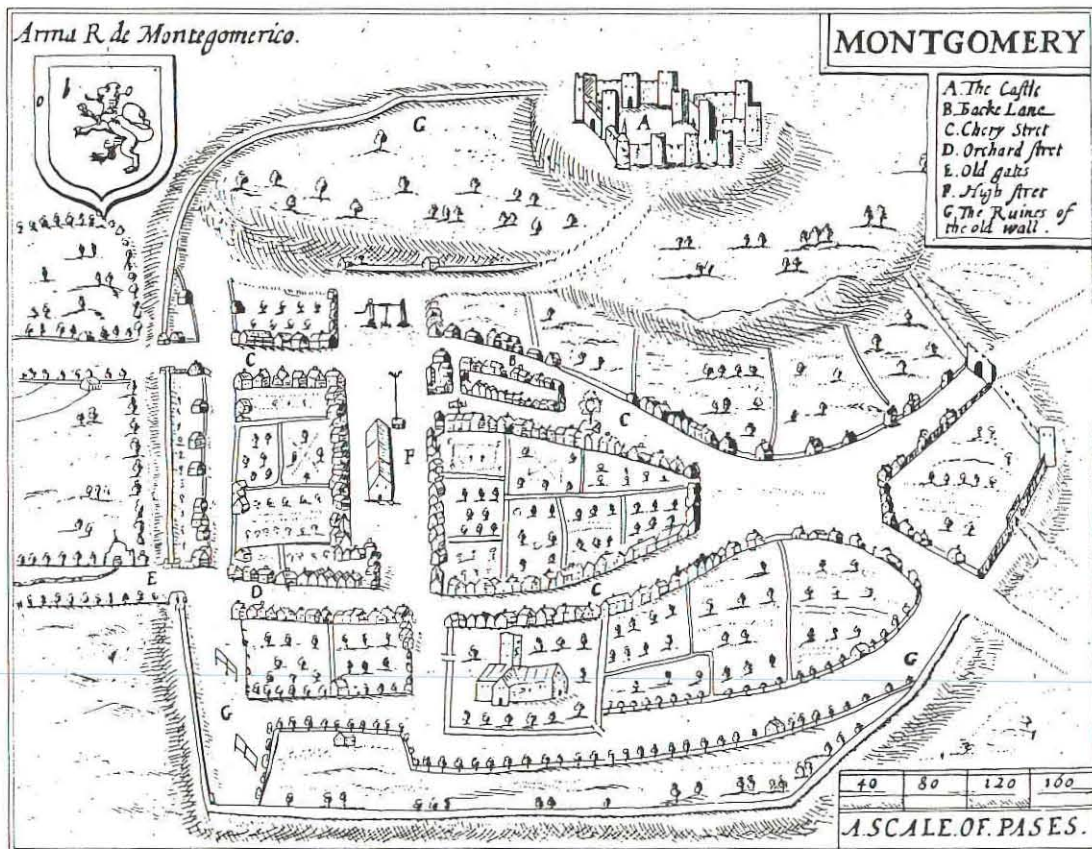


Montgomery Town Distribution Mains Rehabilitation

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTRACTED WATCHING BRIEF



CPAT Report No 245

*Montgomery Town Distribution Mains
Rehabilitation*

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTRACTED WATCHING BRIEF

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November 1997

Report for Severn Trent Water Ltd.

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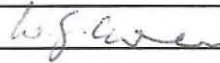

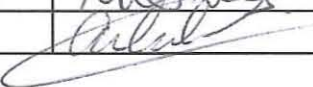
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 1997, the Contracts Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (hereafter CPAT Contracts) was invited by Severn Trent Water Ltd to provide them with costings and a detailed specification for undertaking a Contracted Watching Brief during the course of water main rehabilitation work in Montgomery.
- 1.2 A Watching Brief was deemed necessary by the Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (Design Brief WAT 204), as it was anticipated that rehabilitation trenches could potentially directly affect preserved sub-surface deposits related to the former Medieval town. Areas of particular sensitivity were in the vicinity of the former town wall and ditch and three of the town gates. In the same category were areas where street frontages could be anticipated and locations in Broad Street where civic structures formerly stood. Elsewhere, trenches in the highway could reveal earlier road surfaces or makeup levels as the present roads overlie Medieval street alignments. The Watching Brief would thus enable previously unrecorded archaeological features revealed during the course of the work to be adequately recorded and interpreted.
- 1.3 The specification and costings submitted by CPAT Contracts was subsequently accepted by Severn Trent Water and the Watching Brief was carried out between mid-March and mid-September 1997.

2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- 2.1 Montgomery is a town of Medieval origin located at NGR SO 2296 and at an altitude of approximately 245mOD (Fig 1). On its western side it is overlooked by Town Hill, a north-south aligned ridge with steep east-facing slopes. The northern end of this ridge is dominated by an intrusive spur of metamorphosed greenstone upon which Montgomery Castle was erected in the early 13th century. The eastern half of the town is set on a low north-south aligned ridge dominated by St Nicholas' Church, which is contemporary with the castle (Haslam 1978), and which overlooks to the east the broad valley of the River Camlad. Between the two ridge slopes, contours fall gradually to the north and south on either side of Broad Street.
- 2.2 The underlying solid geology consists of Wenlock calcareous shales which emerge at the surface in places on the steep slopes to the west of the town. Soils overlying the shale bedrock are stagnogley silty clay loams of the Cegin Series (Rudeforth *et al.* 1984). With depth, these become stiff clays varying in colour from a mottled yellow where drainage is more free on ridges and ridge slopes, to grey where drainage is impeded.

3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The building of the castle, which is arguably the dominant feature of Montgomery, commenced in 1223 under the instructions of Henry III, replacing the motte and bailey castle of Roger de Montgomery referred to in the Domesday Book as *Castrum Muntgumeri*, lying 1.7km to the NNE (Barker & Higham 1982). The new castle may have been completed by the end of that decade and it seems clear that the nucleus of a settled town came into being at the same time that the castle was being built. Its first charter was awarded in 1227 by Henry III and this stated that "they may enclose the same with a ditch and a wall" (Lloyd 1887). It has been suggested that an approximate date for the commencement of this work was the year 1230 (O'Neil & Foster Smith 1940) and it seems likely that the defences were not built in stone from the outset but that the first defences consisted of a timber palisade surmounting an earth rampart with an external ditch, to be later replaced in stone. The inclusive date for this replacement appears to have been 1278-80 (Taylor 1950). Whether or not the entire circuit of approximately 2km was replaced in stone is open to some doubt, however.
- 3.2 John Speed's map of Montgomery drawn in 1610 (Fig. 2), however schematic it may be, indicates that the Town Wall was extant at that time but does not give an indication of its state of repair. John Leland had, in fact, referred to the ruinous state of the walls and to broken towers in his Itinerary of c. 1535-1543 (Smith 1964). He ascribed this, as in other towns he visited, to have been the work of

Owain Glyndwr over a century earlier, a view justifiably regarded now with some scepticism (Davies 1995).

- 3.3 Leland also refers to the existence of four gates in the wall, namely, Kedewen Gate, Chyrbyry Gate, Arturs Gate, Kery Gate. In 1610, Speed's map depicts the positions of four gaps in the defences. Three of these presumably mark the positions of the last three noted by Leland but the Cedewen Gate in the western defences close to the castle, is not shown. It would seem that the fourth gap, at the junction of the present day Bishops Castle Street and Back Lane, was made, therefore, sometime between 1543 and 1610. Notably, only one of the four is shown as gated, namely Arthur's gate, and it may be possible that the remaining gates had been dismantled by 1610.
- 3.4 Within the town defences, Speed's map shows the pattern of the streets with High Street (now Broad Street), containing the Market Hall, acting as the central axis for four streets diverging to the north and south, providing the elements of a regular grid pattern typical of a settled town. Elsewhere, the general topography appeared to have made it impossible to extend this regularity (Soulsby 1983). This street plan still forms the basis of the present day street pattern and many of the major property boundaries shown then can still be traced.
- 3.5 Previous archaeological excavations and surveys carried out and reported on during the course of the last fifty years have yielded a valuable caucous of information on the past history of Montgomery. The excavations of O'Neil and Foster-Smith in 1940 (*op. cit.*) were carried out at locations along the Town Wall. At points adjacent to the tower at the north-eastern corner of the wall as shown on Speed's map, the footings of the wall resting on the subsoil were all that remained of the original wall. This was confirmed by excavations carried out in 1996 by Mr Arthur Baldwin during the course of restoration of the modern wall that runs along the line of the Town Wall. At the same time, a short section of the medieval tower wall was also uncovered (Owen 1996). The 1940 excavations also concentrated on the south-western corner of the wall (SO 22029631), and yielded evidence of the former existence of a three-quarter round angle tower of normal thirteenth century type at this point. To the east of this corner, at Crogbren (SO 22089628), the truncated remains of the ditch forming part of the defences was exposed (Gibson 1991). No trace of a corresponding inner bank was seen and it was suggested that while this may have been removed, it was equally possible that owing to the steepness of the slope at that point anything more than a timber palisade would have been unnecessary. At other points along the circuit of the defences excavation and watching briefs yielded either negative or inconclusive results (Brassil 1982; Jones & Owen 1988; Owen 1993; Owen 1994).
- 3.6 Archaeological excavations and watching briefs have also been carried out within the town itself. An excavation carried out adjacent to Pool Road at SO 22299691 yielded firm evidence for medieval occupation of this area and the presence of a holloway underlying and therefore predating the present Pool Road. Finds recovered from the infilled holloway suggested that the infilling phase took place in Post-Medieval times possibly during a period of road improvement and turnpike building in the later eighteenth century (Britnell & Jones 1989). Further evidence for medieval occupation in the northern part of the town, namely in the open field on the southern side of Chirbury Road (centred at SO 22409678), and at a point adjacent to School Lane at SO 22409671 (Gibson 1992; Owen 1993)
- 3.7 In the southern part of the town, adjacent to Back Lane (SO 96362224), excavation yielded evidence of occupation predating 1610, the date of John Speed's map, which shows the area as being unoccupied at that time. The pottery assemblage recovered from a pit, (Pit 0115), suggested occupation during the late Medieval or early Post-medieval period. A radiocarbon date of 1514-1643 Cal AD, obtained from a willow or poplar stake forming part of a waterlogged boundary of a probable burgage plot to the east of Arthur Street at SO 22259653 (Gibson 1991), may be approximately contemporary with this. Also falling into this general period, based on both documentary sources and the evidence of datable material recovered, were the structural remains excavated in the grounds of Plas Du at SO 2235969 (Ashton & Garwood 1985).

4 THE WATCHING BRIEF (Fig. 2)

- 4.1 The Design Brief specified areas within the town where an intensive Watching Brief should be maintained. These were in the vicinity of the possible, but hitherto unconfirmed sites of the Cedewen Gate (SO22059660), the Chirbury Gate (SO 22489689) and Arthur's Gate (SO

22259698). Intensive Watching briefs were also necessary in the vicinity of the possible site of the Kerry Gate (SO 22149630) and extending eastwards along the Kerry Road, Back Lane and the western ends of Tan-y-Mur and Lions Bank, as well as from the rear of the Town Hall and eastwards along the length of Broad Street, and at the north-eastern end of Gaol Road where it intersects the Town Wall and Ditch. Elsewhere along the route of the pipeline, a less intensive watching brief involving the intermittent presence of an archaeologist was felt to be sufficient.

- 4.2 The Brief specified that during the construction phases of the development, material removed should be examined for artefacts, exposed surfaces should be examined for exposed archaeologically significant features, that these should be recorded in plan, section and photographically and where it was felt to be necessary, that limited excavation of features should be carried out following negotiation with the developer.
- 4.3 Both open-trench and pipe-bursting techniques were adopted during the course of pipe-laying with the former predominating throughout. Trenches were generally of an average depth of 1.10m and 0.40m with variations occurring at the locations of pipe junctions and at pipe-bursting access pits which were wider.
- 4.4 Locations where the Watching Brief was maintained are shown in Fig. 2. These may conveniently be listed as follows:

Forden Road - Pool Road
 Gaol Road
 Chirbury Road - Crosslanes
 Princes Street
 Arthur Street
 Broad Street
 Church Bank
 Lions Bank
 Bishops Castle Street - Tan-y-Mur
 Back Lane - Kerry Road
 Kerry Street
 Cedewen Gate - Llandyssil Road

5 OBSERVATIONS

5.1 Forden Road - Pool Road

- 5.1.1 A total of 270m of open trenches were examined between the junction of Pool Road with Chirbury Road and the junction of Forden Road with Arthurs Gate Road.
- 5.1.2 At the southern end, for a distance of c. 145m, soils exposed were generally stiff clays which extended from below the modern road sub-base to the base of the trench. Variations to this fairly uniform profile occurred along a section of 25m centred at SO 2229596778, where a loose dark brown soil (max. 0.50m thick) contained furnace slag, slate fragments and brick, forming a layer extending from the modern road sub-base above a stiff yellow clay near the base of the trench. Similarly a section of trench 8.5m long centred at SO 2229096860, showed a redeposited layer of silty clay 0.35m thick, containing brick fragments, coal etc. Thereafter, soil profiles examined became increasingly mixed, extending in places to the full depth of the trench, but generally overlying clay at an average depth of 0.60m below the modern road surface. This mixed layer contained material within it that suggested that it represented a phase of road levelling as suggested in Par 3.6 above. The underlying clay which were generally of a yellow or buff-yellow colour, contained shaly stone fragments, and was of a stiff consistency, appeared to be the undisturbed natural. However, even though it contained no obvious extraneous material it is possible that it represents an earlier phase of dumping extending to an unknown depth below the base of the trench. In this respect, a notable feature of the 1984 Pool Road excavations (*op. cit.*) was the inherent difficulty of distinguishing between 'natural' clay and redeposited clay where it contained no extraneous material (Britnell & Jones pers. comm.).
- 5.1.3 From a point some 15m south of the junction of Pool Road with Gaol Road, extending north towards the supposed position of Arthur's Gate, soils removed from below the modern road material consisted of dark coloured clays of variable consistency, of an average depth of 0.60m, and

containing such materials as brick, coal, glass, slate and late Post-medieval pottery. This overlay a cleaner, more compact buff or grey coloured clay which extended to the base of the trench. In the vicinity of where any remaining traces of Arthur's Gate could have been anticipated, soils had been, unfortunately, highly disturbed by earlier pipe-trenches and any features at this point which may have been associated with the former gate had probably, therefore, been obliterated as a consequence.

5.1.4 Beyond this area, the obviously redeposited soils encountered to the south were replaced by featureless clays which became increasingly compact with depth. The latter contained moderate quantities of stone varying from shaly fragments to small pebbles.

5.1.5 No trace of a holloway was found during the course of the watching brief in this area. This in itself is not surprising as the 1984 excavations showed its eastern edge to lie at least 2.00m below the level of the modern road and that it had been infilled with layers of clay and soil (Britnell & Jones 1985).

5.2 Gaol Road

5.2.1 The western end of Gaol Road, for a distance of c. 10m, had been disturbed by previous pipe-laying and all deposits contained relatively modern material. Immediately to the east of this disturbed area, a stiff yellowish-grey clay was encountered at 0.80m below the modern road surface and which dipped gradually eastwards. Above this, soils were clearly redeposited containing within it sherds of late Post-medieval date.

5.2.2 At the eastern end of Gaol Road, adjacent to the line of the Town Wall, which extended to the road on both sides as a bank, a short trench and a pit were excavated, revealing iron service pipes of recent origin within a trench that had been cut into the Town Bank. However, none of the stratigraphy of the bank was clearly visible when this section was cleaned.

5.2.3 Two pipe-bursting trenches examined at SO 2236096915 & SO 2238896920 revealed no archaeological features.

5.2.4 It was noted that the present road surface and its sub-base in the western third of the road is c. 1.00-1.50m higher than the ground on either side of the road indicating that along that length there was a levelling up at the time of its construction sometime after the construction of the gaol about 1830. This may possibly be due to the existence of marshy conditions in this area caused by the presence of the medieval Shitebrooke which may have followed this course (Britnell & Jones 1989).

5.3 Chirbury Road - Crosslanes

5.3.1 Eight pipe-bursting and access trenches were examined at points along the length of Chirbury Road. One of these, adjacent to The Bricklayer's Arms (SO 22459688), exposed, in a 3m long section, two successive horizontally aligned stone layers. The lower of the two formed a continuous layer 0.15m thick and rested at a depth of 0.85m on firm, greyish-yellow coloured clay, which was interpreted as the undisturbed natural subsoil. The upper stone surface, which was also 0.15m thick and was at a depth of 0.40m below the modern road surface, was separated from the lower one by a layer of mottled, fairly firm, grey clay 0.15m thick. Unlike the lower one, it was not continuous along the section. It was separated from the modern road base material by 0.25m of firm yellowish-grey clay. The upper stone layer could be interpreted as either a discontinuous road surface or as part of the hardcore for the present road. However, the lower one could be interpreted more certainly as an early road surface particularly as removal of some of the stone exposed further stone deeper within the section.

5.3.2 Three access pits examined further along Chirbury Road to the north-east at SO 22559694, SO 22519691 and SO 22459688 respectively, showed small stone in a clay matrix at a depth of 0.40m resting on what was interpreted as natural yellow-brown clay. Whereas this layer of stone could not be interpreted with any confidence as representing a metalled surface, it does coincide in its depth with the upper stone layer noted in Para. 5.3.1 above.

5.3.3 None of the access pits examined showed any indications of features which could be associated with the former Chirbury Gate.

5.3.4 Three access pits examined to the south-west of The Bricklayers Arms followed the line of a pre-existing pipe trench and, consequently, showed only recently redeposited soils.

- 5.3.5 34m of open trench was examined on the north side of Crosslanes. The western 5.0m adjoining Pool Road cut into a yellowish-grey, very firm clay identical to that exposed in the adjacent section of trench in Pool Road. To the east of this, the clay was truncated by a pipe trench aligned laterally across the trench on a SW-NE line. Beyond this, a stiff redeposited clay extended to the base of the trench. Sherds recovered from it indicated that it was of late Post-medieval date.
- 5.4 **Princes Street**
- 5.4.1 50m of open trench examined in Princes Street south of the Presbyterian Church exposed a stiff, buff-coloured clay. This appeared to be an undisturbed natural soil which yielded no artefacts.
- 5.4.2 Within a 15m long open trench cut into made-up ground at the junction of Princes Street and Chapel Place (centred at SO 22299671), a stone-lined culvert was exposed. Its base, resting on what appeared to be the natural clay, consisted of a stone slab 0.40 m wide and 0.05 thick which butted on each side against vertical sides of coursed stone c. 0.40m high and 0.30m wide. Both sides were capped by a single stone slab 0.15m thick. Internal dimensions were 0.40 x .40m. The culvert was aligned SSW-NNE. The material surrounding the culvert was a grey-brown, friable, gritty clayey silt containing stones, tile and brick fragments. No evidence was recovered that would have securely dated the culvert but it is conceivable from its alignment that this was the culverted phase of the Medieval Shitebrooke referred to in Para. 5.2.4 above.
- 5.5 **Arthur Street**
- 5.5.1 Open trenches examined in Arthur Street were all cut through redeposited material. For some of its length the trench followed the courses of existing pipe-trenches; elsewhere, finds recovered from the redeposited material consisted of brick fragments, sherds of late post-medieval date, iron fragments etc. Along a length of 6m centred at SO 22269666, a layer of quarried stone 0.30m thick underlay the modern tarmac and its sub-base. This appeared to be part of the levelling up of Arthur Street at this point. At the extreme southern end of Arthur Street, at a point opposite the northern corner of the Town Hall, what appeared to be undisturbed natural clay was visible at a depth of 0.70m below the modern road surface above which three layers of Post-medieval material extended to the modern road level. The clay layer extended northwards for a distance of 22m before disappearing below the base of the trench at 0.95m depth. Two metres to the north of this, at a depth of 0.25m above the trench base, flat stones c. 0.20m long formed a continuous layer which extended 20m to the north, again before vanishing below the base of the trench. It was not possible to test whether or not this layer continued to the north as pipelaying was in progress.
- 5.6 **Broad Street**
- 5.6.1 An 86m long open trench examined along the southern side of Broad Street generally revealed redeposited clays extending to the base of the trench. In places, these clays were quite clean and lacking in finds. Elsewhere, a small quantity of late Post-medieval pottery was recovered from the clay at depths close to the base of the trench. There was no visible stratigraphy that would have indicated phases of dumping and it seems most likely that the fill represents that backfilled into an earlier service trench excavated probably manually immediately to the north of the present trench. No features were noted which could have been associated with former civic buildings.
- 5.7 **Church Bank**
- 5.7.1 Open trenches were examined which extended eastwards and uphill from the junction of Church Bank with the southern end of Princes Street to the junction of Church Bank and Lions Bank. Soils exposed firm buff-yellow clay containing shaly stone fragments which were concentrated mainly towards the trench base. No stratigraphy was observed and it is quite probable that the soil was undisturbed natural.
- 5.8 **Lions Bank**
- 5.8.1 A 40m length of open trench examined revealed a stiff yellow-buff coloured clay extending the full depth of the trench. This lacked any stratigraphy and was interpreted as a natural soil, undisturbed apart from in the vicinity of earlier service trenches. It was also closely similar in colour and texture to that exposed in the Church Bank trench (Para. 5.7.1).
- 5.9 **Bishops Castle Street - Tan-y-Mur**
- 5.9.1 Approximately 50m of open trench was examined along the eastern side of Bishops Castle Street. Apart from in the vicinity of earlier service trenches, it was apparent that the modern road surface was laid directly on a yellowish-grey coloured, stiff, fairly shaly clay. No stratigraphy was visible and no features of archaeological interest were recorded. Further to the south, this clay dipped gradually

and was overlain by a darker coloured more friable clayey material which, in the vicinity of the junction of Bishops Castle Street and Tan-y-Mur, extended to the full depth of the trench. No features were observed and, in particular, there was no stratigraphic or structural evidence of the Town Bank at any point although the upper darker clay may represent the make-up of the bank. Soils representing ditch fills could have been anticipated immediately south of the line of the Town Bank but there were no hints of this. However, the alignment of the trench in this area, precluded, the possibility of defining with any certainty the line of the defences if, indeed, these would have been recognisable in view of the wear that must have occurred at this entrance to the town since late Medieval times.

5.10 Back Lane - Kerry Road

- 5.10.1 An open trench extending the entire length of Back Lane between its junctions with Kerry Street and Princes Street was examined. Soils below the modern road sub-base were generally grey or greyish brown coloured, friable and containing moderate quantities of non-structural stone in places. Finds recovered from this layer were late Post-medieval in date and brick, slate and tile fragments were frequent. This material overlay a shaly buff-coloured clay visible in places at the base of the trench in its eastern half but gradually rising in the western half. At the extreme western end of the trench, for a length of c. 2.0m, this apparently natural layer rose steeply at an angle of c. 45 degrees to the modern road sub-base.
- 5.10.2 At a point 17.70m from the eastern end of the trench (SO 2228596368), excavation revealed a stone-lined culvert crossing the trench tangentially on a SSE-NNW line. Although the stone constituting the culvert was somewhat displaced during excavation, sufficient remained *in situ* to show that structurally it was similar to the culvert exposed at the northern end of Princes Street (Para. 5.4.2 above), consisting of four courses of roughly dressed stone on each side supporting a stone slab 0.57m wide and 0.12m thick. Unlike the Princes Street culvert, however, there was no basal slab, the culvert resting on apparently undisturbed natural grey clay at a depth of 1.00m below the road surface. The culvert was set in made-up ground consisting of a friable, gritty buff-grey coloured material extending to a depth of 0.70m below the road surface below which was a stony layer from which Post-medieval sherds were recovered.
- 5.10.3 At SO 22251 96365, 50m from the eastern end of the trench, a distinct cobbled layer extended across the base of the trench. The stones, max. 0.10m diameter, were bedded in a very stiff blue-grey coloured stiff clay which itself lay on the natural yellow clay. To the east of this layer, a more discontinuous stone surface continued for a further 4.0m at a slightly lower level. To the west, the cobbled layer butted directly against yellow natural clay. After recording this feature, the stones were removed but no associated finds were recovered. Artefacts recovered from the soil above the cobbles were of a late Post-medieval date. It is significant that this cobbled layer lies adjacent to the evaluation trench excavated in 1996 which lay c. 4.0m to the north (Murphy 1996) and which yielded evidence for a phase of occupation in the late Medieval or early Post-medieval period.
- 5.10.4 Two short trenches examined at the junction of Back Lane with Kerry Road (SO 2221896358) exposed redeposited clays containing late Post-medieval material to a depth of 0.60m below the road surface. Below this a greyish brown clay loam 0.25m thick and which contained abundant woody rootlets and small fragments of tile and brick lay directly over a stiff yellow, shaly clay at a depth of 0.85m. This extended to the base of the trench and appeared to be natural. Further to the south, at a point adjacent to the entrance driveway to Plas Trefaldwyn, redeposited material of a similar type and extending to much the same depth was also exposed. It is, however of some significance that to the south-west and uphill of this point, the trench cut through stiff yellow clay at a higher level (c. 0.40m below the road surface and that trench sections examined further along Kerry Road to the south-west, where not disturbed by earlier service trenches, showed that the modern road sub-base rested more or less directly on apparently undisturbed yellow clay.
- 5.10.5 No trenches were excavated along the line of the Town Bank and Ditch at the point where it has been proposed that the Kerry Gate stood (O'Neill & Foster Smith 1940). Speed's map of 1610 in any case shows the Kerry Gate on a direct line with Kerry Street and would have stood at a point along the defences now in the grounds of Plas Trefaldwyn at approximately SO 222159633 and, therefore, would have been unaffected by the present pipeline excavations. Between the end of Kerry Street, and the entrance to Plas Trefaldwyn to the south, remnants of Medieval road levels could have been anticipated but none were, in fact found.

5.11 Kerry Street

5.11.1 Trench sections examined in Kerry Street generally revealed redeposited, very mixed material consisting of layers of clays and more friable, gritty loamy clays indicating that these were probably road make-up levels c. 0.80m overlying in places a firm yellow-buff coloured clay. At the northern end of the trench, there was much disturbance caused by several earlier service trenches crossing in all directions. At this end fairly large stones were uncovered but none of it could be interpreted as structural. In the same area there was a marked concentration of animal bone all of which was contained in redeposited material of late Post-medieval date. Kerry Street is known to have been cobbled during this era (Arthur Baldwin pers comm.) but no remnants of this were noted.

5.11 Cedewen Gate - Llandyssil Road

5.11.1 A 41m length of open trench was examined along the southern edge of Llandyssil Road, in the vicinity of the reported position of the former Cedewen Gate, where the road cuts through the Town Bank and Ditch, which is well preserved in this area particularly to the north of the road. To the west of this position, where the line of the trench was partly cut through the roadside verge, the exposed sections within the trench showed humic topsoil directly on bedrock. Where the line of the trench was adjacent to the Town Bank and Ditch, this was gradually replaced by a greyish-brown clayey loam resting on bedrock. This was thickest at a point directly opposite the apex of the adjacent Town Bank (0.80m). Thereafter, to the east of this point, this layer again gradually became thinner. No finds were recovered from this layer nor did it contain features which would have indicated whether or not it was material deposited there in the past, for instance, at the time when a road was regraded. In this respect it was noted by O'Neill & Foster Smith (1940) that the level of the road at that time was lower than the original level, this levelling down having occurred in recent times presumably to ease the gradient of the road. No remnant features of the Cedewen Gate were found unless the fact that the clayey loam layer was deepest opposite the Town Bank is, in some way, significant.

5.11.2 Open trench sections examined along Llandyssil Road to the south and east indicated that the modern road sub-base rested directly on natural layers, frequently directly on bedrock.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 A total of 1456m of open pipe trenches and 20 shorter access trenches were examined during the course of the Watching Brief. Of the longer pipe trenches, along several lengths the lines of former service trenches were followed, for example, in parts of Arthur Street, Kerry Street and to a large extent also in Broad Street. However, most trenches were cut into 'new' ground within which *in situ* significant archaeological features could be anticipated.

6.2 The problem of distinguishing between 'natural' clay and redeposited clay has been briefly mentioned (Para. 5.1.5). A general observation made during the course of the Watching Brief was that clays encountered below roads on the slopes of Town Hill Llandyssil Road and along the eastern ridge (Church Bank, Lions Bank, School Bank) which were most likely to be undisturbed were consistently stiffer than clay layers which, although of the same colour were, from their contexts, clearly redeposited. This was of importance in the interpretation of clays encountered within trenches where made-up ground, for instance, rested directly on a clay soil at the base of a trench and where, as seen in section, clay rises from the base of a trench. Taken as a whole, this horizon gives some general indication of sub-surface makeup levels. In places, such as parts of Arthur Street, Back Lane, Kerry Street and the northern half of Pool Road, this has been substantial. In the case of the latter, this might have been a single phase event possibly carried out during the period of road improvement and turnpike building during the later 18th century (Britnell & Jones 1985). This may also have been true elsewhere but it is difficult to establish this.

6.3 It has been previously noted (Para. 3.4) that the street plan depicted on Speed's map of 1610, which is the earliest known map of Montgomery, forms the basis of the modern layout of streets and boundaries and it was anticipated that Medieval levels would be exposed during the course of excavation. However, at no point were securely datable features or stratigraphic horizons of Medieval origin uncovered. The cobbled surface uncovered in Back Lane, however, was adjacent to an area immediately to the north and at approximately the same level, where an occupation phase dating to the late Medieval/early Post-medieval period was uncovered (*op cit*) and, therefore, is likely to date to the same period. Elsewhere, it is possible that continuous stone layers in Chirbury

Road (Pars.5.3.1, 5.3.2) and in Arthur Street (Par 5.5.1) both of which rested on apparently natural clay and which were interpreted as road surfaces may also be early.

- 6.4 Two stone culverts were uncovered which were basically similar in design and were contained in soils containing Post-medieval material although this in itself does not firmly date them. The example below Princes Street may represent the culverting phase of the Medieval Shitebrooke but it is unlikely, being on opposing slopes, that both of them mark the course of the brook.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 CPAT wishes to thank the plant operators of A. Hak Ltd for their friendly co-operation and help during the course of the Watching Brief. Particular thanks also to Mr Arthur Baldwin and Dr Whelton of the Montgomery Civic Society for their freely-given help and advice.

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APPENDIX 1

WATER MAINS RENEWAL: MONTGOMERY TOWN CENTRE

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

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The proposed development at Montgomery involves the renewal of water mains within the town and the excavation of mains rehabilitation trenches.
- 1.2 This area lies within the historic town of Montgomery (SO2296) founded in the early thirteenth century and which largely maintains its Medieval layout.
- 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. Accordingly a brief has been prepared by CPAT Curatorial (No. WAT204 dated 28th January 1997) 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 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 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 It is anticipated that the report would be prepared immediately after the completion of the watching brief, 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 and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

A.M. Gibson
17th February 1997

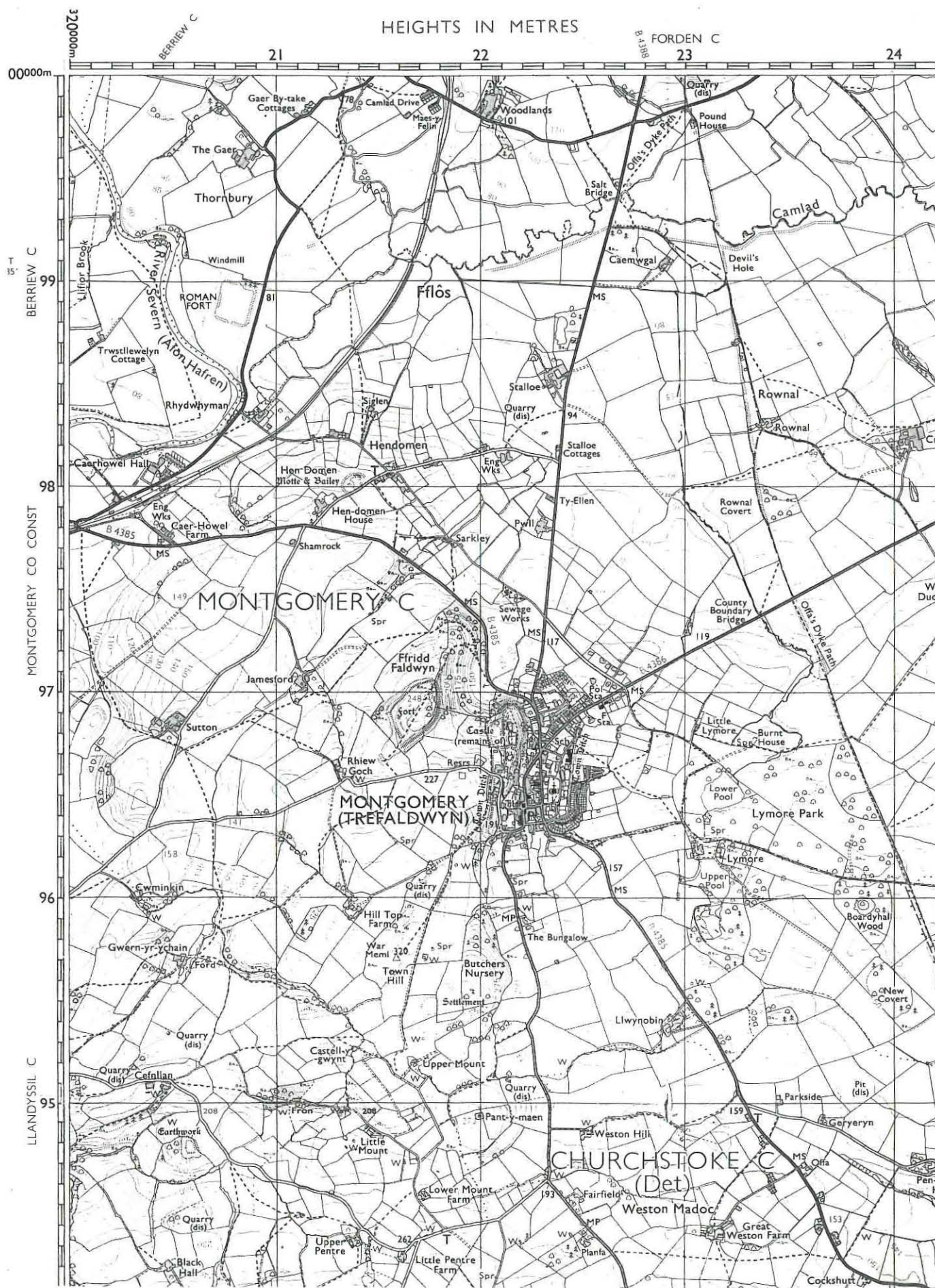


Fig 1: Location: Scale 1: 25000

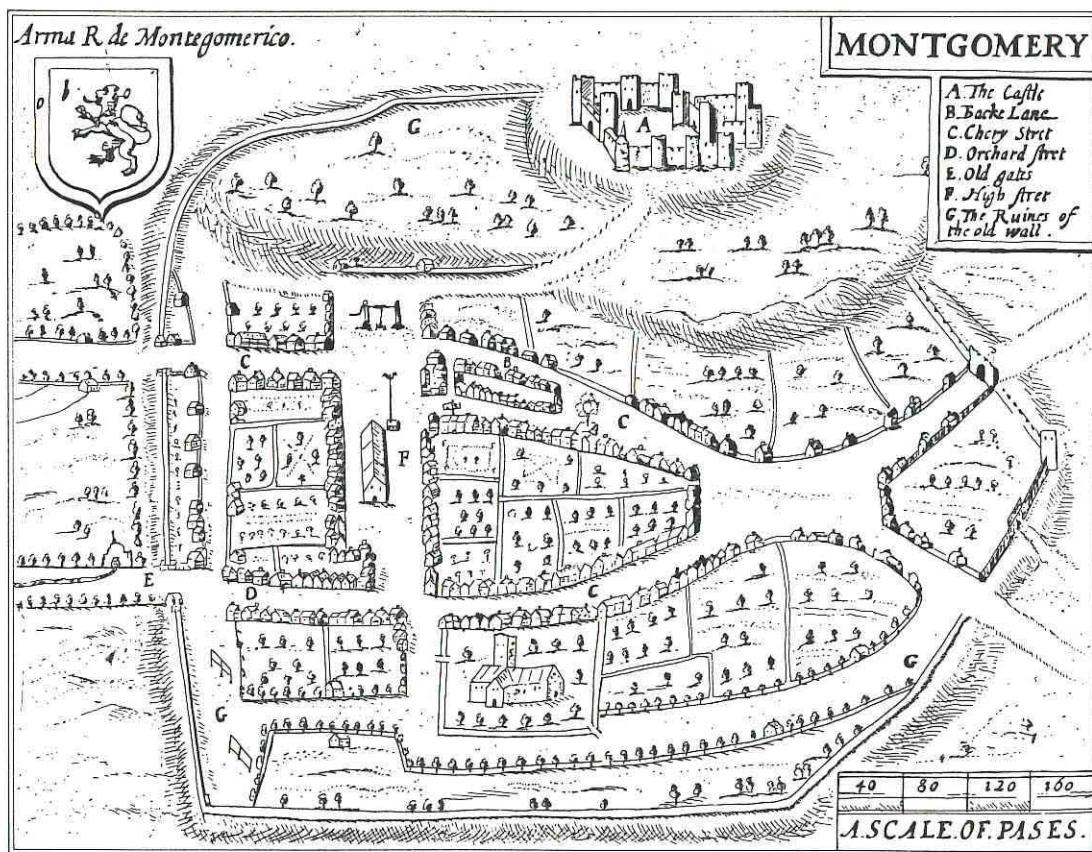


Fig 3: Speed's Map of Montgomery 1610