

CECP19

Castle Estate, Clyro, Powys

**Written Scheme of Investigation
for
Archaeological Monitoring**

**Client: Powys County Council
Agent: The Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP)**

DRAFT v.1.1

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INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Powys County Council has commissioned Headland Archaeology to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks relating to a proposed housing development in Clyro, Powys.
- 1.2 Two small parcels of land (A and B) located within and adjacent to the Castle estate are being proposed for development (see plan edp_1 at end of document). Although a masterplan is not currently available, it is proposed to develop Parcel A for housing and Parcel B for public open space.
- 1.3 Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT), the archaeological advisor to Powys Council, indicated in September 2018 and again in April 2019 that a watching brief would be required during any groundworks associated with the scheme.
- 1.4 This project design will set out the aims and methodology for undertaking the watching brief.
- 1.5 The watching brief will provide further information about the archaeological resource and ensure that any archaeological remains are adequately recorded during the development works.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITES

- 2.1 The sites are centred on NGR SO 214 436.
- 2.2 The site has a combined area of c0.8ha, consisting of two separate parcels measuring c0.36ha (Parcel A) and c0.42ha (Parcel B). The land is located within the village of Clyro, to the south-east of the village centre and the A438. The parcels of the site are separated from each other by modern 20th century development, and by the Castle Estate Road. Clyro Castle scheduled monument (RD066) is located directly to the south-west of Parcel B.
- 2.3 **Parcel A** is currently in use as a public playing field. It is mostly amenity grassland but includes a play area and access road in the south-east corner. The site is relatively flat but does vary slightly in level from c98m aOD in the south to c100m aOD in the north.
- 2.4 **Parcel B** is currently an area of open space surrounded by trees and hedging to the west, south and east and wire fencing to the north. It is not in public use. The land declines steeply from c105m aOD in the south, to c97maOD in the north of the parcel.
- 2.5 The solid geology within the site consists of Raglan Mudstone Formation, which was formed in an environment dominated by rivers. The superficial deposits within the site are recorded as hummocky Glacial Deposits, laid down when the local environment was dominated by ice age conditions (www.bgs.co.uk).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A heritage impact assessment for the site was undertaken by EDP in November 2018 (Sharp 2018). A geophysical survey was also undertaken in August 2018 (Davies 2018). The results are summarised below.
- 3.2 The evidence from the study area suggests that there was some prehistoric and Roman period activity in the locality. However, there is no specific evidence for archaeological remains of these periods from within either parcel of the site, including from the geophysical survey which did not identify any evidence for archaeological remains. It is likely that Parcel A would have been subject to some

below-ground disturbance, when in use as an orchard, and later during modern construction of the neighbouring houses, which may have impacted upon buried archaeological remains. As such, the potential for prehistoric and Roman archaeology to be present within the site is considered to be low.

- 3.3 Parcel B lies immediately to the north of Clyro Castle (**SM RD066**). The first specific mention of Clyro Castle is in 1397 when the area was ruled by the Norman lords, the Beauchamps, although it may be that the castle was founded as early as 1070, as a twin to the castle at Hay-on-Wye. The castle was built on a natural hill which was built-up into a larger mound to accommodate the structure. Clyro was one of the many castles fortified in the early 15th century against Owain Glyndwr in his revolt against the English. It is thought that the castle then fell into decay in the 16th century. Buried remains of the castle were uncovered in the early 19th century.
- 3.4 It is possible that the site's parcels, located c100m from the historic core of the village, and directly to the north of Clyro Castle, might have some potential for medieval archaeology. However, a geophysical survey undertaken in August 2018, did not identify any archaeological features that might be of a potential medieval date. Post-medieval and modern disturbance may well have damaged any underlying archaeology. As such, it is considered that both parts of the site have a low-moderate potential to contain buried remains dating from the medieval period.
- 3.5 In considering the post-medieval period, it is apparent that the majority of the HER and NMRW records within the study area reflect post-medieval features, with most entries attributed to buildings. None of the post-medieval assets are considered to indicate a specific archaeological potential either part of the site.

4 OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the programme of works are as follows:

- To gather further information to try and establish the presence/absence, character, and extent of any archaeological remains within the specific areas to be impacted by the proposed development, and to inform further strategies should they be necessary.
- To ensure the excavation and recording of any archaeological remains that would be disturbed by the site compounds.
- To produce and deposit a satisfactory archive and disseminate the results of the work via grey-literature reporting and publication as appropriate.

5 SCHEDULE

- 5.1 The scheduling of archaeological monitoring visits will be dependent upon the construction programme which is yet to be confirmed. Following the completion of all site works requiring archaeological monitoring a draft report will then be delivered to the client and, on approval, to the planning authority within four weeks of the completion of fieldwork.

6 PROJECT TEAM

- 6.1 The project will be managed for Headland Archaeology by Luke Craddock-Bennett MClfA (Project Manager); the field team will consist of a core member of Headland field staff. *Curricula vitae* of key personnel can be supplied on request. The project team will familiarise themselves with the background to the site and will be aware of the project's aims and methodologies.

- 6.2 Specialist artefact analyses will be managed by Julie Franklin who is Headland's Finds Manager. Julie will undertake finds assessment within her areas of competence (medieval and post-medieval metalwork, glassware, clay pipes, ceramic building material and other small finds) and assisted by Amy Koonce. Further consultation will be sub-contracted to recognised period specialists familiar with finds from this geographical area as appropriate, notably David Mullin (Neolithic – Bronze-Age pottery), Jane Timby (Romano-British pottery) and Paul Blinkhorn (Medieval pottery).
- 6.3 Environmental analysis will be undertaken by Angela Walker. Human remains will be assessed by Aisling Fitzpatrick. Faunal remains will be assessed by Laura Bailey.
- 6.4 Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd is a Registered Organisation and abides by the Codes of Conduct and Approved Practice and Standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. The company has all the necessary technical and personnel resources for the satisfactory completion of the watching brief.

7 INSURANCE & COPYRIGHT

- 7.1 Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd is fully indemnified and all necessary insurances can be presented on request.
- 7.2 Copyright will be retained by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd. Headland will licence the client and other bodies as necessary for use in matters relating to the project and for use of the project archive by the relevant museum. This licence will also extend to non-commercial use.

8 HEALTH & SAFETY

- 8.1 All of Headland's work is undertaken in accordance with current H&S legislation. A risk assessment and method statement will be prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork. All staff will wear appropriate PPE and this will include high-visibility clothing, hard hats and safety footwear. Suitable site welfare facilities will be provided by the main contractor.

9 ACCESS & SERVICES

- 9.1 All ground works will be undertaken by the main contractor. Headland Archaeology staff are not present to act as banksmen or to be responsible for the detection and avoidance of underground services in any way.
- 9.2 This WSI is submitted on the understand that Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd will have free access to all parts of the site and that there are no known services within the areas to be monitored. The client needs to inform Headland of the locations of any known services.

10 STRATEGY

- 10.1 All ground disturbance associated with the development will be subject to archaeological monitoring at a ratio of one archaeologist per machine.
- 10.2 It is anticipated that in most cases the archaeologist will enter and record interventions once the topsoil & subsoil layer has been removed to expose the undisturbed geological horizon. Sufficient time will be allowed prior to continuing excavation works for the archaeologist to make adequate records.

- 10.3 Should archaeologically significant deposits be revealed that require recording prior to completion of the excavations, the archaeologist is authorised to suspend excavation in that area, and be afforded sufficient time to record and excavate the archaeological remains.
- 10.4 If significant or extensive archaeological remains are present the client, the client's archaeological consultant and the archaeological advisor will be informed and an appropriate mitigation strategy agreed.
- 10.5 Any significant archaeological deposits will be investigated and recorded. Headland Archaeology will inform the client of required staffing levels depending on the extent and complexity of the deposits.

RECORDING

- 10.6 All recording will follow ClfA Standard and Guidance for conducting archaeological watching briefs. All contexts, small finds and environmental samples will be given unique numbers. All recording will be undertaken on *pro forma* record cards. In the event that stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled. 35mm black-and-white prints will be taken; a graduated metric scale will be clearly visible. Digital images may be taken for illustrative purposes but will not form part of the site archive.
- 10.7 A site plan including all identified features, areas of excavation and other pertinent information will be recorded digitally. The site plan will be accurately linked to the National Grid and heights to OD. Where appropriate, sections and stratigraphic sequences will be recorded digitally. Digital recording will be undertaken using a differential GPS or an EDM linked to a hand-held computer in order to allow data checking while in the field. If additional detailed recording of features and sections is required (ie. where their complexity means that archaeological information could be lost if recorded digitally) then plans and sections will be hand-drawn on permatrace at an appropriate scale (normally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections).

SAMPLES AND ARTEFACTS

- 10.8 Finds will be routinely recorded by context and recorded 3-dimensionally where appropriate (ie. where their position within a context can provide further significant information or the find is of particular significance). Any artefacts retrieved during the watching brief will be cleaned using appropriate techniques and packaged and stored in accordance with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 1998). All artefacts recovered will be cleaned, marked and catalogued. Headland's in-house finds specialists will be available to provide advice remotely or on site if necessary. Conservation will be undertaken by Scottish Conservation Studio (for metalwork) and AOC Ltd (for organics).
- 10.9 The terms of the Treasure Act 1996 will be followed with regards to any finds which might fall within its scope. Any finds will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures laid down in the "Code of Practice". Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- 10.10 Deposits on the site are anticipated to be in non-waterlogged contexts. They are expected to comprise the fills of negative features. The site sampling strategy is to collect bulk samples from selected deposits for wet sieving and floatation in order to recover any environmental material and other finds (e.g. bone, pottery etc.). Deposits will be selected on site for sampling based upon their potential to contain artefacts or ecofacts relevant to understanding the character, date or significance of the deposit and of the environmental resource itself. It is noted that not all

environmental remains are visible to the naked eye under field conditions; therefore bulk samples will be taken from features of potential significance even when no ecofactual/artefactual evidence has been directly observed.

10.11 A bulk sample will typically be 40 litres. However, where large deposits are encountered more than one bulk sample may be taken. Similarly, small deposits such as the fills of postholes may contain less than 10 litres of sediment and will be fully sampled. All samples collected on site will be processed and assessed, unless the stratigraphic assessment demonstrates that they derive from features with no archaeological significance, or unless they would provide duplicate information (e.g. multiple samples from the same phase of a ditch). A statement will be given on any discarded samples. The results and recommendations for any further work will be included in the watching brief report.

10.12 Where waterlogged deposits are encountered (such as peat) appropriate sampling techniques will be employed so as to maximise the environmental information gained from such deposits. This may include the taking of monolith or core samples for pollen and non-pollen palynomorphs (e.g. testates and fungal spores) and large specialist samples for plant macrofossil, wood (including waterlogged wood) and insect analyses.

10.13 The environmental sampling strategy will be in line with Historic England guidelines on environmental archaeology (Historic England 2011).

11 MONITORING

11.1 Access to the site will be afforded to the archaeological advisor for monitoring purposes.

12 REPORTING AND ARCHIVE

12.1 The report will assess the nature, extent, date, condition and significance of the archaeological findings, and set out the anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits across the site.

12.2 Final report contents and format will be in line with ClfA standard for Watching Brief and CPAT-HER requirements. Copies of the report will be sent to the client for onward transmission to the local planning authority; copies (paper & electronic) will also be submitted to the HER Manager, to be deposited in the CPAT Historic Environment Record. All reports will be submitted within two months of the completion of fieldwork.

12.3 The final report will include a summary in both the Welsh and English language.

12.4 Summary publication of the results will be in *CBA Wales* in the year following the completion of fieldwork.

12.5 All aspects of reporting and archive will be undertaken in accordance with guidelines published by the ClfA on behalf of the Archaeological Archives Forum (July 2007). Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd actively seeks to encourage land-owners to deposit artefacts with an appropriate museum, and agreement will be sought to this effect. Where permission is forthcoming the finds and archive will be deposited with the appropriate museum in line with its deposition guidelines. Deposition will be undertaken within one year of the completion of fieldwork. If no finds are present, it is proposed to deposit the paper and digital archive with the RCAHMW. If significant finds are recovered it is proposed to seek agreement with Llandrindod Wells Museum for deposition of the archive from the programme of works.

13 HUMAN REMAINS

- 13.1 All finds of human remains will be reported to the consultant/client/coroner/curator. None will be excavated during the course of the present program of work. If human remains are to be excavated during subsequent work, a license will be gained from the Ministry of Justice in accordance with Section 25 of the 1857 Burial Act. All excavation and treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains will be undertaken in cognisance of IfA Technical Paper Number 13 (Brickley & McKinley & 2004) and relevant English Heritage guidelines (2005).

14 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Davies R 2018 Castle Estate, Clyro, Powys: Geophysical Survey Report. Sumo (Ref: 13375).

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