

**CPAT Report No. 1355**

**52 – 54 Vale Street, Denbigh**

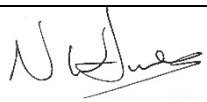
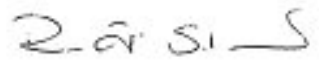
**Archaeological Watching Brief 2015**



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS

CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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 CPAT Project No: 2009  
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## Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken to monitor the construction phase of the redevelopment works at 52–54 Vale Street, Denbigh (SJ 0550 6625). This work was undertaken as a continuation of a condition of planning consent from Denbighshire County Council which had determined that the demolition of the standing buildings, ground reduction works, excavations for new services and foundations and retaining walls should be conducted under an archaeological watching brief in order to identify any significant archaeological features or deposits which might be revealed.

A pre-planning evaluation had been undertaken by CPAT in 2012 (Grant 2012) revealing evidence for potential medieval activity to the rear of the plot of No.52 at a depth of around 0.7m, while along Vale Street it was apparent that the original street level lay considerably below the present ground surface. Full planning permission (01/2013/0080) was granted in March 2013 for the demolition of the existing street frontage buildings and the redevelopment of the plots No.52 and No.54 for a single new building. This phase of works was monitored during a watching brief undertaken in 2014 (Grant 2014). The watching brief revealed limited evidence for occupation dating to the 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, some of which would appear to be contemporary with the features recorded in the 2012 evaluation, as well as the remains of a wall thought to have been associated with a structure along the street frontage which predated the former No. 54 Vale Street.

The current watching brief monitored the large-scale excavation of the areas beneath the former property No. 54 and the former access route between properties 52 and 54. This watching brief revealed that a substantial amount of *in situ* archaeological deposits and features survived beneath the former properties. This archaeology chiefly comprised a number of shallow gullies but the initial interpretations of linear features and shallow gullies identified in 2012 and 2014, this watching brief did not reveal structural evidence for any former building on the site. Nor was it possible to determine any precise date or function for the linear features other than they were almost certainly early post-medieval in origin. Far from being structural, these features are most likely associated with a garden most likely contemporaneous with the listed, seventeenth-century “Y Gelli” house opposite.

A limestone wall ran parallel with the street frontage and appears to be an eighteenth or nineteenth-century garden-retaining wall. It is likely that this is the western length of the limestone wall identified during the watching brief in 2014.

Finally, deep excavations along the street frontage during this watching brief revealed the full sequence of deposits comprising the street front. There was up to 1.5m of post- medieval and modern material overlaying the natural sandstone bedrock.

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# 1 Introduction

- 1.1. Following previous stages of work conducted at 52 - 54 Vale Street in Denbigh the Field Services of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) were invited by Grŵp Cynefin (formerly Tai Clwyd) to undertake an archaeological watching brief to monitor the construction phase of the redevelopment works at the site (SJ 0550 6625) (Fig. 1).
- 1.2. Denbighshire Archaeology Service (part of Denbighshire Countryside Service within Denbighshire County Council), had determined that the demolition of the standing buildings, ground reduction works, excavations for new services and foundations and retaining walls should be conducted under an archaeological watching brief in order to identify any significant archaeological features or deposits which might be revealed.
- 1.3. A pre-planning evaluation had been undertaken by CPAT in 2012 (Grant 2012) revealing evidence for potential medieval activity to the rear of the plot of No.52 at a depth of around 0.7m, while along Vale Street it was apparent that the original street level lay considerably below the present ground surface. Full planning permission (01/2013/0080) was granted in March 2013 for the demolition of the existing street frontage buildings and the redevelopment of the plots No.52 and No.54 for a single new building. Condition 13 of the permission related to archaeology and stated that:  
  
*'No development shall take place within the application area 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 to the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The archaeological work will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists. On completion of site work and any post-excavation analysis a report on the investigation will be submitted for approval to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR. tel: 01938 553670.'*
- 1.4. The nature of the archaeological works required to fulfil the planning condition were discussed at a meeting on 6 June 2013 attended by Fiona Gale (Denbighshire Archaeology Service), Alwyn Rowlands (Creu Architects), Peter Baker (Tai Clwyd), Rhys Dafis (Tai Clwyd) and Nigel Jones (CPAT), and at a subsequent meeting on 18 September between Bryn Davies and Peter Baker (Tai Clwyd), Fiona Gale and Nigel Jones. It was later agreed, in November 2013, that the initial phase of the development would proceed under a watching brief, with the proviso that should any significant archaeology be revealed the area in question would then be subject to detailed excavation to ensure the preservation by record of all features and deposits. A curatorial brief had been prepared by Denbighshire Archaeology Service detailing the works required.



Fig . 1 Development site location

## 2 Historical Background

- 2.1. The earliest detailed map available to us, John Speed's plan of Denbigh published in his Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain in 1611, but surveyed perhaps three or four years earlier, shows houses along the street frontage of what is now known as Vale Street though not in the area of the proposed development. Interestingly, this appears to have been part of a larger area which was depicted as a formal garden (Grant 2012).
- 2.2. The Tithe map of 1840 offers a detailed picture of Denbigh and shows part of the development site as 'Grove', an area devoid of buildings and lined to either side by trees. Down slope of the 'Grove', within the plot once occupied by 54 Vale Street, the Tithe map indicates the presence of a building along the street frontage (Grant *ibid*).
- 2.3. The Ordnance Survey 1:500 town plan of 1872 reveals little change from the townscape depicted in 1840, apart from showing trees along the street frontage.

- 2.4. Evidence from the 2012 evaluation indicated the possibility of 15<sup>th</sup>-century activity in the immediate vicinity of the site, buried beneath relict garden soil deposits which reinforced the belief that the plot had remained as an open space, known as the Grove, well into the nineteenth-century.
- 2.5. The watching brief undertaken in 2014 (Grant 2014) during the initial phase of site works revealed further evidence for occupation which is likely to date from the later medieval period. A pair of possible beam slots and a number of post-holes were identified beneath the site of No. 52 Vale Street, perhaps associated with a timber building, although it was not possible to determine the structure's plan or extent. These features appeared to be contemporary with a linear feature recorded in the 2012 evaluation trench. The remains of a stone wall were also uncovered beneath the site of No. 54 Vale Street the position, of which corresponds with that of a garden-retaining wall shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1:500 Ordnance Survey map of 1872 (Fig. 2).

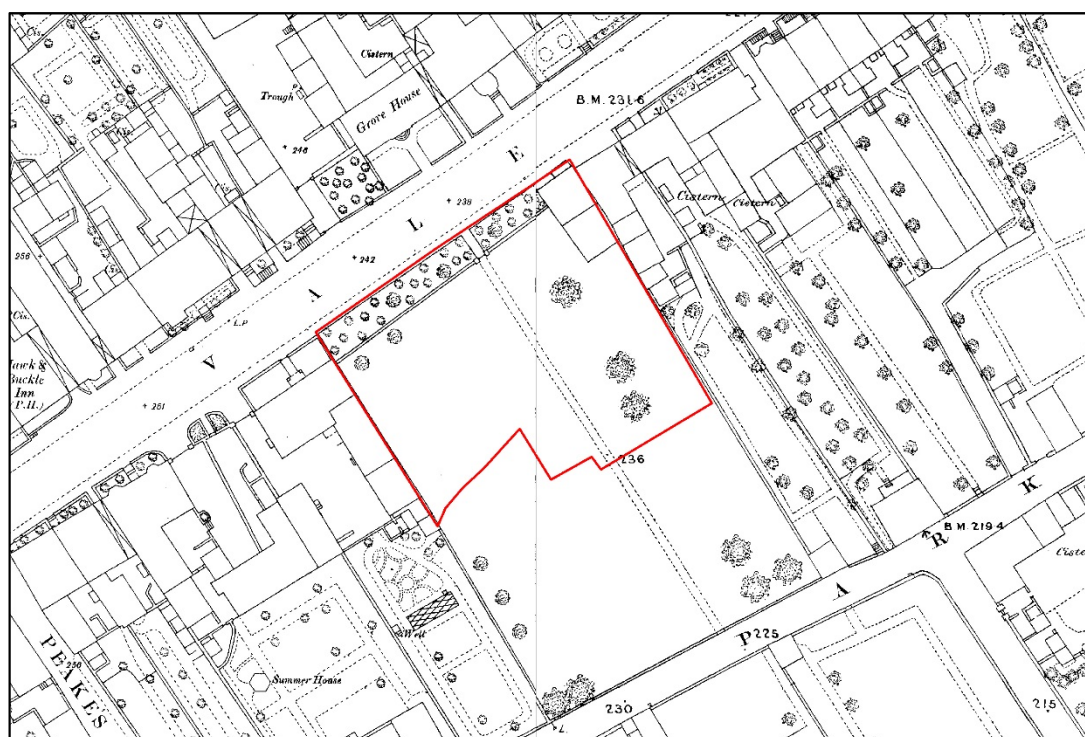


Fig. 2. An extract from the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1:500 Ordnance Survey map of 1872 showing the development site as outlined in red. The plot is depicted as undeveloped garden space; note the garden wall running parallel with the street frontage.

### 3 Watching Brief

This watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2014) and in compliance with the brief and specification as stipulated by the Denbighshire Archaeology Service in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local authority.

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- 3.1. The watching brief was conducted between 15 June 2015 and 6 August 2015 with the timing determined by the contractor's programme of work. In all eleven visits were made to the site. The initial site works consisted of a mass excavation for slab foundations within the eastern footprint of the new build, in the area formerly occupied by No. 54 Vale Street. This encompassed a large area measuring around 10.6m by 16.5m, amounting to 174.9m<sup>2</sup> in total. Further work comprised piecemeal monitoring of ground reductions below the former access road and the area immediately west of this, an area previously unseen by earlier work (Fig. 3). These ground works also revealed the full section of deposits comprising the street frontage.
- 3.2. The modern overburden was removed by machine under close archaeological supervision, down to the surface of the undisturbed natural subsoil or the first recognisable archaeological horizon. A written, drawn and photographic record was maintained throughout this watching brief, a summary of which is presented in Appendix 1. All contexts encountered during this watching brief were recorded and assigned a unique context number. These numbers are enclosed in brackets in the following text. Elevation levels were taken relative to an on-site datum, in this instance a BT manhole cover adjacent to the north-east corner of No. 56. A catalogue of the finds retrieved from this watching brief is also provided in Appendix 1.
- 3.3. The site itself is located on a north-west/south-east slope and thus the depth of the modern overburden was greatest at the southern end of the site where a greater volume of material had been imported for levelling up the ground surface.

*General ground reduction in the eastern part of the development site*

- 3.4. The initial groundworks were located on the eastern side of the development site. (see Figs 4 and 11). Here, the earliest archaeological level was revealed at 1.11m below street level and comprised a mottled yellow brown silty clay (62) into which two shallow, post-medieval gullies were cut. Unfortunately, no dating evidence was derived from this layer. It is, however, reasonable to assume that this overlay the natural soft, red sand subsoil (03) for this was revealed in the south-west corner, slightly further up slope at 1.04m below street level.



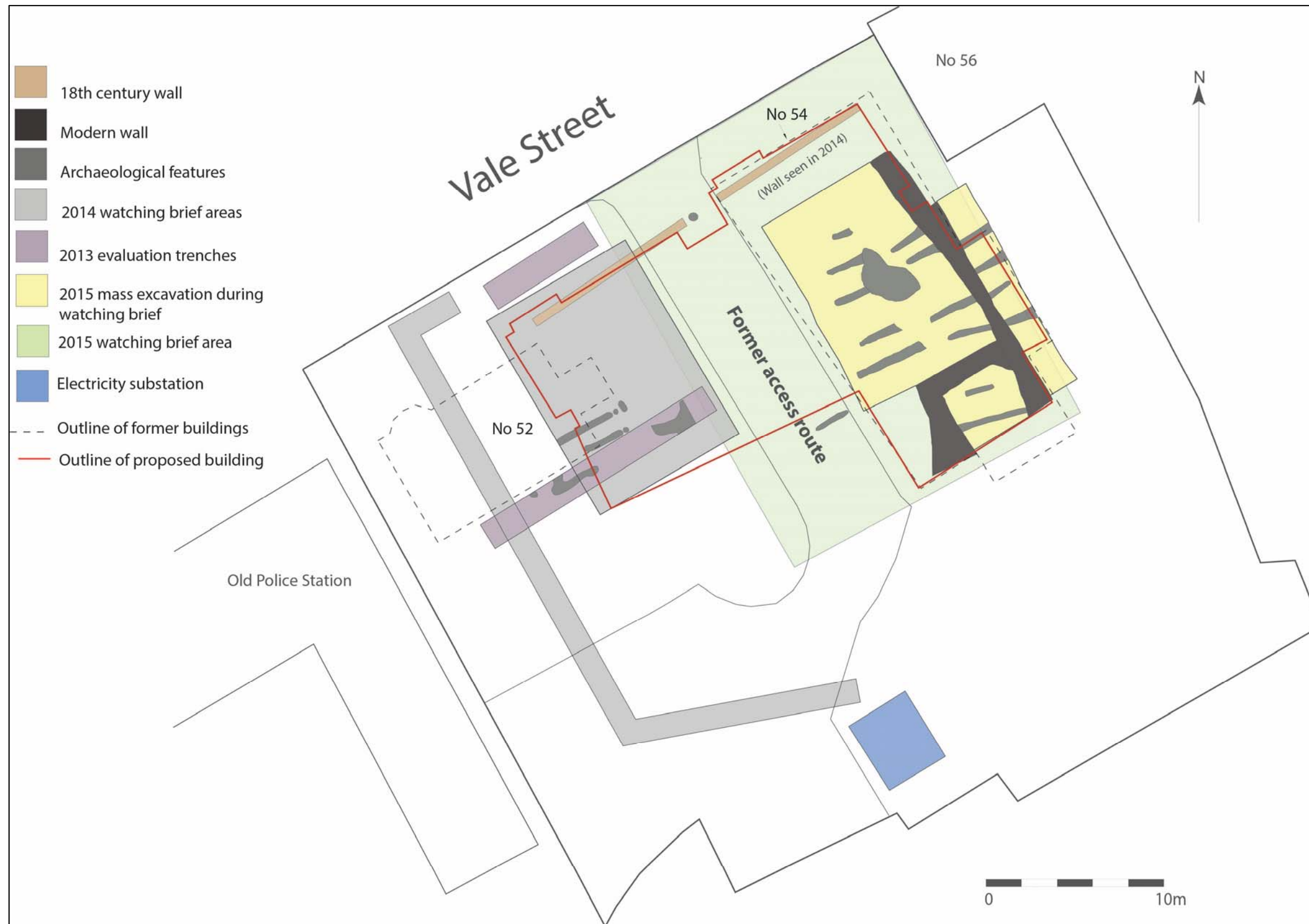


Fig. 3. Composite plan showing the results of the 2015 watching brief and that of previous years.



Fig. 4. Overview of the excavations (facing north) in the eastern area of the site showing the numerous gullies and area of disturbance in the centre of the site.

CPAT Photo 4030-0021

- 3.5. These gullies (26) and (28) were orientated east-west, measured 0.3m wide, 1.6m and 4m in length respectively, and were 1.4m apart (Fig. 5). Gully (26) had a steep-sided cut with a flat bottom and a shallow fill up to 70mm thick. Gully (28) was round-bottomed, with a deeper fill, up to 170mm thick. Each contained a dark brown silt fill containing frequent pieces of red brick, coal, some animal bone and two pieces of pot potentially medieval in age, but which are most likely to be residual in origin.
- 3.6. At the northern end of this area excavation removed around 0.8m of overburden (mostly redeposited demolition material) uncovered a compact mottled, red/yellowish/buff, sandy silt (04) which was similar to that associated with archaeological features as seen in the 2012 evaluation and 2014 watching briefs. Several parallel gullies were cut into this level (Fig. 6). This layer, only 40mm thick in this area, was truncated as a consequence of previous demolition phases of the project, (machine bucket teeth marks were clearly visible) and revealed the bright red/orange natural soft sand subsoil (03) at a depth of 0.4m below street level.



Fig. 5. Gullies (26) and (28) at the south-western corner of the site. CPAT Photo 4030-0059

- 3.7. The gullies identified in this area were orientated east-west, measured between 0.3m and 0.45m wide and were regularly spaced and contained similar fills. These were truncated in the centre by a large post-medieval pit (37) and some modern disturbance (19), effectively creating five parallel gullies to the east and west of the pit. The alignment and consistency of the fills suggest that these truncated gullies were originally continuous features.
- 3.8. Similar to features (26) and (28), each gully contained a fill comprising a dark brown silt containing frequent pieces of coal/coke, red brick, animal bone and occasional sherds of late medieval and early post-medieval pottery.
- 3.9. Six of the gullies (05, 07, 09, 39, 41 and 58) revealed shallow, steep-sided, flat-bottomed cuts with fills between 50mm and 80mm thick. These fills contained late medieval to early post-medieval pottery, along with frequent pieces of animal bone, coal/coke and occasional, limestone and slate. Elsewhere, four gullies (11, 13, 51 and 53) displayed, steep cuts with rounded bottoms and fills between 0.13 -0.35 thick (Fig. 7).



Fig. 6. Overview of the linear features in the western and northern area of the site, truncated by a large pit and later disturbance in the centre of the area. CPAT Photo 4030-0020



Fig. 7. The sampled sections of the gullies in the western and northern area of the site. CPAT Photo 4030-0025

- 3.10. From the alignments of these features, it is possible, although somewhat tentatively, to group them into two pairs of parallel gullies, namely: gullies (07 and 41) and (09

and 51) as one group and gullies (11 and 51) and (13 and 53) as a second. It is likely that gully (05) at the northern end of the site was paired with a gully lost during the recent disturbance near to the street frontage.

- 3.11. The post-medieval pit (37) truncating the gullies, measured 3.4m long, 2.2m wide and 0.7m deep (see Figs 8 - 9). It contained three layers. The primary fill consisted of a light brown-yellow clay silt (38), followed by a limestone rubble layer (16) containing frequent animal bone, post-medieval ridge tiles, an oyster shell and sherds of a late medieval storage pot, and was overlain by a loose, dark grey silt (17) containing frequent animal bone, red brick, a sherd of possible early post-medieval pot and clay pipe.



Fig. 8. The post-medieval pit (37) in the eastern area of the site. CPAT Photo 4030-0035

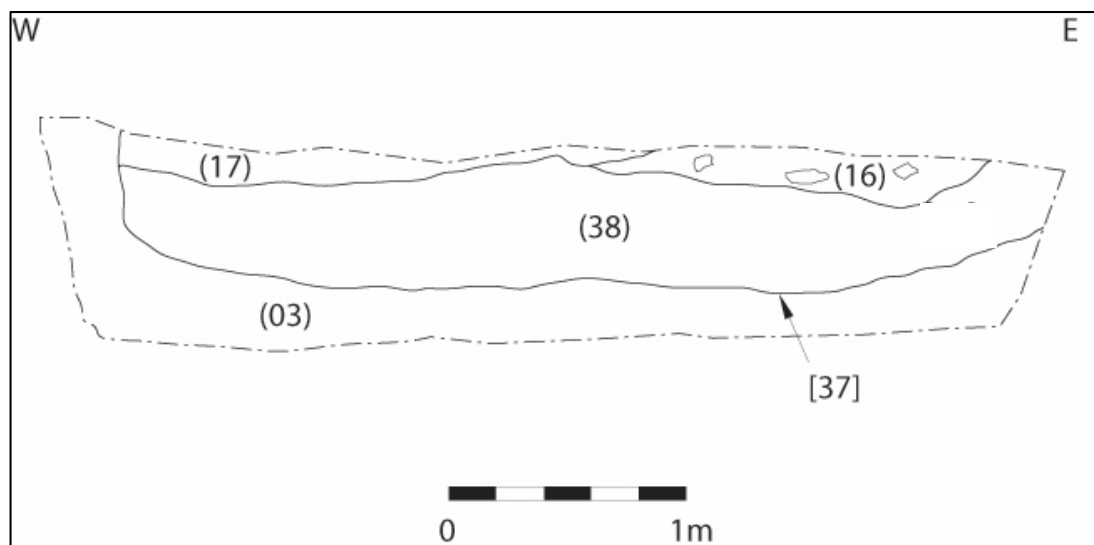


Fig. 9. Section of pit 37

- 3.12. The foundation walls of the former property of No.54 were visible within the excavation area, running north-south (21) in the eastern area of the site before returning east-west (23) into a boxed area at the southern end of the site. To the east of wall (21) between 0.6m and 1.0m of modern overburden (including recently deposited hard standing) and a post-medieval cultivation soil (30), between 0.3m and 0.4m thick were removed. This revealed a compact, mottled, dark yellowish brown, clay silt (57) at 1.34m below street level, into which several linear features were cut (Fig. 10).



Fig. 10. The linear features along the eastern edge of the excavation area. CPAT Photo 4030-0043

- 3.13. These features were more reminiscent of plough furrows than the defined gullies seen elsewhere on the site. Each feature displayed shallow, irregular and broad cuts which were filled by the overlying cultivation soil (30). This comprised a dark brown silt containing frequent flecks of charcoal, coal, late post-medieval pot, red brick and frequent animal bone.
- 3.14. Owing to the intrusion of the modern wall (21) it was not possible to infer a direct relationship between the gullies and the probable plough features. However, the late post-medieval fills of the plough features attests them post-dating the gullies and suggests a later change of use or intensification of cultivation in particular areas of the plot.

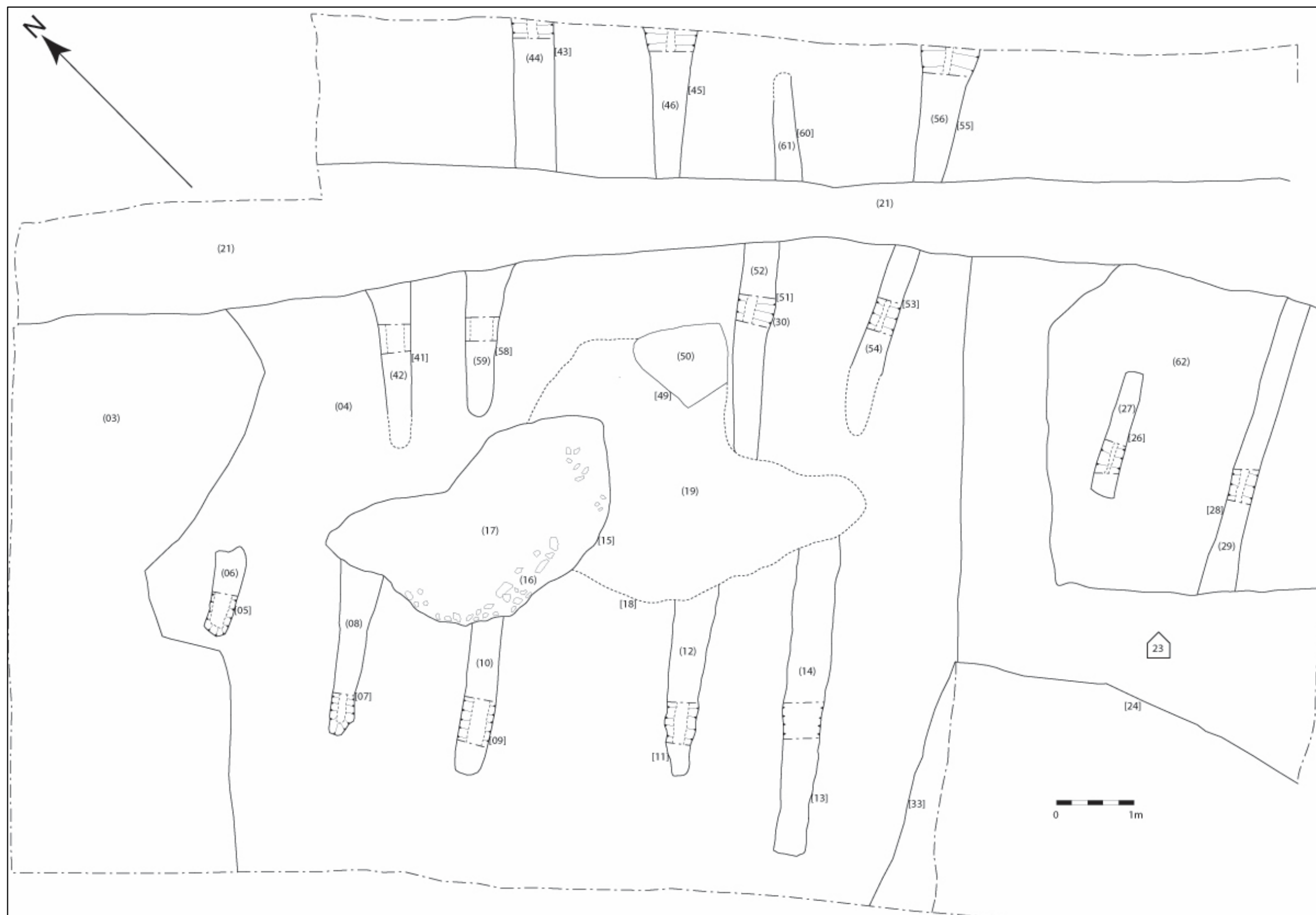


Fig. 11. Plan of the archaeological features identified in the eastern area of the development site.

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### *Street Frontage*

- 3.15. Following the initial phase of works, monitoring was undertaken during the deep excavation along the street frontage in the north-eastern area of the site, immediately west of and adjacent to No.56. Here, the level was reduced to 1.6m below ground level on to sandstone bedrock with the overburden being removed by machine. This excavation revealed the full depth of deposits at the street frontage and demonstrated a sequence of imported, levelling material comprising a dark grey/brown charcoal-rich silt (66) limestone rubble (71), sand, brick, demolition material (72 cumulatively) overlain by around 100mm of modern paving (73). These layers amounted to a total thickness of 1.5m above bedrock (Fig. 11). The earliest layer (66) contained frequent fragments of coal, smears of brick and occasional sherds of late, post-medieval pottery. The depths of these deposits are somewhat surprising given the level of the undisturbed natural subsoil just south of this area was only 0.4m below ground level. Such a significant discrepancy in levels suggests that the area along the street frontage has undergone substantial terracing and importing of material to level what is likely to have been a fairly undulating gradient.



Fig. 11. South-facing section showing the layers of post-medieval deposits making up the street frontage with “Y Gelli” house in the background. CPAT Photo 4030-0071

### *Excavations below and adjacent to the former access road*

- 3.16. After the removal of overburden, excavation within the area of the former access road revealed the modern services and drainage relating to plots Nos 52 and 54. The buff-coloured sandy silt (04) previously seen in the eastern area of the site, was revealed at a depth of c. 0.2m below ground level. This layer was largely disturbed by modern services and drainage. However, one linear gully-like feature (63), orientated north-east-south-west and measuring 0.3m wide and 1.2m long, was revealed at the eastern



edge of the former access route (Fig. 12) This feature was cut into the buff-coloured sand (04) and contained a dark grey/brown silty fill (64) containing frequent pieces of charcoal/coke, red brick and animal bone. This was exposed at 0.38m below ground level but was probably cut from the top of the sandy silt (04), its fill may have been up to 0.27m thick. It was truncated at its eastern end by modern intrusions at the edge of the access route (70). This feature was identical in character to the gullies revealed during the excavation on the eastern side of the site and given its orientation, is likely to have been associated and contemporary with these features.



Fig. 12. The shallow gully (63) revealed beneath the former access road. Photo CPAT 4030-0082

- 3.17. Ground reductions immediately west of the former access route revealed a limestone rubble wall (65), terminated by a large posthole (67) at its eastern end and a layer of dark grey/brown charcoal-rich silt (66) all within 3m of the street frontage (Fig. 13). These features was overlain by around 0.46m of modern disturbance and overburden (72).



Fig. 13. The limestone wall (65), posthole (67) and garden soil (66) revealed along the street frontage. CPAT Photo 4030-0096

- 3.18. The wall (65) was parallel to the street front, orientated north-east – south-west and comprised limestone blocks, some of which were faced and retained evidence of a lime mortar (Fig. 14). A chamfered block with a longitudinal hole was recovered from the rubble (Fig. 15). The wall measured 0.65m wide and extended 10m westwards as revealed by the limits of the ground reduction. This wall was truncated by modern services, orientated north-south, some 1.2m west from the end of the wall. Its full length could not be established but the extent of the excavations demonstrated that the wall was cut into red sand (03), 1.34m below ground level. This wall was punctuated at its eastern end by a sub-angular posthole (67) (Fig. 16). The posthole measured 0.6m by 0.63m and 0.4m deep. This posthole contained a fill comprising a dark grey/black silt (68) which contained frequent pieces of coal, brick, animal bone, possible bits of lime and a slate roof tile. This wall appeared to be butted by a dark grey/brown charcoal-rich silt (66) which contained frequent animal bone, brick, coal and occasional sherds of post-medieval pottery and was reminiscent of a cultivation/ garden soil (see Fig. 14). This layer was also visible in the section of the street frontage, revealing a thickness of up to 0.13m and was overlain by a thick layer of limestone rubble (71) as seen previously in the street section (Fig. 17).



Fig. 14. The limestone wall (65) running parallel with the street frontage, truncated by modern services, with the front of the Old Police Station on the background. CPAT Photo 4030-0093



Fig. 15. The chamfered limestone block retrieved from the wall (65) rubble. CPAT Photo 4030-106



Fig. 17. Posthole 67 terminating the eastern end of wall (65). CPAT Photo 4030 -0102



Fig. 18. The street front section showing a thin lens of garden soil (66) overlying the natural sand (03) and overlain by a thick limestone layer (71) and cumulative post-medieval deposits (72) beneath the modern paving (73). CPAT Photo 4030-0105

- 3.19. Consultation of the historic mapping shows that this wall corresponds with the retaining garden wall as discussed earlier in this report and it aligns with the limestone wall revealed during the 2014 watching brief. Further still, the posthole (67) most likely supported the western stone pillar or gatepost framing the entrance to the former Grove. The post-medieval nature of the deposits and pottery evidence are suggestive of eighteenth-century origins.
- 3.20. The final phase of the watching brief monitored the excavation of a narrow strip of ground undisturbed during the previous ground reductions, west of the former access route and immediately east of the modern services previously seen truncating the limestone wall (65). These were the remnants of an eighteenth to nineteenth-century garden soil (69) and overlay the buff-coloured sand (04) (Fig. 19).



Fig. 19. The modern service trench truncating the remnants of an 18<sup>th</sup>- or 19<sup>th</sup>- century soil (69) along the eastern edge of the excavation area. CPAT Photo 4030-0110

- 3.21. No further monitoring was undertaken of the remaining excavations in preparation for the footing pads and retaining wall trench as these were in an area already monitored during previous watching briefs.

## 4 Conclusions

- 4.1. The heritage interest in the development area focused around its location within the medieval town and the belief that the plot may have remained unoccupied from at least the early 17<sup>th</sup> century until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, raising the possibility of preserved medieval occupation deposits.
- 4.2. The watching brief revealed a series of archaeological features and deposits which had been disturbed to varying degrees by later post-medieval and modern activity, most notably the foundations for the demolished buildings of 52 and 54 Vale Street and their access road.
- 4.3. Along the street frontage previous small-scale evaluation (Grant 2012) had identified a significant build-up of material, indicating that the original level of Vale Street was significantly lower than the present day road. While it had been anticipated that the watching brief would reveal evidence for earlier road levels and associated features the works along the street frontage were of a depth which was insufficient to expose any archaeologically significant levels.
- 4.4. However, the basal remains of a mortared, limestone retaining wall were identified a few meters from the street frontage, together with a posthole and a fragment of carved stone, possibly a gate post. These are likely to be associated with the boundary

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wall depicted on the 1872 Ordnance Survey town plan of Denbigh, associated with what appears to have been a formal garden which occupied the whole of the development area. The depth and nature of the deposits seen in the section of the street frontage testify to substantial terracing and levelling activity along Vale Street undertaken, in particular, from the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

- 4.5. A series of narrow, parallel, linear gullies were identified beneath the former 54 Vale Street which were similar to features identified during the earlier phase of the watching brief, beneath No. 52 Vale Street. At the time these were identified as possible beam slots for a timber building which, although themselves undated, were attributed to the late medieval period on the basis of pottery recovered from adjacent areas. The recently discovered features contained a range of artefacts, including late medieval pottery, but also post-medieval pottery and their form and distribution argue against them being part of a timber building. It seems most likely that they are associated with the layout and use of the Grove as a formal garden (see below).
- 4.6. Overall, the archaeological evidence suggests that the development plot may have remained largely undeveloped throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods, although the results from the recent archaeological work do indicate medieval activity, including a number of features, in the area. The plot is shown on John Speed's plan of Denbigh, published in his *Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain* in 1611, as part of a larger area which is depicted as a formal garden and it has been suggested that this may have been associated with the prominent town house, Y Gelli, which lies on the opposite side of Vale Street. The house was built in 1574 and was considered to be one of the grandest properties on Vale Street. It was later remodelled in 1693 by the prestigious Shaw family whom had later died out by the 19<sup>th</sup> century and with that presumably, the retention of ownership of house and Grove. Consequently, the plot was developed during the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 4.7. Although the watching brief did not reveal any conclusive evidence for medieval occupation within the plot the results have demonstrated that potentially significant deposits can survive beneath later buildings, where these have not been cellared. This is in part a result of the accumulation of soils during the post-medieval medieval, and the formation of terraces counteractive the sloping topography which is typical of much of Denbigh.

## 5 Acknowledgements

- 5.1. The fieldwork was undertaken by the author with assistance from Richard Hankinson. Post-excavation assessment and reporting was undertaken by the author with assistance from Nigel Jones and Ian Grant. Grateful thanks are also offered to Will Logan his assistance in preparing the illustrations.
- 5.2. The author would like to thank Fiona Gale (Denbighshire County Archaeologist) for her assistance and support during the fieldwork. Thank are also extended to Grŵp Cynefin for their interest and co-operation throughout this phase of work. Lastly, special thanks are offered to Gareth Griffith of R L Davies Construction and his staff Daryl and Trevor for their assistance and co-operation.

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## 6 Sources

### *Unpublished sources*

Cadw; Listed Building Database Record: "Y Gelli (formerly Grove House and also Ty Nant)". Listed Building Reference: 1033

Grant, I., 2012. 52 - 54 Vale Street, Denbigh: Archaeological Evaluation. CPAT Report No. 1152

Grant, I., 2014. 52 - 54 Vale Street, Denbigh: Archaeological Watching Brief. CPAT Report No.1264

### **Cartographic sources**

1611 John Speed's plan of Denbigh published in *Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain*

1872 Ordnance Survey 1:500 town plan of Denbigh

## 7 Archive deposition Statement

- 7.1. The project archive has been prepared according to the CPAT Archive Policy and in line with the CIfA Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives guidance (2014). The archive will be deposited with the regional Historic Environment Record, maintained by CPAT in Welshpool. The finds will be deposited with Denbighshire Museums Service, subject to the owner's permission. A summary of the archive is provided in Appendix 1.



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## Appendix 1: Site Archive

12 x Watching Brief forms  
 4 x Photographic Register  
 1 x Finds Register  
 1 x Drawing Register  
 2 x Context Register  
 2 x Levels record  
 3 x A1 plans at 1:20  
 2 x A1 sections 1:20  
 111 x Digital photographs; CPAT Film Number: 4030

### Context Register

Context	Description
01	Modern concrete layer at northern end of site
02	Dark brown/grey silt, Post-medieval demolition layer including frequent brick, coal and other material debris, at the northern end of site
03	Pinkish/red, mottled, soft natural sandy subsoil
04	Yellowish brown/buff, compact sandy silt
05	Cut of gully; filled by (06)
06	Compact medium brown/grey silt containing frequent fragments of coal/coke, red brick, occasional shell and lime, and 1 sherd of late Medieval - Early post medieval pot
07	Cut of gully; filled by (08)
08	Compact, medium brown/grey silt containing frequent fragments of coal, red brick
09	Cut of gully; filled by (10)
10	Compact, medium brown/grey silt containing frequent fragments of coal, red brick and pieces of slate
11	Cut of gully; filled by (12)
12	Compact, medium brown/grey silt containing frequent fragments of coal, red brick and pieces of slate, animal bone and limestone

13	Cut of gully; filled by (14)
14	Compact, medium brown/grey silt containing frequent fragments of coal, red brick and pieces of slate, animal bone, limestone and late Medieval and early post-Medieval pot
15	Pit cut
16	Secondary fill of pit (15). Limestone rubble pit fill containing frequent animal bone, ridge tile and late Medieval/ early post-Medieval pot
17	Tertiary fill of pit (15). Loose dark brown, silt containing frequent animal bone, red brick and possible Early - Post Medieval pot and clay pipe
18	Same as (19)
19	Large area of disturbed ground; mixed brown/orange silt with modern intrusions; frequent brick, plastic, coal
20	Cut of N-S modern footings wall of No.54 (21)
21	Modern N-S wall/footings of No. 54
22	Cut of E-W modern wall footings at southern end of site (23)
23	Modern E- W modern wall footings at southern end of site
24	Cut of modern return footings wall at southern end of the site (25)
25	Modern return footings wall at southern end of the site
26	Cut of gully; filled by (27)
27	Compact, medium brown/grey silt containing frequent fragments of coal, red brick
28	Cut of gully; filled by (29)
29	Compact, medium brown/grey silt containing frequent fragments of coal, red brick and two sherds of possibly late Medieval/early post-Medieval pot
30	A dark brown silt containing frequent flecks of charcoal, coal, late post-medieval pot, red brick and frequent animal bone.
31	Modern, dark grey/black cultivation soil
32	Modern concrete and tarmac layer overlying (31)
33	Cut of gully (same as (53)); filled by (34),
34	Same as (54) Compact, medium brown/grey silt containing frequent fragments of coal, red brick , animal bone and a rim sherd of possible late Medieval/ early post-Medieval pot
35	Modern disturbance in south-west area of site
36	Same as (35)
37	Same as (15)
38	Primary fill of pit (15); a light brown/ yellow clay silt
39	Cut of gully; filled by (40)

40	Compact, medium brown/grey silt containing frequent fragments of coal, red brick
41	Cut of gully; filled by (42)
42	Compact, medium brown/grey silt containing frequent fragments of coal, red brick, pieces of slate and one sherd of c. 15 <sup>th</sup> century pot
43	Cut of plough feature ; filled by (44)
44	Same as (30), fill of (43); A dark brown silt containing frequent flecks of charcoal, coal, late post-medieval pot, red brick and frequent animal bone.
45	Cut of plough feature ; filled by (46)
46	Same as (30), fill of (45); A dark brown silt containing frequent flecks of charcoal, coal, late post-medieval pot, red brick and frequent animal bone.
47	Same as 31
48	Modern pink gravel hard standing overlying (31)
49	Modern pit cut; cutting into (19) and filled by (50)
50	Fill of (49); dark grey black, loose silt containing modern brick, glass, plastic
51	Cut of plough feature ; filled by (52)
52	Compact, medium brown/grey silt containing frequent fragments of coal, red brick, animal bone and pieces of slate
53	Same as (33)
54	Same as(54)
55	Cut of plough feature; filled by (56)
56	Same as (30), fill of (55); A dark brown silt containing frequent flecks of charcoal, coal, red brick/tile, animal bone and pieces of slate
57	Dark yellowish brown compact clay silt with frequent charcoal/coal smears, plough features cut into this
58	Cut of gully; filled by (59)
59	Compact, medium brown/grey silt containing frequent fragments of coal, red brick, pieces of slate
60	Cut of plough feature; filled by (61)
61	Same as (30), fill of (60); A dark brown silt containing frequent flecks of charcoal, coal, red brick/tile, animal bone
62	Dirty yellowish brown, compact clay, cut by (26) and (28)
63	Cut of linear seen west of access route
64	Fill of linear [63]; a dark grey silt with frequent coke, brick and animal bone
65	Limestone wall
66	Charcoal rich, grey/brown silt, frequent PM brick and animal bone. Butting wall (65)

67	Cut of posthole at eastern end of wall (65)
68	Fill of cut [67], dark grey/black silt, frequent pieces of coal, brick, animal bone, possible bits of lime and interestingly, a slate roof tile.
69	Late post-medieval garden soil/ soil west of former access route, rear of No. 52
70	Modern intrusion/ disturbance along western edge of former access route
71	Limestone rubble layer with frequent animal bone seen in section of street frontage
72	Cumulative post-medieval and modern deposits comprising upper levels of street frontage deposits
73	Modern paving of street frontage

### Finds Register

Find No.	Context	No	Comments	Discarded?
1	20	8	6 coal/coke, 2 pieces of slate	Yes
2	29	4	1 CBM/tile, 1 animal bone, 1 glazed pot (body sherd), 1 unglazed pot (body sherd). Both pot of possible late medieval- early/ post-medieval date.	CBM and animal bone only
3	14	12	4 CBM, 2 animal bone, 3 coal/coke, 1 limestone, 2 unglazed pot (1 body sherd, 1 handle); both of late medieval / early post-medieval date.	CBM, animal bone, coke/coal and Limestone only
4	34	1	Unglazed rim sherd, late medieval in date.	No
5	6	4	1 CBM, 1 coal/coke, 2 glazed pot (body sherd); late medieval - early/ post-medieval in date, possibly Cisterian ware.	CBM and coal/coke only
6	17	14	9 animal bone, 3 CBM, 1 iron nail, 1 glazed pot (body sherd); early/ post-Medieval in date.	Animal bone, CBM and iron nail only
7	12	18	5 coal/coke, 4 CBM, 4 Limestone, 3 animal bone, 1 piece of slate	Yes

8	19	16	4 animal bone, 3 tile, 1 clay pipe pot, 1 glass, 5 glazed Buckley pot (body sherds); post-medieval in date.	Animal bone, tile, clay pipe and glass only
9	16	10	3 tile, 3 animal bone, 1 oyster shell, 2 unglazed pot (1 body sherd, 1 shoulder with rim), 1 splash glazed pot (body sherd); likely that sherds are from same vessel, a lid-seated rim pot of medieval date.	Tile, animal bone and oyster shell only
10	16	14	11 ridge tile fragments, 3 animal bone	Yes
11	6	1	Bulk sample: Medium finds bag	Yes
12	8	1	Bulk sample: Medium finds bag	Yes
13	14	1	Bulk sample: Medium finds bag	Yes
14	59	1	Bulk sample: Medium finds bag	Yes
15	54	1	Bulk sample: Medium finds bag	Yes
16	38	1	Bulk sample: Medium finds bag	Yes
17	42	1	Bulk sample: Medium finds bag	Yes
18	27	1	Bulk sample: Medium finds bag	Yes
19	52	1	Bulk sample: Medium finds bag	Yes
20	29	1	Bulk sample: Medium finds bag	Yes
21	10	1	Bulk sample: Medium finds bag	Yes
22	12	1	Bulk sample: Medium finds bag	Yes
23	59	2	1 slate piece, 1 CBM	Yes
24	56	8	4 animal bone, 2 CBM, 1 tile, 1 piece of slate	Yes
25	52	8	3 CBM, 2 animal bone, 2 coal/coke, 1 piece of slate	Yes
26	42	5	2 coal/coke, 1 CBM, 1 piece of slate, 1 glazed pot (body sherd); of late medieval - early post-medieval date.	Coal/coke, CBM and slate only
27	54	8	5 coal/coke, 2 CBM, 1 animal bone	Yes

**Watching Brief Attendance**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Staffing</b>	<b>Works Monitored</b>
15.06.15	Menna Bell	Excavation of trial trench west of gable end of property No. 56
17.06.15	Menna Bell	Start of mass excavation in eastern area of development site.
18.06.15	Menna Bell	Continued monitoring of mass excavation in eastern area of development site. Sampling and excavation of archaeological features. Monitoring meeting with DCC Archaeologist Fiona Gale.
19.06.15	Menna Bell	Monitoring of extension to west of mass excavation area. Continued excavation of archaeological features. Began recording area.
22.06.15	Menna Bell	Continued recording and excavation of archaeological features. Monitoring meeting with Fiona Gale.
23.06.15	Menna Bell & Richard Hankinson	Continued recording and excavation of archaeological features. Site meeting with Fiona Gale and CPAT Senior Project Archaeologist Richard Hankinson.
24.06.15	Menna Bell & Richard Hankinson	Richard Hankinson on site during morning and assisted with final excavation and recording of archaeological features revealed in mass excavation of eastern area. Monitoring of extension of excavation area along street frontage of eastern area of development site.
20.07.15	Menna Bell	Monitoring of deep excavation against street frontage to bedrock revealing full nature of archaeological deposits.
28.07.15	Menna Bell	Monitoring of excavation of area c. 15m x 10m under former access route. Recorded and excavated small archaeological feature revealed during excavations.
04.08.15	Menna Bell	Monitoring of further reduction of ground level immediately west of former access route. Recording and excavation limestone wall and posthole revealed.
06.08.15	Menna Bell	Monitoring of small area west of former access route, during ground reductions.

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## Appendix 2: CPAT WSI 1376

### 1 Introduction

1.1 The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust has been invited by Tai Clwyd to provide a written scheme of investigation and costing for undertaking a programme of archaeological works in connection with the redevelopment of 52/54 Vale Street, Denbigh.

1.2 Full planning permission (01/2013/0080) was granted for the demolition of the existing street frontage buildings and the redevelopment of the plot with a single new building. Condition 13 of the permission relates to archaeology and states that:

'No development shall take place within the application area 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 to the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The archaeological work will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists. On completion of site work and any post excavation analysis a report on the investigation will be submitted for approval to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR. tel: 01938 553670.'

1.3 The site is located in Vale Street, within the medieval town of Denbigh (SJ 0550 6625). Denbigh is an important medieval town, with the early Edwardian, English town developing at the top of the limestone hill, where Denbigh castle now stands at the end of the 13th century. Settlement soon moved down to the lower ground and Vale Street is shown clearly on the John Speed map of 1610 which depicts buildings lining the street frontage. These buildings could date from the medieval period and certainly date from the early 17th century.

1.4 A pre-planning evaluation was conducted by CPAT in 2012, revealing evidence for potential medieval activity to the rear of the plot at a depth of around 0.7m, while along Vale Street it was apparent that the original street level was considerably below the present ground surface.

1.5 The nature of the archaeological works required to fulfil the planning condition were agreed at a meeting on 6 June 2013 attended by Fiona Gale (Denbighshire Archaeology Service), Alwyn Rowlands (Creu Architects), Peter Baker (Tai Clwyd), Rhys Dafis (Tai Clwyd) and Nigel Jones (CPAT). A curatorial brief has been prepared by Denbighshire Archaeology Service detailing the works required.

### 2 Objectives

2.1 The objectives of the programme of archaeological works are:

2.1.1 to ensure the preservation by record of all significant archaeological remains which may be disturbed by the redevelopment in so far as these aims are possible;

2.1.2 to produce an interim report and archive assessment;

2.1.3 to prepare a final report for publication in an appropriate journal.

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### **3 Methods**

3.1 Following discussions with Tai Clwyd the programme of work has been split into two phases as outlined below.

#### *PHASE 1 - Demolition and site reduction*

3.2 Prior to the commencement of the development the remaining building (54 Vale Street) will be demolished and the site cleared to the present ground level. Levels will subsequently be reduced by around 1m within the footprint of the new building.

3.3 This will be conducted as a watching brief under close archaeological supervision using a machine with a large, toothless bucket. Material will be removed onto the surface of the first significant archaeological horizon, or the formation level of the new building, whichever is encountered first.

3.4 In order to comply with the planning condition machine excavations must not continue below the level of any surviving archaeology until this has been subject to appropriate excavation and recording in Phase 2.

3.5 Should the watching brief reveal any potential archaeological deposits there may be a requirement for rapid hand-cleaning of the area in order to:

- identify the extent of surviving deposits
- provide an indication of their date and significance
- allow an agreement to be reached with the curator regarding any further excavation which may be required under Phase 2
- provide a basis for estimating the cost of Phase 2

3.6 It is understood that a new service trench will be required to provide a supply from Vale Street to the rear of the plot. This will be conducted under an archaeological watching brief during which the archaeologist should be allowed the opportunity to provide an adequate record of any significant features, deposits or artefacts which may be revealed.

3.7 Following the completion of Phase 1 a site meeting will be required to agree the extent and timing of any further archaeological works which may be required under Phase 2.

#### *PHASE 2 - Excavation*

3.8 Following the completion of Phase 1 it will be apparent as to whether any archaeological deposits survive within the footprint of the new building. Should no significant deposits be present further elements of the construction may still be subject to a watching brief but no detailed excavation would be required. A report would subsequently be prepared on the results of the watching brief under Phase 3.

3.9 However, should any archaeological deposits be present, and subject to an agreement regarding the extent of any further archaeological excavations, a programme will be implemented to ensure the preservation by record of all significant archaeological remains



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within the footprint of the new building which are likely to be removed during the construction process.

3.10 Within the agreed area the surface of the archaeology will be hand-cleaned prior to the excavation of deposits under the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation. Features and deposits may be subject to a sampling strategy, to be agreed with the curator, which may include up to 50% of pits or discrete features and up to 25% of linear features. Any burials or features containing significant artefactual or ecofactual remains may be subject to 100% excavation.

3.11 It has been assumed that security fencing will be provided by the client for the during the excavations, although welfare facilities and site accommodation will be provided by CPAT.

3.12 Contexts will be recorded on individual record forms and be drawn and photographed as appropriate. All photography will be in digital format to a minimum resolution of 6 mega pixels. All features will be located as accurately as possible with respect to buildings and boundaries identified on modern Ordnance Survey maps and levels will be related to Ordnance Datum where possible, with the use of total station surveying.

3.13 All artefacts will be related to their contexts from which they were derived and treated in a manner appropriate to their composition and will be processed by trained CPAT staff. Provision has been included for sampling deposits for dating, environmental and technological evidence as appropriate.

### *PHASE 3 - Reporting and archive*

3.14 Following the on-site work an illustrated interim report will be prepared in PDF format, outlining the results from the watching brief and any subsequent detailed excavation. This will include an assessment of the site archive to allow a costed programme to be developed as a separate Quotation and WSI for an appropriate level of post-excavation analysis, including specialist reporting and services, leading to publication in an appropriate regional or national journal.

3.15 The site archive will be prepared to specifications laid out in Appendix 3 in the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991), to be deposited with the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER). All artefacts will, subject to the permission of the owner, be deposited with an appropriate museum.

## **4 Resources and Programming**

4.1 The programme of archaeological works will be undertaken by a team of skilled archaeologists under the overall supervision of Dr R J Silvester, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). CPAT is also an Institute for Archaeologist Registered Organisation.

4.2 The client has indicated that the demolition and reduction of levels will be conducted during January 2014.

4.3 All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist(s) who supervised the excavation.

4.4 The client should be aware that in the event that significant archaeological remains are revealed there may be a requirement for a further programme of archaeological works comprising post-excavation analysis and specialist services, such as radiocarbon dating, artefacts analysis and conservation, leading to the production of a full excavation report for publication in an appropriate regional or national journal. Such a programme would only be conducted following an agreement between CPAT, the client and the curator and would be the subject of a separate WSI and costing.

4.5 Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.

4.6 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance, as well as Professional Indemnity insurance, copies of which will be made available on request.

Nigel W Jones

25 November 2013