

**CPAT Report No 1073**

# Ty'r Eglwys, Capel Bangor, Ceredigion

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**



**THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**

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# **Ty'r Eglwys, Capel Bangor, Ceredigion**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**I Grant**

January 2011

Report for James Jenkins Thomas Architects  
agents acting on behalf of Mr Mark Philips

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## CPAT Report Record

### Report and status

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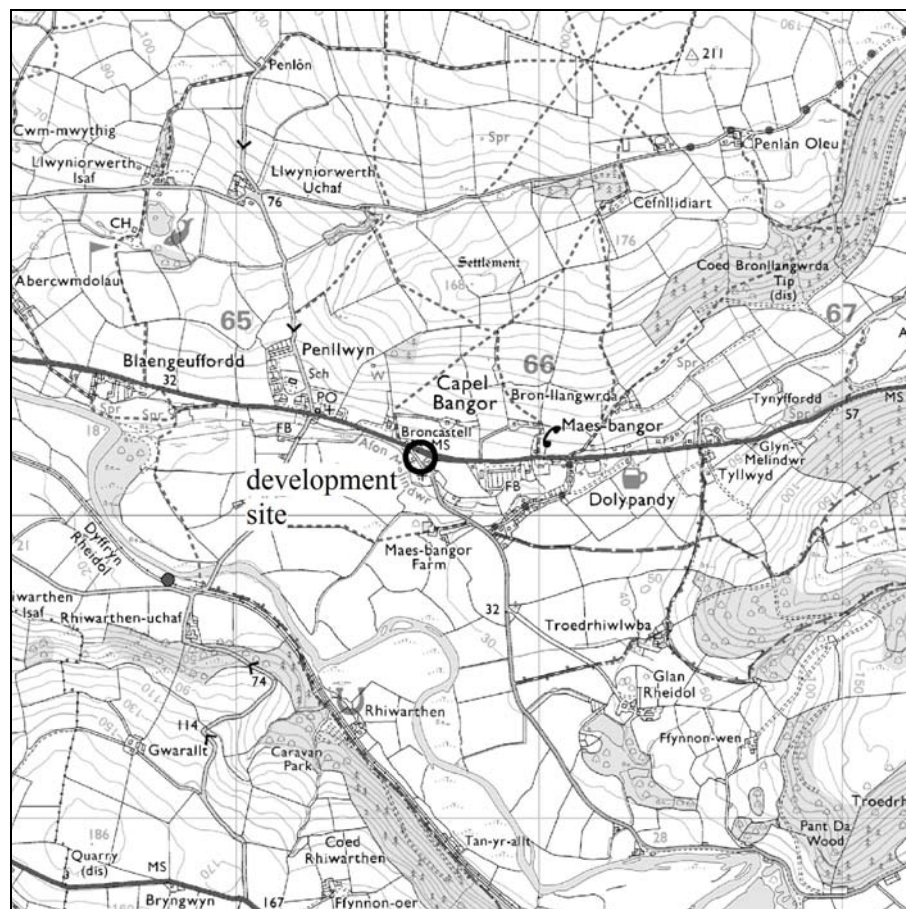
## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In December 2010 the Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was invited by James Jenkins Thomas Architects, agents acting on behalf of Mr Mark Philips, to undertake a watching brief during initial ground investigation works associated with the construction of two new dwellings at Ty'r Eglwys, Capel Bangor, four and half miles east of Aberystwyth. Planning permission for the development (Application No A100555) was granted in July 2010 which included the following condition (No 5) relating to archaeological works:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

1.2 Advice provided by the Heritage Management Section of Dyfed Archaeological Trust, (acting as the archaeological curatorial advisors to the Local Planning Authority) indicated that as a minimum requirement a watching brief should be undertaken during ground disturbance, including access and landscaping works, although it was suggested that the developer might wish to consider a field evaluation prior to the commencement of the development.

1.3 CPAT were approached by James Jenkins Thomas Architects to undertake a watching brief during ground investigation works, consisting of two test pits and a short trench to be excavated by machine.



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Fig. 1 Development site location, 1:25,000

- 1.4 The development site was located in the centre of Capel Bangor, on the south side of the A44(T) (SN 6562 8019). The site is in close proximity to the Church of St David's (PRN 6167), the origin of which is thought to predate the Norman Conquest. The name 'Bangor' is of significance as it is generally associated with early medieval ecclesiastical activity. It was therefore anticipated that the development site could contain important archaeological evidence which might be adversely affected by the construction of the new dwellings.



Fig. 2 Location of the development site and St David's Church

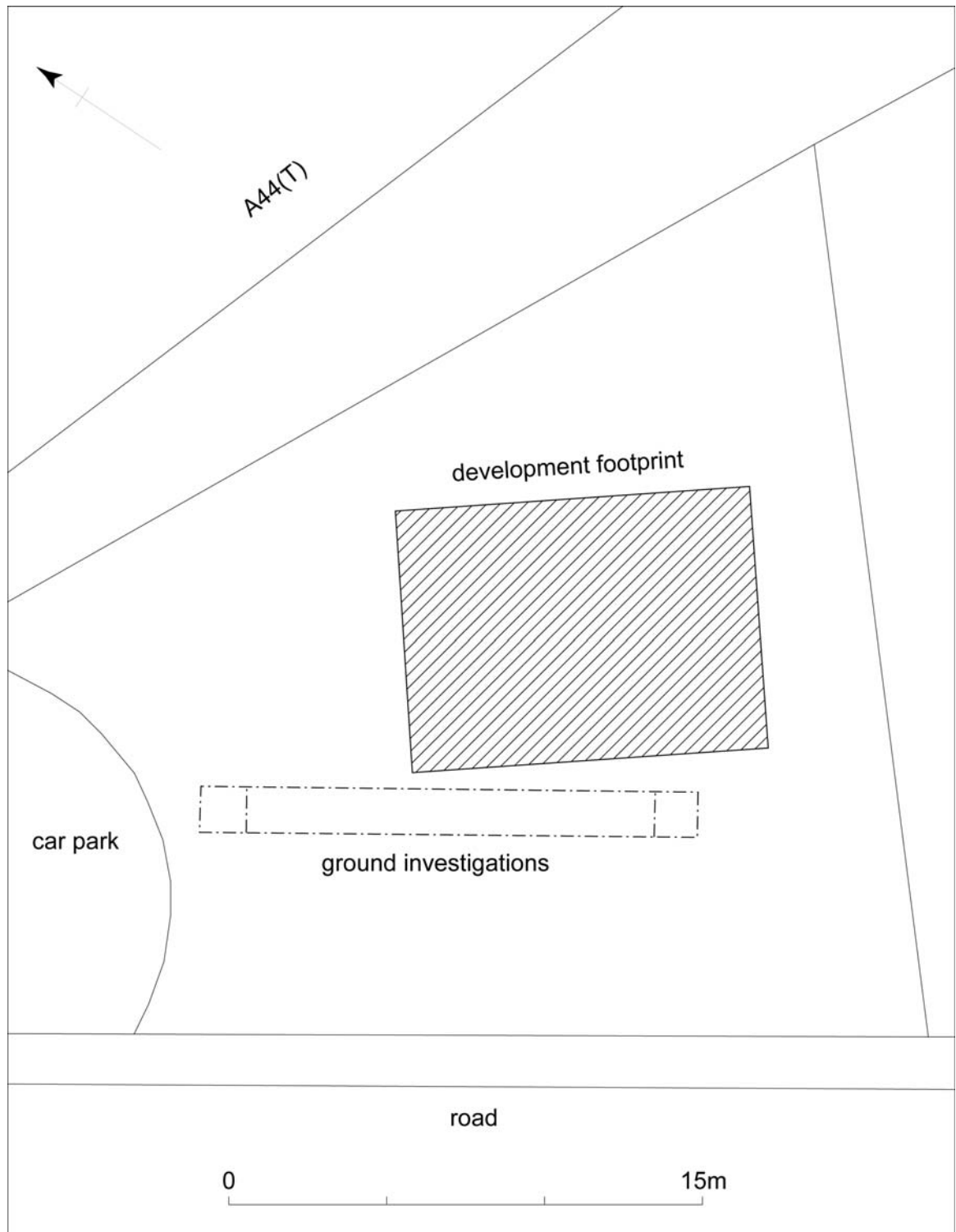


Fig. 3 Plan of the development plot showing location of ground investigations

## 2 WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.1 The watching brief was carried out on 14 December 2010 and consisted of archaeological monitoring during the mechanical excavation of two test pits and a short connecting trench. The ground investigations were located outside the proposed building footprint in order to avoid unnecessary disturbance that could impact on the stability of the foundations (see Fig. 3). The trench was located parallel with the south-west facing frontage of the plot and was orientated west-north-west by east-south-east. Owing to preservation orders on boundary trees to the east the excavation fell short of the eastern boundary by 6.3m. In all, the trench measured 16m in length (the maximum achievable in the allocated space). Two test pits were excavated within the trench, one at either end. The pits were excavated to a depth of 1.2m below the present ground surface.



Fig. 4 Location of ground investigation works

- 2.2 The trench was excavated to a total depth of up to 0.9m, removing all modern overburden and ploughsoils onto the surface of the undisturbed natural subsoil. No archaeologically significant deposits were identified during this process and rapid cleaning and the investigation of the surface of the subsoil revealed that no archaeological features were present within the trench.

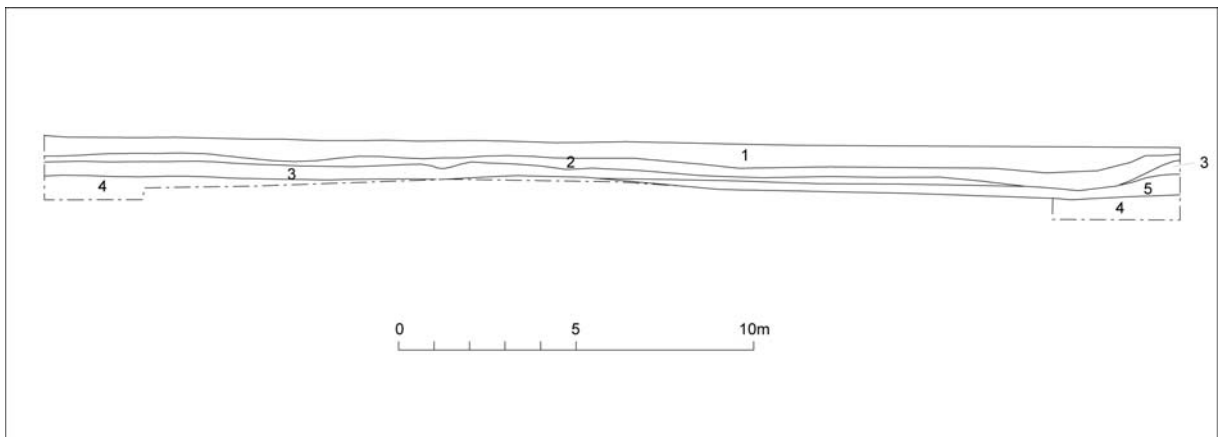


Fig. 5 South-west facing section of the ground investigation works



- 2.3 The natural subsoil (4), a combination of variable river gravels and rounded cobbles mixed with a mottled greenish grey silty clay, was sealed at the eastern end of the trench by a deposit of friable orange silty clay (5), up to 0.28m thick, which in turn was sealed by a yellowish-brown silty clay up to 0.24m thick (3). The latter extended along the entire length of the trench. Overlying this deposit was a firm dark grey clay (2), up to 0.12m thick, which contained coal fragments and house bricks together with organic material. The nature of this deposit suggests that the site may in the past have been subject to a period of water/logging. The overburden forming the uppermost deposit (1) consisted of hardcore chippings mixed with shale and general building debris up to 0.3m thick which appeared to be of relatively recent date. Some 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>-century ceramics were recovered from the deposits up to 0.45m below the present ground horizon, although none of the artefacts were retained. No other artefacts or features of archaeological significance were observed.



Fig. 6 The surface of the undisturbed natural subsoil revealed by the ground investigation works

### 3 CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 In summary, the investigations have revealed no evidence to indicate the presence of significant archaeological features or deposits within the area investigated. Artefacts were limited to the upper horizons, all of which were 19<sup>th</sup>-century or later in date. The lower deposits (3 and 5), at the interface with the undisturbed natural subsoil, contained no artefacts or other indicators, such as charcoal flecking, to suggest the presence of underlying archaeological features within the immediate area. In addition, the natural ground surface, variable river gravels and cobbles in this instance, had not been disturbed by any archaeological features.
- 3.2 The recorded trench section (see Fig. 5) illustrates the fairly uniform nature of the build up of post medieval/modern deposits across the site. One might assume that these are representative of the deposits in the adjacent area that encompasses the footprint of the development site. Although the ground investigations revealed no evidence for significant archaeological features or deposits this does not discount the possibility that such may be present elsewhere on the site.