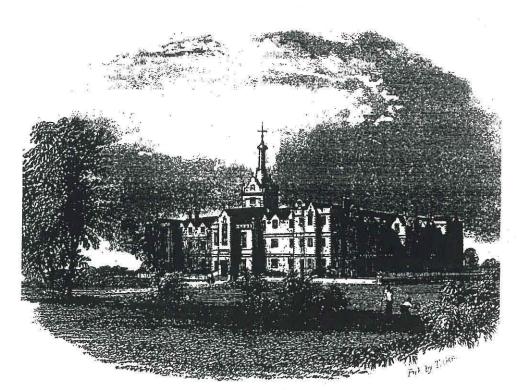
Land Adjacent to North Wales Hospital, Denbigh ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT



North Wales Hospital for the Insame,

Land Adjacent to North Wales Hospital, Denbigh ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

P. Frost January 1997

Report for Mason Richards Planning

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The contracting section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (hereafter CPAT Contracts) was invited to submit a quotation and specification for an archaeological assessment at land adjacent to the former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh, based on a Brief prepared by Denbighshire Archaeology Service acting in their capacity as advisors to Denbighshire County Council. The quotation was accepted and CPAT Contracts were invited to undertake the assessment.
- 1.2 Denbighshire County Council had been advised that there were reasonable grounds for believing that there may be archaeological remains on the site and a pre-determination archaeological evaluation was recommended. At the invitation of the applicant, Denbighshire Archaeology Service provided a Brief (dated 14.12.96), which detailed the work required. The assessment was considered necessary prior to the consideration of a planning application to develop two parcels of land adjacent to the former North Wales Hospital for residential use, including the conversion of the hospital buildings (Planning Application No. 01/595/96/PO).

2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND SOILS

- 2.1 The site proposed development consists of two areas located on the north and south sides of the former North Wales Hospital (SJ05106501) (Fig. 2). The northern area comprises four fields centred on SJ04806550, while the southern area adjoins the south side of the original hospital buildings and comprises four fields centred at SJ05306500, including Bryn Hyfryd house.
- 2.2 Together, the plots occupy approximately 1.5 hectares at c.115m OD on the north side and c.90m at the south, located on the south-western perimeter of Denbigh town, outside the medieval town walls (Fig. 1). At present all the fields are pasture.
- 2.3 Denbigh lies on the western margin of the Vale of Clwyd with the River Ystrad flowing on the south side of the sites, being a tributary of the River Clwyd. The underlying solid geology is of Silurian age and comprises Palaeozoic silty and striped mudstones, which underlie Carboniferous limestone basement beds, dipping north off the mudstones at a boundary north of the hospital site (Boswell, 179-181). Red and green sandstones and conglomerates overlie the Ludlow series on the development areas. The drift geology comprises fine loamy and silty soil with some boulder clay (Rudeforth et al 1984).

3 DESK TOP STUDY

3.1 The first stage of the assessment consisted of a desk top study of all readily available documentary, cartographic and aerial photographic sources relating to the development areas and their environs. This involved an examination of records at the following repositories: County Records Office, Hawarden; County Records Office, Ruthin; National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth; National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; Denbigh Town Library; Denbighshire County Council; Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, Welshpool.

North Wales Hospital, Denbigh

- 3.2 A committee of trustees were appointed in October 1842 to establish an asylum for "the insane poor" from all parts of North Wales. The chairman of the meetings was John Heaton of Plas Heaton, Denbigh. The North Wales Hospital was built in 1848 following a donation by Joseph Ablett of Llanbedr Hall to purchase the site, which extended to 20 acres and was valued at £2,000 (Olsen 1974, 193-218). The hospital was progressively enlarged during the later 19th century, including Pennant Farm (SJ05406510), which had grazing rights on the northern study area.
- 3.3 Gwynfryn House, which was the former residence of Gold Edwards, a prominent Denbigh solicitor, was purchased by the hospital in 1926 including 22 acres of land. The northern development area was presumably part of this purchase. Patient numbers began to decline in the 1980s and the hospital was finally closed in September 1955, although the Gwynfryn site is retained by the Hospital Authority.

Denbigh Town and Castle

- 3.4 The castle hill may have originally been the stronghold of Dafydd ap Gruffyd, who had a Llys at Denbigh. The present castle and walled town of Denbigh was constructed by Henry de Lacy c.1282 following a charter granted by Edward I. The town prospered and spread downhill to more level ground north and west of the castle. John Speed's Map of 1610 records the walled town and street patterns to the north of the castle hill, but the map does not include the present study area, since the town had developed little to the south of the town walls.
- 3.5 During the Civil War, the castle was under the care of Sir William Salesbury, whose contemporary letters survive. Salesbury maintained his hold on the castle until October 1646, when he was told by the King to surrender (National Library of Wales 1911, 25).
- 3.6 Siegeworks (PRN 102598; SAM De28) consisting of a crescent shaped bank are located on the east side of the town near the Goblin Tower, north-east of the study areas. A sketch plan of the Battle of Denbigh Green by Tucker (1992, 84) interprets the documentation relating to the battle on November 1st, 1645 and records the possible positions of the Parliamentarian troops under Major General Thomas Mytton and the Royalists under Sir William Vaughan. The Parliamentarians were advancing from Ruthin and approaching the town of Denbigh from the south-east; the Royalist Musketeers are presumed to have been dug in at the siegeworks (PRN 102598), east of the castle. Tucker (1992, 85) refers to part of a contemporary diary by Symonds, who records Royalist musketeers and dragoons lining the hedges which flanked the road from Ruthin.
- 3.7 Sir Richard Myddleton was MP for Denbighshire during the Civil War period and documentation and estate maps relating adjoining landowners suggest that the land to the south of Denbigh, with Gwaenynog Hall as the residence, was part of the Myddleton Estates at this time. Gwaenynog Hall was occupied by the Myddletons until it was sold by Robert Myddleton to the Burton family in 1870. Early documentary reference (D/GA/723) to the Myddleton family at Gwaenynog referred to an Alice Myddleton in 1608. A Robert Myddleton was residing at Gwaenynog in 1751 (D/GA/1501) and Rev. Robert Myddleton, who owned part of the northern development site in 1840 was presumably a descendent and heir. Reverend Robert Myddleton was Rector at Denbigh and St. George and resided at Gwaenynog. The earliest references to him as a land owner date to 1810 (D/KK/1361-2) with estate leases for various lands in Denbighshire, although no documentation was found referring to the study area.

Cartographic Sources

- 3.8 The earliest map available covering the development sites was an "Exact Map of the Liberty and Borough of Denbigh" dated 1809 and signed by John Roberts of Ruthin (BD/A/307-8). The map illustrates the town boundary under the charter of Charles II and major houses and parkland. The map depicts Galch Hill, the property of John Myddleton of Chirk Castle, let to John Roberts who resided at Galch Hill. There are no houses or buildings shown on the survey area.
- 3.9 Galch Hill is a Tudor farmhouse located west of Gwynfryn. It appears to have been part of the Gwaenynog Estate belonging to the Myddletons of Chirk Castle since the 16th century. Williams (1860, 201) records the will of Richard Myddleton of Denbigh Castle dated 26th February 1577, who demanded the sale of Galch Hill Park. It seems likely that the fields that form the northern study area were part of the Galch Hill Parkland at this time.
- 3.10 A second engraving of this map printed by W. Bulmer & Co. and dated March 1813 illustrates the town and boundaries within c.1.5 mile radius of the High Street Cross. No buildings appear on the survey area.
- 3.11 The Denbigh Tithe Map of 1840 (Fig. 3) identifies the northern development area as Plots 216 and 218-222, 284-5 and part of 216. The accompanying schedule records Plots 218-220 belonging to John and Catherine Lloyd and under hay and pasture being occupied by Robert Woods. Plots 221-2 are arable land occupied by Robert Woods and owned by Colonel Hugh Owen. Plots 284 and 286 are owned by Reverend Robert Myddleton and under hay and arable and occupied by Elizabeth Jones. Plots 180-183 later purchased for the Hospital building are arable and pasture occupied by Moses Parry and owned by Henry Potts. There are no internal features on any of the plots.
- 3.12 The southern area is identified as Plots 184, 184a, 185 and 185a. The accompanying schedule records the land owned by Harriet Myddleton and leased to Anne and Jane Roberts. The fields are given over to hay and Plot 184a is recorded as a cottage and garden of which there is no remaining

- evidence. Although Plot 184a appears as a strip of land on the 1855 map (Fig. 4), there is no cottage recorded and by the Ordnance Survey of 1875, the plot is incorporated into one large field.
- 3.13 An 1855 map accompanying the sale particulars of Foxhall Estates (DD/PH/21-22), owned by Heaton, shows the area east of Galch Hill and Plot 2 as "Property belonging to the Reverend Robert Myddelton" (Fig. 4), which presumably refers to the northern development area. Lot 13 includes the survey site south of the hospital, which in 1855 is still part of the Foxhall estate. A gravel pit (Site 5) is depicted on the south-east corner of Plot 50 and the lane which forms the boundary to the present hospital property runs out to Kings Mill.
- 3.14 The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1874 (Fig. 5) shows little change in the survey areas since the Tithe Map. Plots 221 and 222 on the Tithe have now become one larger field as have Plots 218/9; a small enclosed parcel of land with a structure on it appears on the site of the present house named Cleveland. Gwynfryn has been built on Plots 214/217 and the areas of coppice are recorded in the field to the west of Gwynfryn. In the southern development area, the "North Wales Counties Lunatic Asylum" has been built, but is confined to Plots 180/3 of the Tithe. The study area plots are recorded as two large fields, but the gravel pit (Site 5) that appears on the 1855 estate map (Fig. 4) is unrecorded.
- 3.15 The 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map was unavailable. The 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1912 (Fig. 6) records the northern study area very much as it is today. The southern study area shows the development of the hospital site, which includes associated garden features, part of which still remain. The gravel pit (Site 5) is again recorded and appears to be enlarged. It is assumed that sand and gravel were obtained from this pit during the construction and enlargement of the hospital.

Aerial Photographic Sources

- 3.16 The CPAT aerial photographic archive contained only one colour slide and two black and white prints of the area with the main focus being on the North Wales Hospital itself. Taken in 1989, they revealed no evidence of any archaeological features, but indicate that the two parcels of land have changed little in the past 10 years.
- 3.17 Examination of the vertical large format aerial photographic archives at the NMR and Denbighshire County Council revealed no further archaeological interest other than that identified on the walk-over survey.

4 WALK OVER SURVEY (Fig. 2)

4.1 The second part of the evaluation involved a rapid walk-over survey of the two proposed development areas with the aim of identifying any areas of possible archaeological interest. A gazetteer of archaeological sites is included in Appendix 1.

Northern Survey Area

- 4.2 The area comprises four fields (N1-N4) of improved pasture located on the north side of the Gwynfryn Hospital site, which is to be retained by the Health Authority. The northern hedged boundary abuts the Llewellyn housing estate; the eastern hedge and stone wall boundary follows the line of the B4501, south of the town; the western field boundaries adjoin open fields and the southern perimeter is determined by the iron-railed and tree-lined drive leading to Gwynfryn and the brow of the hill in the field to the west side of Gwynfryn, where the ground sloping south is now to be retained as local amenity land.
- 4.3 The area has internal hedged boundaries and a water-filled ditch running in a north-west to south-easterly direction is between the tree-lined hedge boundaries separating fields N2 and N3 from field N4. The ditch appears on the 3rd edition OS.
- 4.4 Field N1 is higher than the fields on its east side. A well (Site 1), which appears on the 3rd edition OS map of 1912 (Fig. 6) is located midway across the field on the western side and survives as a water-filled hollow). The public footpath from Galch Hill runs parallel to the eastern boundary of the field.
- 4.5 The main archaeological feature identified is a substantial earthwork bank recorded as PRN 19784 (Silvester 1995, 26) which runs parallel to the B4501. The earthwork is located in field N3 and

continues south to field N4; it is truncated by the hedge and fenced boundary that separated fields N3 and N4. The earthwork is visible as a landscaped feature in the garden of the house named Cleveland, which abuts field N4. The south side of the earthwork is landscaped rather than truncated, within field N4, north of the driveway leading to Gwynfryn.

- The earthwork is disturbed on its north side, where a gate leads in from the road to field N3 and the siting of an animal water trough has resulted in some ground disturbance. The placing of a line of telegraph posts at intervals along the east side of the earthwork has also caused disturbance. The ground rises to the north at the north side of field N3 and the substantial hedged bank, which abuts the stone wall boundary forming the north-east corner of the field may be a continuation of the earthwork.
- The earthwork is visible in field N3 as a wide bank c.9m wide max. On the west side the bank slopes away gently in this field. Two telegraph posts are located at the north-west corner of the bank and a third further south. The east side of the bank is c.2m max, above the ground level at the north-east end, where it may be ditched. A short length of ditch c.3.5m wide is c.1m below the level of the road is located at this point only and may only occur as the road rises north and its' boundary with the field is a raised earth bank. No ditch is apparent as the bank continues south.
- The bank is truncated at the field boundary and gateway between fields N3 and N4. In field N4, the 4.8 west side of the bank is c.3m above the level of the field. The bank continues as a substantial earthwork in the garden of Cleveland and splays out at its south side.
- 4.9 Field N4 adjoining the Gwynfryn property contains two areas of coppice (Sites 2 and 3). Coppice Site 2 appears on the Tithe Map of 1840. It appears to have changed little in form and survives as a semicircular enclosure with earth and stone bank hedged boundary abutting the western field. The overgrown area of beech trees also abuts the public footpath which leads west to Galch Hill and continues to Gwaenvnog.
- 4.10 Coppice Site 3 appears as a sub-oval area of trees on the 1st edition OS Map (Fig. 5), before the Gwynfryn site was extended by the Hospital Authority. A ring of 11 beech trees stand to the west of the railed boundary with Gwynfryn on the brow of the hill before the land slopes south.
- 4.11 The field boundaries which sub-divided Fields N1 and N4 on the Tithe Map and 1st edition Ordnance Survey is no longer visible due to land improvement.

Southern Survey Area

- 4.12 The area at present consists of four fields (S1-S4) of pasture separated by hedged boundaries. The northern boundary is formed by a modern fenceline along the hospital driveway; the western hedge abuts the track south to meet the main track to Kings Mill which parallels the southern stone revetment wall boundary. The eastern boundary stone wall boundary abuts the roadside.
- 4.13 The gravel pit (Site 5) identified on the estate map of 1855 (Fig. 3) and the 3rd Edition (Fig. 6) is now covered by an area of woodland at the south-east corner of field S4. Fields S3/4 are located on the south side of the 20th-century red brick building Bryn Hyfryd. Field S4 was once in use as a football pitch and a grass track leads in from an iron gated driveway at its south-east corner abutting the woodland.
- 4.14 Field S2 contains part of the landscaped garden features (Site 4) presumably set out later in the 19thcentury after the Hospital was built and now only preserved in certain undeveloped areas around the Hospital site. A sub-rectangular area of coppice raised c.0.3m above the level of the field is located to the south side of a more substantial north-south earth banked terrace c.1m high, which is truncated on the north side by the modern fence which adjoins the widened drive. The terrace survives for c.19m north-south and is 5m wide with three trees located in the base of the bank on the east and west sides. Two sets of concrete steps are cut into the earth terrace on the west and south side. The earthworks are part of the garden as it appears on the 3rd edition OS map (Fig. 6).

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The assessment revealed a small number of archaeological sites within the area of the proposed development, including the gardens associated with the former North Wales Hospital (Site 4).
- 5.2 The northern study area was formerly part of parkland belonging to Gwaenynog Hall, and the two coppices (Sites 2 and 3) are presumably park features, possibly dating from the 18th century. The substantial earthwork bank (PRN 19784) running parallel to the B 4501 is of unknown date, but may also be associated with the park. The bank pre-dates the Tithe Survey of 1840, since the field boundary between N3 and N4 cuts through the bank. It has been suggested by Mr Ken Brassil of the National Museum of Wales that the earthwork may be a Civil War feature, the size of which could be attributed to spoil from a ditch on the eastern side, where the present road is now constructed. However, accounts of the Civil War siege do not suggest any activity on this side of the town (Tucker 1992; Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments; Bradley 1898), and the form and alignment of the earthwork may argue against this interpretation. A more definite interpretation of the bank is not possible without further, more detailed investigation.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

6.1 Thanks are due to the following for their assistance: the staff at the County Record Offices, Hawarden and Ruthin; the staff at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth and the Library at Denbigh; the staff at the Library at RCAHMW, Aberystwyth; Mr Richard Suggett, RCAHMW; Mr Ken Brassil, National Museum of Wales; Fiona Gale, Denbighshire Archaeology Service; Karen Hawks, Denbighshire County Council.

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1610 John Speeds Map of Denbigh

1780 Plas Heaton Estate Map. Surveyed 1776. NLW Plas Heaton Deposit Vol.1, Map 1

1809 Exact Map of the liberty and borough of Denbigh. Signed John Roberts, Ruthin. CROR BD/A/308

1809 Estate Map. Property of John Myddleton of Chirk Castle at Denbigh. CROR BD/A/307

1813 Exact Map of the borough and liberty of Denbigh by John Roberts, Ruthin (4.3.1813) CROR D/DM/162/12

1840 Denbigh Tithe Map (NLW A/C 78)

1855 Estate Map of Foxhall Estates (CROR DD/PH/22)

1874 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map 1:2,500 (Denbighshire Sheet XIII.8) surveyed 1873, published 1875

1874 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6" Map (Denbighshire Sheet 13) surveyed 1873, published 1874

1912 3rd edition Ordnance Survey Map 1:2,500 (Denbighshire Sheet XIII.8) surveyed 1872-3, revised 1910

Archive Sources

Clwyd County Record Office, Ruthin:

DD/PH/234 DD/DM/266/1-19 DD/GR/104 BD/A/307 QSD/AL/2/1-68 NTD/1184 (ii) HD/1/19 HD/1/192 DD/GA/1625 DD/PH/21-22 HD/1/273, 278 BPD/130

Clwyd County Record Office, Hawarden:

D/DM/162/9-11 DD/DM/162-11 DD/DM/31/2 DD/KK/1361-2 DD/DM/464/73-4 DD/DM/88/10-11 D/P/80 DD/RD/552 D/E/767 D/NA/460-2 D/BC/185A D/M/621,623

D/GA/1501, 1600, 723

D/PL/10, 14 D/M/3604-5 BD/A/125, 128

Aerial Photographic Sources

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89/C/1116 Obliques

89/MB/0506-6

RCAHMW ARCHIVE:

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RAF F21/58/RAF/1461/0073-5 Flight 3.6.1954

RAF 58/1461/F21/73-4 Flight 3.6.1954 RAF 541/38/3152, 4152 (1947 Flight) RAF 540/31/5160, 540/32/5019 (1947 Flight)

CPE/UK/1996/1383 (1947 Flight)

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06/16/92/522/014 Flight 25.9.1992

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHIVE

1:10,000 49/84/163, 213 (J. A. Story & Partners, Mitcham. Surrey. Flight 4.10.1984)

1:10,000 118/93/075-6, 147-8 (Geonex. Flown 18.10.1993)

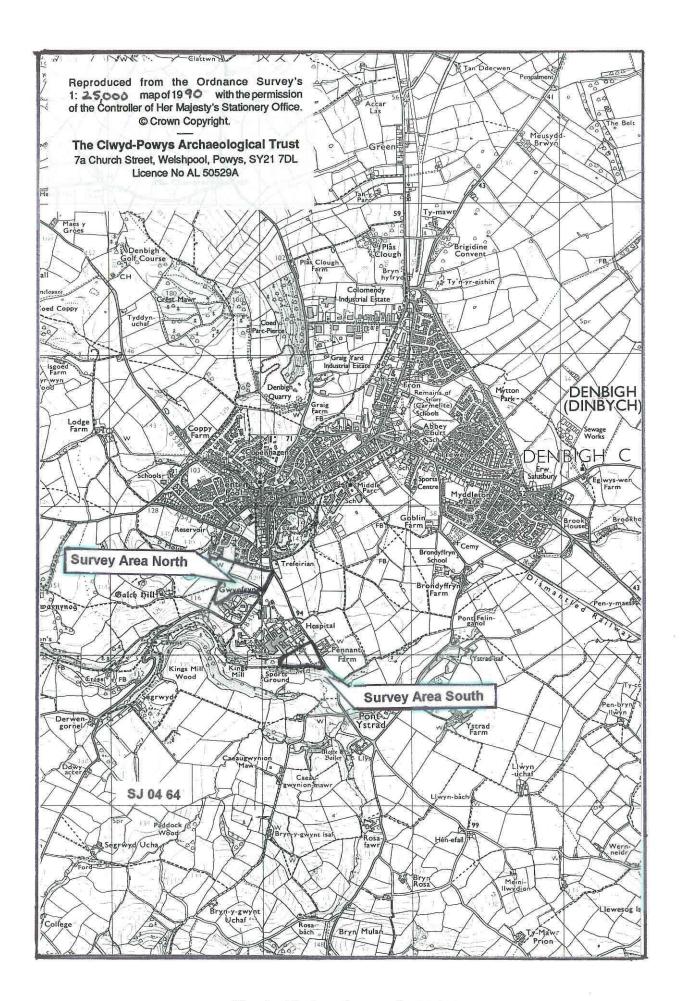


Fig. 1 Site Location, scale 1:2500

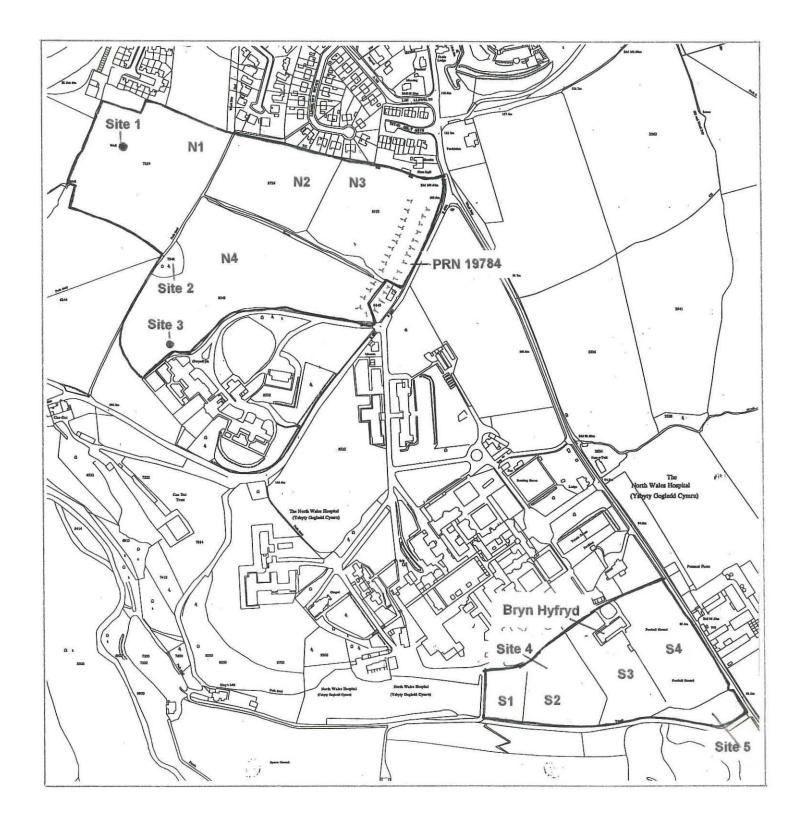


Fig. 2 Site Plan, scale 1:4500



Fig. 3 Extract from 1840 Denbigh Tithe Map. NLW A/C 78

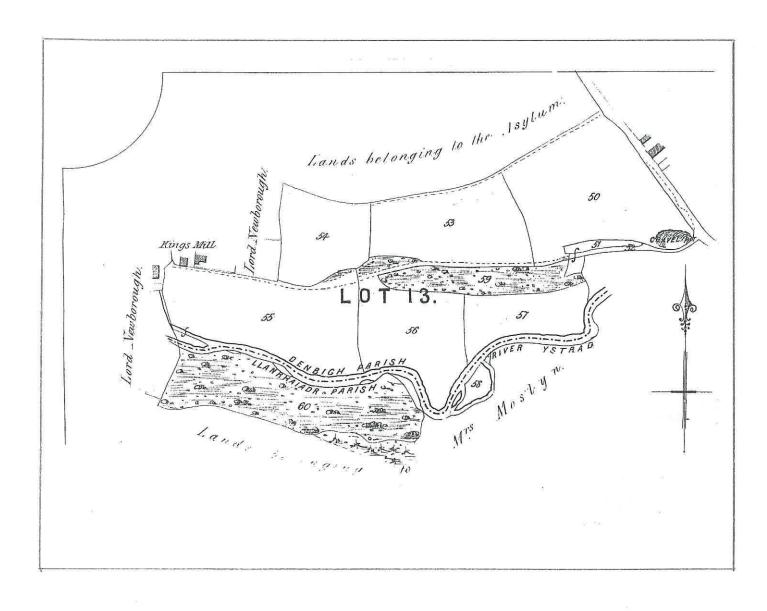


Fig.4 Extract from 1855 Map of Foxhall Estates. CROR DD/PH/22

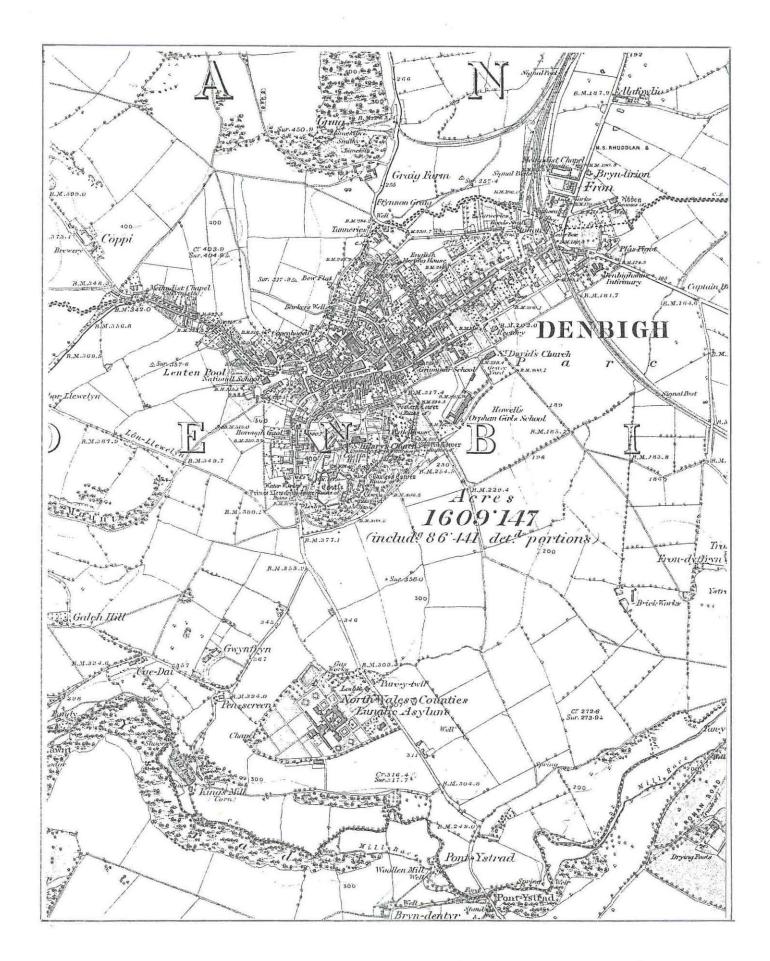
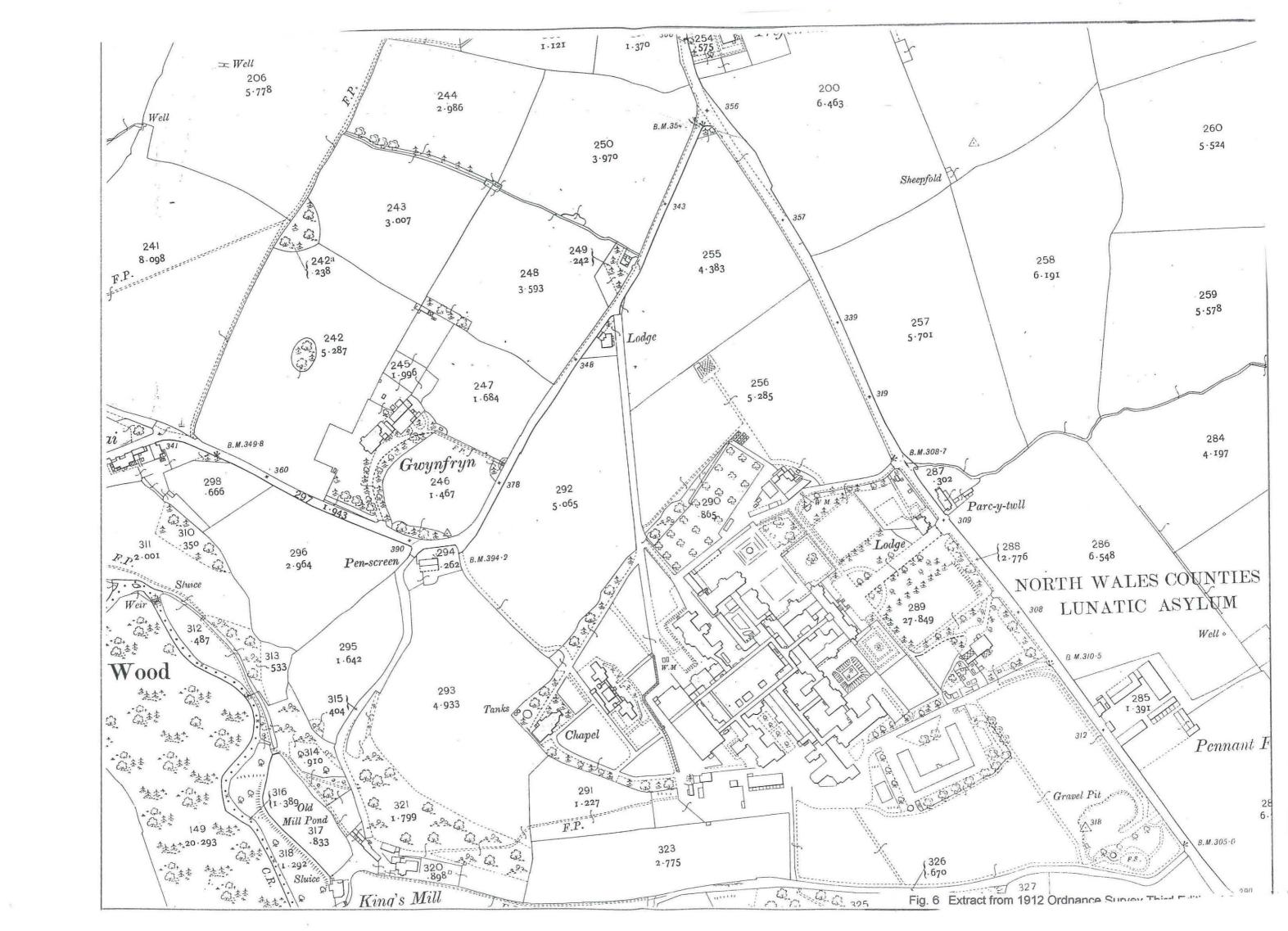


Fig.5 Extract from 1874 Ordnance Survey First Edition 6" (Denbighshire Sheet13) surveyed 1873, published 1874



APPENDIX 1

GAZETTEER OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

number	NGR	Туре	Detail
PRN 19784	SJ05006550	Bank	Substantial linear earthwork up to 9m wide and 3m high. Possibly associated with 18th century parkland or a Civil War siegework
Site 1	SJ04696562	: Well	Depicted on 3rd edition 1912, now surviving as water-filled hollow.
Site 2	SJ04756549	Coppice	Semi-circular enclosure with earth and stone banked, hedged boundary. Park feature. First depicted on Tithe of 1840
Site 3	SJ04766542	? Coppice	11 beech trees survive on a small hill, probably the remains of a second area of coppice.
Site 4	SJ05206500	Garden	Former garden associated with North Wales Hospital, consisting of a series of earthworks forming part of a landscaped garden
Site 5	SJ05386495	Gravel Pit	First depicted on Estate Map of 1855 and enlarged by 3rd Edition of 1912, presumably having been used during the construction of the hospital. Currently overgrown.

APPENDIX 2

DENBIGH HOSPITAL SITE, DENBIGH, DENBIGHSHIRE SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The proposed development relates to two blocks of land close to the former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh. Kerrington Plc have applied for outline planning permission from Denbighshire County Council for a residential development on the site, including conversion of the former hospital (Planning Application No 01/595/96/PO).
- 1.2 The development area lies to the south of the town (SJ 049655), occupying an area of c. 15ha currently used as grazing.
- 1.3 The Denbighshire Archaeology Service in their capacity as advisors to the county Planning Dept have advised that there are reasonable grounds for believing that there may be archaeological remains on the site and a pre-determination archaeological evaluation has been recommended. Mason Richards Planning, acting for Kerrington Plc, has requested that Denbighshire Archaeology Service provide a brief which describes the scheme of archaeological works required.

2 Objectives

2.1 The aim of the evaluation is to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the whole of the area potentially affected by the development in order to allow the Local Planning Authority to make a reasonable and informed decision regarding the management of the archaeological resource.

3 Methods

- 3.1 The Evaluation will comprise two stages:
- 3.1.1 Stage One will involve a desk-based examination of all the readily available documentary, cartographic and aerial photographic sources relating to the development and its environs. This will involve an examination of records at the following repositories: County Records Office, Hawarden; County Records Office, Ruthin; National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth; National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; Denbighshire County Council.
- 3.1.2 Following on from the desk-based study, a thorough field survey will be undertaken of the area of the planning application in order to identify any areas of possible archaeological interest.
- 3.2 On completion of Stages One and Two an illustrated and bound report will be prepared according to the principles laid out in the Curatorial Brief. This will be in A4 format and contain conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Historic Background; Excavation; Conclusions and Recommendations and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives.
- 3.3 The site archive will be prepared to specifications laid out in Appendix 3 in the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991).

4 Resources and Programming

- 4.1 The desk-based study will be undertaken by a member of CPAT's staff experienced in the techniques required, who will also be responsible for producing the final report. Overall supervision will be by Dr A Gibson, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that the desk-based study will be undertaken by one person and will take no more than 4 days to complete. The field survey will be undertaken by a two person team and will take one day. The subsequent report would be prepared immediately thereafter and is anticipated to take up to three days. At the time of writing the earliest start date would be 16th December for the desk-based assessment, with the final report being submitted no later than 7th January 1997. The archaeological curator will be informed of the detailed timetable and staffing levels when agreement has been reached with the client.
- 4.4 Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 4.5 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance, as well as Professional Indemnity Insurance.

N.W.Jones 12th December 1996

CPAT Report Record

Report	and	status
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CPAT Report Title	Land Adjacent to N	North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	
CPAT Project Name	Denbigh Hospital	SUNTO LEHE TELLENDES SIND ON MANUEL I SAIRLE HELLE HER T	
CPAT Project No	706	CPAT Report No	213
Confidential (yes/no)	Yes	draft/final	Final

Internal control

	name	signature	date
prepared by	P. Frost		06/01/97
checked by	N.W. JONES	Nhelves	06/01/97
approved by	A.M. GIBSON	allet	06/01/97

Revisions

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Internal memo

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