

CPAT Report No 1043

Bailey Hill, Mold, Flintshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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Report for Mold and District Civic Society

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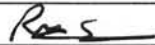
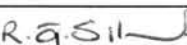
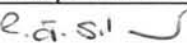
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CPAT Report Record

Report and status

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1 INTRODUCTION

In December 2009 the Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (henceforward CPAT) was asked by Mr A Cattermoul of Mold and District Civic Society to provide a specification and quotation for an archaeological watching brief at Bailey Castle, Mold. The work was required by Cadw as part of their grant of scheduled monument consent (SMC) for the erection of a number of way marker posts within the scheduled area (SAM No FL014) of the motte and bailey castle.

The CPAT quotation was accepted by the Civic Society in February 2010 and the watching brief carried out on 27th April 2010, when all the holes for the way marker posts were excavated.

2 WATCHING BRIEF

The holes were dug with a mechanical auger (see Plate 1) to minimise the amount of ground disturbance and facilitate the secure placement of the posts, the auger holes being approximately 0.3m in diameter. A total of eight holes (Nos 1-8) were excavated for the posts, each to a depth of approximately 0.4m, while two deeper post-holes (Nos 9A and 9B) were excavated at the south-east entrance to Bailey Hill for a sign board, both to an approximate depth of 0.7m. Information specific to each hole, such as depth and location, is given in Table 1, below.



Plate 1: The augering of post-hole No 3, showing the western part of the motte/bailey ditch (CPAT 3076-0001)

No significant archaeological material was encountered in any of the post-holes. The only finds of any sort came from hole 9B, where some brick fragments (18th-century or later) were found at a depth of 0.6m below the surface. Otherwise, the material revealed was the topsoil of dark grey sandy loam, on occasion becoming more gritty or dark grey-brown in colour, but generally more stony with depth. In only one hole (9A) was the subsoil revealed, comprising orange-buff mixed sand and gravel found at a depth of 0.6m below the ground surface.

Table 1: List of post-holes

Hole	Depth	NGR	Comments
1	0.4m	SJ 23515 64258	Dark grey sandy and gritty loam to 0.4m
2	0.4m	SJ 23473 64295	Dark grey-brown sandy and gritty loam to 0.4m
3	0.4m	SJ 23474 64336	Dark grey sandy and gritty loam to 0.4m
4	0.4m	SJ 23525 64392	Dark grey sandy and gritty loam – very stony (rounded pebbles) throughout
5	0.4m	SJ 23504 64328	Dark grey sandy loam – more stony with depth (rounded pebbles)
6	0.4m	SJ 23544 64331	Dark grey sandy loam – very stony below 0.3m (rounded pebbles)
7	0.4m	SJ 23551 64322	Dark grey sandy loam – very stony below 0.2m (some stones flatter in shape than elsewhere)
8	0.4m	SJ 23550 64237	Dark grey sandy and gritty loam to 0.4m
9A	0.7m	SJ 23555 64235	Dark grey sandy loam to 0.6m, orange-buff sand and gravel below this level
9B	0.7m	SJ 23556 64235	Dark grey sandy and gritty loam, brick fragments found at 0.6m depth

Note The above grid references were provided by a hand-held GPS receiver with a standard potential deviation in readings of around 5m

3 CONCLUSIONS

As far as can be ascertained, given the small size of the holes excavated, no archaeologically significant material was either revealed or disturbed in any of the holes. With the exception of Hole 9A, where a small amount of subsoil was encountered, the deposits through which the holes were excavated appeared to be topsoil of relatively recent date. No finds predating the 18th century were revealed.