

CPAT Report No. 1588

Holt Hill, Green Street, Holt




Archaeological Watching Brief



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CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Client name: Chris Eaton
 CPAT Project No: 2298
 Project Name: Holt Hill, Green Street, Holt
 Grid Reference: SJ 41031 54319
 County/LPA: Wrexham
 Planning Application: P/2018/0210
 CPAT Report No: 1588
 Event PRN: 140242
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with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	ii
1 INTRODUCTION	1
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
3 CONCLUSIONS	5
4 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION STATEMENT	5
APPENDIX 1: CPAT WSI 1932	6

Summary

In May 2018 the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks prior to the resurfacing of an existing driveway and path at Holt Hill, Green Street, Holt, Wrexham.

No finds of features of archaeological significance were revealed during the course of these groundworks.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust carried out a watching brief on behalf of Chris Eaton during the resurfacing of an existing drive and pathway at Holt Hill, Green Street, Holt, Wrexham LL13 9JF (planning application P/2018/0210).



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Fig. 1 Location of the development site (circled in red)

- 1.2. The levelling works for the new drive were located within the medieval historic core of Holt where subsurface remains of the former village layout and associated artefacts were anticipated.
- 1.3. Planning permission was therefore granted with the inclusion of the following condition relating to archaeology:
3. No development / works shall commence until the applicant has secured the maintenance of an on-site watching brief by a suitably qualified archaeologist during construction works in accordance with details which have been submitted

to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The archaeological watching brief must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs. 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 resulting report should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR Email: markwalters@cpat.org.uk Tel: 01938 553670). Following approval by the Local Planning Authority, a copy of the report and resulting archive shall also be sent to the Historic Environment Record Officer, Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the regional Historic Environment Record.

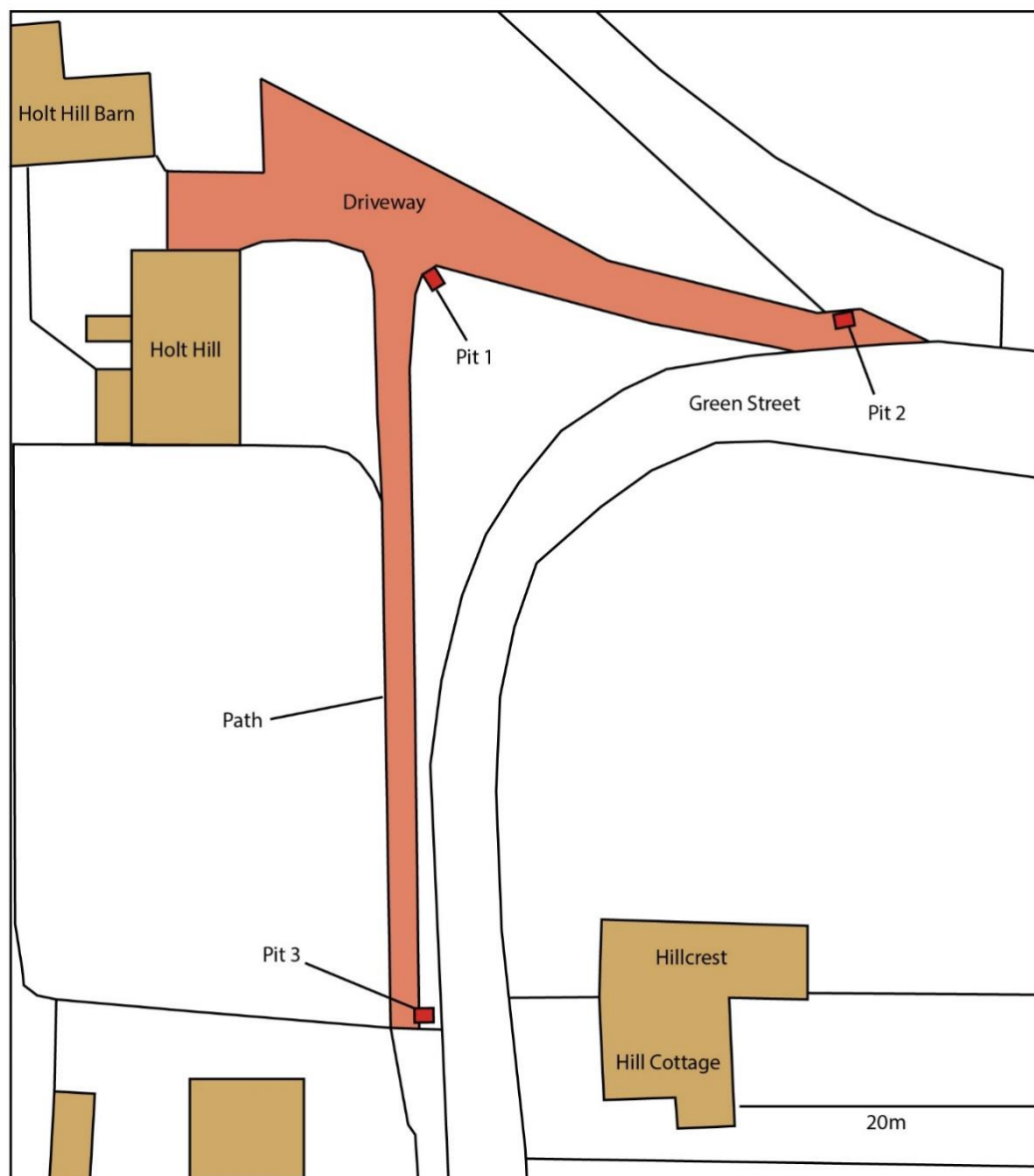


Fig. 2 Plan of the development area showing the three soakaway pits

2 Archaeological Watching Brief

- 2.1. The development comprised levelling and a reduction in levels of the path and driveway in order to allow block paving to be laid. Three pits were excavated to act as soakaways (Fig. 2).
- 2.2. The general reduction of the development area was very slight, not extending below 0.15m in depth. No features or deposits or archaeological interest were revealed during this phase of the groundworks, although a remnant of a cobbled surface was revealed adjacent to the north elevation of Holt Hill (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3 Remnant cobbled surface adjacent to Holt Hill. Photo CPAT 4506-0011

- 2.3. Soakaway pit 1 was located where the pathway met the driveway. Soil deposition in pit 1 consisted of a topsoil 0.4m in thickness, overlying a dark greyish garden soil 0.4m thick overlying natural red sand >0.2m in thickness. Late post-medieval pottery, ceramic building material and animal bone were present in the upper two deposits, which were disturbed by a cut for an electrical cable and earthing bar.



Fig. 4 North-west facing section of pit 1 Photo CPAT 4506-0001

- 2.4. Soakaway pit 2 was located at the junction of the driveway with Green Street. Soil deposits within pit 2 comprised topsoil, 0.25m thick, overlying a soft, reddish silty sand layer, 0.2m thick, overlying sandstone >0.1m in thickness. No artefacts were recovered from pit 2.



Fig. 5 South facing section of pit 2 Photo CPAT 4506-0006

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- 2.5. Soakaway pit 3 was located at the south end of the footpath. Deposition comprised topsoil, 0.2m thick, overlying a redeposited reddish yellow clay, 0.3m thick, overlying a firm red clay deposit >0.1m in thickness. No artefacts were recorded in pit 3.

3 Conclusions

- 3.1. The results of this watching brief confirmed that no archaeological finds were recovered and no features or deposits of archaeological significance were disturbed by the groundworks for this development.

4 Archive deposition Statement

The project archive has been prepared according to the CPAT Archive Policy and in line with the ClfA *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives guidance* (2014). The archive is entirely digital and will be deposited jointly with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and the National Monuments Record (RCAHMW).

Archive summary

CPAT Event PRN: 140242

1 watching brief visit form (scanned)

12 digital photographs Film No. CPAT 4506

Appendix 1: CPAT WSI 1932

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) have been invited by Chris Eaton to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for undertaking a watching brief during the resurfacing of an existing drive at Holt Hill, Green Street, Holt, Wrexham LL13 9JF (planning application P/2018/0210).
- 1.2. The levelling works for the new drive are located within the medieval historic core of Holt where subsurface remains of the former village layout and associated artefacts are anticipated. If there is any significant ground disturbance to level the driveway archaeological features may be revealed and these should be recorded in advance of ground reduction works.
- 1.3. Planning permission was therefore granted with the inclusion of the following condition relating to archaeology:
 3. No development / works shall commence until the applicant has secured the maintenance of an on-site watching brief by a suitably qualified archaeologist during construction works in accordance with details which have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The archaeological watching brief must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs. 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 resulting report should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR Email: markwalters@cpat.org.uk Tel: 01938 553670). Following approval by the Local Planning Authority, a copy of the report and resulting archive shall also be sent to the Historic Environment Record Officer, Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the regional Historic Environment Record.

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 replacement of the existing drive. 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 12 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 watching brief 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

Site archive

- 2.4. 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).
- 2.5. 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. NMR Digital archives will follow the standard required by the RCAHMW (RCAHMW 2015). A copy of the digital archive only will also be lodged with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust.

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 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).
- 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

8 May 2018