

CPAT Report No. 1509

Rowington, Rectory Lane, New Radnor




Archaeological Watching Brief



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Client name: John Roe
 CPAT Project No: 2204
 Project Name: Rowington, Rectory Lane, New Radnor
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 County/LPA: Powys
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 with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

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Summary

In June 2017 the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust carried out a watching brief on land at Rowington, Rectory Lane, New Radnor, in respect of a new two-storey extension.

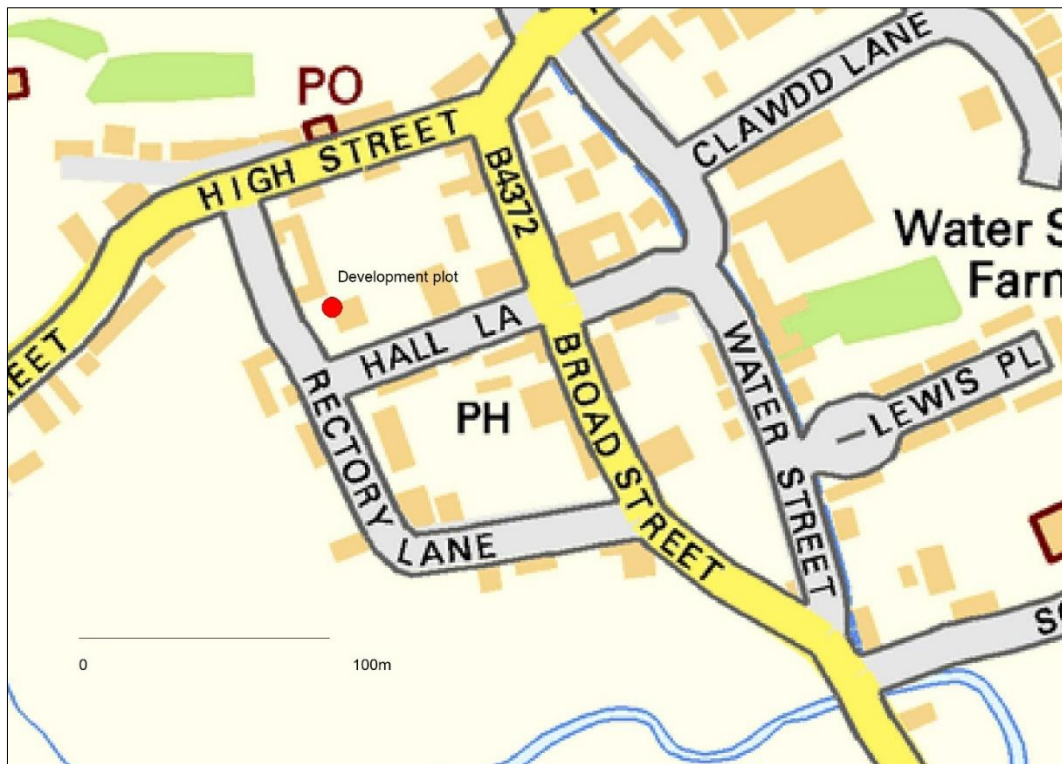
Following the removal of a concrete hardstanding and a layer of topsoil, a thick garden soil deposit was revealed, containing a single residual sherd of late medieval or early post medieval pottery. Natural deposits were attained at a depth of approximately 0.8m below current ground level.

No *in situ* finds, archaeological features or deposits were disturbed in the course of this watching brief.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was invited by Mr John Roe to undertake a watching brief during the construction of a new extension at Rowington, Rectory Lane, New Radnor. The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local authority, had determined that the watching brief was required to ensure the preservation by record of any archaeological remains which may have been disturbed by the development.
- 1.2. Planning permission (planning application P/2016/0290) was granted in July 2016, with the inclusion of the following condition relating to archaeology:
 3. The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeologist is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief shall be undertaken to standards laid down by the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The Local Planning Authority shall be informed in writing at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development of the name of the said archaeologist. A copy of the resulting report shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust. After approval by the Local Planning Authority, a copy of the report and resulting archive shall be sent to the Historic Environment Record Officer, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the regional Historic Environment Record.

Reason: To ensure the archaeological interest of the site is recorded in accordance with policies ENV17 and ENV18 of the Powys Unitary Development Plan (2010), Welsh Office Circular 60/96 and Planning Policy Wales (2016).
- 1.3. Rowington lies within the medieval historic town and is located on the east side of Rectory Lane, north of the junction with Hall Lane (Fig. 1; SO 21196 60848). The new extension was located on the north-west corner of the existing house (Fig. 2).



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017

Fig. 1 Plan showing development plot location (marked in red)

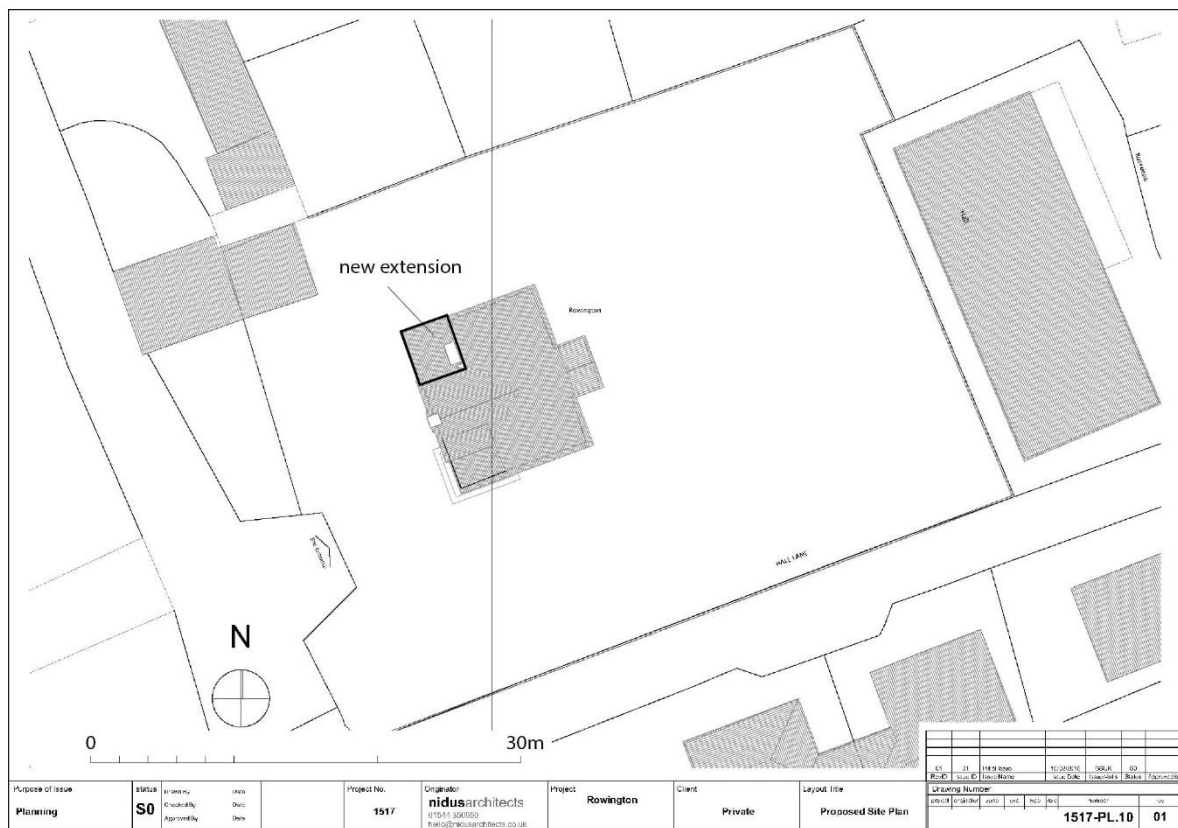


Fig. 2 Site plan showing the location of the new extension

2 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 2.1. There is a growing body of evidence for prehistoric activity within the area later occupied by the medieval town. A number of pits containing Bronze Age pottery, as well as Mesolithic and Neolithic flintwork, were found during excavations in 1991 at The Porth, adjacent to the west gate of the town (Jones 1998). More recently, further discoveries have been made elsewhere within the town during developer-funded investigations, although the results have yet to be accessioned in the HER.
- 2.2. The following summary of the medieval and later town is taken from Silvester and Martin (2011).
- 2.3. New Radnor first appears in the records as 'Radenore Nova' in 1277. However, it is reasonable to assume that the town came into existence at an earlier date, and even a pre-Conquest origin has been suggested.
- 2.4. Baldwin the Archbishop of Canterbury came to Radnor in 1188, his starting point in Wales for preaching the First Crusade, and it seems likely that this was to New Radnor rather than the small settlement of Old Radnor. Seven years later the town and castle of Radnor were captured by Rhys ap Gruffydd.
- 2.5. The earthwork castle may have been thrown up by Philip de Breos, one of the Marcher barons as early as 1096, in a prominent location controlling the valley to the south: the size of it would bear comparison with another de Breos motte at BUILT Wells. New Radnor Castle (PRN 1075; SAM Rd33) consists of a motte sculpted from a natural hillock, overlooking the town and commanding a major route into Elvel. The hill is surmounted by an oval enclosure within which building foundations are still visible. These are primarily a rectangular earthwork on the south side of the motte with a sub-division. Less readily intelligible earthworks abut the inner face of the ring bank on the north-west. Pits dug through the rectangular building and elsewhere are believed to be the relatively recent work of local people.
- 2.6. Some of the keep was still visible in 1815 and part of the curtain wall supposedly survived into the mid-19th century. Six or seven pointed arches were dug out in 1773, further arches and some weapons were uncovered in 1818 and in 1864 extensive excavations revealed foundation walls, arched doorways and windows, and a well in the castle dungeon. Sometime after 1791 the local squire modified the earthworks to produce a 'wide promenade'.
- 2.7. The borough that emerged at its base was undoubtedly a plantation. Initially slow to establish itself, it underwent a rapid population expansion in the 14th century. The 97 burgesses in the returns of 1301 each paying 2s a year rent, had nearly doubled to 189 holding 262 and a half plots, three years later. A return of 13 pounds on rents and tolls in 1360 indicates a prosperous settlement by the standards of the day. No borough charter survives, but until the second half of the 16th century, it was a borough by prescription. Elizabeth I granted it a charter of incorporation.
- 2.8. A murage grant was obtained in 1257 and is apparently the first mention of the town, with further grants in 1280, 1283 and 1290. The town defences (PRN 1076; SAM Rd50), consisting of bank and ditch perhaps originally with a timber palisade, demarcated a sub-square area some 10.5ha in extent. A substantial bank up to 2.7m

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- high, and ditch up to 1m deep with a low, much spread outer bank survives in places on the south-western side. At several points, a drystone revetment is visible in a variable state of preservation.
- 2.9. There were four gates through the defences: the West Gate - also referred to as the High Gate - at the end of Church Street, the South Gate at the bottom of Water Street, the North Gate leading through the castle fortifications towards Radnor Forest, and the East Gate onto the Presteigne road. None survives. The original tracks leading to these can be discerned in places, particularly Newgate Lane running in from the west.
- 2.10. A weekly market was operating early in the 14th century, and a charter for a yearly fair was obtained in 1306. An Inquisition Post Mortem on Edmund Mortimer in 1336 mentions a market and two fairs, the burgages and other rents at this time being worth 10 pounds.
- 2.11. The later Middle Ages also witnessed a decline in the prosperity of the town. Leland (c.1538) noted that the 'towne was defacyd in Henry the Fowthe dayes by Owen Glindowr' and that 'the castle is in ruine'. It was 'metley well wallyd, and in the walle appere the ruines of iiii gates', 'the buildynge of the towne in some parte meatly good, in moste part but rude, many howsys beinge thakyd' (= thatched). Speed's plan of 1611 shows large open areas within the town, surely reflecting a considerable reduction in the number of burgage plots recorded in the early 14th century. Notwithstanding Leland's comments, it has been claimed that the castle was occupied by the Royalists during the Civil War and was successfully besieged by the Parliamentarians.
- 2.12. It was made the shire town in 1536, perhaps because it was the only place in the county that preserved the semblance of a castle, and the only one that could be used as a prison. From 1562 it had borough status, signalled by the first extant charter. The Borough covered an area of 28000 acres, had its own Recorder, coroner, receiver and sergeants-at-mace, and was governed by a corporation of 25 'Capital Burgesses'. It held its own Quarter Sessions and the Borough Gaol was in New Radnor in Broad Street, where the Eagle Hotel now stands, opposite the Town Hall. And from the 16th century until the 19th century there were four annual fairs. But by 1731 only 7 burgesses were left and the charter was suspended, though seven years later a new charter of incorporation was issued. The parliamentary constituency was dissolved in 1880, the borough in 1886.
- 2.13. The development plot is depicted on John Speed's map of 1610, with a single building on the corner of what is now Rectory Lane and Hall Lane, situated within a larger square plot containing orchards or gardens.
- 2.14. By 1835 the site was subdivided into three areas, the outer two were owned and occupied by Charles Price, and comprised an arable plock and barn, the latter located in the north-west corner on Rectory Lane. The middle plot was glebe land, also laid down to arable usage.
- 2.15. Ordnance survey mapping from 1889 to 1964 shows that the plot was a single open area during this period. Rowington was built during the 1960s.

3 Watching Brief

- 3.1. The groundworks comprised an overall reduction of 0.25m and two foundation trenches 0.75m in depth. The development plot measured approximately 12.25m² in extent. Three contexts were identified.

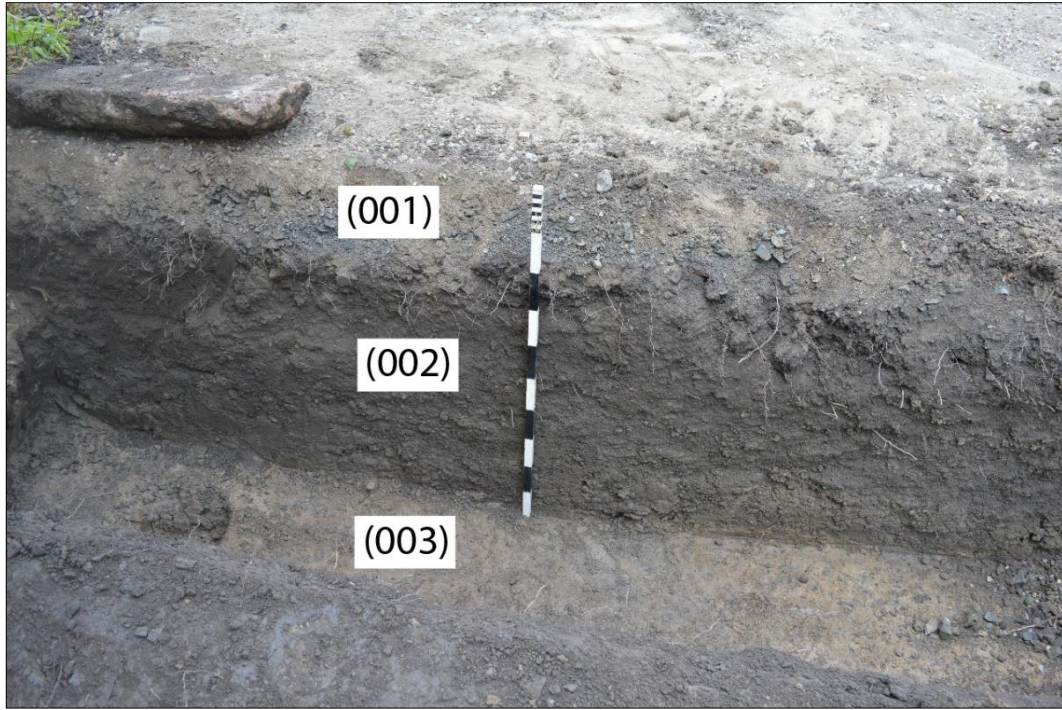


Fig. 3 East-facing section of foundation trench CPAT 4356-0003



Fig. 4 View from the north of the excavated area CPAT 4356-0007

- 3.2. Following removal of the concrete hardstanding, a friable topsoil deposit (001) was revealed extending to a depth of 0.25m. Underlying the topsoil a garden soil deposit (002) was revealed extending to a thickness of 0.65m, overlying natural clays (003).

4 Conclusions

- 4.1. The results of this watching brief indicate that the development site was formerly a market garden or orchard, as suggested by an analysis of the historical mapping. The soils were extremely clean and lacking in artefactual or other cultural material. A single sherd of late medieval or early post medieval greenish or brown glazed pottery was recovered from the garden soil (002), although this was recorded as residual due to the poorly stratified nature of the deposit. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the course of the watching brief.

5 References

Published sources

Jones, N W, 1998. Excavations at New Radnor, Powys, 1991-2. *Archaeological Journal* 155, 134-206.

Silvester, R J and Martin C R M, 2011. *Historic Settlements in Radnorshire*. CPAT Report 1088.

Cartographic sources

1611 John Speed Map of New Radnor

1835 Tithe Map of New Radnor

1889 Ordnance Survey 25" 1st edition, Radnorshire 24.11

1964 Ordnance Survey 25" 2nd edition, Radnorshire 24.11

6 Archive deposition Statement

- 6.1. 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 digital archive only will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and the paper/drawn/digital archive with the National Monuments Record (RCAHMW). A summary of the archive is provided in Appendix 1.

Appendix 1: Site Archive

CPAT Event PRN: 140183

8 digital photographs Film No CPAT 4356

1 watching brief visit form

Appendix 2: CPAT WSI 1778

1 Introduction

1.1. The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) have been invited by Mr John Roe to prepare a specification for undertaking a watching brief during the construction of a new extension at Rowington, Rectory Lane, New Radnor (planning application P/2016/0290). The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local authority, have determined that the watching brief is required to ensure the preservation by record of any archaeological remains which may be disturbed by the development.

1.2. Planning permission was granted in July 2016, with the inclusion of the following condition relating to archaeology:

3. The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeologist is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief shall be undertaken to standards laid down by the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The Local Planning Authority shall be informed in writing at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development of the name of the said archaeologist. A copy of the resulting report shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust. After approval by the Local Planning Authority, a copy of the report and resulting archive shall be sent to the Historic Environment Record Officer, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the regional Historic Environment Record.

Reason: To ensure the archaeological interest of the site is recorded in accordance with policies ENV17 and ENV18 of the Powys Unitary Development Plan (2010), Welsh Office Circular 60/96 and Planning Policy Wales (2016).

1.3. The development is located within the medieval town of New Radnor, along one of the original streets laid out in the 13th century.

2 Methodology

2.1. The watching brief will be conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014). The watching brief will be undertaken to monitor groundworks associated with the construction of the new extension, together with other groundworks likely to impact on potential buried archaeological deposits. The excavation of any archaeological features or deposits will be undertaken by hand using the conventional techniques for archaeological excavation:

- The presence or absence of archaeological features encountered during the ground works will be noted.
- Where features of archaeological interest are identified during the ground works they will be systematically investigated by hand with sufficient work being

undertaken to determine their date, character and function, using the conventional techniques for archaeological excavation and in accordance with CIfA Standard and Guidance.

- All features will be located as accurately as possible on an overall plan of the development at an appropriate scale, showing boundaries depicted on Ordnance Survey mapping.
- Contexts will be recorded on individual record forms, using a continuous numbering system, and be drawn and photographed as appropriate.
- Plans will be drawn on permatrace to a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate.
- All photography will be taken using a digital SLR camera with a minimum resolution of 8 mega pixels, including a metric scale in each view, with views logged in a photographic register.
- In the event of human burials being discovered the Ministry of Justice will be informed. The remains will initially be left *in situ*, and if removal is required, a MoJ licences will be applied for under the Burial Act 1857.
- In the event of finding any artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasures Act 1996, the appropriate procedures under this legislation will be followed.

2.2. All artefacts and environmental samples will be treated in a manner appropriate to their composition and a sampling strategy will be developed as appropriate:

- All stratified finds will be collected by context, or where appropriate, individually recorded in three dimensions. Unstratified finds will only be collected where they contribute significantly to the project objectives or are of particular intrinsic interest.
- All finds and samples will be collected, processed, sorted, quantified, recorded, labelled, packed, stored, marked, assessed, analysed and conserved in a manner appropriate to their composition and in line with appropriate guidance.
- arrangements to assess and study any artefacts, assemblages and environment samples.
- Any artefacts recovered during the evaluation will be deposited with an appropriate museum, subject to the permission of the owner.

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

- Non-technical summary
- Introduction
- Site location
- Archaeological Background
- Watching brief
- Conclusions
- References
- Appropriate appendices on archives and finds

2.4. The site archive will be prepared to specifications in English Heritage's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) system and the CIfA

Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives (2014). The digital archive only will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and the paper/drawn/digital archive with the National Monuments Record (RCAHMW).

3 Resources and programming

- 3.1. The watching brief will be undertaken by a skilled archaeologist 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).
- 3.2. All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist(s) who conducted the site work. Copies of the report will be deposited with the client and the regional Historic Environment Record within one month of the completion of on-site works. If appropriate, a short report will be published in *Archaeology in Wales*.
- 3.3. The client should be aware that in the event that significant archaeological remains are revealed there may be a requirement for more detailed excavation and specialist services. Any further work over and above the original watching brief and report would be the subject of a separate WSI and costing. The following figures provide an indication of the types of additional services and indicative costs which might be required, for which the client is advised to make some provision.

Curatorial monitoring	£150 per visit
Finds conservation etc	£285 per day
Radiocarbon dating	£330 each
Finds specialist	£285 per day

- 3.4. Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 3.5. CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance, as well as Professional Indemnity insurance.

N W Jones

6 March 2017