

CPAT Report No. 1657




Greenfields, School Bank, Montgomery, Powys

Archaeological Watching Brief



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Client name: David & Anthea Wilson
 CPAT Project No: 2364
 Project Name: Greenfields, School Bank, Montgomery
 Grid Reference: SO 22464 96772
 County/LPA: Powys
 Planning Application: 19/0111/HH
 CPAT Report No: 1657
 HER Enquiry No: N/A
 Event PRN: 140292
 Report status: Final
 Confidential until: N/A

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23 May 2019	28 May 2019	28 May 2019

Bibliographic reference: Grant, I., 2019. *Greenfields, School Bank, Montgomery, Powys: Archaeological Watching Brief*. Unpublished report. CPAT Report No. 1657.

Cover Photo: Excavated footings, Greenfields. Viewed from the south. Photo CPAT 4638-0004



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 with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

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Summary

In April 2019 the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief in connection with the construction of a new extension to the rear of Greenfields, School Bank, Montgomery. The site is located on the former alignment of the medieval town wall, defensive rampart bank and the ditch.

Although no significant deposits associated with the medieval town defences were encountered the alignment of the town ditch was confirmed.

Structural remains of the 19th-century cottages were also uncovered at the base of the trenches.

Crynodeb

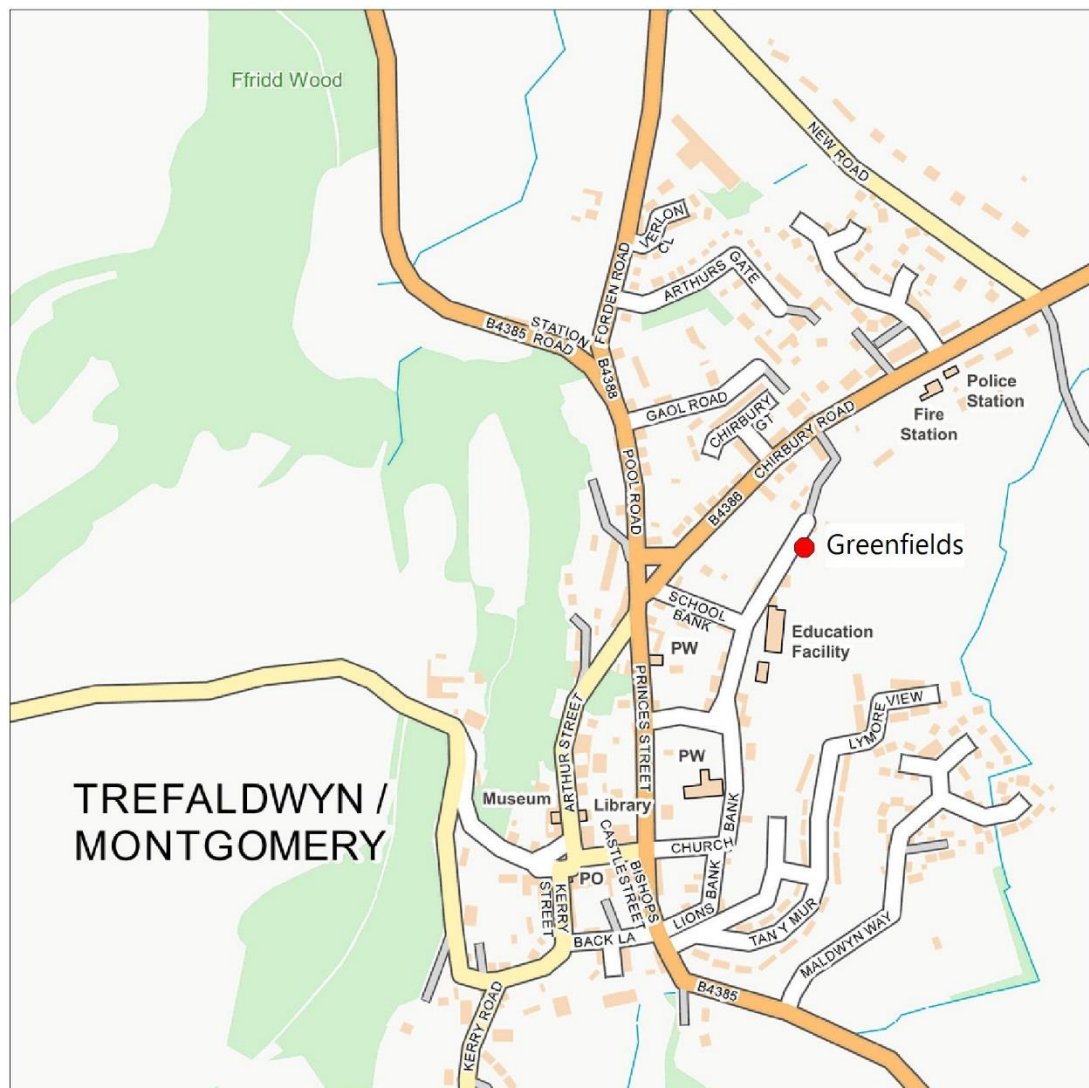
Ym mis Ebrill 2019, bu Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys yn cynnal briff gwyllo mewn cysylltiad â gwaith adeiladu estyniad newydd at gefn Greenfields, School Bank, Trefaldwyn. Mae'r safle ar gyn aliniad wal ganoloesol y dref, clawdd y rhagfur amddiffynnol a'r ffos.

Er na ddaethpwyd ar draws unrhyw ddyddodion arwyddocaol a oedd yn gysylltiedig ag amddiffynfeydd canoloesol y dref, cadarnhawyd aliniad ffos y dref.

Datgelwyd hefyd weddillion strwythurol y bythynnod o'r 19eg ganrif yng ngwaelod y rychau.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was commissioned in April 2019 by David and Anthea Wilson of Greenfields, School Bank, Montgomery (SO 22464 96772) to undertake an archaeological watching brief in connection with the construction of a new extension to the rear of the aforementioned property.
- 1.2. The development is located on the former alignment of the medieval town wall, defensive rampart bank and the ditch beyond (PRN 29160). The plot is surrounded on nearly all other sides by scheduled monuments (MG 221 and MG 023) related to the town defences and medieval town layout. The former town wall and rampart largely underlie the present house, but the new extension is positioned along the line of the outer edge of the bank and the inner edge of the ditch.



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Fig. 1 Location of Greenfields

- 1.3. Planning consent (19/0111/HH) was granted in February 2019 with the inclusion of the following condition relating to archaeology:

3. No development shall take place within the application area until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

The archaeological programme of work shall be undertaken and completed in accordance with the relevant Standards and Guidance laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. A copy of the resulting report should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR). After approval by the Local Planning Authority, a copy of the report and resulting archive should also be sent to the Historic Environment Record Officer, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the regional Historic Environment Record.

Reason: To secure preservation by record of all archaeological remains which will be impacted by the development in accordance with policies SP7 of the Powys Local Development Plan 2018, Planning Policy Wales (10th edition, 2018) and Technical Advice Note (TAN): 24 The Historic Environment (2017).

- 1.4. A brief for the archaeological work (CPAT INV 900) was produced by the Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust. This required the preservation by record of all archaeological deposits located within the 6.4 by 4 metre footprint area of the new extension through a programme of archaeological excavation. Following the removal by machine of any overburden manual, archaeological excavation was proposed for the full extension footprint to the maximum formation level of the internal floor level and the surrounding foundation trenches.
- 1.5. Following a site visit, a rapid desktop study and information provided by the client it became clear that much of the footprint for the extension had been occupied by a terrace of 19th-century houses (see Fig. 3), which had removed all visible trace of the bank and presumably filled in the ditch; their foundations were also thought likely to have resulted in disturbance to archaeological deposits. On the basis of the existing information and through discussions with the curator, the proposed mitigation for the development was changed to consist of a watching brief during the machine excavation of the foundations for the extension, with time allowed for the recording of any archaeological evidence revealed.

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.

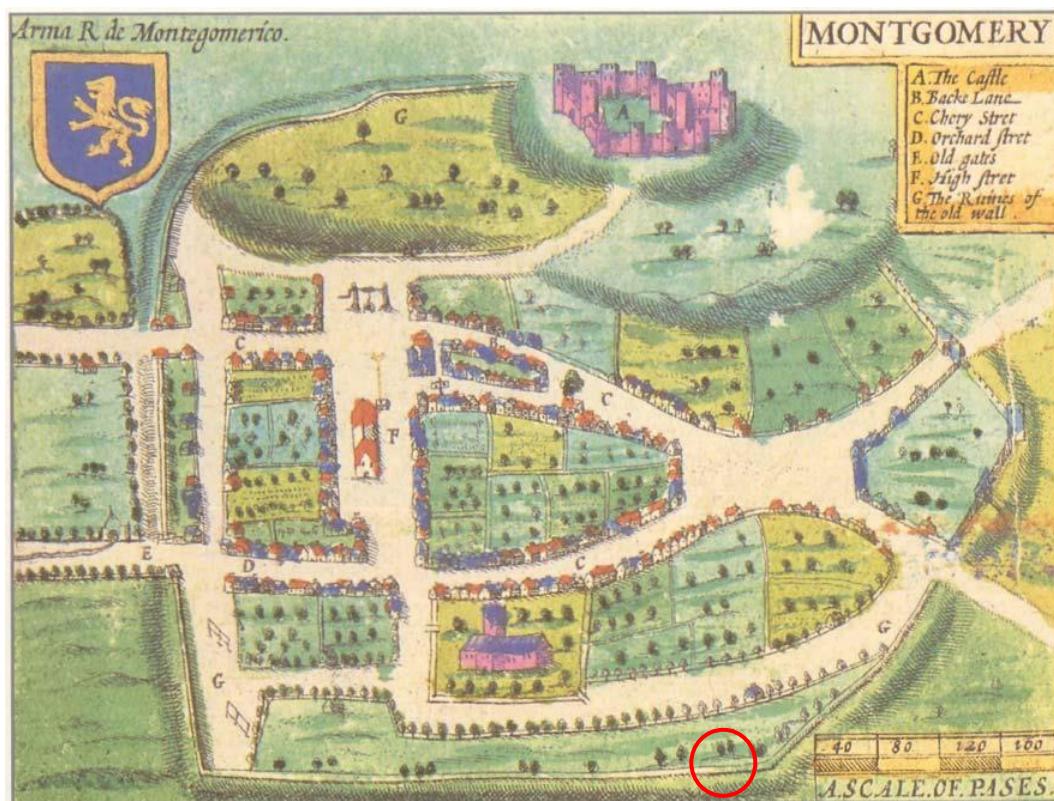


Fig. 2: John Speed's plan of Montgomery; early 17th century with the approximate location of the development circled in red. North is to the right

- 2.5. 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.
- 2.6. 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. 3: The Montgomery tithe map of 1839 with the terraced houses circled

- 2.7. The 19th-century terrace of houses mentioned earlier appear on the 1839 Tithe map (Fig. 3), as well as the later Ordnance Survey mapping dating to 1883, 1902 (Fig. 4) and 1953. On the Ordnance Survey maps the terrace is named 'Townditch' throughout this period.

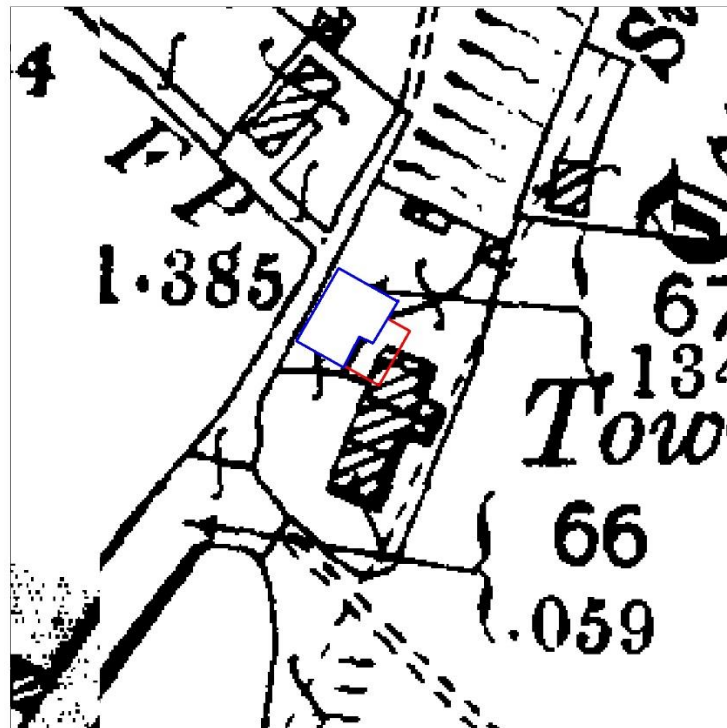


Fig. 4: The 1902 Ordnance Survey map, with the footprint of Greenfields (in blue) and the new extension (in red) superimposed

3 Watching Brief

- 3.1. The watching brief was conducted between 16 and 17 April 2019 in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) (2014) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. The overall footprint for the extension, measuring 4.5m x 7.1m, was machine-excavated to a depth of 0.3m (Fig 5). This was followed by machine excavation of the foundation trenches, approximately 0.6-0.7m wide and up to 1.2m in depth. No significant deposits associated with the medieval town defences were encountered. However, structural remains of the 19th-century cottages were uncovered at the base of the trenches. These remains, together with associated trench sections, were hand-cleaned and recorded in accordance with the methodology outlined in CPAT WSI 2016 (Appendix 1).



Fig. 5: Excavated footings viewed from the north-east. Photo CPAT 4638-0012

- 3.2. From an examination of soil deposits revealed in the base and section of the excavated footings it was apparent that prior to the construction of the 19th-century cottages, the general area had been deliberately levelled with a deposit of stiff compacted yellow-greenish clay (13). The deposit also appeared to fill a broad linear feature [14], orientated north-east to south-west, assumed to be the inner edge of the Town Ditch (see Fig. 6). It is possible that the material was re-deposited from the medieval town bank, the only artefactual evidence being three sherds of Mottled Ware, which date from the mid 18th century, suggesting the groundworks possibly belonged to a phase pre-dating the construction of the 19th-century cottages.
- 3.3. At the southern end of the excavation deposit 13 had been truncated by the insertion of a flagstone floor (06), part of which survived in situ, as well as by a drainage culvert (08), both of which appear to be contemporary with the 19th-century cottages (see Figs 7 and 8). Historic cartography suggests that these features are on the eastern side of the buildings (see Fig. 4). Beyond the culvert, to the east, it was also evident that Greenfields house had been built directly onto undisturbed natural yellow clay subsoil.

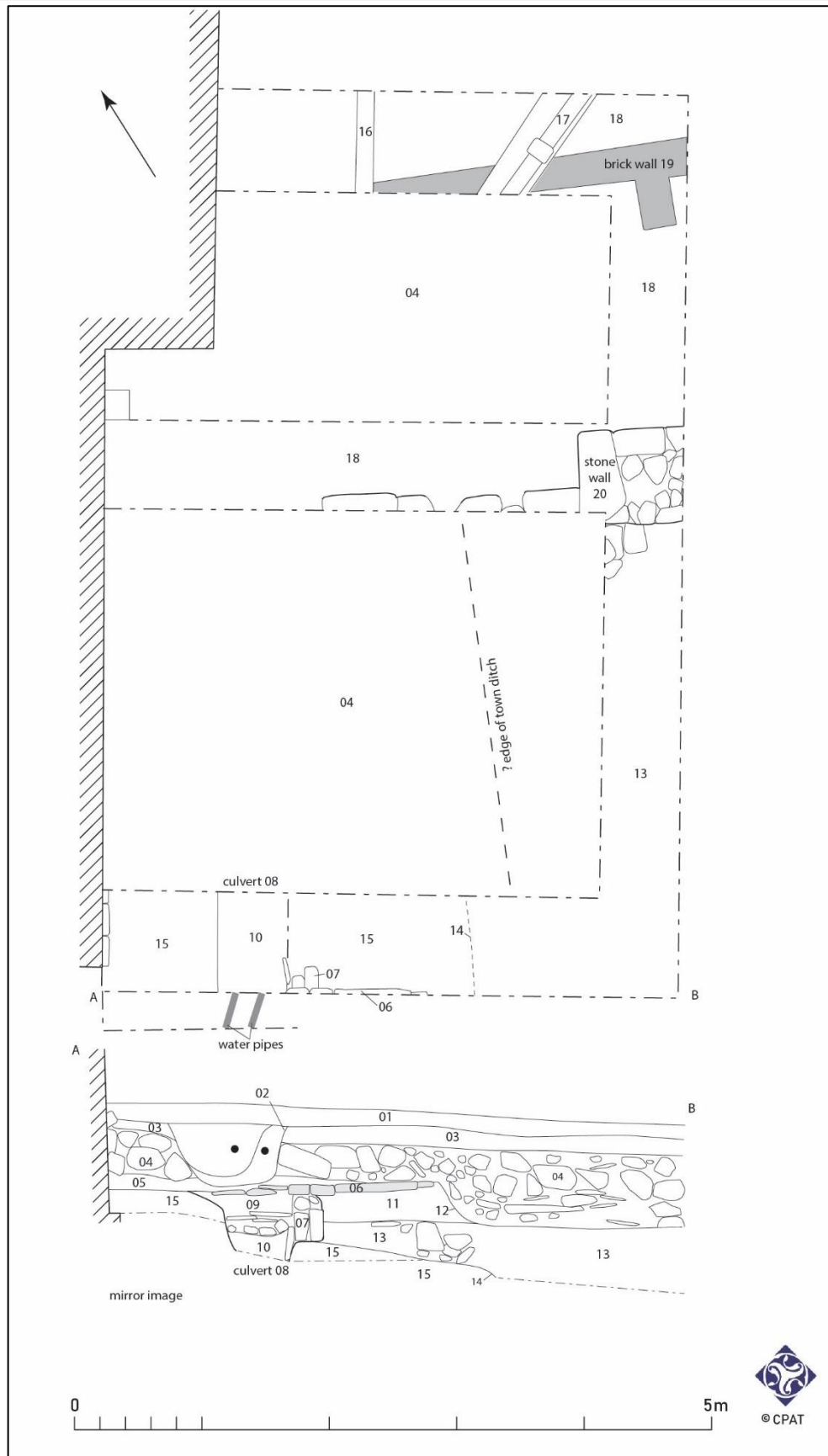


Fig. 6: Plan and section of the foundations for the new extension



Fig. 7: Southern-most foundation trench, viewed from the north-east. Photo CPAT 4638-0025



Fig. 8: Remains of 19th-century cottage flagstone (06) and drainage culvert (08). Viewed from the north. Photo CPAT 4638-0021

- 3.4. Further evidence of the remains of the 19th-century cottages were recorded in the base of the foundation trenches. Within the central footings trench, at a depth of 1.2m below the present ground level, were the basal remains of sandstone wall (20), 0.74m wide, orientated east to west (see Fig. 9). The wall was clay-bonded and of rough construction.



Fig. 9: Remains of 19th-century clay bonded stone wall (20), viewed from the east. Photo CPAT 4638-0007.



Fig. 10: 19th-century brick wall (19) and overlying 20th-century drain (17), viewed from the north. Photo CPAT 4638-0009.

- 3.5. The remains of a brick wall (19) were identified 1.2m north of wall 20, following a parallel alignment (see Fig.10). Both walls were surrounded by a demolition deposit (18) of soft sooted pink silt containing fragments of lime mortar and ash. The deposit was fairly localised around wall 20, suggesting a focal point of demolition, possibly associated with a chimney stack or fireplace. Artefactual evidence was limited to a few fragments of Mottle Ware and black and

brown glazed pottery of mid-18th century date. The overlying deposits contained additional fragments of industrial teawares of later 19th century date. None of the pottery was retained.



Fig. 11: Depth of overburden relative to the 19th-century brick wall (19). Viewed from the south. Photo CPAT 4638-0008

- 3.6. Following the demolition of the cottages there was a period of substantial re-landscaping of the general area. The overlying deposits sealing the remains of the 19th-century cottages all appear to be associated with the construction of Greenfields house, dating from the 1930s. The bulk of the overburden consisted of a deposit of large angular stone blocks (04), together with a substantial amount of demolition material. All of this material has been imported onto the site (see Figs 6 and 11). Finally during this phase of groundworks a salt-glazed drain (17) was inserted across the site, truncating the remains of the brick wall (19) and was then subsequently sealed with similar stone block material (04) (see Fig. 10).



Fig. 12: View of the excavations relative to the town ditch and rampart, viewed from the north. The high voltage 'H' Pole in the background is located on the eastern edge of the town ditch. Photo CPAT 4638-0024

4 Conclusions

- 4.1. Initial groundworks associated with the construction of an extension were subject to an archaeological watching brief which produced no direct evidence for deposits associated with the medieval town defences. However, some evidence was revealed, in the form of a broad linear feature filled with later 18th century material, confirming the alignment of the town ditch.
- 4.2. Substantial deposits of angular block stone, evident across the site and re-used in surrounding garden features, were proved to be not of medieval origin as originally surmised but of 20th century date associated with the construction of Greenfields.
- 4.3. Structural remains of the 19th-century cottages were also uncovered at the base of the trenches.

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

1839 Tithe map for Montgomery Parish

1883 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1st edition Montgomeryshire 37.04

1902 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 2nd edition Montgomeryshire 37.04

1953 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 4th edition Montgomeryshire 37NE

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).

Archive summary

CPAT Event PRN: 140292

26 digital photographs, CPAT film no 4638

2 Watching Brief forms

2 A3 drawing sheets

Appendix 1: CPAT WSI 2036

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) has been invited to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation in connection with the construction of a new extension to the rear of Greenfields, School Bank, Montgomery (SO 22464 96772).
- 1.2. The development is located along the former alignment of the medieval town wall, defensive rampart bank and the ditch beyond (PRN 29160). The plot is surrounded on nearly all other sides by scheduled monuments (MG 221 and MG 023) related to the town defences and medieval town layout. The former town wall and rampart largely underlie the present house, but the new extension is positioned along the outer edge of the bank and the inner edge of the ditch.
- 1.3. Planning consent (19/0111/HH) was granted in February 2019 with the inclusion of the following condition relating to archaeology:

3. No development shall take place within the application area until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

The archaeological programme of work shall be undertaken and completed in accordance with the relevant Standards and Guidance laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. A copy of the resulting report should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR). After approval by the Local Planning Authority, a copy of the report and resulting archive should also be sent to the Historic Environment Record Officer, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the regional Historic Environment Record.

Reason: To secure preservation by record of all archaeological remains which will be impacted by the development in accordance with policies SP7 of the Powys Local Development Plan 2018, Planning Policy Wales (10th edition, 2018) and Technical Advice Note (TAN): 24 The Historic Environment (2017).

- 1.4. A brief for the archaeological work (CPAT INV 900) was produced by the Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust. This required the preservation by record of all archaeological deposits located within the 6.4 x 4 metre footprint area of the new extension through a programme of archaeological excavation. Following the removal by machine of any overburden manual, archaeological excavation was proposed for the full extension footprint to the maximum formation level of the internal floor level and the surrounding foundation trenches.
- 1.5. Following a site visit, a rapid desktop study and information provided by the client it became clear that much of the footprint for the extension had been occupied by a terrace of 19th-century houses, which had removed all visible trace of the bank and presumably levelled the ditch, while their foundations were also thought likely to have resulted in disturbance to archaeological deposits. The scheme of investigation proposed here has been developed on the basis of existing information and through discussions with the curator.

2 Objectives

2.1. The objectives of the investigations are:

- to reveal by means of a watching brief and appropriate investigation, 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 work;
- to prepare a report outlining the results of the work;
- 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 evaluation will be conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2014), Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014) and Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment (2014).

3.2. The footprint of the new extension will be excavated carefully using a machine fitted with a wide toothless ditching blade, under close archaeological supervision. All modern overburden will be removed down to the level of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. The base will be hand-cleaned sufficiently to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features and deposits at that level. Should archaeologically significant deposits be encountered before the formation level for the new floor is attained then all subsequent excavation will be conducted by hand as an archaeological excavation.

3.3. Should the excavation of the footprint not reveal significant deposits, or following their excavation by hand, the foundations will then be excavated carefully by machine, under close archaeological supervision.

3.4. Any in situ remains likely to be associated with the medieval town defences will be subject to normal archaeological excavation by hand. At least one section of the foundations will be cleaned by hand and recorded as appropriate.

3.5. The excavation of archaeological features or deposits will be undertaken by hand using the conventional techniques for archaeological excavation:

- 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 on a measured plan of the site at an appropriate scale, showing boundaries depicted on Ordnance Survey mapping.
- A site datum will be established to enable 3D-recording as required.
- Contexts will be recorded on individual record forms, using a continuous numbering system, and be drawn and photographed as appropriate.

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- 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

- 3.6. 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 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

- 3.7. The overall archive will conform to guidelines described in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Historic England 2006, 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).
- 3.8. 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 regional Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust.

Report

- 3.9. 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
- 3.10. 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 (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(s) who conducted the evaluation.
- 4.3. At present CPAT would be in a position to undertake the archaeological investigations during April 2019, subject to the receipt of sufficient advanced notice 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 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

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- 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.

5 Monitoring Arrangements

- 5.1. Curatorial responsibility for this project lies with the Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, who will be given at least one week's notice, in writing, of the proposed date of commencement of the fieldwork.
- 5.2. There will be a standard monitoring charge of £150 (inclusive) per pre-arranged visit by the curator.

N W Jones

25 March 2019