

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Bryngwyn Quarry, near Mold, Flintshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

CPAT Report No 910

Bryngwyn Quarry, near Mold, Flintshire

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January 2008

Report for Sloane Mead, on behalf of DP Williams Holdings Ltd


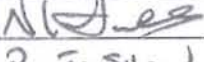
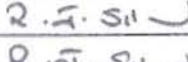
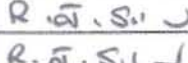
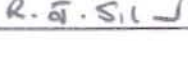
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CPAT Report Record

Report and status

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Internal control

	name	Signature	date
prepared by	R. Hankinson		04/01/2008
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Internal memo

1 Introduction

This outline report has been produced by the Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and covers the proposed development area surrounding a currently disused quarry at Bryngwyn which lies to the south of Gwernymynydd and south-west of Mold in Flintshire (at SJ 213617). It has been prepared for Mr Malcolm Sloane of Sloane Mead, on behalf of DP Williams Holdings Ltd. This is not considered to be a full assessment of the cultural heritage of the area for an environmental statement, but is by way of a briefing report to identify what is currently known, and provide some guidance as to its significance. It has involved a study of readily accessible historic mapping and a field survey of the area, the combined results from which have been incorporated into a database (and extracted as Sections 4 and 5 of this report) and a brief commentary (Section 3).

2 The Classification of Sites

Archaeological sites and landscapes represent a non-renewable resource, and should be avoided wherever this is feasible in order to avoid damage or destruction. All sites can be classified according to a system based on that given in the Department of Environment, Transport and Regions' Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Volume II Section 3 Part 2 (1993). This provides a standard for assessments of this type. Category E (the equivalent of category U in some equivalent classifications) has been introduced to cover archaeological sites and monuments whose existence went unacknowledged in the Design Manual. The categories are defined below.

- *Category A* sites are those believed by CPAT to be of primary significance, either potentially of national importance or already designated by Cadw as scheduled ancient monuments or listed buildings. It is presumed that sites in this category will be preserved and protected *in situ*.
- *Category B* sites are sites of regional importance. These sites are not of sufficient importance to justify scheduling, but are nevertheless important in aiding the understanding and interpretation of the archaeology of the region. Preservation *in situ* is always the preferred option for these sites, but if loss or damage is wholly unavoidable, detailed recording appropriate to the importance of the site must be undertaken.
- *Category C* sites are sites of local importance. These sites are of lesser importance, but are nevertheless useful in the understanding and interpretation of the archaeology of the local area. They may not be of sufficient importance to justify preservation if a development threat is unavoidable, but merit adequate recording in advance of loss or damage, or if portable they should be moved.
- *Category D* sites are either sites or features of minor importance or those which are so badly damaged that too little now remains to justify their inclusion in a higher grade. Rapid recording may be sufficient, but as with Category C sites they could be moved if this is an appropriate strategy.
- *Category E* sites are sites which have been identified, but whose importance cannot be assessed from fieldwork and desk-based study alone. An archaeological evaluation would generally be required to categorise such a site more accurately if the proposal was likely to affect it in any way.

The classification of each site (with the exception of scheduled sites and listed buildings) is based on the collective judgement and expertise of the field staff of CPAT. However, it should be stressed that there is always a possibility that the significance of a site and hence its classification could be revised by more detailed work.

3 Commentary

Some 46 sites or features have been identified within the development area, and a further 22 within 50m of its boundary, although these were not subject to field visits and consequently their condition and significance is unknown.

There is nothing that can reasonably be attributed to the period before the post-medieval era (*i.e.* before *c.* AD 1500), but a small farm called Pen y Mynydd (PRN 98691) was established on the hill probably by the 18th century and perhaps earlier. Virtually all of this steading has been removed by earlier quarrying.

Three lead mines were established in the vicinity in the 19th century, while the possibility that there were earlier trials and exploitation of seams of lead ore cannot be ruled out, but equally cannot be identified from the surviving evidence. A high proportion of the sites and features identified here relate to this 19th-century industry. We would consider the mine complexes to be of regional significance (Category B) but individual elements such as the shafts are normally of local (Category C) interest.

Likewise the quarries which have been in existence since at least the later 19th century, are generally only of local interest, and some may be of lower status (Category D).

The one identified cave (PRN 84434) is of uncertain importance, and this is classed as Category E. Not only is it impossible to determine how much of it might have been lost through quarrying in the last century, but also excavation would be the only procedure which would determine whether the cave had been used by past human communities.

4 Sites of Archaeological and Cultural Heritage interest within the development area

<i>PRN</i>	<i>Name</i> <i>Site Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>National Grid Ref.</i> <i>Category</i>
18022	Bryngwyn lead mine Lead mine	19th century	SJ21406180 C
	Lead mine (Early 19th century-1873). Geology of Carboniferous Limestone and Cefn-y-fedw Sandstone flats. Workings are located in an area of very rough pasture, being the top of the limestone ridge. Early workings appear as linear open-cuts.		
84386	Bryngwyn Old Shaft V Mine Shaft	19th century	SJ2142661835 C
	Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891). Survives as a shaft mound.		
84387	Bryngwyn Quarry I Quarry	19th century	SJ2136861790 C
	Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891). Material extracted is mostly sandstone. Later activity also evident from field visit. Overall area 220m NNW/SSE by 100m.		
84388	Bryngwyn Old Shaft VII Mine Shaft	19th century	SJ2131561777 C

Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891). Shaft still visible though infilled.

84389 Bryngwyn Old Shaft VIII SJ2130061764
Mine Shaft 19th century D

Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891). No surviving visible evidence.

84390 Bryngwyn trig point SJ2135161742
Triangulation Point 19th century D

Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891). Removed by quarrying.

84392 Bryngwyn Quarry II SJ2131761659
Quarry 19th century C

Limestone quarry showing on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891). Overall area 360m NNW/SSE by 50m.

84393 Bryngwyn Quarry Building I SJ2130961639
Quarry building 19th century E

Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891). No visible evidence, but may be hidden beneath later spoil.

84394 Bryngwyn Quarry III SJ2161761592
Quarry 19th century C

Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891). The site is extant, although the ESE part contains what appears to be a mine shaft.

84395 Bryngwyn gravel pit SJ2166461545
Gravel pit 19th century C

Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891). Survives as a deep hollow next to the public road.

84397 Bryngwyn Old Shaft XI SJ2127061526
Mine Shaft 19th century C

Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891). Substantial surviving shaft mound.

84399 Bryngwyn Quarry IV SJ2134561409
Quarry 19th century D

Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891). Quarry still extant and used as caravan storage.

84401 Bryngwyn Quarry V SJ2153761415
Quarry 19th century C

Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891). Intact, small amount of walling in W part is probably the remains of a shelter.

84404 Bryngwyn Old Shaft XIII SJ2155661388
Mine Shaft 19th century D

Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891). Site levelled and no longer visible.

- 84405 Bryngwyn Old Shaft XIV SJ2158561327
 Mine Shaft 19th century D
 Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891). Partially levelled and grassed over, but visible as a low mound.
- 84406 Bryngwyn Old Shaft XV SJ216276131
 Mine Shaft 19th century C
 Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891). Survives as an intact shaft mound. Tip lines run NE and SE.
- 84407 Bryngwyn Old Shaft XVI SJ2160561282
 Mine Shaft 19th century C
 Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891). Survives as an intact shaft mound. Gap on N, perhaps for access.
- 84408 Bryngwyn Old Shaft XVII SJ2157961238
 Mine Shaft 19th century D
 Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891). Site levelled with no surviving surface traces.
- 84409 Bryngwyn Old Shaft XVIII SJ2161461210
 Mine Shaft 19th century C
 Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891). Survives as an intact shaft mound.
- 84413 Bryngwyn Old Shaft VI SJ2148261763
 Mine Shaft 19th century C
 Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891). Survives as a shaft mound.
- 84414 Bryngwyn Kiln II SJ2130861617
 Lime kiln 19th century E
 Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891). No visible evidence revealed, though some remains may be hidden beneath later spoil. Associated spoil probably on opposite side of trackway.
- 84415 Bryngwyn Old Shaft X SJ2141261584
 Mine Shaft 19th century D
 Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891). No visible remains.
- 84417 Tan-y-maes building SJ2162761675
 Building ? Post Medieval C
 Possible traces of a former building defined by a stone revetment wall.
- 84418 Fron-uchaf mound SJ2159461741
 Spoil mound ? 19th century C

Elongated mound of spoil running WNW from road. Subsequently quarried at the road edge. It might possibly be the bottom of an incline, although there is little trace on the slope above.

84419	Bryngwyn quarry hollow I Quarry	Post Medieval	SJ21506182 D
Probable quarry hollow, 10m diameter by 1m deep.			
84420	Bryngwyn concrete foundation I Building ?	20th century	SJ21356179 D
Concrete plinth set in a blind cutting. Probably the site of a building, but its function is uncertain.			
84421	Bryngwyn concrete foundation II Building ?	20th century	SJ21306177 D
Concrete plinth set in a blind cutting. Probably the site of a building, but its function is uncertain.			
84422	Bryngwyn concrete foundation III Building ?	20th century	SJ21296175 D
Concrete plinth set in a blind cutting. Probably the site of a building, but its function is uncertain.			
84423	Bryngwyn concrete foundation IV Building ?	20th century	SJ21296171 D
Concrete plinth set in a blind cutting. Probably the site of a building, but its function is uncertain.			
84424	Bryngwyn concrete foundation V Building ?	20th century	SJ21306163 D
Concrete plinth set in a blind cutting. Probably the site of a building, but its function is uncertain.			
84425	Bryngwyn concrete foundation VI Building ?	20th century	SJ21306166 D
Concrete plinth set in a blind cutting. Probably the site of a building, but its function is uncertain.			
84426	Bryngwyn concrete foundation VII Building ?	20th century	SJ21296168 D
Concrete plinth set in a blind cutting. Probably the site of a building, but its function is uncertain.			
84427	Bryngwyn quarry hollow II Quarry	19th century	SJ21456155 D
Small quarry hollow on ridge.			
84428	Bryngwyn shaft I Mine shaft ?	19th century ?	SJ21366166 D
Possible former mine shaft. Defined by a low ring of spoil, 8m in diameter.			

- 84429 Bryngwyn quarry water tank SJ21326156
 Water tank 20th century C
 Concrete water tank, measuring 6m by 3m. Probably related to quarrying activity as near some abandoned machine bases.
- 84430 Bryngwyn concrete foundation VIII SJ21336164
 Building ? 20th century D
 Concrete plinth overlooked by the working face of the quarry. Probably the site of a building, but its function is uncertain.
- 84431 Bryngwyn concrete foundation IX SJ21346160
 Building ? 20th century D
 Concrete plinth overlooked by the working face of the quarry. Probably the site of a building, but its function is uncertain.
- 84432 Bryngwyn concrete foundation X SJ21356158
 Building ? 20th century D
 Concrete plinth overlooked by the working face of the quarry. Probably the site of a building, but its function is uncertain.
- 84433 Bryngwyn concrete foundation XI SJ21386152
 Building ? 20th century D
 Concrete plinth overlooked by the working face of the quarry. Probably the site of a building, but its function is uncertain.
- 84434 Bryngwyn quarry cave SJ2143961438
 Cave Unknown E
 Cave entrance at base of quarry face. Very short, but its extent prior to quarrying cannot be gauged. No finds recorded. Two other rock shelters are reputedly present in the quarry but not readily visible.
- 84435 Bryngwyn shaft III SJ2157861371
 Mine shaft ? 19th century ? D
 Possible mine shaft denoted by a subsidence hollow. This is depicted on the 2nd edition OS 1:2,500 map of 1899.
- 84436 Bryngwyn Quarry machinery SJ21336158
 Processing plant ? 19th century ? C
 Remains of a number of machine bases and fittings, large sleepers etc. Visible within the bank of spoil above the concrete tank (PRN 84429).
- 84437 Bryngwyn shaft II SJ2138661830
 Mine shaft 19th century D
 Old shaft depicted on 2nd edition OS 1:2,500 map of 1899. Probably now covered with quarry spoil.

- 84438 Bryngwyn quarry hollow III SJ2118761623
 Quarry ? Post Medieval D
 Small quarry hollow, probably for walling stone used in the adjacent boundary.
- 84443 Bryngwyn concrete foundation XII SJ2131661587
 Building ? 20th century D
 Probable site of a concrete plinth set in a blind cutting. Hidden by modern spoil. Probably the site of a building, but its function is uncertain.
- 98691 Bryngwyn building SJ2141461788
 Building Post Medieval D
 Site recorded in former Flintshire SMR, but as yet not described. Two buildings show on 1st edition OS map of 1891. Now completely quarried away, with the exception of a single stone gatepost.

5 Sites of Archaeological and Cultural Heritage interest recorded within 50m of the development area boundary

- 18072 Fron Ucha lead mine SJ21706150
 Lead mine 19th century
 Lead mine (19th century). Geology of Carboniferous Limestone. Shafts remain in the fields to the east and west of the road from Gwernymynydd south towards Penrallt Farm.
- 18134 Mount Pleasant mine SJ21706140
 Mine (lead/silver) 19th century
 Lead/Silver mine (1857-1873). Geology of Carboniferous Limestone falling to the Mount Pleasant Flats in Cefn-y-Fedw Sandstone with chert beds. Evidence of the workings at Mount Pleasant Mine, remains in the form of at least seven shafts.
- 84381 Bryngwyn Old Shaft I SJ2132461846
 Mine Shaft 19th century
 Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891)
- 84382 Bryngwyn Old Shaft II SJ2136061884
 Mine Shaft 19th century
 Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891)
- 84383 Bryngwyn Old Shaft III SJ2134461903
 Mine Shaft 19th century
 Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891)
- 84384 Bryngwyn Kiln I SJ2133561921
 Kiln 19th century
 Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891)

84385	Bryngwyn Old Shaft IV Mine Shaft	19th century	SJ2139261933
Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891)			
84391	Bryngwyn Old Shaft IX Mine Shaft	19th century	SJ2125661732
Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891)			
84396	Tan-y-maes Farmhouse	19th century	SJ2170161596
Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891)			
84398	Bryngwyn Old Shaft XII Mine Shaft	19th century	SJ2126861373
Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891)			
84400	Bryngwyn Quarry Structure I Quarry structure	19th century	SJ2133961421
Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891). An old railway wagon has been placed at this location.			
84402	Bryngwyn Quarry Structure I Structure	19th century	SJ2157961424
Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891)			
84403	Bryngwyn spoil tip Spoil tip	19th century	SJ2163161413
Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891)			
84410	Bryngwyn Old Shaft XIX Mine Shaft	19th century	SJ2163961190
Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891)			
84411	Bryngwyn Old Shaft XX Mine Shaft	19th century	SJ2169761194
Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891)			
84412	Bryngwyn Old Shaft XXII Mine Shaft	19th century	SJ2161061163
Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891)			
84416	Bryngwyn Old Shaft XXI Mine Shaft	19th century	SJ2159961175
Shows on Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map Flints 13.15 (1891)			

84439	Bryngwyn shaft IV Mine shaft	19th century	SJ2126761744
Extant mine shaft also depicted on 1st edition OS 1:2,500 map of 1891.			
84440	Bryngwyn shaft V Mine shaft	19th century	SJ2128461772
Extant mine shaft also depicted on 1st edition OS 1:2,500 map of 1891.			
84441	Bryngwyn shaft VI Mine shaft	19th century	SJ2129561790
Extant mine shaft also depicted on 1st edition OS 1:2,500 map of 1891.			
84442	Bryngwyn shaft VII Mine shaft	19th century	SJ2129661800
Extant mine shaft also depicted on 1st edition OS 1:2,500 map of 1891.			
98690	Fron Ucha old building Building	Post Medieval	SJ2167961657
Site recorded in former Flintshire SMR. As yet undescribed.			

Conclusions

Although a significant number of sites of archaeological and cultural heritage interest can be identified within the area of the proposed quarry development, none is of national importance, while the several regionally important sites are geographically extensive complexes of which only a few elements fall within the area under consideration. The loss of these few surface elements is unlikely to have a significant impact on the integrity of the extensive complexes. It is not possible, however, to assess the impact on the levels of mining activity beneath the surface of the ground. Most of the recognised features are, on present evidence, of local or minor importance and are not sufficiently significant to act as a constraint to the proposed development, although they may need proper recording and perhaps further investigation before they are lost.

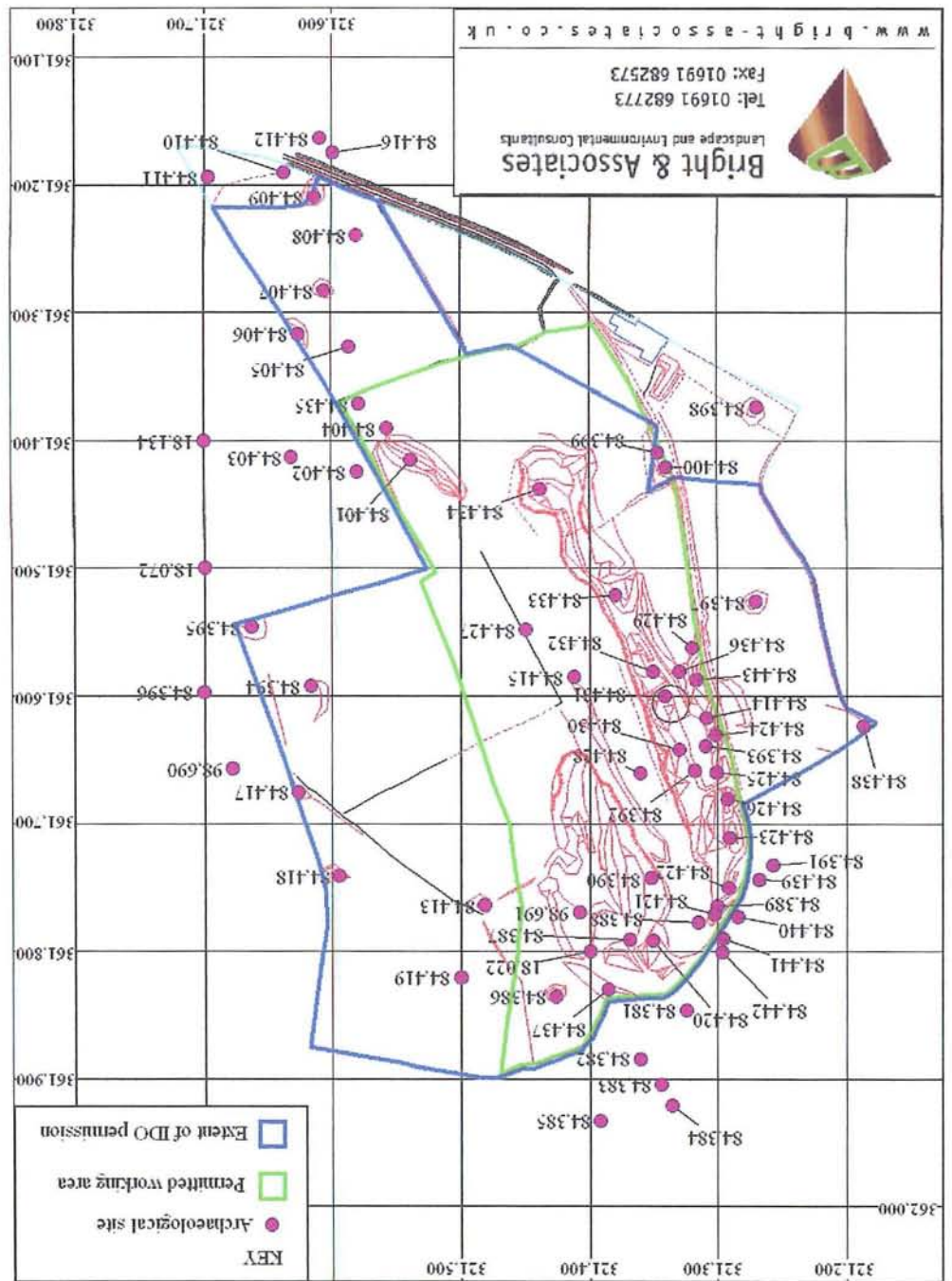


Fig. 1 Plan of archaeological sites in relation to the site boundary