

CPAT Report No. 1828




31 Princes Park, Rhuddlan

Archaeological Watching Brief



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS
CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Client name: Mrs J Bamber
 CPAT Project No: 2581
 Project Name: 31 Princes Park
 Grid Reference: SJ 02857 77834
 County/LPA: Denbighshire County Council
 Planning Application: 44/2021/0732/PF
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Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:
		
Harri Twigg Project Archaeologist	Will Logan Project Archaeologist	Tim Malim Principal Archaeologist
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YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS
 CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

The Offices, Coed y Dinas, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 8RP, 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 2021, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust were instructed to carry out an archaeological watching brief in order to monitor groundworks at 31 Prince's Park, Rhuddlan, in respect to a proposed house extension. Nothing of archaeological significance was identified during the watching brief.

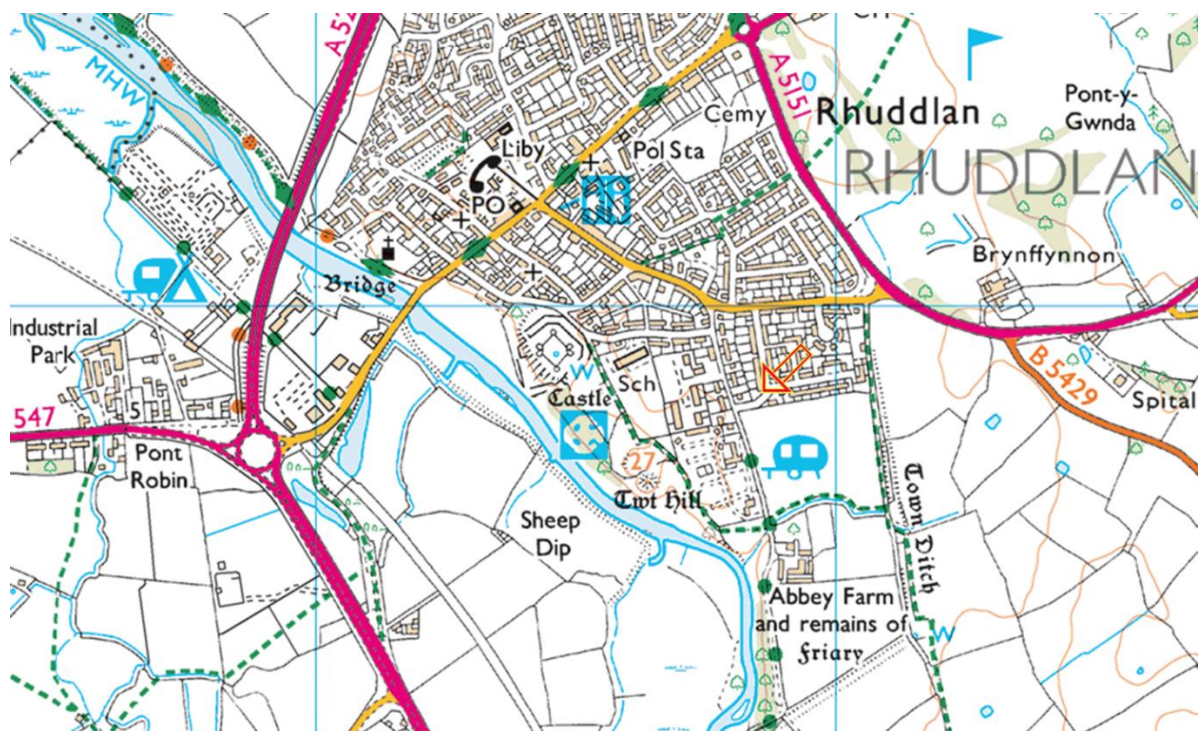
Crynodeb

Fis Hydref 2021, derbyniodd Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys gyfarwyddiadau i gynnal briff gwyllo archaeolegol er mwyn monitro gwaith paratoi tir yn 31 Prince's Park, Rhuddlan, yn ymwneud ag estyniad tŷ arfaethedig. Ni nodwyd unrhyw beth o arwyddocâd archaeolegol yn ystod y briff gwyllo.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust were instructed by Mrs Julie Bamber to undertake an archaeological watching brief in connection with an extension to a house at 31 Princes Park, Rhuddlan (Figure 1). The proposed development comprised the erection of a front porch and a flat-roofed garage to the side of the dwelling and a flat-roofed garden room to the rear of the dwelling.
- 1.2. Planning permission (44/2021/0732/PF) was granted in September 2021 with the inclusion of the condition that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken in order to identify any archaeology that may be present. This is expressed in the following condition within the planning permission:

3. All groundworks shall be undertaken in the presence of a qualified archaeological contractor so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists. A copy of the watching brief report shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR tel: 01938 553670 within two months of the fieldwork being completed.



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Fig. 1a Location of 31 Princes Park (general)



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Fig. 1 b Location of Princes Park (detail)

2 Historical Background

- 2.1. Rhuddlan was known to have been occupied during the Mesolithic period, with significant quantities of stone tools having been recovered throughout the riverside areas of Rhuddlan. Castle Hill also seemed to have been a focus for Mesolithic activity, where extensive finds assemblages dating back approximately 9000 years have been found recently.
- 2.2. Post Mesolithic prehistory is not well represented in Rhuddlan; there are some scattered Neolithic tools, but no signs of significant occupation. There are signs of occupation during the Bronze age including several bronze tools, but nothing has been found so far suggesting substantial long-term occupation. There is considerable potential for future archaeological discoveries relating to the prehistoric period within Rhuddlan.
- 2.3. Excavations in Rhuddlan have identified archaeological remains that can be firmly dated to the era of Roman presence in Britain. Several coins have been discovered as well as a ditch dating to the Roman era, although no significant centres of Roman (or Romanised) population have been firmly identified.
- 2.4. It is believed that the earthworks near to Twthill (and Twthill itself, possibly) may relate to the Anglo-Saxon *burh* of *Cledemutha*. 31 Princes Park has been identified as possibly existing within the boundaries of the *burh* (Smith, S. G & Young, C. R, 2016), but this may be an overestimate of its extent.

- 2.5. By the 10th and 11th Centuries, it is believed that Rhuddlan had become the capital of Gwynedd, as it was considered the seat of government for Gruffydd ap Llywelyn. Following the conquest of Wales and the subjugation of the Welsh people, Rhuddlan Castle was constructed which became notorious in Welsh history for the place at which the Statute of Rhuddlan was signed in 1284, and became a significant stronghold for King Edward I's 'Ring of Iron,' which helped him maintain control over the Welsh populace.
- 2.6. The castle held strong for centuries, withholding against the attacks of Owain Glyndŵr in the 15th century despite him sacking the town around it. The town saw violent warfare once again in the 17th century during the English Civil War, and the castle fell to Parliamentary forces. The castle fell into a state of decay but the town has been occupied continuously, becoming a farming-focussed settlement after the military value of the town disappeared.
- 2.7. Previous excavation at the same address has provided evidence of market activity towards the south west of the garden area.
- 2.8. Rhuddlan today has become an important town due to its position close to the main route into North Wales the A55.

3 Watching Brief

- 3.1. The watching brief was conducted on the 14th October in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CifA) (2020) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.

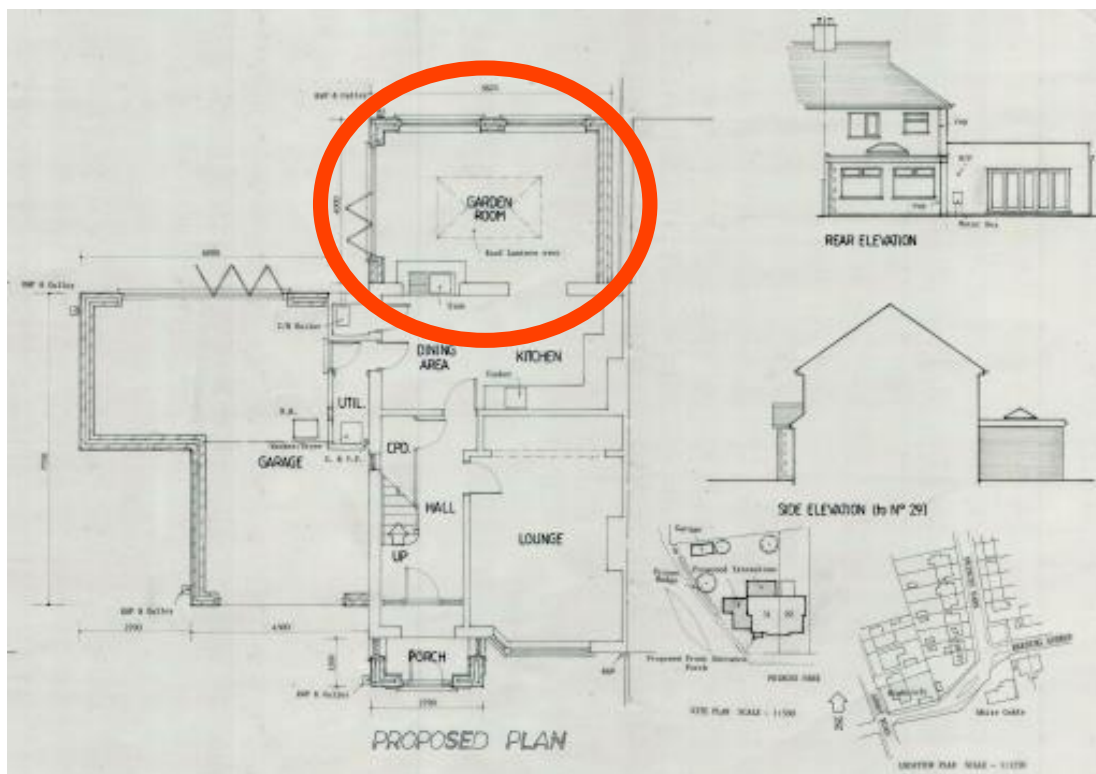


Fig. 2 Plan of proposed development and associated groundworks, with current groundworks circled in red

- 3.2. The excavation was undertaken by a 1.6 tonne mechanical excavator, with some additional manual excavation by the client.



Fig. 3 Extent of excavation area (marked by turf cut/red line) viewed from the south west. CPAT photo 4953-0001

- 3.3. Groundworks reached a maximum depth of 1.0 m and extended to 5.8m by 4m. The inner area of the trench had a pre-existing concrete pad installed on it for an earlier conservatory at the back entrance of the house. The trench was approximately 0.5 m wide and only followed the inner perimeter of the construction area.
- 3.4. The topsoil was approximately 0.6 m thick. Underlying the topsoil was a subsoil of dark greyish brown silty clay varying between 0.6m and 0.9m in depth. The base soil comprised a compacted clay with a light greyish yellow hue.
- 3.5. At the northern extent of the trench, a linear feature was identified measuring approximately 0.4m wide. It ran north-south. Investigation of the fill, which comprised a dark brownish grey silty clay, determined it to be a clay deposit that at first looked like a linear archaeological feature. Upon excavating with a spade, it was revealed that the feature was associated with the construction of the house, as it could be seen continuing in the section above the house's lower fabric and contained modern aggregate, such as bricklayer's sand and fragments of brick. It ran directly parallel to the western wall of the house. It is therefore modern and probably associated with the groundworks of the construction of the terrace (figs. 4 and 6). The south-eastern extent of the trench contained part of a linear feature that looked to be a direct continuation of the feature described above. There was also a single land drain located in the south-western part of the trenching (fig. 5).



Fig. 4 Linear modern feature. Viewed from the south. CPAT photo 4953-0010



Fig. 5 Land drain cut through sub soil and base soil. Viewed from the east. CPAT photo 4953-0011

- 3.6. No features of archaeological value were identified within the excavation area, and no finds were identified in the soil. The turf was stripped from the central area, but otherwise the soil remained unexcavated.



Fig. 6 Southern part of excavation with linear feature visible near wall foundations. Viewed from the west. CPAT photo 4953-0016

4 Conclusions

- 4.1. The excavation produced no evidence of significant archaeological resource. At this stage, there is no requirement for further mitigation in the area designated for the construction of the orangery (as outlined in the planning permission ref: 44/2021/0732/PF), as it has produced no archaeology. Further monitoring is required for future groundworks associated with the other extensions outlined in the planning permission.

5 Sources

Smith, S. G & Young, C. R, 2016, *Archaeological Trial Trenching at 31 Princes Park, Rhuddlan*. Archaeological Assessment & Evaluation (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT))

6 Archive deposition Statement

- 6.1. The project archive has been prepared according to the CPAT Archive Policy, 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. No paper archive exists.

Archive summary

CPAT Event PRN: 140385

20 digital photographs, CPAT film no 4953

Appendix 1: CPAT WSI 2581

1 Introduction

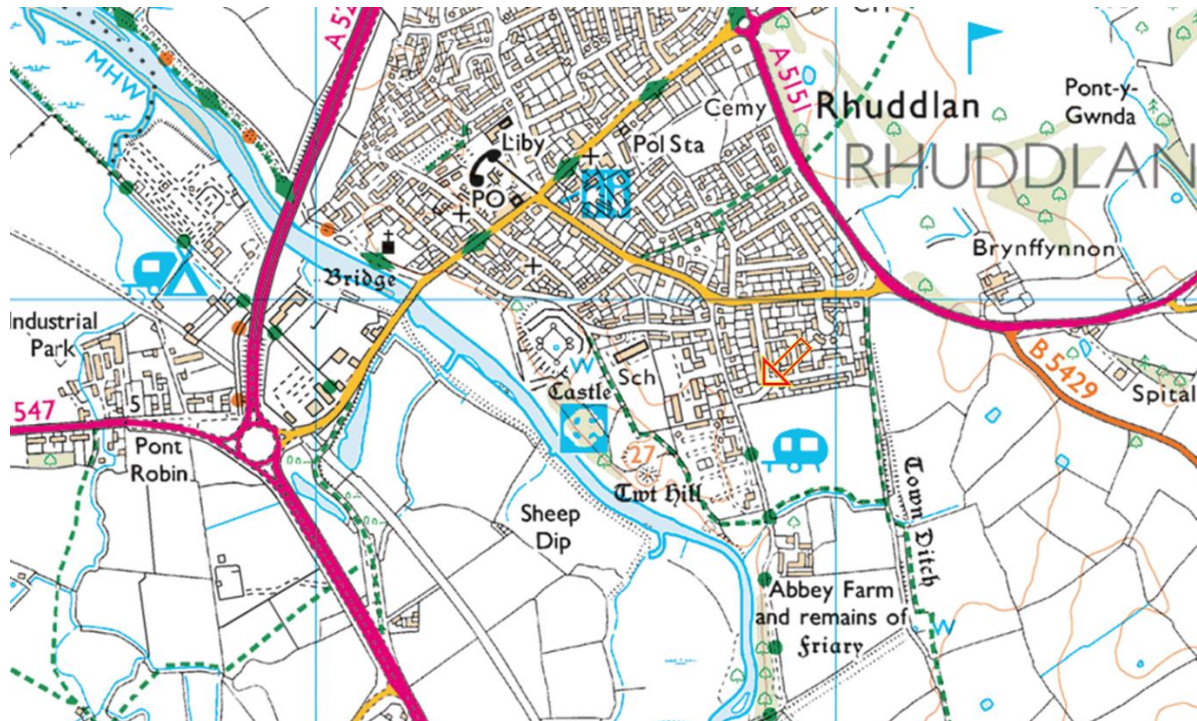
2.1 The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust has been instructed by Julie Bamber to undertake an archaeological watching brief in connection with an extension to a house at 31 Princes Park, Rhuddlan (Figure 1).

2.2 The development is for "Erection of front porch and erection of flat roofed garage to side of dwelling and flat roofed garden room to rear of dwelling with roof lantern" (Figure 2).

2.3 Planning permission (44/2021/0732/PF) was granted in September 2021 with the inclusion of the following condition:

All groundworks shall be undertaken in the presence of a qualified archaeological contractor so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists. A copy of the watching brief report shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR tel: 01938 553670 within two months of the fieldwork being completed.

Reason: In the interest of preservation of archaeological remains





2 Methodology

Fieldwork

2.1 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 associated with the construction of the new extension (Figure 2). 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 OS 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.
- Photography will apply a digital SLR camera with a minimum resolution of 12 mega pixels, include a metric scale in each view, and 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.

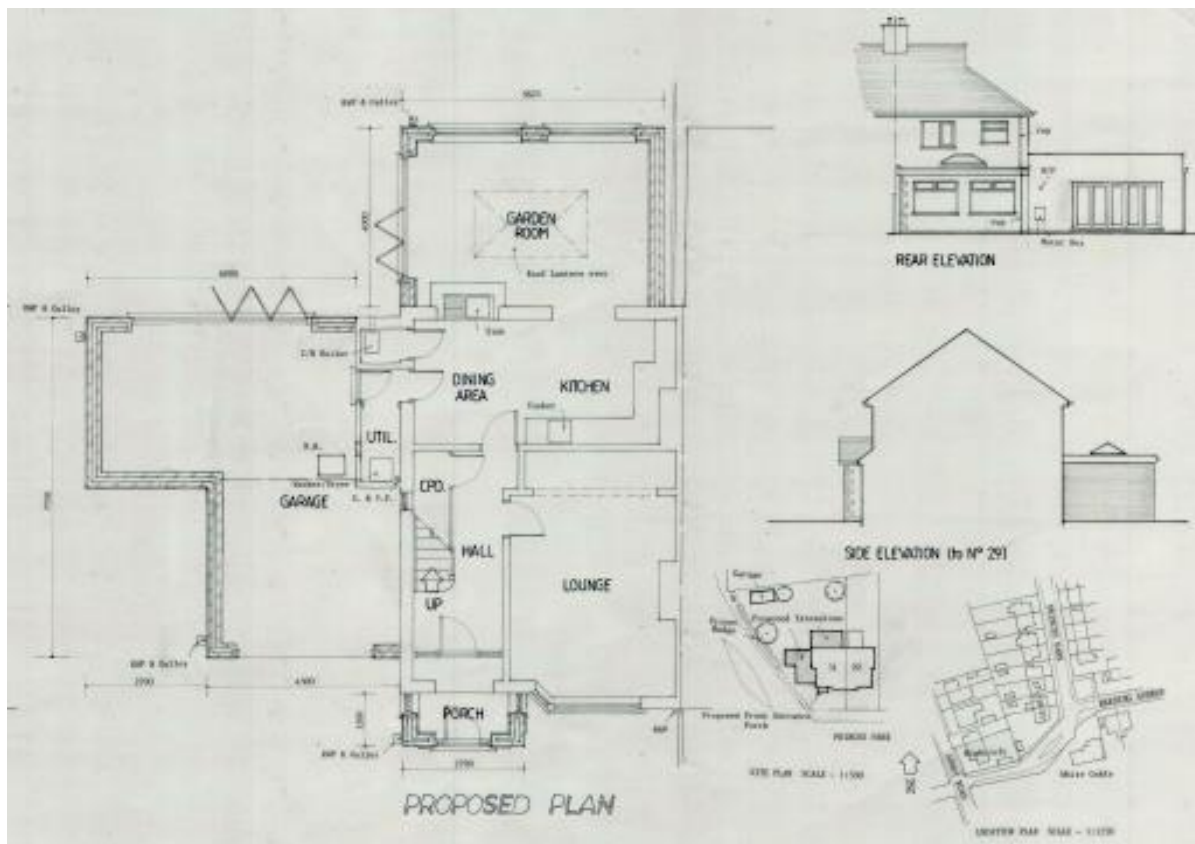


Figure 2 Plan of proposed development and associated groundworks

Selection Strategy

2.2 Unstratified finds will only be collected where they contribute significantly to the project objectives or are of particular intrinsic interest. All artefacts will be retained from stratigraphically secure contexts of 18th-century date or earlier. In the case of later or disturbed contexts, all 18th-century or earlier material will be retained, together with a sample of later finds to assist with dating and phasing, unless later deposits/artefacts are deemed to be of high archaeological value.

2.3 CPAT has a retention policy for artefacts which prioritises as follows:

High priority for retention

- Rare finds from stratified and unstratified contexts
- Prehistoric and early medieval assemblages
- Key stratigraphic dating assemblages crucial to the structural development of the site
- Assemblages which are not well represented in museum collections

High priority for disposal

- Unstratified material unless intrinsically dateable and unusual/rare

- Artefacts from residual/intrusive contexts unless of key stratigraphic importance to the site
- Assemblages already well represented in museum collections
- Unprocessed environmental/soil samples

Post-excavation and reporting

2.4 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 watching brief will be deposited with an appropriate museum, subject to the permission of the owner.

2.5 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

2.6 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).

Site archive

2.7 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).

2.8 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. A copy of the digital archive only will also be lodged with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust.

Data management plan

- 2.9 The project will be conducted in accordance with CPAT's data management policy. All paper records will be collated, catalogued and labelled with the unique project code. All digital data will follow strict file naming, to include the unique project code, and be sorted into a standard series of sub-folders. The digital data will be catalogued, including a list of file types and relevant software, and managed on an Excel spreadsheet.

3 Resources and programming

- 3.1 The watching brief will be undertaken by a skilled archaeologist under the overall supervision of Tim Malim, 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).
- 3.2 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*.
- 3.3 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 |
- 3.4 Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 3.5 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance, as well as Professional Indemnity insurance.

Tim Malim

13th October 2021