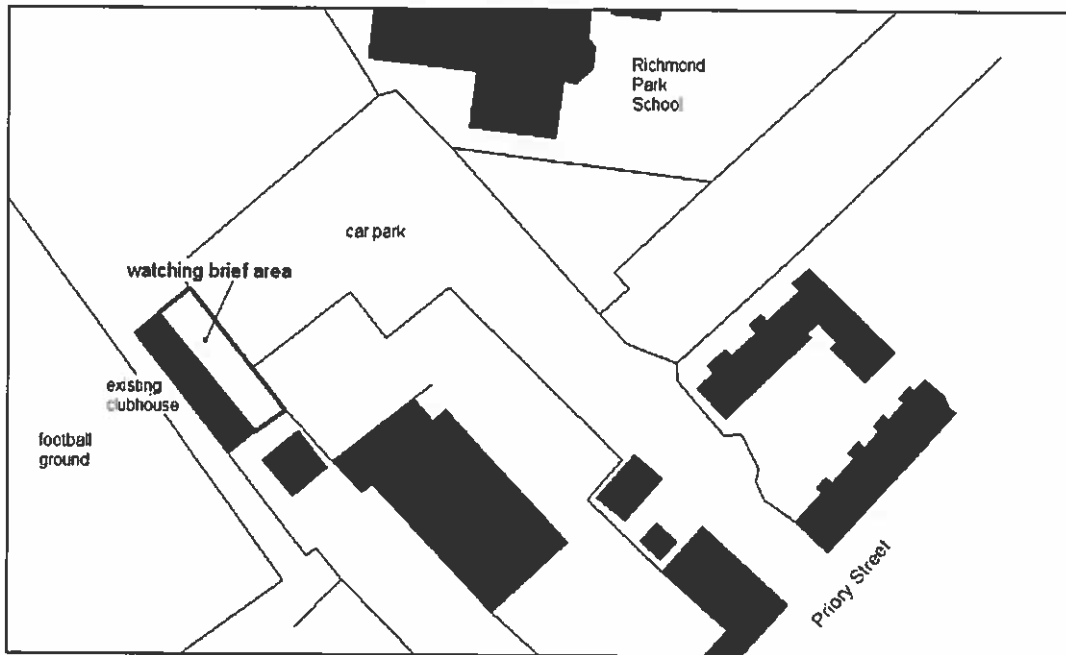


Figure 2: Plan showing the location of the clubhouse.

WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

Visits were made following the demolition of the building, removal of the concrete floors and the excavation of the five pits for the new concrete pads. The basic sequence of deposits revealed in the sides of the pits was the same, with modern made ground exposed all the way to the base of the pits. In two of the pits the foundation for the demolished building was also exposed.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed.

DISCUSSION

Despite the potentially sensitive location of the site, the works required for the construction of the new clubhouse extension had no archaeological impact. Therefore, the top of the undisturbed Roman levels is at least 0.6m below current ground level in this area.