

PENCERRIG, MATHRY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



Report prepared
By
Cambria Archaeology
For
H2 Developments (Pembs) Ltd



CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2007/91
PROJECT RECORD NO. 63300

December 2007

**PENCERRIG, MATHRY 2007
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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SUMMARY

A new dwelling is being constructed by H2 Developments on land on the east side of Pencerrig, Mathry, Pembrokeshire (NGR SM88043191). The development site lies within an area thought to be within a former enclosure associated with an early medieval church and the Local planning Authority's (LPA) archaeological advisors recommended that a condition for an archaeological watching brief be attached to the planning consent (Reference No. 04/0866/PA). This recommendation was accepted by the LPA and H2 Developments commissioned Cambria Archaeology Field Services to carry out the watching brief in December 2007.

No archaeological features or deposits were present.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project commission

A new dwelling is being constructed by H2 Developments on land on the east side of Pencerrig, Mathry, Pembrokeshire (NGR SM88043191). The development site lies within an area thought to be within a former enclosure associated with an early medieval church and the Local planning Authority's (LPA) archaeological advisors recommended that a condition for an archaeological watching brief be attached to the planning consent (Reference No. 04/0866/PA). This recommendation was accepted by the LPA and H2 Developments commissioned Cambria Archaeology Field Services to carry out the watching brief in December 2007.

1.2 Scope of the project

The project was designed to record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during the site clearance works and foundation trench cutting operations.

1.3 Report outline

This report describes the physical environment of the site (Section 2) before summarising the watching brief results and the conclusions based on those results (Section 3).

1.4 Abbreviations

Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR).

2. THE SITE

2.1 Location

Mathry was an important religious settlement in the early medieval period and Pencerrig lies close to its centre. Stone lined cist graves dating from the period have been found outside the present churchyard and it also appears that the development site may lie within a larger enclosure. Therefore, there was potential for features relating to the early medieval settlement at Mathry to be exposed during development. It is not intended to produce a history of Mathry here.

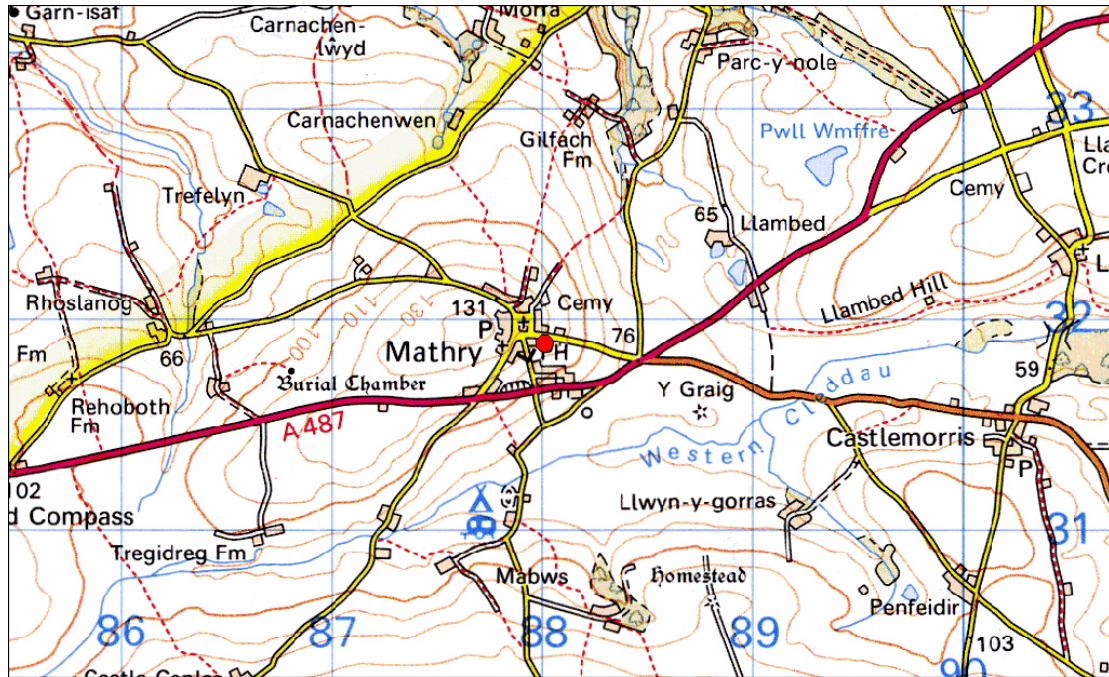


Figure 1: Location plan showing the watching brief site (red circle).

Reproduced from the 1995 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Pathfinder Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Cambria Archaeology, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A.

3. SUMMARY OF WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

3.1 Methodology

The watching brief was undertaken on the 12 November 2007 and continued into the following day. The site had already been partially stripped of topsoil but not down to the surface of the underlying subsoil (Cover Plate). Some or all of this topsoil was on a spoil tip at the rear the site. This was screened with a metal detector, but only modern detritus was detected.

The new foundation trenches were machine excavated by a JCB-type machine using its backhoe with a toothed bucket. The footprint of the new building was c.10.5m east-west x 12.5m north-south. The trenches were 0.6m wide and around 0.6m deep – the backs of these trenches being stepped as necessary to obtain sufficient depth on the slightly sloped site.

3.2 Results

Subsoil was exposed in all the lower parts of the trenches (Plate 1). This was of mixed deposits of orange brown shale and more rounded gravel.

No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in the foundation trenches.

The LPA's archaeological advisor was informed that the foundation trenches had not produced any archaeological results and it was agreed there was no necessity to observe any further works on the site.



Plate 1: Foundation trenches near completion. View to north.

4. CONCLUSION

Even though there was some potential for archaeological features or deposits to be present on this site, it may be a little too far from the Church, which would presumably have been the centre for early medieval activity. Also this site was possibly too sloping to be a preferred location for early building.

No archaeological features or deposits were present in the areas of the site affected by the construction works.

ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

Cambria HER will initially hold the archive.

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Position: Senior Archaeologist

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This report has been checked and approved by Nigel Page

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As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or presentation of this report