

CPAT Report No. 1433

# Bradley's Garage, Caersws, Powys



Archaeological Evaluation



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS

CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Client name: Bradley's Properties Ltd  
 CPAT Project No: 2126  
 Project Name: Bradley's Garage  
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Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:
Nigel Jones Principal Archaeologist		
R Hankinson Senior Archaeologist	Paul Belford Director	Paul Belford Director
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YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS  
 CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR, United Kingdom

+44 (0) 1938 553 670

[trust@cpat.org.uk](mailto:trust@cpat.org.uk)

[www.cpat.org.uk](http://www.cpat.org.uk)

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## Summary

An evaluation has been conducted by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) to determine the archaeological potential of a plot of land to the rear of Bradley's Garage, Carno Road, Caersws, Powys (SO 0310 9194). The work was conducted on behalf of Bradley's Properties Ltd, in connection with a proposed new workshop on land.

The development area lies within a Roman civilian settlement, or *vicus*, which developed outside Caersws II Roman fort in the later 1<sup>st</sup> century AD and continued to be occupied until the 3<sup>rd</sup> century.

The evaluation revealed potentially significant archaeological deposits a depth of between 0.7m and 1.0m below the present ground level, while augering indicated around 0.3m of stratigraphy below this level.

The nature of the archaeology suggests occupation, including perhaps two ovens or hearths, as well as a metallised surface, possibly for a yard area, or perhaps part of an internal road within the *vicus*.

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) has conducted an archaeological evaluation on behalf of Bradley's Properties Ltd, in connection with a proposed new workshop on land to the rear of Bradley's Garage, Caersws, Powys (SO 0310 9194). The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local authority, had determined that the evaluation was required to identify the potential impact on the archaeological resource. Accordingly, a brief was prepared which details the works required (EVB 866).
- 1.2. Caersws lies on the A470(T) in central Montgomeryshire, just under 8km to the west of Newtown. The village occupies a low-lying spot beside the Severn, a short distance below its confluence with a tributary, the River Carno. Modern housing development extends over a finger-like spur of slightly higher ground protruding south-westwards from the valley slopes, but this is separated from the earlier village by the Manthrig Brook. This village core, like its predecessor in the Roman period, occupies a gravel terrace just above the flood plain of the river and the presence of a flood defence bank on the west, south and east testifies to the problems inherent in the location.

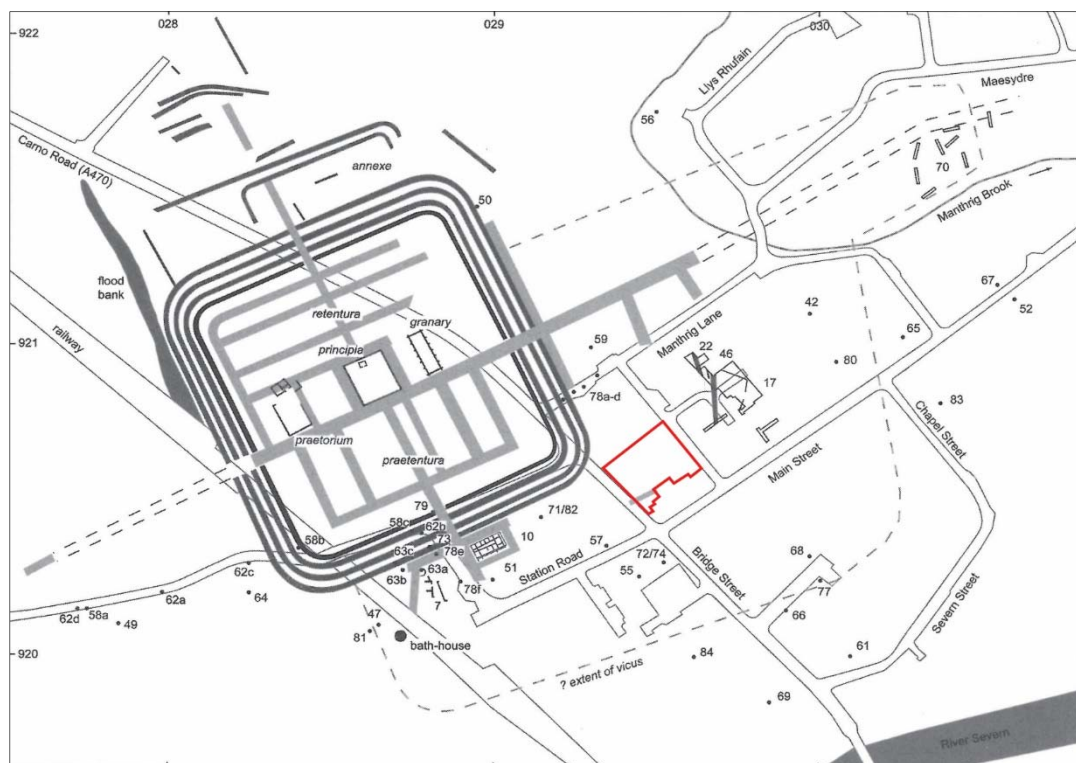


Fig. 1 Roman Caersws, showing the location of the Application Area (outlined in red)

- 1.3. The development site (SO 03091 91920) is located at the rear of Bradley's Garage off Carno Road, close to the centre of the modern village at Caersws and within the Romano-British settlement at Caersws, which developed outside the Roman fort during the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD. Numerous small and larger interventions in advance of development around the development site have indicated well-preserved

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Roman period archaeology in the vicinity, extending up to 1 metre or more in depth from the present ground level. The archaeology typically includes the remains of timber buildings, tracks, roads, refuse pits, gullies, industrial activity and artefacts representing all periods of occupation.

## 2 Methodology

- 2.1. The evaluation was conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014) and *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (2014).
- 2.2. A desk-based study was conducted involving the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, and photographic sources at the following repositories:
  - the regional Historic Environment Record
  - the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth
  - the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth
- 2.3. The curatorial brief has specified that the field evaluation should comprise a T-shaped trench, measuring 1.5m wide and totalling 15m in length. However, restrictions imposed by an underground electricity cable meant that this was subsequently revised, with the agreement of the curator, resulting in a 10m-long trench orientated north-west to south-east.

## 3 Historical Background

### *Caersws I fort*

- 3.1. The first Roman fort to be built in Caersws was located in a sound strategic position on a spur overlooking the River Severn to the north-east of the present village. The fort now displays very slight earthworks and its form and layout were, until recently, known only from aerial reconnaissance. Aerial photography and geophysical survey have now revealed considerably more information about the fort and it is now apparent that this early fort was defended in part by a triple ditch system, though with only two ditches on the northern side, that enclosed an area of 3.9 hectares. A further ditch lies around 20m beyond the main ditch system, with entrance gaps corresponding to the north and east gateways, the northern entrance being protected by a short length of ditch in front of it known as a *titulum*. Little excavation has occurred here, but despite a lack of dating evidence for the fort, it is generally assumed to be early Flavian (AD 69-96), predating the smaller fort beneath the village (Burnham and Davies 2010).

### *Caersws II fort*

- 3.2. The prominent earthworks of the fort have been the subject of antiquarian interest since Thomas Pennant remarked on them in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. They are still clearly discernible, defining a fort measuring 188m by 177m with the defences enclosing an

- 
- area of 3.2 hectares. Three main phases of construction have been recognised, principally as a result of excavations in 1909 (Burnham and Davies 2010).
- 3.3. The original construction, in the early Flavian period, had a laminated clay rampart faced with turf and fronted by at least one ditch, with timber buildings within the *retentura* and in the area of the *praetorium*. Excavations in the 1990s, about 80m east of the fort, uncovered a substantial Punic ditch which may represent a temporary fort erected for protection during the construction of the more permanent fort (Jones 1996, 32).
  - 3.4. The second phase, probably Trajanic (AD 98-117) or Hadrianic (AD 117-138), saw both the heightening of the rampart and its enlargement on a base of consolidated stone over the infilled first-phase ditch which itself was replaced by a triple ditch system, some or perhaps all of which may belong to this phase. An annexe was added on the north side, possibly during the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century, within which there was a tile kiln of mid to later second-century date producing *imbrices*, *tegulae*, and small hexagonal tiles (*opus sectile*), similar to those recovered from the bath-house (Jones 1993, 31-35).
  - 3.5. The final phase, which may be Hadrianic or Antonine in date, saw the rampart fronted by a stone wall c. 2m thick, while the fort ditches adjacent to the annexe fell out of use. Within the fort up to 0.5m of clay was spread across the site during this phase, possibly as a flood prevention measure, and a flood-bank protecting the west side of the fort and annexe may also date to this time. New timber barracks were erected, along with a new *praetorium* and granary in stone. Somewhat later the barracks in the *retentura* were dismantled and not replaced, but those in the *praetentura* continued in use. The second half of the second century saw some reorganisation of the *praetorium*, including the addition of three hypocausted rooms. Finally, the *praetorium* was demolished and sealed by a spread of stone that had pottery of the late third or early fourth century trodden into it. Further internal reorganisations continued, possibly until the late third or early fourth century, although it is thought that the early 3<sup>rd</sup> century effectively saw the end of military tenure.

### *Caersws vicus*

- 3.6. Evidence of the civilian settlement, or *vicus*, associated with Caersws II fort has been derived almost exclusively from excavations. At present the extra-mural settlement is known to lie on the south and east sides of the fort, occupying an area of around 7 hectares, focused on the roads issuing from the *porta praetoria* and *porta principalis sinistra*. As well as these major roads, a number of side roads have also been identified, including one on the forecourt of Bradleys Garage and their presence, together with the generally regular alignment of many of the excavated features, are highly suggestive of a degree of internal planning, rather than simple piecemeal development over time (Burnham and Davies 2010).
- 3.7. The earliest discoveries date from 1854 when a stone building was uncovered in a field later crossed by the railway (Davies 1857). At the time this was thought to be a villa, although it is now clear that the remains were those of an extra-mural bath-house. The former station yard between the railway and Station Road was the subject of excavations in 1968 (Daniels *et al.* 1970), which exposed intensive occupation from

- 
- around AD 75 to the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Several phases of timber buildings were present, as well as a perimeter road beyond the outer fort ditch, with another road branching from it towards the bath-house. On the opposite side of Station Road, excavations in 1985-6 on the site of the Old Primary School uncovered a complex of timber buildings, including shops, metalworking workshops and a possible tavern dating from the late first century until the AD 130s, although scattered finds indicate some activity into the late second or early third centuries (Britnell 1989). From these discoveries it is apparent that a flourishing commercial centre developed on either side of the road from the *porta praetoria*; and it is this area which saw the most intensive occupation within the *vicus*, and consequently appears to have the most deeply stratified Roman deposits. This intensive activity may have extended for up to 100m southwards from the fort, as is shown by at least 0.8m of Roman stratigraphy recorded on the site of the former cattle market in 1991, where there were occupation deposits and stone surfaces (Jones 1993, 41-2).
- 3.8. East of the fort the road leading from the *porta principalis sinistra* has been recognised on aerial photographs, together with two side roads leading away from it to the south. A series of excavations between Manthrig Lane and Main Street between 1989 and 1993 investigated the largest plot within the *vicus* available to date. Although there was little Roman stratigraphy present, there were traces of five successive timber buildings, on four slightly differing alignments, including the possible *temenos* of a Romano-British temple, one phase of which was dated to the mid-second century (Jones 1993).
- 3.9. In common with other Roman settlements across Britain burial occurred on the periphery of the *vicus*, often in proximity to one of the roads approaching the fort. Cremations were recorded by Fenton as early as 1804, weathering out of the river bank to the south-west of the fort (Jones 1993, 90), and burials were reported by Davies to the south of the bath-house (Davies 1857). More recently, two undated but inter-cutting graves were excavated in 1991 between Manthrig Lane and Main Street (Jones 1993a, 42-3). The earlier was aligned north/south and contained the outline of a wooden coffin along with the silhouette of an inhumation and the remains of a pair of hobnail boots at the south end. This had been cut by an east/west grave, also containing traces of a wooden coffin. Although neither was dated, the practice of inhumation burial, rather than cremation, did not generally appear until the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century, becoming the exclusive means of burial by the 4<sup>th</sup> century (Burnham and Davies 2010). It is not clear whether these burials were isolated interments or represent elements of a more substantial cemetery.
- 3.10. The lifespan of the *vicus* still remains uncertain. Activity probably commenced not long after the foundation of the fort in the late first century AD, while the 1985-6 excavations (Britnell 1989) imply that the commercial centre of the settlement, outside the south gate (*porta praetorian*), was in decline by as early as 130 AD. This reflects the general pattern in Wales as a whole where the inhabitants of the *vici* do not appear to have forged sufficiently close ties with the native population to allow these settlements to develop into independent villages or towns before the military presence was scaled down and troops were withdrawn in the Hadrianic to Antonine period (Britnell 1989, 127). There is, however, evidence for activity continuing in some form into the third century, when a succession of timber buildings were sealed



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beneath a stone spread and then a deliberate dump of clay. Deposits identified by the telephone exchange appear to confirm this sequence.

- 3.11. Yet while parts of the *vicus* appear to have been in decline by the mid-second century, the succession of timber buildings at Greenlands continued into the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. There is now also evidence for some later activity, possibly in the form of ribbon development, along the side of the road leading eastwards from the fort, at least 300m beyond the defences. Unfortunately, the scale of excavations at Glan-y-nant was insufficient to allow any more definite conclusions regarding the nature and precise dating of the activity there. It has been suggested that the extension of civilian activity at Caersws beyond the mid-second century is linked to a continuing military presence, possibly with Caersws II fort being the only one to be retained in the upper Severn Valley (Burnham and Davies 2010).

### *Post-Roman Caersws*

- 3.12. There is little known of Caersws during the post-Roman period. The earliest reference to the name comes in 1470-1 as Kairesosse, and then over the next one hundred years as Kaerswoys (1478) and Kaer Sws (between 1545 and 1553). Such late dates for a town or borough do little to encourage a critical acceptance of its existence.
- 3.13. Samuel Lewis in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century claimed both a castle and a church at Caersws in earlier times, as this was the residence of the lords of Arwystli. No traces of the castle have ever been recognised in the village, nor is there confirmatory evidence of the church. Lewis is not the most reliable of sources, but were the castle reference to be authentic, one of the two motte-and-bailey castles on the further side of the Severn might be a candidate.
- 3.14. That there is no solid evidence for a medieval church at Caersws and that the settlement lay within the ecclesiastical parish of Llanwnnog argues against an early origin. This is reinforced by the location adjacent to the parish boundary. It has been assumed by some authorities that a medieval town was established at Caersws, the regular pattern of streets suggesting a planned borough, yet the date of its establishment is unknown and no foundation charter survives. An origin in the late 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> century has been postulated but again this seems unlikely given the absence of documentary references.
- 3.15. Nevertheless, there are some relevant references from later centuries. George Owen of Henllys writing at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century claimed that Caersws had been incorporated (as a market centre) by Lord Tiptoft in the second or third quarter of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. John Leland in the 1530s noted 'yet at poore Cairllews hath bene a Market and Borow privilegid', and a deed of 1596 refers to a burghage in the town. This all suggests a late beginning and a settlement then that was already in decline in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, probably because of the proximity of the better established market at Llanidloes. It was, though, still referred to as a borough throughout the 16<sup>th</sup> century.
- 3.16. Whether the street pattern is a relic of this late medieval market settlement remains to be determined, though it is difficult to identify a later occasion on which it could have been created. By the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when Caersws was first mapped there was a scatter of houses along Main Street, Severn Street and one or two on

Manthrig Lane. It is a layout more akin to the sporadic survival of tenements from a denser pattern, than of a settlement gradually expanding from a small core, and this strengthens the argument for a regularly laid out market centre late in the Middle Ages.

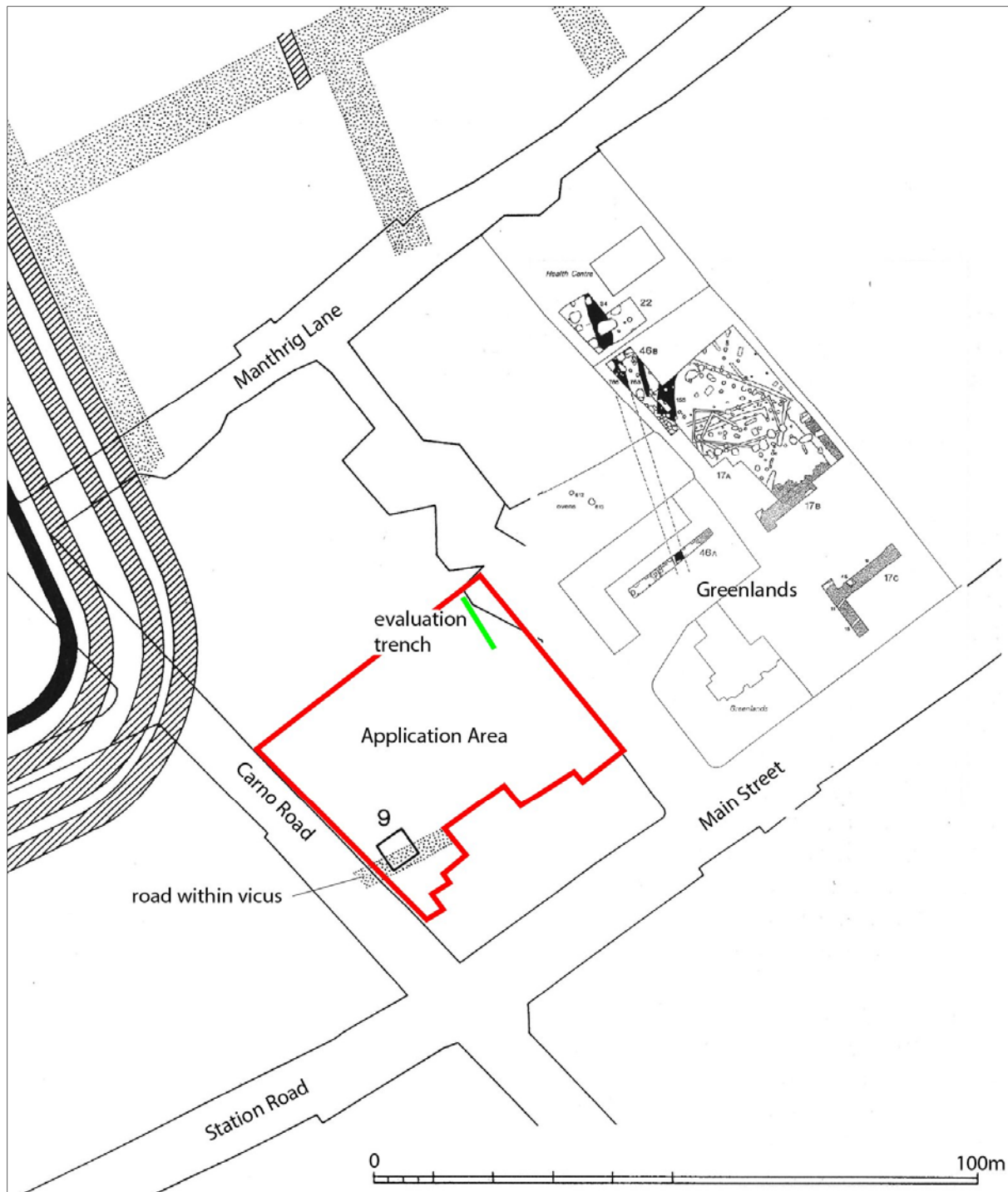


Fig. 2 The location of the Application Area and evaluation trench, showing the relationship with excavated evidence for the *vicus*

### *The Application Area*

- 3.17. The only excavations to have taken place within the Application Area were conducted in 1984 in association with the installation of new fuel tanks on the forecourt of Bradley's Garage. This revealed a pit and a well of 1<sup>st</sup>-century date in association with a clay-domed furnace which had later been sealed by a side road within the *vicus* (Jones 1993, 91). A series of Roman floors, stone spreads and pits were also identified in this area in 1988 during the laying of new drains along Carno Road, in front of the garage.

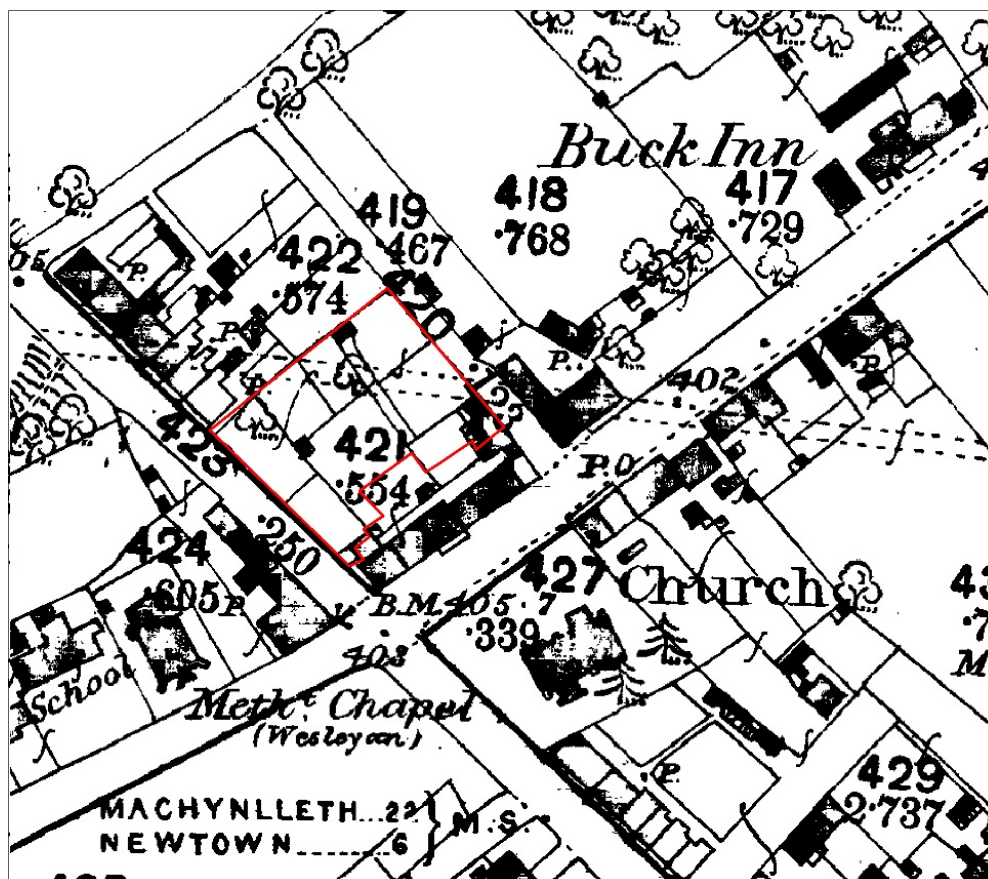


Fig. 3 Extract from the 1885 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 25", showing the Application Area outlined in red

- 3.18. An examination of the 1885 Ordnance Survey mapping (Fig. 3) shows that the Application Area was divided into small garden plots, several of which contained small buildings, but nothing to suggest the location of any significant structures. While the map also shows the line of a Roman road (as two dashed lines) crossing the area, this is purely notional and not related to the actual line of the roads which issue from the four gates of the fort.

## 4 Evaluation

- 4.1. The evaluation was conducted on 28-29 June 2016. A mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching blade was used to remove the overburden within a single trench, measuring 10m by 1.5m, onto the surface of the first significant archaeological deposit.



Fig. 4 Overall view of the evaluation trench from the north-west.  
Photo CPAT 4190-0003

- 4.2. The uppermost deposits, consisting of a modern stone layer (1), between 0.1m and 0.25m thick, overlying a 0.25m-thick layer of dark grey stony silt garden soil, and a grey-brown stony silt, 0.5-0.85m thick. In situ Roman deposits were revealed following the removal of the latter deposit, at a depth of 0.7m at the south-eastern end of the trench and up to 1.0m at the north-western end.
- 4.3. Although only limited investigations were undertaken of the Roman deposits it was evident that they represent occupation within the *vicus*. Two areas of in situ burning suggested the presence of ovens or hearths, the largest (9) measuring around 1.8m across (Fig. 5), while the smaller (4) was only 0.6m across (Fig. 6). An area of densely-packed, rounded stone (10) adjacent to the larger oven was suggestive of a post-hole, perhaps for an associated structure, although this was not investigated further.





Fig. 5 Possible oven 9, viewed from the north-east. Photo CPAT 4190-0009



Fig. 6 Possible oven 4, viewed from the north-east. Photo CPAT 4190-0007

- 4.4. A metalled surface (12) was identified at the south-eastern end of the trench, composed of compacted small stones and pebbles in a grey-brown silt matrix (Fig. 7). This extended beyond the limits of excavation but is likely to be either a yard area or an internal road within the *vicus*.





Fig. 7 The metallated surface (12), possibly part of an internal road within the vicus, viewed from the north-west. Photo CPAT 4190-0010

- 4.5. The only other feature was a shallow, irregular gully (6), up to 1.4m wide and 0.15m deep which had been cut through occupation deposits (5 and 8) on either side.



Fig. 8 Gully 7 viewed from the north-east. Photo CPAT 4190-0011

- 4.6. The underlying stratigraphy was tested by augering, revealing up to 0.3m of Roman deposits.

## 5 Finds

- 5.1. The evaluation produced a small quantity of Roman pottery, amounting to 23 sherds, weighing 498g. Six sherds (82g) were recovered from post-Roman deposits, while the remainder came from a sondage investigating gully 7 (fill 6) and the surface of Roman occupation layers (contexts 3 and 8).
- 5.2. The size of the collection was too small to allow any meaningful discussion, while the sherds were generally from the body of the vessels and were too small to permit further identification or dating. The only exception were the nine sherds of samian, which included two small, decorated body sherds and footrings from four vessels. It is likely that specialist examination could identify the source, form and broad dating for at least some of the sherds.

Table 1: Catalogue of Roman pottery

Context	Type	No	Weight (g)	Description
2	Black-burnished ware	2	16	Body sherds, one with lattice decoration
	Redware	1	13	Body sherd
	Samian	1	4	Body sherd
	Samian	2	49	Footrings from separate vessels
3	Samian	1	2	Decorated body sherd
	Redware	1	6	Body sherd
	Redware	5	58	Burnt body sherds
6	Amphora	1	10	Body sherd
	Redware	1	30	Body sherd
	Redware	1	7	Possible Severn Valley ware flagon rim
	Samian	2	6	Body sherd
	Samian	2	31	Footrings
8	Amphora	2	262	Body sherds
	Samian	1	4	Decorated body sherd
		<b>23</b>	<b>498</b>	

- 5.3. The evaluation also produced a single fragment from a badly-worn Roman tile, perhaps a tegula or box flue tile.

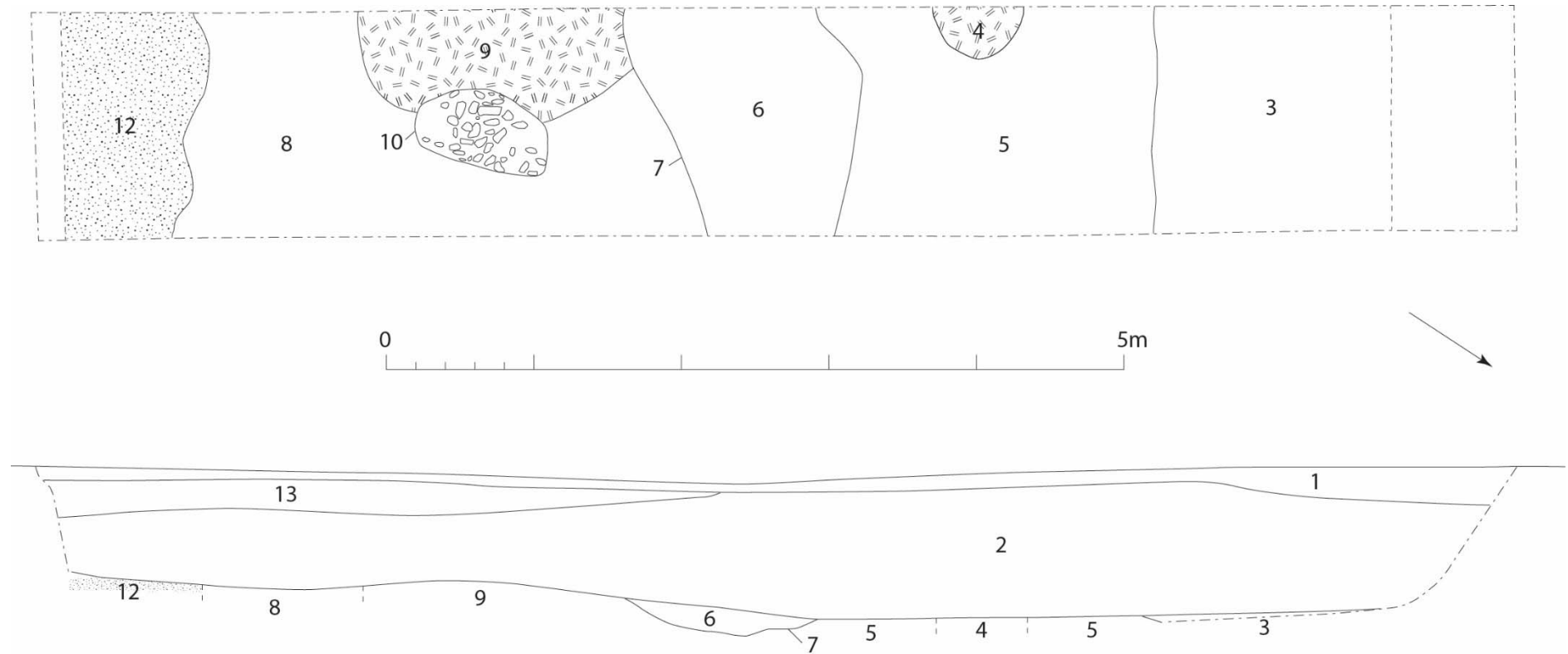


Fig. 9 Plan and section of evaluation trench



## 6 Conclusions

- 6.1. The evaluation of land to the rear of Bradley's Garage has revealed potentially significant archaeological deposits within the limited area investigated which are likely to be associated with civilian settlement within the *vicus*, which developed around Caersws II Roman fort during the later 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD.
- 6.2. In situ Roman deposits were encountered at a depth of between 0.7m and 1.0m below the present ground level, the depth being greater towards the north-western end of the evaluation trench. Augering suggested around 0.3m of Roman deposits below this level.
- 6.3. The nature of the archaeology suggests occupation, including perhaps two ovens or hearths, one with an adjacent post-hole which could relate to an associated superstructure for which no other evidence was apparent. A metalled surface was also identified, possibly for a yard area, or perhaps part of an internal road within the *vicus*, such as that identified on the Carno Road frontage of Bradley's Garage in 1984.

## 7 Sources

- Britnell, J. E., 1989. *Caersws vicus, Powys: Excavations at the Old Primary School, 1985-86*. British Archaeological Reports (British Series) 205. Oxford.
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- Davies, D., 1857. Caersws: Roman Remains Discovered and Described. *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Series, 151-172.
- Jones, N. W., 1993. Caersws Roman Fort and Vicus, Montgomeryshire, Powys, 1984-92. *Montgomeryshire Collections* 81, 15-96.
- Jones, N. W., 2010. Excavations within the Roman vicus at Caersws, 1989-93. *Montgomeryshire Collections* 84, 1-36.

## 8 Archive deposition Statement

- 8.1. The project archive has been prepared according to the CPAT Archive Policy and in line with the ClifA *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, while artefacts are to be deposited with the Powysland Museum, Welshpool. A summary of the archive is provided in Appendix 1.

## Appendix 1: Site Archive

CPAT Event PRN: 140123

Site records

1 A1 site drawing

2 trench recording form

12 digital photographs, CPAT film 4190

### Context register

Context	Type	Description
1	Layer	Modern stone deposit
2	Layer	Grey-brown stony silt. Ploughsoil
3	Layer	Grey-brown pebbly silt
4	Oven?	Area of burnt clay, possibly indicating an oven
5	Layer	Pale grey clay silt containing some burnt clay from context 4
6	Fill	Fill of 7. Dark grey-brown silt
7	Gully	Gully, aligned NNE/SSW
8	Layer	Grey gritty silt
9	Oven?	Area of yellow clay with some burning, possibly indicating an oven
10	Pit/post-hole	A small pit or post-hole
11	Fill	Fill of 10. Rounded stones in grey silt matrix
12	Road?	Metalled surface composed of small stones and pebbles in a grey-brown silt matrix
13	Layer	Dark grey stony silt. Garden soil

## Finds catalogue

Context	Type	No	Weight (g)	Description
2	Black-burnished ware	2	16	Body sherds, one with lattice decoration
	Redware	1	13	Body sherd
	Samian	1	4	Body sherd
	Samian	2	49	Footrings from separate vessels
3	Samian	1	2	Decorated body sherd
	Redware	1	6	Body sherd
	Redware	5	58	Burnt body sherds
	Tile	1	170	
6	Amphora	1	10	Body sherd
	Redware	1	30	Body sherd
	Redware	1	7	Possible Severn Valley ware flagon rim
	Samian	2	6	Body sherd
	Samian	2	31	Footrings
8	Amphora	2	262	Body sherds
	Samian	1	4	Decorated body sherd
		<b>24</b>	<b>668g</b>	

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## Appendix 2: CPAT WSI 1688

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust has been invited Hughes Architects, acting as agent on behalf of Bradley's Properties Ltd, to submit a proposal for undertaking an archaeological evaluation in connection with a proposed new workshop on land to the rear of Bradley's Garage, Caersws, Powys. The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local authority, have determined that an archaeological evaluation is required to identify the potential impact on the archaeological resource. Accordingly, a brief has been prepared which details the works required (EVB 866).
- 1.2. The development site (SO 03091 91920) is located at the rear of Bradley's Garage off Carno Road, close to the centre of the modern village at Caersws and within the Romano-British settlement at Caersws, which developed outside the Roman fort during the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD. Numerous small and larger interventions in advance of development around the development site have indicated well-preserved Roman period archaeology extending up to 1 metre or more in depth from the present ground level. The archaeology typically includes the remains of timber buildings, tracks, roads, refuse pits, gullies, industrial activity and artefacts representing all periods of occupation.
- 1.3. In 1984 the underground fuel tank area of the forecourt was excavated by C. R. Musson. The 3.5 by 4m area revealed 0.8m of post medieval deposits above a series of five successive coarse gravel road surfaces representing an east-west aligned side road within the settlement. Beneath the road were a pit and a possible well with a sealed ground surface. A small clay-domed oven was also recorded. Pottery dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. In 1988 M. Adams recorded a series of Roman period floors, stone spreads and pits during the laying of new drains along Carno Road in front of the garage.

### 2 Objectives

- 2.1. The objectives of the evaluation are:
  - to reveal by means of a desk-based assessment and field evaluation, the nature, condition, significance and, where possible, the chronology of the cultural heritage within the area of the proposed development in so far as these aims are possible;
  - to record any archaeological features identified during the evaluation;
  - to prepare a report outlining the results of the evaluation;
  - to prepare a final publication of the results in an appropriate regional or national journal, depending on the nature and significance of any archaeology.

### 3 Methodology

- 3.1. The evaluation will be conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014) and *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (2014).

#### **Desk-based Assessment**

- 3.2. Stage 1 of the evaluation will involve the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, and photographic sources at the following repositories:

- the regional Historic Environment Record
- the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth
- the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth

- 3.3. All cartographic sources consulted will be included within the desktop section of the report, together with transcriptions of relevant documents and copies of plans, maps and photographs containing relevant information.

#### **Trial trenching**

- 3.4. The evaluation will comprise a T-shaped trench, measuring 1.5m wide and totalling no more than 15m in length. The precise locations and dimensions of the trenches will be agreed with the developer and the curator prior to the commencement of on-site work.
- 3.5. The trenches will be excavated initially using a machine fitted with a wide toothless ditching blade. All modern overburden will be removed 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 base and at least one section of each trench will be manually cleaned and recorded. The evaluation will be essentially non-destructive and designed to determine the depth at which archaeologically sensitive deposits survive, together with their nature condition and significance. The depth of natural deposits will be determined to assess the extent of any stratified deposits which may be encountered.
- 3.6. It has been assumed that the area in question has sufficient access for a small mechanical excavator via existing gateways. Any variation from this may impact on the overall charges. Excavated material will be temporarily stored adjacent to the trench, which will be reinstated with this material upon completion. On completion of the evaluation all trenches will be reinstated with excavated material. No provision has been made for fencing during the excavations, other than using plastic barrier mesh.
- 3.7. Stratigraphic units will be assigned a record number and entered along with a description on an individual record form or trench recording sheet as appropriate. 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 8 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.

- 3.8. 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.

#### **Report**

- 3.9. Following the on-site work an illustrated report will be prepared containing conventional sections to include:

- Non-technical summary
- Introduction
- Site location
- Topography and Geology
- Archaeological Background
- Evaluation
- Conclusions
- References
- appropriate appendices on archives and finds

- 3.10. The archive will be assembled in accordance with the guidelines published in Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections (Museums and Galleries Commission 1994), Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC, 1990) and Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in compilation, transfer and curation (AAF 2007). The resultant research archive will be checked and ordered according to MoRPHE (EH, 2006 and re-issued 2015) criteria. In Wales there are also specific guidelines in the Draft National Standards for Wales for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives (Feb, 2008).

- 3.11. The full site archive will be deposited within one month of the completion of the final report unless otherwise agreed. The digital archive only will be deposited with the regional Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and the paper/drawn/digital archive with the National Monuments Record (RCAHMW). Any artefacts recovered during the evaluation will be deposited with the Powysland Museum, Welshpool, subject to the permission of the owner.

## **4 Resources and programming**

- 4.1. The assessment will be undertaken by a team of skilled archaeologists under the overall supervision of Nigel Jones, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). CPAT is also a CIfA Registered Organisation (RAO No 6) and as such agrees to abide by their *Code of Conduct* (2014) and the *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (2014).

- 4.2. All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist(s) who conducted the evaluation.

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- 4.3. It is anticipated that the trial excavation will be completed within two to five working days with a team of two archaeologists, and the report prepared immediately thereafter. At present CPAT would be in a position to undertake the evaluation during July 2016, subject to the receipt of sufficient advanced notice from the client.
- 4.4. The client is advised that should significant archaeological remains or artefacts be revealed additional services may be required for which a contingency should be allowed, as detailed in Section 10 of the Curatorial Brief. The need for such contingencies, and their scope and potential cost, would be subject to discussions between CPAT, the client and the curator once the fieldwork has been completed. The following figures are therefore only for guidance and the final cost, should any of further services be required, may be more or less than the following figures which are included to provide an indication of the types of additional services and indicative costs which might be required:
- Curatorial monitoring                      £60 per visit
  - Finds conservation etc                      £285 per day
  - Finds specialist                              £265 per day
  - Dating    £320 per date
  - Environmental specialist                      £285 per day
  - Charcoal identification                      £50 per sample
  - Interim Publication                              *Archaeology in Wales* at no additional charge
- 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.

N W Jones

13 June 2016