Archaeology Wales

Ty Cerrig, Llanddew, Brecon

Powys

Archaeological Watching Brief



By Shoned Jones and Susan Stratton

Report No. 1735



Archaeology Wales

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Archaeological Watching Brief

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Non Technical Summary

This report results from work undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) for Anneka Cowell, McCartneys LLP, Ludlow on land opposite Ty Cerrig, Llanddew, Brecon, Powys. The report details the results of an archaeological watching brief that took place to ensure the preservation by record of any archaeological remains encountered during the removal of a hedgerow and soil stripping for the creation of a new access road and amenity space. The work relates to Planning Application Number P/2011/0563.

The site lies within the shrunken medieval village of Llanddew. In the early medieval period the settlement was an important regional ecclesiastical centre. Depopulation occurred in the mid 19th century as part of a general trend of rural depopulation. The development site lies within the original medieval settlement boundary. Previous archaeological investigations have identified up to three medieval buildings within the site boundary.

The only potential archaeological feature encountered during the excavation was a small subcircular cut [110] which may have functioned as a pit or posthole. Two other potential features were determined to be shrub boles. Finally, a dry stone wall and a modern service trench ran along the roadside boundary.

All work was undertaken to the Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief as set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

1. Introduction

Location and scope of work

In April 2014, Archaeology Wales Ltd was commissioned by Anneka Cowell, McCartneys LLP, Luddow to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land opposite Ty Cerrig, Llanddew. The site is centred on National Grid Reference SO 05502 30621 (Fig 1). This work relates to the removal of an existing hedgerow and soil stripping for the creation of a new access road and amenity space for a new residential development, Planning Application Number P/2011/0563.

Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT), acting as planning advisors to the local planning authority, stipulated that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during all groundworks associated with the development.

An approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by AW in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA 2014) and was designed

to provide an approved methodology of archaeological work to be implemented during the construction works.

The watching brief took place in February 2016 under the supervision of Shôned Jones and Simon Reames.

Topography and Geology

The site was situated immediately southeast of Ty Cerrig within the centre of Llanddew village, approximately 2.2 km north-east of Brecon town centre. It comprised of pastoral agricultural land bounded to the north-east by residential developments, to the south-east and south-west by agricultural land and to the north-west by the main road that runs through Llanddew, the B4602.

The site occupies an area of approximately 1.1 acres of gently sloping land from approximately 222m above ordinance datum (OD) in the east to approximately 220m in the west.

The underlying natural geology of the site comprises of the Raglan Mudstone Formation. This is a sedimentary bedrock of interbedded Siltstone and Mudstone of fluvial origin, ranging from coarse- to fine-grained rocks. No superficial deposits are recorded in the area (British Geological Survey, 2018).

Archaeological and Historical Background

Llanddew is located within the Historic Landscape of the Middle Usk Valley, in the character area of Llan-ddew. This is characterised by the shrunken medieval village of Llanddew and the surrounding medieval and later origin fields. A church is thought to have been established in Llanddew by the early 6th century. By the early medieval period it had become an important regional ecclesiastical centre and the presence of abandoned building platforms indicate it was larger in the medieval period than it is today. Depopulation has occurred since the mid 19th century as part of a wider pattern of rural depopulation.

The development site is situated within the medieval core of Llanddew settlement. It lies 70m to the south-east of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) Earthworks South West of Llanddew Church (BR196), which are thought to be part of the medieval episcopal manor, possibly fishponds, and 100m to the south of Llanddew Castle SAM (BR057), the remains of a $13^{th} - 14^{th}$ century castle.

A number of possible house platforms (PAR2668) were identified on the development site by the Brecknock Borough Historic Settlements Survey (Martin and Walters 1993). Cartographic evidence indicates that any buildings which had been in the development area were demolished by the early 19th century. The 1841 Tithe Map, the earliest map to show the area in detail, shows that the current external field boundary was already established, but that the site was subdivided into three smaller fields. The site has remained meadowland since, meaning any archaeological remains should have a good degree of preservation.

Work undertaken in 2005 by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd and Monmouth Archaeology revealed medieval building and stone field boundary remains within the development area. The remains of up to three buildings were uncovered, one of which was identified as being of 12th-15th century date and was left in situ after excavation. This building is located within the protected amenity space.

2. Methodology

A watching brief complying with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard* and *Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014) was undertaken during all intrusive ground work on the site.

The watching brief was undertaken to allow the preservation by record of any archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be determined in advance of works. The watching brief also provides an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard (CIfA, 2014).

The excavation was carried out using a 22 tonne 360° tracked excavator equipped with a 1.8m or 0.6m wide toothless ditching bucket as required by the client. The area stripped consisted of the approximately 100m long access road that ran north-east — south-west through the centre of the site from the entrance the north-west, and a 20m long strip along the site boundary with the B4602 (Figure 1). The entire process was monitored by a suitably trained archaeologist.

Sections and plans of the excavation were photographed using a 12MP digital camera. All the deposits encountered were recorded by means of a continuous context numbering system and recorded on pro-forma context sheets. All features and deposits are described in accordance with CIfA conventions. A register of all contexts and photographs was also made.

3. Watching Brief Results (Figure 2; Plates 1-6)

The underlying natural deposit (103) was a firm dark brownish red silty clay with frequent small to medium sized subangular limestone and sandstone. It was encountered at a depth of 0.4m at the south of the site and rose gradually towards the north where it was 0.15m below the surface. This is likely due to modern levelling activities on the site.

A subcircular feature [104] with steep sides and a slightly rounded base was cut into (103). It was approximately 0.9m in diameter and 0.2m deep. It was filled by a single fill (105), a firm mid reddish brown silty clay with rare small subangular stones. The boundary with the natural (103) was diffuse and unclear, and this feature was probably formed by rooting. A small subcircular cut [110] was cut into (105). It had steep, uneven sides and an uneven concave base. It had a diameter of 0.2m and was 0.1m deep and was possibly the truncated remains of a posthole. It was filled by a single fill (106), a firm light yellowish brown clay with frequent charcoal and ash.

A linear cut [107] ran along the road, aligned north-east – south-west. It had moderately sloping uneven concave sides and a flat base. It was 0.14m deep, 1.42m wide and exceeded 1.2m long. It was probably formed by the rooting of the former hedgerow along the road rather than a deliberate cut. It contained a single fill (108), which was a loose mottled fill of dark greyish brown and mid reddish brown silty clay with frequent small subangular sandstone.

Overlying the fills (106) and (108) and covering the majority of the site was a firm mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil (102) with frequent small angular stones. It had a maximum thickness of 0.3m at the southern part of site, where it was encountered 0.1m below the ground surface. To the north it shallowed and thinned, until it was not present in the northern area of site, due to the rising underlying natural and modern levelling.

Cut [500] was modern intrusion cut into (103), located on the western boundary with the B4602. The cut was not fully excavated due to depth. It was excavated to 0.9m deep, 2.86m wide and extended the length of the amenity area. It contained the basal remains of a modern dry stone wall (501). The wall was composed of undressed sandstone blocks of varying dimensions loosely constructed into a retaining wall to contain deposit (502) and act as a physical boundary between the field and the road. No bonding material was encountered, and modern glass and pottery were recovered from within structure (501). It was overlain by a loose light reddish brown silty clay (502) with frequent small subangular sandstone, which was a deliberate backfill of excavated material associated with cut [500].

Cut [503] was a 0.43m wide and 0.4m deep modern service trench that extended the length of the amenity area situated on the western site boundary along the B4602. It contained a

modern electric cable and was backfilled by a single deposit (504), a loose dark blackish brown silty clay loam with frequent small subangular sandstone.

Deposit (101) was the topsoil that extended across the site at approximately 0.21m in thickness. This was composed of a mid-reddish brown silty loam.

4. Conclusion

No archaeological remains were encountered during the ground works.

The majority of the site within the access road consisted of natural superficial geological soils (103) followed by subsoil (102) and the current ground surface (101). Within these areas a single possible archaeological feature [110] and two natural features [104] and [107] were encountered.

In the north-western area of the site a modern intrusion associated with the excavation and construction of roadway B4602 can be seen. This indicated that the site was truncated during the road construction, and an associated drystone wall (501) was created to act as a boundary and retaining wall with spoil from the excavation used as backfill to elevate the height of the ground surface within the field. This was later truncated by a modern service trench [503].

5. Bibliography

CIfA. (2015) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Unpublished Guidance accessible at www.archaeologists.net)

Martin, C. and Walters, M. (1993) *Brecknock Borough Historic Settlements. CPAT Report No.* 60. Brecknock Borough Council. Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments

Evans, P. and Smith, C. 2005. *Land opposite Ty Cerrig, Llanddew, Brecon. Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Field Evaluation. CAP Report* 368. Llanidloes: Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd.

NERC. (2018) British Geological Survey Maps (accessed at www.bgs.ac.uk 04/04/2018)

Figure 1. Site location



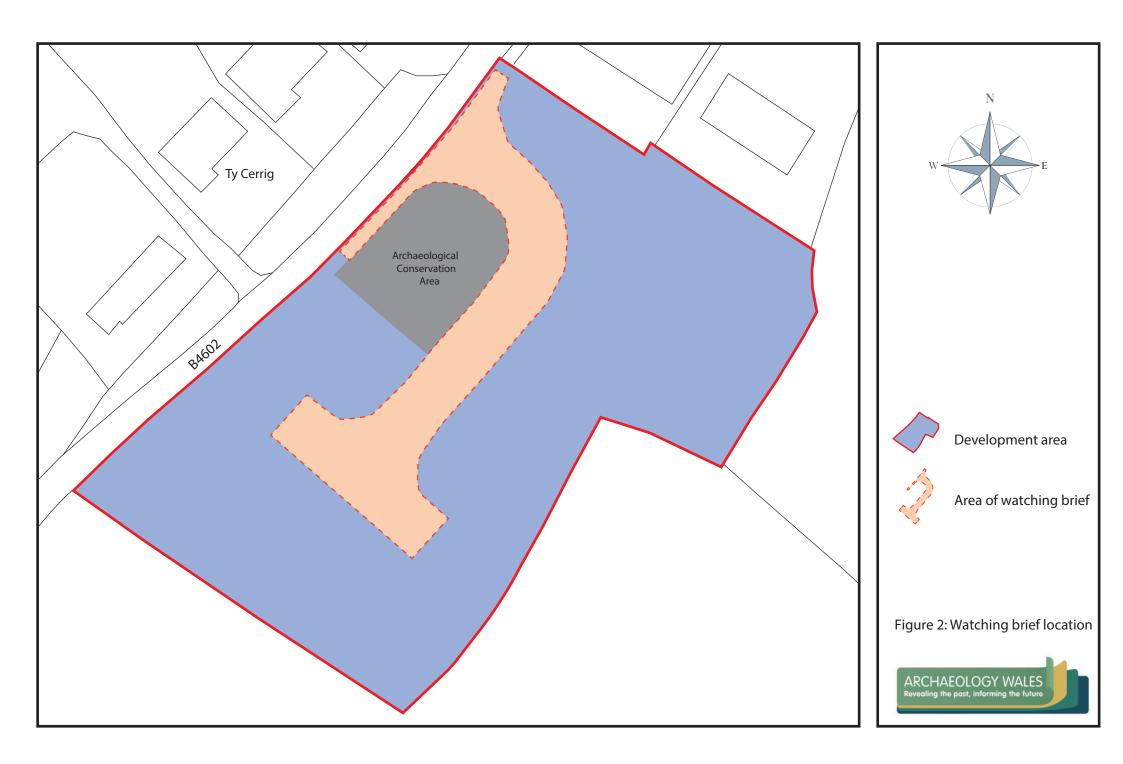




Plate 1. Development area, looking north.



Plate 2. Stripped area showing natural (003), looking south.





Plate 3. South-facing section of tree throw/rooting [104] and posthole [110].



Plate 4. West-facing section of hedgerow [107].





Plate 5. North-east-facing section showing dry stone wall (501) and deposit (502).



Plate 6. Trench along site boundary with B4602 after removal of (501), looking south-west.



Context List

Context	Description	
101	Deposit	Topsoil - loose dark reddish brown organic loam with frequent small angular stones. 0.2m average thickness.
102	Deposit	Subsoil - firm mid reddish brown silty clay with frequent small angular stones. 0.25m average thickness.
103	Deposit	Natural - firm dark brownish red silty clay with frequent small to medium sized sub angular limestone and sandstone. Excavated to 0.7m thickness in trench.
104	Cut	Subcircular cut with steep uneven sides and uneven concave base. Approximately 0.9m in diameter and 0.2m deep.
105	Fill	Fill of [104]. Firm, mid reddish brown silty clay with rare small subangular sandstone.
106	Fill	Fill of [110]. Firm light yellowish brown clay with frequent charcoal and ash.
107	Cut	Linear cut with moderately sloping concave sides and a flat base. 0.14m deep, 1.42m wide and in excess of 1.2m in length.
108	Fill	Fill of [107]. Loose mottled fill of dark greyish brown and mid reddish brown sandy silty clay with frequent small subangular sandstone.
109	VOID	VOID
110	Cut	Subcircular cut with steep uneven sides and uneven concave base. Approximately 0.2m in diameter and 0.1m deep.
500	Cut	Cut of linear. Straight, moderately sloping sides. Not bottomed. Excavated to a depth of 0.9m, 2.86m wide, length unknown.
501	Structure	Dry stone wall. Undressed random uncoursed sandstone of varying sizes up to 0.7m.
502	Fill	Fill of [500]. Loose light reddish brown silty clay with frequent small subangular sandstone.
503	Cut	Linear cut with steep, straight sides. Not bottomed. Excavated to a depth of 0.4m, 0.47m wide, length unclear.
504	Fill	Fill of [500]. Loose dark blackish brown silty clay loam with frequent small subangular sandstones.

Archaeology Wales

SPECIFICATION

FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

Land Opposite Ty Cerrig, Llanddew Brecon LD3 9SS Powys

Prepared for:

Anneka Cowell McCartneys LLP 16-17 High Street Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1BS

2nd April 2014

Archaeology Wales Limited Rhos Helyg, Cwm Belan, Llanidloes, Powys, SY18 6QF Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371

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NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This Written Scheme of Investigation details the proposal for an archaeological Watching Brief during groundworks associated with road and pavement widening, soil stripping for creation of a new access road and creation of an excluded amenity space to protect known archaeological remains at Ty Cerrig, Llanddew, Brecon, Powys. It has been prepared by Chris Smith (MIfA) of Archaeology Wales Ltd on behalf of Anneka Cowell, McCartneys LLP, Ludlow.

1. Introduction and archaeological background

The application area is located on land opposite Ty Cerrig, Llanddew, Brecon, Powys (NGR SO 0550 3062 – Figure 1).

The scope of the work to be undertaken at land opposite Ty Cerrig, Llanddew, includes the widening of a road/pavement resulting in hedgerow removal, soil stripping during access road creation and monitoring during the creation of an excluded amenity space to protect known archaeological remains.

Previous work undertaken in 2005 by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd and Monmouth Archaeology revealed medieval building and field boundary remains within the area.

This Specification has been prepared by Chris E Smith (MIfA), Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of Anneka Cowell, McCartneys LLP, Ludlow. It provides information on the methodology which will be employed by AW during the archaeological watching brief at the site.

The methodology set out in this Specification has been agreed with Mark Walters, Development Control Officer with the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT). CPAT have recommended that a watching brief is carried out during the groundworks due to be carried out on the site.

All work will be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Institute for Archaeologists.

Previously undertaken investigative work in the area identified archaeological remains as existing within the site. A field evaluation undertaken by CAP in 2005 was followed by a larger excavation undertaken by Monmouth Archaeology (2005).

The larger excavation identified two buildings and a series of stone field boundaries. Of the two buildings, one was identified as being of 12th-15th century date and was left in situ after excavation. This building is located within the protected amenity space.

2 Site specific objectives

The aims of the watching brief, as defined by the IfA (2008; revised 2011) are:

• To allow a rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features that are uncovered during the proposed groundworks within the application area.

• To provide the opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief are not sufficient to support the treatment to a satisfactory or proper standard

3 Watching Brief Methodology

General

The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice.

All work will be carried out by a suitable qualified archaeologist with relevant level membership of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and will follow the IfA Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (2008; revised 2011).

Detailed

The Watching Brief will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist during the excavation of the trench. The mechanical excavation will be undertaken by a machine using a <u>toothless ditching bucket</u> wherever possible.

If archaeological features, finds or deposits are uncovered, work will be stopped in the area of the exposed feature in order that the supervising archaeologist can clean and identify the extent and nature of the feature and for excavation and recording to take place.

All archaeological deposits that are identified will be mapped, cleaned, recorded and fully excavated. The developer will provide a safe working area and sufficient time to record and excavate all features to the satisfaction of AW and CPAT. Full excavation of identified features will not be compromised by the construction programme.

Contingency Arrangements

In the event of significant archaeological features being discovered all activities in this area of the site can be temporarily suspended. This will allow a period of consultation with the CPAT and if required the opinion of specialists.

Following such consultation, recommendations will be presented to the Developer and the Local Planning Authority.

The methodology and timescale of additional archaeological work to investigate such features will be presented and included in the Developers Programme; the feature will be fenced off and secured thus allowing the site programme to continue.

Any impacts identified during the monitoring of the excluded amenity space, containing the remains of the previously excavated medieval building, will be brought to the attention of Mark Walters (CPAT) immediately and the work stopped.

Recording

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc), using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and

related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

All features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries and related to the developer's site plan. The location of all features will also be recorded using a Topcon GTS725 total station.

Photographs will be taken in digital format, using a 14MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format. Should significant remains be identified that require excavation, photographs will also be taken in black and white and colour slide (35mm film).

The archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will have access to the AW metal detector and be trained in its use.

Artefacts

Archaeological artefacts recovered during the course of the watching brief will be cleaned and labelled using an accession number, which will be obtained from the local museum. A single number sequence will be allocated to all finds. The artefacts will be stored appropriately until they are deposited with a suitable local museum.

All finds of gold and silver will be removed to a safe place and the Environment Agency, CPAT and the local coroner informed, within the guidelines of the Treasure Act 1996.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (Phil Parkes at Cardiff University).

Human remains

In the event of burials or cremations being found all work will be halted in the area of the burials and their extent and nature established. The client, CPAT and the Ministry of Justice will be informed and a methodology of excavation agreed which will adhere to Ministry of Justice Guidelines.

Environmental and technological samples

Environmental samples will be taken where necessary when significant deposits are located. Technological samples will be taken where necessary when significant deposits are located.

Specialists

In the event of certain finds/features etc. being discovered, the site archaeologist may have to seek specialist opinion for assistance. Such specialists will be accessed either internally within AW itself or from an external source. A list of external specialists is given in the table below.

Туре	Name	Tel No.
Flint	Dr Amelia Pannett	02920 899509
Animal bone	Jen Kitch	07739 093712
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall	01305 259751
Clay pipe	Hilary Major	01376 329316
Glass	Andy Richmond	01234 888800
Cremated and non-cremated human	Malin Holst	01759 368483

bone		
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy	01652 658261
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson	Bradford University
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby	01453 882851
Post Roman pottery	Mr Stephen Clarke	
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot	01388 772167
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling	University of Wales (Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham	01992 552256
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers	01443 233466

4 Post-Fieldwork Programme

Conservation

After agreement with the landowner arrangements will be made for the long term conservation and storage of all artefacts in an appropriate local or county museum.

Archive

The site archive will be prepared in accordance with MORPHE, (English Heritage 2006). It will comprise all the data recovered during the fieldwork and shall be quantified, ordered and indexed and will be internally consistent. The archive will be deposited with the finds in a suitable local museum.

Reporting

The results of the watching brief will be submitted in an illustrated and bound report, which will include the following material:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the watching brief, all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- Written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate.
- An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development
- Statement of local, regional and national context of the remains
- A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples finds and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.

Monitoring

Any changes to the specification that the contractor may wish to make after approval will be communicated to CPAT for approval on behalf of the Planning Authority.

Representatives of CPAT will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the watching brief. CPAT will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during any potential post-

excavation.

Archive Format & Deposition

The full site archive will be deposited within one month of the completion of the client report.

The paper/drawing/digital archive will be deposited at the offices of CPAT with the finds will be deposited with the appropriate local museum. AW will agree the location and timing of the deposition of the archive before the contract commences.

The archive will include all site notes, finds, documents, drawings, photographs, digital data and a copy of the final report and any prior draft versions. All of these items will be clearly quantified in tabular from in an 'archive deposition statement' located at the rear of the clients report, and their ultimate location and proposed date of deposition stated.

5 Resources and timetable

Standards

The watching brief will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice.

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidelines of the IFA.

Staff

The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified AW staff.

Equipment

The project will use existing AW equipment.

Timetable of archaeological works

The watching brief will be undertaken at the convenience of the client. No start date has yet been set.

<u>Insurance</u>

AW is an affiliated member of the CBA, and holds Insurance through the CBA insurance service.

Health and safety

All members of staff will adhere to the requirements of the *Health & Safety at Work Act*, 1974, and the Health and Safety Policy Statement of AW.

