

CAMBRIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS LTD.

Land at Whitehall, Plot 2 Angle, Pembrokeshire

Archaeological Evaluation



By
Chris E Smith Ba (Hons) AIFA



CAP Report No. 449

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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Angle, Pembrokeshire**

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Prepared for:
Mrs D O'Callahan

CAP Report No:

Project No: 449

Date: **June 2006**



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Non Technical Summary

This report results from work undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd (CAP) for Mrs D O'Callahan on land at Whitehall, Angle, Pembrokeshire. This report draws upon the results gained by the excavation of a single evaluation trench on the site of a proposed residential development.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 In June 2006 Cambrian Archaeological Projects (CAP) carried out a pre-determinate archaeological evaluation of a proposed development site on land at Whitehall, Angle in Pembrokeshire (Fig 1).
- 1.1.2 This was in respect of a planning application for development and an archaeological specification agreed with Charles Hill of Cambria Archaeology.
- 1.1.3 The development concerns the proposed construction of 1 residential dwelling with associated infrastructure on the site situated at NGR SM 8611802913.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The underlying solid geology of the Angle area is mixed with Angle being located on the boundary between a Tournaisian and Visean Carboniferous limestone series and a Lower Devonian Old Red Sandstone series (British Geological Survey, 2001).
- 1.2.2 Angle is sited along a sheltered dry valley between West Angle and Angle Bay on the south side of the entrance to Milford Haven. The ground rises on the north side of the village to the cliffs of the coastline between Angle Point and Thorn Island. To the south the rising ground is broken by a small tributary valley for a stream that drains into Angle Bay. There is a direct relationship between the linear street of the village and the strip fields to the north and south which strongly suggests that all are part of a large scale landscape organisation of 12th century date (H J James, 2000).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 Archaeological evidence for the pre medieval landscape around Angle is mainly in the form of finds. Flint tools and weapons from coastal bays are of Mesolithic and Neolithic date. There is a surprisingly low density of Iron Age defended sites. However, aerial photography has identified some crop mark sites which suggests that the known history of continuous cultivation could have eroded earthworks. Metal detectorists have recently recovered Roman material from the area (H J James, 2000).
- 1.3.2 Angle can be described as a regular, linear village without a green. This latter fact alone strongly argues for a Norman plantation. Preserved within the present day topography is the evidence for the stages of growth of the village. The original settlement was probably a single row of peasant's houses fronting a street, with their rear boundaries at right angles to the street, extending directly into the strip fields to the north. These were the 'tofts and crofts' of the peasant farmers (H J James, 2000).
- 1.3.3 In addition to the peasant farmers of the village, the original settlement housed a resident lord – who probably lived in the mis-named 'Castle' ruins. The site is typically close to that of the church although is more likely to represent a 'Tower house' than a castle (H J James, 2000).
- 1.3.4 As maritime and coastal trade began to develop in the 16th century growing pressure seems to have been exerted to expand the settlement down towards Angle Bay. Later processes and events modifying this medieval landscape were the enclosure from open field cultivation which preserved the outlines of the former strips and gentry houses, and surrounding 'park' or estate landscapes with plantations at The Hall, Angle and Bangeston. Military coastal defence works, part of the mid to late 19th century fortification of Milford Haven and the WWII airfield have modified the landscape and communication pattern. The principal road remains a continuation of the 'ridgeway' route of at least medieval origin westwards from Pembroke (H J James, 2000).

2 Aims and Objectives

2.1 Field Evaluation

- 2.1.1 To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposal area.
- 2.1.2 To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present.
- 2.1.3 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features
- 2.1.4 To appraise the likely impact of the proposal on any surviving archaeological deposits and if appropriate to make suggestions for a mitigation strategy or, where areas contain archaeology of national importance, for preservation *in situ*.

3 Methodology

3.1 Evaluation

- 3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of one machine-excavated trench measuring 10 metres by 2 metres. A mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket removed the overburden under close archaeological supervision.
- 3.1.2 Site director Chris E Smith and project assistant Nick Edwards undertook the evaluation under the overall direction of Kevin Blockley (MIFA). The trench was cleaned by hand all plans and sections being recorded and drawn at a scale of 1:20. All trenches were photographed using black and white print film and high resolution digital photography.
- 3.1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and Guidance: for an archaeological desk-based assessment and archaeological evaluation* and current Health and Safety legislation.

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental evidence

3.3.1 No deposits suited to environmental sampling were located during the evaluation.

4 Evaluation Results

4.1 Soils and ground conditions

4.1.1 Generally the site and weather conditions were overcast and dull with occasional rain throughout the evaluation.

4.2 Distribution of deposits

4.2.1 The topsoils and subsoils were of an even distribution over the surface of the trench varying only slightly in their depth.

4.3 Description

The trench measured 10 x 2 metres and was aligned on a north south axis. Removal of the topsoil (001) and subsoil (002) was undertaken by mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision. Natural compact clay deposits (003) were encountered at a depth of around 0.3m – 0.4m across the base of the trench. At the northern end of the trench a shallow scoop [004] appeared to have been cut into the natural deposits. Sectioning of this feature proved it to be relatively shallow (0.15m) and filled with a dark brown silt soil (003). Stone blocks were also present within the fill (Making up approximately 30% of the matrix). Ceramic material of 17th century date was recovered from the fill of [004]. Located to the south of [004] was a dark deposit of burnt material and coal (005). Sectioning proved this feature to also be very shallow (less than 0.10m) with the recovery of a mid 17th century clay tobacco pipe bowl bearing the makers mark 'AS', this is likely to make it contemporary with [004]. Located to the south of (005) was another shallow scoop [007] cut into the natural containing both a similar fill (006) and similar ceramics to those of feature [004]. Located at the southern end of the trench was a linear ditch cut [009] running on a north east – south west axis. Investigation of the ditch showed it to have a single highly compacted stone and gravel fill (008) perhaps suggesting that the linear acted as a drainage/soakaway feature. No datable material was recovered from the linear feature.

5 Finds

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of 17th century pottery and clay tobacco pipe was recovered during the course of the evaluation.

6 Discussion and Interpretation

6.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 6.1.1 The evaluation was generally unhampered by any modern building or agricultural activity.
- 6.1.2 The overall findings of the evaluation were inconsistent with what would be expected of a Norman linear plantation. Given the presence of the strip fields surrounding the assessment area it could be assumed that this would be reflected in medieval settlement adjacent to both the road and the fields. The presence of 17th century domestic material perhaps suggests that the village had extended to this point by the 1600's although no domestic structures were located.

6.2 Overall interpretation

- 6.2.1 The evaluation revealed three likely 17th century features although all were relatively shallow and insubstantial, apparently not of a structural nature. The linear feature produced no datable material and seems likely to have been acting as a drainage/soakaway feature. This is owing to its single fill episode of compacted gravel.
- 6.2.2 The lack of medieval activity would suggest that the core of the Norman settlement is likely to have been located further to the east thus putting it closer to the church. It is possible that the village had extended this far by the 1600's as suggested by the finds and features recovered during the course of the evaluation.

6.3 Significance

- 6.3.1 The evaluation was significant in that it located no evidence of medieval activity, perhaps suggestive of a location further east for the core of the Norman plantation.

7 Acknowledgements

7.1.1 Thanks to Nick Edwards for his on site assistance.

8 Bibliography and references

British Geological Survey. 2001, 4th Edition. Solid Geology Map, UK South Sheet.

H J James, 2000 – Castlemartin Peninsula – Indicative Historic Landscape Characterisation –
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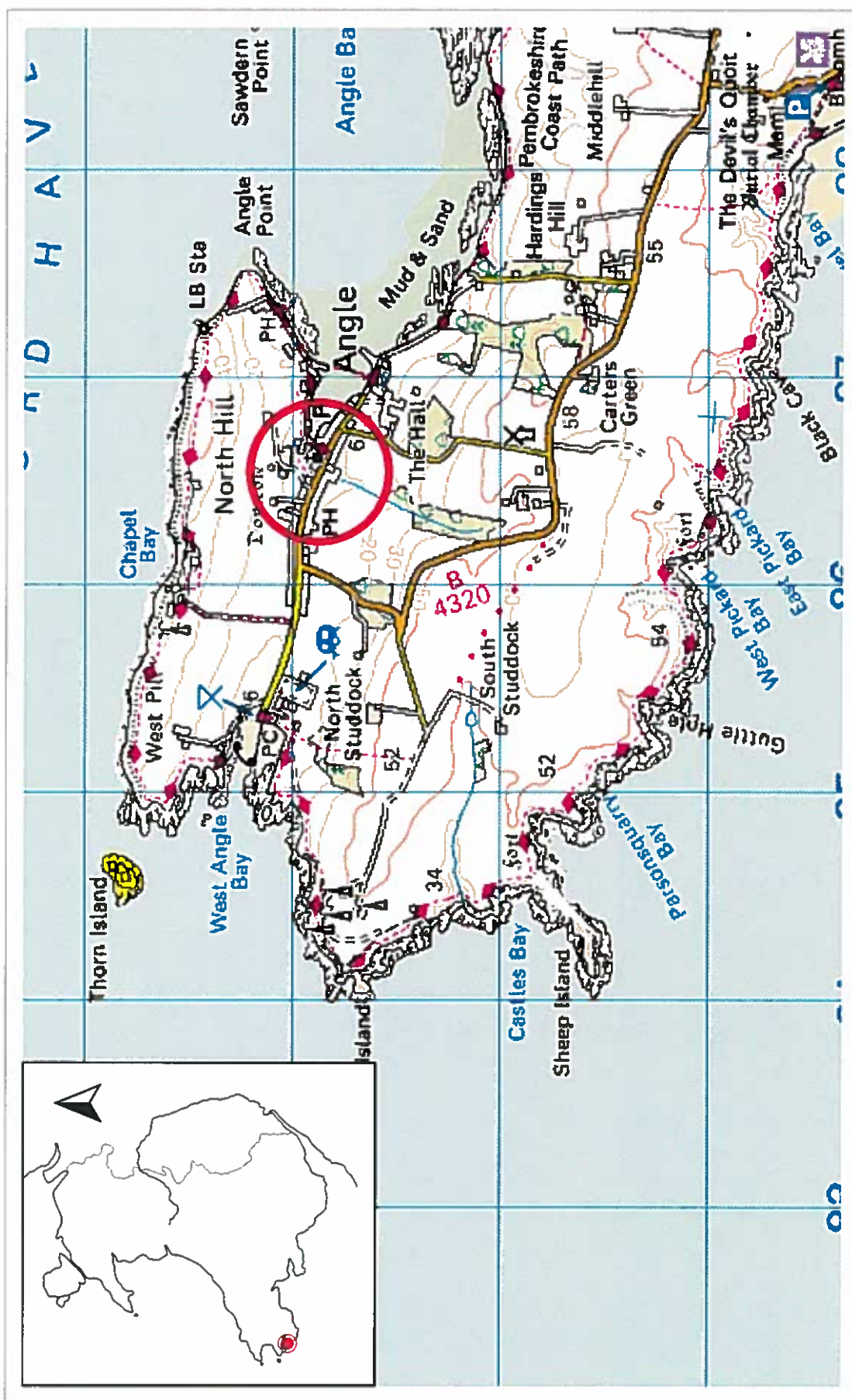


Fig 01: Map to show location of assessment area



B4320 Road

To Pembroke

New access

To Angle Beach

Existing Plot

Proposed Plot 2
& Evaluation Trench

Proposed Plot 1
& Evaluation Trench

Existing Plot

Fig 2: Location of Evaluation Trench Within Assessment Area (1:400)



Fig 3: Plan of Evaluation Trench



Plate 1: View along trench, looking south,
scale 1 x 1 metre



Plate 2: View of truncated wall & compacted
surface, looking west, scale 1 x 1 metre



APPENDIX I: **Archive Cover Sheet**

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Whitehall, Angle, Pembrokeshire

Site Name:	Whitehall Farm, Angle, Plot 2
Site Code:	WFA/06/eval
PRN:	-
NPRN:	-
SAM:	-
Other Ref No:	-
NGR:	NGR SM 8611802913
Site Type:	Norman Village
Project Type:	Field Evaluation
Project Officer:	Chris E Smith
Project Dates:	June 2006
Categories Present:	19 th /20 th /21 st Century
Location of Original Archive:	CAPLtd
Location of duplicate Archives:	-
Number of Finds Boxes:	-
Location of Finds:	-
Museum Reference:	-
Copyright:	CAPLtd
Restrictions to access:	None