

52-54 Vale Street, Denbigh
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Written Scheme of Investigation

submitted by
Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

On behalf of

Creu Architecture
Upper Floor Studio
Diamond Building
6 Highgate
Denbigh
LL16 3LE



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The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was one of the four archaeological trusts established in Wales in the mid-1970s to provide an archaeological service across the whole of the Principality. It is both a registered charity and a limited company, and its activities are managed by a board of Trustees. It is also an IfA-registered organisation (Institute for Archaeologists). Its mission statement was and remains geared towards working closely with other national, regional and local bodies, to help identify, protect and interpret all aspects of the historic environment.

Over the last thirty years it has developed an unrivalled expertise in the archaeology of east and north-east Wales, created a full record of the archaeological sites and monuments in the region, and built up experience in all the major methodologies that can be used to elucidate the past. At the same time its remit and resource base have been modified to take account of the broader changes in the organisation and delivery of archaeological services in the United Kingdom as a whole. Based in Welshpool, CPAT has developed close links with a number of local institutions and has extensive knowledge of local history and archaeology.

In the last fifteen years CPAT has built up a small Field Services section which focuses on funded projects and on contract archaeology. Much of this sort of work is still undertaken in its core area of east and north-east Wales, but increasingly it has been contracted to do work in north-west and south Wales and in the west Midlands. During this period its collective expertise has grown, and its core staff have been in place for a number of years. Where necessary the core staff are supplemented by additional temporary staff for specific projects. CPAT prides itself on the economic and efficient delivery of archaeological services for a range of developments from road construction and pipeline works to housing developments and windfarm schemes. It is led by Bob Silvester, who moved to Wales from eastern England eighteen years ago and who is an acknowledged expert in landscape archaeology and the archaeology of the medieval and post-medieval eras in the region.

CPAT has developed considerable experience in undertaking all aspects of archaeological investigation, including detailed building recording, excavation, topographical survey, and documentary research, and the staff have developed a considerable wealth and range of expertise.

Further information regarding the Trust, including summary reports of some of the more significant recent projects can be found on its website at www.cpat.org.uk



1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Contracts and Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust has been invited by Creu Architecture to provide a written scheme of investigation and costing for undertaking an archaeological evaluation in association with proposals to redevelop a site adjacent to Tai Clwyd, Vale Street, Denbigh.
- 1.2 A curatorial design brief has been prepared by the Denbighshire Archaeology Service (part of Denbighshire Countryside Service, Denbighshire County Council) and joint holders of the Historic Environment Record, which details the nature of the works required.
- 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.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the evaluation are:
 - 2.1.1 to reveal by means of a 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;
 - 2.1.2 to record any archaeological features identified during the evaluation;
 - 2.1.3 to prepare a report outlining the results of the evaluation.

3 Methods

- 3.1 The evaluation will consist of a two evaluation trenches, each 1.5m in width. Access to the front of 52 Vale Street is restricted and it is possible that most if not all of the excavation in this area will have to be undertaken by hand. A single trench is proposed between the pedestrian access and the eastern boundary of the plot, extending to 8m in length. The second trench, measuring 15m in length, will be located to the rear of the property in an area currently used for parking. The extent and position of trenches may be revised depending on the location of known services.
- 3.2 Along the street frontage the turf will be removed by hand prior to excavation for later reinstatement. 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 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.



- 3.3 It has been assumed that the area in question has sufficient access for a JCB or other mechanical excavator. Excavated material will be temporarily stored adjacent to the trench, which will be reinstated with this material upon completion. Provision has been made for the erection of security fencing during the excavations, although the costings do not include resurfacing of the car parking area other than using excavated material.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared in A4 format, containing conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Archaeological Background; Evaluation; Building Recording; Conclusions and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives and finds.
- 3.7 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 assessment will be undertaken by a team of skilled archaeologists under the direct supervision of Mr 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 All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist(s) who conducted the assessment.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that the evaluation will be completed within five working days with a team of three archaeologists, and the report prepared immediately thereafter. At present CPAT would be in a position to undertake the evaluation during May or June 2012, subject to the receipt of sufficient advanced notice from the client.
- 4.4 Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 4.5 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance, as well as Professional Indemnity insurance.

N W Jones
12 March 2012



CPAT

**CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST
STANDARD NOTES AND CONDITIONS**

- 1.1 The quotation has been prepared using the appropriate rates of pay, travelling costs and other expenses normally used for archaeological fieldwork by Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (henceforward termed CPAT).
- 1.2 An invoice will be issued for payment on submission of a report on 30-day settlement terms. CPAT reserves the right to charge interest on overdue accounts at 1% above the minimum lending rate advertised by the NatWest Bank at the time per month overdue.
- 1.3 On acceptance of the tender, the client should either return a signed copy of the quotation, or provide a written order for the work, in either case giving at least three week's notice of commencement. CPAT will not be able to commence work without written confirmation.
- 1.4 This estimate covers only the completion of the commissioned archaeological works (henceforth the Project) as defined by the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI). Any additional works will be the subject of a separate quotation and WSI.
- 1.5 The quotation is based on reasonable expectations, given the available information provided by the client and/or curator. Quotations involving any form of archaeological excavation cannot take account of unexpected discoveries, such as burials or waterlogged deposits, in situations where they might not reasonably be expected. Additional charges may also result from delays due to a third party, or exceptional weather. Unless subject to prior negotiations, CPAT operate a 37 hour week, including travel, from Monday to Friday inclusive. Weekend working will be by prior agreement only and any work required outside normal hours may be subject to additional charges.
- 1.6 Unless otherwise specified the relevant regional archaeological curator and/or Cadw will be responsible for determining recommendations for any further archaeological works which they might deem necessary following the completion of the Project. There is no commitment on the part of those CPAT staff involved in contracting to provide services or advice to the client in any form subsequent to the completion of the Project.
- 1.7 Where CPAT is contracting to undertake a particular piece of work, it recognises that those intending to commission such work may wish to engage an independent archaeological consultant to assess the specification of works intended to satisfy the archaeological brief, to monitor the progress of the work or to advise on the recommendations for any further action.
- 1.8 Whilst CPAT will make every effort to ensure that its work is both thorough and accurate, it cannot be held responsible for any omission or misinterpretation arising from the limitations of the procedures as laid down in the project brief/specification.
- 1.9 CPAT cannot be held responsible for any alteration or modification to the results or conclusions in the report, made by the client or a third party.
- 2.1 It is understood that the client will arrange for access for CPAT and its agents to the areas involved in the examination, and that, if appropriate, landowners will be notified by the client before work commences
- 2.2 It is understood that the client will be responsible of the payment of any compensation to the occupier and/or owner as a consequence of the archaeological works.



- 2.3 CPAT will not be liable to indemnify the client against compensation resulting from unavoidable damage to crops, structures or services during on-site operations.
- 2.4 Work undertaken during the project will be covered by CPAT's existing Public Liability and Employer's Liability indemnities.
- 2.5 CPAT and/or its sub-contractors will make every effort to ensure that its works do not constitute a hazard to members of the public or persons authorised by the owner to be on the land.
- 2.6 It has been assumed that where excavation is involved the area in question has sufficient access for a suitable mechanical excavator. Excavated material will be temporarily stored adjacent to the trench, which will be reinstated with this material upon completion. The trenches will be surrounded by plastic barrier fencing during the excavation but unless otherwise specified no provision will have been made for security fencing, stripping or relaying any surfaced areas, or reseeded.
- 3.1 CPAT will endeavour to keep the results of client's assessment work confidential for an agreed period of time after completion of the project. Thereafter CPAT's results and conclusions will be considered in the public domain, and CPAT reserves the right to publish reports on the work undertaken, with all due acknowledgement to the client.
- 3.2 CPAT undertakes not to give information to the media without the prior agreement of the client (or his agent).
- 3.3 CPAT will retain possession of copyright on all survey records and commissioned reports, and it retains the right to assign these to a another body of its choosing in due course. It will provide an exclusive licence to the client for the use of the report and its contents in all matters relating to the project as described in the Specification.
- 3.4 Finds, artefacts and samples will remain in the temporary possession of CPAT until fully studied and reported on. Subsequently, the client/landowner will be expected to agree to their deposition at an appropriate local or regional museum.
- 3.5 It is CPAT's policy to adhere to the *Code of Practice* of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and other current recognised Codes of Practice etc. specifically dealing with archaeological work.
- 3.6 The Project will be monitored by the relevant regional archaeological curator and/or Cadw, as appropriate. CPAT should be informed in writing if the client wishes to institute his own monitoring system.

