

# Non Technical Summary

*This report results from work undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd (CAP) for Wrexham Archaeology Service on behalf of their client Mr Richard Scott, 4 Holt Cottages, Telford.. The main aim and objective was to carry out a photographic survey of an abandoned red brick railway goods warehouse, Bettisfield prior to conversion into dwelling, thus facilitating the preservation by record of the warehouse structure.*

## 1 Introduction

In August 2003 Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd were commissioned by Richard Scott to undertake archaeological investigation and photographic recording on an railway goods warehouse building associated with the Bettisfield Station complex on the Cambrian line.

This was in respect of a planning application (ref: P/2002/1161) for development and a brief and archaeological specification set by and agreed with Ms Karina Kucharski of the Wrexham Archaeology Service.

The brief from Wrexham Archaeology requested a photographic survey. This specification was drawn up by Kevin Blockley, Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd

All works were undertaken in accordance with the IFA's *Standards and Guidance* and within current Health and Safety Guidelines.

## 2 Aims & Objectives

The main aims and objectives of the photographic survey was to provide a comprehensive record of the surviving structure prior to conversion

The site was visited for monitoring by Karina Kucharski of the Wrexham Archaeology Service

## 3 Methodology

The recording of the standing buildings was performed to a Level 2 standard as specified by the RCHME and comprises of a written and photographic records and a base plan showing the location of photos.

The survey comprised of the following elements:

- Photographic record of the setting of the building
- Face on views of all external and internal wall elevations, where possible, with 2m scale
- Where accessible, features of a particular architectural/historical or technical interest were photographed
- Plan of the site and building with photographic views marked
- Brief text accompanying the photographs

All site photographs were taken with 35mm black and white print and colour slide film and digital format

The archive was prepared in accordance with MAP 2, Appendix 3 (English Heritage 1991) and comprises of all data recovered during fieldwork. The archive will be deposited with Wrexham Museum

The report contains the following elements

- A concise non-technical summary of the project results
- Location plans of the site
- Brief text
- Photographs showing the main internal and external elevations of the building, details and setting
- Conclusions
- Bibliography

Two copies have been sent to Richard Jones and two copies to Wrexham Museum (one for development control, other for SMR)

A summary report will be submitted to the editor of CBA's *Archaeology in Wales*, for inclusion in the annual Archaeological notes section.

## 4 Results of Building Recording

At the time of visit the Old Railway goods warehouse was in a state of abandonment and disrepair with barn owls nesting in the roof area. The structure is a red brick building with a slated roof. The building is approximately 20 metres in length by 10 metres in width. The building consists of two areas: the large warehouse area and a storeroom which can be reached from a door in the east elevation of the warehouse.

The main warehouse can be entered from the east, west and south side via three very large doors.

On the North and South side the external walls have several recesses: 6 on the north elevation which has no doors and 4 on the south facing elevation.

Other structures nearby also relate to the Cambrian line: the Old Station and platform ( plates 2 & 3 ) which lie North West to the warehouse and the old railway bridge which carries the A495 over the path the railway used to take to the North east ( plate4).

### *Warehouse Area*

This has three large timber sliding doors leading into it from the east, west and south side (plates 17, 21, 24). The door on the east side is fronted on the outside with iron (plate 13).

The roof of the warehouse consists of four large trusses with a hefty central beam (plates 27, 28 & 29). The roof is boarded on the inside and slated on the outside.

In the middle of the warehouse, bolted on to the roof beams there appears to be a hoist probably used for lifting and working on the locomotives (plate 28).

The warehouse area at some point had tin nailed on to the internal walls up to a certain height as some sort of damp proofing (plate 26).

On the east facing elevation the chimney breast can be seen leading from the storeroom into the main warehouse and out through a chimney on the west side of the warehouse (plate20).

It does appear there may have been windows letting light into the structure at some point as high up on the south facing elevation a circular space appears to have been blocked in with more recent bricks.

### *Storeroom*

This area can be reached from the warehouse via a door to the west end of the warehouse. The floor level of the storeroom is raised higher than the existing level of the warehouse (plate 19). The storeroom has another door in its west wall leading to the outside. The level of this door is approx 1m above the outside floor level.

This room also contains a fireplace (plate 30 & 33) evidently for keeping the rail workers warm.

## **5 Conclusions**

The building recording of this structure was completed satisfactorily, thereby adding to the archaeological record.

## **6 Acknowledgements**

Thanks to Kevin Blockley and Phil Evans for their help and advice on completion of the report and to Karina Kucharski of the Wrexham Archaeology Service for her advice on site.

## **7 Bibliography**

*Brief for Archaeological fieldwork* by Wrexham Archaeology Service  
*Specification for building recording the old goods warehouse* by Kevin Blockley  
*Recording Historic Buildings: a descriptive description* by RCHME