

CPAT Report No 1005

The Haim, near Llandrinio, Powys

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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Report for The Environment Agency

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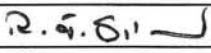
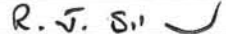
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2009 the Contracts and Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was invited by The Environment Agency to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of test pits relating to proposed works on a flood defence bank at the confluence of the Rivers Severn and Vyrnwy at Haim, near Llandrinio (SJ 32681607).
- 1.2 The existing flood defence bank (PRN 17915)¹ had become ineffective owing to the leakage of groundwater beneath it and it was proposed that its route be modified by the construction of a new section of bank to avoid the area of porous soils. Two other archaeological sites, Cymerau Bridge (PRN 5204) and the site of Cymerau Inn (PRN 17914) are recorded in the Historic Environment Record (HER) for the locality.

2 LOCATION

- 2.1 The site was situated at the confluence of the Severn and Vyrnwy rivers, the nearest settlement being the village of Crew Green on the opposite side of the River Severn, less than 0.5km distant (Fig. 1; SJ 32671606). It lies on the flood plain of the rivers at an elevation of 60m OD.



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Fig. 1 Watching brief location.

- 4.2 While the pits were being excavated a careful watch was kept on the deposits to determine whether any archaeological material was revealed. The only evidence of activity related to previous drainage works and comprised two lines of land drain. That in the test pit at SJ 32524 16148 was not examined as the excavation was moved to avoid disrupting its function, and only a line of gravel fill was observed at 0.5m below the ground surface. At SJ 32711 16070, however, the drain itself was observed at a depth of 0.9m, having a north-north-east/south-south-west alignment and comprising sectional ceramic pipes measuring 0.3m long and 0.08m in diameter. It is likely to be of 19th or early 20th-century origin.



Plate 1 Sectional ceramic drainage pipes in the test pit at SJ 3271116070

- 4.3 The soils exposed below the topsoil were grey-brown silty clays, the only anomalies being observed in the test pit at SJ 3252616150, where blue clay was present below about 3m in depth, and in the pit at SJ 3263716075, where a dark brown silty sand was revealed at about 4.0m deep.
- 4.4 No other significant information was gained during the watching brief and it can be confirmed that neither of the archaeological monuments recorded in the locality was affected.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The watching brief revealed little significant information on the archaeology of the area, the only evidence relating to two land drain alignments of 19th or early 20th-century date.
- 5.2 The flood defence bank was not subject to any excavations during this programme of work. No evidence of the other two recorded archaeological sites in the area, Cymerau Inn and Cymerau Bridge, was forthcoming from the test pit excavations, although it is possible that sub-surface remains of both may survive in close proximity to the flood defence bank.
- 5.3 It is not known at present what form the proposed remedial works on the flood defence bank may take, and the possibility that either of the two recorded archaeological sites in this area could be affected by earthmoving work during the construction of any new bank or structures and the possible removal of old sections of bank should be considered at an appropriate time in the planning of any further stages of the work. It should also be borne in mind that the existing flood defence bank is an archaeological site in its own right and further work on it might be contemplated in advance of its removal or alteration.

End Note

¹ PRN stands for Primary Record Number, a unique identifier within the Regional Historic Environment Record held by CPAT in Welshpool

APPENDIX 1

Test pit locations

TP201 SJ 32708 16119
TP202 SJ 32637 16075
TP203 SJ 32711 16070
TP204 SJ 32664 16040
TP205 SJ 32711 15982
TP206 SJ 32524 16148
TP207 SJ 32744 16190