

**CPAT REPORT No. 1054**

# Tesco Supermarket Development, Welshpool Smithfield, Mill Lane, Powys

**POST-EXCAVATION RESEARCH DESIGN**



**THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**

## **Introduction**

A programme of excavation was undertaken during 2010 in advance of the construction of a new Tesco supermarket development on land at the former Smithfield livestock market, Mill Lane, Welshpool, Powys (SJ 22850746). This document has been prepared by the Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) for Longcross, on behalf of Tesco Plc, and details proposals for undertaking the post-excavation analysis and publication of the excavation results. This forms the final phases of archaeological work in connection with the development and is a requirement of the curatorial brief (INV 751) which details those works necessary to discharge the relevant planning condition.

## **Excavation summary**

### *Prehistoric activity*

The earliest activity on the site is evidenced by a scatter of tools and debitage which indicate an area of stone tool manufacture dating which is likely to be Mesolithic or Neolithic in date. The artefacts will require specialist identification and reporting.

### *Romano-British activity*

The initial interest in the site focused on a collection of high status Roman metalwork, pottery and glass which was uncovered in 1959 during excavations for a new drain, and then investigated by small-scale excavation the following year. The present excavations identified a shallow pit (220) in the same area which could be associated with the finds, although any relationship had been removed by the pipe trench. Some Roman artefacts were forthcoming, however, including fragments of metalwork recovered from the backfill of the 1960 excavation trench.

Elsewhere on the site a ditch and several gullies were identified which have been interpreted as of Romano-British date either as a result of associated finds, or because they respect the same alignment as features which have been dated. Collectively, these features suggest a Romano-British field system focused around a ditch (16) draining towards the Lledan Brook, and including evidence of plough-scaring (106).

### *Medieval activity*

The Romano-British field system appears to have been replaced by several gullies on a different alignment, which perhaps significantly, is broadly parallel to Mill Lane. The only dating for which consisted of a single sherd of medieval pottery from gully 187, although most are sealed beneath a deposit of silty clay (87, 203, 263). Also sealed by this layer were a series of undated small pits and postholes, some of which are stratigraphically later than the gullies, but do not form any obvious structure. It is conceivable that at least some of these features could represent activity during the earlier medieval period, possibly in association with the nearby motte and bailey, this area later being referred to as 'Welsh Town', the presumption being that this may have predated the 13<sup>th</sup>-century Norman planned town.

The deposit of silty clay sealing many of these features suggests a period of abandonment which ended with the deposition of a stone surface (19, 77) across part of the area. Although no direct dating was recovered from the surface it was sealed beneath a deposit containing medieval and Roman pottery, but no later artefacts.

### *Post-medieval activity*

After the medieval period there appears to have been no activity on the site for several centuries during which time a considerable deposit of ploughsoil accumulated which

contained 17<sup>th</sup>- and 18<sup>th</sup>- century pottery. A stone-built cellar was identified close to Mill Lane which was associated with a presumed 19<sup>th</sup>-century building predating the cattle market.

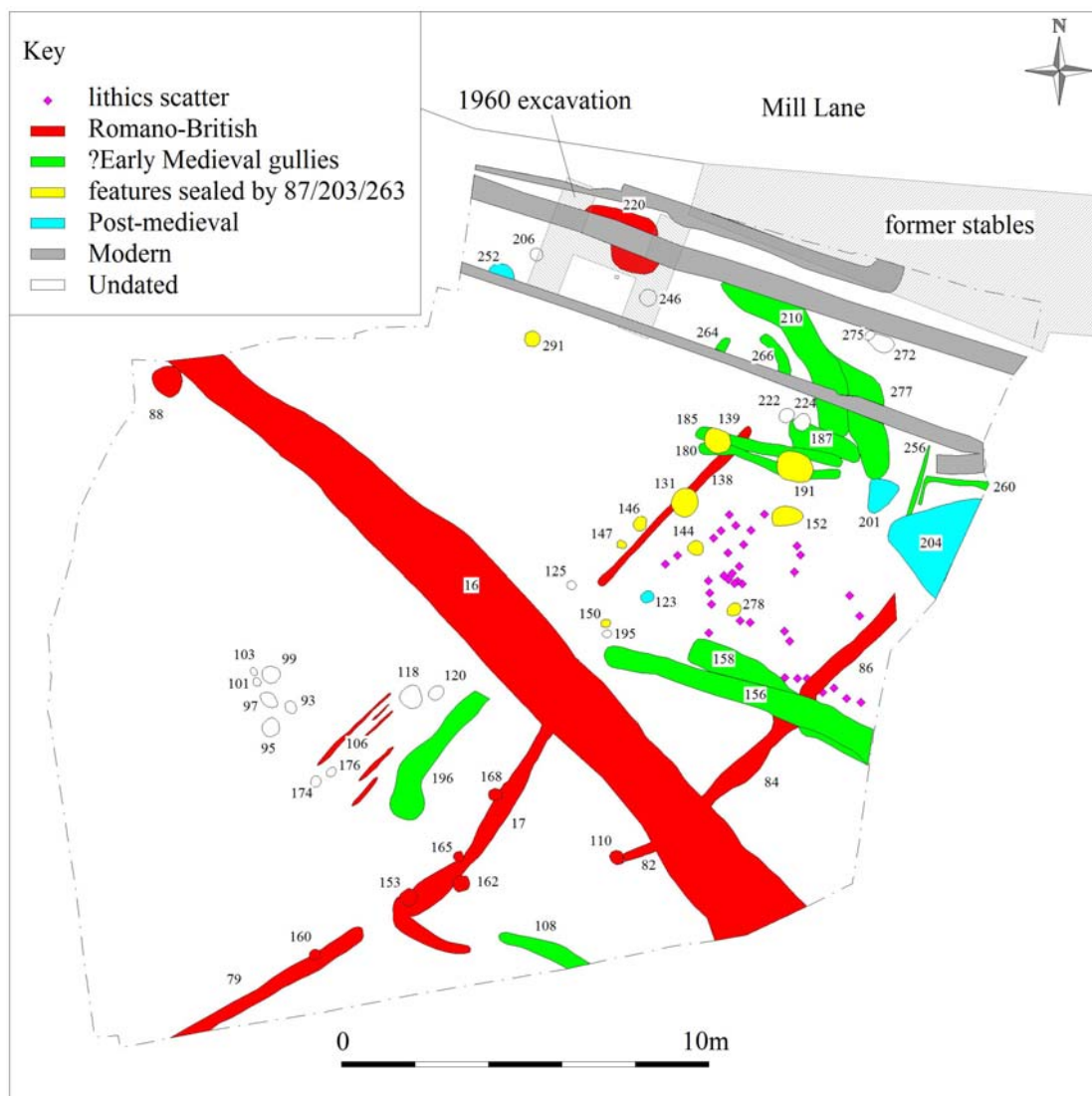


Fig. 1 Initial phasing of excavated features

### Summary of Post-excavation and Publication Proposals

The preliminary assessment of the site archive has now been completed according to the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991), and an interim report is currently in production, which will summarise the results from the excavation.

### Assessment of archaeological potential

The results from the preliminary assessment have demonstrated that the site archive has considerable potential for revealing significant information which could aid the interpretation of the site. The research potential is summarised below:

#### *Site archive*

The drawn and written record contains the primary data relating to the site and further analysis will be required in order to produce a phased model of the archive.

*Artefactual record*

The excavations produced a significant assemblage of lithics, indicating the production of stone tools, possibly during the Mesolithic or Neolithic periods. Finds of Romano-British date included pottery, glass and metalwork, while later finds included medieval and post-medieval pottery. The major categories of finds will all require specialist reporting and some of the Romano-British metalwork is likely to require conservation.

*Radiocarbon dating*

Bulk soil samples were taken from the more significant excavated features, some of which contain charcoal. Radiocarbon dating is proposed for a number of samples from key contexts, which has the potential for complementing the artefactual evidence and assisting with phasing the site. The charcoal will be identified by a specialist before submission for dating.

*Palaeoenvironmental record*

The bulk samples are likely to preserve palaeoenvironmental evidence in the form of carbonised plant macro remains. Specialist analysis has the potential for providing information on the fauna and flora of the site and its environs which will be of regional importance.

*Conservation*

The following objects will require x-ray, cleaning and possibly conservation prior to specialist reporting. The majority of the metalwork recovered from the fill of Romano-British pit 208 consisted on small fragments of thin bronze plate for which no conservation is proposed.

Find no	Context	Feature	Material	comment
1097	08	-	Iron	Hobnail
1100	12	14	Iron	Nail
1002	55	-	Iron	Iron object
1098	198	-	Iron	Object
1092	209	208	Iron	Iron lump
1099	209	208	Iron	Fragments
1078	203	-	Bronze	Fragments (approx 10)
1079	209	208	Bronze	Thin, sheet-like bronze with iron corrosion lump
1082	209	208	Bronze	
1085	209	208	Bronze	Fragments
1090	209	208	Bronze	Fragments
1091	209	208	Bronze/iron	1 bronze object & 1 iron object

**Proposed work programme**

The anticipated work programme includes the following elements:

- 1 *Administration*  
Project management, the production of a summary report for *Archaeology in Wales* 2010, and the updating of the CPAT website.
- 2 *Site Archive*  
More detailed studies of the drawn and written records, integrating dating and artefactual evidence, to produce a phased interpretation of the archaeology.

- 3 *Artefact analysis*  
Roman pottery – Wendy Owen  
Roman glass – Jenny Price  
Lithics – Pippa Bradley
- 4 *Palaeoenvironmental analysis*  
Bulk soil samples were taken from a selection of the excavated features which may provide palaeoenvironmental data relating to the site and its environs. Samples from key contexts will be submitted to Archaeological Services of Durham University for full analysis and reporting.
- 5 *Radiocarbon dating*  
Depending on the results from the palaeoenvironmental analysis a number of radiocarbon dates may be required as part of the post-excavation programme, which will be submitted to Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre. The charcoal will be identified by Archaeological Services of Durham University, prior to submission for dating.
- 6 *Conservation*  
Conservation will be undertaken by Phil Parkes, Department of History and Archaeology, University of Wales College Cardiff.
- 7 *Publication*  
The final excavation report will be produced by Nigel Jones, for publication in *Montgomeryshire Collections*.
- 8 *Archive*  
Deposition of site archive with the regional HER maintained by CPAT in Welshpool, and finds with the Powysland Museum in Welshpool.

**Proposed timing**

The programme of full post-excavation analysis has yet to be agreed with the client and curator, although it is anticipated that this will be completed by April 2011.

**End products**

- 1 Publication in *Montgomeryshire Collections*.
- 2 Summary report for *Archaeology in Wales 2010*
- 3 Summary report on CPAT website
- 4 Site archive deposited with regional HER
- 5 Artefacts deposited with Powysland Museum in Welshpool

**Resource allocation**

All costings are given exclusive of VAT.

1	<i>Administration</i> Senior archaeologist £490	2 days
2	<i>Site Archive</i> Senior archaeologist Assistant archaeologist	7 days 5 days
3	<i>Interim report</i> Senior archaeologist Assistant archaeologist	5 days 2 days
4	<i>Artefact analysis</i> Roman pottery – Wendy Owen Roman glass – Jenny Price Lithics – Pippa Bradley	2 days 1 day 2 days
5	<i>Palaeoenvironmental analysis</i> Transportation/collection of samples Assistant archaeologist	2 days
	Archaeological Services of Durham University	
	Sample processing	£650
	Plant macrofossil analysis	£1100
	Charcoal analysis	£1700
	Bone analysis	£400
	Report preparation	£550
6	<i>Radiocarbon dating</i> Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre Maximum 10 samples @ £290 each	£2900
7	<i>Conservation</i> Department of History and Archaeology, University of Wales College Cardiff 1 day + materials	£350
8	<i>Publication</i> Senior archaeologist Assistant archaeologist Drafting fees Publication grant	6 days 2 days £500 £250
9	<i>Archive and finds deposition</i> Assistant archaeologist	1 day

**Site Archive**

292 context record forms

context register

levels register

photographic register

drawings register

22 A1 site drawings, nos 1-22

4 A2 site drawings, nos 26-29

7 A3 site drawings, nos 30-36

21 A4 site drawings, nos 37-57

**Digital photographs:**

Film 2989.0000 to 0127, building survey

Film 3027.0000 to 0319, excavation phase 1

Film 3071.0000 to 0102, excavation phase 2

**Finds register**

Find No	Context	Feature	Material	No.	Comment
	55	-	Bone	8	
1063	83		Bone	1 bag	
	08	-	Bone (burnt)	6	6 small fragments
	13	16	Bone (burnt)	1	
	105	16	Bone (burnt)	2	Small fragments
1043	134	-	Bone (burnt)		Tiny fragments
1094	134	-	Bone (burnt)	6	6 small fragments (originally assigned find no 1044, but that number mistakenly used twice).
1044	151	152	Bone (burnt)		
	173	84/158	Bone (burnt)	1	Small fragment
	184	84/158	Bone (burnt)	2	2 small fragments
1078	203	-	Bronze		Fragments (approx 10)
1068	209	208	Bronze	1	Bronze fragments (x 2)
1079	209	208	Bronze		Thin, sheet-like bronze with fe? corrosion lump
1080	209	208	Bronze	2	2 thin fragments
1081	209	208	Bronze		Thin fragments (approx 20)
1082	209	208	Bronze	1	
1083	209	208	Bronze	3	Thin fragments
1084	209	208	Bronze	3	Fragments
1085	209	208	Bronze	3	Fragments
1086	209	208	Bronze	2	Fragments
1087	209	208	Bronze	9	Small thin fragments
1088	209	208	Bronze	1	Thin fragments
1089	209	208	Bronze	8	Thin fragments
1090	209	208	Bronze	2	Fragments
1077	244	220	Bronze		Fragments (approx 10)
1096	244	220	Bronze	1	Thin fragile fragment
1095	249	254	Bronze	3	Fragments

1091	209	208	Bronze/iron	2	1 x bronze object & 1 lump iron? (associated ?)
1073	221	220/254	C14 sample	1 bag	C14 sample (associated with bronze)
1074	286	285	C14 sample	1 bag	C14 sample (associated with bronze)
1052	161	160	Ceramic		Ceramic fragments & 1 charcoal
1059	85	84	Charcoal	1 bag	Charcoal sample from R/B? ditch fill (1 bag)
	13 = 129	16	Charcoal	1	Small piece
1069	211	210	Charcoal	1	Charcoal sample
1075	286	285	Charcoal/bronze	1 bag	Charcoal & bronze fragment within it
	07	-	Clay pipe		
	08	-	Fired clay	12	Daub (burnt) 12 pieces assorted sizes
	157	156/158	Fired clay	1	Small piece
	159	158	Fired clay	2	2 small fragments
	173	84/158	Fired clay	2	2 small fragments
	184	84/158	Fired clay	5	5 small fragments
	209	208	Fired clay	6	3 large lumps & 3 fragments
	221	220/254	Fired clay	1	Lump with one flat smooth surface
	221	220/254	Fired clay	8	8 fragments
	221	220/254	Fired clay	3	3 lumps
1070	221	220/254	Fired clay	2 bags	Originally thought to be a hearth/crucible but just fired clay lumps
	08	-	Flint	1	
	62	-	Flint	9	
1001	62	-	Flint		Flint core
1003	62	-	Flint		Flint flake
1004	62	-	Flint		Flint flake
1005	62	-	Flint		Flint flake
1006	62	-	Flint		Flint flake
1007	62	-	Flint		Flint blade
1008	62	-	Flint		Flint blade
1009	62	-	Flint		Flint flake
1010	62	-	Flint		Flint blade
1011	62	-	Flint		Flint flake
1012	62	-	Flint		Flint flake
1013	62	-	Flint		Flint flake
	181	180	Flint	1	
	221	220/254	Flint	2	White burnt fragments
	55	-	Flint/chert	2	White. One worked/
	62	-	Flint/chert	6	Small fragments
	134	-	Flint/chert	1	
1020	134	-	Flint/chert	1	Flint/chert
1021	134	-	Flint/chert		Flint/chert
1022	134	-	Flint/chert		Flint/chert
1023	134	-	Flint/chert		Flint/chert
1024	134	-	Flint/chert		Flint/chert
1025	134	-	Flint/chert		Flint/chert
1026	134	-	Flint/chert		Flint/chert
1027	134	-	Flint/chert		Flint/chert



1028	134	-	Flint/chert		Flint/chert
1029	134	-	Flint/chert		Flint/chert
1030	134	-	Flint/chert		Flint/chert
1031	134	-	Flint/chert		Flint/chert
1032	134	-	Flint/chert		Flint/chert
1033	134	-	Flint/chert		Flint/chert
1034	134	-	Flint/chert		Flint/chert
1035	134	-	Flint/chert		Flint/chert
1036	134	-	Flint/chert		Flint/chert
1037	134	-	Flint/chert		Flint/chert
1038	134	-	Flint/chert		Flint/chert
1039	134	-	Flint/chert		Flint/chert
1040	134	-	Flint/chert		Flint/chert
1041	134	-	Flint/chert		Flint/chert
1042	134	-	Flint/chert		Flint/chert
	08	-	Glass	1	Blue-green
	105	16	Glass	1	Blue-green
	209	208	Glass	3	Clear. Small fragments
	209	208	Glass	2	Blue-green
	209	208	Glass	72	Green glass fragments
	221	220/254	Glass	2	Green. Melted
	244	220	Glass	5	Green. 2 chunks & 3 smaller fragments
	249	254	Glass	16	Green
1097	08	-	Iron	1	Hobnail
1100	12	14	Iron	1	Nail
1002	55	-	Iron		Iron object
1098	198 = 8	-	Iron	1	Object
1092	209	208	Iron	1	Iron lump
1099	209	208	Iron	4	Fragments
1093	209	208	Iron/bronze	1	1 lump of fe/ae
	07	-	Lithic	1	struck
	13	16	Lithic	1	
	55	-	Lithic	1	
	62	-	Lithic	1	Core
	62	-	Lithic	1	Blade
	62	-	Lithic	76	Struck fragments
	134	-	Lithic	5	
1045	134	-	Lithic	1	
1046	134	-	Lithic	1	
1047	134	-	Lithic	1	
1048	134	-	Lithic	1	
1049	134	-	Lithic	1	
	139	140	Lithic	1	
	181	180	Lithic	1	
	203	-	Lithic	4	Struck
	203	-	Lithic	1	Blade?
1067	207	-	Lithic	1	
	209	208	Lithic	1	
	239	212	Lithic	2	Struck flakes
	269	268	Lithic	1	

	07	-	Pottery (medieval)		
	08	-	Pottery (medieval)		
	90	16	Pottery (medieval)		
1050	134	-	Pottery (medieval)	1	1 sherd medieval pottery
	188	187	Pottery (medieval)		
1066	198 = 8	-	Pottery (medieval)	1	Medieval rim sherd
	07	-	Pottery (post-med)		
	202	201	Pottery (post-med)		
	209	208	Pottery (post-med)		
	228	248	Pottery (post-med)		
	08	-	Pottery (Roman)		
	09	-	Pottery (Roman)		
	12	14/79	Pottery (Roman)		
	13	16	Pottery (Roman)		
	15	-	Pottery (Roman)		
	18	17	Pottery (Roman)		
	19	-	Pottery (Roman)		
	85	84	Pottery (Roman)		
	89	88	Pottery (Roman)		
	90	16	Pottery (Roman)		
	105	16	Pottery (Roman)		
	133	16	Pottery (Roman)		
	13 = 129	16	Pottery (Roman)		
	169	168	Pottery (Roman)		
	199	-	Pottery (Roman)		
	209	208	Pottery (Roman)		
1051	134	-	Pottery ?	2	
	139	140	Pottery ?		
	151	152	Pottery ?		
	157	156/158	Pottery ?		
	184	84/158	Pottery ?		
	202	201	Pottery ?		
	221	220/254	Pottery ?		
	249	254	Pottery ?		
	62	-	Quartz	1	Small crystal
1000	12	14	Sample		Sample from robber trench of structure 14
1019	13	16	Sample		Fill of main ditch 16
1016	105	16	Sample		30l. sample from 105 fill of ditch 16
1018	105	16	Sample		Blue fill of NW ditch section & sample
1014	111	110	Sample		Sample of context 111 - possible cremation
1017	122	123	Sample		Fill of post hole 123
1015	127	16	Sample		20l. sample from 127 cremation material
	280	279	Slag	1	1 piece
1057	18	17	Soil sample	11	Bulk sample of ditch fill
1053	139	140	Soil sample	10l	10l. Bulk sample of charcoal-rich fill
1054	154	163	Soil sample	11	Bulk sample of post hole fill
1055	163	162	Soil sample	11	Bulk sample of post hole fill

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1056	166	165	Soil sample	1L	Bulk sample of post hole fill
1058	169	168	Soil sample	1l	Bulk sample of ditch fill
1064	172	156	Soil sample	10l	Bulk sample of RB ditch/gully
1065	184	84/158	Soil sample	30l	Bulk sample of RB ditch/gully
1060	192	191	Soil sample	10l	Bulk sample of post hole fill
1061	195	150	Soil sample	3l	Bulk sample of post hole fill
1076	221	220/254	Soil sample	30l	
1071	244	220	Soil sample	10l	Pit fill (associated with bronze)
1062	130 = 135	16	Soil sample	3l	Bulk sample of post hole fill
1072	284	283	Soil sample	10l	Pit fill (associated with bronze)