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Non Technical Summary

This report results from work undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd (CAP) for Mr Venezia on a new house adjacent to No 3 Heol Nant, Llannon, Carmarthenshire. The report draws upon the results of the archaeological watching brief undertaken during ground works.

The deposits were found to be a natural, with substantial recent (20th century) terracing.

Planning Reference: 39281.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 On 11th October 2005 Cambrian Archaeological Projects (CAP) carried out an archaeological watching brief during ground works for a new house adjacent to No 3 Heol Nant, Llannon, Carmarthenshire for Mr R Venezia.

1.1.2 This work was undertaken to a Specification prepared by Kevin Blockley for Cambrian Archaeological Projects and agreed by Charles Hill of Cambria Archaeology.

1.1.3 The development concerns the construction a new house north of No 3 Heol Nant, Llannon, NGR SN538084 (Figs 1 and 2).

1.1.4 The watching brief was imposed as a condition as the ground works since the site lay close to the historic centre of Llannon, with the chance of uncovering medieval occupation.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The area of the development lies over Budleigh Salterton Pebble Peds.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 Record held in the local Sites and Monuments Record shows the site to be close to the historic core of Llannon.

2 Aims and Objectives

2.1 Watching brief

2.1.1 To record any archaeological deposits within the development area during ground works and report on the results.

3 **Watching Brief Methodology**

3.1 **Scope of Fieldwork**

- 3.1.1 All ground works were undertaken with an archaeologist present on site.
- 3.1.2 Kevin Blockley (MIFA, MPhil) undertook the watching brief.
- 3.1.3 The old extension and its floor had been removed prior to an archaeologist attending the site.
- 3.1.4 The footing trench on the north-east side of the new extension was cut using a machine in the presence of an archaeologist.
- 3.1.5 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and Guidance: for an archaeological watching briefs* and current Health and Safety legislation.

4 **Watching Brief Results**

4.1 **Soils and ground conditions**

- 4.1.1 Generally the site and weather conditions were poor with heavy rain during the ground works. This did not hamper the watching brief as the natural was well draining.

4.2 **Distribution of deposits**

- 4.2.1 The site had been extensively landscaped when No 3 and 7 Heol Nant had been built, with a terrace extending across the area approximately on line with the centre of the house (Fig 2). The terracing had produced the following contours: west of the new house the ground followed the natural slope of the ground from west to east; the ground covering the western half of the house had been raised by around 1.5m; the ground covering the eastern half of the house and extending down to the west side of the proposed turning point had been lowered by up to 0.5m; the ground from the west side of the turning point to the hedge had been made up by around 1.2m (Plates 1, 2 and cover).
- 4.2.2 Topsoil was of bark brown fine loam, with the very occasional fragment of 20th century pottery.
- 4.2.3 All area were stripped of topsoil and terracing material down to the natural. A toothed bucket was used so selected areas were cleared with a shovel to check for features. The natural was very clean and regular and no archaeological features were noted.

- 4.2.4 A 2m diameter burnt patch on the site of the eastern half of the building was found to be a recent bonfire site.

5 Discussion and Interpretation

5.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 5.1.1 The watching brief was not hampered by the bad weather and the machine clearing and selected cleaning was undertaken, but no features were identified.

5.2 Overall interpretation

- 5.2.1 The watching brief revealed no evidence of archaeological features or finds.

6 Acknowledgements

- 6.1.1 Thanks to R Venezia and the on site contractors who were most cooperative during their work on the site.