

CPAT Report No. 1708




Proposed Extension to the Cottage Inn, Forden Road, Montgomery, Powys

Archaeological Evaluation



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Client name: Roger Parry and Partners (on behalf of Monty's Brewery Ltd)
 CPAT Project No: 2422
 Project Name: Cottage Inn, Montgomery
 Grid Reference: SO 2228 9697
 County/LPA: Powys
 Planning Application: 19/1453/FUL
 CPAT Report No: 1708
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 with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in late October 2019, on behalf of Monty's Brewery Ltd, in connection with a proposed extension to the Cottage Inn, which is located on the east side of Forden Road, close to its junction with Station Road in Montgomery, Powys). .

Three trenches were excavated on the footprint of the proposed extension, revealing the remains of a stone structure which may be part of a building depicted by historic mapping from the late 18th to early 20th centuries, although some medieval pottery was found within the walls.

A silt deposit was also identified which suggested that the area may have been a pond in the post-medieval period, this having formed behind the town defences.

Crynodeb

Bu Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys yn cynnal gwerthusiad archaeolegol ar ddiwedd mis Hydref 2019, ar ran Monty's Brewery Ltd, mewn cysylltiad ag estyniad arfaethedig i'r Cottage Inn, sydd ar ochr ddwyreiniol Ffordd Ffordun, yn agos at ei chyffordd â Ffordd yr Orsaf yn Nhrefaldwyn, Powys. .

Cloddiwyd tair rych ar ôl troed yr estyniad arfaethedig, gan ddatgelu gweddillion strwythur cerrig a allai fod yn rhan o adeilad a ddarluniwyd ar fapiau hanesyddol o ddiwedd y 18^{fed} ganrif i ddechrau'r 20^{fed} ganrif, er y daethpwyd o hyd i rywfaent o grochenwaith canoloesol o fewn y waliau.

Nodwyd dyddodion silt hefyd a oedd yn awgrymu bod yr ardal wedi bod yn bwll dŵr o bosibl yn y cyfnod ôl-ganoloesol, wedi ffurfio y tu ôl i amddiffynfeydd y dref.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was invited by Russ Honeyman, Monty's Brewery Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in connection with a proposed new brewery extension to the rear of the Cottage Inn, Forden Road, Montgomery, Powys (19/1453/FUL). The Curatorial Section of CPAT, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local authority, had determined that an archaeological evaluation was required to identify the potential impact on the archaeological resource.
- 1.2. The Cottage Inn is located on the east side of Forden Road, close to the junction with Station Road (Fig. 1; SO 2228 9697). The plot lies within the medieval historic core of Montgomery and south of the former line of the medieval town defences, which are preserved as a scheduled monument immediately to the east of the development boundary (SM MG023). The plot as a whole may include part of the inner edge of the bank of the earthen town defences and also has the potential to contain evidence for medieval settlement activity.



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018

Fig. 1: Location of the Cottage Inn

2 Historical Background

- 2.1. This section provides a brief summary of the archaeology and history of the study area and its immediate surrounds, to enable the findings of the assessment to be placed in a wider context.
- 2.2. Known in Welsh as Trefaldwyn, both this name and its English counterpart were given successively to Hen Domen (or Old Montgomery), the motte and bailey closer to the Severn, and then to the present town of Montgomery. In the Domesday Book the motte was called *Castrum Muntgumeri* after its lord, Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, whose home across the Channel was Montgomery in Normandy. *Gastell baldwin* and hence Trefaldwyn is recorded in c.1170, a reference to Baldwin de Bollers who was granted possession of Montgomery in the early 12th century.
- 2.3. Montgomery (or New Montgomery) was developed by Henry III as a strategic and military stronghold on the Welsh border in 1223, its location commended by Mathew Paris as ideal 'for the erection of an impregnable castle'. The spot was rather less suitable for a town, however, but the king issued a safe conduct to all who would bring victuals for sale to the castle, promising the liberties enjoyed by the burgesses of the town of Shrewsbury to those who would stay and live in Montgomery. It was conceived and laid out as a planned town (or plantation) and received its charter in 1227.
- 2.4. The castle's strategic importance declined in the 14th century and it began to fall into decay, although later some of it was restored as a private residence. The town on the other hand thrived to some degree, and the population of the borough expanded throughout the 13th and into the 14th century. A weekly market was held in Broad Street and there were four annual fairs. However, its strategic location hindered its accessibility and thus its commercial development, for it lay at some distance from the River Severn. The rise of Newtown and Welshpool, both on the river itself, created rival market towns in superior locations and in 1279 Welshpool's rights to hold markets and fairs were temporarily removed by royal charter because of the damage they were doing to Montgomery's prosperity.
- 2.5. The grid pattern so typical in a planted town such as Newtown is recognisable only at the southern end of Montgomery in the vicinity of the church and market. Further north the natural landform necessitates a less regular layout and this is indicated by Speed's plan. The nature of the medieval buildings and their accompanying plots is little known. Typical long narrow burgage plots are still distinguishable in some parts of the town, notably off Princes Street and Broad Street. Excavations on a plot beside Pool Road in 1984 and again in 1987 revealed the superimposed plans of two timber houses with a yard behind. Occupation there began in the 13th century and seems to have ceased early in the 15th century, after which the plot remained empty (Britnell and Jones 1989).

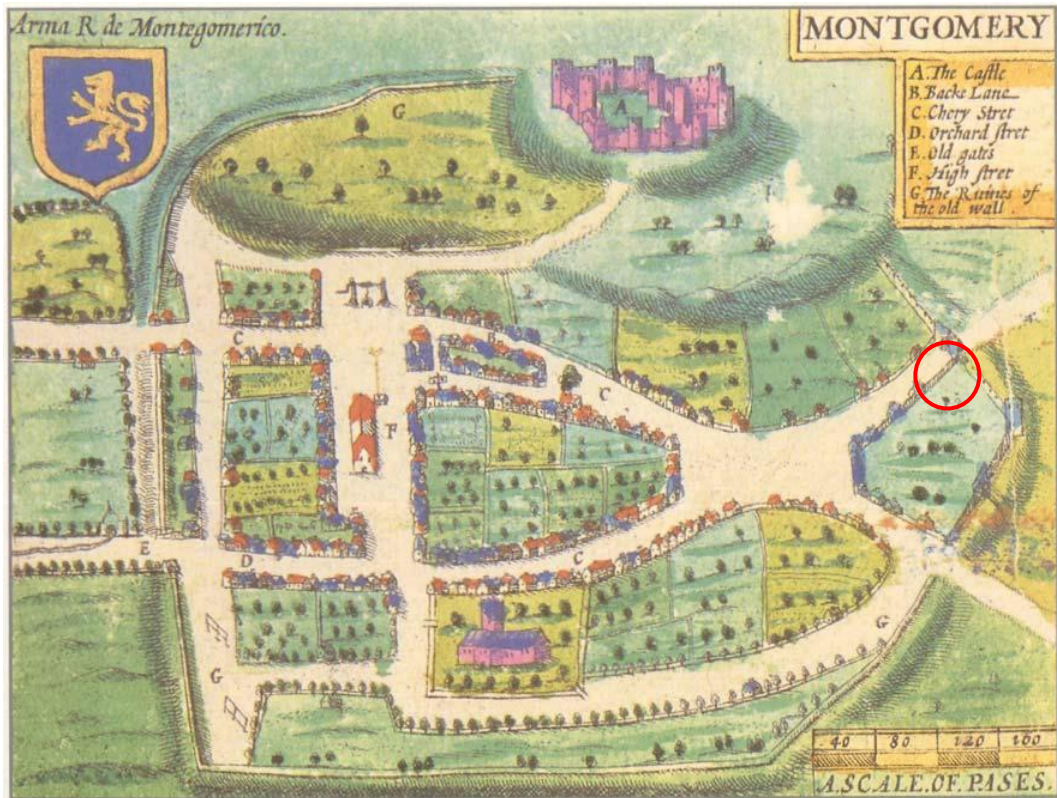


Fig. 2: John Speed's plan of Montgomery; early 17th century with the approximate location of the development circled in red. North is to the right

2.6. Not surprisingly, Montgomery went into decline in the late medieval period. Large areas of the town, particularly in the northern part, appeared to be devoid of buildings in 1610-11 when John Speed published his plan of the town (Fig. 2), although it was still ranked as one of the more important settlements in the Principality. This was no doubt partly because the town was accorded the status of county town to the newly created Montgomeryshire in the Act of Union between England and Wales instituted by Henry VIII in 1536.

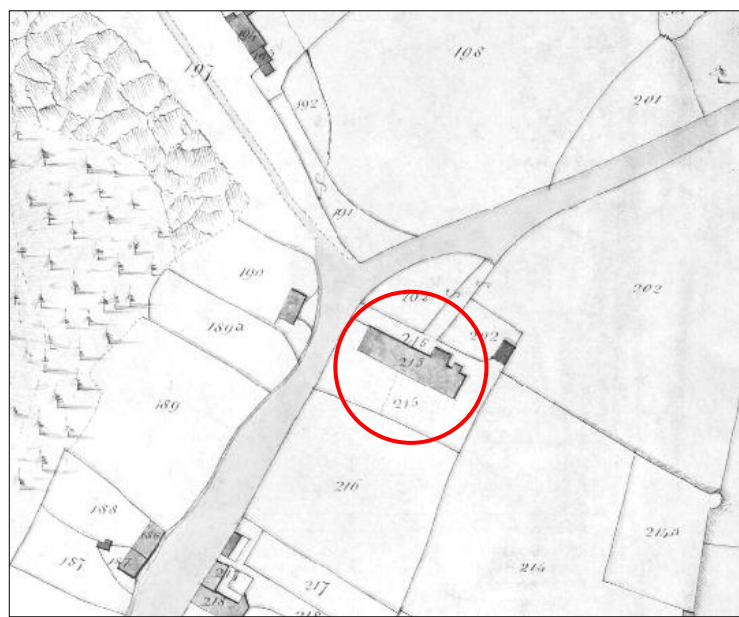


Fig. 3: The Montgomery tithe map of 1839 with the Cottage Inn circled

- 2.7. An estate map of 1785 shows the town in some detail, including a depiction of the Cottage Inn, although this cannot be reproduced here for reasons of copyright. A similar depiction appears on the 1839 Tithe map (Fig. 3), at which time it was owned by Charles Jones and the tenant was Anne Williams. The inn included a Malthouse, garden and orchard. It is significant that the building depicted was markedly larger than the current building, which is only half the size.
- 2.8. Later mapping by the Ordnance Survey (Figs 4-5) also show the building, with some extensions, as well as identifying the 'Town Ditch' along the northern boundary of the development area.

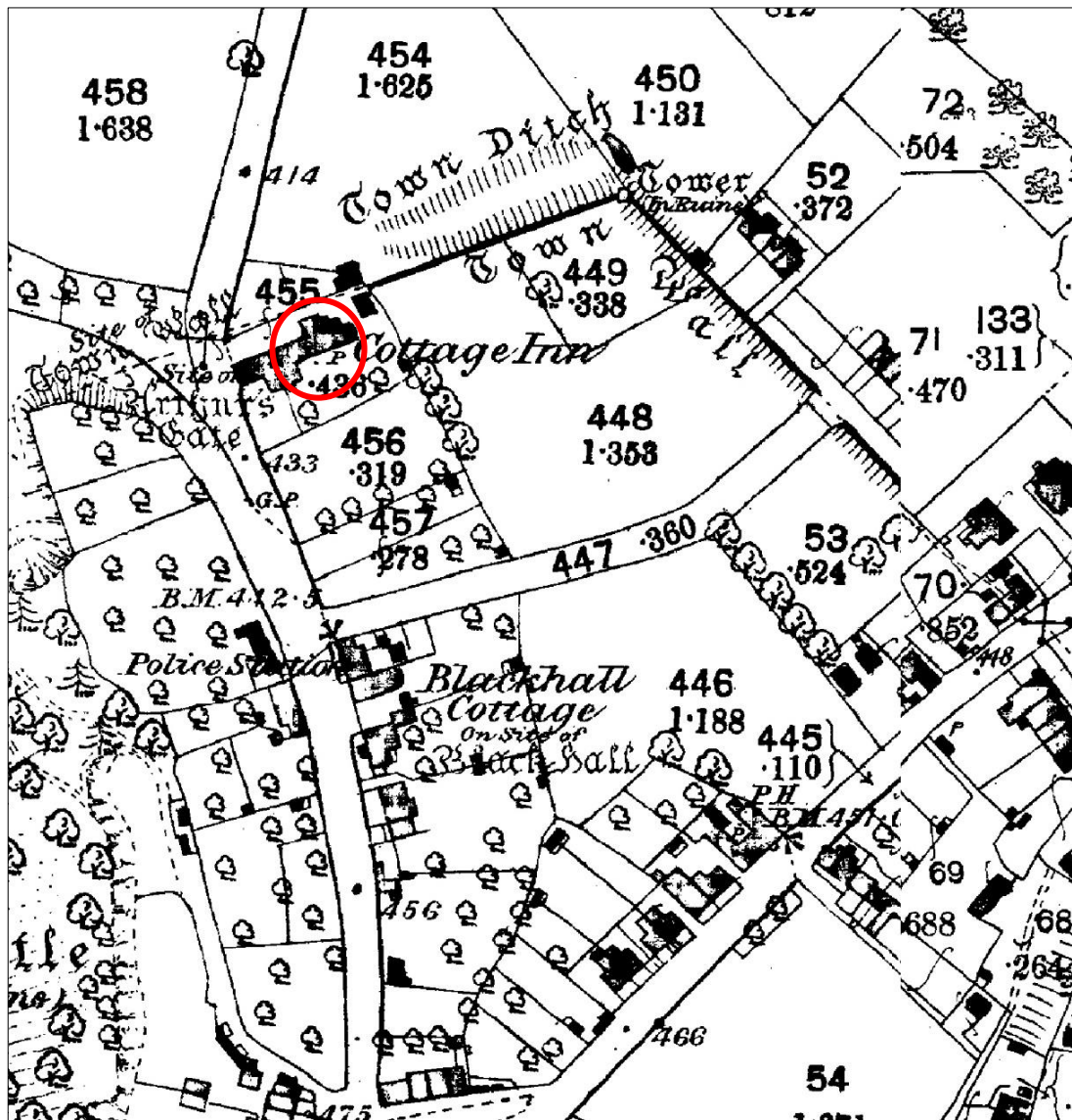


Fig. 4: Extract from the 1883 Ordnance Survey map showing the development area circled in red

- 2.9. At some point following the production of the 1902 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 5), the eastern half of the inn seems to have been demolished; it does appear to be still shown on Ordnance Survey mapping dating from the 1940s.

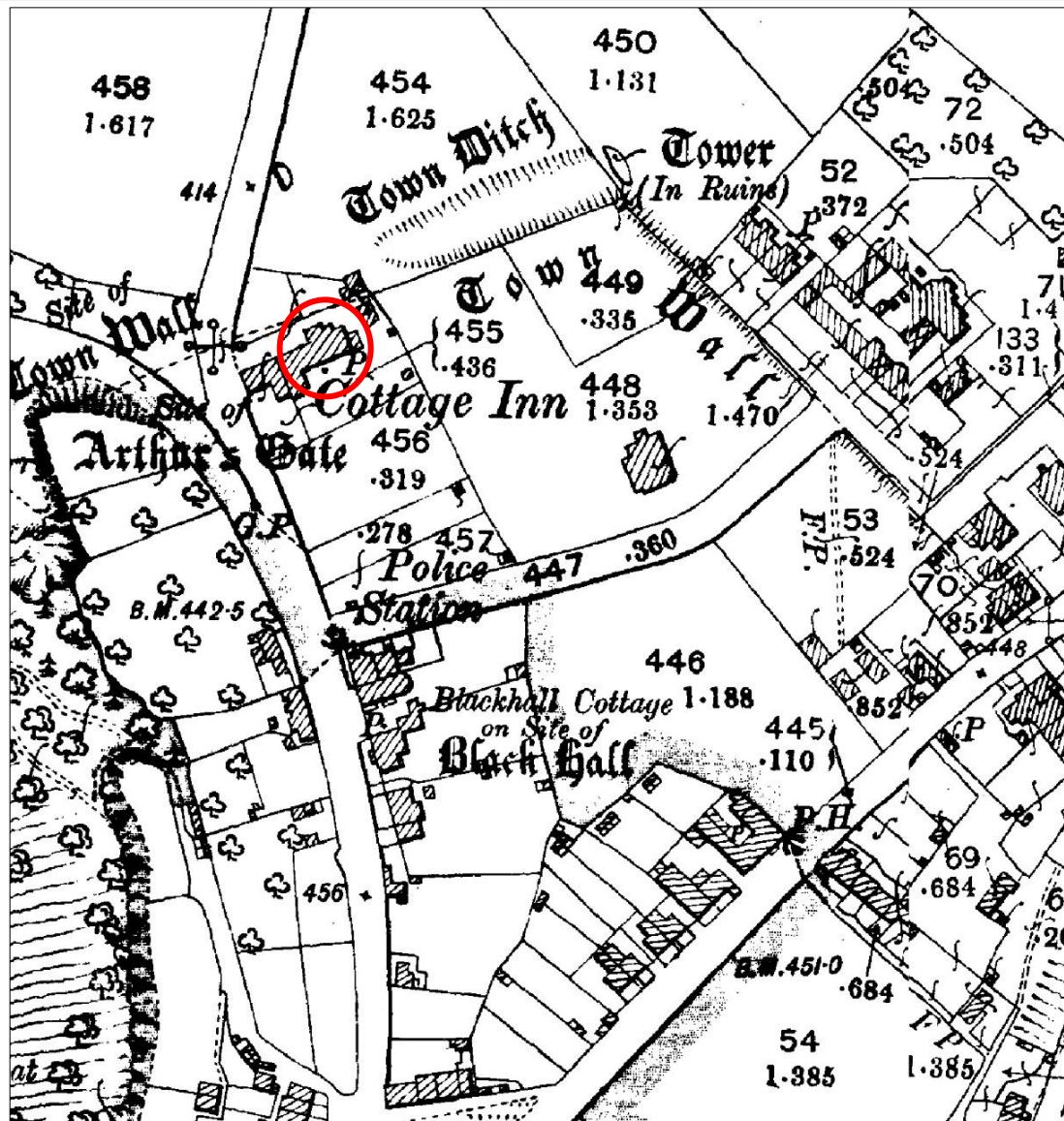


Fig. 5: Extract from the 1902 Ordnance Survey map showing the development area circled in red

3 Evaluation

- 3.1. The evaluation was conducted between 29 October and 1 November 2019, in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) (2014) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. (2014) and consisted of three trenches positioned within the footprint of the proposed extension (Fig. 6).
- 3.2. The Cottage Inn is a brick building set on a stone plinth, and appears to be of late 18th-century date.



Fig. 6: Plan of the development area showing the location of the evaluation trenches and the earlier building (based on a plan by Roger Parry and Partners)

Trench 1 (8.0m x 1.5m)

- 3.3. The trench was placed over the footprint of the earlier building (see Fig. 6) and was excavated by machine down to the level of archaeologically significant deposits; the remainder of the excavation was done entirely by hand.
- 3.4. The removal of overburden revealed the remains of a building (Figs 7-9) which comprised two adjoining rooms arranged approximately north/south and covering a visible area of 3.7m north/south by 1.5m. The remains extended beyond the southern edge of the earlier building as depicted on historic mapping, although the position of the main wall did correspond with the rear wall of that building.
- 3.5. The walls to survived to a height of at least 0.6m and were built using stone likely to be of local origin, probably from the outcrop on which Montgomery Castle sits. An orange-brown clay had been used as bonding between the stones and this produced two sherds of medieval pottery, although these could have been residual. The use of clay bonding might suggest a greater age than if the building had been constructed using lime mortar. The internal faces of the two rooms had a limewash coating.



Fig. 7: The building in Trench 1 viewed from the south-south-east. Photo CPAT 4708-0012

- 3.6. The earliest fill encountered within the building was a grey gritty silt (21), which was at least 0.4m thick within the two rooms but also extended to the north, where it was over 0.6m thick. The material seemed to have settled and sunk within the rooms. It was not possible to determine if it had been part of deliberate infilling.
- 3.7. Overlying the earlier fill was a layer of stones in grey clay silt (20) which was up to 0.35m thick and displayed a similar profile, presumably as it had been affected by the settling of the underlying material. Above the northern room, the ground had been levelled by the deposition of a mixed yellow and grey-brown clay (19), 0.3m thick. The upper fill within the southern room consisted of a dark grey clay silt (16), up to 0.4m thick and containing material of 19th-20th century date. It is possible that this either formed a deliberate levelling deposit, or could be the fill of a possible pit (15), cutting layer 20 and measuring at least 3.0m north/south.
- 3.8. A trench (17), cutting fill 16 and measuring approximately 0.8m wide by at least 0.3m deep, in which a drainage pipe had been laid was identified towards the southern end of the trench. This pipe was no doubt the same as the one revealed in Trench 3 (see below). Sealing all of the above was a layer of very dark grey silt (14), 0.14m thick, and the car park material (13), which comprised a tarmac surface laid on a crushed gravel base, totalling 0.25m in thickness.



Fig. 8: The building in Trench 1 viewed from the west-south-west. Photo CPAT 4708-0023



Fig. 9: The building in Trench 1 viewed from the east-north-east. Photo CPAT 4708-0024

- 3.9. Natural subsoil was not revealed in the trench, owing to flooding, which restricted the depth of the excavation.

Trench 2 (7.0m x 1.5m)

- 3.10. Trench 2 was placed alongside a garage and was excavated to the maximum safe depth for working of 1.2m below the surface of the car park. The width of the trench was restricted by

the presence of the garage foundations (visible on the right of Fig. 10) and at the approximate maximum depth of 1.2m the base of the trench became flooded.



Fig. 10: Trench 2 viewed from the west-south-west, natural subsoil is just visible at the near end of the trench. Photo CPAT 4708-0001

- 3.11. The natural subsoil, a yellowish-brown clay (12), was visible at the base of the trench for approximately 2m from the west end but then dipped away further east. Overlying the subsoil was a layer of grey clay (11), at least 0.6m thick and containing pottery of post-medieval date. It was apparent that this deposit represented long-term silting of the locality in a waterlogged anaerobic environment; the same material was found in Trench 3.
- 3.12. Layer 11 was sealed in turn by a dark grey to black silt (10), 0.2m thick, and the car park material (9), which comprised a tarmac surface laid on a crushed gravel base, up to 0.5m in thickness.

Trench 3 (15.0m x 1.5m)

- 3.13. Trench 3 was sited on the eastern side of the plot and was excavated to the maximum safe depth for working of 1.2m below the surface of the car park, at which level it became flooded.
- 3.14. Natural subsoil was not revealed in the trench, the earliest layer identified being a grey clay (5), at least 0.6m in thickness. This material was almost certainly the same as had been seen in Trench 2 (context 11) and no doubt represented long-term silting of the locality in a waterlogged anaerobic environment. At the southern end of the trench, layer 5 was overlain by a wedge of grey-brown clay silt (4), 0.35m thick, and towards the centre of the trench by a deposit of stone and yellow-grey clay (6), up to 0.3m thick and containing 19th-century finds, which seemed to have filled a hollow in its surface.
- 3.15. Towards the north end of the trench, there was a linear feature (7), running east/west and about 0.5m wide, which cut layer 6. The mixed fill (8) contained a ceramic drainage pipe, no doubt the same line as had been identified in Trench 1.



Fig. 11: Trench 3 viewed from the south, showing the silt deposit. Photo CPAT 4708-0022

- 3.16. Overlying the grey silt was a layer of dark grey, black and brown silt (3), up to 0.3m thick, which might represent an old soil horizon, and this was covered by a layer of mixed brick and stony grey silt (2), which varied in thickness up to 0.4m. The upper layer was the car park material (1), which comprised a tarmac surface laid on a crushed gravel base, up to 0.45m in thickness.

4 Conclusions

- 4.1. The remains of a stone building were revealed adjacent to the end of the Cottage Inn, in the approximate location of a building shown on historic mapping from the late 18th century to the early 20th century, though it extended outside the known footprint of that building. While some medieval pottery was found in the clay mortar between the stones, this could be residual. The remains of the building were 0.5m below the surface of the car park.
- 4.2. Natural subsoil was identified at a depth of 1.1m below the car park surface at the western end of Trench 2, but was not present elsewhere. The main deposit identified in Trenches 2 and 3 was a grey clay of post-medieval date which probably identified this as the location of a pond which had formed behind the defensive bank for the town and then progressively silted up over an extended period of time when the outlet that must once have existed through the bank became blocked.

5 Sources

Published sources

Britnell, J. and Jones, N., 1989. Pool Road, Montgomery: excavations within the medieval town. *Montgomeryshire Collections* 77, 41-72.

Cartographic sources

Early 17th century. Speed's plan of Montgomery Town

1785 Survey and Valuation of the several estates belonging to the Right Honourable the Earl of Powis in the parishes of Montgomery, Chirbury, Forden, Churchstoke, Berriew and Llandyssil in the Counties of Montgomery and Salop

1839 Tithe map for Montgomery Parish

1883 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1st edition Montgomeryshire 37.04

1902 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 2nd edition Montgomeryshire 37.0

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). The artefacts were not retained.

Archive summary

CPAT Event PRN: 140322

25 digital photographs, CPAT film no 4708

Finds (Trench 1)

Context 21

1 smithing hearth base

6 sherds of medieval pottery (13th-14th century)

Context 22

2 sherds of medieval pottery (13th-14th century)

Appendix 1: CPAT WSI 2123

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) has been invited by Russ Honeyman, Monty's Brewery, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in connection with a proposed new brewery building on land to the rear of the Cottage Inn in Montgomery, Powys (19/1453/FUL). The Curatorial Section of CPAT, 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.
- 1.2. Information retained within the Historic Environment Record indicates that this application falls in an area of archaeological potential. The plot lies within the medieval historic core of Montgomery and south of the former line of the medieval town defences, which are preserved as a scheduled monument immediately to the east of the development boundary (SM MG023). The plot potentially includes part of the inner bank of the original earthen town defences at the northern end and evidence of settlement activity and buried structures within the footprint of the new extensions. The exact location of the former 'Arthurs Gate' medieval gateway into the town is also unknown and buried remains may be encountered at the north-west end of the new footprint area.

2 Objectives

- 2.1. The objectives of the evaluation are:
 - 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;
 - 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

Desk-top assessment

- 3.1. The assessment will involve accessing information from the following repositories:
 - The Historic Environment Record (HER);
 - the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth
 - the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth
 - Powys County Archives
- 3.2. 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, subject to any copyright restrictions.

Evaluation

- 3.3. The evaluation will be conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014).

- 3.4. The evaluation will comprise three trenches, each measuring 1.5 wide and totalling no more than 30m in length, the approximate positions being depicted in Fig. 1.
- 3.5. The trench 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 will be hand-cleaned sufficiently to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features and deposits and one section of the trench, or at least a representative portion, will be manually cleaned and recorded as appropriate.
- 3.6. 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.
- 3.7. 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. No provision has been made for fencing during the excavations, other than using plastic barrier mesh.
- 3.8. The excavation of archaeological features or deposits will be undertaken by hand using the conventional techniques for archaeological excavation:
- 3.9. Where features of archaeological interest are identified 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.
 - 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.
 - 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 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

- 3.10. 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

- 3.11. 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).
- 3.12. 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

- 3.13. Following the on-site work an illustrated report will be prepared containing conventional sections to include:
- Non-technical summary
 - Introduction
 - Site location
 - Archaeological Background
 - Evaluation
 - Conclusions
 - References
 - Appropriate appendices on archives and finds
- 3.14. 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).

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 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.

-
- 4.3. It is anticipated that the trial excavation will be completed within three 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 October 2019.
- 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 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 | £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 | <i>Archaeology in Wales</i> 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

21 October 2019

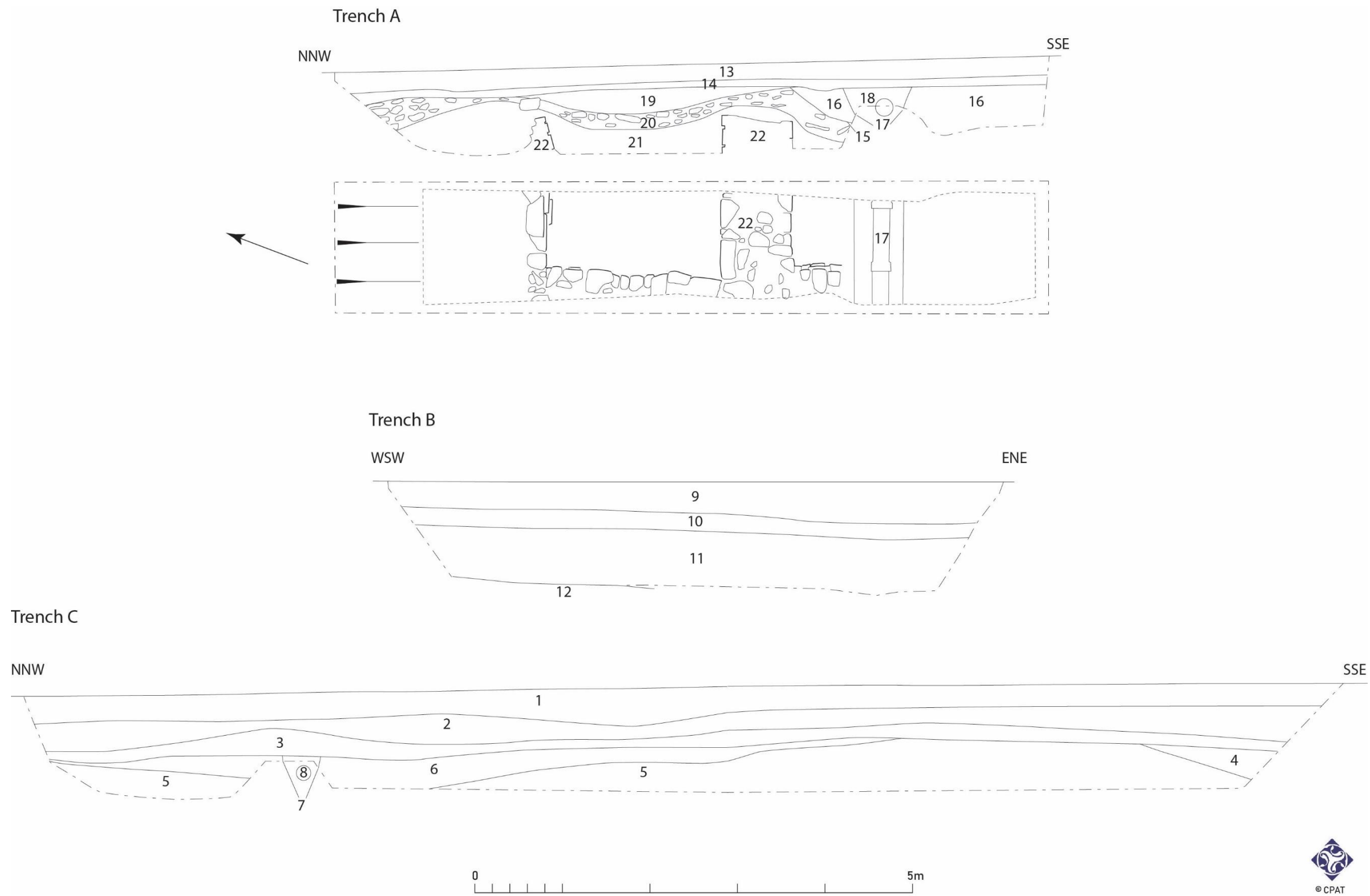


Fig. 12: Plan and sections of the evaluation trenches