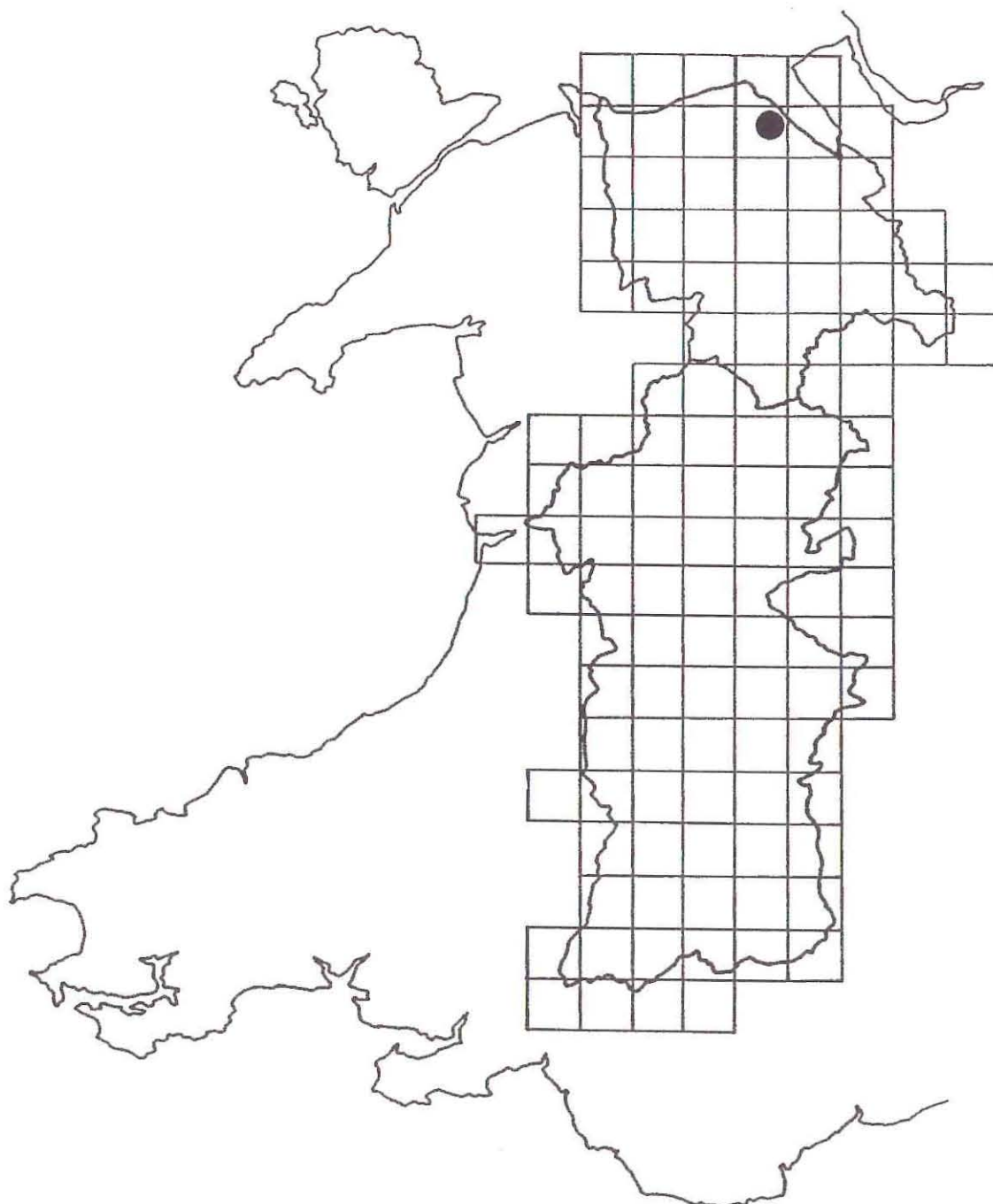


THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Sychdyn Sewage Pipeline, Clwyd

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



CPAT Report No 163

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Sychdyn Sewage Pipeline, Clwyd
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

by **W.G.Owen**
December 1995

Report prepared for Delyn Borough Council

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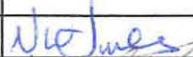
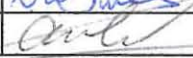
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CPAT Report Record

Report and status

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CPAT Project Name	SYCHDYN SEWAGE PIPELINE, CLWYD		
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Internal control

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checked by	NW JONES		2/1/96
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Contracting Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (hereafter CPAT) was commissioned in November 1995 by Delyn Borough Council to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the course of sewerage pipeline improvement work in the vicinity of Vownog, Sychdyn, Clwyd, at a point where the pipeline crosses the Dark Age linear earthwork known as Wat's Dyke.
- 1.2 The watching brief had been requested by the Curatorial Section of Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, acting in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Delyn Borough Council. It was recognised that the scheme was likely to involve the substantial disturbance of subsurface archaeological deposits, and accordingly a brief (WAT 146, dated 5-6-1995) was prepared by the Curatorial Section of CPAT which specified the requirements of the watching brief.
- 1.3 The watching brief was carried out in early December 1995 and this report produced immediately afterwards.

2 SITE LOCATION (SJ 2460 6660; 130mOD; Figs 1 & 2)

- 2.1 The watching brief was carried out along section of the pipeline route located at the south-western end of the track leading from the junction of Wat's Dyke Road and Ffordd Eldon, Sychdyn to the Sewerage Treatment Works at SJ 2564 6675.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, SOILS AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1 The landform of the area is gently undulating and land use is primarily pastoral. Soils are slowly permeable, reddish, silty loams of the Salop series derived from reddish drift of Permo-Triassic origin (Rudeforth *et al.* 1984).

4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Wat's Dyke is a linear earthwork of Saxon origin which extends from Holywell on the north coast of Wales to Llanymynech on the Powys-Shropshire border. Generally, it follows a parallel course to Offa's Dyke located to the west and is regarded as being slightly earlier in date.
- 4.2 Approximately 180m to the north-west of the pipeline works a discontinuous section of the earthwork which is scheduled as an Ancient Monument (SAM F84), survives as a substantial structure consisting of a bank and ditch with an overall cross-section of 15m. At the location of the pipeline works, however, there are no visible surface remains belonging to the Dyke.

5 THE WATCHING BRIEF

5.1 No features of archaeological significance were recorded during the phase of topsoil/overburden stripping and no finds were recovered.

5.2 An examination of the south-east face of the pipeline trench exposed the following sequence of soils:

0.00 - 0.20m Brown, moderately stony, humic topsoil

0.20 - 0.40m Buff to light brown gravel. Probably trackway make-up material

0.40 - 0.70m Orange/reddish moderately stony clay

0.70 - 0.85m Very dark brown/brown humic clay loam.

0.85 - 0.95m Grey gleyed clay layer

0.95 - 1.50m Stiff clay varying in colour from red through orange to grey

1.50m - limit of excavation Nature of deposits difficult to determine possibly due to the backfilling of original pipe-trench

5.3 Soils exposed in sections of the pit excavated at the south-west end of the pipe-trench were obscured by disturbance of the sides and the erection of steel shoring sections. No stratigraphic features were recorded.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The soil layers exposed at a depth of between 0.70 and 0.95m below ground surface in the trench (Para 5.2) indicated the possible presence of a buried soil. However, these layers were not accompanied by other stratigraphic features or finds so that this interpretation could not be verified.

6.2 The soil stratigraphy exposed in the section yielded no evidence for the presence of a linear earthwork consisting of a ditch and bank at this point. It is possible, however, that previous pipe-trench excavation may have totally removed the definitive features that would have been associated with such an earthwork or else that sub-surface remains were located elsewhere. The results of the watching brief are, therefore, unfortunately inconclusive.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CPAT Contracting wishes to acknowledge the assistance of on-site staff during the course of the watching brief.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

PROPOSED SEWERAGE SCHEME AT SYCHDYN, DELYN.
SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
BY CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

1 Introduction

1.1 The proposed development at Wat's Dyke Way, Sychdyn (SJ2466) involves the improvement of foul sewerage provision. The scheme is likely to involve the substantial disturbance of any archaeological deposits.

1.2 The area lies at the NE end of the village of Sychdyn and crosses the alignment of an unscheduled section of the Dark Age linear earthwork known as Wat's Dyke. The earthwork, comprising a bank and ditch of up to 15m across is believed to survive as a subsurface feature in the area affected by the development.

1.3 The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in their capacity as archaeological curators for the county have determined that a watching brief is necessary to assess the implications of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. Accordingly a brief (No WAT146, dated 5/6/95) has been prepared by the Curatorial Section of CPAT which describes the scheme of archaeological works required.

2 Objectives

2.1 The objectives of the evaluation are:

2.1.1 to ensure thatn any archaeological features noted during the construction of the proposed works are adequately recorded.

2.1.2 to prepare a report outlining the results of the watching brief.

3 Methods

3.1 Stage one of the watching brief will be to monitor the removal of topsoil and non-archaeological overburden from the site. Soils will be examined for archaeological material

3.2 Stage two will take the form of the recording of any archaeological features revealed in plan.

3.3 Stage 3 will take the form of limited excavation after due negotiation with the client of any features revealed by the works in order to obtain information on the date, function, character and relationship(s) of the archaeological features.

3.3.1 all archaeological artefacts and environmental samples will be recorded and processed in a manner appropriate to the material involved. Those requiring conservation or other specialist treatment will be stored in a stable environment until such times as they can examined by a specialist. All finds, except those deemed to be Treasure Trove, are the property of the landowner. It is anticipated that they will be donated to the appropriate local

or regional museum, subject to agreement being reached with the landowner and the museum curator.

3.4 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared according to the principles laid out in the Evaluation Brief (section 7). This will be in A4 format and contain conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Historic Background; Excavation; Conclusions 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 evaluation will be undertaken by an experienced field 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 two 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. 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
7th June 1995

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Fig 1
Location
Scale 1:25,000

