

CPAT Report No. 1896

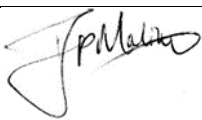
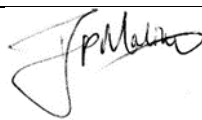
31 Princes Road, Rhuddlan

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF (Phase 2)



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS
CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Client name: Mrs J Bamber
 CPAT Project No: 2581
 Project Name: 31 Princes Park, Rhudden, Denbighshire
 Grid Reference: SJ 02857 77834
 County/LPA: Denbighshire County Council
 Planning Application: 44/2021/0732/PF
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 with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted on behalf of the client Mrs. J. Bamber as part of phase two of development of a dwelling of 31 Princes Park, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire. The previous archaeological watching brief conducted in 2021 showed no archaeological interest in the site. However, due to a high level of archaeology in the area, ranging from Mesolithic to Roman to 17th century, the site was treated as having the potential for archaeological remains.

The second phase of the watching brief showed that the site is probably archaeologically sterile. However, a feature was seen which might have been a possible ditch, identified by its waterlogged and dark silty fill. This was assumed to be a natural feature due to the water running through it, and could not be investigated further because it quickly filled with water after exposure.

Crynodeb

Cynhaliwyd briff gwylio archaeolegol ar ran y cleient Mrs. J. Bamber fel rhan o ail gyfnod datblygu annedd 31 Parc y Tywysog, Rhuddlan, Sir Ddinbych. Ni wnaeth y briff gwylio archaeolegol blaenorol a gynhaliwyd yn 2021 ddangos unrhyw beth o ddiddordeb archaeolegol ar y safle. Fodd bynnag, oherwydd lefel uchel yr archaeoleg yn yr ardal, yn amrywio o Fesolithig i Rufeinig i'r 17eg ganrif, deliwyd â'r safle fel pe bai ganddo botensial ar gyfer gweddillion archaeolegol.

Gwnaeth ail gyfnod y briff gwylio ddangos bod y safle'n debygol o fod yn archaeolegol ddiffrwyth. Fodd bynnag, gwelwyd nodwedd a oedd o bosibl yn ffos, a nodwyd oherwydd ei llenwad dwrlawn a siltiog tywyll. Tybiwyd mai nodwedd naturiol oedd hon oherwydd y dŵr a oedd yn rhedeg trwyddi ac nid oedd yn bosibl ymchwilio ymhellach iddi gan iddi lenwi'n gyflym â dŵr ar ôl ei datguddio.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The client Mrs. J. Bamber instructed CPAT to undertake a watching brief in the garden of a dwelling prior to construction of an extension (Figures 1 – 3). As phase 2 of the project, part of the garden was developed for the addition of a garage which meant three footings were excavated by machine under supervision of an archaeologist.
- 1.2. Planning permission (44/2021/0732/PF) was granted in September 2021 with the inclusion of Condition 3 that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken in order to identify any archaeological remains that might be disturbed by groundworks:

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

- 1.3. The excavations showed that the areas examined were mostly archaeologically sterile with the exception of a potential ditch or pit uncovered during the second watching brief.

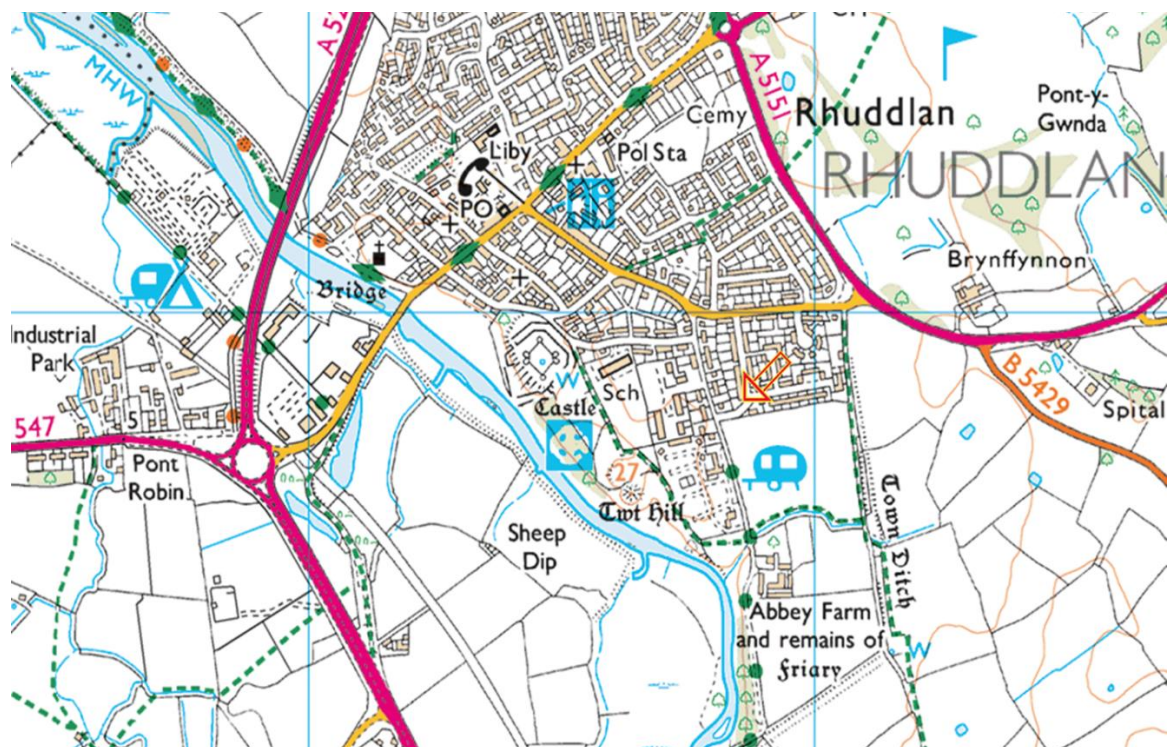


Figure 1 Location of site



Figure 2 Detailed location of site

2 Archaeological Background

- 2.1. A previous watching brief of the site was undertaken in 2021 prior to an extension for the pre-existing dwelling which was monitored by Harri Twigg from CPAT. It was for the construction of a front porch, and a flat roofed garden room to the rear of the dwelling. Some potential archaeological activity had been previously noted in the southwestern part of the garden.

3 Historical Background

- 3.1. The potential for prehistoric archaeology is high in the area with significant Mesolithic activity found. A large quantity of Mesolithic stone tools has been found on the river terrace around the Rhuddlan area. Castle Hill in Rhuddlan also had extensive find assemblages (from approximately 7000BC).
- 3.2. There is a poor representation of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity in the area. There were some Neolithic and Bronze Age tools present in the area but nothing to represent significant long-term occupation. in
- 3.3. Roman activity include several coins, brooches, and other artifacts as well as a ditch, but nothing to indicate significant occupation. The ditch has raised questions of whether there could be an undiscovered Roman fort or settlement in the area.
- 3.4. There are earthworks nearby that 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, et al, 2016), but this may be an overestimate of its extent

4 Watching Brief

- 4.1. The garage footings were laid out as an extension to the house and excavated on 25th August under the supervision of Ian Davies.
- 4.2. The foundations required three footing trenches laid out to the west, east and south sides of the new garage (Figures 3 - 6). The western footing measured 4.60m Length X 0.70m Width X 0.90-1.0m depth. The eastern footing measured 5.50m length x 0.70m Width x 0.90-1.0m depth. The southern footing was 7.90m length x 0.70m width x 0.90-1.0m depth.

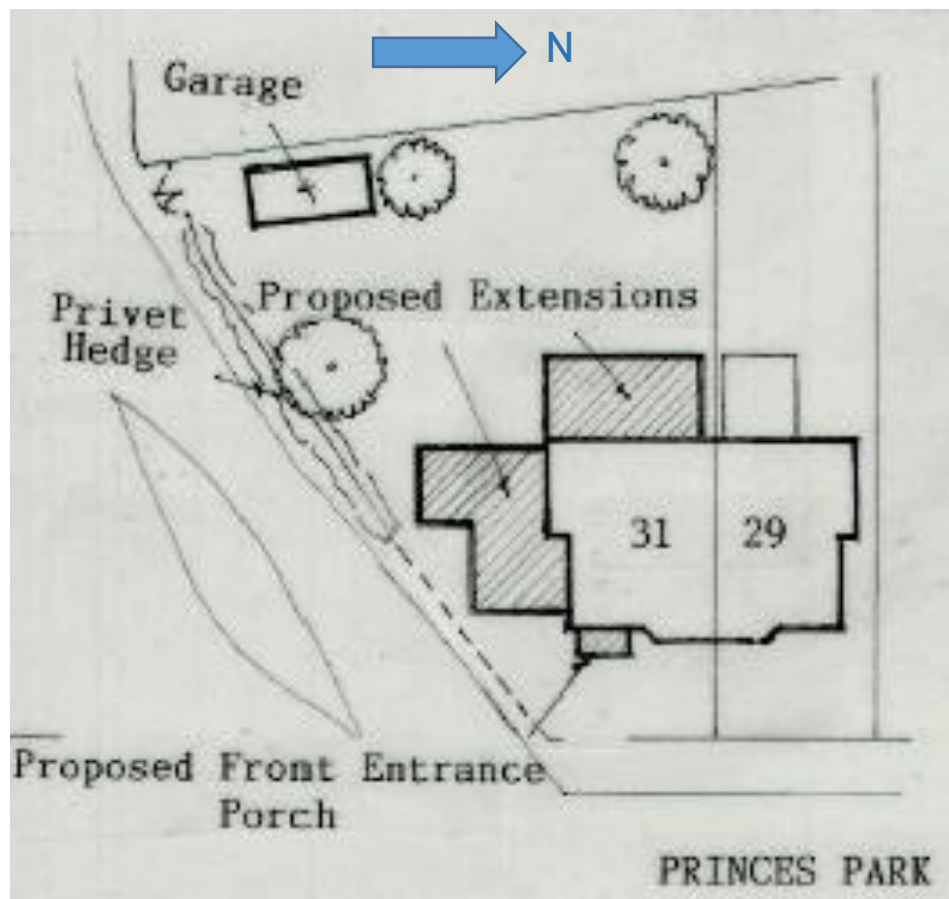
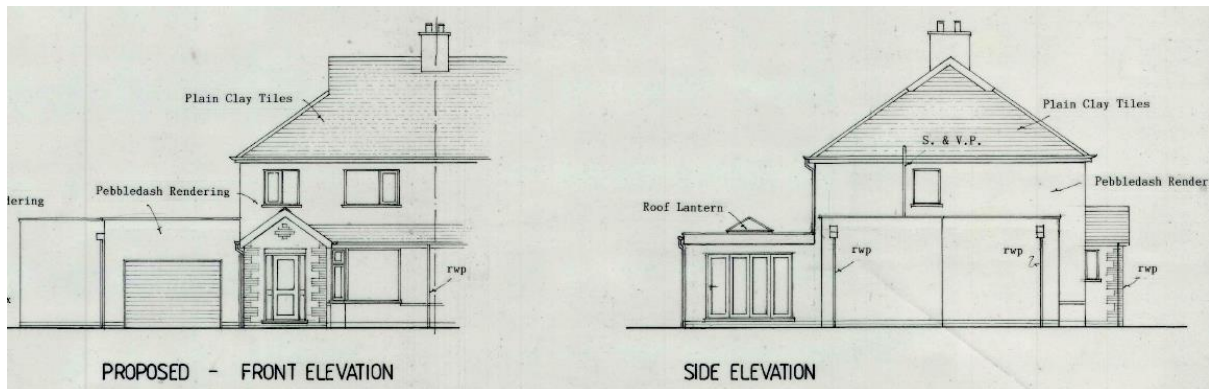


Figure 3 Permitted development elevations and plan



Figure 5 Southern footing facing east

- 4.3. Excavation was by a 1.6 ton mechanical excavator using a 0.5m wide toothless bucket.
- 4.4. The topsoil was a grey coloured, moist cultivation soil 0.60m-0.70m in depth. There was no visible sub soil in the eastern and southern footings, but one was visible in the western footing. This was a yellow grey sandy silty clay at approximately 0.10m depth. It overlay the natural that was visible in all three footings, a bright yellow orange sandy clay.
- 4.5. A potential feature was spotted in the eastern footing. A possible ditch or pit 2.10m in width was cut into clay natural. It was approximately 0.20m in depth and infilled by a waterlogged yellow grey clay silt. The feature continued to fill with water when excavated making the sides of the feature unstable and impossible to determine the true depth.



Figure 5 Western footing facing north



Figure 6 Potential ditch or pit in the eastern footing with water quickly filling it

- 4.6. The cut for the modern ceramic storm drain and metal water supply pipe truncated the top of the fill of this possible feature but avoided the southern edge. The feature filled with water very quickly, suggesting a natural spring course rather than surface water. The wet fill in the western footing suggested that the feature continued westwards under the dwelling. This was surprising due to the current drought conditions.
- 4.7. No artifacts or datable evidence were recovered during the watching brief.



Figure 7 Pipe line visible in eastern footing (note yellow natural sand geology at base of trench)

5 Conclusions

The watching brief showed that there may be a linear feature or pit present although no artifacts or datable evidence were recovered. . Due to the waterlogged nature of the fill of this feature, despite current drought conditions, it is more likely that the feature was a result of the surrounding natural conditions rather than of an archaeological nature.

6 Sources

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

7 Archive deposition Statement

As a watching brief with negative results there is no project archive. This report comprises a full and sufficient record, and will be available from the Historic Environment Record.

Appendix 1: CPAT WSI 2592

8 Introduction

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).

The development is the second phase of the development and is for the construction of a garage in the dwellings garden. Archaeological supervision was needed for the excavation for three garage footings.

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

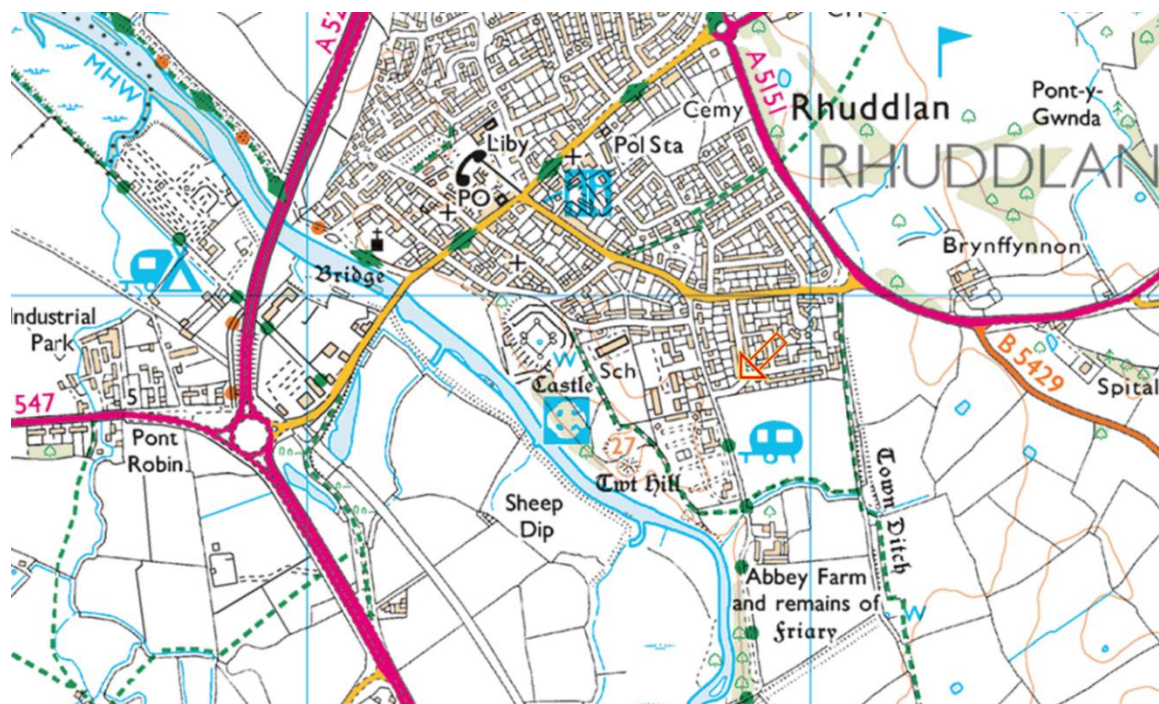


Figure 1: Location of site.



Figure 2: Location of site

8 Methodology

8.1 Fieldwork

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.

8.2 Selection Strategy

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.

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

8.2.1 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

8.2.2 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

8.3 Post-excavation and reporting

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.

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

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).

8.4 Site archive

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).

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.

8.5 Data management plan

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.

9 Resources and programming

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).

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*.

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.

Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.

CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance, as well as Professional Indemnity insurance.