

Land at Diana Road, Llandeilo

Watching Brief

Project Record Number 49956



Eleanor Breen
November 2003

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Wales

Contents

Summary	1
Introduction	2
Project Commission	2
Scope of Project	2
The Watching Brief Results	2
Site Location and Description	2
Site History	2
Groundwork Results	2
References	3
Cartographic Sources	3
Aerial Photographs	3

Summary

A planning application was made by Mr Kevin Taylor and Ms Nia Prytherch to construct a new house on a plot of land at Diana Road, Llandeilo National Grid Reference SN62662277. The plot is located north east of the recently surveyed Roman forts within Dinefwr Park. The forts are located, one overlying the other, at National Grid Reference SN620225 and are recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record with the Primary Record Numbers 47636 and 47637. Geophysical survey on the fort sites resulted in a detailed plan of the forts remains with a branched road leading from fort 2 (PRN47637). The trajectories of these roads lead in the direction of the building plot. For this reason an archaeological brief was required on the site and Mr Taylor and Ms Prytherch requested that Eleanor Breen undertake the work in November 2003.

The watching brief revealed nothing of archaeological interest on the site.

Introduction

Project Commission

A planning application by Mr Kevin Taylor and Ms Nia Prytherch to construct a new house on a plot of land at Diana Road, Llandeilo required an archaeological watching brief due to the plot being on the line of the Roman road emanating from the recently surveyed Roman fort in Dinefwr Park. For this reason an archaeological brief was required on the site and Mr Taylor and Ms Prytherch requested that Eleanor Breen undertake the work in November 2003.

Scope of Project

The watching brief was intended to provide a documentary search of the sites history and to identify and record any archaeological structures, features or deposits exposed during site clearance and foundation excavations through a number of site visits timed to coincide with the main phases of groundworks, with the information compiled into a report.

The Watching Brief Results

Site Location and Description

The development plot is located at the north end of Diana Road at National Grid Reference SN62662277. The plot is on the trajectory of the roads leading from the Roman forts identified in detail through geophysical survey undertaken by Stratascan Ltd for Cambria Archaeology during February and March 2003 (Hughes 2003). The plot is located approximately 220 metres north east of the survey area.

The site is triangular in shape and is bounded by a degraded hedge and bank on the north side with recently constructed post and wire fence. The eastern boundary is a gully and stream (cover photograph) and the southern boundary is block and brick walling being the garden walls of neighbouring properties. The site slopes from west to east towards the stream.

Site History

The site is the northern section of a field recorded as plot 1625 on the Tithe Map (1841?) and apparently named *Caer Garreg* on the accompanying apportionment (1838) although the handwriting on the apportionment is not easily legible. In this instance *caer* would seem to an unpunctuated version of *cae'r*, as adjacent fieldnames contain either *cae* or *caer*, and the fieldname is understood to mean 'the field of stone' or 'the stone field'. There is no record of a standing stone in this area in the Sites and Monuments Record. Diana Road was built during the first decades of the twentieth century being named after a family member of the owners of Dinefwr Park (Llandeilo Fawr Town Council 1994, 12) and subsequently expanded in later years. The plot remained as pasture until it recently became surrounded by housing development with the area to the north currently undergoing building work. Prior to the commencement of work on the site it was overgrown with scrub. Nothing of archaeological interest was noted on Ordnance Survey maps or aerial photographs held at the Sites and Monuments Record for the plot or surrounding area.

Groundwork Results

The site was stripped of top soil to reveal a light brown clay subsoil. At the interface between the topsoil and subsoil discrete scatters of cinder were noted with small fragments of rusted iron and a horse shoe. In addition, there were a moderate number of sherds of modern pottery. No features were visible in the subsoil which contained virtually no stone. Nothing of archaeological interest was identified during the excavation of the foundation trenches. The underlying shale was noted in a couple of trenches at depths of between 60cm and

120cm. This shale is evident in the bottom of the stream bed on the site boundary. The contractor who undertook the groundworks had also worked on the building site to the north of the plot. Permission for development on that site had been granted prior to the survey on the fort site and therefore was not subject to a planning condition. Nothing of archaeological interest was noted by the site workers on this adjacent site.

The dearth of evidence for a Roman road through this site does not rule the site out as being on the line of the road. Previous work undertaken by Cambria Archaeology on Roman road sites identified as parch marks from aerial photographs have, on excavation, been shown to have no discernible deposits (Ken Murphy, pers. comm).



General view of site following ground works

References

- Hughes, Gwilym 2003 *A Roman Fort at Dinefwr Park, Llandeilo*, Cambria Archaeology Report No 2003/49, PRN 47835, unpublished report.
Llandeilo Fawr Town Council 1994 *Llandeilo Town Guide* Llandeilo.

Cartographic Sources

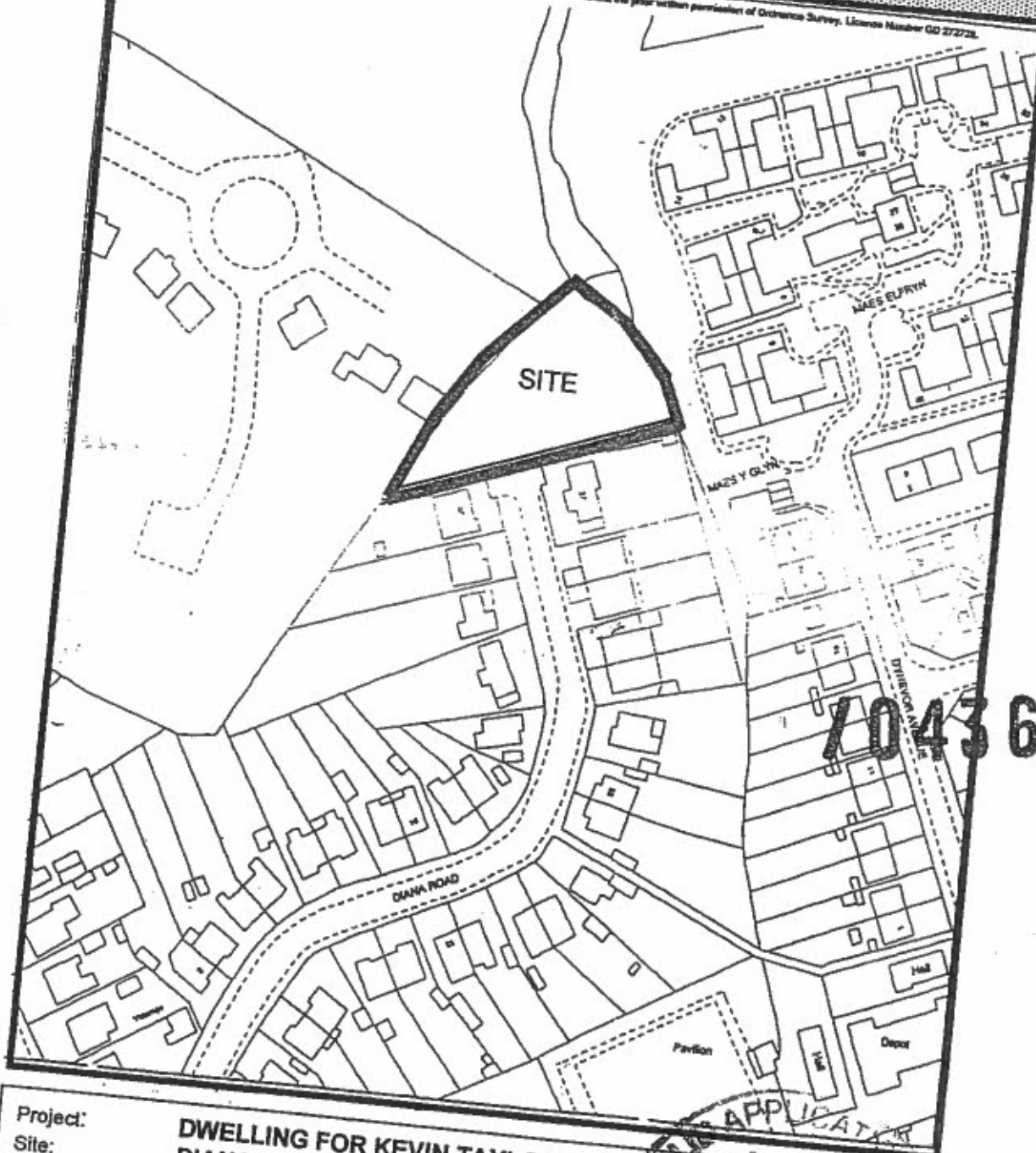
- Ordnance Survey 1891 Carmarthenshire XXXIII.SE, surveyed 1884-5.
Ordnance Survey 1906 Carmarthenshire XXXIII.15, revised 1905.
Tithe Map 1841? Llandeilo Fawr Parish.
Tithe Apportionment 1838 Llandeilo Fawr Parish.

Aerial Photographs

- Photograph collections held at the Cambria Archaeology office, Llandeilo.

LOCATION PLAN

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Project:

Site:

Drawing:

Drawing No:

Scale:

DWELLING FOR KEVIN TAYLOR & NIA
DIANA ROAD LLANDEILO
SITE LOCATION PLAN

P/01

1 : 2500

APPLICATOR

16 JUN 2003

MINING
SICES

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL