

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

*Land Adjacent to Wynnstay Arms,
Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant, Powys*
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CPAT Report No 411

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***Land Adjacent to Wynnstay Arms,
Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant, Powys***
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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Report for Mr and Mrs Vaughan




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CPAT Report Record

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The development involves the construction of a terrace of four dwellings at Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant, Powys (Planning Application M97637). The Curatorial section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, acting in their role as archaeological advisors to the local authority, have determined that a watching brief should be carried out during groundworks and a condition to that effect was included in the planning permission by the local authority. A Curatorial Brief was not requested by the developer and the foundation trenches were excavated without archaeological supervision. The Contracting Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust was contacted on 25th January 2001 to undertake a watching brief on the already excavated trenches.

2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The development occupies land adjacent to the Wynnstay Arms (Fig. 1) close to the centre of Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant (SJ 12441 26032). Topographically, the development and the area surrounding it overlooks gently sloping ground above the Tanat floodplain to the south and south-east. The underlying geology consists of drift derived from Ordovician mudstone and siltstone of the Caradoc Series supporting silty and clayey soils of the Cegin Association (Rudeforth *et al.* 1984)

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site lies within the historic core of the village, as defined by the Montgomeryshire Historic Settlements Survey (Silvester 1992, 110-111), and it was therefore considered possible that buried archaeological deposits might survive which could relate to the earlier history of the settlement.
- 3.2 Small buildings, possibly outhouses, are shown on the Park Street frontage within the area of the development plot on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25" map (surveyed 1884-87). Further buildings are shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 edition of 1973, but these were demolished at some time before the present development.

4 WATCHING BRIEF (Fig. 2)

- 4.1 The archaeological watching brief was carried out on January 26th 2001 following the earlier mechanical excavation of the foundation trenches. Exposed sections were cleaned and investigated for significant archaeological deposits. A full written, drawn and photographic record was maintained throughout.
- 4.2 The excavated foundation trenches were 0.7m wide and varied in depth between 0.6m and 0.9m. There was little if any of the turf/topsoil layer visible on the surface, the upper stratigraphic layer consisting generally of a loose, granular, dark-coloured layer which varied in thickness from c. 0.2m on the northern side of the plot and which increased gradually in thickness to the full depth of the trench along the southern side. This layer contained much household ash and included late 19th- and early 20th-century pottery together with later material such as modern brick and iron fragments, none of which was retained. This overlay a dark greyish brown, compact clayey silt soil which was interpreted as the natural undisturbed subsoil. Along the northern side of the plot, this had been cut to a depth of up to 0.60m by the excavation of the foundations but along the southern side, it was visible only at base of the foundation trench, thus indicating the original north-south slope of the ground. This soil contained no artefacts and no features of archaeological interest were identified.
- 4.3 Demolition rubble was noted on the surface of the development area and in the spoil excavated from the foundation trenches.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The watching brief revealed no features of archaeological significance within the foundation trenches.
- 5.2 Artefactual evidence from the uppermost stratigraphic layer suggests that the area has in the past been used as an unofficial rubbish tip and that the area was open ground for some time prior to the present development.
- 5.3 No evidence was revealed for the former buildings known to occupy the site, although it is possible that some of the demolition rubble may have been derived from these structures.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1 Thanks are due to Mr and Mrs Vaughan for their co-operation and assistance.

7 REFERENCES

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.

Silvester, R J, 1992. *Montgomeryshire Historic Settlements Survey*, CPAT Report No. 40.

APPENDIX 1

SPECIFICATION

DEVELOPMENT OF LAND ADJACENT TO THE WYNNSTAY ARMS, LLANRHAEADR YM MOCHNANT, POWYS SPECIFICATION FOR A CONTRACTED ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF BY THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The proposed development involves the construction of a terrace of four dwellings at Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant, Powys (Planning Application M97637). The Curatorial section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, acting in their role as archaeological advisors to the local authority, have determined that a watching brief should be carried out during the initial stages of topsoiling, construction and service trench excavation. A Curatorial Brief was not requested by the developer and the foundation trenches were excavated without archaeological supervision. The Contracting Section of the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust were contacted on 25th January 2001 to undertake a watching brief and this document forms the specification for those works. The Curator has been informed of the situation and a copy of the specification provided.
- 1.2 The development lies within the historic core of the village, as defined by the Montgomeryshire Historic Settlements Survey (Silvester 1992, 110-111).

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 undertaken to an investigation of those foundation trenches already excavated, together with any subsequent groundworks which may impact upon potential buried archaeological deposits.
- 3.2 Limited excavation of all significant contexts will be undertaken where possible following negotiations with the developer. All significant archaeological deposits and/or features noted during the watching brief will be recorded by drawn plan/section and photography. All features will be tied in locationally to the Ordnance Survey as accurately as possible.
- 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. Further publication of the results in an appropriate regional or national journal will be undertaken at a later date and as considered appropriate depending on the nature of the findings.
- 3.5 The site archive will be prepared to specifications laid out in Appendix 3 in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991). Following agreement with the landowner, arrangements will be made for the long term conservation and storage of all artefacts in an appropriate repository.

4 Resources and Programming

- 4.1 The watching brief will be undertaken by a skilled and experienced archaeologist. Overall supervision will be by Mr R.J.Silvester, 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 or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist who conducted the watching brief.
- 4.3 The duration of the watching brief will depend entirely on the developers programme of work. The subsequent report will be prepared immediately following completion of on-site recording, 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.

References

Silvester, R J, 1992. *Montgomeryshire Historic Settlements Survey*, CPAT Report No. 40.

N.W.Jones
Projects Officer
25th January 2001



Fig. 1 Development location, scale 1:500

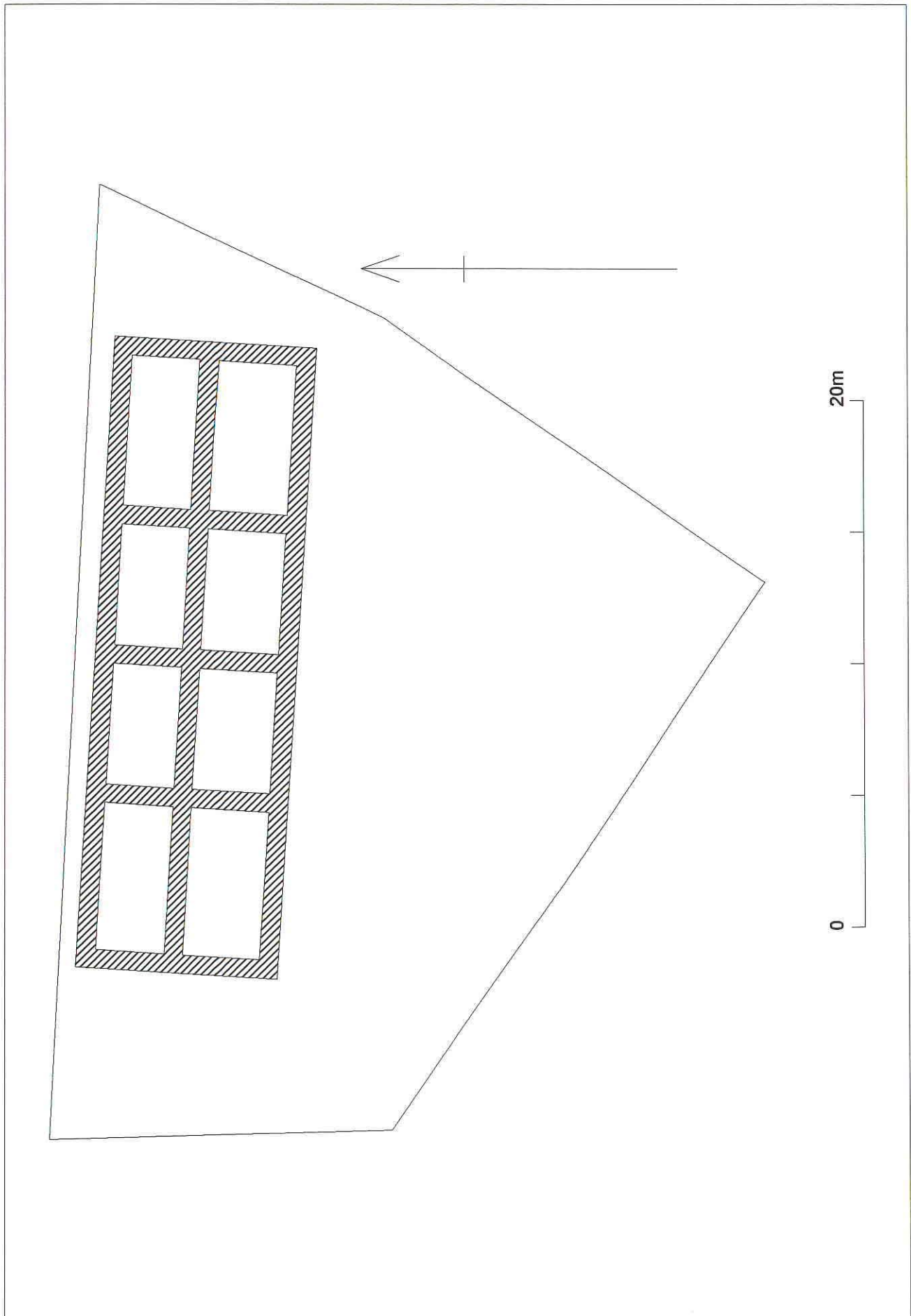


Fig. 2 Plan of Foundation Trenches, scale 1:200