

CPAT Report No. 1543-1

# Graigwen, Llanllwchaiarn, Powys




## Archaeological Watching Brief



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Client name: Jarman and Hamer  
 CPAT Project No: 2226  
 Project Name: Graigwen, Llanllwchaiarn  
 Grid Reference: SO 1247 9251  
 County/LPA: Powys  
 Planning Application: P/2015/0197  
 CPAT Report No: 1543  
 Event PRN: 140209  
 Report status: Final  
 Confidential: No

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05/12/2017	14/12/2017	14/12/2017
Revised	17/04/2018	

Bibliographic reference: Hankinson, R., 2017. *Graigwen, Llanllwchaiarn, Powys: Archaeological Watching Brief*, Unpublished CPAT Report No 1543.



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## Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on land at Graigwen, Llanllwchaiarn, near Newtown in Powys during groundworks for a housing development and the associated services, under planning application P/2015/0197. The site lay a short distance to the east of St Llwchaiarn's church and it was thought possible that this location might have been utilised for settlement in the medieval period.

The initial watching brief was carried out intermittently from September to November 2017, but no significant archaeological features were found in the development area and no relevant artefacts were recovered. The route of the foul water drainage from the development passed through land currently used as the car park for the church, where the possibility of burials had been noted, but no material other than demolition rubble and broken grave markers was observed.

In April 2018 a further watching brief was carried out in respect of groundworks for a housing plot located on the street frontage. No significant archaeological features were revealed.

# 1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) were appointed by Jane Hamer to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the construction of five new houses on land at Graigwen, Llanllwchaiarn, Newtown (planning application P/2015/0197). The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local authority, had determined that a watching brief was required to ensure the preservation by record of any archaeological remains disturbed by the development.
- 1.2. The development was located within the medieval historic core of the village and had the potential to impact on buried archaeological deposits. Accordingly, planning permission was granted with the inclusion of the following condition:
  14. The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeological contractor is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area, so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists. The Local Planning Authority will be informed in writing, at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development, of the name of the said archaeological contractor. A copy of the watching brief report shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR tel: 01938 553670 within two months of the fieldwork being completed.

Reason: To ensure the archaeological interest of the site is recorded in accordance with policy Unitary Development Plan Policy ENV18.
- 1.3. Also associated with the development was a new foul water drain through the churchyard surrounding St Llŵychaiarn's Church, for which a faculty application had been submitted and in response to which the watching brief was extended to cover the associated excavations. The church is a red-brick structure which was built in 1815 and enlarged in 1864. Inside there are a few 18<sup>th</sup>-century monuments and a carved effigy of 1630, but relatively little has survived from the predecessor of the present building. The large churchyard encapsulates two earlier phases of enclosure, but little in the way of early grave markers.
- 1.4. The dedication, the form of the churchyard and its proximity to the river indicate beyond reasonable doubt that this is an early medieval foundation. The church is recorded in the Norwich Taxation of 1254 as 'Ecc'a de Llanlocharen' and in 1263 part of it was appropriated to the Cistercian nunnery at Llanllugan. The earlier stone church consisted of a nave with a south entrance door, a wider chancel, and a western bell turret; the interior was fitted with box pews and there was a central pulpit on the north wall. The present church was built in brick on the old site in 1815.

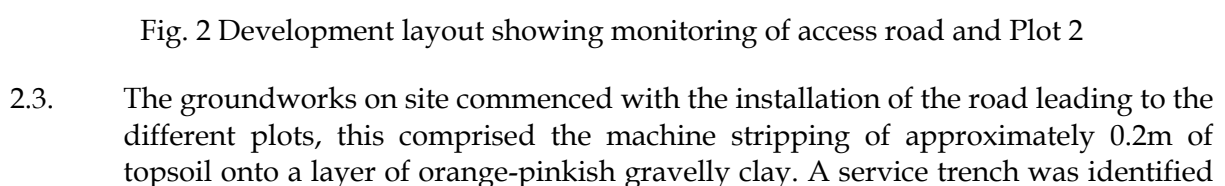


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Fig. 1: Development location

## 2 Watching Brief

- 2.1. The watching brief was conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CifA) (2014) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.
- 2.2. The watching brief was carried out intermittently from 11 September to 15 November 2017, monitoring soil stripping along the new access road, together with the preparation of Plot 2 and the installation of services through the church carpark (see Fig. 2). A watching brief was carried out during topsoil removal for Plot 1 in April 2018.



- at the west end of the site road but this was clearly modern and appeared to lead to a nearby manhole cover. No significant material was identified in the stripped soil.
- 2.4. Following the creation of the access road the footprint of the building in Plot 2 was stripped of topsoil. This involved the removal of approximately 0.2m of the same soil that had been identified on the line of the site road. Again, no significant features or material was revealed in this layer or on the surface of the subsoil.
- 2.5. The final element of the groundworks that was observed involved the cutting of a trench through the church carpark to the former Montgomery Canal, to allow for the installation of a new foul water drain (for route see Fig. 3).



Fig. 3: Development area layout showing route of foul water drainage.

- 2.6. The majority of the route of the drain crossed what is currently a parking area for the church. The trench here cut through what was probably demolition rubble, or at least waste material from the churchyard that had been used as a base for the surface of the parking area. Included in this material were fragments of sandstone masonry and most small pieces of broken grave markers bearing fragments of their dedication. There was no evidence for burials or any other archaeologically significant features or deposits.



Fig. 4 The southern end of the access road



Fig. 5 The central section of the access road



Fig. 6 The footprint of Plot 2.



Figs 7 and 8 The service trench through the church carpark

- 2.7. Plot 1 was located adjacent to the street opposite to the church in the north-west corner of the development area. An area of approximately 300 square metres was topsoil stripped.

- 2.8. Soil deposits recorded in Plot 1 represented a continuation of those previously recorded on the site. The topsoil measured 0.2m in thickness and comprised a clean, soft clay/silt containing occasional fragments of ceramic building material. The subsoil comprised a light reddish brown gravelly clay or clay silt containing greyish or orange clay inclusions indicative of waterlogging. A land drain of late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century date was recorded in the west extent of the plot, oriented north-west.



Fig. 9 View from the east of Plot 1



Fig. 10 View from the west of Plot 1 showing the land drain

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### 3 Conclusions

- 3.1. The watching brief for the access road and Plot 2 produced no evidence for significant archaeological material or features. The only finds recovered from the topsoil were of 19<sup>th</sup>-century or later date.
- 3.2. The route of the new foul water drain between the housing development and an existing pipeline on the line of the former Montgomery Canal crossed the church carpark, but revealed no evidence for burials or other archaeological features or deposits.
- 3.3. Nothing of archaeological significance was revealed during the groundworks for Plot 1. Clayey inclusions within the subsoil and the discovery of a late post medieval land drain towards the base of the slope suggest that the plot was prone to waterlogging.

### 4 Archive deposition Statement

- 4.1. The overall archive will conform to guidelines described in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Historic England 2006, the CIfA (2014) *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* and *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales* (NPAAW, 2017).
- 4.2. The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record (NMR), RCAHMW, including a copy of the final report. This archive will include all written, drawn, survey and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. A copy of the digital archive only will also be lodged with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust.

#### Site Archive

Event PRN: 140209

5 watching brief recording forms

40 photographs, CPAT Film No 4432

19 photographs, CPAT Film No 4485

Context register

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## Appendix 1: CPAT WSI 1756-1

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) have been invited by Jane Hamer to prepare a specification for undertaking a watching brief during the construction of five new houses on land at Graigwen, Llanllwchaiarn, Newtown (planning application P/2015/0197). The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local authority, have determined that the watching brief is required to ensure the preservation by record of any archaeological remains which may be disturbed by the development.
- 1.2. The development is located within the medieval historic core of the village and has the potential to impact on buried archaeological deposits. Accordingly, planning permission was granted with the inclusion of the following condition:
  14. The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeological contractor is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area, so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists. The Local Planning Authority will be informed in writing, at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development, of the name of the said archaeological contractor. A copy of the watching brief report shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR tel: 01938 553670 within two months of the fieldwork being completed.

Reason: To ensure the archaeological interest of the site is recorded in accordance with policy Unitary Development Plan Policy ENV18.
- 1.3. Also associated with the development is a new foul water drain through the churchyard surrounding St Llwchaiarn's Church, for which a faculty application has been submitted, in response to which the watching brief will be extended to cover these excavations. The church is a red-brick structure which was built in 1815 and enlarged in 1864. Inside there are a few 18th-century monuments and a carved effigy of 1630, but relatively little has survived from the predecessor of the present building. The large churchyard encapsulates two earlier phases of enclosure, but little in the way of early gravemarkers.
- 1.4. The dedication, the form of the churchyard and its proximity to the river indicate beyond reasonable doubt that this is an early medieval foundation. The church is recorded in the Norwich Taxation of 1254 as 'Ecc'a de Llanlocharen' and in 1263 part of it was appropriated to the Cistercian nunnery at Llanllugan. The earlier stone church consisted of a nave with a south entrance door, a wider chancel, and a western bell turret; the interior was fitted with box pews and there was a central pulpit on the north wall. The present church was built in brick on the old site in 1815.

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## 2 Methodology

2.1. The watching brief will be conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2014). The watching brief will be undertaken to monitor groundworks associated with the construction of the new access road, together with the footprint of Plot 1, which lies closest to the church, as well as all excavations within the churchyard associated with the new foul water drain. The excavation of any archaeological features or deposits will be undertaken by hand using the conventional techniques for archaeological excavation:

- The presence or absence of archaeological features encountered during the ground works will be noted.
- Where features of archaeological interest are identified during the ground works they will be systematically investigated by hand with sufficient work being undertaken to determine their date, character and function, using the conventional techniques for archaeological excavation and in accordance with CIfA Standard and Guidance.
- All features will be located as accurately as possible on an overall plan of the development at an appropriate scale, showing boundaries depicted on Ordnance Survey mapping.
- Contexts will be recorded on individual record forms, using a continuous numbering system, and be drawn and photographed as appropriate.
- Plans will be drawn on permatrace to a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate.
- All photography will be taken using a digital SLR camera with a minimum resolution of 8 mega pixels, including a metric scale in each view, with views logged in a photographic register.
- In the event of human burials being discovered the Ministry of Justice will be informed. The remains will initially be left in situ, and if removal is required, a MoJ licences will be applied for under the Burial Act 1857.
- In the event of finding any artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasures Act 1996, the appropriate procedures under this legislation will be followed.

2.2. All artefacts and environmental samples will be treated in a manner appropriate to their composition and a sampling strategy will be developed as appropriate:

- All stratified finds will be collected by context, or where appropriate, individually recorded in three dimensions. Unstratified finds will only be collected where they contribute significantly to the project objectives or are of particular intrinsic interest.
- All finds and samples will be collected, processed, sorted, quantified, recorded, labelled, packed, stored, marked, assessed, analysed and conserved in a manner appropriate to their composition and in line with appropriate guidance.
- Arrangements to assess and study any artefacts, assemblages and environment samples.
- Any artefacts recovered during the evaluation will be deposited with an appropriate museum, subject to the permission of the owner.

- 2.3. Following the on-site work an illustrated report will be prepared containing conventional sections to include:
- Non-technical summary
  - Introduction
  - Site location
  - Topography and Geology
  - Archaeological Background
  - Watching brief
  - Conclusions
  - References
  - Appropriate appendices on archives and finds
- 2.4. The site archive will be prepared to specifications in English Heritage's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) system and the ClfA 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).

### 3 Resources and programming

- 3.1. The watching brief will be undertaken by a skilled archaeologist 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 ClfA 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).
- 3.2. All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist(s) who conducted the site work. Copies of the report will be deposited with the client and the regional Historic Environment Record within one month of the completion of on-site works. If appropriate, a short report will be published in Archaeology in Wales.
- 3.3. The client should be aware that in the event that significant archaeological remains are revealed there may be a requirement for more detailed excavation and specialist services. Any further work over and above the original watching brief and report would be the subject of a separate WSI and costing. The following figures provide an indication of the types of additional services and indicative costs which might be required, for which the client is advised to make some provision.

Curatorial monitoring	£150 per visit
Finds conservation etc	£285 per day
Radiocarbon dating	£330 each
Finds specialist	£285 per day

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

N W Jones

26 July 2017