

St Beuno's Church Llanycil, Gwynedd
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Written Scheme of Investigation

submitted by
Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

On behalf of

Creu Architecture
Upper Floor Studio
Diamond Building
6 Highgate
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CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST POLICY STATEMENT

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS



CPAT

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was one of the four archaeological trusts established in Wales in the mid-1970s to provide an archaeological service across the whole of the Principality. It is both a registered charity and a limited company, and its activities are managed by a board of Trustees. It is also an IfA-registered organisation (Institute for Archaeologists). Its mission statement was and remains geared towards working closely with other national, regional and local bodies, to help identify, protect and interpret all aspects of the historic environment.

Over the last thirty years it has developed an unrivalled expertise in the archaeology of east and north-east Wales, created a full record of the archaeological sites and monuments in the region, and built up experience in all the major methodologies that can be used to elucidate the past. At the same time its remit and resource base have been modified to take account of the broader changes in the organisation and delivery of archaeological services in the United Kingdom as a whole. Based in Welshpool, CPAT has developed close links with a number of local institutions and has extensive knowledge of local history and archaeology.

In the last twenty years CPAT has built up an experienced Field Services section which focuses on funded projects and on contract archaeology. Much of this sort of work is still undertaken in its core area of east and north-east Wales, but increasingly it has been contracted to do work in north-west and south Wales and in the west Midlands. During this period its collective expertise has grown, and its core staff have been in place for a number of years. Where necessary the core staff are supplemented by additional temporary staff for specific projects. CPAT prides itself on the economic and efficient delivery of archaeological services for a range of developments from road construction and pipeline works to housing developments and windfarm schemes.

CPAT has developed considerable experience in undertaking all aspects of archaeological investigation, including detailed building recording, excavation, topographical survey, and documentary research, and the staff have developed a considerable wealth and range of expertise.

Further information regarding the Trust, including summary reports of some of the more significant recent projects can be found on its website at www.cpat.org.uk



1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) have been invited by Creu Architecture to prepare a specification for undertaking a watching brief during the groundworks within the churchyard surrounding Llanycil parish church, near Bala, in Gwynedd (SH 9147 3485). The church falls in the diocese of St Asaph and is located within Snowdonia National Park.
- 1.2 The proposed works consist of the construction of a new path through the churchyard from the north-west, leading to the church, together with drainage and other service trenches along this line and beneath existing paths as detailed on the accompanying plan. Ground disturbance for the formation of the new path will be limited to 100mm, although services trenches could extend to a depth of 1.0m.
- 1.3 The proposals are not subject to planning permission owing to ecclesiastical exemption, although an application will be required for a Faculty. The Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) have advised that a condition should be placed on the Faculty as follows:
- The Architect is to appoint a competent practising Archaeologist to undertake a watching brief during the ground excavations around the church. Sufficient time should be allowed during the on-site works for the Archaeologist to record any significant remains that are exposed, including buried gravestones.
 - The Contractor must be made aware of the need to work closely with the Archaeologist during the preliminary on-site works; to this end the Contractor must give the Archaeologist a minimum of five days notice as to when he wishes to start on the site.
 - The Archaeologist shall also be responsible for collecting any human bone, fragmentary or complete, which is dug up, following the necessary legal procedures. In conjunction with the incumbent, the Archaeologist should make an appropriate decision as to how those bones or fragments are re-buried.
 - Upon completion of the watching brief, the Archaeologist should produce a written report on the findings, positive or negative, which should be submitted to the secretary of the DAC.
 - If there are any issues with this condition that need to be qualified, the Parish or its appointed Archaeologist should contact the secretary of the DAC immediately, who may then seek clarification from the DAC's archaeologist.
- 1.4 The church is dedicated to St Beuno (PRN 7040) and the present structure dates from the 19th century, replacing an earlier, medieval church. The church consists of a continuous nave and chancel with a west bell-cote, north porch and south vestry. It is thought likely that the medieval church followed the same plan as the current church and the foundations of the nave and chancel are probably medieval, while Roman bricks are visible in the lower masonry course where the porch meets the north wall.
- 1.5 The rectangular cemetery is bounded by a dry-stone wall, with an entrance via a renovated 19th-century lych-gate in the north-west corner. The churchyard was enlarged in 1897 and again in 1944. There are a number of semicircular stones in the boundary wall close to the entrance, thought to be the steps of a former cross and dial.

2 Objectives

2.1 The objectives are:

- to record any archaeological features and artefacts identified during the archaeological watching brief to ensure their preservation by record;
- to retrieve any disarticulated bone which may be disturbed during the works and ensure that this is stored in an appropriate place for reburial at the earliest opportunity;
- to identify and record the presence of any buried memorials and tomb structures encountered within the line of the pipe trench.
- to identify and record any evidence for earlier activity on the site.
- to identify and record any fully articulated human remains which may be encountered. Where these are encountered works must halt and the Archaeological Advisor to the DAC should be consulted to determine the appropriate response.
- to prepare a report outlining the results of the watching brief.

3 Methods

- 3.1 The watching brief will be conducted in accordance with this specification and will be carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008). The Ministry of Justice will be contacted in advance to determine whether any formal licences may be required.
- 3.2 The watching brief will be undertaken to include: the archaeological supervision of all relevant groundworks, including any reduction of levels and excavation for services within the churchyard, together with appropriate archaeological excavation and recording of any significant features or deposits which may be revealed.
- 3.3 All archaeological deposits and/or features noted during the watching brief will be recorded and, where appropriate, excavated by hand and recorded by drawn section/plan and/or photography. All photography will be in digital format to a minimum of 6 mega pixels. All features will be recorded on an overall site plan which will be produced either by hand or by total station survey.
- 3.4 The on-site contractors are required to allow sufficient opportunity for appropriate archaeological excavation and recording to be undertaken. Every effort will be made to minimise any disruption to the overall scheme of works.
- 3.5 It has been assumed that service trenches will be excavated mechanically, under close archaeological supervision. To facilitate the identification of any archaeological remains the machine should be fitted with a flat, toothless bucket.
- 3.6 Any archaeological features or deposits will be subject to a sampling strategy in order to assess their significance and provide information regarding function, form, date etc. Initially, each feature will be investigated by 50% sampling, although a smaller percentage may be more appropriate for larger features, particularly those of a linear nature. Features which produce significant artefactual evidence may be subject to a higher sampling rate, possibly up to full excavation.
- 3.7 Where articulated human remains are encountered works must halt and the Archaeological Advisor to the DAC will be consulted to determine the appropriate response. The preferred



option will be for articulated remains to be retained in situ and discussions will be conducted with the client and contractors to that end. Should this not prove practicable, remains will be lifted carefully and retained for assessment in accordance with the joint English Heritage and Church of England's *Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England* (2005). All human remains will be reburied within the churchyard at the earliest opportunity.

- 3.9 Following the on-site work an illustrated report will be prepared in accordance with appropriate IfA guidance for submission in digital, PDF format. This will contain, as necessary, conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Historic Background; Watching Brief; Conclusions and References, together with any appropriate appendices on archives and finds.
- 3.10 The site archive will be prepared to specifications in English Heritage's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) system.

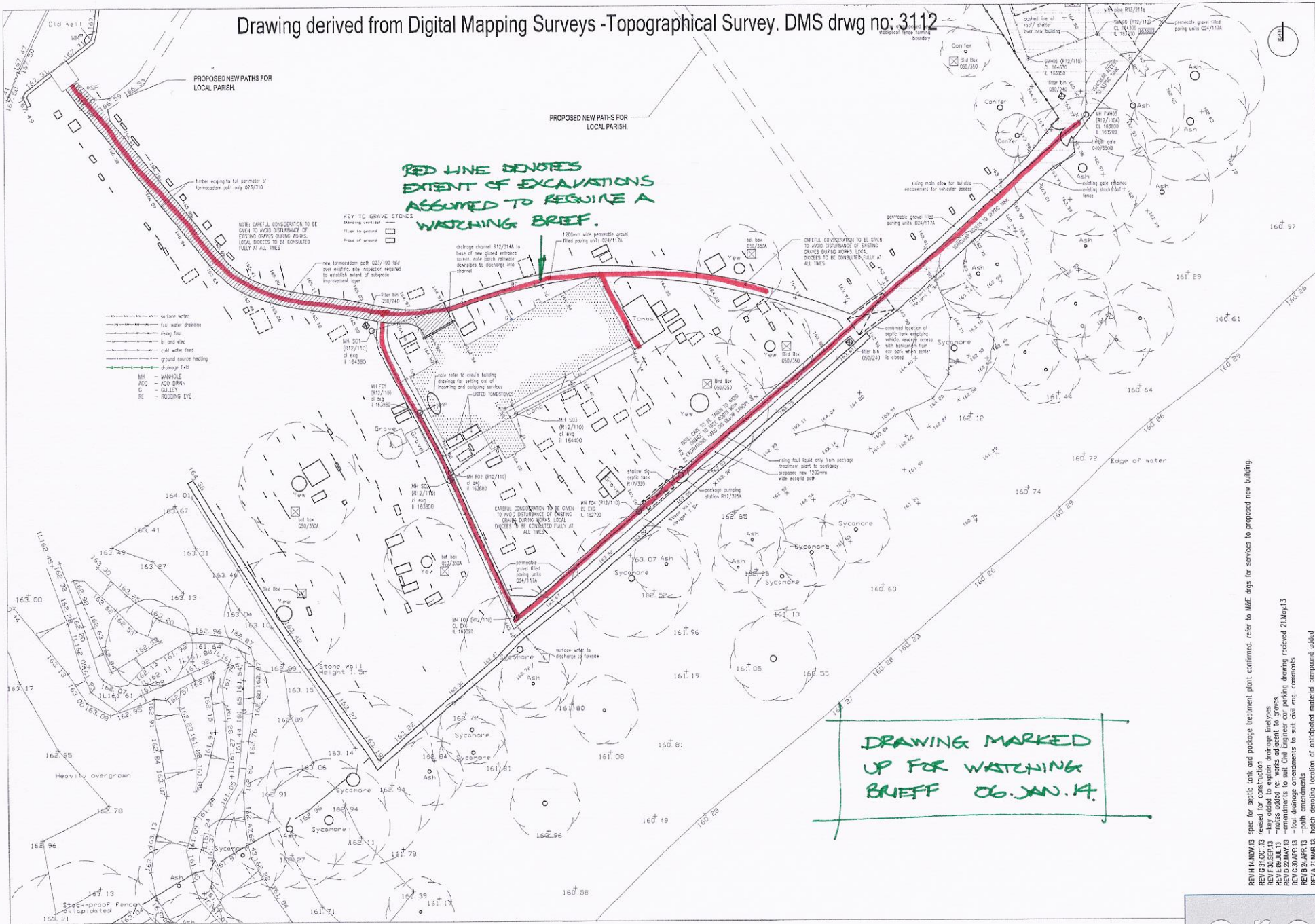
4 Resources and Programming

- 4.1 The watching brief will be undertaken by an experienced field archaeologist and overall supervision will be by Mr N Jones, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute for Archaeologists. The watching brief will be conducted according to the IfA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (2008).
- 4.2 The duration of the watching brief will be entirely determined by the contractor's programme of work. CPAT require a minimum of three week's written notice prior to the commencement of the watching brief.
- 4.3 All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist who conducted the fieldwork. Copies of the report will be deposited with the client within one month of the completion of on-site works, with additional copies provided to the regional Historic Environment Record and the Archaeologist for Snowdonia National Park Authority.
- 4.4 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, such as radiocarbon dating and finds conservation. Any detailed excavation, post-excavation and publication would be the subject of a separate WSI and costing.
- 4.5 The Archaeological Advisor to the DAC and the Archaeologist for Snowdonia National Park Authority will be kept informed of the work programme and any significant discoveries.
- 4.6 Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 4.7 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance.

N.W. Jones
9 January 2014



Drawing derived from Digital Mapping Surveys -Topographical Survey, DMS drwg no: 3112



DRAWING MARKED UP FOR WATCHING BRIEFF 06.JAN.14.

RE/H/14 NOV 13 spec for septic tank and package treatment plant confirmed refer to M&E drgs for services to proposed new building.
 RET/G/10 OCT 13 revised for construction
 RET/G/11 OCT 13 - revised for drainage layout
 RET/G/12 OCT 13 - roads added re: works adjacent to groves.
 RET/G/13 MAY 13 - amendments to suit. Civil Engineer car parking drawing received 21.May.13
 RET/G/14 APR 13 - four drainage amendments to suit civil eng. comments
 RET/G/15 APR 13 - path amendments
 REV/21 MAR 13 hatch denoting location of anticipated material compound added

PROJECT: EGLWYS BEUNO SANT, LLANYCIL, BALA
 DRAWING TITLE: SITE AS PROPOSED 1/3
 DRAWN: AKH
 CHECKED: A.J.R.
 SCALE: 1:200 @ A1
 DATE: AUG.12
 DRG NO: C209/PL15h

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