

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

26 New Roskell Square, Flint

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



CPAT Report No 818

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

F Grant
September 2006

Report for Mr. M.Tinsley

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CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	2
2	LOCATION AND GEOLOGY	2
3	WATCHING BRIEF	2
4	CONCLUSIONS	3

APPENDIX 1 SITE ARCHIVE

APPENDIX 2 SPECIFICATION

FIGURES

Fig. 1 Location of site
Fig. 2 Watching brief plan and section, scale 1:50

PLATES

Plate 1 Trenches during excavation from the north-east
Plate 2 Cut 04 north-west facing section

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2006 the Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was invited by Mr M Tinsley to prepare a specification and quotation for undertaking an archaeological watching brief on a site at 26 New Roskell Square, in Flint, in connection with the construction of a new extension to the existing house. The watching brief was the subject of a brief drawn up by Mr M J Walters of the Curatorial Section of CPAT, acting in his capacity as archaeological advisor to the local planning authority, who had determined that an archaeological watching brief should be undertaken
- 1.2 The site lies within the historic core of Flint, and it was therefore anticipated that significant buried archaeological deposits, relating to the medieval street frontage plots, might survive in the area of the proposed development.

2 LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The town of Flint lies close to the foreshore of the Dee estuary. It was founded by Edward I for English settlers at the same time as the castle, towards the end of the 13th century.
- 2.2 Geologically, Flint lies on Westphalian 'Coal Measures' sedimentary rocks (1994 British Geological Survey map). Reddish till underlies the stagnogley soils, with marine alluvium below the calcareous alluvial gleys associated with the River Dee, (1983 Soil Survey of England and Wales map).

3 WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.1 The watching brief was undertaken on 25 September 2006 during the mechanical and hand excavation of foundation trenches for the extension. A full drawn, written and photographic record was maintained throughout. Numbers in brackets in the following text refer to individual records in the site archive.
- 3.2 The excavation consisted of a *c.* 0.60m-wide continuous trench excavated to a depth of 1m, which formed three sides of a square with the existing house wall forming the south-western side. Mechanical excavation was impeded by the presence of two eight inch diameter ceramic drains and a copper pipe, which necessitated hand excavation of these areas (fig. 1). The underlying natural subsoil (05) was revealed in the eastern area of the excavation only, at a depth of 0.60m below the current ground surface. It comprised bands of yellow and orange sand with small (less than 50mm) pieces of crushed sandstone or concreted sand nodules revealed at depth (base of trench).
- 3.3 It became apparent during the excavation that the area immediately to the rear of the current building (and continuing beneath it and beyond the excavation area) consisted of a natural hollow or alternatively a large cut feature (04) of unknown date and function. The earliest fill revealed by the foundation trenches was a greyish-brown clay (03), becoming greenish in places, with frequent black (charcoal) flecking. This material had a minimum thickness of 0.10m, but produced no artefactual evidence, although a large mammal bone (possibly cow) was noted in the base of the trench. Some waterlogging was apparent in the north-west, but this may have originated from a leaking drain in this area. The material was overlain by a very mixed deposit (02) consisting of a firm, almost concreted, dark grey sandy clay containing numerous inclusions of fragmented brick, mortar and coal giving it a mottled appearance of orange, white and black. Interleaved with this material were bands of firm brownish clay flecked with cinder, and a looser dark greyish-brown sandy clay with frequent cinder and 19th-century ceramic fragments which were not retained. The drains and pipe had been inserted into this material. The overlying topsoil (01) was much disturbed, but consisted of a dark greyish

black sandy clay with numerous brick and concrete fragments, coal and cinder inclusions and other modern debris.

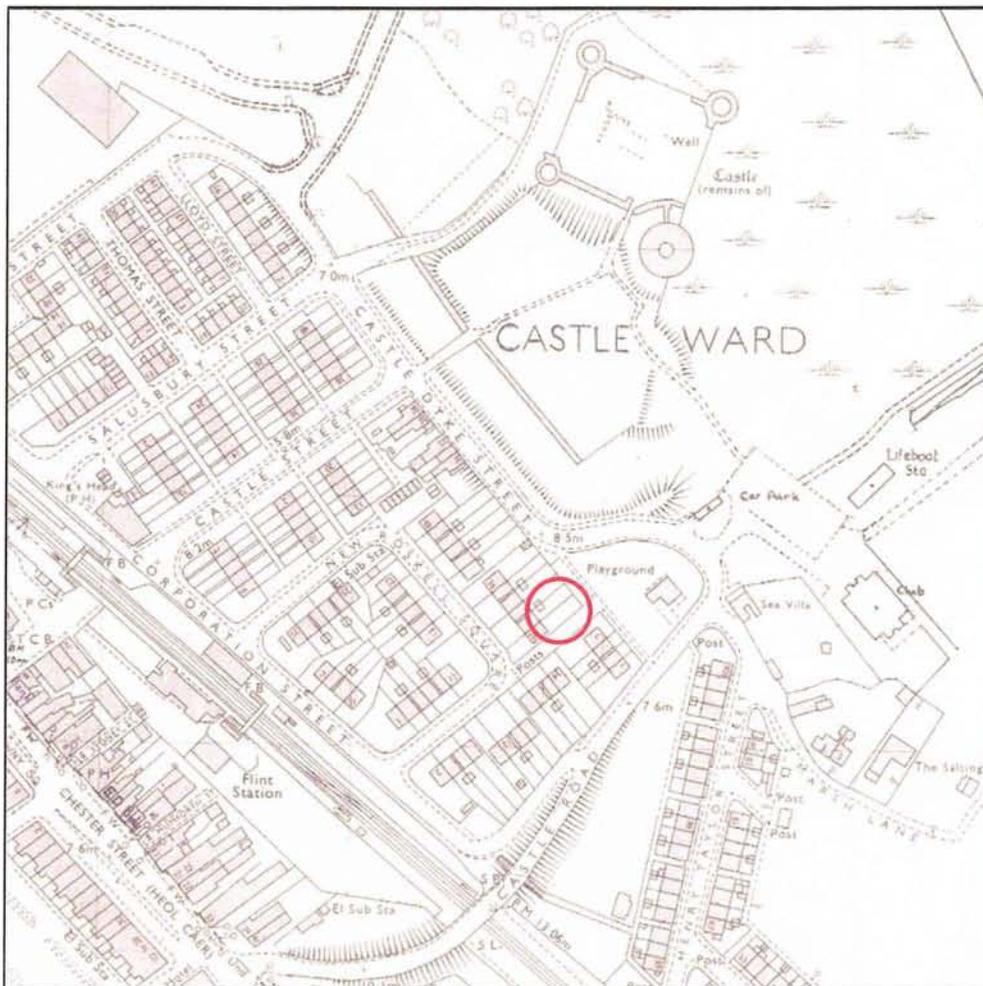
4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The excavation revealed the presence of a large cut feature or hollow area to the rear of, and probably underlying the present house at 26 New Roskell Square. The nature of this feature could not be ascertained during the course of the work, but it possibly represents a natural estuarine channel or pool which has gradually infilled and then been deliberately filled and levelled during the 19th-century, or alternatively a feature related to the medieval activity associated with the castle. However, early map evidence does not appear to record any features of this type, and it may therefore relate to later post-medieval development of the area. The deposits which will be affected during the development produced only 19th-century ceramic evidence, and any potential earlier deposits should remain intact.

Cartographic sources

1983 Soil Survey of England and Wales map (Sheet 2 - Wales) and Legend (1:250,000 scale).

1994 British Geological Survey map of Wales (Solid edition at 1:250,000 scale).



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1: 2500 map of 1938 with the permission
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Plate 1 Location of Site



Plate 1 Trenches during excavation from north-east



Plate 2 Cut (04) north-west facing section

APPENDIX 1

PROJECT ARCHIVE

5 context record forms
1 A3 site plans
4 Digital images
Photographic catalogue
Context Register

APPENDIX 2

SPECIFICATION

PROPOSED EXTENSION TO 26 ROSKELL SQUARE, FLINT SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF BY THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) have been invited to prepare a specification for undertaking a watching brief during the construction of a new extension to 26 New Roskell Square, Flint. The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust, acting as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, have determined that the watching brief should be undertaken to ensure the preservation by record of any archaeological remains revealed during the construction works and a brief has been prepared detailing the scheme of works required (EVB 637).
- 1.2 The development lies within the historic core of Flint, to the south of the medieval masonry castle. The site lies to the rear of a medieval street frontage and it is anticipated that medieval deposits may be encountered.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives are:
 - 2.1.1 to record any archaeological features identified during the archaeological monitoring of groundworks to ensure their preservation by record;
 - 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 archaeological supervision of all relevant groundworks and appropriate archaeological excavation and recording of any significant features or deposits which may be revealed.
- 3.2 All archaeological deposits and/or features noted during the watching brief will be recorded and, where appropriate, excavated by hand and recorded by drawn section/plan and/or photography. All photography will be in 35mm format black and white negative and colour slide. All features identified will be tied in locationally to points which are identifiable on modern Ordnance Survey mapping.
- 3.3 The on-site contractors are required to allow sufficient opportunity for appropriate archaeological excavation and recording to be undertaken. Every effort will be made to minimise any disruption to the overall scheme of works.
- 3.4 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared. This will be in A4 format and contain, as necessary, conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Historic Background; Watching Brief; Conclusions and References, together with any 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 an experienced field archaeologist and overall supervision will be by Mr RJ Silvester, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The duration of the watching brief will be entirely determined by the contractor's programme of work.
- 4.2 All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist who conducted the fieldwork.
- 4.3 Copies of the report will be deposited with the client within one month of the completion of on-site works. If appropriate, a short report will be published in *Archaeology in Wales*.
- 4.4 In line with section 11 of the brief allowance has been made for the following contingencies:
- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 radiocarbon date | £250 |
| 1 archaeomagnetic date | £250 |
| finds reporting and analysis | no extra charge |
| archive reporting and deposition | no extra charge |
| publication | no extra charge |
- 4.5 Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 4.6 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance.

N.W. Jones
10 August 2006