

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

**New McDonalds Restaurant, Lloc,
Flintshire**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CPAT Report No 415

**New McDonalds Restaurant, Lloc,
Flintshire**
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

W G Owen
March 2001

Report for AEW Architects


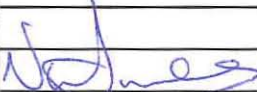

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CPAT Report Record

Report and status

CPAT Report Title	New McDonalds Restaurant, Lloc, Flintshire: Archaeological Watching Brief		
CPAT Project Name	McDonalds, Lloc		
CPAT Project No	916	CPAT Report No	415
Confidential (yes/no)	No	draft/final	Final

Internal control

	name	signature	date
prepared by	W G Owen		09/03/01
checked by	N W Jones		09/03/01
approved by	R.J. Silvester		09/03/01

Revisions

no	date	made by	checked by	approved by

Internal memo

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The development involved the construction of a new McDonalds Restaurant at 'The Singing Kettle', Lloc, Flintshire. The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, acting in their role as archaeological advisors to the local authority, had determined that an archaeological watching brief should be carried out during the initial stages of demolition, top soiling, construction and service trench excavation. Accordingly, a brief (CWAT 405, dated 8th November 2000) was prepared describing the scheme of works required.
- 1.2 Information held on the Regional Sites and Monuments Record indicated that the development lies adjacent to, or directly over, the presumed site of a Roman road alignment, orientated east-west and believed to underlie the existing A5026 (PRN 17587 - Llwybr Hir Roman Road). In addition, there are five known round barrows dating to the Bronze Age within a kilometre radius of the development site as well as the line of Offa's Dyke which lies to the east and is visible as an earthwork at SJ 13157680 and SJ 15107545.

2 LOCATION and TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1 The development lies 2.3km west of Gorsedd, on the north-east side of the A55/A5026 junction (Fig. 1; SJ 12777586). The site was formerly occupied by the 'Singing Kettle', which was demolished prior to the watching brief commencing.
- 2.2 The topography of the area is of a gently undulating landscape. Geologically, the site lies on glacial drift overlying Palaeozoic limestone. The soils on the site consist of up to 0.40m of a brown, friable, slightly stony humic loam overlying a reddish-brown, compact silty clay.

3 WATCHING BRIEF (Fig. 2)

- 3.1 The watching brief was undertaken as required between 15 December 2000 and 14 February 2001. A full written and photographic record was maintained throughout.
- 3.2 The topsoil was mechanically stripped from an area of approximately 2000m² to a maximum depth of 0.50m, mainly to the north of the new restaurant itself. This revealed the reddish-brown subsoil which was undisturbed apart from isolated areas relating to the demolished building. The concrete surface of the former carpark to the east and north-east of the restaurant area was retained. No features of archaeological significance were exposed.
- 3.3 The new restaurant was constructed on piled foundations rather than in excavated trenches, giving no opportunity for archaeological investigation. The mechanical excavation of service trenches to a depth of up to 1.1m revealed no features or deposits of archaeological significance.
- 3.4 A number of artefacts were revealed during the watching brief, consisting of modern brick and tile fragments, drainage pipe fragments and a small quantity of modern pottery sherds which were not retained.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The watching brief revealed no evidence for the postulated Roman road, and no features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified.

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 5.1 Thanks are due to Mr Jason Gilhooley, Contracts Manager and the individual machine operators of Caffro Construction for their kind co-operation and help during the course of the watching brief.

APPENDIX 1: SPECIFICATION

PROPOSED NEW McDONALD'S RESTAURANT AT 'THE SINGING KETTLE', A5026/A55, LLOC, FLINTSHIRE 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 new McDonalds Restaurant on land adjacent to The Singing Kettle near Lloc, Flintshire (SJ 12777586). 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. Accordingly, a Brief (CWAT 405, dated 08/10/00) has been prepared detailing the scheme of works required.
- 1.2 Information held on the County Sites and Monuments Record indicates that the development may impact upon buried archaeological deposits associated with a Roman road (PRN 17587)

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 include the initial topsoil stripping, foundation trench excavation, service trench excavation and the construction of a new access.
- 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 in 35mm format colour slide, colour print and black and white print. 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 according to the principles detailed in Section 8 of the Brief. 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. A short summary will be prepared for *Archaeology in Wales* and further publication of the results may be considered in an appropriate regional or national journal at a later date, as 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.

N.W.Jones
Projects Officer
10th November 2000

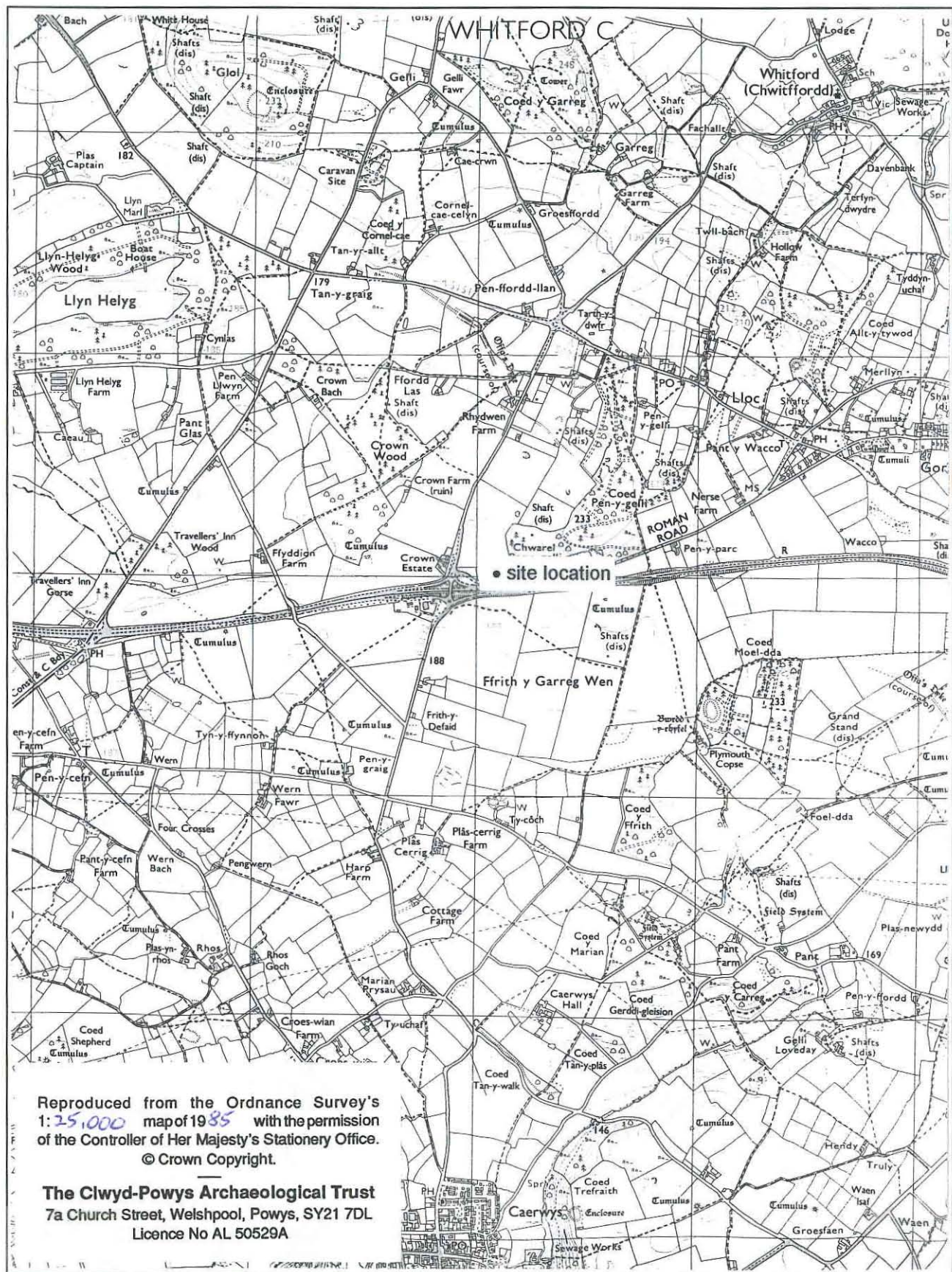


Fig. 1 Site location. Scale 1:2,500

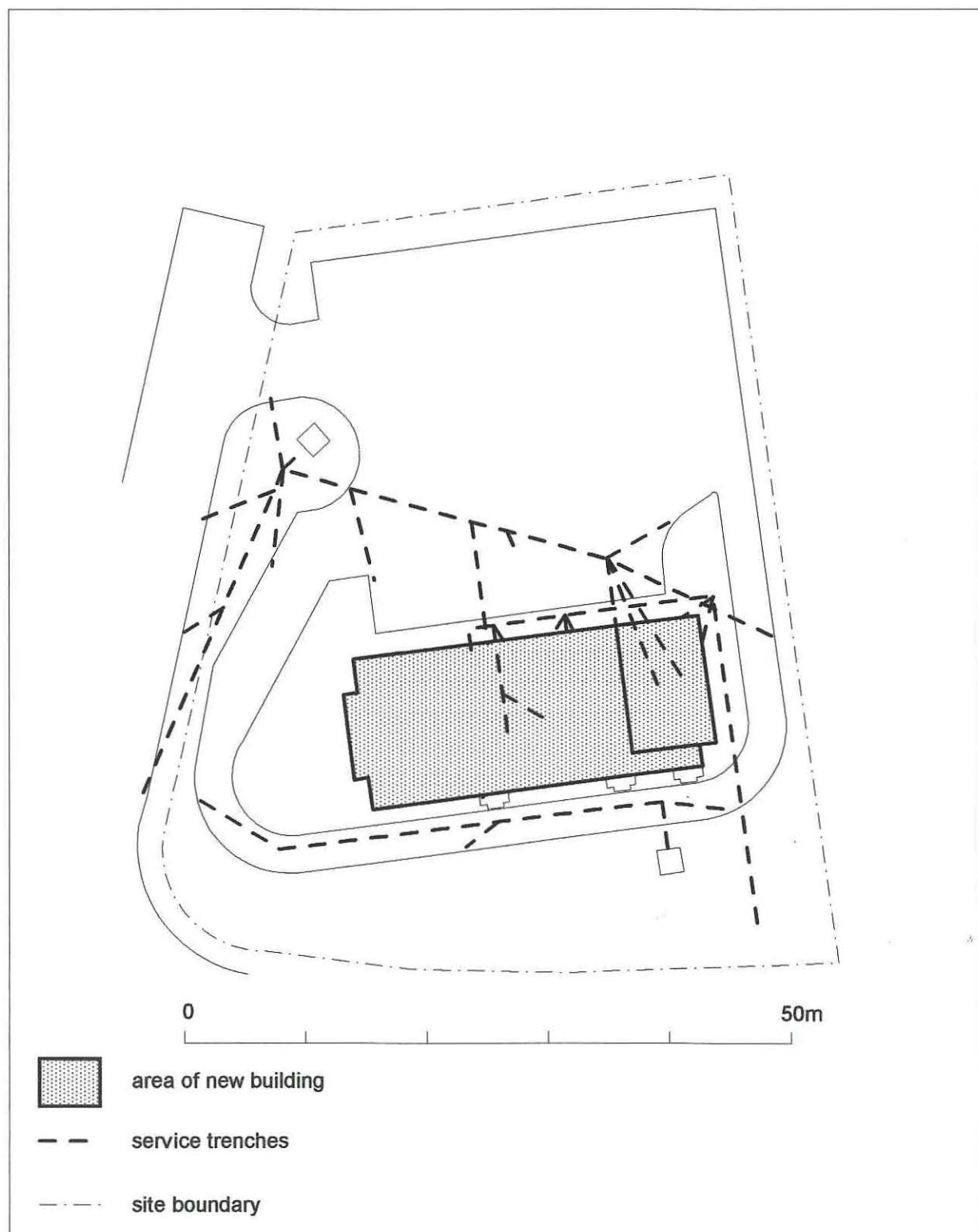


Fig. 2 Plan of foundations and services, scale 1:500