

CPAT Report No. 1438

Land Adjacent to Lilac Cottage, Sychdyn, Flintshire



Archaeological Evaluation



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS

CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Client name: Mr A Roberts
 CPAT Project No: 2131
 Project Name: Land adjacent to Lilac Cottage
 Grid Reference: SJ 24643 66548
 County/LPA: Flintshire
 CPAT Report No: 1438
 Event PRN: 140125
 Report status: Final
 Confidential: Yes

Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:
		
Ian Grant Senior Archaeologist	Nigel Jones Principal Archaeologist	Nigel Jones Principal Archaeologist
5 August 2016	8 August 2016	8 August 2016

Bibliographic reference:

Grant, I., 2016. *Land adjacent to Lilac Cottage, Sychdyn, Flintshire: Archaeological Evaluation*.
 CPAT Report No. 1438.



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS
 CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR, United Kingdom

+44 (0) 1938 553 670

trust@cpat.org.uk

www.cpat.org.uk

©CPAT 2016



The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust is a Registered Organisation
 with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	ii
1 INTRODUCTION	1
2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	2
3 EVALUATION	6
4 CONCLUSIONS	9
5 SOURCES	9
6 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION STATEMENT	10
APPENDIX 1: SITE ARCHIVE	11
APPENDIX 2: CPAT WSI 1700	12

Summary

An evaluation was conducted on behalf of Mr A Roberts to determine the archaeological potential of a potential development to the south-east of Lilac Cottage in Sychdyn, Flintshire (SJ 24643 66548; application no. 055508).

The results have provided further evidence for the alignment and survival of Wat's Dyke in this part of Flintshire. Previous archaeological investigations, in 2013, identified the ditch associated with the dyke within a development plot on the north-western side of Lilac Cottage. While there was no evidence for a surviving bank, the ditch was well preserved, measuring 5.6m wide and 2.3m deep. The present evaluation confirmed the position of the dyke, the ditch here measuring around 6m wide, with possible remnant bank material surviving against the inner edge. Layers of redeposited clay suggest that the bank may have been deliberately levelled and spread across the ditch. The evaluation also revealed the remains of an early 19th-century terraced house which had been built above the Dyke and is likely to have been responsible for the levelling of this section of the earthwork.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust was invited Adam Roberts to undertake an archaeological evaluation in connection with a proposed new dwelling on land adjacent to Lilac Cottage, Wat's Dyke Way, Sychdyn, Flintshire (Planning application 055508). The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local authority, had determined that the evaluation was required to identify the potential impact on the archaeological resource. Accordingly, a brief was prepared which detailed the works required (EVB 869).
- 1.2. The development site is located on land off Wat's Dyke Way, Sychdyn, Flintshire, centred at SJ 24628 66535. The plot includes part of the former garden belonging to Lilac Cottage, on the south-east side of the house.



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2016

Fig. 1 Location of Lilac Cottage and the line of Wat's Dyke.

- 1.3. The proposed new house will lie directly over the former alignment of Wats Dyke (PRN 27158), an 8th – 9th century AD territorial boundary. The line of the dykes' western ditch was located in a prior archaeological evaluation to the north-west of Lilac Cottage in 2013. The projected line of the dyke continues through the development site and may be directly impacted by the foundations and services of the proposed new dwelling.
- 1.4. The evaluation was conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014) and *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (2014).

2 Historical Background

- 2.1. As part of the assessment a desk-based study was conducted which involved the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, and photographic sources at the following repositories, information from which has been used to compile the following text:
 - the regional Historic Environment Record
 - the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth
 - the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth
 - Flintshire County Archives
- 2.2. The development plot is located on the north-easterly perimeter of the village of Sychdyn on what was once Soughton Common bordering the Soughton (Sychdyn) Hall estate which lies to the north (estate map c.1805). The regional Historic Environment Record indicated that the site (and Lilac Cottage) straddled the former north-west/south-east line of Wat's Dyke (PRN 27158). This territorial boundary, possibly dating to the 8th century or early 9th century AD, extended for 64km between Basingwerk in Flintshire and Maesbury in Shropshire and originally consisted of a rampart bank and a wide western ditch.
- 2.3. Further mapped evidence – the Tithe Survey c. 1839 – indicates the presence of the dyke within the locale of Sychdyn in the form of a green lane that appears to run parallel with, and on the western side of, the earthwork. An earlier estate map (c.1836) shows the line of the dyke traversing the proposed development plot. The Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2,500 map, surveyed in 1872 (Fig. 2), indicates that to the north-west of the development area the dyke has been reduced to a scarp in open fields whilst all trace has been removed from the gardens adjacent to Lilac Cottage. The map also shows a row of terraced houses, of likely early 19th-century date, one of which occupied part of the development plot.

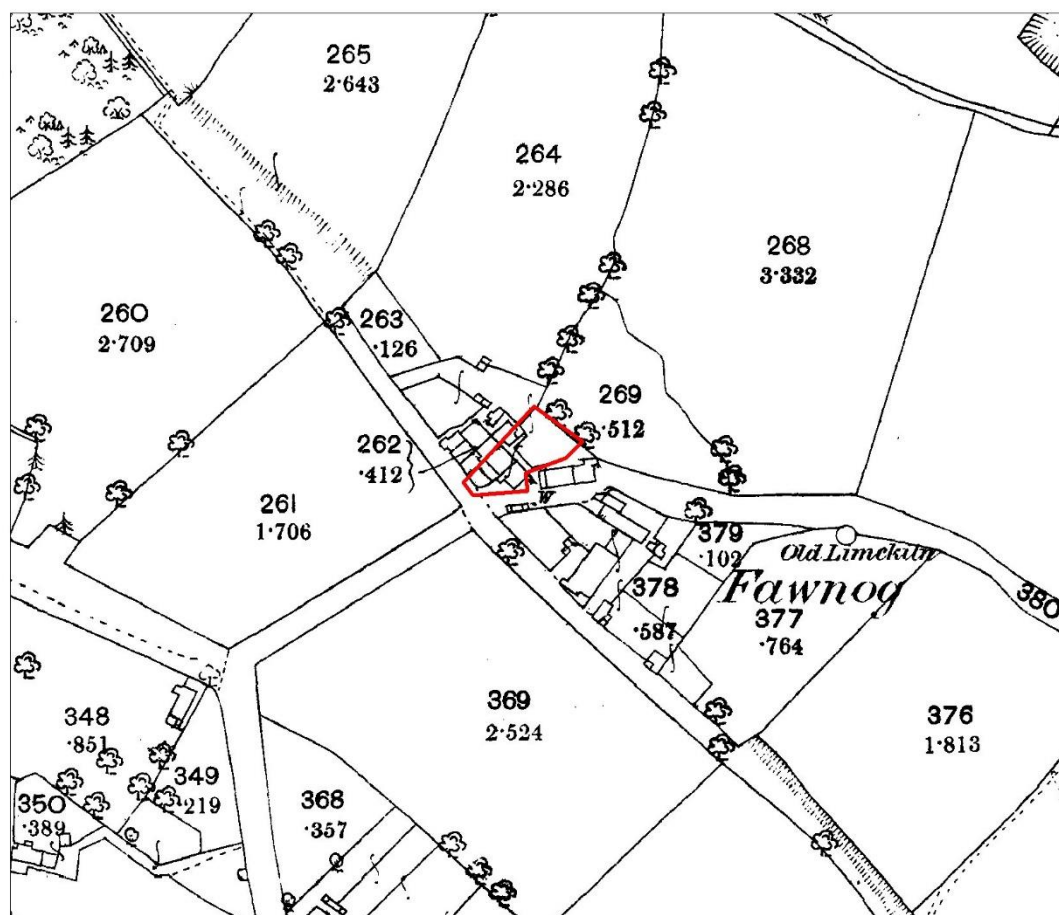


Fig. 2 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2,500 map, surveyed in 1872,
with the development area superimposed in red

- 2.4. In his survey of Offa's and Wat's Dykes, Cyril Fox (1955, 232) described this section of the Dyke as follows:

'...the Dyke survives in patches across the corner of Soughton Hall park. Its west ditch is a drainage channel by the footpath in field 8, the bank having been spread over the field. The Dyke still survives, ploughed down, in field 9, and can be traced in the adjacent garden...'

- 2.5. The 'adjacent garden' he refers to incorporates land divided between the properties of Lilac Cottage and the modern bungalow that is called 'Fairfield'. The dyke has now been completely ploughed down in *field 9*. However approximately 150m north-west of Lilac Cottage (assumed to be in Fox's *field 8*) a discontinuous section survives as a substantial earthwork consisting of a bank and ditch with an overall width of 15m.
- 2.6. Within the general locality of Sychdyn and New Brighton, Wat's Dyke has been the subject of a number of archaeological interventions during the past 40 years, generally in the form of archaeological watching brief surveys or opportunistic excavated sections across the width of the dyke and ditch during the installation of a major oil pipeline in 1974. A gazetteer of the work was published, by site number, in a volume entitled *Offa's Dyke - History & Guide* (Hill and Worthington 2003). The work is summarised below:

- 1974 – Excavated section at Soughton, Clawdd Offa. Site No. 13; SJ 243 670
- 1974 – Excavated section at Soughton Ditch. Site No. 11; SJ 252 659
- 1974 – Excavated section at Soughton Pipeline. Site No. 25; SJ 252 659
- 1993 – Watching Brief at Soughton Sewage Treatment. Site No. 197; SJ 254 656
- 1995 – Watching Brief at Soughton Entrance. Report 520, Site No. 199; SJ 247 663
- 1997 – Watching Brief at Tenant Farm. Site 188; SJ 248 663

2.7. One of the sites excavated by Hill in 1974 (Site No. 25; Fig. 3) provided a section across the dyke 1km south-east of Lilac Cottage. The ditch was V-shaped, up to 5.6m wide and 1.95m deep. The upstanding bank was 5.5m wide and 2m high. Hill noted that the face of the bank appeared to have been constructed from stacked turf.

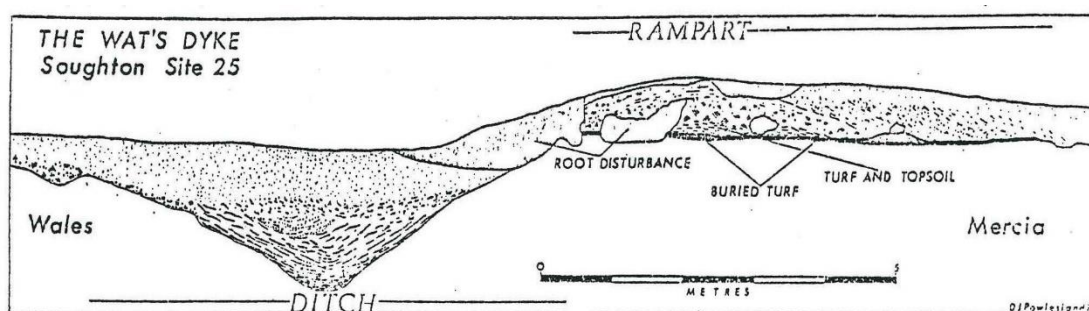


Fig. 3 Section through Wat's Dyke and its ditch (after Hill 1974, Site 25).

2.8. An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in March 2013 in the plot to the north-west of Lilac Cottage, revealing the upper fills of the ditch associated with Wat's Dyke, although with no surviving evidence for the accompanying bank (Grant 2013a). Further work was conducted during the excavation of foundation on this plot in September 2013, confirming the position, alignment and dimensions of Wat's Dyke ditch, which was 5.6m wide and 2.6m deep (Fig. 00). The watching brief also demonstrated that the Dyke had been deliberately levelled with the material from the bank being used to backfill the ditch (Grant 2013b).

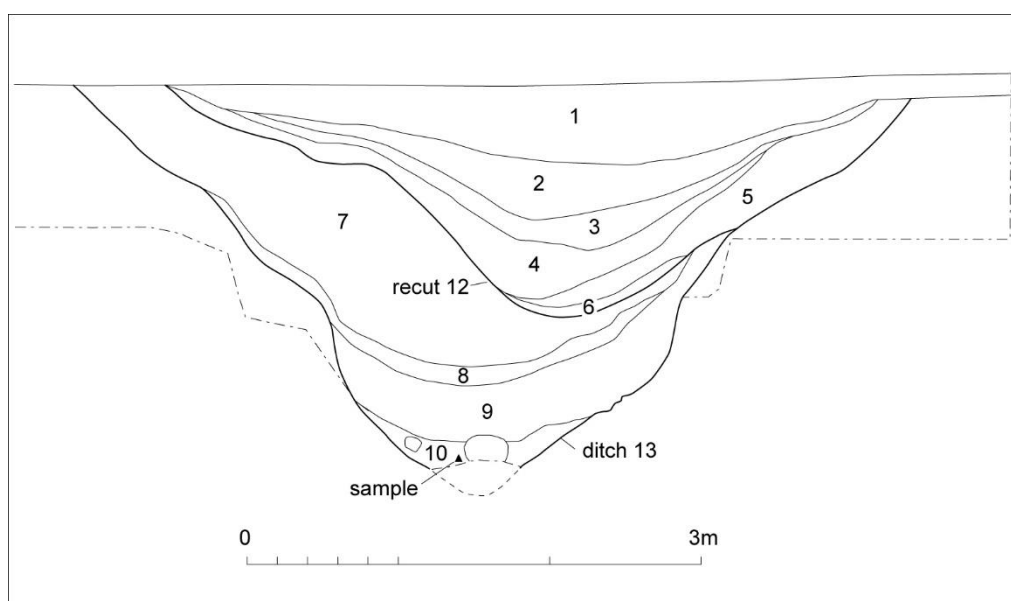


Fig. 4 Section of Wat's Dyke ditch recorded at Lilac Cottage in 2013



Fig. 5 The location of the 2016 evaluation, showing the position of Wat's Dyke and the location of the 2013 investigations

3 Evaluation

- 3.1. The evaluation was conducted on 2 August 2016, using a mechanical excavator with a flat ditching blade to remove up to 1.15m of overburden within a trench measuring 10m by 1.5m (Fig. 5).
- 3.2. The modern topsoil (01) and garden soil (02) was removed to reveal demolition rubble (03 and 04) associated with an early 19th-century terraced house which was depicted by the Ordnance Survey in 1872 (Fig. 2). The lower levels of the building survived beneath the rubble, comprising two sandstone foundations (16 and 17), the latter within a foundation cut (14), the sandstone base for a brick chimney (18) and part of a quarry tiled floor (11). The interior of the building had been deliberately levelled after demolition with deposits of sand (05 and 06) clay (07) and crushed sandstone and brick (08). An external brick floor/yard (09) survived to the south-west of the building.
- 3.3. A series of deposits were identified beneath the building which related to Wat's Dyke, the earthworks for which appear to have been deliberately levelled, perhaps in association with the building's construction in the early 19th century. At the south-eastern end of the trench a layer of sandy silt (19) had been cut by the foundation trench (14) for the building and sealed a layer of redeposited clay (20). At the north-eastern end of the trench another layer of redeposited clay (21) was revealed, both layers sealing a soft, light brown, silty clay (22) which lay directly beneath the building and had been cut by a slot for a possible latrine (29).



Fig. 6 The evaluation trench viewed from the south-west with the position of Wat's Dyke ditch marked by the red and white scales. Photo CPAT 4207-0009



Fig. 7 The evaluation trench viewed from the north-east with the position of Wat's Dyke ditch marked by the red and white scales. Photo CPAT 4207-0010

- 3.4. It was evident that Wat's Dyke survived as at least a slight earthwork when layer 22 was deposited since it formed the upper fill of the ditch, which was around 6m in width, but was not investigated further. Two clay deposits (24 and 25) were identified against the inner edge of the ditch, lying above the natural subsoil (27), with a combined thickness of no more than 0.14m. While it was not possible to confirm the nature of these layers within the confines of the evaluation trench it is possible that they represent the remnants of the bank, although without any obvious buried soil layer between them and the subsoil.

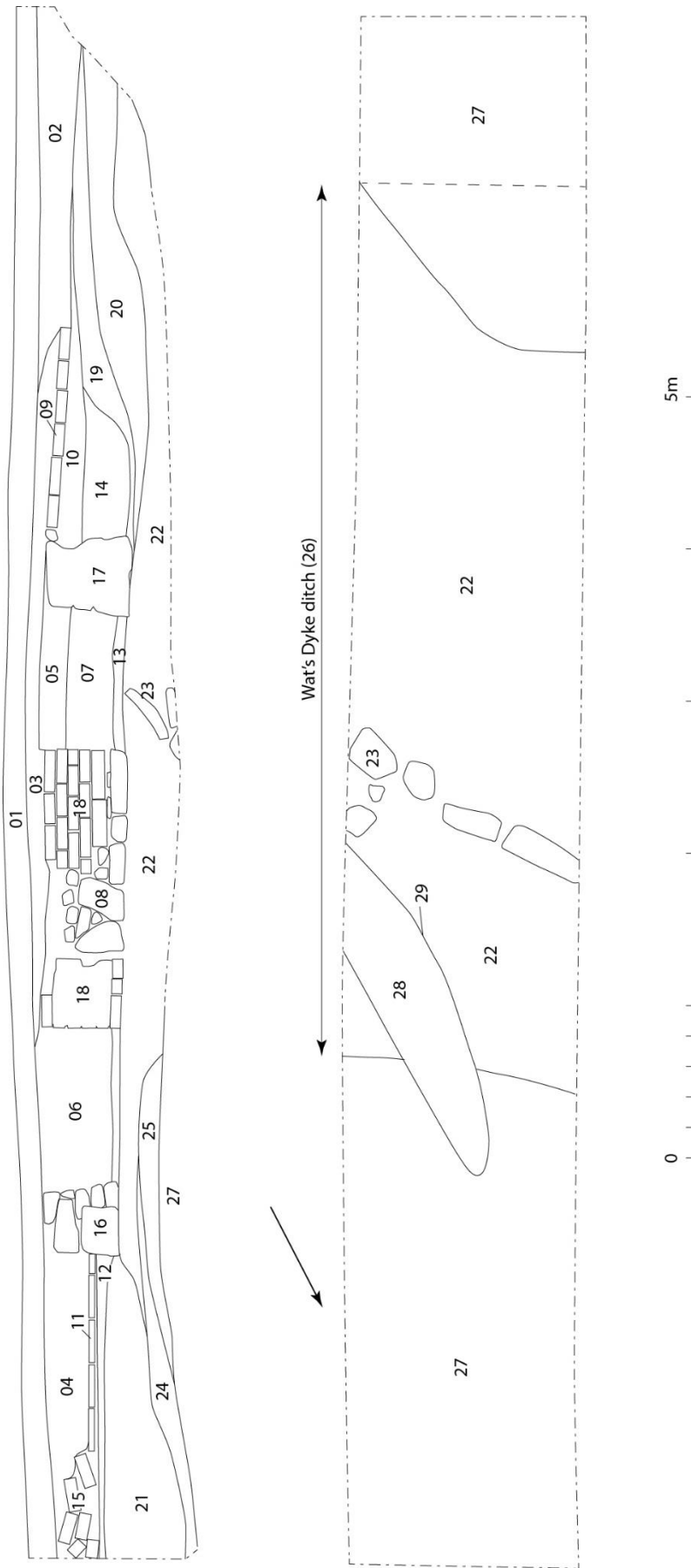


Fig. 8 Plan and section of the evaluation trench

4 Conclusions

- 4.1. The evaluation of a potential development to the south-east of Lilac Cottage in Sychdyn has provided further evidence for the alignment and survival of Wat's Dyke in this part of Flintshire.
- 4.2. Previous archaeological investigations, in 2013, identified the ditch associated with the dyke within a development plot on the north-western side of Lilac Cottage. While there was no evidence for a surviving bank, the ditch was well preserved, measuring 5.6m wide and 2.3m deep. The present evaluation confirmed the position of the dyke, the ditch here measuring around 6m wide, with possible remnant bank material surviving against the inner edge. Layers of redeposited clay suggest that the bank may have been deliberately levelled and spread across the ditch.
- 4.3. The evaluation also revealed the remains of an early 19th-century terraced house which had been built above the Dyke and is likely to have been responsible for the levelling of this section of the earthwork.

5 Sources

Published sources

Fox, C 1955. *Offa's Dyke. A field survey of the western frontier-works of Mercia in the seventh and eighth centuries AD*. London: Oxford University Press.

Hill D and Worthington M 2003. *Offa's Dyke. History & Guide*. Tempus Publishing Ltd.

Unpublished sources

Grant, I, 2013a. *Lilac Cottage, Sychdyn, Flintshire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CPAT Report No. 1196.

Grant, I., 2013b. *Lilac Cottage, Sychdyn, Flintshire: Archaeological Watching brief*. Unpublished report. CPAT Report No. 1222

Hill D, Wilson D and Worthington M 1972 - ongoing. *Offa's and Wat's Dyke Project Archive*

Owen W G, 1995. *Sychdyn Sewage Pipeline, Clwyd. Archaeological Watching Brief*. CPAT Report No. 163

Cartographic sources

1805 Estate Map, Soughton Hall. Flintshire Records Office. D/SH/826

1836 Estate Map, Soughton Hall. Flintshire Records Office (Copy supplied by Mr. Hodgkinson)

1839 (circa) Tithe Survey

1872 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map of Flintshire 13.04

1899 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 25" map of Flintshire 13.04

1912 Ordnance Survey 3rd edition 25" map of Flintshire 13.04

Aerial photographs

CPAT 87-10-32

CPAT 87-11-01

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). A summary of the archive is provided in Appendix 1.

Appendix 1: Site Archive

CPAT Event PRN: 140125

1 context register

29 context record forms

1 A2 site drawing

CPAT digital film no 4207, 18 images

Appendix 2: CPAT WSI 1700

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust has been invited Adam Roberts to submit a proposal for undertaking an archaeological evaluation in connection with a proposed new dwelling on land adjacent to Lilac Cottage, Wat's Dyke Way, Sychdyn, Flintshire (Planning application 055508). The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local authority, have determined that an archaeological evaluation is required to identify the potential impact on the archaeological resource. Accordingly, a brief has been prepared which details the works required (EVB 869).
- 1.2. The development site is located on land off Wat's Dyke Way, Sychdyn, Flintshire at SJ 24643 66548. The plot includes part of the former garden belonging to Lilac Cottage on the southeast side of the house.
- 1.3. The proposed new house will lie directly over the former alignment of Wats Dyke (PRN 27158), an 8th - 9th century AD territorial boundary. The line of the dykes' western ditch was located in a prior archaeological evaluation completed by the CPAT Field Services Section to the north west of Lilac Cottage in January 2013. The projected line of the ditch and any possible remnants of the rampart bank will continue through the development site and will be directly impacted by the foundations and services of the proposed new dwelling.

2 Objectives

- 2.1. The objectives of the evaluation are:
 - to reveal by means of a desk-based assessment and field evaluation, 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 evaluation;
 - to prepare a report outlining the results of the evaluation;
 - 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 Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014) and *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (2014).

Desk-based Assessment

- 3.2. Stage 1 of the evaluation will involve the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, and photographic sources at the following repositories:

-
- the regional Historic Environment Record
 - the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth
 - the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth
 - Flintshire County Archives
- 3.3. All cartographic sources consulted will be included within the desktop section of the report, together with transcriptions of relevant documents and copies of plans, maps and photographs containing relevant information.
- Trial trenching**
- 3.4. The evaluation will comprise one trench, measuring 1.5m wide and up to 10m in length. The precise locations and dimensions of the trench will be agreed with the developer and the curator prior to the commencement of on-site work.
- 3.5. The trench will be excavated initially using a machine fitted with a wide toothless ditching blade. All modern overburden will be removed down to the level of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. Thereafter, all excavation will be conducted by hand unless otherwise agreed with the Curator in advance. The base and at least one section of each trench will be manually cleaned and recorded. The evaluation will be essentially non-destructive and designed to determine the depth at which archaeologically sensitive deposits survive, together with their nature condition and significance. The depth of natural deposits will be determined to assess the extent of any stratified deposits which may be encountered.
- 3.6. It has been assumed that the area in question has sufficient access for a small mechanical excavator via existing gateways. Any variation from this may impact on the overall charges. Excavated material will be temporarily stored adjacent to the trench, which will be reinstated with this material upon completion. On completion of the evaluation all trenches will be reinstated with excavated material. No provision has been made for fencing during the excavations, other than using plastic barrier mesh.
- 3.7. 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. Contexts will be recorded on individual record forms and be drawn and photographed as appropriate. All photography will be in digital format to a minimum resolution of 8 mega pixels. All features will be located as accurately as possible with respect to buildings and boundaries identified on modern Ordnance Survey maps and levels will be related to Ordnance Datum where possible, with the use of total station surveying.
- 3.8. All artefacts will be related to their contexts from which they were derived and treated in a manner appropriate to their composition and will be processed by trained CPAT staff. Provision has been included for sampling deposits for dating, environmental and technological evidence as appropriate.
- 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 site archive will be prepared to specifications in English Heritage's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) system and the CifA *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (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). Any artefacts recovered during the evaluation will be deposited with an appropriate museum, subject to the permission of the owner.

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. It is anticipated that the trial excavation will be completed within two to five working days with a team of two archaeologists, and the report prepared immediately thereafter. At present CPAT would be in a position to undertake the evaluation during August 2016, subject to the receipt of sufficient advanced notice from the client.
- 4.4. Curatorial responsibility for this project lies with the Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, who will be given at least one weeks notice, in writing, of the proposed date of commencement of the site work.
- 4.5. 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, as detailed in Section 10 of the Curatorial Brief. 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 £60 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
- Interim Publication *Archaeology in Wales* at no additional charge

- 4.6. Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 4.7. CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance, as well as Professional Indemnity insurance.

N W Jones

14 July 2016