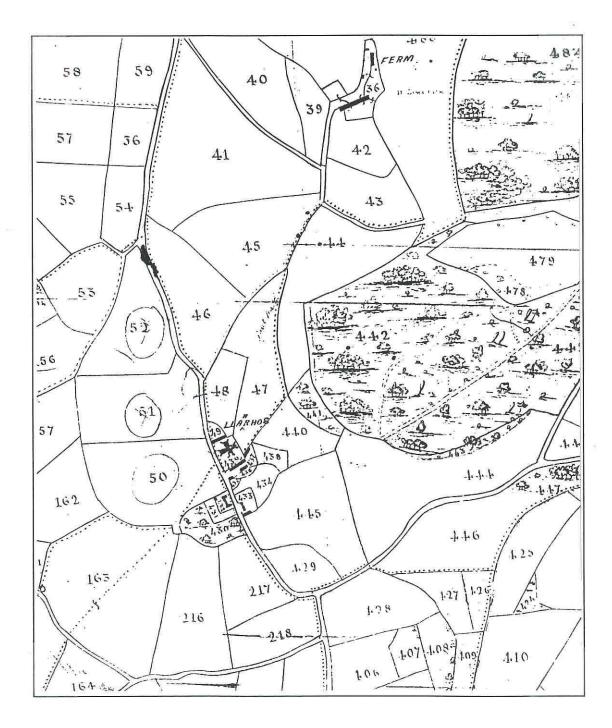
THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Proposed extension to Llanrhos cemetery, Conwy

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



CPAT Report No 433

CPAT Report No 433

Proposed extension to Llanrhos cemetery, Conwy ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

N W Jones and R Hankinson November 2001

Report for Conwy County Borough Council

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust 7a Church Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7DL tel (01938) 553670, fax (01938) 552179 © CPAT

CPAT Report Record

Report and status

CPAT Report Title Proposed extension to Llanrhos Cemetery, Conwy: Archaeological Evaluation CPAT Project Name Llanrhos cemetery CPAT Report No 433 **CPAT** Project No 944 Confidential (yes/no) draft/final Final yes

Internal control

	name	signature	date
prepared by	N W Jones	NOLLES	> 26/11/01
	R Hankinson	Kuns	26/11/01
checked by	R.J. Silvester	2.5.5.1	26/11/01
approved by	R.J. Silvester	Raisin	26/11/01

Revisions				
no	date	made by	checked by	approved by

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust 7a Church Street Welshpool Powys SY21 7DL tel (01938) 553670, fax 552179 © CPAT

SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION
- 2 LOCATION and TOPOGRAPHY
- 3 THE SITE: HISTORY, ARCHAEOLOGY and LANDSCAPE
- 4 EXCAVATION
- 5 FINDS
- 6 CONCLUSIONS
- 7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
- 8 REFERENCES

APPENDIX 1: SPECIFICATION

APPENDIX 2: SITE ARCHIVE

ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Trench location and geophysical survey anomalies
- Fig. 2 Trench A plan and section
- Fig. 3 Trench B plan
- Fig. 4 Trench B sections
- Fig. 5 Trench C plan and section
- Fig. 6 Trench D plan and section
- Fig. 7 Trench E plan and section

PLATES

- Plate 1 Trench A, from NW
- Plate 2 Trench B: Bank 26 and charcoal layer 92, from SE
- Plate 3 Trench B: Gully 28, from SW
- Plate 4 Trench B: Gully 30, gully 91 with charcoal layer 92 and layer 35, from NE
- Plate 5 Trench B: Gullies 91 and 93 with charcoal layer 92, from NE
- Plate 6 Trench C, from NE
- Plate 7 Trench C: Gully 7, from SE
- Plate 8 Trench D: Path makeup (layer 47), from SE
- Plate 9 Trench D: Pit 23, from S
- Plate 10 Trench E, from NW

PROPOSED EXTENSION TO LLANRHOS CEMETERY, CONWY: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

The evaluation was undertaken to investigate a number of potentially significant archaeological features which had been identified as anomalies by geophysical survey. Though the excavation of five trenches failed to identify any archaeological features that could account for the geophysical anomalies, a number of other features were recognised and assessed.

The north-western trench (Trench B) was positioned across a bank (PRN 12994), visible as an upstanding earthwork. The excavation revealed a metalled surface or track along the north-west side of the bank, together with a number of features cut into the undisturbed subsoil, some of which were sealed beneath the bank. A total of six shallow gullies were identified, together with a possible posthole. Two of the gullies contained a significant amount of charcoal and burnt daub, some with wattle impressions, which presumably originated from an unidentified structure nearby. The gullies also produced a small number of flint fragments, including a retouched cortical flake. A sample of charcoal has been submitted for radiocarbon dating. The available evidence suggests some form of occupation within the immediate area and at present this appears likely to be of prehistoric date.

The south-western trench (Trench D) revealed an elongated pit, rounded at either end and aligned roughly north-south. The date and function remain unknown, although the form of the feature, together with its orientation, may suggest a possible pre-Christian grave.

The remaining three trenches revealed no features of archaeological significance, although Trench A did produce two sherds of abraded Roman pottery from the base of the ploughsoil.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Conwy County Borough Council are proposing to extend the cemetery attached to Llanrhos church near Llandudno. Due to the perceived significance of the church the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS), in their capacity as archaeological curators for the area, recommended that an assessment be undertaken in advance of any works in order to establish the potential impact of the proposal on the archaeological resource. This was undertaken by the Contracts Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT Contracting) in the early part of 2001 (Jones *et al* 2001).
- 1.2 Following the assessment, GAPS recommended a further stage of evaluation, consisting of a series of trenches excavated to investigate a number of potentially significant features and geophysical anomalies identified during the original assessment. GAPS declined to provide a brief for the evaluation but requested that a project design be prepared by the archaeological contractor and submitted for approval by GAPS. Accordingly, the Engineering Services Group of Conwy County Borough Council requested that CPAT Contracting prepare a project design for the archaeological works, and this was subsequently approved by GAPS in June 2001.

2 LOCATION and TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1 The church of St Mary at Llanrhos (previously known as Eglwys-rhos; PRN 4596; SH 7933 8032) lies in eastern Conwy, a little less than 2km to the south-east of the heart of the town of Llandudno and about 1.5km north-east of Deganwy, where the land begins to narrow between the north coast and Afon Conwy which runs into Conwy Bay. The proposed cemetery extension occupies land to the east of the present churchyard, encompassing an area of 1.11ha (Fig. 1).
- 2.2 The church and its churchyard occupy flattish ground at 30m above sea level. About 300m to the north-east the ground ascends rapidly to Bryn Maelgwyn while in the opposite direction but rather further away the hill supporting Deganwy Castle looms over the Conwy Estuary. With high ground also to the north Llanrhos is effectively set in a basin open primarily to the south.
- 2.3 The drift geology consists of clays and gravels with thin topsoil. The area is currently pasture.

3 THE SITE: ITS HISTORY, ARCHAEOLOGY and LANDSCAPE

- 3.1 The earlier desk-top and field assessment revealed that little of archaeological significance was currently recorded within the area of the proposed development. The earliest evidence for occupation or at least some degree of prehistoric activity relates to a hoard of about 50 bronze palstaves of second millennium BC date which was found around 1686 'within a field of Gloddaith' (PRN 4551). The exact point of deposition of this hoard remains unknown.
- 3.2 Documentary evidence and historical associations suggest that there may have been a church at Llanrhos from at least the 6th century, although the earliest documentary evidence dates back only to 1254. Whether a settlement developed here at this early date or even in the medieval era has yet to be established. A hoard of around 200 silver pennies of Cnut was found close to Llanrhos (PRN 1545; SJ 7967 8062) in 1979. The coins were dated to around 1018 to 1024, and came mainly from the Chester mint. The hoard has not been associated with any known settlement and may be Viking in origin; it has been suggested that it could have formed part of a consignment of obsolete coin that was being shipped from Chester to Dublin by Hiberno-Norse traders (source SMR).
- 3.3 It is likely that if an early settlement did emerge at Llanrhos it would have been in the vicinity of the church. Although the original extent of the churchyard is not known, it is clear that in its present form it has been extended to the south-east, encroaching upon the original area of the field within which the proposed development lies. This extension may have impacted upon archaeological features surrounding the original churchyard and the evaluation has demonstrated that several features beyond the present boundary must have originally extended into the area beneath that existing extension. Consequently, the interpretation of features adjacent to the present boundary is made more difficult as we may now only be seeing a part of their original extent.

- 3.4 The assessment identified a number of earthworks which relate to former buildings and field boundaries, the majority of which lie outside the area of the proposed development. Elements of earlier land division and agriculture, possibly of medieval origin, were identified, consisting of a number of former field boundaries, surviving as banks or lynchets, together with an area of ridge and furrow cultivation to the south of the development area. A geophysical survey provided evidence for a number of slight linear anomalies, which may represent the buried remains of further boundaries, together with a possible track. These respect the same general alignments, suggesting a contemporary origin. There was also some evidence from the geophysical survey for possible ridge and furrow within the development area, although there is no detectable surface evidence of ridging.
- 3.5 The geophysical survey revealed two areas in particular which it was thought might contain evidence for some form of structure, although one (Site 1) lies just outside the development area. The other (Site 2) suggests a possible rectangular structure measuring *c.* 12 x 8m, although the interpretation was far from certain.
- 3.6 The area was in the later 19th century incorporated into the landscaped grounds surrounding Gloddaeth, and the former drive (PRN 12993) survives, flanked by the remains of an avenue of trees.

4 EXCAVATION

- 4.1 The evaluation was undertaken between 3rd September and 13th September 2001. It consisted of five trial trenches, each measuring 10 x 5m, positioned to examine a number of anomalies of potential archaeological significance identified during the geophysical survey. The excavations were undertaken using a mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision to remove modern overburden down to the level of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. Thereafter, all excavation was conducted by hand unless otherwise agreed with the curator. The excavations were intended to be essentially non-intrusive, although all significant archaeological contexts that were identified were adequately sampled to define their function, date and relationship to other features, in so far as these aims were possible.
- 4.2 Contexts were recorded on individual record forms and were drawn and photographed as appropriate. Numbers in brackets in the following sections refer to those contexts as recorded in the field. All artefacts were related to the contexts from which they were derived. All photography was in 35mm format black and white, colour print and colour slide. The trenches were located using total station surveying to relate them to buildings and boundaries identified on modern Ordnance Survey maps, with levels related to Ordnance Datum, as well as to the previous topographical and geophysical surveys. Site planning was undertaken both digitally, by means of total station survey, and by hand at an appropriate scale. A summary of the site archive is provided in Appendix 2.

Trench A (fig. 2)

- 4.3 Trench A was located to test an area where no archaeological potential had been identified from the earlier studies. Up to 0.3m of topsoil (1) and 0.4m of ploughsoil (2) were removed by machine to reveal the undisturbed natural subsoil, consisting of a yellowish red clay (3) with small stones. This was cut by a shallow gully (54) 0.55m wide and 0.03m deep, which appeared to be a ploughmark.
- 4.4 Pottery recovered from the topsoil included sherds dating from the 17th or 18th century and 19th or 20th century. Two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the base of the ploughsoil (2), comprising a body sherd of decorated samian and a small rim sherd of greyware. Other finds recovered from the base of the ploughsoil included an undated bronze pin and a flint chip.

Trench B (figs 3-4)

4.5 Trench B was located to investigate a boundary bank (PRN 12994) with a possible trackway alongside, as depicted on the Tithe Survey map of Llanrhos parish drawn in 1840. Up to 0.30m of topsoil (25) was removed by machine to reveal the top of the bank, together with up to 0.32m of ploughsoil (27) on the south-eastern, downslope side of the bank. Following the surface cleaning of the trench a 1.5m-wide section was cut through the bank along the north-east side of the trench. This revealed the bank to be composed of a single layer of brown clayey loam (26) up to 0.48m thick, which produced no dating evidence. At the north-western end of the trench this layer dipped,

extending beyond the limit of excavation, giving a width for the bank of at least 7m overall. On top of the bank and following the north-western edge was a thin layer of compact gravel (41), *c*.1.9m wide and up to 0.06m thick, containing sherds of generally 18th-19th century pottery as well as fragments of clay pipe stem and an oyster shell. The gravel would appear to represent a metalled surface, presumably for the track depicted on the Tithe Survey map.

- 4.6 In front of the bank on its south-east side two gullies were identified aligned roughly north-east to south-west, cutting into the undisturbed subsoil. The south-eastern gully (28) was up to 0.65m wide and 0.12m deep, filled by a layer of red-brown silty loam (29) containing small fragments of slag and a small unworked flint nodule. The other gully (30) was narrower, up to 0.22m wide and 0.20m deep, and was also filled by a layer of red-brown silty loam (31). No dating evidence was recovered from either gully.
- 4.7 Removal of the bank material revealed a layer of mixed grey-brown clayey silt (35), up to 2.2m wide and 0.08 thick. Removal of this layer revealed two gullies cut into the subsoil, again aligned roughly north-east to south-west. Gully 33 was up to 0.5m wide, narrowing to 0.3m to the south-west, and 0.1m deep. Gully 34, which followed a slightly different alignment, was up to 0.5m wide and 0.16m deep. A shallow scoop (32), c.0.58m in diameter and 0.08m deep, extended beyond the limit of excavation to the north-east, adjacent to gully 33. All three features appear to have been filled by and sealed beneath layer 35, which produced no dating evidence.
- 4.8 Two other features were also identified sealed directly by the bank and cut into the subsoil. These were a possible posthole (38) 0.32m in diameter and 0.1m deep and a shallow scoop (36). No dating evidence was recovered from either of the features.
- 4.9 Further cleaning on the downslope, south-eastern side of the bank, revealed a narrow band of charcoally soil (92) extending beneath the bank material (26) which was cut back to investigate the layer more fully. This revealed a slightly curving gully (91) up to 0.48m wide and from 0.20m to 0.08m deep, which had been cut through soil layer 35 and into the subsoil (42). At the south-western end the gully was filled by the charcoally layer (92), although this became thinner to the north-east before petering out where it overlay a fill of grey-brown clayey-silt (94). As well as a high proportion of charcoal within layer 92, there were also fragments of burnt daub, some with wattle impressions, and a cortical flint flake with slight edge retouch (find no. 1) as well as a flint chip and an unworked fragment of chert. Soil samples were taken from the layer with a view to obtaining sufficient charcoal for a radiocarbon date. The gully had not been identified when the section was cut through the bank, partly due to the similar nature of the fill (94) and layer 35 through which the gully was cut, and also due to the parched soil conditions at the time. It was clear, however, that the gully did not extend as far as the north-east side of the excavation (section E-F; fig. 4). At its south-western end, the gully joined another gully (93), up to 0.22m deep, which at this point was exclusively filled by the charcoally layer (92). This was aligned roughly north-west to south-east, and it extended beyond the limit of excavation and beneath the bank material (26). To the south-east gully 93 was cut by gully 30.

Trench C (fig. 5)

- 4.10 Trench C was located to investigate a possible building and boundaries (Site 2) identified by the geophysical survey. Unfortunately, the trench was not located as precisely as anticipated, resulting in the addition of two small hand-dug extensions in order to test the geophysical anomalies. Up to 0.35m of topsoil (4) and 0.24m of ploughsoil (5) were removed by machine to reveal the undisturbed subsoil (6), consisting of a reddish-brown clay. The topsoil contained sherds of 17th or 18th and 19th or 20th-century pottery.
- 4.11 A number of linear features were identified aligned north-west to south-east, cutting into the subsoil and sealed beneath layer 5. A shallow gully (7), up to 0.9m wide and 0.18m deep, was filled by a light brown silty clay (8), from which sherds of 17th or 18th-century pottery were recovered. Six very slight gullies (9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 45) ran roughly parallel to gully 7 and were interpreted as ploughmarks. A further, slightly broader gully (43) up to 0.5m wide and only 0.05m deep followed a similar alignment and was also attributed to ploughing. A single slight gully aligned north-east to south-west (19) was also interpreted as a ploughmark.
- 4.12 There was no evidence for any features which could account for the geophysical anomalies which had been identified in this area. Perhaps significantly, the only substantial feature revealed, gully 7, was not identified by the geophysical survey. Although the position of one anomaly, aligned north-west to

south-east, is close to a ploughmark (45) within the extension at the north-east corner of the trench, it is clear that the two are not the same.

Trench D (fig. 6)

- 4.13 Trench D was located to investigate a possible building and enclosure (Site 1) identified by the geophysical survey. Up to 0.20m of topsoil (21) and 0.22m of ploughsoil (22) was removed by machine to reveal the undisturbed subsoil (49), consisting of a reddish clay with small stones. A linear ferromagnetic anomaly identified by the geophysical survey, and assumed to be a pipe trench, was identified beneath the topsoil as a compacted layer of stone (47). Excavation of a section through this layer revealed that this was, in fact, a path composed of compacted fragments of limestone up to 0.2m across (47) within a trench (48) up to 1.2m wide cut through layer 22. On top of the limestone fragments was a compacted layer of crushed limestone (95) forming a surface to the path. Finds recovered from layer 47 included a sherd of 18th or 19th-century pottery. It seems very likely that the path is that shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2,500 map of 1889.
- 4.14 Towards the northern end of the trench an elongated pit (23) was identified with slightly irregular sides and rounded ends. Excavation revealed that the pit was up to 0.35m deep, cut into the subsoil, 2.20m long and up to 0.80m wide, with a rounded profile. The fill (24) consisted largely of dumps of yellow-grey clay and orange-red gritty silt, from which no artefacts or dating evidence were recovered. The date and function of the feature remain uncertain, although the size and shape might suggest a possible grave and, if so, the north-south orientation would suggest a pre-Christian origin.
- 4.15 The only other features identified were a series of shallow gullies (50, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89) which were interpreted as ploughmarks cut into the subsoil and aligned roughly north-west to south-east. One of the gullies (50) contained fragments of clay pipe, while another (79) was sealed beneath the path make-up (47). There was no evidence for any features that might account for the geophysical anomalies.

Trench E (fig. 7)

- 4.16 Trench E was located to investigate a possible trackway with flanking ditches (Site 3) identified by the geophysical survey. Up to 0.25m of topsoil (56) and up to 0.38m of ploughsoil (57) were removed by machine to reveal the undisturbed subsoil (58). The only features identified consisted of ten ploughmarks aligned roughly north-east to south-west and cut into the subsoil.
- 4.17 There was no evidence for any features which might account for the geophysical anomalies, although a change in the subsoil from an yellow-orange clay to a grey silty clay was noted from south-east to north-west at approximately 3.5m from the north-west end of the trench.
- 4.18 Finds recovered from the topsoil (56) included pottery ranging in date from the 17th or 18th century to the 19th or 20th century.

5 FINDS

- 5.1 The evaluation produced a moderate assemblage of artefacts, predominantly consisting of postmedieval and modern pottery (see Appendix 2). The earliest find, however, consisted of a cortical flake with slight edge retouch which was recovered from the fill of gully 91 in Trench B, and this also produced a flint chip and an unworked fragment of chert. A second cortical flake was recovered from ploughsoil (22) in Trench D. The flints, which were all probably coastal flint from Irish Sea drift, are indicative of some prehistoric tool manufacture in the vicinity.
- 5.2 Two sherds of abraded Roman pottery were recovered from the ploughsoil (2) in Trench A, consisting of a sherd of decorated samian and a small greyware rim sherd. The form and date of both vessels could not be determined. There is presently no explanation for the presence of Roman material on the site as no occupation has so far been recorded within the immediate area.
- 5.3 The majority of the finds consisted of a variety of pottery ranging in date from 17th or 18th century to 19th or 20th century. The earliest wares consisted 17th or 18th-century sherds of both trailed and combed slipware, together with sherds of coal measures buff and red wares, possibly from Buckley (Flintshire), largely recovered from topsoil and ploughsoil. The 19th to 20th-century pottery consisted

largely of developed whitewares, transfer printed wares and coal measures coarsewares, together with smaller quantities of, for example, press moulded whitewares, stoneware and industrial slipware.

5.4 Other finds included an undated bronze pin from the ploughsoil in Trench A, several fragments of clay pipe stem and fragments of bottle and window glass.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The evaluation has revealed evidence of occupation of likely prehistoric date within Trench B, consisting of a series of at least four shallow gullies and a possible posthole. This settlement evidence has now been assigned a Primary Record Number in consultation with the Gwynedd Sites and Monuments Record (PRN 12726). A layer of burnt material within two of the gullies contained fragments of daub, some with wattle impressions, which was presumably derived from some form of structure. At this stage the only dating evidence consists of a cortical flint flake with slight retouch, although a sample of charcoal has been submitted to Belfast for radiocarbon dating, the result from which is not expected for several months. The exact nature and extent of the occupation could not be determined within the scope of the evaluation, although the negative evidence provided by the remaining four trenches might suggest that it is confined to the north-west corner of the proposed development area.
- 6.2 The proximity of the prehistoric activity to an early Christian site is not unique in Wales. Excavations at Pennant Melangell, Powys, revealed a number of Middle Bronze Age pits beneath the tower and west end of the nave which appeared to be associated with funerary activity, although with no indication of any associated settlement (Britnell 1994). Several churchyards in the region also contain prehistoric standing stones, such as Corwen (Denbighshire) and Gwytherin (Conwy). It is, however, difficult to draw any conclusions apart from the obvious implication that settlement and other activity on the site has had a long, but not necessarily continuous, history.
- 6.3 Two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the base of the ploughsoil in Trench A, consisting of a sherd of decorated samian and a greyware rim sherd. Although both were too small and abraded to be diagnostic their presence is none the less of interest as no Roman activity has so far been identified within the immediate area.
- 6.4 An elongated pit, rounded at either end and aligned roughly north-south, was identified in Trench D. The date and function of the feature remain unknown, although the form, together with its orientation, could suggest a possible pre-Christian grave. This is, however, purely conjectural.
- 6.5 The only other features identified appear to be associated with either agriculture or the Gloddaeth Estate. A broad bank (26) in Trench B, which sealed a number of the potentially prehistoric features, produced no dating evidence although it is likely to represent the remains of a field boundary depicted on the Tithe Survey map of 1840. A metalled track (41) along one edge of the bank is also depicted on the Tithe Survey map and produced finds of 18th or 19th-century date. A well-constructed path identified in Trench D also produced finds of 18th or 19th-century date and is likely to be that depicted by the Ordnance Survey in 1889 leading from Gloddaeth to the church. With the exception of Trench B, all the remaining trenches contained a series of linear ploughmarks cut into the subsoil, mostly aligned north-west to south-east.
- 6.6 The geophysical survey undertaken as part of the earlier assessment (Jones *et al.* 2001) had identified a number of anomalies which were interpreted as being of potential archaeological significance. Although the trenches were located to evaluate the potentially more significant anomalies, no archaeological features were identified which could account for any of the anomalies. In addition, features were revealed during the excavation of Trenches C and D which had not been identified by the geophysical survey. The results from the evaluation therefore intimate that in this particular instance the geophysical survey has proved to be of very limited value.
- 6.7 The results from the evaluation, including the anticipated radiocarbon date, will be published in the journal Archaeology in Wales in due course, once the findings are no longer considered to be confidential. The site archive, including all finds, has been temporarily retained by CPAT prior to deposition with the Gwynedd Sites and Monuments Record, once an agreement has been reached with the landowner regarding the finds.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The results from Trench B clearly show significant archaeological potential and any proposals should seek to exclude this area from development and ensure the *in situ* preservation of deposits. Any further below ground investigation is likely to be expensive and cannot be guaranteed to further our understanding of the remains.
- 7.2 The excavation has evaluated around 2.2% of the total area of the proposed development and can therefore only provide a broad indication of the archaeological potential. It is conceivable that further unrecorded archaeological features may lie within the remainder of the area and consideration should be given to this during any groundworks.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

8.1 The writers would like to thank the following for their assistance and co-operation during the project: Wendy Owen, Glyn Owen and Brian Williams, CPAT; Bill Britnell, CPAT for identifying the flint; Angela Kay, Conwy County Borough Council; Kate Geary, Sites and Monuments Record Officer, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.

9 REFERENCES

Britnell, W J, 1994. Excavation and Recording at Pennant Melangell Church, Montgomeryshire Collections 82, 41-102.

Jones, NW, Silvester, RJ, Roseveare, A & Roseveare, M, 2001. Proposed extension to Llanrhos cemetery, Conwy: archaeological assessment. CPAT Report 406.

Tithe Survey of Llanrhos parish, 1840.

APPENDIX 1

LLANRHOS CEMETERY EXTENSION SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The proposed development (planning application 0/23257) involves an extension to the cemetery at Llanrhos Church, Llandudno, Conwy (SH79338032).
- 1.2 The area in question occupies 2.027ha to the south and east of the present cemetery. An archaeological assessment has already been undertaken by CPAT (CPAT Report 406), the results from which shed some considerable light on the evolution of the site over the last few centuries. In addition, a geophysical survey identified a number of areas of archaeological potential, including possible buildings, trackways and land divisions. Following on from the assessment, the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS) has recommended that a further stage of evaluation be undertaken, consisting of trial excavation. The curator has not provided a brief, but has requested the preparation of a project design to be submitted for approval by the nominated archaeological contractor. Accordingly, the Engineering Services Group of Conwy County Borough Council has requested that CPAT prepare a project design for the archaeological works.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the assessment are:
- 2.1.1 to reveal be means of trial excavation, the nature, condition, significance and, where possible, the chronology of the archaeology within the area of the proposed development in so far as these aims are possible;
- 2.1.2 to prepare a report outlining the results of the evaluation, incorporating sufficient information on the archaeological resource for a reasonable planning decision to be taken regarding the future management of the archaeology.

3 Methods

- 3.1 The evaluation will consist of five trial trenches, each measuring 10 x 5m, located to examine an number of features of potential archaeological significance identified during the geophysical survey. Any variation to this scheme, particularly in relation to the number or size of trenches, will only be introduced with the specific agreement of CPAT, the client and curator.
 - Trench A possible building and enclosure Site 1. Although mostly outside the development area, features appear to extend within the area and the results from this and Trench B will inform on the archaeological potential of the area nearest to the present churchyard.
 - Trench B possible building and boundaries Site 2
 - Trench C boundary bank PRN 1294, which may have a trackway alongside, as depicted on the Tithe Survey
 - Trench D possible trackway Site 3
 - Trench E located to test an area where no archaeological potential has yet been identified
- 3.2 The excavations will be undertaken using a machine excavator to remove modern overburden down to the level of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. Thereafter, all excavation will be conducted by hand unless otherwise agreed with the curator in advance. The excavations are intended to be essentially non-intrusive, although all significant archaeological contexts identified will be adequately sampled to define their function, date and relationship to other features, in so far as these aims are possible. The level of sampling will be determined by the site supervisor and will depend on the nature, extent and depth of features and deposits identified.

- 3.4 Contexts will be recorded on individual record forms and be drawn and photographed as appropriate. Artefacts will be related to the contexts from which they were derived. All photography will be in 35mm format black and white and colour print and colour slide. The trenches will be located using total station surveying to relate them to buildings and boundaries identified on modern Ordnance Survey maps, with levels will be related to Ordnance Datum. Site planning will be undertaken either digitally, by means of total station survey, or by hand at an appropriate scale.
- 3.4 Should significant environmental or technological deposits be revealed an appropriate programme of sampling will be undertaken following discussions with the curator.
- 3.5 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared detailing the results of the evaluation. This will be in A4 format and contain conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Historic Background; Evaluation; Conclusions and Recommendations and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives and finds. A draft report will be forwarded to the curator and client prior to the production of the final report.
- 3.5 The site archive will be prepared to specifications laid out in Appendix 3 in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991). Artefacts will be stored in a manner appropriate to their composition. An agreement will be reached with the client before work commences regarding the deposition of the site archive and finds.
- 3.6 A summary of the findings will be published in Archaeology in Wales. Any further publication in an appropriate journal will depend on the nature of the findings and will follow discussions with the client and curator regarding resources.
- 3.7 Contingency sums have been allowed for radiocarbon and/or archaeomagnetic dating, together with specialist identification of finds, if appropriate, to a level sufficient for the purpose of the evaluation.

4 Resources and Programming

- 4.1 The evaluation will be undertaken by a small team of skilled archaeologists under the overall supervision of Mr RJ Silvester, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The staffing of the excavation team will be determined once a timetable has been established. Details of staffing will be made available on request. CPAT is an IFA Registered Organisation and agrees to abide by its Code of Practice.
- 4.2 All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the field archaeologist in charge of the on-site operations.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that the evaluation will be completed within 10 days, and the report will subsequently be prepared within 10 days of the completion of fieldwork. A copy of the report will be deposited with the Regional SMR. The date of commencement has yet to be agreed although CPAT will not be in a position to undertake the evaluation until mid July 2001. The curator will be informed of the timetable in order to arrange for monitoring.
- 4.4 Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 4.5 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance.

N.W. Jones 14th June 2001

APPENDIX 2

SITE ARCHIVE

Site records

95 Context record forms 1 A4 site drawings 1 A1 site drawings

Film/processing fault with two Black and white negative films, therefore no film or contacts 1 colour print film No 1100 2 colour slide films photographic catalogue

Digital archive

EDM survey - Penmap Llanrhos.pts Llanrhos.dxf Mapinfo geoplot2 - geophysical anomalies newarea - development area trench1 - plan and section of trench 1 trench2 - plan of trench 2 trench2 - section of trench 2 trench3 - plan and section of trench 3 trench4 - plan and section of trench 4 trench5 - plan and section of trench 5

Finds

Trench A

Context 1

1 sherd coal measures buffware 17th-18th century, 6g 1 sherd coal measures redware 17th-18th century, 15g 4 sherd developed whiteware 19th-20th century, 57g 2 sherds press moulded jug ?19th-20th century, 21g 2 sherds transfer printed whiteware 19th century, 23g 1 frag bottle glass, 13g 1 frag window glass, 4g

Context 2

1 flint chip 1 bronze pin 1 sherd decorated samian, 2g 1 sherd Roman greyware rim, 11g 1 animal tooth, 33g

Trench B

Context 25 (topsoil)

2 frags bottle glass, 282g

1 iron nail, 3g

1 animal bone, 5g

1 sherd developed whiteware 19th century, 3g

2 frags brick/tile, 24g

Context 29 (fill gully 28)

2 frags slag, 14g 1 unworked flint nodule

Context 41 (track metalling)

1 flint flake, 6g
7 frags bottle glass, 53g
1 frag window glass, 2g
2 clay pipe stem frags, 1g
1 sherd developed yellow ware 19th-20th century, 47g
1 sherd trailed slipware 18th-19th century, 16g
2 sherds coal measures redware 17th-19th century, 41g
1 sherd refined redware 19th century, 4g
9 sherds transfer printed developed whiteware 19th century, 8g
6 sherds developed whiteware 19th century, 66g
1 sherd slip decorated whiteware 18th-19th century, 4g

Context 92 (fill gully 91)

cortical flint flake with slight edge retouch, 5g (find no. 1)
 flint chip, 1g
 chert fragment, 12g
 sample daub (find no. 2)
 bags charcoal samples (find no. 3)

Trench C

Context 4 (topsoil)

2 iron nails, 34g 1 frag bottle glass, 4g 2 frags brick, 35g 10 sherds transfer printed whiteware 19th-20th century, 73g 3 sherds coal measures redware 17th-18th century, 23g 4 sherds developed whiteware 19th-20th century, 23g 1 sherd local red earthenware

Context 8 (fill gully 7)

1 sherd coal measures redware, 5g 1 sherd ?black basalt ware 1760s-1840s, 3g 1 iron fragment, 8g 1 frag glassy slag, 2g

Trench D

Context 21 (topsoil)

3 frags clay pipe stem, 6g 1 oyster shell, 17g 1 glass bottle frag stamped - - - Llandudno, 128g 4 frags bottle glass, 112g 6 brick frags, 1.1kg 1 sherd trail slipware rim ?17th-18th century, 8g 1 sherd coal measures redware ?18th-19th century, 3g 2 sherds stoneware 18th-20th century, 102g 1 trail slipware rim 18th-20th century, 45g

1 sherd local red earthenware, 13g

4 sherds coal measure (Buckley) coarseware 18th-20th century, 464g

4 sherds transfer printed whiteware 19th-20th century, 42g

6 sherds developed whiteware 19th-20th century, 53g

1 sherd developed yellow ware 19th-20th century, 29g

1 press moulded slip decorated whiteware rim 19th-20th century, 16g

1 sherd press moulded whiteware 19th-20th century, 6g

Context 22 (ploughsoil)

1 cortical flint flake, 5g 1 sherd combed slipware 17th-18th century, 11g

Context 51 (fill of gully/ploughmark 50)

2 frags clay pipe stem, 3g 1 frag brick, 4g 1 frag coke, 2g

Context 47 (makeup for path)

1 sherd coal measures redware, 6g 2 bricks, 4.7kg 1 sherd drain pipe, 120g

Trench E

Context 56 (topsoil)

6 sherds transfer printed whiteware 19th-20th century, 185g

2 sherds coal measures redware (Buckley type coarseware) 18th-19th century, 66g

1 sherd trailed slipware 17th-18th century, 8g

1 sherd ?ironstone ware 19th century, 10g

1 sherd industrial slipware 19th century, 10g

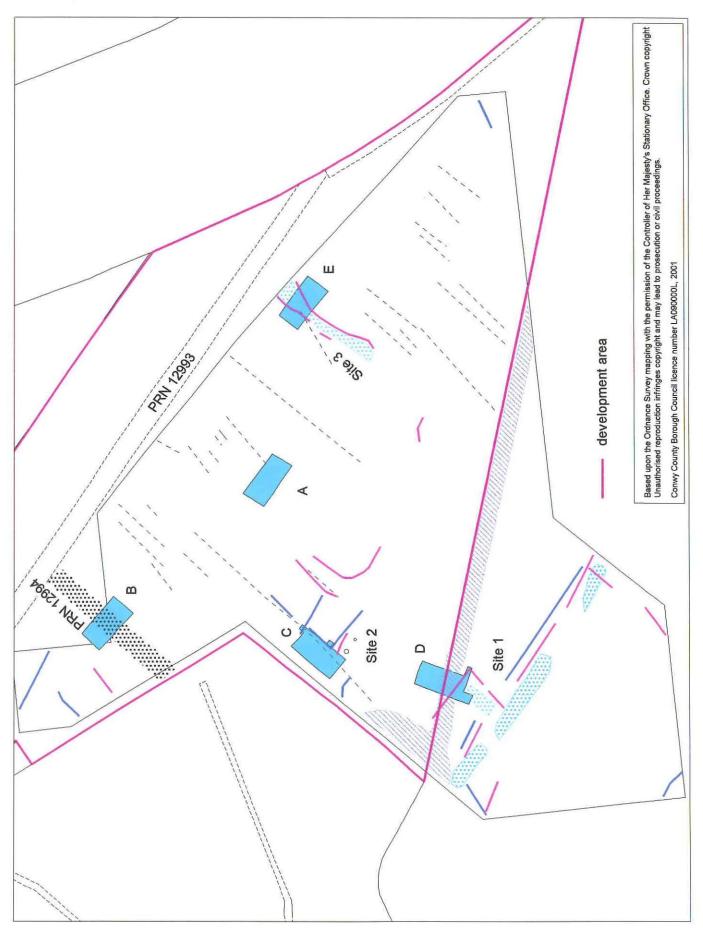


Fig. 1 Trench location and geophysical anomalies, 1:750

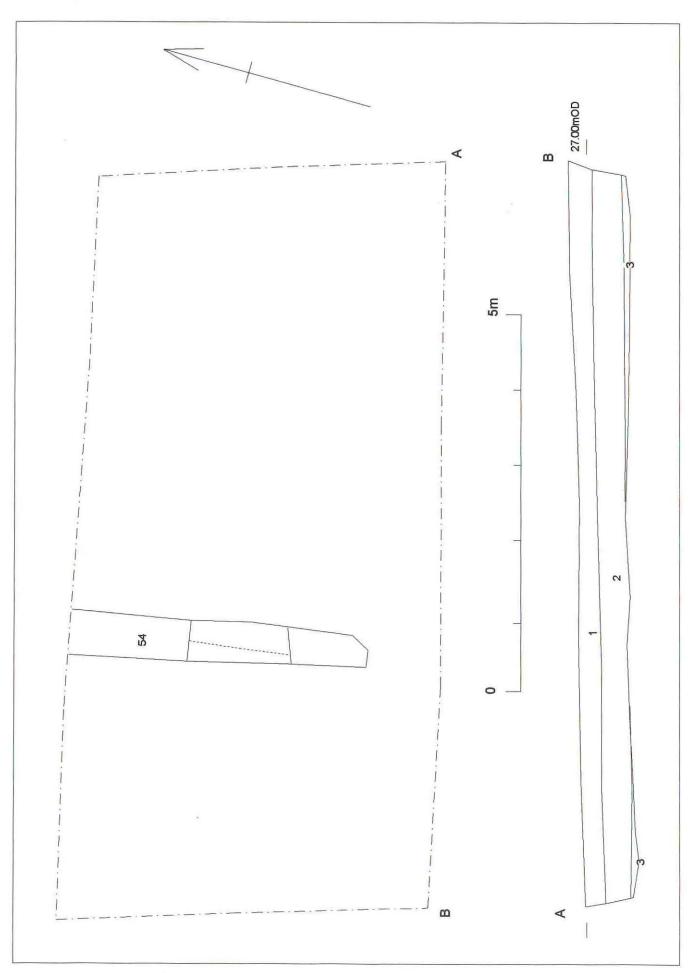


Fig. 2 Trench A plan and section, 1:50

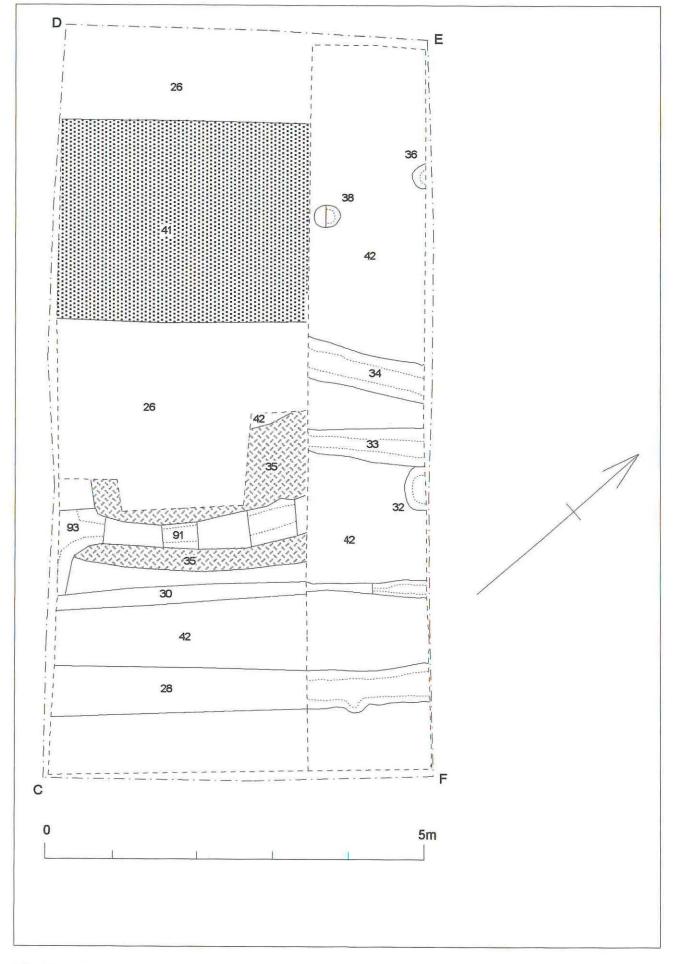


Fig. 3 Trench B plan, 1:50

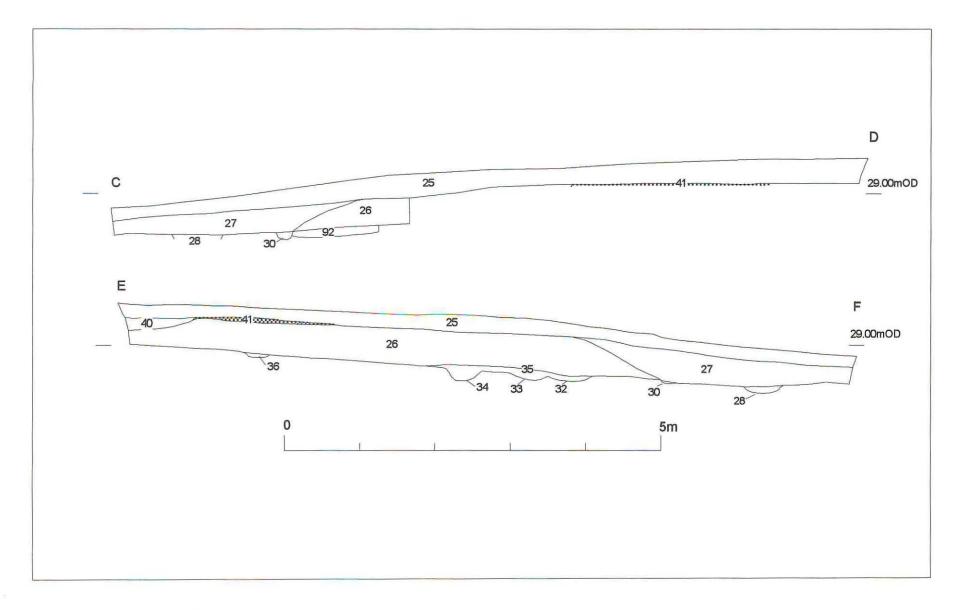


Fig. 4 Trench B sections, 1:50

CPAT Report No 433

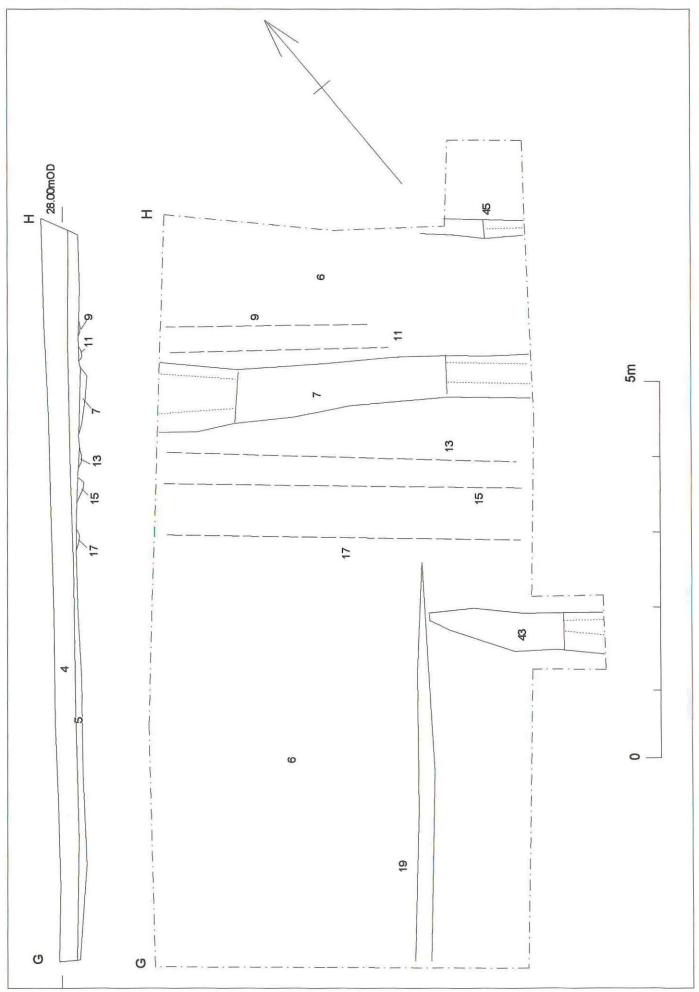


Fig. 5 Trench C plan, 1:50

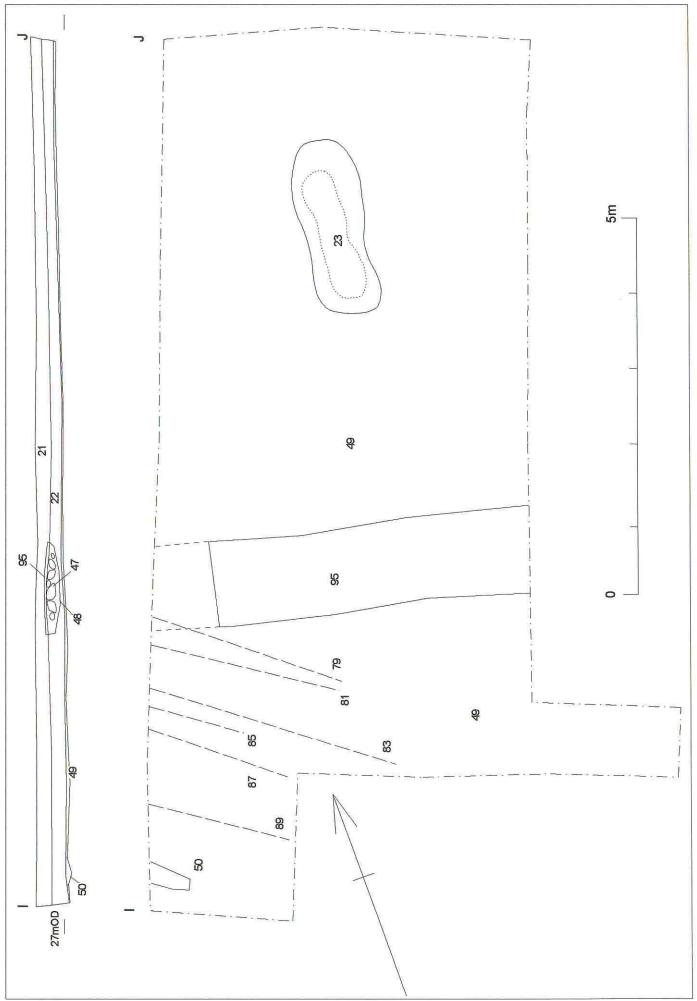


Fig. 6 Trench D plan and section, 1:50

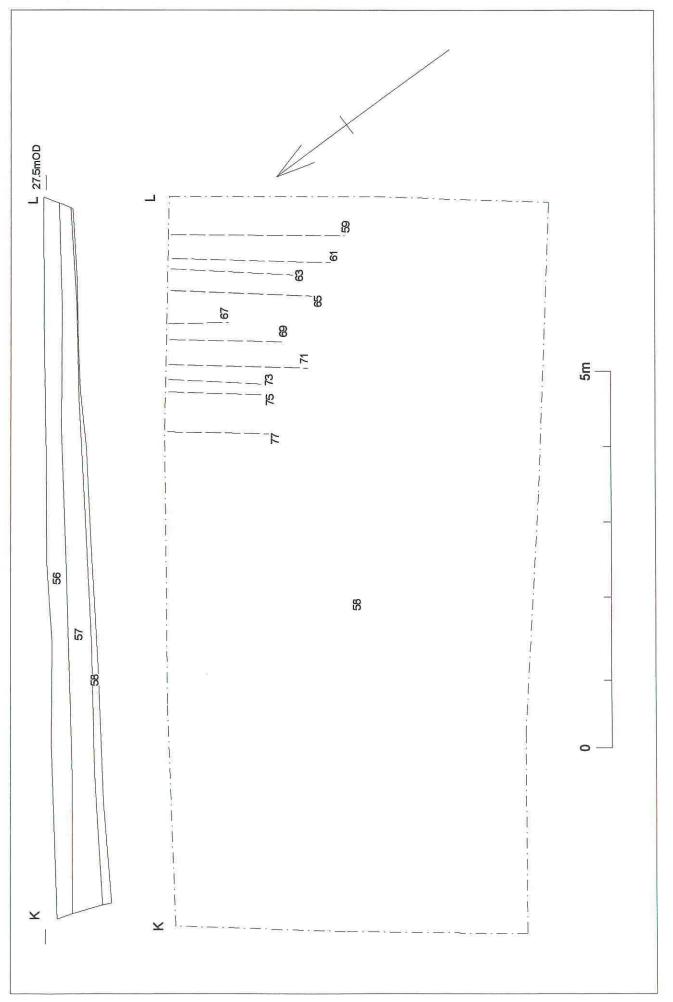


Fig. 7 Trench E plan and section, 1:50

CPAT Report No 433



Plate 1 Trench A from NW. Photo CPAT 1100.3



Plate 2 Trench B from SE showing bank 26 and charcoal layer 92. Photo CPAT 1100.5



Plate 3 Trench B showing gully 28 from SW. Photo CPAT 1100.15



Plate 4 Trench B: gully 30, gully 91 with charcoal layer 92 and layer 35, from NE. Photo CPAT 1100.26



Plate 5 Trench B: gullies 91 and 93 with charcoal layer 92 from NE. Photo CPAT 1100.28



Plate 6 Trench C from NE. Photo CPAT 1100.9

CPAT Report No 433



Plate 7 Trench C: gully 7 from SE. Photo CPAT 1100.16



Plate 8 Trench D: Path makeup (layer 47) from SE. Photo CPAT 1100.19



Plate 9 Trench D: pit 23 from S. Photo CPAT 1100.23



Plate 10 Trench E from NW. Photo CPAT 1100.24