

CPAT Report No. 1811



Colomendy Industrial Estate, Denbigh

Archaeological Watching Brief



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS
CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Client name: Denbighshire County Council
 CPAT Project No: 2447
 Project Name: Colomendy Industrial Estate Denbigh
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Summary

In July 2021, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust was invited by Denbighshire County Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the initial stages of groundworks extending Colomendy Industrial Estate, Denbighshire, to allow the construction of a Local Authority Waste Transfer Station.

During the watching brief, several fragments of 18th/19th Century pottery were found, but no evidence of earlier usage of the site was discovered. There was no indication of any significant archaeology present at the site, and despite the possibility of a Roman road being present, there was no archaeological evidence of Roman activity found during the watching brief.

Crynodeb

Fis Gorffennaf 2021, gwahoddwyd Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys gan Gyngor Sir Ddinbych i wneud briff gwylio archaeolegol yn ystod cyfnodau cychwynnol gwaith paratoi tir ar gyfer estyn Ystâd Ddiwydiannol Colomendy, Sir Ddinbych, i ganiatáu adeiladu Gorsaf Trosglwyddo Gwastraff Awdurdod Lleol.

Yn ystod y briff gwylio, darganfuwyd nifer o ddarnau bach o grochenwaith o'r 18^{fed}/19^{eg} Ganrif, ond ni ddarganfuwyd unrhyw dystiolaeth o ddefnyddio'r safle yn gynharach. Nid oedd unrhyw awgrym o archaeoleg sylweddol ar y safle, ac er ei bod yn bosibl bod ffordd Rufeinig yn bresennol, ni ddaethpwyd o hyd i unrhyw dystiolaeth archaeolegol o weithgarwch Rhufeinig yn ystod y briff gwylio.

1 Introduction

1.1. Purpose of this report

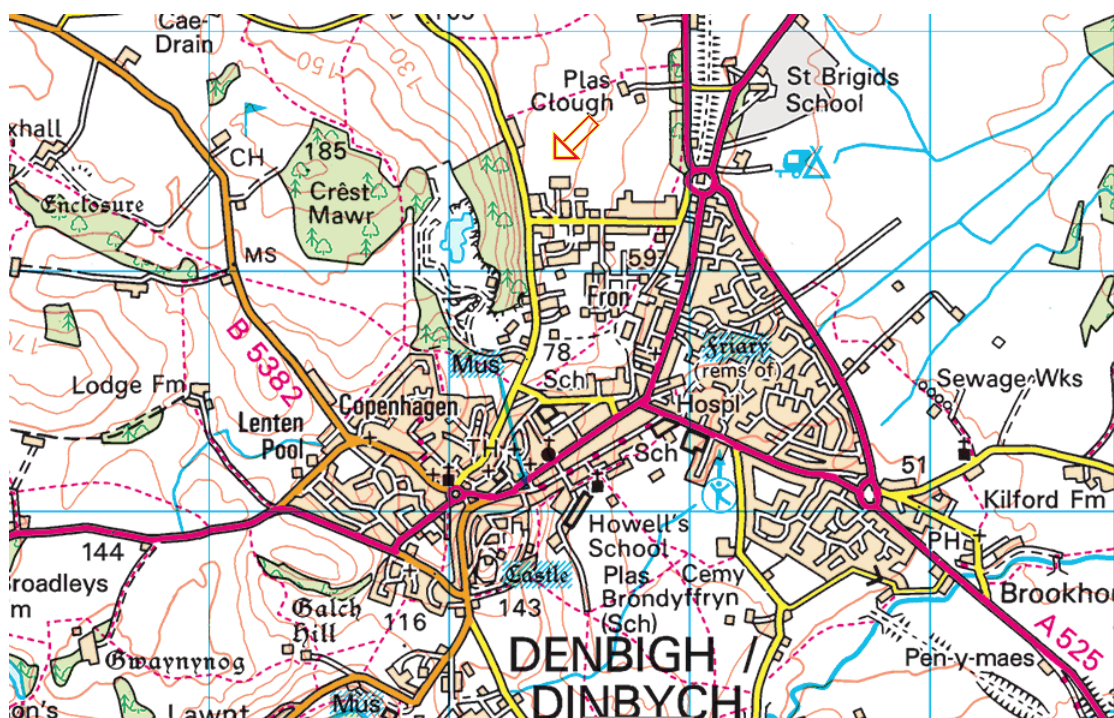
The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust was appointed by Denbighshire County Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the initial stages of groundworks associated with Plot 1, Colomendy Industrial Estate, Denbighshire (*see Fig. 1*). This report contains a record of the results from fieldwork conducted between 5th – 8th August 2021.

1.2. Planning background

The development is part of an extension to the industrial estate, and this element comprises the construction of a Local Authority Waste Transfer Station (application 01/2019/1011) to undertake the sorting and baling of separately collected recyclable waste. It will include the erection of the main recycling building, one depot building and storage bays, installation of vehicle wash and weigh bridge, siting of generator, creation of new access and associated road widening, construction of internal road, service yard, storage areas, parking, drainage (to serve whole site), landscaping and associated works. Planning permission included an archaeological condition for a watching brief on the car park in Plot 1.

1.3. Location, landuse, topography and geology

The site's national grid reference is approximately SJ053674, and prior to development the land was mostly used for pasture. The land falls gently to the east, with an altitude of c.90m AOD at its western edge adjacent to Ffordd y Graig. Superficial geology is glacial till, and the bedrock is limestone in the west, although a fault line runs north-south through Plot 1, with Kinnerton Sandstone in the east.



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018

Fig. 1 Location of area of extension to Colomendy Industrial Estate, Denbigh

2 Historical Background

- 2.1. The Historic Environment Record describes a possible route of a Roman road near to the area of the extension (PRN 48026). The road is described as connecting Corwen to St Asaph, with the route going through what is presently Denbigh (*see Fig. 2*). This is a projected route and there is little evidence for Roman activity in the stretch to the immediate north of Denbigh town centre, as further investigation is required to ascertain the definite route of the Roman road in this area.

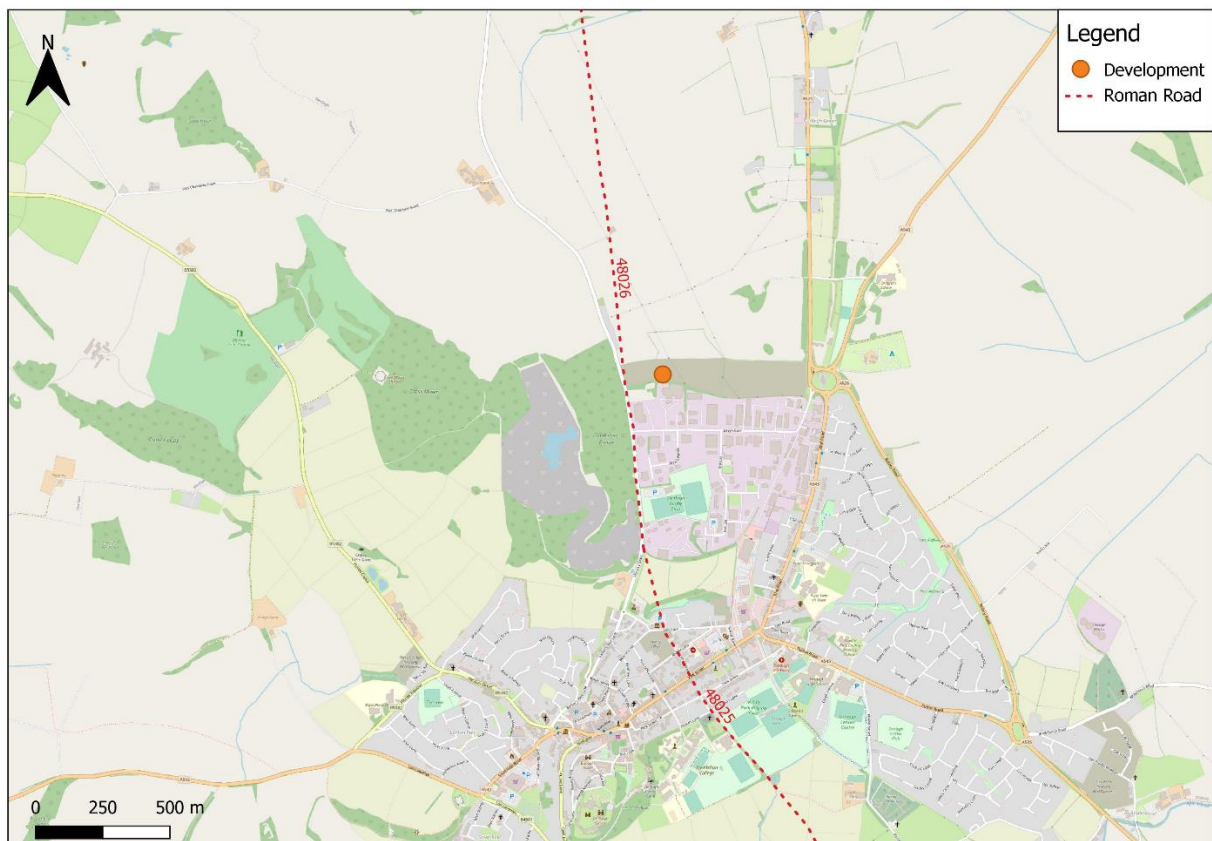


Fig. 2 Possible route of Roman road through Denbigh and its proximity to the extension at Colomendy Industrial Estate

- 2.2. The area appears to have been used exclusively for agriculture until the modern era, when it was repurposed through the establishment of Colomendy Industrial Estate. This was established for light industry in the 1970s.

3 Watching Brief Results

- 3.1. The watching brief was conducted between 5th and 8th July 2021 in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) (2014) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2017). The watching brief was carried out on land to the east of Ffordd-y-Graig, during initial construction works for the northward extension of the Colomendy Industrial Estate. All works were carried out with mechanical excavators fitted with toothless ditching buckets.



Fig. 3 Plot 1 development plans, with detail showing Plot 1 western zone for car parking, the area subject to the watching brief

- 3.2. Initially, focus was on the new car-parking area immediately adjacent to Ffordd-y-Graig (Fig. 3). This involved topsoiling of the area down 0.20m to a pale mid-yellowish grey sandy clay subsoil. No archaeological features were revealed during this work. As the strip progressed further east, some occasional scatters of 18th/19th Century Buckley and Staffordshire wares were found, which are indicative of nightsoil deposition and manuring of the land from the town. No earlier ceramic fabrics were seen.
- 3.3. Development of the access to the site required the removal of 140m of the N/S aligned roadside hedgerow (see Fig. 4). This work allowed access and examination of the roadside verge and embankment for any evidence of previous road construction and remains.



Fig. 4 Removal of roadside hedgerow, working shot. Photo CPAT 4934-0006

- 3.4. No earlier remains or evidence of Roman activity were seen. Whilst the road embankment was a distinctly brighter yellow in colour than other soils, it was also noticeably softer and more friable. This suggests a lack of deliberate compaction during construction, and there was no evidence of any surviving metalled surfacing or any ceramic remains whether Roman or medieval. Further ground works in the car-park area included a reduced dig of up to 0.75m deep, c.4m east of the road embankment. A uniform mid-yellowish grey sandy clay glacial till was revealed and no archaeological deposits or features were forthcoming (see Fig. 5).



Fig. 4 Glacial till present in car park area, looking west. Photo CPAT 4934-0006

4 Conclusions

During the course of the watching brief, no significant archaeological remains were discovered, and no evidence of any surviving Roman road was found. The material recovered throughout the watching brief was of limited antiquity; no artefacts older than the 18th Century were noted.

It would seem unlikely that Roman engineers would build a major military road to run at the base of a steep wooded hill to the west as this would leave it vulnerable to ambush. Plentiful more suitable land lies to the east with open flat meadows that have a gentle easterly gradient to aid drainage. Through these, the road would dominate the landscape and be far less vulnerable to ambush from either side.

The extension area north of the current Colomendy Industrial Estate appears to be mostly sterile, and the watching brief undertaken by Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust has indicated that the archaeology within the extension area is minimal and insignificant, and does not require further investigation.

5 Sources

- 5.1. Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record
- 5.2. Daear Geo Consulting November 2020 *Colomendy Industrial Estate Extension Plot 1: Supplementary Ground Investigation & Geotechnical Report*
- 5.3. Silvester, R. and Owen, W. March 2003 *Roman Roads in Mid and North-West Wales: The First Report* CPAT 527
- 5.4. Silvester, R. March 2004 *The Roman Roads of East and North-East Wales: A Second Report* CPAT 621

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.

Archive summary

CPAT Event PRN: 171769

Watching Brief recording form

11 digital photographs, CPAT film no 4934

Appendix 1: CPAT WSI 2164

7 Introduction

- 7.1. The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust has been invited by Denbighshire County Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the initial stages of groundworks associated with Plot 1, Colomendy Industrial Estate, Denbighshire.
- 7.2. The development is part of an extension to the industrial estate of which this element comprises the construction of a Local Authority Waste Transfer Station (application 01/2019/1011) to undertake the sorting and baling of separately collected recyclable waste. It will include the erection of the main recycling building, one depot building and storage bays, installation of vehicle wash and weigh bridge, siting of generator, creation of new access and associated road widening, construction of internal road, service yard, storage areas, parking, drainage (to serve whole site), landscaping and associated works.
- 7.3. Information retained within the regional Historic Environment Record indicates that the predicted line of a Roman road between Corwen and St Asaph (PRN 48000) runs through the plot, although there is no evidence to corroborate this.

8 Methodology

Fieldwork

- 8.1. 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 soil stripping operations in the area of the new car park. 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 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 (MoJ) 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.

Artefacts

- 8.2. 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 will be made to assess and study any artefacts, assemblages and environment samples.
 - Any artefacts recovered during the recording process will be deposited with the nearest regional or county Museum, subject to the permission of the owner. The artefacts will be deposited along with a copy of the site report including a detailed list of all artefacts recovered.

Site archive

- 8.3. The overall archive will conform to guidelines described in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Historic England 2015, the CIfA (2014) Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives and The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales (NPAAW, 2017) and Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) V1 (July 2018).
- 8.4. The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record (NMR), RCAHMW, including a copy of the final report. This archive will include all written, drawn, survey and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. NMR Digital archives will follow the standard required by the RCAHMW (RCAHMW 2015). A copy of the digital archive only will also be lodged with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust.

Report

- 8.5. 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
- 8.6. The report summary will be provided in English and Welsh, in accordance with the *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) V1 (July 2018)*.

9 Resources and programming

- 9.1. 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 and as such agrees to abide by their *Code of Conduct* (2019) and the *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (2014).
- 9.2. 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*.
- 9.3. 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

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

N W Jones

14 January 2020