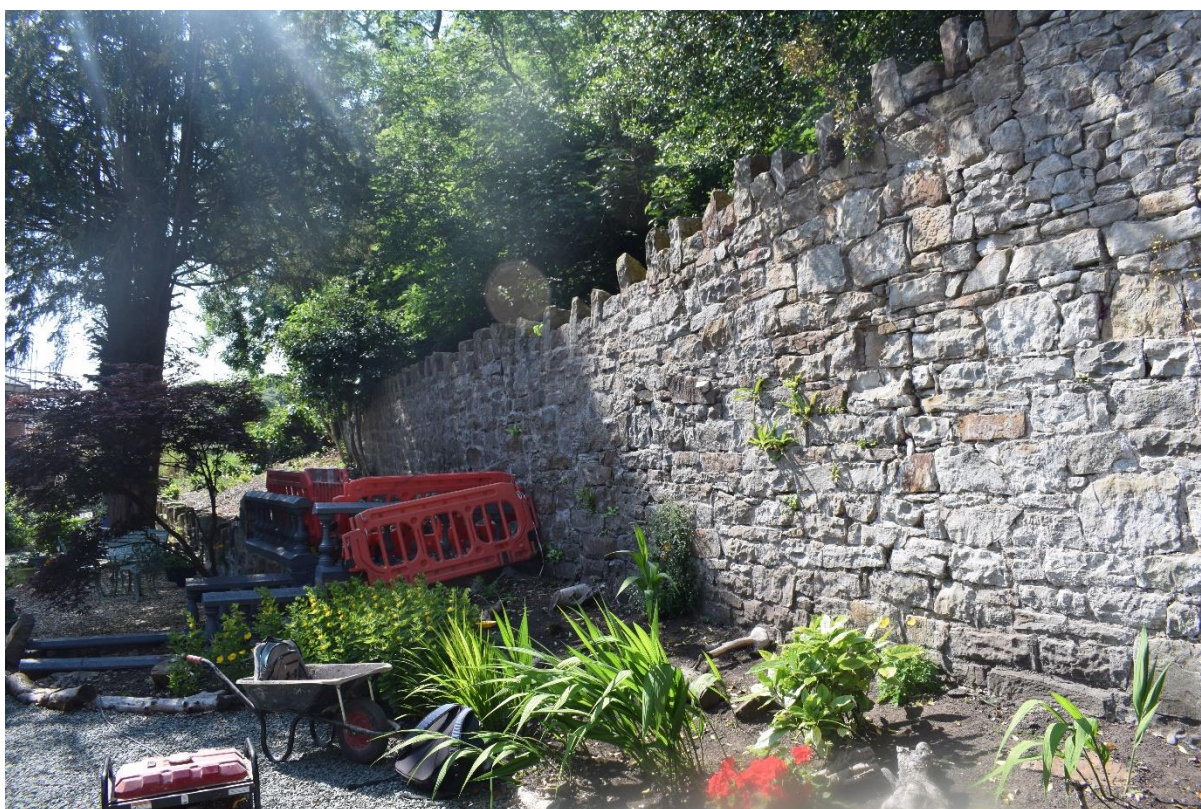


CPAT Report No. 1886

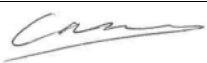


Bailey Hill, Perimeter Wall

Archaeological Watching Brief



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS
CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Client name: Flintshire County Council
 CPAT Project No: 2639
 Project Name: Bailey Hill perimeter wall, Mold
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 Planning Application: N/A
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Summary

The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust undertook an archaeological watching brief in connection with the repairs to the Bailey Hill perimeter wall at 'The Mount' Mold. The watching brief monitored the removal of the wall and 0.4m width of soil exposed behind.

During the watching brief a culvert built into the wall was identified, within its construction were ceramics dating to the late 19th century. This, as well as apparent remodelling of sections near the courtyard of 'The Mount', indicate that the perimeter wall was likely remodelled during, or soon after, the construction of 'The Mount'.

There is some indication that the wall may have re-used dressed masonry from another structure, it is however not clear whether this could relate to the castle.

The soil behind the wall showed evidence of having been significantly built up, with a relic topsoil identified at a depth of 0.8m below the present footpath.

Crynodeb

Bu Adran Gwasanaethau Maes Ymddiriedolaeth Archeolegol Clwyd-Powys yn gwneud briff gwylio archeolegol mewn cysylltiad â gwaith atgyweirio i wal berimedr Bryn y Beili yn 'Y Mwnt' yr Wyddgrug. Bu'r briff gwylio'n monitro tynnu'r wal a lled 0.4m o bridd oedd wedi'i ddatgelu y tu ôl iddi.

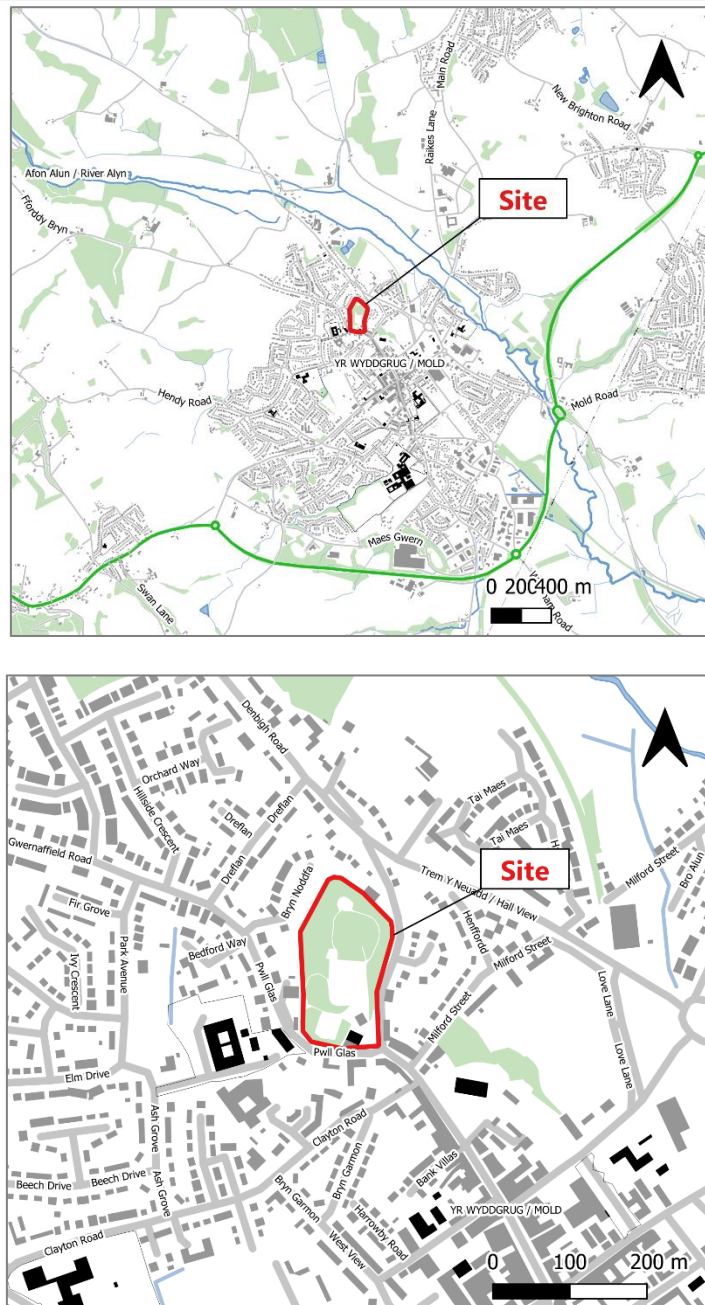
Yn ystod y briff gwylio, nodwyd ceuffos a oedd wedi'i hadeiladu i mewn i'r wal, ac o fewn ei hadeiladwaith oedd crochenwaith yn dyddio o ddiwedd y 19eg ganrif. Mae hyn, yn ogystal â gwaith ymddangosiadol i ailfodelu adrannau ger clos 'Y Mwnt', yn awgrymu bod y wal berimedr wedi'i hailfodelu yn ystod, neu'n fuan ar ôl, gwaith adeiladu 'Y Mwnt'.

Mae yna ryw awgrym bod y wal wedi aildddefnyddio cerrig nadd o strwythur arall, ond nid yw'n glir a yw hyn yn gysylltiedig â'r castell.

O'r pridd y tu ôl i'r wal, cafwyd tystiolaeth bod cryn dipyn o bridd wedi'i ychwanegu yno, gydag uwchbridd creiriol wedi'i nodi ar ddyfnder o 0.8m yn is na'r llwybr troed presennol.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust was instructed by Flintshire County Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief in connection with the repair of a retaining wall within the garden of 'The Mount', located on the northeast perimeter of Bailey Hill, Mold (FL014).
- 1.2. Bailey Hill is a scheduled monument protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (FL014), for which Flintshire County Council were granted scheduled monument consent to undertake masonry repairs to part of the Bailey Hill perimeter wall.
- 1.3. The conditions set out in the scheduled monument consent were as follows:
 - *Section E: No works, including site clearance, shall commence until Cadw has been informed in writing of the name of an appropriately qualified archaeologist operating to CIfA published standards and guidance who is to be present to undertake a watching brief for any works or operation occurring within the scheduled area. No work shall commence until Cadw has confirmed in writing that the proposed archaeologist is acceptable.*
 - *Section F: A digital copy of the draft watching brief report shall be submitted to Cadw for approval within 8 weeks of the archaeological fieldwork being completed.*
 - *Section G: A digital copy of the approved watching brief report shall be submitted to the regional Historic Environment Record and National Monuments Record of Wales to be incorporated into these public records, and the applicant shall inform Cadw when this has been completed.*
 - *Section H: Cadw shall be invited to attend a site meeting within the first 5 working days of commencement of the project to review the programme, submitted method statement and arrangements that have been established for archaeological mitigation.*
 - *Section J: Any historic or archaeological features not previously identified which are revealed when carrying out the works shall be retained in situ and reported to Cadw within two working days. Works shall be halted in the area/part of the site affected until provision has been made for retention and/or recording of the feature by a suitably qualified archaeologist in accordance with details submitted to and approved in writing in advance by Cadw.*



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Fig. 1. General location map

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. Bailey Hill is an expansive scheduled motte and bailey castle that now lies within a 19th-century municipal park. The castle was an important administrative centre of the Marcher Lordships that was first mentioned in 1146 but likely dates to the Norman conquest (Cadw FL014). Little is known about the exact construction of the castle, it has been previously

speculated to be of a timber construction, however, evaluations undertaken by the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust in 2020, identified a medieval masonry wall likely associated with castle fortifications (Grant, 2021).

- 2.3. The section of perimeter wall repaired during this watching brief is connected to 'The Mount', which is a red brick mid 19th century house with outbuildings. A painting in the possession of the current owner, dated to 1863, depicts the house not long after its construction (Figure 2). The painting shows a section of the perimeter wall, as well as the arch way wall linking the house to the perimeter wall. There is, however, some ambiguity as to whether the perspective of this painting is accurate, especially given the depicted length of the arch wall. Despite this, the painting does depict what appears to be a decorative turret or buttress and an orangery/glasshouse, both built onto the perimeter wall. The latter also appears on the first edition Ordnance Survey maps as a small outbuilding built against the perimeter wall.



Fig. 2. Painting of The Mount, dated to 1863 and painted by C E Pring (courtesy of Gloria Hillman)

3 Watching Brief

- 3.1. The watching brief was conducted between June and July 2022, in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. (2014).
- 3.2. The works monitored during this watching brief comprised of masonry repairs to a perimeter wall within the garden of The Mount, a property bordering the northeast of the Bailey Hill scheduled site. This included the systematic removal of the cement and mortar bonded masonry, as well as the removal of vegetation.

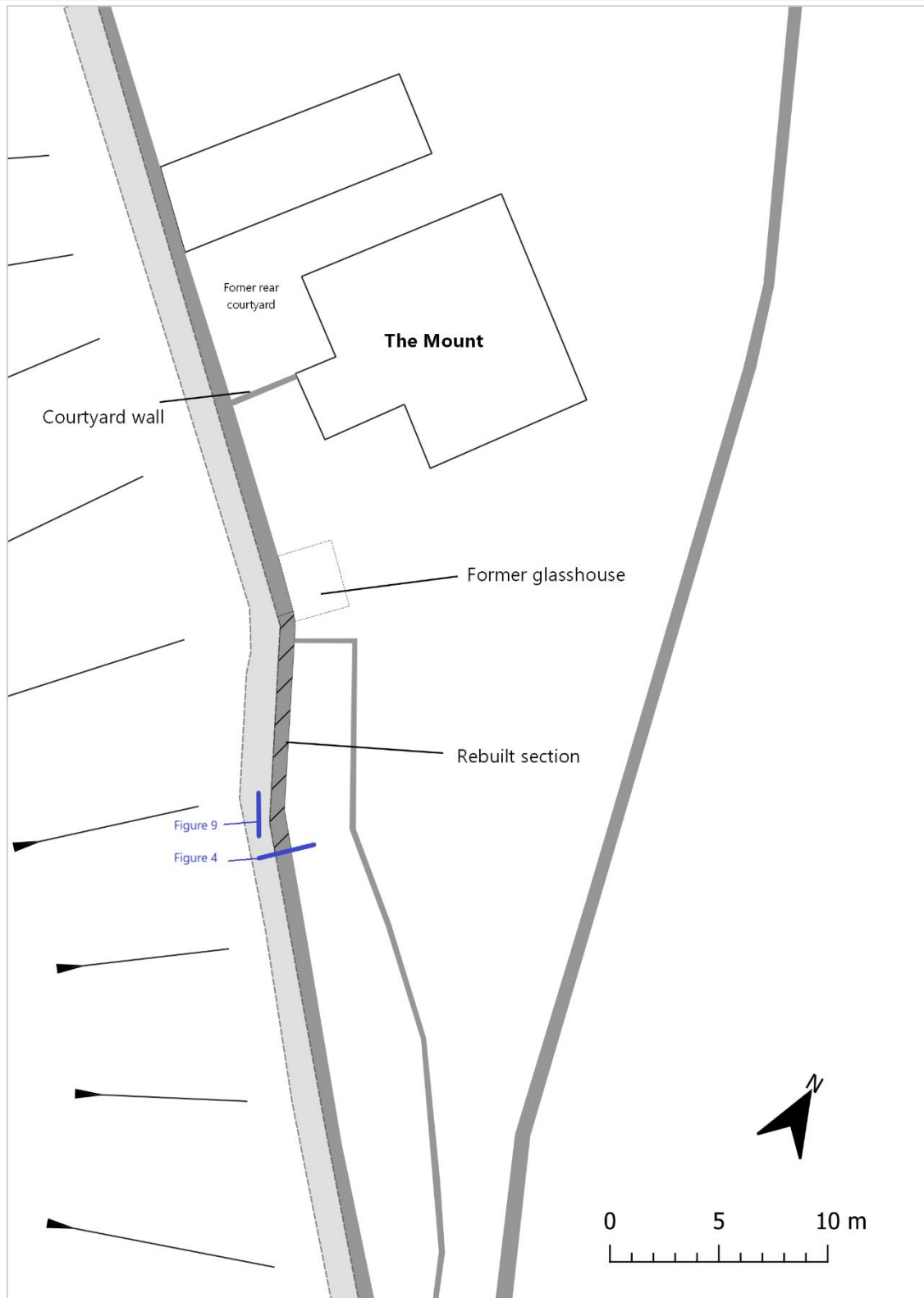


Fig. 3. Plan showing the section of repaired wall, as well as structures present on the Second edition Ordnance Survey map

The wall construction

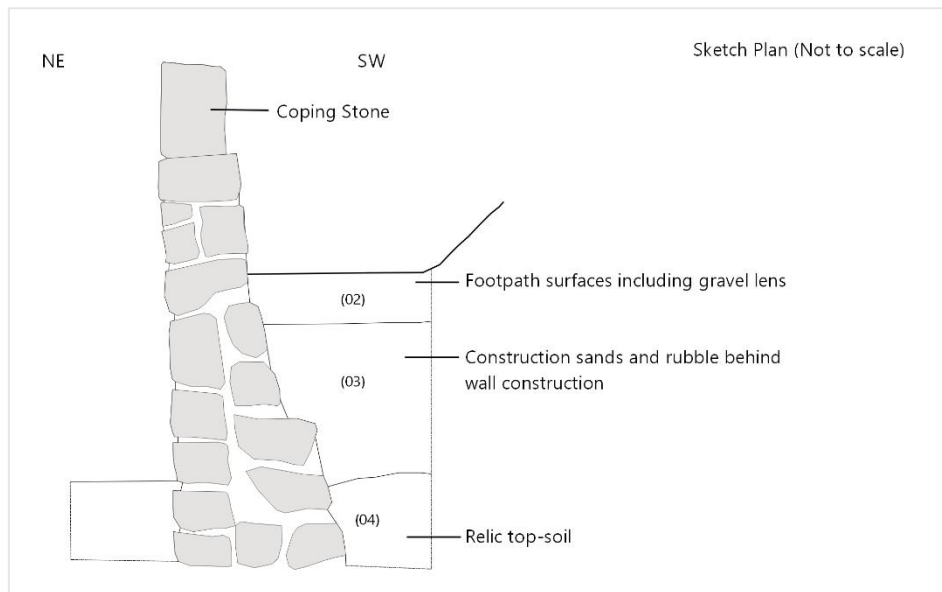


Fig. 4. Sketch plan showing the profile of the south-eastern section of perimeter wall

- 3.3. The coursing within the removed section of wall consisted of roughly dressed, mixed irregular and rectangular blocks, with 'cock and hen' coping stones. The upper section of the wall was only a single course thick but widened out to 0.75m at its base (Figure 4).
- 3.4. The unaffected section of wall standing between the damaged section and 'The Mount', displayed several features including the previous remodelling of the upper courses and evidence of an adjoining structure. The remodelling was evident as a distinct change in masonry bonding, with smaller rubble/cobble courses set between the damaged section and the courtyard wall adjoining 'The Mount'. The presence of a former lean-to structure was identified as large beam slots set into the coursing, as well as smaller square slots carved into the blockwork (Figure 7). These features are likely to be associated with the orangery/glasshouse depicted in the 1863 painting in figure 2, which in turn is likely associated with the small outbuilding present in the first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps.



Fig. 5. Pre-removal shot of damaged section of perimeter wall CPAT Photo 5003_3

- 3.5. Built within the mostly undressed blockwork of the wall section nearest 'The Mount', are several blocks of worked stone displaying clear tool marking, one of which was finely dressed. The inclusion of these stones within the wall could indicate the reuse of masonry, likely from a nearby structure that comprised in part finely dressed worked stone (figure 6).



Fig. 6. Dressed stonework within the perimeter wall between near 'The Mount' CPAT Photo 5003_25 and 26

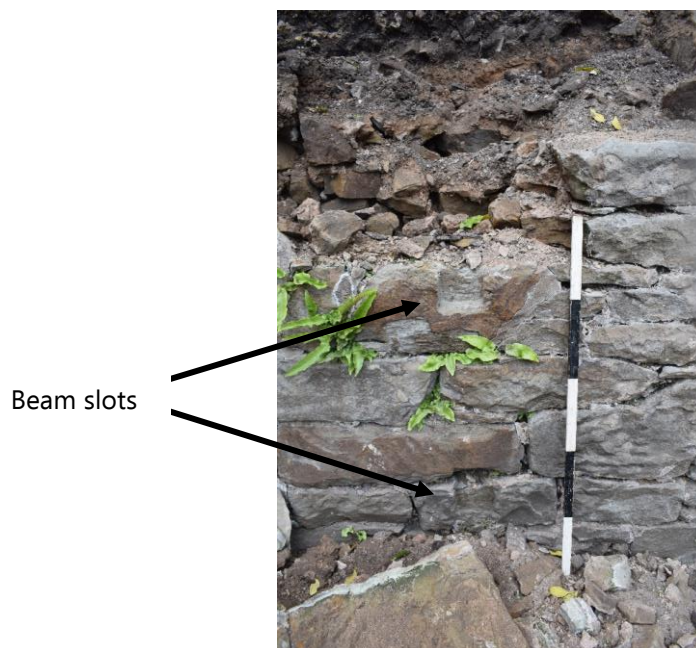


Fig. 7. Beam slots carved into the stonework near 'The Mount' CPAT Photo 5003_15

- 3.6. Built within the perimeter wall at the north-western end of the removed section was a redbrick lined culvert that has been subsequently blocked up on the outer face of the wall (Figure 8). The interior comprised of a 0.4m wide slot built into the stone coursing which then continues as an unfroged and un-mortared redbrick wall that fans out towards the southwest. The structure is capped with a sloping stone slab and is still relatively hollow inside. Within the construction cut of this feature, set behind the bricks, was a dense deposit of largely intact ceramics. These included an Asiatic Pheasant type willow pattern plate, stamped with HL & Co (Handcock, Leigh & Co of Staffordshire) c. 1860-2. The other vessels are of a similar date, indicating that the wall has likely been remodelled during the construction of 'The Mount' or soon after.



Fig. 8. Culvert built into perimeter wall, CPAT Photo 5003_8

Soil deposits

3.7. The soil exposed behind the wall (Figures 9 and 10) displayed predominantly made-up ground, comprised of an upper pathway layer with lenses of organic material and gravel (02), overlying a mixed sand and rubble, up to 1m thick, that forms made-up ground infilling the space between the perimeter wall and the natural hillside (03). These seal a relic organic topsoil that sits at a similar level to the topsoil on the northern side of the wall and slopes off towards the northwest.

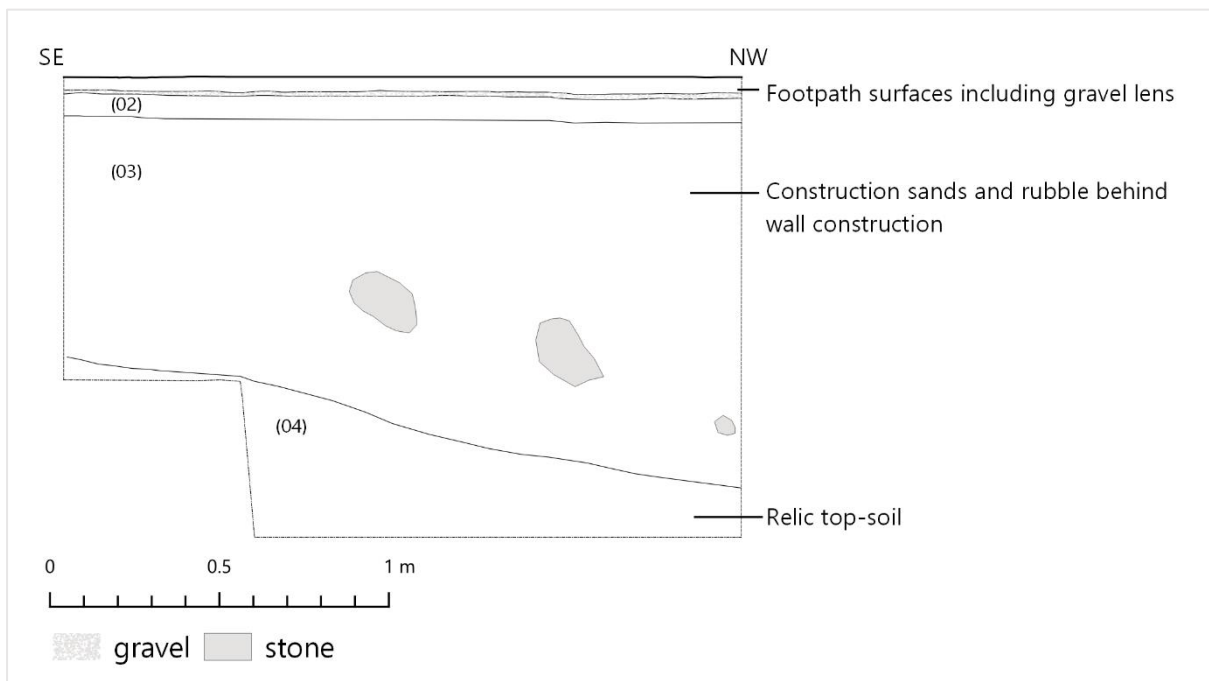


Fig. 9. Northeast facing section of soil behind the removed wall.



Fig. 10. Soil deposits behind perimeter wall CPAT Photo 5003_29

4 Finds

- 4.1. A cache of nearly intact ceramic vessels was recovered from within the construction backfill of the culvert built into the perimeter wall. Most of these vessels were not retained except for a single willow pattern plate stamped with HL & Co (Handcock, Leigh & Co of Staffordshire) c. 1860-2. The other vessels included a large glazed red earthen ware dish (Buckley ware), two pearl glazed jugs and fragments of creamware and porcelaneous ware, all c.19th century.



Fig. 11. Cache of ceramic vessels within construction of culvert CPAT Photo 5003_22

5 Conclusions

- 5.1. The watching brief did not identify any significant archaeological features associated with the scheduled site, however, 19th century features relating to 'The Mount' and remodelling of the wall were identified. These included a culvert built into the wall, formed by 19th century bricks, with ceramics found within its construction dating it to approximately the same date as the construction of 'The Mount'. The wall also displayed evidence of a lean-to structure. This is probably the glasshouse depicted in the 1863 painting of 'The Mount' as well as a small outbuilding shown on the first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps.
- 5.2. The soil deposits exposed behind the wall indicated that the pathway on the southwestern side of the wall has been significantly built up, sealing an original organic topsoil at a depth of up to 1.1m. This suggests that this section of perimeter wall has not been cut into the natural hillside that forms Bailey Hill.
- 5.3. Contained within the wall section nearest 'The Mount', were some dressed stones that could indicate the reuse of masonry from a nearby structure. It is possible that these could be associated with the castle site, but too little is known of the site's construction to draw a more evidenced comparison.

6 Sources

Un-published sources

Grant, I. 2021. *Inner and Outer Bailey, Bailey Hill, Mold: Unpublished CPAT interim summary report*

Cartographic sources

1878 Ordnance Survey 6-inch map, Flintshire Sheet 7

1953 Ordnance Survey 6-inch map, Flintshire Sheet IV NE

7 Archive deposition Statement

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).

- 7.1. Archive summary

CPAT Event PRN: 214612

36 digital photographs, CPAT film no 5003

1 watching brief sheet

2 permatrace sheet drawings

1 large bag of ceramics