

CPAT Report No. 1500

# Brecon Cultural Hub




Archaeological Watching Brief



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CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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 CPAT Project No: 2122  
 Project Name: Brecon Cultural Hub  
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## Summary

A watching brief was conducted by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, on behalf of Powys County Council, to monitor groundworks associated with the construction of a new Cultural Hub adjacent to Brecon Museum.

The requirement in the initial brief was for an archaeological evaluation, although in the event it was not feasible to undertake this prior to the demolition of the existing buildings and it was therefore determined that the work would comprise a watching brief during ground reductions. This targeted two areas where there was considered to be archaeological potential since they appeared not to have been disturbed by the construction of the existing buildings.

Groundworks to the south of the site revealed deep, late post-medieval soil deposition, probably imported material brought in to create the raised garden area north of Captain's Walk, which followed the route of the medieval town wall. No trace of the wall itself was revealed during the course of these groundworks.

Groundworks on the northern extent of the site, along the frontage of Glamorgan Street, revealed lightly disturbed soils containing frequent root matter, presumably associated with the formal gardens depicted on 19<sup>th</sup> century maps of the site. No archaeological finds or features were recorded in this area of the site.

A trench excavated across the junction between Bulwark, Glamorgan Street and Lion street revealed a wall course or foundation, possibly relating to an earlier building or frontage immediately to the west of the Watton Gate, which may have been removed during town improvement works during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust was invited by Powys County Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation in connection with the development of a new Cultural Hub adjacent to Brecon Museum. Planning permission (14/11208 and 15/12600) was granted for the demolition of the former County Hall building and Grade II\* listed former Police Station and the erection of a two-storey Cultural Hub building with glass atrium linked to the existing Grade II\* listed Brecknock Museum.



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Fig. 1 Plan of the site (outlined in red)

- 1.2. The planning permission included the following conditions relating to the cultural heritage, requiring a staged programme of archaeological works to be undertaken to evaluate the nature of the surviving archaeological resource in the most sensitive areas; to formulate and implement an appropriate mitigation strategy for the archaeological remains in these areas to ensure the remains are preserved in situ or investigated, examined and recorded as appropriate; and to carry out an archaeological watching brief on selected groundworks in other areas of the development.

No development shall take place within the Areas of Archaeological Evaluation as indicated on the Brecon Beacons National Park Local Development Plan Proposals Map to the north and to the south of the existing County Hall building until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title have submitted a detailed design and method statement for the foundation design and all new groundworks has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning

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Authority. This statement shall have regard to the results of the archaeological evaluation required by Condition 13 and shall not be submitted to the Authority prior to the completion of the archaeological evaluation unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development hereby approved shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved scheme.

No development shall take place within the application area until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a brief issued by the local planning authority and a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The archaeological work will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists. On completion of the fieldwork and any post-excavation analysis required, a copy of the final report shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval; and following approval to the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales for inclusion in the National Monument Record, and to Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER).

- 1.3. A curatorial brief was prepared by the BBNPA Heritage Officer (Archaeology), dated 4 March 2016, detailing the nature of the works required and a Written Scheme of Investigations was developed against the requirements stipulated in that document, but also incorporating subsequent agreed changes to the methodology.
- 1.4. It had initially been anticipated that there would be four stages to the programme of archaeological works at the Brecknock Museum and Art Gallery, Brecon:
  - An archaeological field evaluation (trial trenching).
  - Formulation of the mitigation strategy for archaeological remains located during the evaluation.
  - Implementation of the mitigation strategy.
  - An archaeological watching brief.
- 1.5. However, it was not feasible to undertake the evaluation prior to the demolition of the existing buildings and this element of the planning condition was not fulfilled. Following discussions with Mark Walters, Development Control Officer for CPAT (acting as curatorial archaeological advisor to BBNPA during the temporary absence of a BBNPA archaeologist), it was therefore determined that the approach to be adopted would be one of 'strip/map/excavated', comprising a watching brief during ground reductions in two areas where there was considered to be archaeological potential. These areas were to the north of the site, on the frontage onto Glamorgan Street, and to the south, on to Captain's Walk (Fig. 2). The groundworks were observed during three site visits, on October 25<sup>th</sup> and November 21<sup>st</sup> 2016 and March 10<sup>th</sup> 2017.

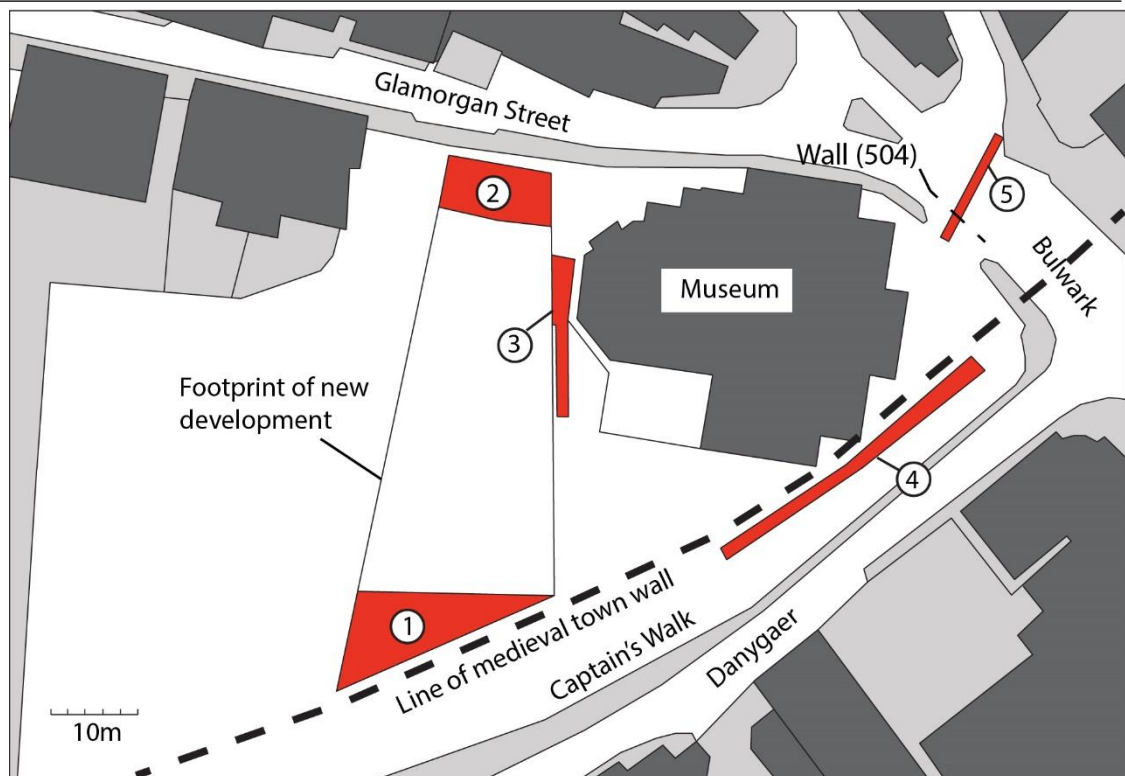


Fig. 2 Plan of the site showing the groundworks areas (marked in red)

## 2 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 2.1. The development is located within an area of archaeological sensitivity within the historic core of Brecon, in an area where medieval burgage plots were thought to survive and along the line of the town defences as it passes from the site of the Watton Gate to the south east of the development area along the southern area of the development.
- 2.2. The site is recorded on John Speed's map of Brecknock in 1610. The site is located to the south of a row of properties depicted along what is now Glamorgan Street and bounded to the south by the town wall. No further detail is provided on this map, although it seems probable based on later mapping that these were burgage plots. The 1744 Ichnography of the town of Brecknock by Meredith Jones appears to show little change in the town's development during the preceding century.



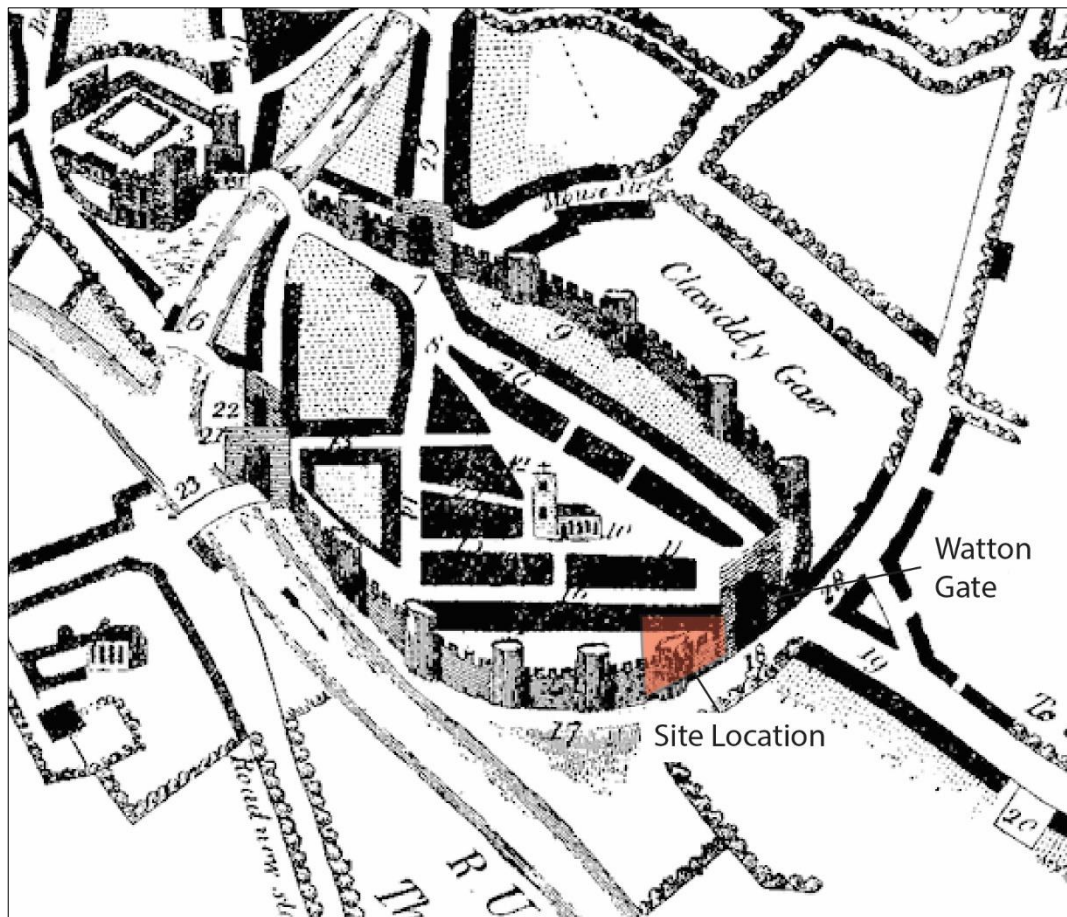


Fig. 3 Extract from the 1744 Meredith Jones Ichnography of the town of Brecknock

- 2.3. The 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century town walls had largely disappeared by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, some damage was caused during the Civil War, followed by the removal of gatehouses, including the Watton Gate by Act of Parliament in 1776. Only a few isolated remnants of the defences now remain as extant features. The line of the town wall along the south extent of the site is fossilised by the line of Captain's Walk running north-east south-west between the river and Bulwark, formerly the site of the Watton Gate. The wall is known to survive as a buried feature elsewhere within the town, an excavation at the Watergate revealed a section of wall and a well preserved semi-circular mural tower (Cruse 2003).





Fig. 4 Extract from the 1834 John Wood Map of Brecon

- 2.4. The John Wood Map of 1834 depicts the development area as a large area of open ground, probably orchards or market gardens, under the ownership of Henry Allan Esquire. The row of properties along the south side of Glamorgan Street are no longer present on this map and there is no evidence of subdivision or boundary demarcation on the plot. Captain's Walk is recorded on this map.
- 2.5. The site is recorded on the 1839 Tithe Map for Brecon, St Mary, which predates the construction of the early Victorian Shire Hall and Assizes constructed in the neoclassical style in 1842. As with the Woods map drawn up five years beforehand the site is depicted as a single open plot.
- 2.6. The Ordnance Survey town plan of 1889 records the western extent of the plot as an open space, probably formal gardens, to the rear of the Shire Hall. The line of the town wall is also indicated on this map and also Captain's Walk, running parallel with the wall between the river and Bulwark.

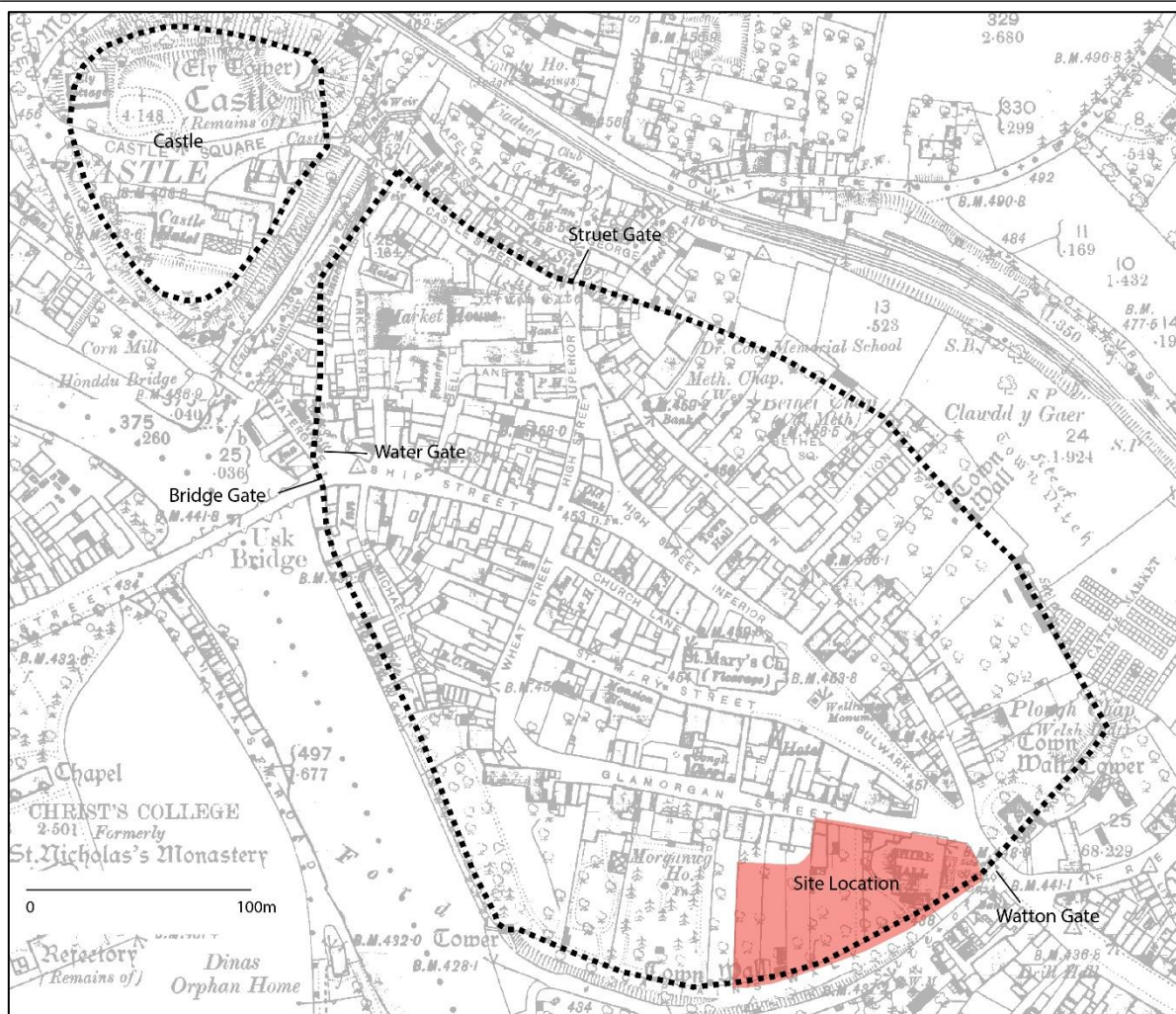


Fig. 5 1889 Ordnance Survey town plan of Brecon showing the site (outlined in red) and the line of the medieval town wall (in black)

- 2.7. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, a police station with subterranean cell block was constructed immediately to the south of the Shire Hall. A large council building was constructed immediately to the west of the Shire Hall in about 1960. Both these buildings were demolished during the current redevelopment phase.

### 3 Watching Brief

- 3.1. The watching brief comprised an observation of groundworks taking place in five discrete areas.

#### *Area 1*

- 3.2. Area 1 comprised a triangular plot of land adjoining Captain's Walk to the south and the recently demolished council building to the north (Fig. 2, 1). Three contexts were identified. These consisted of a modern demolition spread (101), 0.2m thick, overlying a firm, light to mid-brownish red clay silt (102), 0.15m in thickness, containing late post-medieval artefactual material, overlying redeposited material comprising loosely compacted, red sandy clay/rounded stone (103), >0.2m thick, which represented the full impact depth of the development in Area 1.





Fig. 6 View from the north of Area 1. Photo CPAT 4323-0007

### *Area 2*

- 3.3. Area 2 was located on the street frontage with Glamorgan Street, in an area immediately north of the former council building (Fig. 2, 2). Four contexts were identified in this area. Removal of the modern scalplings (201), which were up to 0.3m thick, revealed a 0.3m-thick hard, compacted red clay silt (202), containing stones and burnt inclusions. Underlying (202) was a moderately compacted reddish silt clay (203) with frequent root disturbance 0.26m thick. Deep excavations for a lift shaft within this area revealed natural soils (204) extending to >0.9m in thickness. This was the full impact depth of the development within Area 2.



Fig. 7 View from the south-east of Area 2. Photo CPAT 4323-0011

### *Area 3*

- 3.4. Area 3 comprised a drainage trench running parallel to the stone boundary wall between the museum building and the council offices (Fig. 2, 3). Two contexts were assigned. The upper wall structure was largely taken down prior to groundworks being carried out, with the intention of rebuilding it following the construction of the new development. The wall was not recorded prior to removal as this fell outside the scope of the programme of work.
- 3.5. The foundations of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century wall (301) were exposed running north-south along the east side of the trench, extending to a depth of 1.2m below current ground level. The foundations consisted of a wall core, constructed from unworked, uncoursed, greyish sandstone pieces. No bonding material was discernible. The face of the wall was exposed on the east side, where it bordered a light well for the lower floors of the former Shire Hall/Museum.



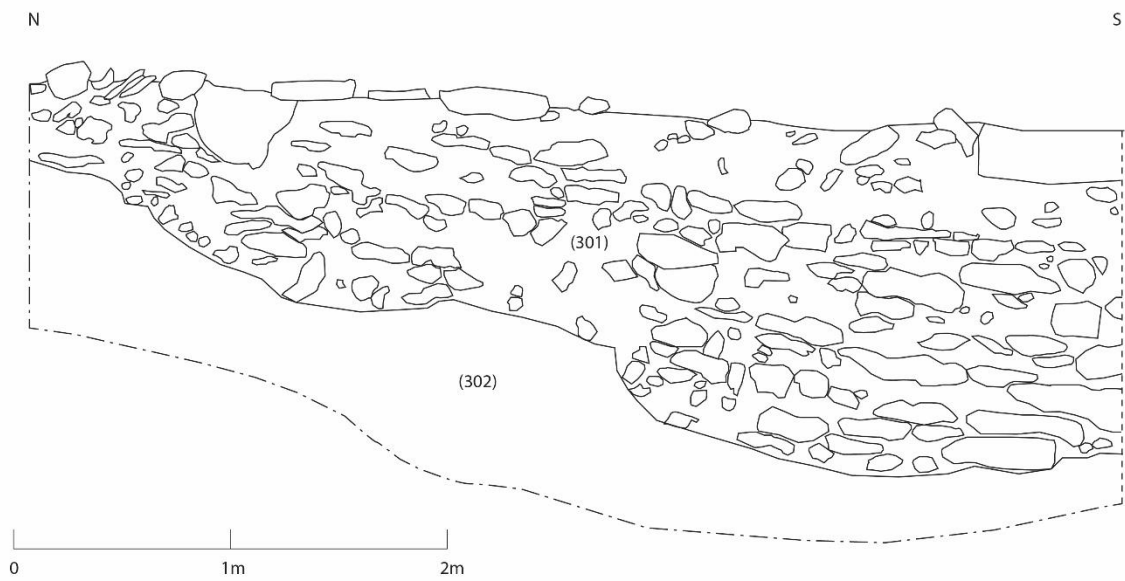


Fig. 8 West facing elevation of wall foundation (301) in Area 3

- 3.6. Abutting the wall was a modern redeposited reddish brown silt clay deposit (302) extending to >1.4m in depth.



Fig. 9 View from the west of the foundations for the boundary wall between the museum and the council offices. Photo CPAT 4323-0026

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*Area 4*

- 3.7. Monitoring of a drainage trench running to the south of the museum along Captain's Walk revealed two contexts, consisting of a loose, brownish red sandy silt (401), 0.4m thick, overlying a layer of redeposited material, comprising a moderately compacted, red stony silt (402), >1.1m thick.



Fig. 10 View from the south of the west extent of the drainage trench. Photo CPAT 4323-0013

*Area 5*

- 3.8. This was a trench excavated north-south across the junction between Glamorgan Street, Bulwark and Lion Street. Five contexts were identified. Following removal of the asphalt road surfacing (501) and sub base material (502) a reddish stony silt deposit (503) was revealed to a thickness of >0.25m. This abutted a stone wall course or possible foundation (504) oriented broadly east west and located in the south extent of the trench within the westbound carriageway (Fig. 13). The wall course measured approximately 0.3m in width and >0.25m in height and was constructed from roughly worked sandstone with no discernible bonding material, extending to two courses in height.
- 3.9. A stone culvert (505) was disturbed in the south end of the trench, this was located under the pavement and oriented east-west within the trench.





Fig. 11 Stone structure revealed in Area 5. Photo CPAT 4323-0017



Fig. 12 Stone culvert in Area 5. Photo CPAT 4323-0015

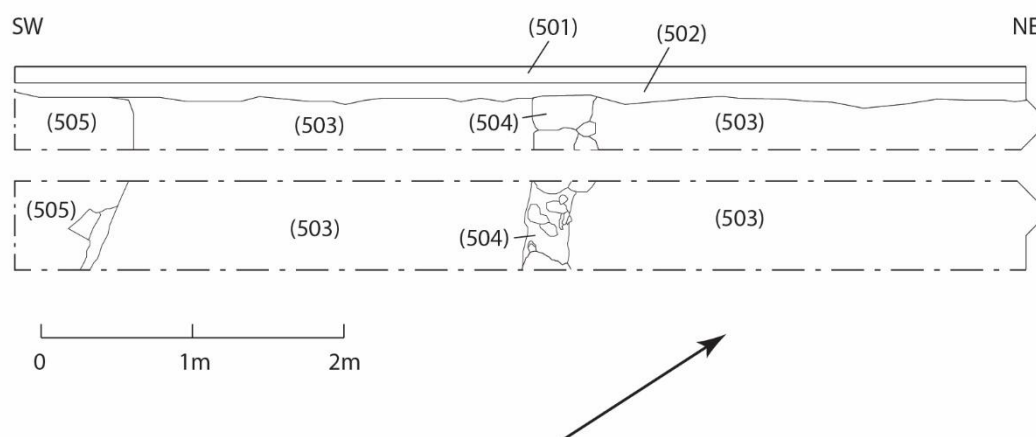


Fig. 13 Section and plan of southwest extent of Area 5 showing wall (504)

## 4 Conclusions

- 4.1. The groundworks within the site for the Brecon Cultural Hub development revealed no trace of any archaeological development predating the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The earlier archaeological layers towards the frontage with Glamorgan Street (Area 2) appear to have been completely removed, possibly by mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century landscaping and redevelopment, when the plot was a formal garden. The centre of the site and the area to the south of the museum were heavily impacted upon by the construction of the cellared council building and the holding cells beneath the former police station, both of which were demolished to make way for the new development.
- 4.2. The foundations for a boundary wall (301) were exposed by groundworks in Area 3. Historic mapping revealed that it was constructed after 1839 and was broadly contemporary with the construction of the Shire Hall. This wall formed the division between the private land to the west of it and the civic building to the east.
- 4.3. Excavations in the centre and southern areas of the development plot (Areas 1, 3 and 4) suggest that the plot was heavily built up and levelled, probably when Captain's Walk was constructed. No evidence was revealed for the medieval town defences in this area, although it is possible the remains of the town wall survive at a greater depth than was attained during the course of this investigation. Excavations were monitored to full impact depth of the development, although the presumed line of the town wall was not impacted upon by the building foundations. A drainage trench approximately 1.5m in depth (Area 4) was excavated close to the line of the wall but no structural remains were revealed during this work.
- 4.4. A wall or wall foundation revealed during trenching in Area 5 may relate to the pre-Victorian street frontage as depicted on the 1839 Tithe Map, and may be the remains of a much earlier building on the frontage. An Act of Parliament was passed in 1776 allowing the townspeople to take down several of the town gates (including the Watton Gate, which was located immediately to the east) and the adjacent buildings because they impeded traffic (Silvester 1993, 7). The mid-18<sup>th</sup>-century map of Brecknock (sic) (Jones 1744) does depict a row of buildings apparently extending as

far as the Watton Gate. These buildings and the gate itself are completely absent by the 1830s (Wood 1834).

## 5 References

Cruse, G., 2003. Brecon Tower Research Project, Watergate, Brecon: Archaeological Excavation. *Brycheiniog* 36, 15-51.

Silvester, R. J., 1993. *Brecon Town Study*, CPAT Report No. 58.

1744 Meredith Jones Ichnography of the town of Brecknock

1834 John Wood map of Brecon

1839 Tithe Map Brecon, St Mary

1888 Ordnance Survey 1:500 Town Plan

1889 Ordnance Survey 25" County Series 28.13

## 6 Archive deposition Statement

- 6.1. The project archive has been prepared according to the CPAT Archive Policy and in line with 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). No artefacts of archaeological significance and no deposits suitable for environmental sampling were revealed in the course of this watching brief.

## 7 Site Archive

CPAT Event PRN: 140170

3 watching brief visit forms

2 client drawings

27 digital photographs Film No. CPAT 4323

## 8 Context Register

*Area 1*

No	Description	Interpretation

(101)	Loosely compacted stone, brick and concrete rubble, extending trench-wide to 0.2m. Overlies (102)	Modern demolition spread
(102)	Firm, light to mid-brownish red clay silt, oyster shells, c.b.m, pottery, extending trench-wide to 0.15m. Underlies (101). Overlies (103)	Modern/late post medieval deposit
(103)	Loosely compacted red sandy clay/ gravel extending trench-wide to 0.2m. Underlies (102)	Redeposited natural/landscaping deposit, probably associated with 1840s development

*Area 2*

No	Description	Interpretation
(201)	Loosely compacted scalplings, extending trench-wide to 0.3m. Overlies (202)	Modern top dressing
(202)	Hard compacted red clay silt, stones and burnt patches, extending trench-wide to 0.3m. Underlies (201). Overlies (203)	Modern deposit
(203)	Moderately compacted reddish silt clay, frequent root disturbance, extending trench-wide to 0.26m. Underlies (202). Overlies (204)	Redeposited or poorly stratified post medieval deposition
(204)	Firm reddish sandy silt clay, occasional stones, extending trench-wide to >0.9m. Underlies (203)	Natural deposition

*Area 3*

No	Description	Interpretation
(301)	Wall core, constructed from unworked, uncoursed greyish sandstone pieces. No bonding material discernible. Extends >6m × 1.8m by 0.4m. Underlies (302)	Wall constructed in the 1840s forming the boundary between the Shire Hall and the formal gardens to the west

(302)	Loosely compacted reddish brown silt clay extending trench-wide to >1.4m. Overlies (301)	Landscaping deposition
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**Area 4**

No	Description	Interpretation
(401)	Loose brownish red sandy silt, extending trench-wide to 0.4m. Overlies (402)	Modern deposition
(402)	Moderately compacted red stony silt extending trench-wide to >1.1m. Underlies (401)	Landscaping deposition

**Area 5**

No	Description	Interpretation
(501)	Asphalt, extending trench-wide to 0.12m. Overlies (502)	Modern road surface
(502)	Concrete, extending trench-wide to 0.15m. Underlies (501). Overlies (503)	Road sub-base
(503)	Well compacted reddish silt/stone extending trench-wide to >0.25m. Underlies (502). Overlies (504) and (505)	Clean late post-medieval deposit overlying wall (504)
(504)	Wall course oriented east-west. Sandstone, roughly worked, no bonding material discernible, 2 courses in height, extending >0.5m × 0.3m by >0.25m. Underlies (503)	Remnant foundation or boundary possibly relating to earlier street frontage on south side of Bulwark
(505)	Culvert, oriented east-west. Sandstone, extended >0.55m × >0.6m by >0.27m. Underlies (503)	Post medieval culvert running along the south side of Bulwark/Glamorgan Street

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## Appendix 1: CPAT WSI 1679-1

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust has been invited by Powys County Council to submit a proposal for undertaking an archaeological evaluation in connection with the development of a new Cultural Hub adjacent to Brecon Museum. Planning permission (14/11208 and 15/12600) has been granted for the demolition of the former County Hall building and Grade II\* listed former Police Station and the erection of a two-storey Cultural Hub building with glass atrium linked to the existing Grade II\* listed Brecknock Museum. The application also includes the refurbishment, restoration and alterations to the existing Grade II\* listed Brecknock museum and gallery, re-arrangement of existing car park, relocation of the existing Grade II listed pillar box and the restoration and reinstatement of the Grade II and II\* listed railings.
- 1.2. The planning permission included the following conditions relating to the cultural heritage, requiring a staged programme of archaeological works to be undertaken to evaluate the nature of the surviving archaeological resource in the most sensitive areas; to formulate and implement an appropriate mitigation strategy for the archaeological remains in these areas to ensure the remains are preserved in situ or investigated, examined and recorded as appropriate; and to carry out an archaeological watching brief on selected ground works in other areas of the development.

No development shall take place within the Areas of Archaeological Evaluation as indicated on the Brecon Beacons National Park Local Development Plan Proposals Map to the north and to the south of the existing County Hall building until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title have submitted a detailed design and method statement for the foundation design and all new grounds works has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This statement shall have regard to the results of the archaeological evaluation required by Condition 13 and shall not be submitted to the Authority prior to the completion of the archaeological evaluation unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development hereby approved shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved scheme.

No development shall take place within the application area until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a brief issued by the local planning authority and a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The archaeological work will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists. On completion of the fieldwork and any post-excavation analysis required, a copy of the final report shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval; and following approval to the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales for inclusion in the National Monument Record, and to Clwyd Powys



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Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER).

- 1.3. A curatorial brief has been prepared by the BBNPA Heritage Officer (Archaeology), dated 4 March 2016, detailing the nature of the works required and this WSI has been developed against the requirements stipulated in that document, but also incorporating subsequent agreed changes to the methodology.
- 1.4. It had initially been anticipated that there would be four stages to the programme of archaeological works at the Brecknock Museum and Art Gallery, Brecon:
  - An archaeological field evaluation (trial trenching).
  - Formulation of the mitigation strategy for archaeological remains located during the evaluation.
  - Implementation of the mitigation strategy.
  - An archaeological watching brief.
- 1.5. However, it is understood that it will not be feasible to undertake the evaluation prior to the demolition of the existing buildings and that this element of the planning condition cannot therefore be fulfilled. Following discussions with Mark Walters, Development Control Officer for CPAT (acting as curatorial archaeological advisor to BBNPA during the temporary absence of a BBNPA archaeologist), it was therefore determined that the approach to be adopted would be one of 'strip/map/excavated', comprising a watching brief during ground reductions in two areas where there is considered to be archaeological potential since they appear not to have been disturbed by the construction of the existing buildings. These are shown in Fig. 1.
- 1.6. The brief also required a building survey of the Old Police Station, a listed building, prior to its demolition. While it was initially envisaged that this would form part of the overall scheme of archaeological works the survey has instead been conducted separately by Nigel Blackamore of Brecon Museum and no further recording is now required as part of the project.

## 2 Location

- 2.1. The development site comprises the existing building of the Brecon Museum, the Old Police Station and the former County Hall building, which are located at the western end of the Watton, between Glamorgan Street and Captain's Walk (NGR 304590 278430). The existing buildings are surrounded by paved and landscaped areas. The new development will involve the demolition of the Old Police Station and the former County Hall building and the construction of a new building which is largely within the footprint of those buildings.
- 2.2. The development is located within an area of archaeological sensitivity within the historic core of Brecon, in an area where medieval burgrave plots may survive and along the line of the town defences as it passes from the site of the Watton Gate to the south east of the development area along the southern area of the development. A number of areas within the development plot have been identified as *Areas of Archaeological Evaluation* within the Local Development Plan including the Museum forecourt, the walkway to the south of the museum, the former police station, and

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the council offices and its associated car park, and the area to the north of existing council offices fronting on to Glamorgan Street.

### **3 Aims and Objectives**

3.1. In accordance with the brief the purpose of the programme of archaeological works at the Brecknock Museum and Art Gallery are to:

- Gain information about the archaeological resource within the given areas of the site;
- Establish the nature of the archaeological resource on the site;
- Ensure that that all archaeological remains encountered are dealt with in a way that is appropriate to their significance;
- Ensure that where appropriate, the archaeological resource on the site is investigated and examined, recorded, analysed, and interpreted.
- Ensure that all necessary post-excavation processing and analysis required is undertaken.
- Ensure that appropriate resources are allocated to the different elements of the programme of works to support the appropriate treatment of archaeological remains to a satisfactory and proper standard;
- Ensure that the results of the programme of archaeological works is disseminated and made publically available.

3.2. The objectives of the programme of archaeological works at the Brecknock Museum and Art Gallery are to:

- Maintain an archaeological watching brief during ground works that have the potential to affect as yet unknown and previously unrecorded archaeological remains to preserve and protect the archaeological remains by ensuring that any previously unrecorded archaeological features exposed during development work are adequately recorded and interpreted.
- Adopt a strip/map/excavate to record any significant archaeological remains which may be revealed within the areas of investigation and ensure their preservation by record.
- Make an assessment of the merit of the archaeological resource in the evaluation areas in the appropriate context, leading to formulation of a strategy to ensure as appropriate, either preservation in situ (through foundation design) or a strategy to mitigate damage to the archaeological resource through preservation by record.
- To conduct all the post-excavation processing and analysis required, leading to the final publication of the results in an appropriate regional or national journal.

### **4 Methodology**

4.1. The archaeological mitigation will be conducted according to the following Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and Guidance:

- 
- *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014)
  - *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (2014)
  - *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014).

### **Watching Brief / Strip, Map, Excavate**

- 4.2. It is understood that the majority of the area for the new building has already been disturbed by the foundations and cellars of the Old Police Station and the former County Hall. On the basis of information provided by the client there appear to be two areas where the new building extends beyond the footprint of the existing buildings and therefore has the potential to impact on undisturbed archaeological deposits.
- 4.3. These areas are identified on Fig. 1. That to the north of the existing County Hall measures around 7m by 8m, while the area to the south of the building occupies a triangle measuring around 12m by 5m. The exact location and size of these areas will be confirmed with the Archaeological Advisor to the Brecon Beacons National Park once final details of the new building and its construction footprint have been confirmed with the client.
- 4.4. The watching brief will be active in directing the machine strip, under controlled archaeological conditions, of the full extent of both areas depicted in Fig. 1, to the first archaeological horizon.
- 4.5. The ground levels in both areas will be reduced using a machine fitted with a wide toothless ditching blade, under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. All modern overburden will be removed down to the level of the first recognisable archaeological horizon at which point the areas will be cleaned rapidly and their archaeological potential assessed. Thereafter, all excavation will be conducted by hand unless otherwise agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority in advance.
- 4.6. Should potentially significant archaeological remains be present a programme of more detailed excavation and recording will be required by a small team of archaeologists, the details of which will be agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority in advance.
- 4.7. Provision will also be made for an additional watching brief to be maintained on intrusive ground works within the remainder of the development boundary.
- 4.8. The watching brief is currently anticipated to include:
  - i. The excavation of new service runs in archaeologically sensitive areas, particularly those within potential medieval burgage plots or in close proximity to the town defences. This includes the trenching of the new electricity run across the car park from the substation, and the new water, electricity and gas supply along the edge of the library/hub building in the car park from Glamorgan Street, and any other new trenching required to accommodate services or drainage.

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- ii. The landscaping works, particularly where these fall within or in archaeologically sensitive areas, including within potential medieval burgrave plots or in close proximity to the town defences.
  - iii. It is understood that a large area of cellars under current council offices militates against survival of intact archaeology in this area. Watching brief in this area may therefore not be required, but can be reviewed following the demolition process.

### **Excavation**

- 4.9. Once significant archaeological deposits have been exposed, further excavation will be carried out by manual techniques, proceeding in a stratigraphical manner. Pits and post-holes will, in general terms, be subject to a 50% by volume controlled stratigraphic excavation, thereby providing a full vertical section for examination and recording. The remainder of the feature, should it prove necessary to be removed in entirety, will then be excavated, keeping only that dating evidence which is securely derived from the feature in question.
- 4.10. Linear cut features, such as ditches and gullies, will be subject to a minimum of 20% by volume controlled stratigraphic excavation, with the excavation concentrating on any terminals and intersections with other features which would provide important stratigraphic information. As with pits and postholes, should it prove necessary to remove the remainder of the feature to expose underlying features and/or deposits, it will be excavated.
- 4.11. Extensive linear deposits or homogeneous spreads of material will be sample excavated by hand to a maximum of 50% by volume. If features/deposits are revealed which need to be removed and which are suitable for machine excavation, then they should be sample excavated to confirm their homogeneity before being removed by machine. Any such use of a mechanical excavator will be agreed in advance with the Archaeological Advisor to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
- 4.12. All information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features.

### **Context recording**

- 4.13. Features will be recorded using pro-forma context record forms. Separate object record and photographic record pro-formas will also be used. All written recording of survey data, contexts, photographs, artefacts and ecofacts will be cross-referenced with pro-forma record sheets using sequential numbering. The contextual details will be incorporated into a Harris matrix.
- 4.14. Stratigraphic units will be assigned a record number and entered along with a description on an individual record form or trench recording sheet as appropriate. Contexts will be recorded on individual record forms and be drawn and photographed as appropriate. All features will be located as accurately as possible with respect to buildings and boundaries identified on modern Ordnance Survey

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maps and levels will be related to Ordnance Datum where possible, with the use of total station surveying.

### **Photography**

- 4.15. A full and detailed digital photographic record of individual contexts will be maintained. General views of the overall site, at all stages of the excavation, will also be generated. Photography will be undertaken using digital SLR cameras with a minimum resolution of 12 mega pixels. Photographic records will be maintained on index pro-forma sheets.
- 4.16. All resulting images will be saved in uncompressed TIFF format.

### **Planning**

- 4.17. Archaeological planning will be undertaken using a suitable combination of manually-drafted drawings and instrument survey. The precise location of each area of investigation, and the outline of all archaeological features encountered, will be surveyed by total station using Leica TS02 instrument with Penmap survey software. All excavated sections across individual features will be drawn using manual techniques, and for the most part will be generated at a scale of 1:20 or 1:10, as appropriate. Assuming there is no requirement for shoring and where the sections of the trenches contain relevant stratigraphic information they will be either manually drawn or, for long sections, surveyed by Total Station.

### **Finds**

- 4.18. All artefacts will be related to their contexts from which they were derived and treated in a manner appropriate to their composition and will be processed by trained CPAT staff.
- 4.19. 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.
- 4.20. All finds will be lifted and processed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) First Aid for Finds, 1998. All finds will be retained unless otherwise agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, although certain classes of building material can be discarded. All finds, where appropriate, will be washed. All pottery and other finds, as suitable, will be marked with the site code and context number.
- 4.21. In the event of the discovery of unexpected, unusual or extremely fragile and delicate objects and deposits, the Client and the Archaeological Advisor to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority will be notified immediately. Additional work required to recover, record, analyse, conserve and archive such objects and deposits will be agreed in consultation with the Archaeological Advisor to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
- 4.22. Contingencies have been allowed for specialist advice and conservation needs on-site should unexpected, unusual or extremely fragile and delicate objects be recovered, and the advice and input from an appropriate Conservation Service will

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be sought with the approval of the Client and Archaeological Advisor to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. A range of internal and external specialists will be consulted as appropriate.

### **Treasure**

- 4.23. In the event of the discovery of items that may be which may be deemed Treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act, the Archaeological Contractor will notify the relevant legal authority as soon as possible. The Client and the Archaeological Advisor to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority will be notified as soon as possible.
- 4.24. Any objects recovered during the course of the investigations which may be deemed Treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Act. Suitable security will be employed to protect the finds from theft prior to removal from site. Any treasure will also be reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer.

### **Environmental sampling**

- 4.25. A strategy will be developed to allow for bulk sampling of appropriate archaeological deposits for the purposes of dating, environmental and technological analysis. In principal bulk samples will be a minimum of 30 litres from each context.

### **Human remains**

- 4.26. Human remains are not expected to be present, but if they are found they will, if possible, be left in-situ, covered and protected. If removal is necessary, then the relevant Ministry of Justice permission will be sought, and the removal of such remains will be carried out with due care and sensitivity, as required by current legislation.
- 4.27. All human remains will be recorded using skeleton recording forms. The grave cut and/or coffin and contents will be recorded in plan at 1:20. Significant details of any grave goods, should they be discovered, will be planned at 1:10. Photography will be used to provide a further detailed record of the skeleton.

### **Post-excavation**

- 4.28. Following completion of the fieldwork programme any artefacts and environmental samples will be processed, assessed, conserved and packaged in accordance with ClifA's Standards and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2014), and Museums and Galleries Commission Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections (1994).
- 4.29. The post-excavation process will examine the information contained within the site archive in order to understand fully the nature, phasing and significance of the archaeology within the areas investigated. Site records will be examined and cross-checked in order to confirm the stratigraphic relationships and develop a phased model of the site. This information will be used to produce a site narrative at the reporting stage.



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- 4.30. If justified by the extent of archaeological discovery, a post-excavation assessment will be undertaken following the completion of the fieldwork. A Post Excavation Assessment Report will be prepared and submitted to the Archaeological Advisor to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority for approval, following which any subsequent post-excavation analysis, specialist services and reporting will be undertaken in accordance with this document. The level of detail provided in the post-excavation assessment report will depend on the quantity and complexity of the data and the extent to which those factors have required additional study of the material in order to form a reliable assessment.
- 4.31. The Post Excavation Assessment Report will include:
- Introduction
  - Original research aims
  - Summary of the documented history of the site
  - Interim statement on the results of fieldwork
  - Summary of the site archive and work carried out for the assessment
  - A statement on the quantity, quality and potential of the data in the site archive
  - A summary of the potential of the data in terms of local, regional, national and international importance.
  - A statement of the archaeological potential of the data to answer the project research aims
  - Recommendations for further analysis, including specialist finds, dating, palaeoenvironmental services etc
  - A statement on data storage and curation requirements

## Reporting

- 4.32. A final written report will be produced incorporating all the evidence and material retrieved during the recording exercise and watching brief. The final report will be submitted to the Heritage Officer, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority within 6 months of completion of the work for approval. The report will contain:
- Non-technical summary
  - Introductory statement
  - Aims and purpose of the archaeological investigation
  - A full, phased stratigraphic discussion of the archaeological features
  - An interpretive discussion of the results, placing them in a local and regional context
  - The results of assessment of artefacts and ecofacts carried out by suitable specialists
  - A detailed context index
  - Supporting illustrations and plans at appropriate scales
  - Supporting data – tabulated or in appendices
  - Photographs
  - References

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- 4.33. High resolution PDF files of the final report will be deposited with the Archaeological Archaeological Advisor to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, the CPAT HER, and the NMR. All other documentary/digital aspects of the archive will also be deposited with the NMR. The receiving institution for the artefacts and archive (see below) will also be provided with this information.
- 4.34. A summary of the results will be submitted for publication in *Archaeology in Wales*.

### **Site Archive**

- 4.35. The project archive, including written, drawn, photographic and artefactual elements (together with a summary of the contents of the archive) together wherever possible and to deposit them in appropriate receiving institutions once their contents are in the public domain.
- 4.36. The archive will conform to the following:
- Historic England, 2015. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*
  - CIfA, 2014. *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (2014)*
  - Walker, 1990. *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage*.

### **Artefactual Archive**

- 4.37. All work will be undertaken in full compliance with the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996 and the Code of Practice referred therein.
- 4.38. From the point of discovery, all finds will be held by CPAT in appropriate conditions pending further recording, investigation, study or conservation. Ownership will be transferred to the institution receiving the archive unless other arrangements are agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
- 4.39. All retained finds will be processed in accordance with the CIfA's Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological material (2014). All finds will be recorded and labelled appropriately.
- 4.40. Recovered objects will be selected, retained or disposed of in accordance with the policy agreed with the institution receiving the archive, and in consultation with the Archaeological Advisor to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.
- 4.41. Subject to the agreement reached with the receiving institution regarding selection, retention and disposal of material, the Archaeological Contractor will retain all recovered objects unless they are undoubtedly of modern or recent origin. The presence of discarded objects will, however, be noted on context records. In these circumstances sufficient material will be retained to characterise the date and function of the deposit from which it was recovered.

- 4.42. Subject to the received of appropriate permissions regarding ownership all retained artefacts will be deposited with Powys Museums Service, within three months of the completion of the post-fieldwork programme.

## 5 Resources and Programming

- 5.1. The archaeological mitigation will be undertaken by a team of skilled archaeologists 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).

- 5.2. All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist(s) who conducted the evaluation.

- 5.3. The client is advised that should significant archaeological remains or artefacts be revealed additional services may be required for which a contingency should be allowed. The need for such contingencies, and their scope and potential cost, would be subject to discussions between CPAT, the client and the Archaeological Advisor to the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority once the fieldwork has been completed. The following figures are therefore only for guidance and the final cost, should any of further services be required, may be more or less than the following figures which are included to provide an indication of the types of additional services and indicative costs which might be required:

- Finds conservation etc                      £285 per day
- Finds specialist                                £265 per day
- Dating    £320 per date
- Environmental specialist                      £285 per day
- Charcoal identification                        £50 per sample
- Interim Publication                            *Archaeology in Wales* at no additional charge

- 5.4. The following specialists may be required:

Prehistoric pottery	Frances Lynch
Lithics	Philippa Bradley
Roman coarse pottery	Wendy Owen
Roman fine wares	Peter Webster
Roman metalwork	Janet Webster
Coins	Edward Besley
Medieval and post-medieval pottery	Nigel Jones
Metallurgical residues	Tim Young
Palaeoenvironmental analysis	Archaeological Services, Durham
Radiocarbon dating	SUERC
Conservation	Phil Parkes, Univ. Cardiff

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## 6 Monitoring

- 6.1. The Brecon Beacons National Park's Archaeological Advisor must be informed on the start date and timetable for the evaluation at least two weeks in advance of work commencing.
- 6.2. Regular updates on progress between the archaeological contractor, and the Brecon Beacons National Park's Heritage Officer must be maintained during the programme of fieldwork.
- 6.3. Reasonable access to the site for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological scheme will be afforded to the Brecon Beacons National Park's Archaeological Advisor or his/her nominee at all times.

## 7 Health and Safety

- 7.1. Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 7.2. A project-specific Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS) will be prepared prior to the commencement of on site works
- 7.3. All site staff will undertake the Contractor's safety induction and work within the site constraints. Emergency arrangements will conform to the Contractor's Emergency Plan.
- 7.4. Access, egress and movement within the scheme will be undertaken according to protocols agreed with the Contractor.
- 7.5. All CPAT site staff will have a current CSCS card.
- 7.6. The use of PPE will conform to the Contractor's site rules. These will include but not be limited to the following:
  - hi-viz clothing to class EN471 will be worn at all times
  - safety footwear and eye protection will be worn at all times
  - suitable gloves and other PPE will be worn as directed
  - hard hats will be worn in proximity to working plant
- 7.7. It has been assumed that sufficient and appropriate welfare facilities will be provided by the Client.

## 8 Insurance

- 8.1. CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance, as well as Professional Indemnity insurance to the values identified below (copies of certificates available on request):
  - Public liability insurance: £5,000,000
  - Employers liability insurance: £10,000,000
  - Professional indemnity insurance: £1,000,000

## **9 Standards and Guidance**

9.1. All archaeological work will be conducted according to the following Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance:

- Standard and Guidance archaeological watching brief.
- Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation.
- Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.
- Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.
- Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment.

N W Jones

21 July 2016