

CPAT Report No. 1539

Land at Tan y Bryn, Rhos on Sea, Conwy




Archaeological Watching Brief



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS

CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Client name: Bryn Llewelyn Cyf
 CPAT Project No: 2232
 Project Name: Land at Tan y Bryn, Rhos on Sea, Conwy
 Grid Reference: SH 83337 80292
 County/LPA: Conwy County Borough Council
 Planning Application: 0/44105
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Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:
		
Will Logan Project Archaeologist	Nigel Jones Principal Archaeologist	Nigel Jones Principal Archaeologist
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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

www.cpat.org.uk

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 with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

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Summary

In October 2017 the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) carried out a watching brief in connection with a new development to the rear of 99 Tan y Bryn Road, Rhos on Sea.

Following the removal of a section of the boundary wall the development area was stripped of topsoil. Limestone bedrock was attained at a depth of between 0.1m - 0.5m across the area. Nothing of archaeological significance was discovered in the course of this watching brief.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was invited by Bryn Llewelyn Cyf to undertake an archaeological watching brief in connection with a development to the rear of 99 Tan y Bryn Road, Rhos on Sea (Conwy County Borough Council planning application 0/44105).
- 1.2. Permission for the development was granted by Conwy Borough Council, subject to a number of conditions, of which No 13 states:

The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeological contractor 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 must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs. The Local Planning Authority will be informed in writing, at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development, of the name of the said archaeological contractor. A copy of the resulting report shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust within one month of the completion of the watching brief.

REASON: To secure preservation by record of any archaeological remains which may be revealed during ground excavations for the consented development to comply with policies DP/1, DP/3, DP/4 DP/6, CTH/1 and CTH/2 of the Conwy Local Development Plan 2013 and advice contained within Planning Policy Wales 9th Edition, November 2016.



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Fig. 1 Location of the Development Area

Historical Background

- 1.3. The development is located in an area bordering the medieval historic core around Llys Eurn, a ruinous medieval manor house parts of which may date to the 13th century as this was apparently the site of the llys of Ednyfed Fychan, 'Seneschal' or chief minister of Llywelyn ap Iorwerth. The surviving remains are interpreted as a building mainly of a single 15th century design, a much elaborated winged hall-house that was added to, altered and improved at various times during the 16th century, reaching the height of its development at the end of the 16th century. It then decayed, one wing burnt down and there were several makeshift repairs in the 17th century before it was subject to a single phase of demolition and removal of building materials in the first half of the 18th century. The remaining walls survived virtually unchanged up until the late 20th century. It has been suggested that the building was constructed on the site of a palace dating to the 6th century, but there is no evidence for this.

2 Watching Brief

- 2.1. The watching brief was carried out by Ian Davies between October 23rd and October 25th 2017, monitoring the removal by machine of topsoil and overburden from the new access and footprint of the buildings down to the first significant archaeological horizon, or the natural subsoil, whichever was first encountered. It was conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014).
- 2.2. Access was facilitated by the removal of a section of limestone wall to the west of the site. The site comprised an irregular shaped plot of open ground on a slope facing north.



Fig. 2 The limestone boundary wall prior to removal. CPAT 4419-0002



Fig. 3 Section through the topsoil (001). CPAT 4419-0010

- 2.3. The uppermost soil deposit comprised a mid to dark brown clayey silt topsoil (001) extending across the entire area to a thickness of between 0.1m to 0.3m. Underlying this the natural limestone bedrock (002) was revealed. A depression in the bedrock at the eastern extent of the development area was filled with a rubble landscaping layer (003).



Fig. 4 General view of the site from the west showing exposed limestone bedrock.
CPAT 4419-0013

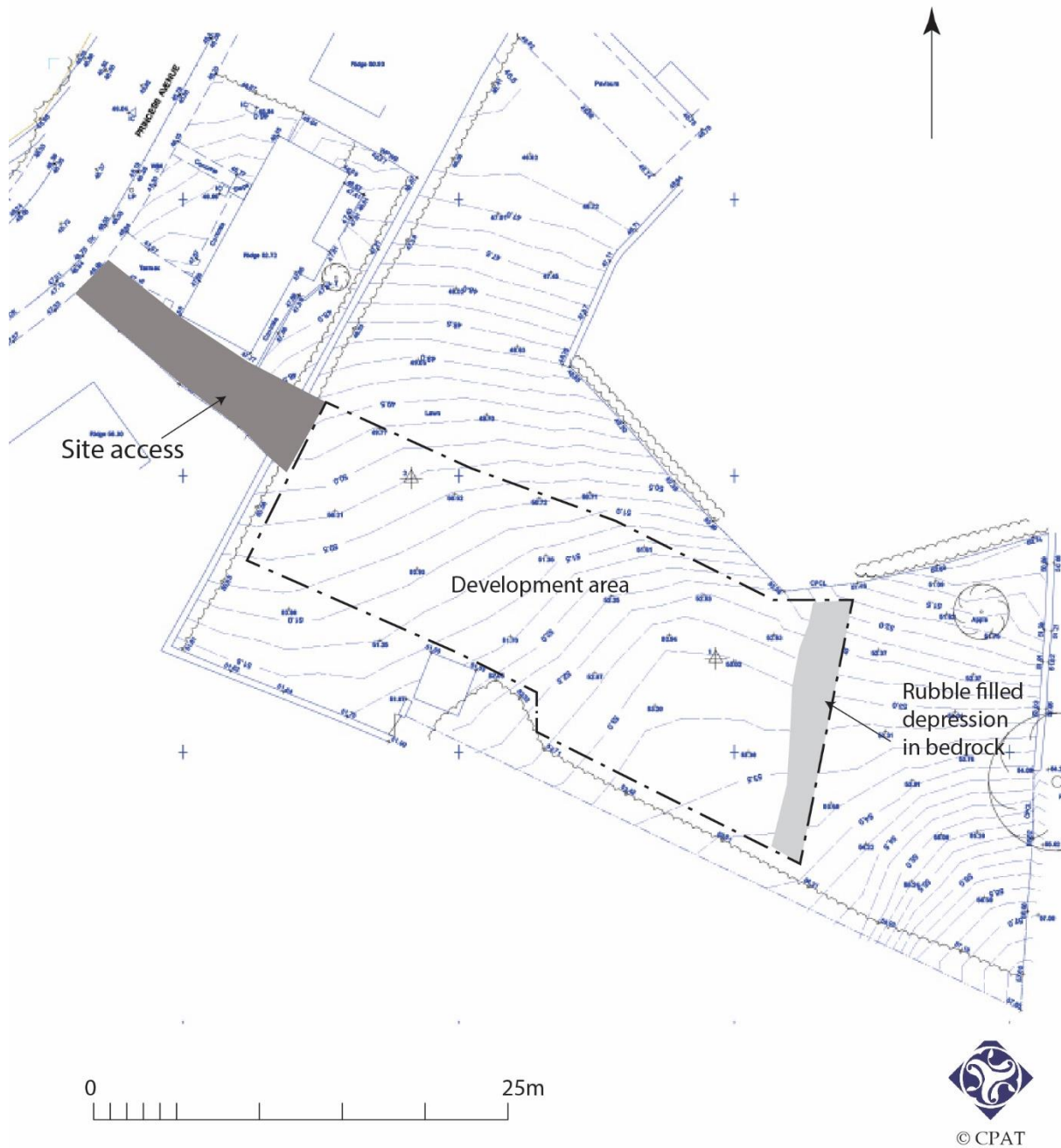


Fig. 4 Plan of the development area

3 Conclusions

- 3.1. The watching brief revealed nothing of archaeological significance during the course of the groundworks. A rubble filled depression to the east of the development area was interpreted as a natural feature.

4 Archive deposition Statement

- 4.1. 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).

Archive Summary

CPAT Event PRN: 140207

3 watching brief visit forms

13 digital photographs Film Number CPAT-4419

Appendix 1: CPAT WSI 1841

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust has been invited by Bryn Llewelyn Cyf to submit a proposal for undertaking an archaeological watching brief in connection with a proposed development to the rear of 99 Tan y Bryn Road, Rhos on Sea (Conwy County Borough Council planning application 0/44105). The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local authority, have determined that an archaeological watching brief is required as mitigation for any potential impact on the archaeological resource.

- 1.2. The development is located in an area bordering the medieval historic core around Llys Euryrn, a ruinous medieval manor house parts of which may date to the 13th century as this was apparently the site of the llys of Ednyfed Fychan, 'Seneschal' or chief minister of Llywelyn ap Iorwerth. The surviving remains are interpreted as a building mainly of a single 15th century design, a much elaborated winged hall-house that was added to, altered and improved at various times during the 16th century, reaching the height of its development at the end of the 16th century. It then decayed, one wing burnt down and there were several makeshift repairs in the 17th century before it was subject to a single phase of demolition and removal of building materials in the first half of the 18th century. The remaining walls survived virtually unchanged up until the late 20th century. It has been suggested that the building was constructed on the site of a palace dating to the 6th century, but there is no evidence for this.

- 1.3. Permission for the development was granted by Conwy Borough Council, subject to a number of conditions, of which No 13 states:

The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeological contractor 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 must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs. The Local Planning Authority will be informed in writing, at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development, of the name of the said archaeological contractor. A copy of the resulting report shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust within one month of the completion of the watching brief.

REASON: To secure preservation by record of any archaeological remains which may be revealed during ground excavations for the consented development to comply with policies DP/1, DP/3, DP/4 DP/6, CTH/1 and CTH/2 of the Conwy Local Development Plan 2013 and advice contained within Planning Policy Wales 9th Edition, November 2016.

- 1.4. This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been produced in response to Condition 13 and to provide details of how the condition will be met.

2 Objectives

2.1. The objectives of the evaluation are:

- to identify any sub-surface remains relating to Llys Euryn or its historic core that may fall within the development area and to determine the nature, condition, significance and the chronology of the cultural heritage within the area of the proposed development in so far as these aims are possible;
- to appropriately record any archaeological features identified during the watching brief;
- to prepare a report outlining the results of the watching brief;
- 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 watching brief will examine the removal of topsoil and overburden from the development area down to the first significant archaeological horizon, or the natural subsoil, whichever is first encountered. It will be conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014).

- 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 12 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 licence 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.

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

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- 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 will be made to assess and study any artefacts, assemblages and environmental samples.
 - Any artefacts recovered during the watching brief will be deposited with an appropriate museum, subject to the permission of the owner.
- 3.3. In the event that significant archaeological remains are exposed, the archaeological advisors to the local authority will be contacted to allow appropriate mitigation measures to be identified and implemented by agreement with the client.
- 3.4. Following the on-site work an illustrated report will be prepared, a draft of which will be submitted for the approval of the archaeological advisors to the local authority. The report will contain conventional sections to include:
- Non-technical summary
 - Introduction
 - Site location
 - Archaeological Background
 - Watching brief
 - Conclusions
 - References
 - Appropriate appendices on archives and finds
- 3.5. 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).

4 Resources and programming

- 4.1. The watching brief will be undertaken by a single 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).
- 4.2. All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist who conducted the watching brief.

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- 4.3. It is anticipated that the watching brief will be completed within one week and the report prepared immediately thereafter. At present CPAT would be in a position to undertake the watching brief in the week commencing 18 September 2017, subject to confirmation 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. The need for such contingencies, and their scope and potential cost, would be subject to discussions between CPAT, the client and the curator at the time of their discovery. 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 £150 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.

R Hankinson

5 September 2017