



Archaeological Observation

**Eben's Lane
Cardigan**

Cardiganshire (Ceredigion)

Laing O'Rourke for Dwr Cymru /
Welsh Water

NGR: SN 17704 46068—SN 17688 46088

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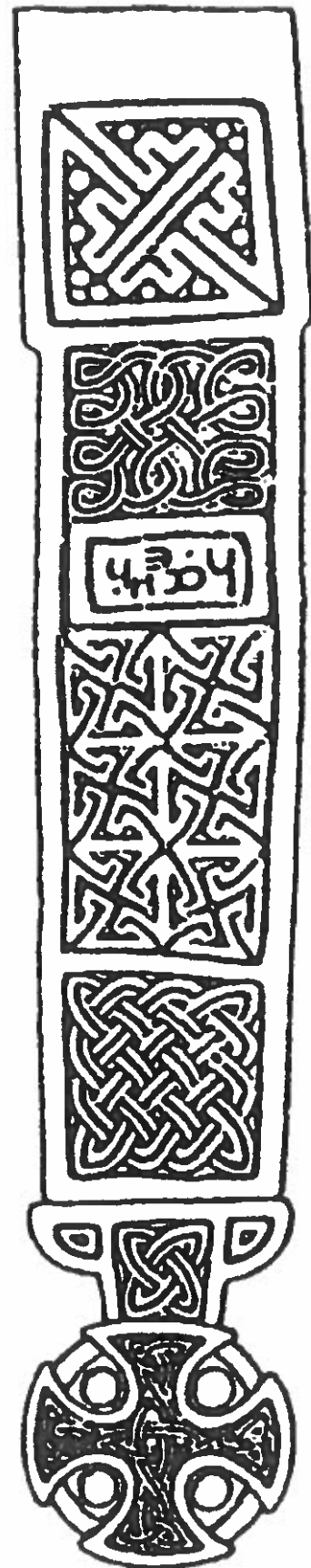
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Report No: BA0517LUELCP2

June 2005

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1. NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

The excavation programme took place at Eben's Lane, Cardigan, between January 5th and January 18th 2005.

The excavations revealed that the deposits had been heavily disturbed by previous utility activity. No deposits of archaeological significance were identified and archaeological observation confirmed that no structures, features or deposits were damaged during the course of the engineering works.

2. INTRODUCTION

This report details the archaeological observation programme undertaken by Border Archaeology for Llaing O'Rourke on behalf of Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water (DCWW) in Eben's Lane, within the centre of the historic town of Cardigan.

Cardinia Archaeological Trust had recommended on August 20th 2003 that archaeological observation be carried out, as the mains refurbishment route lay within the historic core of the town and there was the 'potential for buried archaeological remains relating to the Medieval and later occupation of Cardigan to be revealed during the works'.

These works were carried out as part of DCWW's refurbishment programme, the exact locations being determined by engineering considerations. Archaeological observation was required to observe the excavation of access pits and open cut trenching and to record as appropriate any remains, features and finds wherever located within the working area, thus providing a formal measure of the impact of the engineering works (whether positive or negative).

Initially, the engineering method had been designated as open-cut trenching but this was subsequently revised to a combination of low impact procedures.

This report was completed in June 2005 after due consultation that no return to the lane for water quality assurance reasons was envisaged. Copies will be submitted to DCWW, Llaing O'Rourke, Cardinia Archaeological Trust and the regional Sites and Monuments Record Office.

2.1 Geology

The Eben's Lane area comprises one soil association (CEGIN 713d), consisting of slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine silty and clayey soils, some fine silty and fine loamy soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging on slopes and well drained fine loamy soils over rock. The underlying geology consists of drift from Palaeozoic slaty mudstone and siltstone.

3. SITE SPECIFIC HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Eben's Lane is a narrow lane running approximately 100m in a E-W direction from Cardigan High Street to Lower Mwdan, within the historic core of the medieval town of Cardigan (Plate 1). The lane is first shown in detail on the 1839 tithe map of the parish of St Mary's Cardigan.

The W end of Eben's Lane intersects with the course of the medieval town wall of Cardigan running NE-SW, which was built in the mid 13th century. The line of the medieval town walls can be traced on the OS 1st edition 6 inch map of 1891 and fragments of medieval masonry associated with the W section of the town walls are still visible along the Mwdan.

Documentary evidence reveals that Eben's Lane was already a hub of industrial activity by the early 19th century, much of it associated with the adjacent shipyard at Mwdan to the W. Pigot's Directory of 1830 lists an anchor/ship smith and a sail-maker occupying premises in Eben's Lane by that date.

From the 1790s until the late 1880s, Cardigan was an important regional centre for the shipbuilding industry and over 1000 people were employed in shipbuilding and associated trades in Cardigan during the course of the 19th century. Other tradesmen listed as occupying premises in Eben's Lane in 1830 include a blacksmith and a maltster.

Comparison between the 1839 tithe map and the OS 1st edition 6 inch map of 1891 indicates that some building activity took place along Eben's Lane during the middle decades of the 19th century and the lane was heavily built up by the early 1890s. This impression is confirmed by an examination of the census returns for 1841-1901, demonstrating a steady increase in the number of properties along Eben's Lane during the mid-late 19th century.

The census returns also suggest that the area began to lose industrial character towards the end of the 19th century, suggested by some of the trades (e.g. tailor, dressmaker, laun-

Plate 1: NW view along Eben's Lane



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dress etc) occupying premises in Eben's Lane at the time of the 1881 census although a number of shipwrights and ship carpenters were still working in Eben's Lane at that date. The increasing number of paupers listed as occupying houses in Eben's Lane in the census returns for 1871-1891 also indicates that the area had become one of the poorer parts of Cardigan by the end of the 19th century.

4. METHODOLOGY

All pits were excavated under strict archaeological supervision and spoil was scanned for artefacts.

Any archaeological remains revealed during the course of the groundworks would be subject to preservation by record.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

5.1 Table of Results

The table below lists information by date, National Grid Reference/pit number, location, soil profile description and assessment of archaeology. Each pit or section of trenching may be assessed as NAR (no archaeology recorded), NSA (no significant archaeology) and NAA (no additional archaeology). A pit or trench section designated NSA is highlighted in grey in the table. Light blue highlighting indicates the presence of significant archaeological remains and dark blue highlighting a known archaeological site impacted by the engineering works.

For the purposes of this report, significant archaeology is defined as that which contributes to an understanding of the past within a local, regional, national or international context. Generally, unstratified remains or those of recent origin that commonly occur in excavations will not be considered archaeologically significant, although it is recognised that unstratified items or remains may be of high intrinsic value, in which case these will be retained.

Date	Grid Ref/Pit No	Location	Description	Results
05/01/2005	SN17704 46068 Pit E1	o/s HSBC - NE-facing elevation	Tarmacadam path/road >> hardcore deposit of well - compacted grey clay and 60% small grey angular stones >> moderately compacted coarse orange sand >> dark grey/brown sandy silt loam with moderately frequent (15-20%) slate fragments and occasional (<10%) small subangular and well rounded stone inclusions - redeposited. Finds of C18th - C20th pottery fragments - 4 D43 ceramic rim; 5 brown internal salt glaze; 1 light brown internal glaze; 1 light brown and yellow pattern glaze; 1 C20th blue-and-white pattern glazed china; 1 ceramic unglazed.	NSA
05/01/2005	SN17702 46073 Pit E2	o/s No. 18	Tarmacadam path/road >> hardcore deposit of compacted grey clay and 60% small grey angular stones >> moderate to well compacted mix (50%) of orange sandy clay and grey silty sand loam, with very frequent (30%) small subangular and rounded stones and occasional (<10%) slate fragments - redeposited.	NAR



Date	Grid Ref/Pit No	Location	Description	Results
06/01/2005	SN17704 46068 Pit E3	o/s HSBC - NE-facing elevation	Tarmacadam path/road >> hardcore deposit of compacted grey clay >> moderately compacted coarse orange sand >> well compacted dark grey/brown loamy sand (<10%) small subangular and rounded stone inclusions - redeposited. Several late C18th - C20th ceramic drainage pipe fragments and one very small C20th pottery fragment.	NSA
06/01/2005	SN17729 46073 Pit E4	o/s HSBC - NE-facing elevation	Tarmacadam path/road >> compacted dark grey/brown loamy sand/grit/gravels, with very frequent (40%) small angular stones and slate fragments - redeposited. Finds of C20th white glazed ware fragments and CBM.	NSA
06/01/2005	SN17721 46077 Pit E5	o/s No. 21	Tarmacadam path/road >> moderately compacted coarse orange sand mixed with gravel (50%) - redeposited backfill.	NAR
06/01/2005	SN17733 46069 Pit E6	o/s No. 21 - NW of E5	Tarmacadam path/road >> moderate to well compacted mix of grey/brown sandy loam/grit/gravels, with orange sandy clay and very frequent (40%) small angular and subangular stones and slate fragments.	NAR
10/01/2005	SN17717 46076 Pit E7	o/s Nos 20 and 21	Tarmacadam path/road >> moderately compacted orange sandy clay with occasional (<10%) small subangular and rounded stone inclusions >> well compacted dark grey/brown loamy sand/grit/gravels, with very frequent (40%) small subangular and rounded stones and moderately frequent (10%) slate fragments - redeposited.	NAR
10/01/2005	SN17738 46062 Pit E8	o/s HSBC rear building - NE-facing elevation	Tarmacadam path/road >> well compacted light grey/brown loamy sand/grit/gravels with very frequent (30%) C20th red brick and slate fragments - redeposited. Finds of occasional small fragments of C20th blue-and-white glazed pottery and glass.	NSA
10/01/2005	SN17716 46069 Pit E9	o/s No. 20 - doorstep	Tarmacadam path/road >> moderate to well compacted mix of grey/brown sandy loam/grit/gravels, with orange sandy clay and very frequent (40%) small angular and subangular stones and slate fragments >> clay with very frequent (40%) small subangular stones and slate fragments - redeposited	NAR
10/01/2005	SN17713 46062 Pit E10	o/s No. 19	Tarmacadam path/road >> sub-base of well compacted grey silty clay with 60% small rounded stones >> moderately compacted coarse orange sand with occasional (<5%) small subangular and rounded stone inclusions >> fragmented and broken deposit of slate fragments >> moderately compacted orange sandy clay loam - disturbed natural	NAR
10/01/2005	SN17707 46073 Pit E11	o/s No. 18	Tarmacadam path/road >> moderately compacted coarse orange sand mixed with gravel (50%) - redeposited backfill >> moderate to well compacted orange/brown sandy clay loam, with occasional (<10%) small subangular and rounded stone inclusions - disturbed natural	NAR
11/01/2005	SN17783 46058 Pit E12	o/s HSBC - rear building - NE-facing elevation	Tarmacadam path/road >> well compacted loamy sand/grit/gravels, with frequent (25%) small and medium subangular stones and slate fragments - redeposited. Finds of frequent (20%) C20th red brick and glass fragments.	NSA
11/01/2005	SN17747 46062 Pit E13	o/s HSBC rear building - NE-facing elevation	Tarmacadam path/road >> sub-base of small grey angular stones and gravel >> well compacted grey/brown loamy sand/grit/gravels, with very frequent (40%) small subangular and rounded stones and frequent (20%) slate fragments, C20th red brick and glass fragments - redeposited.	NSA
12/01/2005	SN17748 46063 Pit E14	o/s HSBC rear building - NE-facing elevation	Tarmacadam path/road >> well compacted grey/brown loamy sand/grit/gravels with very frequent (40%) small subangular and rounded stones, with very frequent (40%) C20th red brick fragments - redeposited. Within this grey/brown loamy sand was noted a fragmentary and broken slate deposit, with occasional (<10%) small rounded stones.	NSA



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Date	Grid Ref/Pit No	Location	Description	Results
12-13/01/05	SN17697 46078	Pit E16 o/s Nos. 6 and 7	Tarmacadam path/road >> well compacted hardcore deposit of grey/brown sandy silt loam with frequent (25%) angular, subangular and well rounded stones and C20th red brick pieces, tarmac pieces, wire and an oil can - redeposited modern.	NSA
13/01/2005	SN17702 46075	opposite No. 7	Tarmacadam path/road >> heavily compacted hardcore deposit of grey/brown sandy silt loam with frequent (25%) angular, subangular and well rounded stones and C20th red brick and tarmac pieces >> well compacted orange sandy clay loam with occasional (<5%) large subangular stone inclusions - disturbed natural.	NSA
13/01/2005	SN17699 46078	opposite Nos. 7 and 8	Tarmacadam path/road >> heavily compacted sandy silt loam >> well compacted orange sandy clay loam - disturbed natural.	NAR
13/01/2005	SN17695 46078	opposite No. 8	Tarmacadam path/road >> well compacted grey/brown silty clay loam with very frequent (40%) small subangular and rounded stones and C20th red brick fragments and tarmac pieces - sub-base >> well compacted orange sandy clay loam with occasional (<10%) small and medium subangular and rounded stone inclusions - disturbed natural.	NSA
13/01/2005	SN17702 46073	o/s No. 8	Tarmacadam path/road >> well compacted grey/brown sandy silt loam with very frequent (40%) small angular and subangular stones and slate fragments >> well compacted orange sandy clay with occasional (<5%) small and medium subangular stone inclusions - disturbed natural.	NAR
13/01/2005	SN17690 46088	o/s No. 9	Tarmacadam path/road >> heavily compacted grey/brown sandy silt loam with frequent (20%) small subangular and well rounded stone inclusions and very frequent (40%) slate fragments >> well compacted orange silty clay loam with occasional (5%) small subangular and rounded stone inclusions - disturbed natural.	NAR
14/01/2005	SN17685 46087	o/s Ceredigion Training	Tarmacadam path/road >> heavily compacted grey/brown sandy silt loam with frequent (20%) small subangular and well rounded stone inclusions and very frequent (40%) slate fragments - redeposited. Finds of C20th drainage pipe fragments and occasional small fragments of C20th pottery. Within the above context on the NE- and SW-facing sections was a modern cut for utility services, which had been backfilled with a well compacted grey/brown sandy silt loam with very frequent (40%) small subangular stones and 80% slate fragments - redeposited fill.	NSA
18/01/2005	SN17688 46088	o/s No. 9	Tarmacadam path/road >> fragmentary and broken slate deposit (present on the SSW-facing section only) >> well compacted grey/brown sandy silt loam with very frequent (40%) small subangular and well rounded stones and slate fragments - redeposited.	NAR

Plate 3: SW-facing section of Pit E5



Plate 2: SE-facing section of Pit E1



Plate 5: SW-facing section of Pit E11



Plate 4: SW-facing section of Pit E9





6. CONCLUSION

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All finds identified within the deposits were of 18th-20th century date; no significant features or deposits of medieval date were impacted during the groundworks. In Trench E22, opposite the Ceredigion Training building, where two late 19th century properties were demolished in the mid 20th century, a substantial layer of re-deposited broken slate was found. No evidence of worked slate was noted. This could represent hardcore brought in from local quarries and used to build up the ground and may be associated with the building activity along Eben's Lane during the mid-late 19th century indicated by the cartographic and documentary sources.

7. COPYRIGHT

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Pigot's Directory of South Wales (1844)

Soil Survey of England and Wales (Silsoe 1983)

9. CARTOGRAPHY

(All cartographic materials were obtained from the National Library of Wales unless otherwise stated)

Tithe Map and Apportionment for St Mary's Parish Cardigan (1839)

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6 inch map of 1891



10. Appendix 1: Scheme Map Showing Areas Observed

