

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

*Cefn Meiriadog Water Mains*  
*Refurbishment:*  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

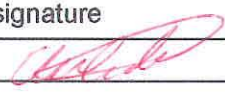
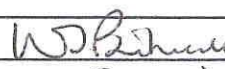

CPAT Report No 207

## CPAT Report Record

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approved by	W.J. Britnell		15/11/96

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### Internal memo


### The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

7a Church Street Welshpool Powys SY21 7DL

tel (01938) 553670, fax 552179

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*Cefn Meiriadog Water Mains  
Refurbishment:*  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

**A. M. Gibson**  
November 1996

Report for Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water (Northern Division, Eastern Area)

**The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust**

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

tel (01938) 553670, fax (01938) 552179

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 On the 8th August 1996, the Contracts Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (hereafter CPAT Contracts) were invited by Welsh Water, Northern Division (Eastern Area) to tender for an Archaeological Watching Brief on the line of the Cefn Meiriadog water mains refurbishment.
- 1.2 The development comprised the refurbishment of an existing mains with access pits dug at intervals. Following an Archaeological Assessment of the route (Gibson 1996), some of these access pits were in areas regarded by the curatorial section of CPAT, in their capacity as advisers to Welsh Water, as having archaeological sensitivity. Accordingly, CPAT Curatorial recommended that an Archaeological Watching brief be conducted during the mains refurbishment at the archaeologically sensitive sites.
- 1.3 In response to a Brief supplied by CPAT Curatorial and at the invitation of Welsh Water, CPAT Contracts prepared a specification and quotation for the watching brief. This was accepted by Welsh Water on 14th August 1996 with the groundworks due to commence on 19th August 1996.
- 1.4 The archaeologically sensitive areas are recorded below in the sequence in which they were visited. PRN refers to the primary record numbers on the county sites and monuments record. Sites prefixed with CM refer to sites identified as part of the assessment.

## **2 PLAS NEWYDD (PRN 102130)**

- 2.1 This is a two-storeyed house with attics, the latter having gabled dormers, which was built in 1583. Many original features survive and it was regarded as a possibility that traces of early farm buildings survive in the area around the present yard.
- 2.2 This site was visited on 19th August 1996 and two trenches were inspected. The first, being L-shaped, centred on SH99997310 and measuring approximately 4m x 10m x 0.5m wide, was situated over natural limestone bedrock c.30cm below the turf. No archaeological features were encountered.
- 2.3 The second trench centred on SJ00057305 was situated by a gateway giving access from the farm track to the pasture to the east of the house. This was excavated to approx. 1.20m deep. The upper 0.3m comprised loam and topsoil over limestone block rubble to a depth of 0.6m. This limestone material is interpreted as makeup affording dry access from the farm track to the pasture. Below this limestone rubble was natural red-brown to grey clay. No archaeological features were encountered.

## **3 TAN-Y-CRAIG STONE SETTING (PRN 102134)**

- 3.1 This stone setting is of presumed prehistoric date and lies on the southwestern edge of the field being cut by the present lane. Three trenches were examined in this field.
- 3.2 Trench 1 at SJ01107210 had been excavated to a depth of c.1.5m. The upper 0.3m comprised turf and ploughsoil while the remaining depth comprised stoney hillwash with occasional limestone blocks. No features were noted in the sides of the pit.
- 3.3 Trench 2 at SJ01157205 had been excavated to a depth of c.1.5m. The upper 0.3m comprised turf and ploughsoil while the remaining depth comprised a light brown fine-fractioned hillwash with occasional limestone pebbles. No features were noted in the sides of the pit.



- 3.4 Trench 3 at SJ01207200 had been excavated to a depth of c.1.5m. The upper 0.3m comprised turf and ploughsoil while the remaining depth comprised limestone rubble in a loamy clay matrix. In view of the fact that the present road is at a lower level than the field, this material may well represent dumping in the field boundary. No features were noted in the sides of the pit.

#### **4 STONE BOUNDARY WALL, (Site CM12)**

- 4.1 No trenches were excavated in close proximity to this feature.

#### **5 HOLLOWS (Site CM3)**

- 5.1 No trenches were excavated in close proximity to the sites of these undefined hollows. A trench at SJ01517164 indicated c.0.3m of turf and topsoil overlying sterile pink-brown silty clay.

#### **6 TYDDYN BLEIDDYN BURIAL CHAMBER (PRN 102133)**

- 6.1 This chambered tomb is of neolithic date and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM De007). Five pits were excavated in the vicinity of this monument.
- 6.2 Pit 1 was in the garden of Ysgubor Newydd at SJ00777250 and had been excavated to a depth of c.1.5m. The upper 0.4m comprised humic garden soil while the remaining depth comprised a pink-brown fine-fractioned sandy clay. No features were noted in the sides of the pit.
- 6.3 Pit 2 was excavated c.50m SE of the cairn at SJ00807240. The pit was excavated to 1.5m with ploughsoil occupying the upper 0.3m and with sterile yellow clay below this. Neither finds nor charcoal were recovered from the spoil.
- 6.4 Pit 3 was located at SJ00837235. The pit was excavated to 1.5m with ploughsoil occupying the upper 0.3m and with sterile yellow clay below this. Neither finds nor charcoal were recovered from the spoil.
- 6.5 Pit 4 was situated at SJ00857233. The pit was excavated to 1.5m with ploughsoil occupying the upper 0.3m and with sterile yellow clay below this. Neither finds nor charcoal were recovered from the spoil.
- 6.6 Pit 5 was located against the south-eastern field boundary at SJ00907230. The pit was excavated to 0.75m with ploughsoil occupying the upper 0.3m and with large limestone blocks in a loose soil matrix occupying the rest of the trench. These blocks possibly represent an earlier field wall or bank at this point below the present hedge.

#### **7 PONTNEWYDD CAVE (PRN 102132)**

- 7.1 This cave contains evidence of Palaeolithic occupation and some of the earliest traces of human occupation in Wales. It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM De116).
- 7.2 The works associated with the mains refurbishment were originally intended to be in the form of an open cut along the road to the east and south of the cave and a watching brief was to be maintained on this section of the works.



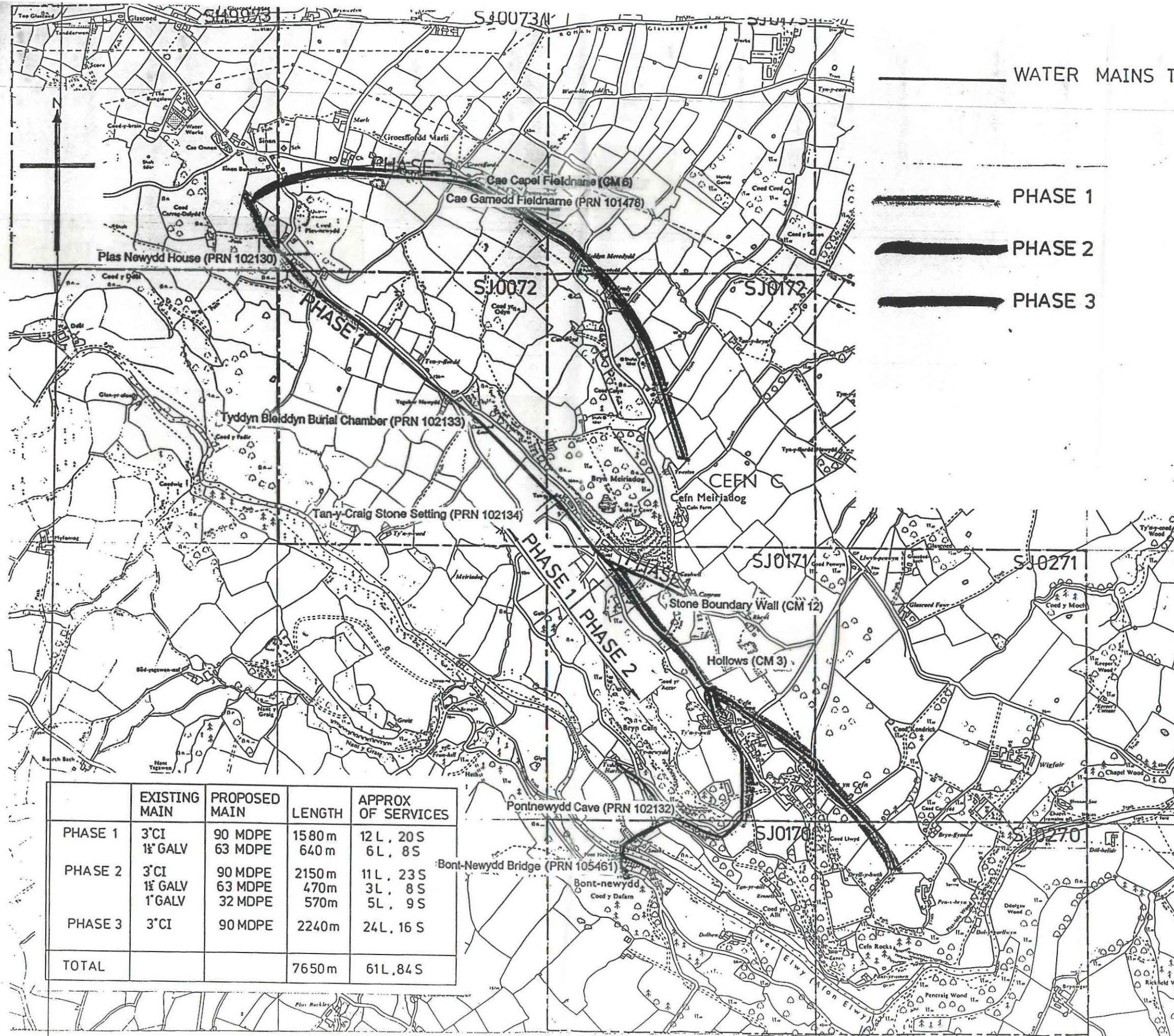


Fig 1

Location of the Cefn Meiriadog water mains refurbishment, phases 1-3

**DŴR CYMRU  
WELSH WATER**  
NORTHERN DIVISION  
DIVISIONAL DIRECTOR  
J.D.R. WILLIAMS, C.Eng., M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E.M.  
PENRHOSGARNEDD  
SANGOR  
GWYNEDD  
LL57 2DJ  
Telephone Bangor  
(0248) 361144  
Telex Bangor  
(0248) 366192

Scheme  
**CEFN MEIRIADOG  
WATER MAINS  
REFURBISHMENT.**

Title  
**MAINS LAYOUT**

Scale  
Date  
**10/11/95**

Drawn by  
Checked by  
**dgd**

Drawing No  
Rev  
**10.12.16 \_01**

Dwr Cymru Cyl., Plas-y-Ffynnon, Cambrian Way,  
Brecon, Powys LD3 7HF.  
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Cofrestrwyd yng Nghymru Rhif 2388777.



## APPENDIX 1

### MAINS REFURBISHMENT, CEFN MEIRIADOG SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF BY CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

#### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The refurbishment of a watermain in the area around Cefn Meiriadog Hill (SJ01357080 to SJ01407210) involves groundworks on or near a number of archaeological sites identified during an assessment undertaken by CPAT Contracts (CPAT Report No 180).
- 1.2 The Curatorial Section of CPAT, acting in their role as advisors to the local authority, have determined that archaeological monitoring is required during all groundworks adjacent to nine sites listed in section 4.1 of the Design Brief (WAT 182, dated 30th July 1996).

#### **2 Objectives**

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief 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 facilitate the preservation by record of all identified archaeological contexts whether in the form of standing structures or sub-surface remains;
  - 2.1.3 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 within 10m of the specified sites. In addition, all removed soils will be inspected for archaeological artefacts.
- 3.2 All archaeological deposits and/or features noted during the watching brief will be recorded by drawn section, plan and/or photography as appropriate. Where possible, limited excavation of archaeological features will be undertaken subject to negotiation with the developer, in order to obtain information on character, function, dating and relationship of features.
- 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; Artefacts; Conclusions and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives and finds.
- 3.4 Any artefacts will be processed in a manner suiting their condition and will be analysed and reported on by a specialist as necessary. A contingency has been included in the quotation to allow for such an eventuality.



- 3.5 The site archive will be prepared to specifications laid out in Appendix 3 in the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991). Arrangements will be made for any artefacts to be deposited in an appropriate local or county museum, subject to an agreement being reached with the landowner and a suitable repository being available.
- 3.6 Depending on the results of the watching brief, a report may be produced for publication in an appropriate regional or national journal.

#### **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 watching brief will take no more than the total number of days of groundworks in all and 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 is understood to be August 16th 1996, but this remains to be confirmed and agreed with the client. 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  
9th August 1996