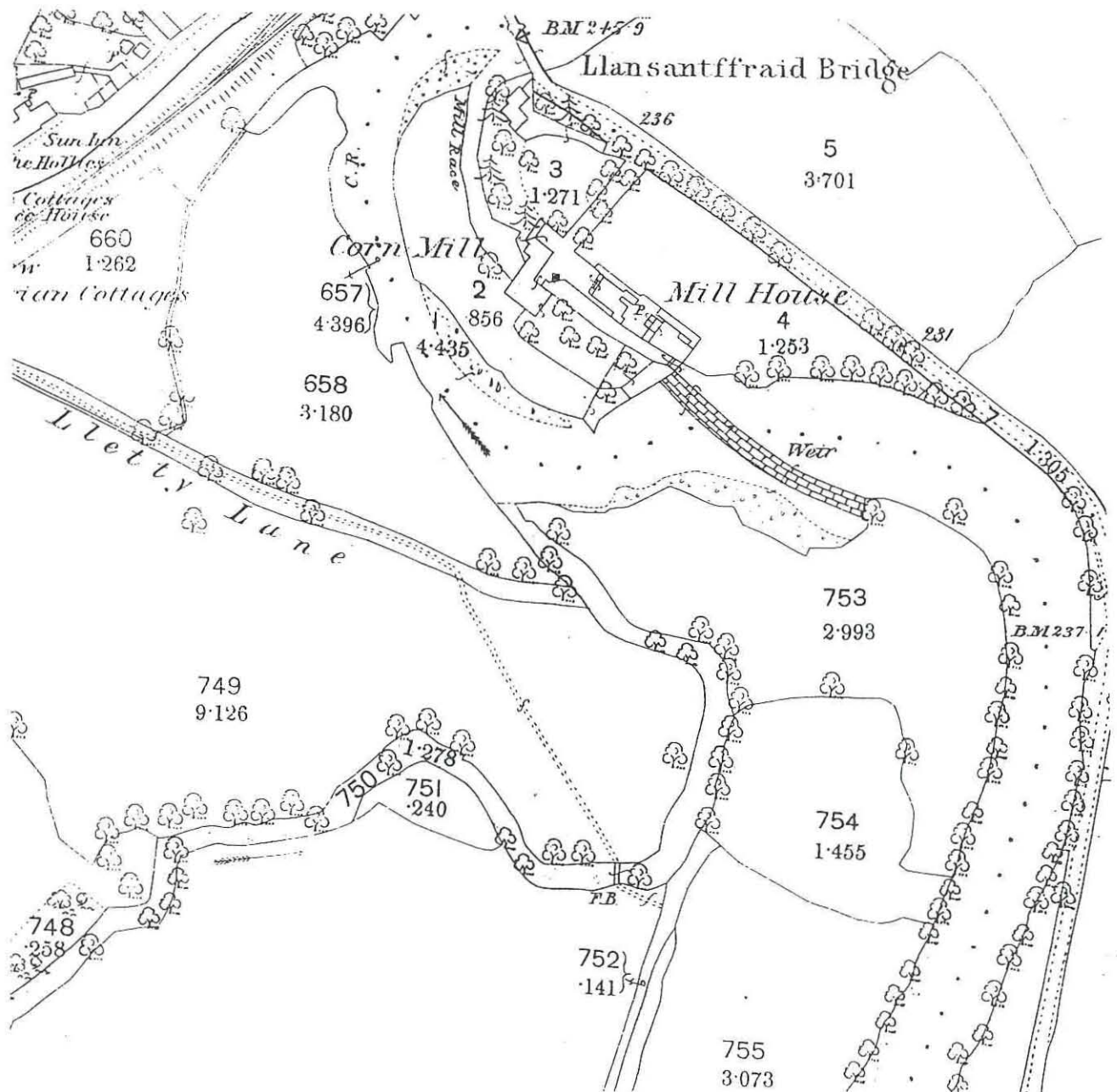


# *Llansantffraid Pumping Main*

WATCHING BRIEF



**CPAT Report No 242**

*Llansantffraid Pumping Main*  
**WATCHING BRIEF**

**P.FROST**  
October 1997

Report for Severn Trent Water Ltd.

**The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust**

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## CPAT Report Record

### Report and status

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	name	signature	date
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## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 1997, the Contracting Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (hereafter CPAT Contracts) were instructed by Severn Trent Water Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief on several sites at Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain, Powys, during the construction of a new pumping main and associated pipeline from SJ 227202 to SJ 225203 (Fig. 1).
- 1.2 An archaeological assessment of the area undertaken in March 1997 (Hankinson 1997) had identified several archaeological sites which may have been affected by the proposed development. Subsequent to this report, the Curatorial Section of CPAT, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Severn Trent, determined that an Archaeological Watching Brief was necessary to assess the implications of the proposed development on the archaeological resource (CPAT Curatorial Brief No. WAT 225 dated 14/07/97). The sites previously identified (Hankinson 1997) are listed in Appendix 1 and produced on Fig. 2 of this report.
- 1.3 The Brief outlined a programme of work to record the archaeological resource within the specified areas (see Fig. 2). The objectives were to record the nature, condition, significance and, where possible, the chronology of any archaeological deposits and/or features revealed within the area of the proposed development during the construction works and to prepare a report outlining the results.
- 1.4 The watching brief was undertaken by the author and Mr W.G. Owen of CPAT during September and October 1997 and this report was written immediately after.

## 2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY and GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The assessment area is located on the south side of the village of Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain (Fig. 1), on the flood plain at the confluence of the Rivers Vyrnwy and Cain. The present land-use in the assessment area is permanent grassland for stock rearing.
- 2.2 The solid geology comprises late Ordovician shales and mudstones of the Bala series, with overlying river gravels and alluvium (Smith & George 1935, pl. XII).
- 2.3 The soils of the flood plain comprise deep silty soils, alluvial in origin, belonging to the Teme Soil Association. The river terrace to the west of the flood plain comprises deep loamy soils derived from Palaeozoic drift, belonging to the Earl of Keswick Soil Association (Rudeforth *et al.* 1984).

## 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL and HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 No positive archaeological or historical evidence relates directly to the village of Llansantffraid or the assessment area prior to the medieval period. However the existence of a Roman depot site (Mg 216; PRN 5117) suggests evidence of earlier occupation in the area.
- 3.2 The parish church, dedicated to St. Ffraid (PRN 16890), comprises several phases of construction dating from the 12th century. Recorded in the Norwich Taxation of 1254, it includes a small "Norman" loop window which suggests a 12th-century construction.
- 3.3 Evidence of possible medieval agriculture within the assessment area consists of two areas of ridge and furrow identified during assessment (Hankinson 1997, Sites 4 & 5) and a field name suggesting early agriculture (Maes y Llan, Site 6).
- 3.4 Post-medieval archaeology in the assessment area includes the former mill (Site 1) and the weir (Site 2) of possible late 18th/early 19th-century date, located during the field walk and the possible site of a brick kiln (Site 3) located during the desk-top (Hankinson 1997).

#### **4 WATCHING BRIEF**

- 4.1 The watching brief was carried out according to the guidelines in the Curatorial Brief and involved the examination of all groundworks in the archaeologically sensitive areas affected by the pipeline.
- 4.2 Removal by machine of the topsoil to a maximum depth of 0.3m and the excavation of the trenches with a 12" wide bucket to a maximum depth of 1.5m in part, and 1.3m in general, was supervised along the pipeline route across the open fields, which included Site 4 (Fig. 2). The watching brief was not required where the pipeline followed the course of Lletty Lane. The brown humic topsoil overlay a light brown silty alluvial subsoil throughout the trenches.
- 4.3 The spoil was examined for finds and the side of the trench inspected for features, but all results were negative. No archaeological features were revealed and the few finds recovered from the topsoil were limited to glass and pottery of post-medieval and modern date.

#### **5 CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 The watching brief revealed no evidence for any archaeological features. The results suggest that the area disturbed by the construction of the pipeline has been used entirely for agriculture.

#### **6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 6.1 The author would like to thank Mr. Glyn Owen (CPAT Contracts), Mr Ian Theadham of Severn Trent Water Ltd., and Mr Richard Ward of Wrekin Construction for their co-operation.

#### **7 REFERENCES**

Hankinson, R., 1997, *Llansantffraid Sewage Treatment Works*. CPAT Report No. 219.

Rudeforth, C.C., Hartnup, R., Lea, J.W., Thompson, T.R.E., and Wright, P.C., 1984, *Soils and their Use in Wales*, Bulletin No 11. Harpenden: Soil Survey of England and Wales.

Smith, B., & George, T.N., 1935, *British Regional Geology: North Wales (Third edition 1961)*. London: HMSO.



**APPENDIX 1**  
**GAZETTEER OF SITES**

**Site No. 1                      Riverside Mill                      SJ 2273 2027**

Large complex of buildings dating from late 18th to early 19th century in origin.

**Site No. 2                      Riverside Mill Weir                      SJ 2275 2023**

Present weir constructed in concrete, probably dates to late 19th century. South-east end of weir, unrecorded on modern OS maps, probably covered in alluvium.

**Site No. 3                      Lletty Lane Brick Kiln                      SJ 2258 2022**

Presence of early kiln site suggested by 1798 enclosure map reference to (Brick kill field). Hankinson (1997, para 5) identified a likely site for the kiln as a result of the filed walked survey.

**Site No. 4                      Lletty Lane Ridge and Furrow I                      SJ 2269 2014**

Area of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned WNW/ESE. Identified on 1947 aerial photograph.

**Site No. 5                      Lletty Lane Ridge and Furrow II                      SJ 2252 2021**

Area of ridge and furrow cultivation aligned NW/SE. Identified on 1947 aerial photograph.

**Site No. 6                      Maes y Llan Placename                      SJ 2250 2029**

Field name recorded on 1838 Tithe Apportionment; now the site of the present sewage treatment works and village allotments.

**PRN 16890                      St. Fraids Church, Llansantffraid                      SJ 2204 2040**

Parish church dating back to 12th century.

## APPENDIX 2

### PROPOSED PUMPING MAIN, LLANSANTFFRAID YM MECHAIN

#### SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF BY CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The proposed development at Llansantffraid involves the construction of a new sewage pumping main to be excavated from the existing sewage pumping station (SJ227202) to link with the filter beds to the W (SJ225203).
- 1.2 The Curatorial section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, subsequent to an archaeological assessment undertaken by CPAT Contracts (CPAT Report No.219), have identified 4 archaeological sites which may be affected by the proposed development. These sites are identified in the curatorial Brief (section 4).
- 1.3 The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, in their capacity as archaeological curators for the county and advisors to Severn Trent, have determined that an Archaeological Watching Brief is necessary to assess the implications of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. Accordingly a brief has been prepared by CPAT Curatorial (No WAT 225 dated 14/07/97) which describes the scheme of archaeological works required.

## 2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works are:
  - 2.1.1 to record the nature, condition, significance and, where possible, the chronology of any archaeological deposits and/or features revealed within the area of the proposed development during the development works in so far as these aims are possible;
  - 2.1.2 to prepare a report outlining the results of the watching brief.

## 3 Methods

- 3.1 The watching brief will be carried out according to the guidelines submitted with the Curatorial Brief and will involve the examination of all the groundworks in the archaeologically sensitive areas.
- 3.2 All archaeological deposits and/or features noted during the watching brief will be recorded by drawn section and/or photography.
- 3.3 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared according to the principles laid out in the Brief (section 8). This will be in A4 format and contain conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Historic Background; Catalogue of sites identified with notes on their condition and significance, Conclusions and Recommendations and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives and finds.
- 3.5 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 watching brief will be undertaken by a skilled and experienced archaeologist. 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.
- 4.2 All report preparation will be completed by the same field archaeologist who conducted the watching brief.
- 4.3 The time spent on the Watching Brief will depend on the progress of the topsoiling and pipe-trenching works. The subsequent report will be prepared immediately thereafter, dependent on the client's instructions and the arrangement of a suitable timetable. The date of commencement, at the time of writing, has yet to be agreed with the client, and will be dependent on the state of the site and negotiated access. 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.

A.M. Gibson

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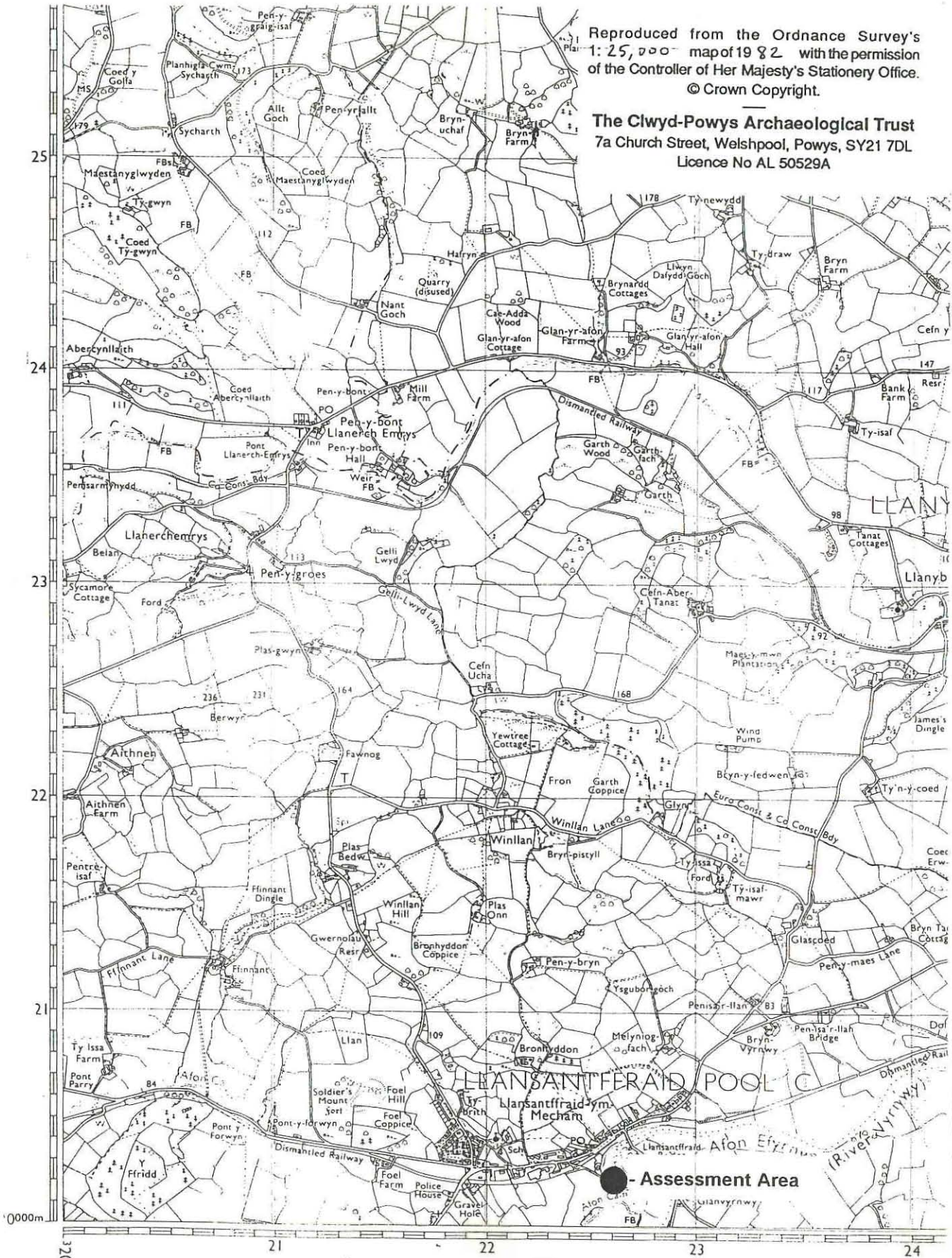


FIG. 1 LOCATION MAP SCALE: 1:25,000



