

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

NEUADD BARN, CLOGGAU, RADNORSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



CPAT Report No 307

NEUADD BARN, CLOGGAU, RADNORSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

P.J.Copleston
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including a finds report by S.M. Anderson

Report for Mr and Mrs N Doggett

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

7a Church Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7DL

tel. (01938) 553670, fax. (01938) 552179

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Introduction

The property, known as Neuadd Barn, Cloggau was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Doggett during 1998 for conversion into a dwelling. During submission for planning permission to Powys County Council, Radnorshire Planning Department, it was realised that the internally visible timber framework suggested that it had once been a building of higher status than a barn.

In early August 1998 The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) undertook a survey to record and establish the nature of the building. They reported that it is “externally a 19th-century stone-built barn and cowhouse range but incorporates the remains of an impressive early storeyed timber-framed house which would have been one of the most substantial dwellings in the locality, as the name indeed suggests.” They go on to suggest four phases of development (summarised below):

- I. Late 16th-century — newly-built three bay timber framed storeyed house, probably of the end chimney lobby-entry plan type, similar to other early storeyed houses known to have existed in the locality.
- II. 17th-century partial replacement in two phases of the timber frame with a stone wall with windows at ground floor level, reusing portions of framing as sills and lintels for the windows.
- III. Early 19th-century conversion of the house to a three bay barn; chimney and ceilings removed, and further parts of walling replaced by stone.
- IV. Addition of cowhouse at the southern end at the end of the 19th-century.

The surviving (northern) internal frame is more or less complete with rounded (elliptical) doorheads on ground- (two doorways) and first-floors (one doorway) and decorative diamond bracing in the apex. The northern gable end frame (survives from first-floor level only) incorporates two substantial pre-glazing diamond mullioned windows, whilst the eastern side framing (also survives from first-floor level only) also incorporates evidence of window openings. Sections of removed framing had clearly been reused to form lintels and sills for window and door openings in the stone walls. Recording this surviving timberwork is a key part of this watching brief.

To install new concrete floors will necessitate removal of material to a level about 40cm below existing floors, affording an opportunity to record any underlying archaeological features. It has been agreed that limited archaeological excavation may be possible (time providing), and scaled photographs taken, and plan and section drawings made. Whilst the RCAHMW has dated the structure by stylistic comparison to similar surviving buildings and features, an archaeological investigation offers the possibility of obtaining phasing evidence from underlying structures and dating evidence from datable artefacts found in association with these structures.

During a visit to the site by CPAT staff in November 1998 the remains of other structures and various banks and hollows were noted on the hillside to the rear of the building, together with a platform or leveled area to the front. It was also noted that a trackway appeared to descend the hillside at the rear, then passed around the back of the building, and probably continued down the line of the present access track to the Colva-Glascwm lane, almost in the valley bottom. All these features should be recorded to set the building in its wider archaeological setting. A scaled map of the property and its context may also prove useful in future, should further work be necessary or other discoveries made at a later date.

Objectives

The objectives of the work are:

1. to record by measured drawing the surviving timber framework within the building, together with carpenter's marks and any other original structural features;
2. to record by ground survey the visible stone flag floors, and establish whether these were original;
3. to undertake limited archaeological excavation and record any other underlying structural features, including the identification and location of a possible hearth or fireplace;
4. to obtain stratigraphic phasing or dating evidence;
5. to record by survey the wider landscape and archaeological setting of the building;
6. to prepare a report outlining the results of the watching brief.

This work was undertaken by Phil Copleston, Heritage Management Officer with the Trust, who recorded the archaeological features, and Brian Williams, Freelance Draughtsman who recorded the surviving timber framing.

Methods

The watching brief will examine and record the surviving original features of the building, and survey, excavate and record the archaeological features underlying and surrounding the structure.

The building survey will record by measured drawing the surviving timber framework and carpenter's marks. The limited archaeological excavation will record by photograph, plan and section drawings (where permissible) all features noted during the removal of the floors within the structure. The land survey will record the general topographical and specific archaeological features surrounding the property.

Following the on-site work, an illustrated and bound report will be prepared. This will be in A4 format and contain plans of the site location, building and site drawings, excavation plans and sections, discussive text and conclusions, an artefact report and illustrations, and a selection of photographs from the project archive.

A site archive will be prepared and stored with CPAT, and copies of the final report sent to appropriate bodies.

The Watching Brief

The drawing of the framework was carried out over several days during December 1998 and January 1999. This has resulted in four, detailed A1 size drawings at 1:10th scale, showing the current arrangement and condition of the surviving timbers, doorways and window openings, as well as recording the visible carpenter's marks and other constructional details.

The archaeological excavation was carried out over four days during the same period. This has resulted in four 1:50th scale excavation plan drawings, four 1:10th scale section drawings, 31 colour slide and 75 black and white photographs, and over 130 recovered artefacts, comprising pottery, animal bone, glass, clay pipe, etc. The artefacts range in date from late 16th-century to mid 19th-century, and a separate report on the artefacts be included in the final project report.

The land survey was carried out over two days in January 1999, and has resulted in a 1:200th scale land survey drawing and spot levels (above OS datum), which shows the relationship between the archaeological and modern landscape features (trees, hedges, new property boundary fences, etc.).

The Finds

by Sue Anderson, February 1999

A total of 127 finds was collected from thirteen contexts, as shown in Table 1.

Context	Bone		Clay pipe		Glass		Pottery		Slate		Tile	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
1							1	1				
2					1	2	3	17				
4			1	1			3	28				
5	1	5	3	9	2	3	16	131				
6			1	3	3	7	6	35				
7			1	2			2	8				
8							1	1				
9							5	112				
10							1	3				
11							1	21				
12							2	14	1	3		
13											1	24
14			1	2			70	1826				
Total	1	5	7	17	6	12	111	2197	1	3	1	24

Table 1. Finds quantification

Pottery

The largest group of finds from the watching brief was pottery. Table 2 presents the quantities of this material by fabric in approximate date order.

Fabric	Code	No	Wt
Late Medieval and Transitional	LMT	4	34

Post-Medieval Redware	PMRW	74	1927
Staffordshire-type Slipware	STAF	11	112
Staffordshire-type Mottled Glaze	STMG	5	18
Staffordshire White Salt-glazed Stoneware	SWSW	7	78
Post-Medieval Slipware	PMSW	3	5
Late Post-Medieval Earthenware	LPME	5	9
German Stoneware (Westerwald)	GSW5	1	4
English Stoneware (Staffordshire-type)	ESWS	1	10

Table 2. Pottery quantification

The earliest material from the site consisted of four heavily abraded sherds of late medieval green glazed redwares, all from rubble fill 14. This is comparable with 15th-16th century pottery in England.

The largest group from the site consisted of several post-medieval glazed and unglazed red earthenware vessels, including large parts of two pancheons (Fig. 1; context 14), both with internal brown glaze, of 18th century or later date. Other fragments included thick coarse sherds which may be derived from horticultural vessels. Three sherds of post-medieval slipwares were also redware vessels. Two were decorated with white slip lines and one had brown and tan slip decoration on a white slip background. These were probably of 17th or 18th century date.

Other slipwares of this date were recorded as Staffordshire-type, although they may derive from other centres such as Buckley or Bristol. As the distribution of Buckley Ware is generally thought to be concentrated in North Wales (Campbell 1993), a Staffordshire or Bristol origin for this material appears more likely. All were relatively coarse cream fabrics, sometimes poorly mixed with red clay streaks. Most were glazed yellow with brown slip decoration, some with jewellery, and there was one example of agate-type decoration. Vessels included press-moulded flatwares and hollowares. Brown mottled glazed vessels were also attributed to Staffordshire, although again they were produced at other centres.

Later wares included two small sherds of ?creamware, one Whieldon-type plate rim, one mottled ware sherd and one piece of creamware with pale green patches. These are of 18th century or later date. Stonewares of the same period included Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware plates with bamboo and basket rim decoration, a tankard rim, and a Staffordshire white-dipped stoneware tankard rim. There was also one sherd of Westerwald stoneware with cobalt blue decoration.

Context	LMT	PMRW	STAF	STMG	SWS W	PMSW	LPME	GSW5	ESWS	Spotdate
1							1			18th c.+
2				1	2					18th c.
4	4	1	1	1						19th c.?
5		3	4	1	4		3		1	18th c.
6			4			1	1			18th c.
7			1	1						L.17th-18th c.
8						1				L.17th-18th c.
9		4						1		18th c.+
10						1				L.17th-18th c.
11					1					18th c.
12		2								18th c.+
14		64	1	1						18th c.

Table 3. Fabrics present by context

There are no apparent groupings of pottery on the site, and the small amounts from drain fills, crevices between floor slabs, and the floor make-up, generally suggest that the area was cleared of any domestic rubbish before the stone floor was laid, and that there was little use of ceramics in the building following this phase.

Building material

One fragment of a coarse ceramic found in (13) was probably a peg tile. One piece of roofing slate of probable 19th century or later date was collected from (12). Three glass window fragments, all post-medieval, were collected from contexts (5) and (6).

Miscellaneous

Other finds included a heavily abraded animal bone of uncertain species, six clay pipe stems and one bowl fragment, all of which were probably 18th century or later, and three glass vessel fragments. One unidentified object, an irregular grey and black sphere from (5), may be a ball of waste glass.

Discussion

This small post-medieval assemblage is generally of 18th century and later date, although the presence of four sherds of earlier pottery would seem to suggest late medieval occupation on the site. There is no indication of occupation later than the 18th century, although there is some indication from the artefacts that the building was still in use.

The pottery assemblage is generally typical of material found elsewhere in Britain at this period, with locally made coarsewares still in use, but with some vessels in the more popular white earthenwares being used for table ware. There is no particular indication of high status, but the group does suggest occupation by people of at least middle status in the later 17th and early 18th century period.

Reference

Campbell, E. 1993 'Post-medieval pottery in Wales: an archaeological survey'. *Post-Medieval Arch.* 27: 1-14.

Context	Find Type	No	Wt	Notes
1	pot	1	1	
2	pot	3	17	
2	glass	1	2	Green glass vessel, handmade, PMed.
4	pot	3	28	
4	clay pipe	1	1	Stem.
5	pot	16	131	
5	clay pipe	3	9	2 stem, 1 bowl frag.
5	glass	2	3	1 window frag, 1 small ball of waste glass? PMed.
5	bone	1	5	Abraded fragment.
6	pot	6	35	
6	clay pipe	1	3	Stem.
6	glass	3	7	2 window frags, 1 vessel. PMed.
7	pot	2	8	
7	clay pipe	1	2	Stem.
8	pot	1	1	
9	pot	5	112	
10	pot	1	3	
11	pot	1	21	
12	pot	2	14	
12	slate	1	3	
13	tile	1	24	Thin ?roof tile frag.
14	pot	70	1826	
14	clay pipe	1	2	Stem.

Table4. Finds catalogue

Context	Fabric	No	Wt	Notes	Date
1	LPME	1	1	?Creamware.	18th c.+
2	sww	2	11	Incl. TK rim.	18th c.

2	stmg	1	6	Rim.	18th c.
4	stmg	1	4	Rim. Mottled.	18th c.
4	STAF	1	12	PMF rim.	M.17th c.+
4	pmrw	1	12	DBG large vessel, poss horticultural or architectural?	19th c.?
5	sww	2	38	Plate rim - basket design.	18th c.
5	sww	2	8	Plate rim - bamboo design.	18th c.
5	esws	1	10	White-dipped tankard.	18th c.
5	stmg	1	1	Mottled.	18th c.
5	staf	2	9	2 TK/CU rims, 1 with jewellery on brown slip.	18th c.
5	staf	1	10	Hollow ware with int. combed dec, ext. YG.	18th c.
5	STAF	1	40	Base, int. BG.	18th c.
5	pmrw	3	8	IGBW-type TK base.	17th-18th c.
5	lpme	3	7	1 Whieldon-type plate, 1 mottled ware, 1 creamware with pale green patches.	18th c.
6	STAF	3	31	1 PMF rim with yellow slip on BG background, 1 hollow ware DBG int., 1 frag redware.	18th c.
6	staf	1	2	Hollow ware, slip dec ext.	18th c.
6	pmsw	1	1	V. fine redware with white slip line.	17th c.+
6	LPME	1	1		18th c.
7	stmg	1	1	Mottled.	18th c.
7	STAF	1	7	Tan, brown and yellow slip pattern, brown background, PMF rim.	L.17th-18th c.
8	pmsw	1	1	Coarse redware with hard calcitic inclusions, white slip line on plain sherd, LBG.	L.17th-18th c.
9	pmrw	4	108	Horticultural/architectural, DBG 1 side only, 2+ vessels.	18th c.+
9	gsw5	1	4	Blue stripe near base.	18th c.+
10	pmsw	1	3	Abraded. Fabric as 8. Poss BUCK? Brown and tan on yellow slip.	L.17th-18th c.
11	sww	1	21		18th c.
12	pmrw	2	14	DBG.	18th c.+
14	LMT	4	34	V. abraded.	16th c.?
14	pmrw	6	17	3-4 vessels, small sherds.	17th c.+
14	pmrw	2	338	1 large bowl, BG int.	17th c.+
14	pmrw	56	1430	Large section of single bowl, DBG int.	17th c.+
14	staf	1	1	V. small rim sherd, agate-type slip ware int., jewelled ext.	18th c.
14	stmg	1	6		18th c.

Table 5. Pottery spotdating

Conclusions

Survey and excavation has enabled the watching brief objectives to be achieved and to answer most of the questions listed above. The upstanding timberwork has been measured and recorded, the floors lifted and the underlying structures recorded, and some archaeological dating evidence obtained.

The visible thick stone flag floor in the middle bay, which originally was suggested as being an original domestic feature, was probably, however, laid down after conversion to a barn in the 19th-century to provide hard standing. This floor overlay a rectangular shaped internal drain, in plan, which probably carried water away from this central portion of the building. Pottery dating evidence suggests a date of construction of this drain to no earlier than early or middle 19th-century.

This 19th-century drain system was found to cut through the remains of an earlier flag floor, which in turn overlay a curving northeast-southwest orientated drain that ran from the rear yard area, passed under the back wall, and continued

under the south gable to pass under the later cow-byre extension. Both these features were of a more domestic character and may date from the last period of the structure as a dwelling. The majority of dates obtained from pottery and clay-pipe recovered from this curving drain and sealed between the floor surfaces suggest a probable construction date sometime in the mid 18th-century, although a few sherds from the drain, datable to about 1680-1700, may suggest a slightly earlier construction for this feature (although these could have been washed into the drain at a later period). Further excavation to below these features was not possible at this stage. No evidence of a fire place or foundations of a chimney breastwork was found, either internally or externally.

In the north bay the stone base of a wall dividing this area approximately in half, had collapsed to the west, burying pottery dating to late 18th- early 19th-century. This pottery consisted of large jars and wide brimmed bowls, which may be associated with this part of the building's reputed later function as a dairy. East of this dividing wall was found the remains of a flag floor, similar to the lower flag floor in the middle and southern bays. These features overlay natural subsoil or similar make-up material.

Excavation has therefore provided some archaeological dating evidence, which clarifies but otherwise approximately complements the stylistic dating of the timber framework by the RCAHMW. The broad range of pottery sherds, representing jars, dishes and tankards, are all clearly indicative of a typical 'domestic'-type assemblage of fairly high status. Clay pipe stems and a bowl were also found together with the pottery, and are of about the same date. The thin glass fragments are probably the remains of fine glass vessels rather than bottles or window glass. The few fragments of animal bone (sheep) unfortunately offer little illumination on local diet.

The land survey, whilst setting the main building in its wider context, also recorded the remains of smaller buildings, walls and banks up-slope, to the rear of the house. After surveying the changes of slope in the grassy field to the front of the building, it became apparent that two levels or platforms exist here, probably representing an upper and lower garden. Careful area excavation would help clarify the function of these features, and may recover something of the original garden plan.

Also noted and surveyed was the line of an older trackway, flanked by old hawthorns and coppiced trees, which can be seen running down slope as a partial hollow-way to enter what would have been a yard at the rear of the property. This track then seems to continue along the line of the present access drive to join the Colva-Glascwm lane opposite a field in the valley bottom known locally as "mill field". Both the trackway and a "mill meadow" (field No.13) are clearly shown on an undated, but probably 18th-century map of "Noyadd Farm", now at the National Library, Aberystwyth.

The conclusions of this report are that archaeological recording of the building, its underlying features and wider setting, together with stratigraphic phasing and dating evidence, have helped to provide a clearer and broader understanding of Neuadd Farm, Cloggau, and confirm and clarify the phasing as originally proposed by the RCAHMW.

Bibliography

Smith, P. 1988, *Houses of the Welsh Countryside*, 2nd edn., HMSO, London, 37-71

Davey, P. 1975, *Buckley Pottery*, Buckley Clay Industries Research Committee, Chester

Field notes and drawings supplied to us by fax from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

Site Archive

The documentary archive for this site is lodged with The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 7a Church Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7DL. The material archive (1 box of finds), together with a copy of the documentary archive have been passed to the owners, Mr and Mrs N Doggett, of Neuadd Barn, Cloggau.

Acknowledgements

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