

CPAT Report No 447

**Replacement Electricity Pole,
New Radnor, Powys**
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

W G Owen
November 2001

Report for South Wales Electricity

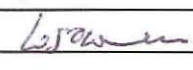
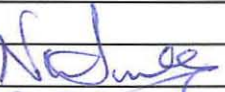
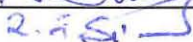
The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust
7a Church Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7DL
tel (01938) 553670, fax (01938) 552179
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CPAT Report Record

Report and status

CPAT Report Title	Replacement Electricity Pole, New Radnor, Powys: Archaeological Watching Brief		
CPAT Project Name	New Radnor Town Defences		
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Internal control

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prepared by	W G Owen		26/11/01
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approved by	R.J. Silvester		26/11/01

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The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

7a Church Street Welshpool Powys SY21 7DL

tel (01938) 553670, fax 552179

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2001 the Contracts Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was invited by Mark Turrell, South Wales Electricity, to prepare a specification and quotation for undertaking an archaeological watching brief during the erection of a new electricity pole in New Radnor, Powys. The site lies within the Scheduled Area of New Radnor town defences (SAM Rd 154) and is situated towards the south-west corner of the defensive circuit (SO 21166074; fig. 1). The quotation was duly accepted and the watching brief was carried out in October 2001.

2 WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.1 The watching brief was undertaken on 23 October 2001 during the excavation of a pit to erect a replacement pole. A drawn, written and photographic record was maintained throughout, although lighting conditions and the size of the excavated pit prevented detailed photography. The site archive has been deposited with the Regional Sites and Monuments Record, CPAT, Welshpool.
- 2.2 A pit measuring 0.7 x 0.8m was mechanically excavated to a depth of 1.5m under close archaeological supervision (fig. 2). Inspection of the exposed sections revealed a layer of topsoil (1) 0.15m thick, overlying a layer of small micaceous sandstone fragments within a dark brown loamy matrix (2) up to 0.65m thick. Beneath this layer was a firm yellow clay (3) which formed the undisturbed natural subsoil. The pit was located along a former boundary surviving as a slight bank 0.25m high and it would appear that the stony layer which was revealed represented the remains of either a wall or an earth and stone bank. No artefacts were recovered.

3 CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 The results from the watching brief revealed a stony layer beneath the turf which would appear to be the remains of a former boundary of likely post-medieval origin. There was no evidence for any earlier activity.

4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 4.1 The writer would like to thank Mark Turrell for his assistance during the project.

APPENDIX 1

REPLACEMENT OF ELECTRICITY POLE, NEW RADNOR TOWN DEFENCES SPECIFICATION FOR A CONTRACTED ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF BY THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The proposed development involves the replacement of an existing electricity pole which lies within the area of New Radnor Town Defences, which has been designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument by the National Assembly for Wales. As a condition of Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent (SMC), Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments have decided that an archaeological watching brief is required during groundworks.

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, should this be required.

3 Methods

- 3.1 The watching brief will be undertaken to include the excavation of trial pits.
- 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 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 if required as a condition of SMC. 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. Cadw 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
15th February 2001

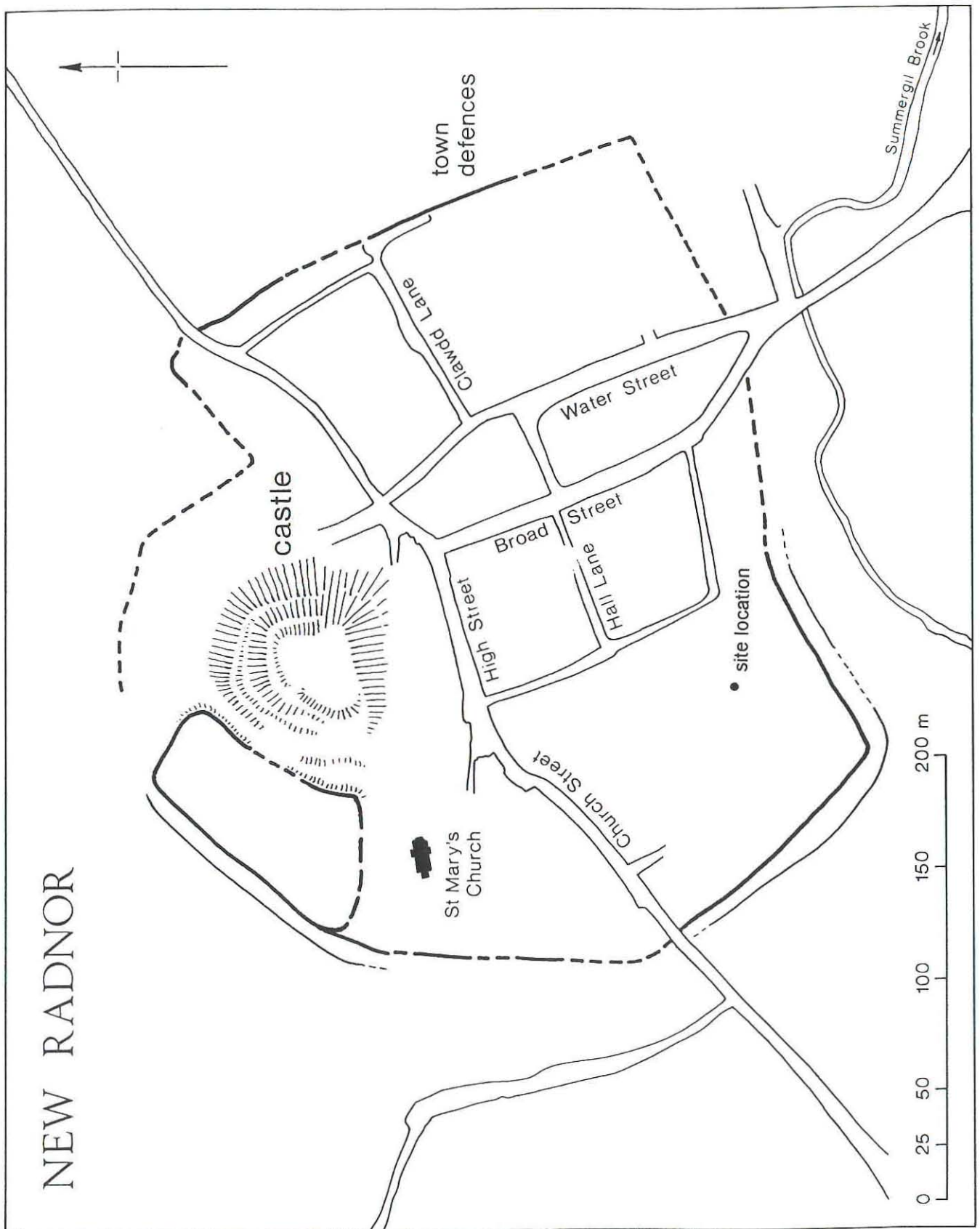


Fig. 1 Location, 1:2,500

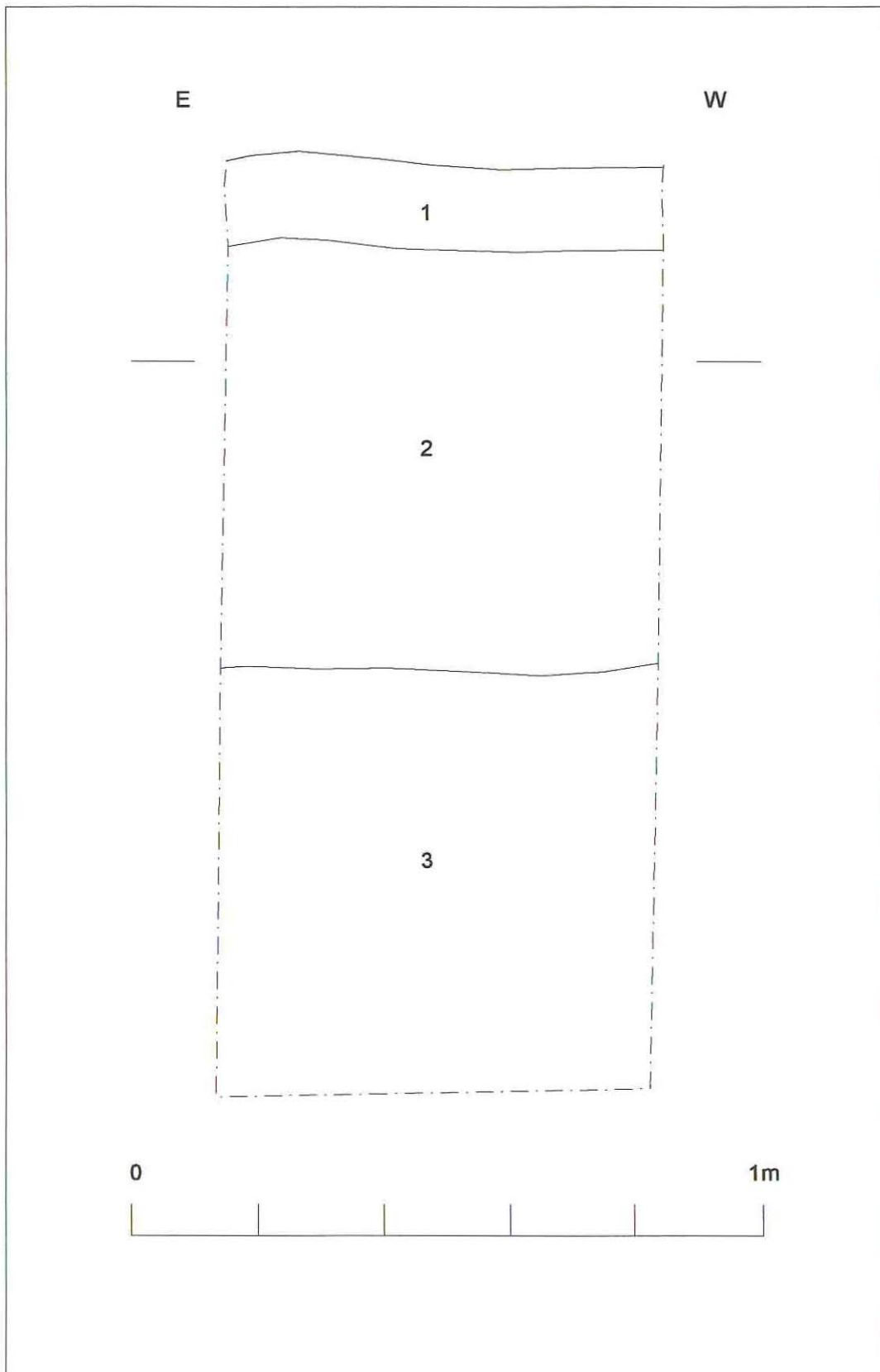


Fig. 2 Pit section, scale 1:10