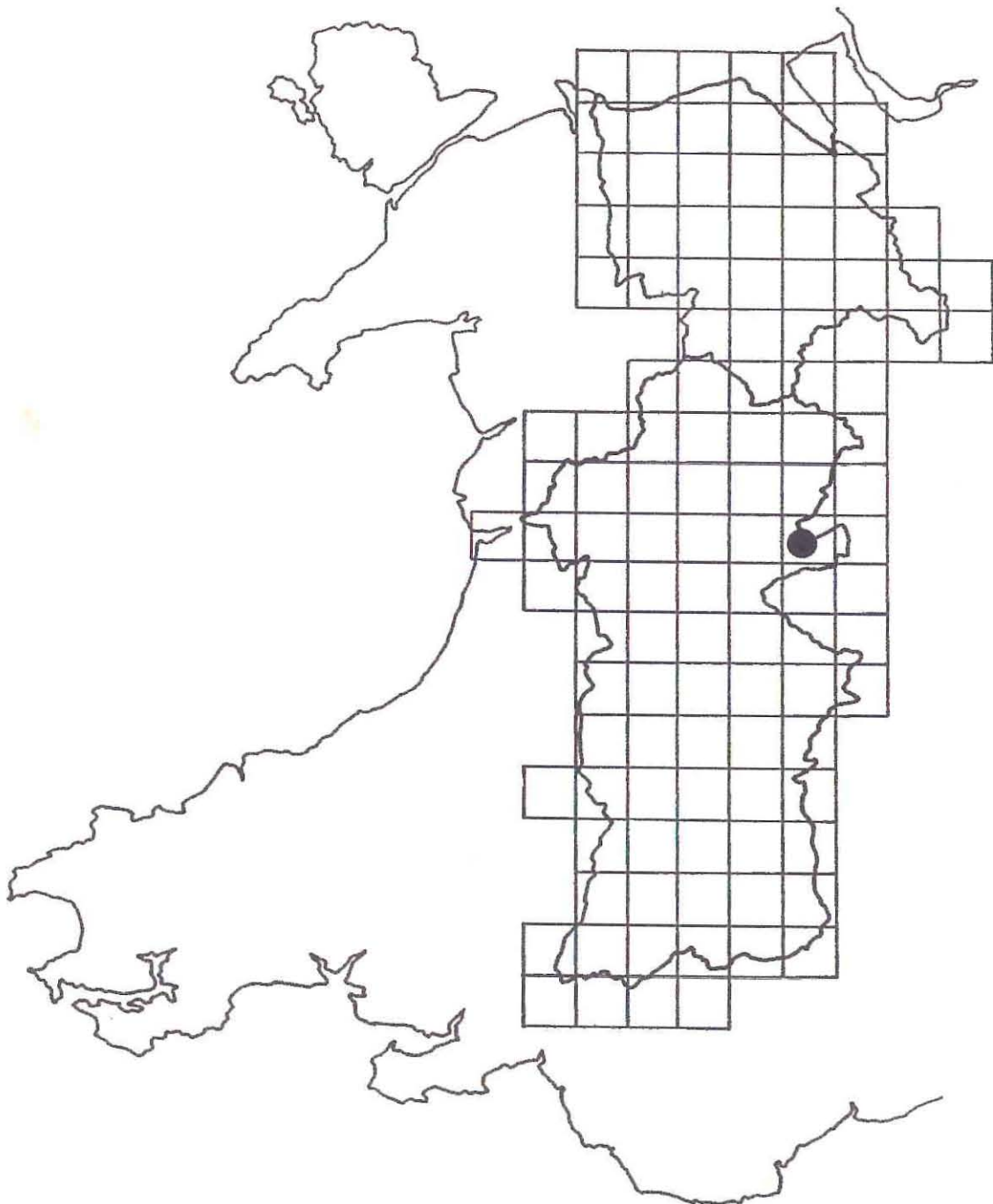


Plot off Pool Road, Montgomery:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

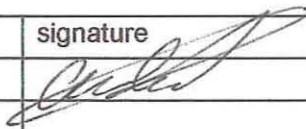
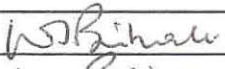



CPAT Report Record

Report and status

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CPAT Project Name	Pool Road, Montgomery		
CPAT Project No	682	CPAT Report No	182
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	name	signature	date
prepared by	A.M. GIBSON		12/06/96
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Revisions

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Internal memo

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Plot off Pool Road, Montgomery:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

by A.M. Gibson
June 1996

Report prepared for R. B. Williams Partnership

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 4th June 1995, the Contracts Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (hereafter CPAT Contracts) were invited by Messrs R.B.Williams Partnership to tender for an Archaeological Watching Brief at a vacant plot on Pool Road, Montgomery.
- 1.2 The development comprised the excavation of two test pits at the front and rear of the plot to assess the underlying soils with a view to determining the suitability of the plot for building purposes.
- 1.3 The specification and quotation prepared by CPAT Contracts was accepted on 6th June 1996 with the groundworks proposed for 7th June 1996.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The town of Montgomery was established in 1223 and granted a borough charter in 1227. Substantial traces of the town walls still survive and the medieval street plan appears to have been relatively unaltered over the centuries.
- 2.2 The plot off Pool Road, Montgomery, was subject to an excavation by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) in 1984 (Britnell & Jones 1989) since it was believed that medieval street-frontage buildings may have survived in a relatively undisturbed state.
- 2.3 The results of the excavation proved this hypothesis with the former line of the original Pool Road surviving as a holloway to the west of the plot and with traces of a medieval post-built structure, later replaced by a timber-framed building, fronting the road. Both structures could be placed between the thirteenth and early fifteenth centuries and thus belong to Montgomery's early history.
- 2.4 In addition to these buildings, other pits and features such as a possible well, were found spread over the excavated area. Time did not allow the complete excavation of the entire area however and some archaeological contexts remained un-investigated.

3 THE WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.1 Excavation works took place on the morning of 7th June 1996 in wet weather.
- 3.3 The trial pits were mechanically excavated under the supervision of Mr R Williams, the engineer for R. B. Williams Partnership, and Dr A. M. Gibson, the archaeologist for CPAT Contracts.
- 3.4 The first pit at the rear of the plot (fig. 1) was approximately 0.75m square. The stratigraphy revealed in section was as follows:

0 - 0.6m deep	The upper 0.6m of the revealed profile indicated a soft dark garden loam containing modern glazed pottery and brick fragments.
0.6 - 1.1m	The soil comprised a grey silty clay with abundant charcoal and brick fragments. Bricks were noted in the section at a depth of 0.8m.
1.1m	The natural light-brown boulder clay was reached. This was archaeologically sterile.
- 3.5 The second pit (fig. 1) was towards the front of the plot was was similarly approximately 0.75m square. The stratigraphy revealed in the section was as follows:

0 - 0.4m deep	Dark garden loam containing modern pottery and brick fragments.
0.4 - 0.8m	Grey-brown leached silty clay and stones with iron and manganese staining. Charcoal flecks were noted in the upper 50mm or so of this layer below which the clay was archaeologically sterile.
0.8m	Reddish brown boulder clay and stones lacking the staining of the layer above. This was probably the same material, however, though not leached. This layer was archaeologically sterile.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 That the plot is archaeologically important was demonstrated by the 1984 excavations whose results are summarised above (para 2). Furthermore, the plot was not fully excavated and therefore uninvestigated archaeological features are likely to survive within the plot.
- 4.2 Test pit 1 clearly located 0.5m of archaeological deposits though no internal stratigraphy was noted in this layer.
- 4.3 Test pit two did not locate any dug archaeological features but the presence of charcoal in the top of the leached subsoil indicates the presence of an archaeological horizon.

5 REFERENCE

Britnell, J. & Jones, N. 1989. Pool Road, Montgomery: Excavations within the Medieval Town. *Montgomeryshire Collections*, 77, 41-72.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The co-operation of R. B. Williams Partnership is gratefully acknowledged. Jenny Britnell supplied background information on the 1984 excavations.

APPENDIX 1

POOL ROAD, MONTGOMERY:

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

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The proposed development at a vacant plot off Pool Road, Montgomery, involves the excavation of 1m sq boreholes and test pits to a depth of 2-2.5m from the front to the back of the plot.
- 1.2 This area lies within the historic town of Montgomery (SO 223968) in a plot which is believed to have had no major post-medieval development. This belief was confirmed by recent excavations (Britnell & Jones 1989) which concluded that the plot was the site of at least two phases of medieval street-frontage settlement dating to between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries. The area to the rear of the plot was not fully explored archaeologically.
- 1.3 The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in their capacity as archaeological curators for the county have determined that an Archaeological Watching Brief is necessary to assess the implications of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

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 involve the examination of all the groundworks in the archaeological 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. 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.
- 3.4 On completion of the project, a copy of this report will be sent to the Curatorial section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust for incorporation into the County Sites & Monuments Record.
- 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 It is anticipated that the watching brief will take no more than 2 days in all and that the subsequent report would 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
4th June 1996

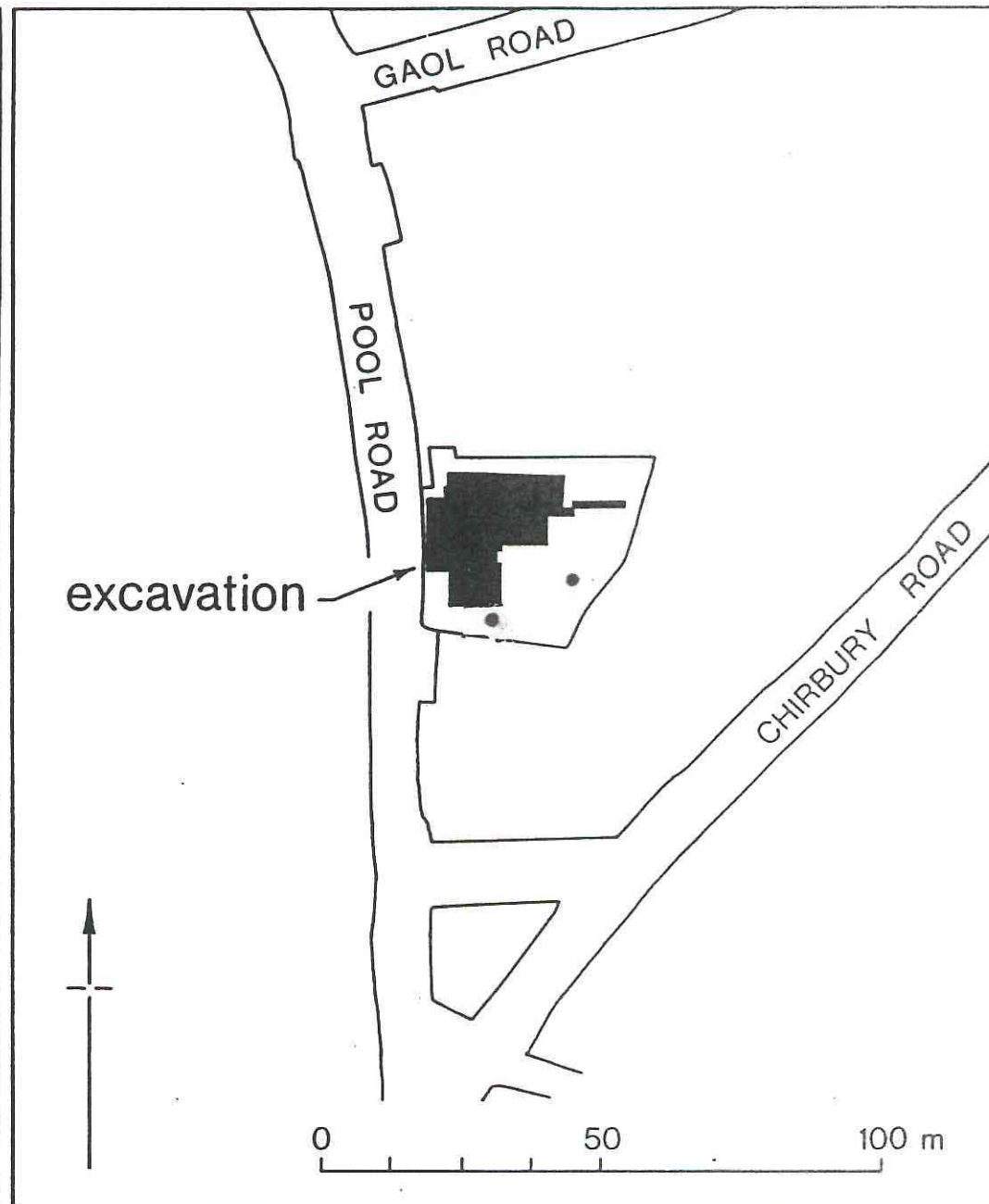
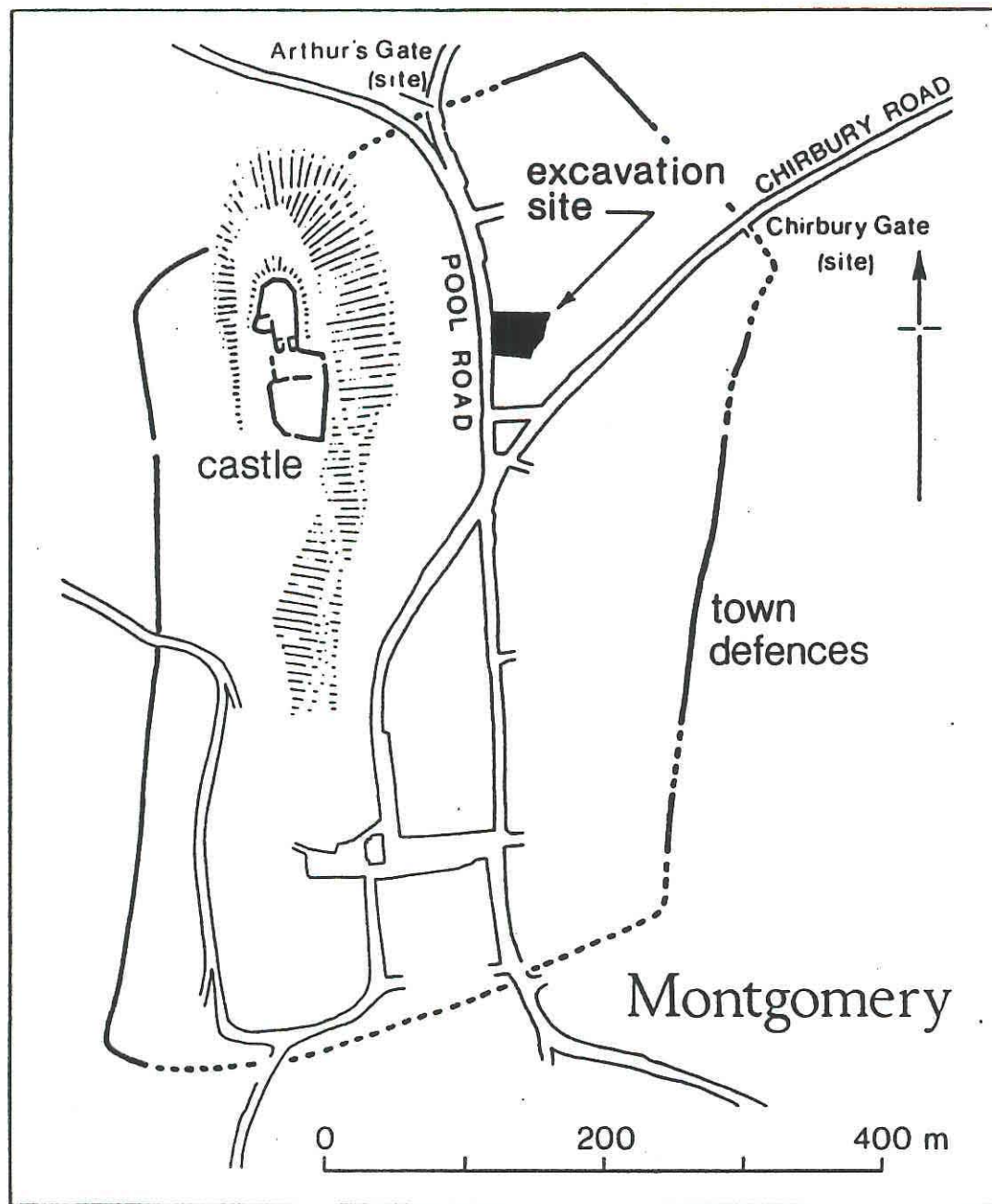


Fig 1: Pool Road, Montgomery. Location of test pits and previous excavations.