

CPAT Report No 947

**132kV Overhead Electricity Wood Pole Line
from New Kinnel Bay Substation to existing
132kV Power Line near Moelfre**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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September 2008

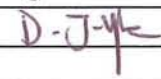


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CPAT Report Record

Report and status

CPAT Report Title		132Kv overhead Electricity Wood Pole Line from New Kimmel Bay Substation to existing 132Kv power line near Moelfre	
CPAT Project Name	Rhyl Flats		
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Internal control

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prepared by	D Vaughan		29/9/2008
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Revisions

no	date	made by	checked by	approved by

Internal memo

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2008, the Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (henceforth CPAT) were invited by SP Power Systems Ltd through their contractors, Bethells, to undertake a watching brief at a number of sites being excavated for the erection of overhead electricity wood poles and stays that would carry the overhead line from the New Kimnel substation to the existing 132kV power line near Moelfre.
- 1.2 This work followed on from CPAT's own Archaeological Assessment, reported on in February 2007 (Jones,2007) which identified those pole locations that were placed closest to known and sensitive archaeological features. The current report uses that baseline data to structure the findings of the watching brief in a consistent and coherent manner.
- 1.3 The timetable for such works was laid down in July 2008, and the work was undertaken through a number of site during July and August 2008.

2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The proposed overhead power line extends for 4.8km in a generally southerly direction from NGR SH 96847839 to SH 95747401.
- 2.2 The underlying solid geology, over such a distance, varies considerably, and includes sandstone of the Permian and Triassic period, and Red Beds of mudstone and siltstone of the Westphalian period (1994 British Geological Survey map). Similarly, the soils of the locality are heterogeneous, including marine alluvium of the Wallasea type, reddish till of the Salop type, and river alluvium of the Teme type (1983 Soil Survey of England and Wales map and legend). These geological characters were seen repeatedly in the holes excavated.

3 RESULTS

- 3.1 St Asaph-Caerhun Roman road (PRN 46850)
 - 3.1.1 Pole MG4 – Situated some 18m south-east of the B5381, the assumed line of the Roman road, and some 5m above its surface on a significant upward slope. A distinct pocket of dark orange, firm silty clay, 1.4m wide, was investigated and deemed to be a palaeochannel, probably associated with an old river bed and in keeping with the Teme type river alluvium noted in section 2.2 above (see plate 1). A single fragment of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the overlying subsoil.
 - 3.1.2 Pole & Stays MG5 – The palaeochannel noted at MG4, above, was also revealed during excavation of this hole. A single fragment of post-medieval pottery was recovered. Further, a stone-filled channel at least 3m in length was seen in the stay hole to the south and was judged

from its stratigraphic position to be a post-medieval drainage feature running south-east north-west.

3.2 Cae Odyn (Kiln Field) (PRN 83566)

3.2.1 Pole MG6 – The stratigraphy was similar to that of MG4 and MG5, though no finds were recovered.

3.3 Tylgarth Isaf Holloway (PRN 83569)

3.3.1 Pole & Stays MG13 – There were no archaeological finds; shallow top- and sub-soils containing occasional large and medium, sub-angular stones overlay a clay natural (see plate 2).

3.4 Parc y Meirch well and marl pits (PRNs 83564, 83567 respectively)

3.4.1 Pole MG29 and Poles & Stays MG28 and MG30 – There were no archaeological finds; located on steep slope heading down toward the salt flats, though keeping to the south of the A55 trunk road. Varying depths of top- and plough-soils were consistent with hillwash / colluvium settling towards the base of the slope. Three fragments of modern ceramic material, probably remnants of a drainage pipe were recovered from the base of the sub-soil at MG30.

4 CONCLUSIONS

4.1 During a number of scheduled visits to the site, several excavations were observed and appropriate levels of recording completed in line with the methodology and objectives of the watching brief. Little archaeological evidence was recovered, and that which was is summarized in this report. An archive has been produced, including the written, drawn and photographed records completed on-site at the time of the works. This is held by CPAT at its offices in Welshpool.

4.2 It should be further noted that the watching brief on MG44, MG48 and MG49 was cancelled following discussions with CPAT's Development Control Officer and between Bethells and CPAT. These focused on the logistical requirements of excavating and constructing pilings on which these three particular poles would stand, and the relatively insensitive nature of the archaeology nearest to their proposed locations.

5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

5.1 CPAT would like to thank their client, SP Power Systems Ltd, and its contractors, Bethells, for their support and flexibility during the works undertaken. In particular, to Lisa Kerford, Electrical Design Engineer, Tony Sayles, Site Manager and all site staff who helped make the entire process such a smooth one. This ensured the success of the archaeological involvement in this type of project.



Plate 1: Palaeochannel seen in south-east facing section through pole hole MG4



Plate 2: Excavation of MG13 with north facing section revealing the stratigraphic sequence of top- and sub-soils and underlying natural

APPENDIX I
SITE RECORD OF VISITS UNDERTAKEN

Visit Date and Times	Purpose	Results
04/08/2008; 0800 - 1645	Observation of MG13, 14 & 15 trench excavation	No archaeology identified
12/08/2008; 0830 – 1445	Observation of “H poles” for MG 4	Post-medieval pot identified in top soil
13/08/2008; 0645 – 1530	Observation of “H poles” for MG 5 & 6	No archaeology identified
19/08/2008; 0830 - 1645	Observation of excavation of “H poles” for MG 28, 29 & 30, and “stays” at MG 13	Post-medieval ceramic drainage pipe discovered MG30, no other archaeology identified
20/08/2008; 0730 – 1300	Observation of “stays” at MG5 & 13	No archaeology identified
26/08/2008; 0725 - 1245	Observation of ‘stays’ for MG 28 & 30	No archaeology identified



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