

Archaeology Wales

Land within Llanidloes Football Club Llanidloes (Powys)

Archaeological Watching Brief



By

Stephanie McCulloch


Report No. 1639

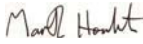
Archaeology Wales

Land within Llanidloes Football Club Llanidloes (Powys)

Archaeological Watching Brief

Prepared For: SP Energy
Network

Edited by: Mark Houlston
Signed: 
Position: Managing Director
Date: 12/1/18

Authorised by: Mark Houlston
Signed: 
Position: Managing Director
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Table of Contents

Non-technical summary	2
1. Introduction	2
2. Site description and archaeological background	2
3. Aims and objectives and methodology	3
4. Evaluation results	4
5. Discussions and conclusions	5
6. Bibliography	5
Appendix 1: Figures	
Appendix 2: Plates	
Appendix 3: Context Catalogue	
Appendix 4: Written Scheme of Investigation	

Figures

Figure 1	Location Map
Figure 2	Trench location plan

Plates

Plate 1	South-west end of trench
Plate 2	North-west looking section
Plate 3	North-west end of trench shot during excavation
Plate 4	West looking section of trench

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Non-technical Summary

Archaeology Wales Ltd carried out a watching brief at Llanidloes Town Football Club, Victoria Park, Victoria Avenue, Llanidloes, Powys, SY18 6AS, on 6th December 2017 at the request of SP Energy Networks.

The watching brief was undertaken during ground works associated with the installation of a new electricity supply, centred on SN 95662 84665, following a recommendation by the archaeological advisor to Powys County Council, due to the proximity of the postulated site of the well of Ffynnon Idloes.

A linear trench measuring 60m by 0.40m, aligned east to west, was mechanically excavated across the development area. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were identified.

As part of a previous archaeological desk-based assessment and field evaluation (Smith 2006), a small area was excavated immediately to the west of the western end of the current trench, at the edge of the adjacent field. A shallow depression filled with late nineteenth century finds was recorded, along with a post-hole and a line of stones. The well was not identified at this time or subsequently in 2002 or 2006 during site visits undertaken by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust.

All work conformed to Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (ClfA 2014) and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Artefact and Environmental Collection, Documentation Conservation and Research (ClfA 2014).

1. Introduction

On 6th December 2017, Archaeology Wales Ltd carried out a Watching Brief during ground works associated with the provision of a new electricity supply, centred on SN 95662 84665, at the request of SP Energy Networks.

A Brief was prepared for the work by Mark Walters, the curatorial archaeologist at Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, on behalf of Powys County Council. Subsequently, a Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI) was prepared by Archaeological Wales Limited on behalf of their client, SP Energy Networks, detailing the methodology to be used in carrying out the requirements of the Brief. The WSI was submitted to, and approved by, Mark Walters prior to the start of works.

The site is believed to be in close proximity to the site of the well of Ffynnon Idloes, although the location of the well has not been identified.

The watching brief was undertaken on the 6th December 2017 by Mark Houlston, MCIfA, Managing Director of Archaeology Wales Limited. Mark also managed the project.

The watching brief comprised monitoring work undertaken during the cutting of a linear trench measuring 60m by 0.40m, excavated between an extant electricity pole and a new mobile phone mast that had been previously erected in the 'standing' area adjacent to the southwestern side of the pitch of Llanidloes Town football club.

All work conformed to Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (ClfA 2014) and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Artefact and Environmental Collection, Documentation Conservation and Research (ClfA 2014).

2. Site description and archaeological background

2.1. Location, topography and geology

The site lies immediately west of Llanidloes Football Club. The grassy area is flat bounded on the west and south by a hedgerow and to the east by the football pitch itself.

The underlying geology is composed of Caerau Mudstone Formations overlain by river terrace deposits of sand and gravel (BGS 2017).

2.2. Archaeological and historical background

A desk based assessment of the surrounding area and a targeted evaluation, undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects in 2006 (Smith), uncovered no evidence of historical or archaeological features of importance.

The report confirmed that the foundation of the town probably dates to the reign of Edward I, having first been mentioned in a charter of 1254. While the earliest physical remains surviving in the town likely to be those of a motte and Bailey castle, which was probably located on the southern end of today's China Street, although to date these haven't been identified. The church of St Idloes is located 250m west of the development site.

The development site is believed to be located in the proximity of the site of the early medieval Holy well of Ffynnon Idloes, the water from which was supposed to have had healing qualities and/or a religious significance to St. Idloes, the Christian founder of the church.

A well is indicated in the area on O.S. maps dating from the late nineteenth century onwards, although it does not appear on the 1840 tithe map or the 1816 pre-enclosure map. Previous attempts to locate this well included the 2006 evaluation, during which a small area was excavated immediately to the west of the western end of the current trench, at the edge of the adjacent field, and site visits carried out by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in 2002 or 2006.

3. Aims, Objectives and Methodology

- The watching brief was undertaken during intrusive ground works associated with development by means of a trench measuring 60m in length and 0.40 in width using a tracked 360 excavator equipped with a flat-bladed bucket and was monitored by a qualified archaeologist.
- The site archaeologist was afforded the required access to observe and record archaeological deposits and features.
- The work was undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs (2014).
- The location and dimensions of the trench was agreed with CPAT prior to the commencement of works.

- This allowed the rapid investigation and recording of the proposed groundworks within the application area.
- Full PPE was worn during the excavation of the works area. During the recording of the trench contractors and machines were not allowed within the immediate vicinity until said recording was completed. This was to comply with our health and safety policies.

4. Watching Brief Results

The trench (Plate 1-2) measured 60m in length, 0.40m in width and was between 1.20- 1.50 in depth. It was oriented on an east to west axis. The natural substrate (1003) was encountered at 0.60m below ground level. This was comprised of firm light grey-brown silty clay with frequent stone fragment inclusions. (1003) was overlaid by (1002) a subsoil mix, which was a firm orange-brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions. This was overlaid by (1001) which comprised of loose dark grey-brown clayey silt loam measuring 0.45-0.60m in depth across the entirety of the trench. No archaeological features or finds were uncovered during this watching brief.

5. Discussions and conclusions

During the watching brief one trench measuring 60m in length, 0.40m in width, oriented on an east to west axis was excavated to a depth of between 1.20m- 1.50m. Despite the proximity of the proposed development site to the postulated site of Ffynnon Idloes well, no archaeological finds and features were identified during the watching brief.

6. Bibliography

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Archaeology *Wales*

APPENDIX I:

Figures

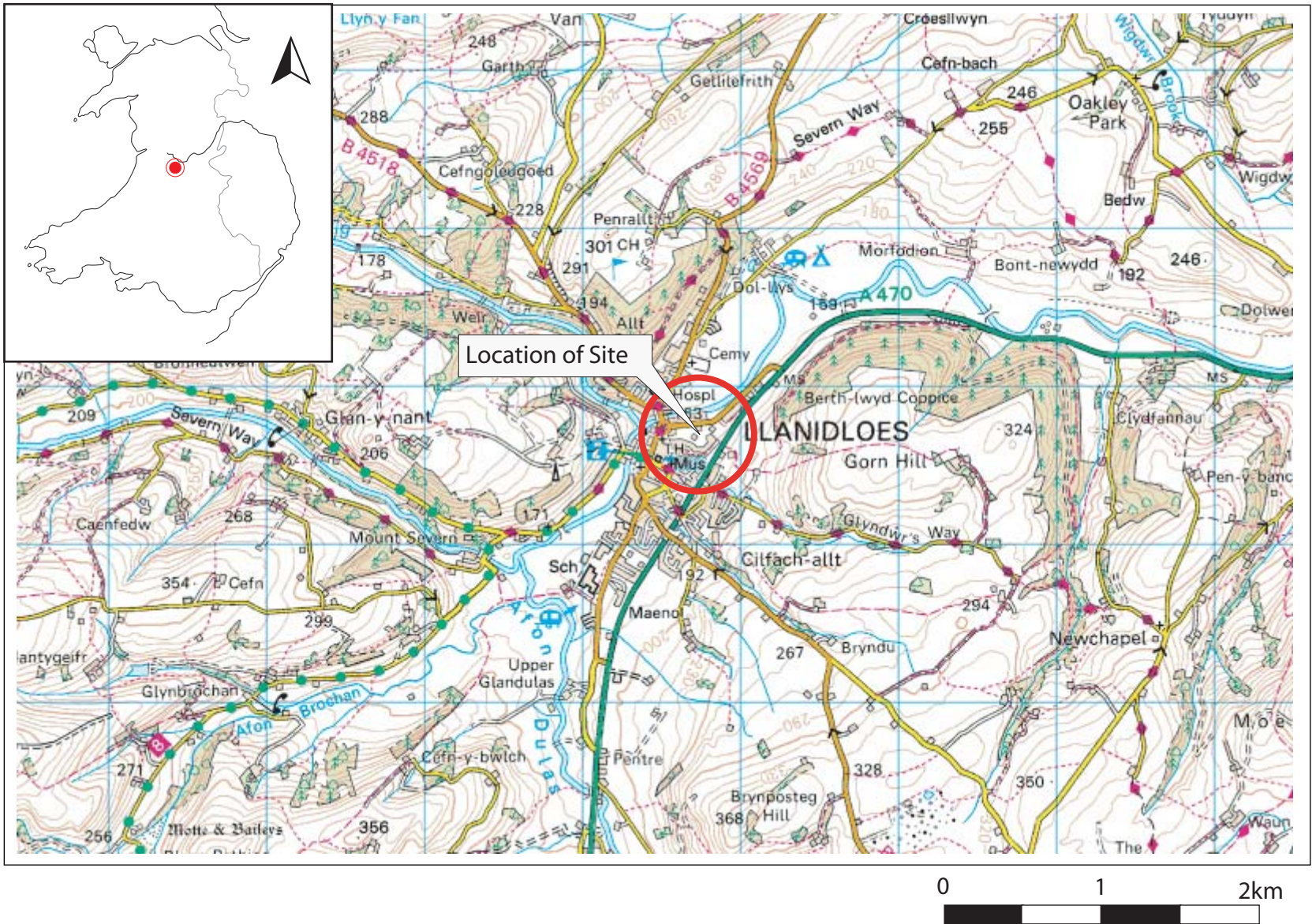


Figure 1
Location map



Figure 2. Trench location plan

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Wales

APPENDIX II:

Plates



Plate 1, South-east
end of trench (left)

Plate 2, North- west
looking section (right)



Plate 3, North-west end of trench shot during excavation (left)

Plate 4, West looking section of trench (right)

Archaeology *Wales*

APPENDIX III:

Context List

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DATE
1001	Loose dark Grey brown silty clay loam with frequent stone inclusions.	Topsoil
1002	Light grey-brown sandy clay with stone fragment inclusions.	Natural

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APPENDIX IV:

Written Scheme of
Investigations

Archaeology Wales Ltd
The Reading Room, Town Hall, Llanidloes SY18 6BN
T: 01686 440371
E: info@arch-wales.co.uk
www.arch-wales.co.uk

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL

ASRCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT LLANIDLOES FOOTBALL, LLANDIDLOES

POWYS

Prepared for:

SP Energy Network

Project No: 2577

6th December 2017



Archaeology Wales Limited
The Reading Room, Town Hall, Great Oak Street
Llanidloes, Powys SY18 6BN
Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371
Email: admin@arch-wales.co.uk

Contents	Page
Summary	3
1. Introduction and planning background.....	3
2. Site Description.....	3
3. Archaeological information.....	4
4. Objectives	4
4.1. Site Specific Research Aims	4
5. Timetable of works	5
5.1. Fieldwork	5
5.2. Report delivery	5
6. Fieldwork.....	5
6.1. Detail.....	5
6.2. Recording	6
6.3. Finds.....	6
6.4. Environmental sampling strategy.....	6
6.5. Human remains	7
6.6. Specialist advisers	7
7. Monitoring.....	8
8. Post-fieldwork programme.....	8
8.1. Archive assessment.....	8
8.2. Reports and archive deposition.....	9
9. Staff.....	10
Additional Considerations.....	10
10. Health and Safety	10
10.1. Risk assessment.....	10
10.2. Other guidelines.....	10
11. Community Engagement and Outreach	11
12. Insurance.....	11
13. Quality Control.....	11
13.1. Professional standards	11
13.2. Project tracking	11
14. Arbitration	11
15. References.....	12

Figure 1. Location of ground works

Summary

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details a programme of archaeological watching brief to be undertaken by Archaeology Wales at the request of SP Energy Networks.

The archaeological mitigation will consist of a watching brief, and will be undertaken during ground works associated with a new electricity supply at Llanidloes Football Club, Llanidloes, Powys.

All work will be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

1. Introduction and planning background

This WSI details the methodology for a watching brief to be undertaken during the ground works associated with the new electricity supply centred on (SN 95662 84665).

This WSI has been prepared by Rowena Hart, Regional Director, Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of SP Energy Networks.

The methodology set out in this WSI has been agreed with Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust – Development Control (CPAT-DC) in its capacity as archaeological advisors to Powys County Council.

The purpose of the archaeological mitigation is to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains on the site of the development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy (revised edition 9, 2016), Section 6.5 and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017). The work is to ensure that all buried artefacts and deposits are fully investigated and recorded if they are disturbed or revealed as a result of activities associated with the development.

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

2. Site Description

The site is roughly triangular and lies immediately to the west of Llanidloes Football Club. The grassy area is flat and bounded on the west and south by a hedgerow and to the east by the football pitch itself.

The underlying geology is composed of Caerau Mudstone Formations overlain by river terrace deposits of sand and gravel (BGS 2017).

3. Archaeological information

The site of the ground works is in close proximity to the postulated site of the well of Ffynnon Idloes. The exact location of the well has not been definitively found. An archaeological field evaluation (Smith 2006) recorded a depression filled with late nineteenth century finds suggested that if this was the well it was dated to mid-late nineteenth century due to its absence on earlier maps. In addition site visits by CPAT in 2002 and 2006 did not result in discovering the location of the well.

4. Objectives

This WSI sets out a program of works to ensure that the watching brief will meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014).

The objective of the watching brief will be:

- to allow a rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features that are uncovered during the proposed groundworks within the application area.
- to provide the opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief are not sufficient to support the treatment to a satisfactory or proper standard.

A written report will be compiled following the fieldwork. Sufficient desk-top research will be undertaken to ensure that the results of this work are properly understood, interpreted and reported.

The report will include a comprehensive assessment of the historic context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within regional, national and, if relevant, international research frameworks.

4.1. Site Specific Research Aims

It is important to recognize that whilst primarily designed to mitigate impacts, developer-led archaeology is also regarded as research activity with an academic basis, the aim of which is to add to the sum of human knowledge. Curators recognize the desirability of incorporating agreed research priorities as a means of enhancing the credibility of the development control process, ensuring cost-effectiveness and legitimately maximizing intellectual return.

A research framework for the archaeology of Wales has been produced (rev 2017).

5. Timetable of works

5.1. Fieldwork

The watching brief will be undertaken during ground works associated with the proposed development. The work will commence at the date that groundwork starts. Archaeology Wales will update CPAT-DC with the exact date.

5.2. Report delivery

The report will be submitted to SP Energy Networks and to CPAT-DC within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional HER.

6. Fieldwork

6.1. Detail

The work will be undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs (2014).

An archaeological watching brief will be undertaken during all intrusive ground works associated with the development. The main ground works will include the excavation of a trench measuring c.60m in total length. The trench will be c.0.5m in width and the depth will depend on the ground conditions encountered.

The watching brief will be undertaken using a tracked 360° excavated equipped with a flat-bladed bucket, and will be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist until the natural substrate has been reached.

The work will be undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs* (2014).

The site archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will be afforded the required access by the main contractor in order to observe and where necessary to record any archaeological remains revealed. Groundwork will not be undertaken without the presence of the site archaeologist. The site archaeologist will record finds and less significant archaeological deposits and features without significant delay to the work program.

Where significant or complex archaeological deposits or features are encountered there will be a requirement for those areas to be fenced off and highlighted to all contractors employed on the site. Machines or contractors shall not enter this area until archaeological recording has been completed. If significant archaeological features are revealed during the work a meeting between SP Energy Networks, CPAT and AW will be called at the earliest convenience.

To comply with professional guidelines, a contingency for a maximum of three days' uninterrupted access to each such area and for a team of up to two further

archaeologists to be employed should be provided. Contingency costs will be agreed in advance before any extension to the programme commences and will follow a site meeting between Archaeology Wales, SP Energy Networks and CPAT.

6.2. Recording

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc) using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

All features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries.

Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 12MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

The archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will have access to the AW metal detector and be trained in its use.

6.3. Finds

The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological (2014)* will form the basis of finds collection, processing and recording.

All manner of finds regardless of category and date will be retained.

Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under *The Treasure Act 1996* will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (normally Phil Parkes at Cardiff University).

6.4. Environmental sampling strategy

Deposits with a significant potential for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental material will be sampled, by means of the most appropriate method (bulk, column etc). Where sampling will provide a significant contribution to the understanding of the site AW will draw up a site-specific sampling strategy alongside a specialist environmental archaeologist. All environmental sampling and recording will follow English Heritage's *Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology* (2nd Edition 2011).

6.5. Human remains

In the event that human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established and the coroner informed. All human remains will be left *in situ* and protected during backfilling. Where preservation *in situ* is not possible the human remains will be fully recorded and removed under conditions that comply with all current legislation and include acquisition of licenses and provision for reburial following all analytical work. Human remains will be excavated in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains: Technical Paper Number 13* (1993).

A meeting with CPAT-DC, SP Energy Networks and AW will be called if the human remains uncovered are of such complexity or significance that the contingency arrangement (6.1 above) would not be of sufficient scope.

6.6. Specialist advisers

In the event of certain finds, features or sites being discovered, AW will seek specialist opinion and advice. A list of specialists is given in the table below although this list is not exhaustive.

Artefact type	Specialist
Flint	Kate Pitt (Archaeology Wales)
Animal bone	Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall (APS)
Clay pipe	Hilary Major (Freelance)
Glass	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst (University of York)/Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy (University of Leicester)/ Quita Mold (Freelance)
Metal work and metallurgical residues	Dr Tim Young (GeoArch)
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson (Bradford University)
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby (Freelance)
Roman Pottery	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)/ Peter Webster (Freelance)

Post Roman pottery	Stephen Clarke (Monmouthshire Archaeology)
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot (Freelance)
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling (University of Wales – Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers (Freelance)

6.6.1. Specialist reports

Specialist finds and palaeoenvironmental reports will be written by AW specialists, or sub-contracted to external specialists when required.

7. Monitoring

CPAT-DC will be contacted approximately five days prior to the commencement of archaeological site works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

Any changes to the WSI that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to CPAT-DC for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.

Representatives of CPAT-DC will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the field evaluation. No area will be back-filled, until CPAT-DC has had the opportunity to inspect it, unless permission has been given in advance. CPAT-DC will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

8. Post-fieldwork programme

8.1. Archive assessment

8.1.1. Site archive

An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2006) upon completion of the project.

The site archive (including artefacts and samples) will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and deposited with an appropriate receiving organisation, in compliance with CIFA Guidelines (*Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, 2014). The legal landowners consent will be gained for deposition of finds.

8.1.2. Analysis

Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of analysis and reporting will be undertaken. This will result in the following inclusions in the final report:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the watching brief, all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings (if features are encountered) with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- Written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate.
- An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development
- A discussion of the local, regional and national context of the remains by means of reviewing published reports, unpublished reports, historical maps, documents from local archives and the regional HER as appropriate.
- A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples finds and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.

8.2. Reports and archive deposition

8.2.1. Report to client

Copies of all reports associated with the watching brief, together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, including photographs and illustrations, will be submitted to SP Energy Networks and CPAT-DC upon completion.

8.2.2. Additional reports

After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of all reports will be deposited with the relevant county Historical Environment Record, the National Monuments Record and, if appropriate, Cadw.

8.2.3. Summary reports for publication

Short archaeological reports will be submitted for publication in relevant journals; as a minimum, a report will be submitted to the annual publication of the regional CBA group or equivalent journal.

8.2.4. Notification of important remains

Where it is considered that remains have been revealed that may satisfy the criteria for statutory protection, AW will submit preliminary notification of the remains to Cadw.

8.2.5. Archive deposition

The final archive (site and research) will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution, usually the relevant Local Authority museums service. Arrangements will be made with the receiving institution before work starts.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, copies of all reports and the final archive will be deposited no later than six months after completion of the work.

Copies of all reports, the digital archive and an archive index will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER. A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to CPAT-DC.

8.2.6. Finds deposition

The finds, including artefacts and ecofacts, excepting those which may be subject to the Treasure Act, will be deposited with the same institution, subject to the agreement of the legal land owners.

9. Staff

The project will be managed by Dr Irene Garcia Rovira (AW Assistant Project Manager) and the fieldwork undertaken by Irma Bernardus (Archaeology Wales). Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of CPAT-DC and SP Energy Networks.

Additional Considerations

10. Health and Safety

10.1. Risk assessment

Prior to the commencement of work AW will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations* 1992. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. A copy will be sent to the client (or their agent as necessary) for their information. All members of AW staff will adhere to the content of this document.

10.2. Other guidelines

AW will adhere to best practice with regard to Health and Safety in Archaeology as set out in the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology* (2002).

11. Community Engagement and Outreach

Wherever possible, AW will ensure suitable measures are in place to inform the local community and any interested parties of the results of the site investigation work. This may occur during the site investigation work or following completion of the work. The form of any potential outreach activities may include lectures and talks to local groups, interested parties and persons, information boards, flyers and other forms of communication (social media and websites), and press releases to local and national media.

The form of any outreach will respect client confidentiality or contractual agreements. As a rule, outreach will be proportional to the size of the project.

Where outreach activities have a cost implication these will need to be negotiated in advance and in accordance with the nature of the desired response and learning outcomes.

12. Insurance

AW is fully insured for this type of work, and holds Insurance with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hiscox Insurance Company Limited through Towergate Insurance. Full details of these and other relevant policies can be supplied on request.

13. Quality Control

13.1. Professional standards

AW works to the standards and guidance provided by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*. AW fully recognise and endorse the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct*, *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* and the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs* currently in force. All employees of AW, whether corporate members of the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists* or not, are expected to adhere to these Codes and Standards during their employment.

13.2. Project tracking

The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

14. Arbitration

Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision in accordance with the Rules of the *Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' Arbitration Scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists* applying at the date of the agreement.

15. References

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standards and guidance for the collection, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.

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Archaeology Wales

Archaeology Wales Limited

The Reading Room, Town Hall, Llanidloes, SY18 6BN

Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371

Email: admin@arch-wales.co.uk

Company Directors: Mark Houlston MCifA & Jill Houlston

Company Registered No. 7440770 (England & Wales)

Registered Office: Morgan Griffiths LLP, Cross Chambers

9 High Street, Newtown, Powys, SY16 2NY

