

## **Non Technical Summary**

*This report results from work undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd. on behalf of Mr. & Mrs. P. Taylor on extension work at The Poplars, Llanbister, Powys. An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of new foundations for an extension north of the main house. The work was undertaken following a condition attached to the planning application. During the watching brief no archaeological features or deposits were located within the development area. A cobbled surface, probably that of an earlier pavement or road, was located to the east of the development area, beneath the pavement tarmac. No other archaeological features or deposits were located during the watching brief.*

### **1 Introduction**

The following text details the findings of work undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects (CAP) on an archaeological watching brief on extension works at The Poplars, Llanbister, Powys, NGR: SO 1084573190 (Fig. 01).

CAP were invited to submit a tender for an archaeological watching brief by Mr. P. Taylor, the owner of The Poplars. The tender was successful and the work was carried out by CAP on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2003.

All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and Guidance*: for an archaeological watching brief and current Health and Safety Legislation.

#### Planning Background

The main elements of the proposed development consist of the demolition of an existing barn that adjoined The Poplars and the erection of a two story extension replacing the barn (Figs. 2 & 3). An archaeological condition was attached to the planning application in line with PG(W) and the Welsh Office Circular 60/69- 'Planning and Historic Environment: Archaeology.'

### **2 Aims and Objectives**

In accordance with the IFA's *Standards and Guidance* the primary objective of this watching brief was to ensure that any previously unrecorded archaeological features and deposits exposed during the ground disturbance works and subsequent development of the site were adequately recorded and interpreted.

### **3 Methodology**

Prior to the archaeological watching brief the existing barn at The Poplars was demolished.

A mechanical excavator fitted with a toothed bucket was used to remove the overburden and for a level platform for the excavation of the foundation trenching.

Inspection and limited cleaning of the area was then undertaken in order to ascertain whether or not archaeological deposits or features were present.

Recording was done in three formats:

- 1) *Photographic Record* – Photographs were taken in 35mm Colour Slide and Digital formats.
- 2) *Drawn Record* – Site drawings, plans and sections, were produced at scales of 1:10, 1:20 and 1:50 where appropriate.
- 3) *Written Record* – Written records were produced using a continuous number sequence for all contexts encountered (Appendix II).

### **4 The Watching Brief**

Numbers that appear in () in the following section refer to context numbers allocated during the watching brief, a full summary of context is given in Appendix II.

#### Demolition of the barn (Plate. 1)

The demolition of the barn adjoining The Poplars was done prior to the watching brief. However, this revealed that The Poplars had been built onto an existing barn and that the roof of the barn had been raised, probably at the time of the construction of the house (c. 19<sup>th</sup> century).

#### Removal of the overburden and ground levelling (Plates. 2 & 3)

The removal of the overburden (1) revealed natural yellow clay (2) over the whole of the development area. However, excavation of this area revealed a cobbled surface (4), an earlier pavement or road surface, lying directly beneath the tarmac pavement (3) to the east of the development area.

## **5 Conclusions**

No archaeological features or deposits were located in the area of the proposed development during the ground works. The only archaeological features revealed during the watching brief were the size of the original barn, its relationship to the main house and an earlier cobbled surface to the east of the development area.