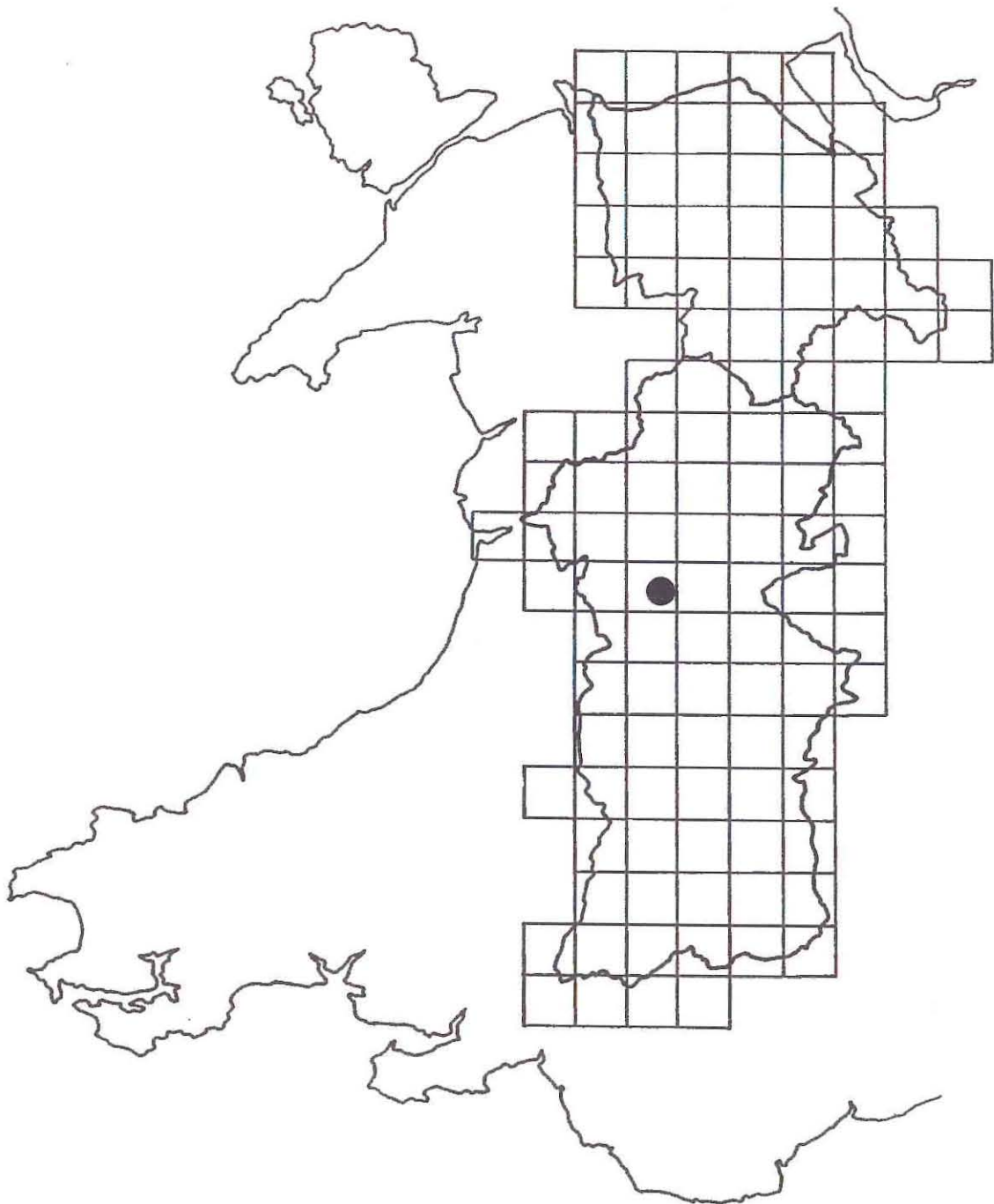


Llanidloes Health Centre Extension:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



CPAT Report Record

Report and status

CPAT Report Title	Llanidloes Health Centre Extension Archaeological Watching Brief		
CPAT Project Name	Llanidloes Health Centre		
CPAT Project No	675	CPAT Report No	181.1
Confidential (Y/N)	Y	draft/final	FINAL

Internal control

	name	signature	date
prepared by	A.M. GIBSON		04/06/96
checked by	W.J. BRITNELL		05/06/96
approved by	W.J. BRITNELL		05/06/96

Revisions

no	date	made by	checked by	approved by
	24/06/96	AMG		

Internal memo

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

7a Church Street Welshpool Powys SY21 7DL

tel (01938) 553670, fax 552179

© CPAT

Llanidloes Health Centre Extension:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

by **A.M. Gibson**

May 1996

Report prepared for Hugh Williams Architect on behalf of Llanidloes Health Centre

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

7a Church Street Welshpool Powys SY21 7DL

tel (01938) 553670, fax 552179

© CPAT 1996

CONTENTS

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND
- 3 THE WATCHING BRIEF
- 4 CONCLUSIONS

APPENDIX 1 SPECIFICATIONS

FIGURES

- 1 SITE LOCATION
- 2 PLAN OF AREA OF GROUNDWORKS

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 12th June 1995, the Contracts Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (hereafter CPAT Contracts) were invited by Messrs Hugh Williams Architect, acting on behalf of Llanidloes Health Centre, to tender for an Archaeological Watching Brief in response to the archaeological condition appended to the planning consent by Montgomeryshire District Council (MDC) and the Design Brief prepared for MDC by the Curatorial section of CPAT (No WAT 144).
- 1.2 The development comprised the construction of a new extension to the existing Health Centre and involved the lowering of the present ground surface at the rear of the Health Centre to allow the construction of a basement extension.
- 1.3 The specification and quotation prepared by CPAT Contracts was accepted on 7th May 1996 with the groundworks proposed for June 1996.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The information held on the County Sites & Monuments Record indicates that the application plot lies within the historic core of Llanidloes as defined by the *Montgomeryshire Historic Settlements Survey* (CPAT Report No 40) and the area of development is regarded as having high archaeological sensitivity, based on the belief that an early medieval motte and bailey castle was situated on the knoll to the east and south of China Street and Mount Street.
- 2.2 The evidence for this castle is circumstantial and is based on the significant changes in ground height, the loop described by Smithfield Street, the local topography and the name 'Mount Street'.
- 2.3 If this interpretation is correct, then the Health Centre would lie in the area of the mound and encircling ditch of the motte and bailey castle, with the bailey enclosure to the east.
- 2.4 It was therefore considered likely by the Curatorial staff of CPAT that the groundworks of the development would reveal deposits relating to the base of the motte and potentially traces of the motte's surrounding ditch.
- 2.5 In addition, given that Mount Street was one of the core medieval street frontages, it was also considered that traces of medieval and post-medieval buildings might also be encountered.

3 THE WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.1 Excavation works had already been substantially begun by the building contractors acting on behalf of Llanidloes Health Centre before CPAT Contracts were contacted by phone on 4th June 1996.
- 3.3 A visit on the morning of 4th June revealed that the contractors had removed the infill of a natural depression and had excavated into the natural gravelly clay subsoil. The latter was sterile and appeared to slope upwards towards the Health Centre. The former comprised comparatively modern material including fragments of brick, glass, wire meshing and tarred roof felt.
- 3.4 Further visits were made to the site on 7th and 10th June 1996 at which time the writer was informed by the contractor that the excavation works had been completed.
- 3.5 On 10th June a small feature measuring approximately 1m across was noted in the section at the location marked F1 on fig. 2. This appeared to be a pit in the section filled with gravel in a greyish clayey matrix. The fill was clean however, with no finds or charcoal and it may well be a solution hole rather than a man-made feature.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 With the possible exception of F1 (para 3.5 above) no features of an archaeological nature were recorded in the examined sections of the groundworks.
- 4.2 In view of the fact that the majority of the excavation took place without a representative of CPAT Contracts being present, however, it may be that some features have been destroyed without record.
- 4.3 No features or contexts on a scale commensurate with the major elements of a motte and bailey castle were recorded.

APPENDIX 1
LLANIDLOES HEALTH CENTRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF.

SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION
BY CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The proposed development of a block of land immediately adjacent to the present health centre involves the construction of a new extension to the existing building.
- 1.2 The area lies within the historic core of Llanidloes as defined by the Montgomeryshire Historic Settlement Survey and is in an area of high archaeological sensitivity being in close proximity to and encroaching on the believed site of an early medieval Motte and Bailey Castle.
- 1.3 The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in their capacity as archaeological curators for the county have determined that a contracted watching brief is necessary to assess the implications of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. Accordingly a brief (NoWAT 144 dated 23-05-95) has been prepared by CPAT Curatorial Section and which describes the scheme of archaeological works required.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the watching brief are to record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area. This will be undertaken prior to and during the groundworks associated with the present scheme.

3 Methods

- 3.1 The archaeological supervision of the removal of superficial deposits and the sifting of the same for objects of archaeological interest.
- 3.2 The recording of archaeological features noted during the construction works.
- 3.3 The limited excavation of archaeological features encountered during the construction work to elucidate the date, nature and function of the feature.
- 3.4 Inspection of the natural deposits to determine the presence of deep-cut archaeological features and the recording of these features should they be encountered.

4 Reporting

- 4.1 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared according to the principles laid out in the Evaluation Brief (section 8). This will be in A4 format and contain conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Historic Background; Excavation; Conclusions and Recommendations and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives and finds.
- 4.2 The site archive will be prepared to specifications laid out in Appendix 3 in the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991).

5 Resources and Programming

- 5.1 The evaluation will be undertaken by a skilled archaeologist who will also be responsible for undertaking the desk-based assessment. Overall supervision will be by Dr A Gibson, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

- 5.2** All report preparation will be completed by the same field archaeologist who conducted the evaluation.
- 5.3** It is anticipated that the assessment and evaluation will take no longer than the actual groundworks themselves and that the subsequent report would be prepared immediately thereafter, 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 the commencement of works. The archaeological curator will be informed of the detailed timetable and staffing levels when agreement has been reached with the client.
- 5.4** Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 5.5** CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance.

A.M. Gibson
15th June 1995