

Denbigh Flood Risk Management Scheme

Archaeological Desk Based Assessment and Watching Brief



By Chris E Smith BA (Hons) MA MIFA Report No. 597

Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd Old Chapel Farm, Llanidloes Powys SY18 6JR Telephone: 01686 413857 E-mail: info@cambarch.co.uk





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Prepared For: Vic Mohun

On Behalf of: Martin Wright Associates

Edited by:	
Signed:	
Position:	
Date	

Authorised by
Signed:
Position:
Date:

By Chris E Smith BA (Hons) MA MIFA

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Non Technical Summary

This report results from work undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd (CAP) for Martin Wright Associates on two separate areas within the town of Denbigh, Denbighshire, as part of a flood risk management scheme.

The work involved a desk based assessment of the two areas and a watching brief during groundworks. The first area, Area six, is located close to the site of a medieval Carmelite Friary whilst the second area, Area two, is located between Denbigh Castle and the Church of St. Mary in an area of suspected medieval urban activity.

The work within Area six consisted of several trial trenches excavated in order to locate a modern culvert. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed. Groundworks within Area two revealed no significant archaeological features, although a slag surface of post-medieval date was uncovered within three trenches near St. Mary's Church. No artefacts were found or retained.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 The site is centred around two separate areas within the town of Denbigh, Denbighshire. The first is located in the northeast of the town, close to the site of a medieval Carmelite Friary, at NGR SJ 05978 66494 (Fig 1). The second area is located in the southwest of the town between Denbigh Castle and the church of St. Mary at NGR SJ 05003 66104 (Fig 1).
- 1.1.2 An archaeological desk based assessment and watching brief was proposed by M. J. Walters of the curatorial section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT). A brief for the works was supplied by M. J. Walters of CPAT against which a specification for the works was drawn up by Mark Houliston (CAP).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The solid geology underlying the Denbigh area is made up of the Tournaisian and Visean carboniferous Limestone series (British Geological Survey 2001).
- 1.2.2 Both of the assessment areas are set within the urban environment of the town of Denbigh. The town lies partly on flat ground and partly on raised ground to the east and west respectively. The Afon Clwyd flows to the east with the eastern part of the town built on its flat flood plain.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The town was recorded by Emmanuel Bowen (1720). "The County of DENBIGH is 116 Miles in Circumference, contains about 410000 Acres. Tis divided into 12 Hundreds in which are contained 4 Market Towns & only one Borough Town [viz. Denbigh], 57 Parishes & about 6398 Houses. The Air is good but sharp, & ye soil Hilly, intermixed with fruitful valleys, that of Clwyd is the Chief, well inhabited by Gentry. The Western parts are healthy but improved with ye Ashes of Turf. Here is plenty of Rye or Corn, Goats & Sheep, & good quantity of Lead Oar in several parts of this County".
- 1.3.2 The following is an extract from Samuel Lewis's Topographical dictionary of Wales (1833): "A borough, market town, and parish, having exclusive jurisdiction, in the Union of St. Asaph, locally

in the hundred of Isaled, county of Denbigh (of which it is the ancient shire town); 218 miles (NW) from London, on the road from Ruthin to St. Asaph, containing 3786 inhabitants. The town is picturesquely situated in the centre of the rich and beautiful Vale of Clwyd, partly at the base, and partly at the aclivity, of a steep, isolated, rocky eminence, the summit of which is crowned by the venerable remains of the castle. The environs abound with beautiful and richly varied scenery; the air is remarkably salubrious; the land in the vicinity is rich and in a high state of cultivation; and in the immediate neighbourhood are numerous splendid seats and elegant villas, inhabitated by opulent families, whom the advantages of its situation have induced to select Denbigh for their residence".

- 1.3.3 Planned settlement at Denbigh dates from the reign of Edward I when a castle and walled borough were established by Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln. There are suggestions of earlier occupation, however, and the hilltop site on which the new town was built is traditionally regarded as the location of the stronghold of Dafydd ap Gruffudd (Soulsby 1983).
- 1.3.4 Henry de Lacy granted the new borough's first charter of privileges in 1285 when 63 burgages are listed. A second charter dating from the period 1295 1305 lists only 45 burgages, the reduction stemming from an attack on the town by Welsh rebels in 1294, but it does mention the existence of the town walls, which are absent from the earlier grant. The castle must also have been substantially completed by 1305, as the castle and walls were planned as a unity to enclose the hilltop area. They command control of the Clwyd valley in association with Ruthin, which is of a similar date (Soulsby 1983).
- 1.3.5 The name, Denbigh, implies that this stalwart hilltop may have been occupied long before the Middle Ages. The word derives from the Welsh, "Dinbych", or "little fort", and, according to CADW (Welsh Historic Monuments), it "incorporates the word "dinas" (a rocky fortress), which suggests that it was long regarded as a natural stronghold. CADW also states that there may have been a fort here in the early Christian period". However, nothing tangible survives to prove this theory.

Sweeping away any traces of the Welsh castle, de Lacy followed plans probably designed by the great medieval engineer; Master James of St. George, who was working closely with the king at that time. By 1284, Denbigh Castle and its connecting town had begun to dominate its surroundings.

Essentially, Denbigh Castle was assembled during two phases, the first of which included the rapid construction of rather insubstantial outer defences along the southern and western sides. Other features probably begun during the first phase include the eastern towers, part of the curtain wall, and perhaps the great gatehouse. However, these latter structures were not finished until the second phase, which lingered into the 14th century.

The second building period brought the bulk of structures to the site. In response to the short-lived success of the previous year's rebellion led by Madog ap Llywelyn, in 1295 de Lacy began the construction of the gatehouse, the great hall, an extensive residential complex, and massive towers. Dying in 1311, Henry de Lacy did not live to see the castle completed. Evidently, it is possible that the fortress was never finished.

During the second phase, heavy defences were added to the castle: the curtain wall was refortified with thicker and higher walls, and huge polygonal towers were constructed on either side of the gatehouse. The gatehouse itself was heavily buttressed with twin towers facing outward and an

enormous tower, called the Badnes Tower, added to the interior. Together, the three octagonal towers gave the gatehouse incredible strength, and an unusual overall plan. Between the twin towers was a heavily defended gate passage with murder-holes, a series of strategically-placed portcullises, powerful wooden doors, and arrow slits. One of the towers contained the porter's lodgings, while the other served as the prison. An interesting set of latrines still occupies the prison tower.

The eastern part of the Inner Ward contained most of the domestic structures at Denbigh Castle. Now greatly ruined, they can be identified by key features. For example, the hexagonal Kitchen Tower contains two enormous fireplaces. The tower sits adjacent to the Great Hall, of which only the foundations have survived. Inside this huge building are traces of the buttery and pantry, and the raised dais, where the lord and honoured guests sat. At the southern end of the Hall, the lord could withdraw into his own private chambers, which were located inside the so-called White Chamber Tower, another ruin. Alongside this polygonal tower sat a postern gate, through which supplies of water taken from a second well could be accessed. This water probably supplemented the offerings from the castle's huge well, which is located inside the castle, appropriately, near the Kitchen Tower.

At the south-western corner of the Inner Ward stand the remains of the Treasure House Tower, where the vital records for the Lordship of Denbigh were once stored. The western side of the curtain supported auxiliary buildings, such as the stables, workshops, and structures for storing supplies. About midway along the wall, a short descent leads to the sally port, a curious feature once defended with a portcullis and murder holes (Hull 1994).

- 1.3.6 It is evident from the wording of the second charter (1295-1305) that the new town had already expanded beyond the 9 ½ acres of the walled area, with burgages spreading down the northern slopes of the hill. By 1305, in fact, the extra-mural area had come to out-shadow the walled enceinte, with some 183 burgages outside against only 52 within. By 1334 it had grown to cover an area of 57 acres. Subsequent accounts record even further expansion in this area, with 438 burgages recorded in 1373. An early 16th century survey noted that the suburbs extended for three quarters of a mile north of the castle (Soulsby 1983).
- 1.3.7 The details of this development are fortunately recorded by John Speed in 1610, and his map (Fig 4) indicates that the modern street pattern was already firmly established by that time, with development along Love lane, 'Chappell lane' (the present factory ward area), High Street, 'Sandy Lane' (Beacons Hill), 'Lower Street' (Vale Street) and 'Parke Lane' (Park Street) (Soulsby 1983).
- 1.3.8 The Order of the Brothers of Our Lady of the Mount, or Carmelites, is a Catholic religious order founded in the 12th century on Mount Carmel, Israel. The Carmelite Friary at Denbigh was founded in the 1270s-80s and dissolved in 1537 when there were four friars. It stood just beyond the north-east end of Denbigh borough. In the early sixteenth century the Bishops of St Asaphs made their home here in the 'Bishop's Chamber' and carried out much building work. Following the dissolution the Bishops leased the property and an inventory taken at this time lists the choir or church, vestry, chamber, hall, kitchen, brewhouse and buttery. A contemporary document mentions the house, stables, demesnes, terraces, gardens and orchards. The Friary, labelled 'The Abbey', is shown on Speed's town plan published in 1610 (Fig 4). The remains consist of the ruined church, intact until it was gutted by fire in 1898, and the greatly altered dormitory and refectory block, now Abbey Cottage. The church is a late thirteenth century building with several later features, notably the great blocked Perpendicular east window. It consisted of the Friar's choir to the east and the public nave to the west, divided by a screened passage with a leaden spire above. The cloister was

on the south side of the church with the chapter house and bishop's chamber in the east range and the dormitory & refectory block on the south. This block appears to be a late medieval building, possibly early sixteenth century; however, few medieval features survive (Wiles 2008). There seems some discrepancy over the foundation date of the Friary at Denbigh with Soulsby (1983) amongst others dating the foundation to 1350, one hundred years later than Wiles (2008) states.

- 1.3.9 Just north of Denbigh Castle stands the tower of St. Hilary's chapel. The tower is the only reminder of the medieval chapel that once offered services to the castle and the town. The chapel stood almost midway between the castle gatehouse and the northernmost face of the town's walling. Only the fine fortified tower survived the demolition efforts of 1923. Religious services were moved to a new church in 1874, that of St. Mary (Hull 1994).
- 1.3.10 The foundation stone of the new church, which was intended to replace St. Hilary's, was laid on 6 July 1871. The consecration service was due to take place on 29 January 1874; but on 27 January, the Bishop of St.Asaph announced that he would not conduct the ceremony, because he considered that a panel of the reredos "had a somewhat ritualistic tendency" i.e. it depicted a Crucifix instead of a Cross. Eventually the panel was removed, and after a delay of almost two years, the Bishop consecrated the church on Tuesday, 7 December 1875. St. Mary's now acts, to all intents and purposes, as the parish church of Denbigh.

2 Aims and Objectives

2.1 Desk Based Assessment

- 2.1.1 The main scope and objectives of the desk based study were to reveal the nature, significance and, where possible, chronology of the archaeology within the area of the proposed development. The purpose of a desk-based assessment, in accordance with standards and guidance as laid down by the *Institute for Archaeologists*, is to gain information about the known or potential archaeological resource within the given area (including presence or absence, character and extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and relative quality of the potential archaeological resource), in order to make an assessment of its merit in context, leading to one or more of the following:
 - The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource;
 - The formulation of a strategy for further investigation, whether or not intrusive, where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be devised;
 - The formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a program of research.

2.2 Watching Brief

- 2.2.1 The main purpose of the Watching Brief was to preserve, by record, all buried archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development and to;
- 2.2.2 Provide an opportunity for the archaeologists present 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 itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a

satisfactory and proper standard.

3 Desk Based Assessment Methodology

- 3.1.1 For the purposes of the archaeological desk based study the following repositories were visited/consulted;
 - Regional Historic Environment Record, Welshpool
 - Portable Antiquities Scheme (Denbighshire)
 - National Library, Aberystwyth
 - RCAHMW, Aberystwyth
 - Archaeology Data Service
 - Cadw
- 3.1.2 At these repositories the following sources were consulted:
 - All Ordnance Survey Maps
 - Tithe Enclosure Award and Parish Maps
 - Estate Maps
 - Historical documents pertaining to the site
 - Archaeological books and journals
 - Unpublished reports
 - Aerial photographs
 - SAM data
- 3.1.3 At the Clwyd Powys Historic Environment Record a search of all sites recorded in the HER as being located either within or up to 500m from the edge of the assessment area was undertaken. This was then supplemented with a similar search of data held by the Archaeology Data Service.

4 Watching Brief Methodology

- 4.1.1 The field work was undertaken by Irma Bernardus (Site Supervisor). After the initial removal of overburden deposits using a mechanical excavator the trench sections and base were cleaned by hand.
- 4.1.2 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and Guidance: for an archaeological desk-based assessment and archaeological evaluation* and current Health and Safety legislation.

4.2 **Finds**

4.2.1 All finds were to be recovered by hand and bagged by context throughout the evaluation. All small finds were to be given a separate number and recorded on a separate register.

5 Desk Based Assessment Results

5.1 HER Data

- 5.1.1 A search of the Regional HER in Welshpool revealed a total of 22 known entries within a 500m radius of Area 6, and 13 known entries within a 500m radius of Area 2 (Figs 2&3). In order to simplify the search data, listed building evidence has not been included in this section. This is owing to the large amount of data returned for listed buildings during the HER search (161 listed buildings in Area 2 and 32 in Area 6). All listed buildings recorded within a 500m radius of each area are detailed in Appendix 3. Fig 2 shows the assessment areas in relation to the areas of suspected medieval activity and scheduled ancient monuments. Fig 3 shows the assessment areas in relation to sites recorded within the HER.
- 5.1.2 <u>Palaeolithic.</u> No finds or features from the Palaeolithic period are recorded within a 500m radius of either assessment area.
- 5.1.3 <u>Mesolithic.</u> No finds or features from the Mesolithic period are recorded within a 500m radius of either assessment area.
- 5.1.4 <u>Neolithic.</u> No finds or features from the Neolithic period are recorded within a 500m radius of either assessment area.
- 5.1.5 <u>Bronze Age.</u> No finds or features from the Bronze Age period are recorded within a 500m radius of either assessment area.
- 5.1.6 <u>Iron Age.</u> No finds or features from the Iron Age period are recorded within a 500m radius of either assessment area.
- 5.1.7 <u>Roman Period.</u> No finds or features from the Roman period are recorded within a 500m radius of either assessment area. However, the predicted line of the Colwen to St. Asaph Roman road runs north to south between the two assessment areas.
- 5.1.8 <u>Post Roman/Dark Age/Saxon/Viking</u>. No finds or features from the Post Roman/Dark Age/Saxon/Viking period are recorded within a 500m radius of either assessment area.
- 5.1.9 <u>Medieval Period.</u> Both assessment areas are located within areas defined by the HER as being within the medieval town of Denbigh. Assessment Area 6 is located within 500m of the site of the medieval Carmelite Friary (SAM DE023), which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The HER also lists Palmant as medieval placename evidence of a paved road (PRN 101474). Other medieval features within Area 6 recorded by the HER include an Ossuary (PRN 101836) and a tile kiln (PRN 102021).
- 5.1.10 Assessment Area 2 is located within 500m of the medieval Town walls (SAM DE002), Denbigh Castle and medieval town (SAM DE156), Denbigh medieval town (north east corner) (SAM DE225), Leicester's Church (SAM DE044) and St. Hilary's Chapel tower (SAM DE005), all of which are Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Within Area 2 the HER records three other medieval features, these include; St. Mary's Church and Churchyard (PRNs 16768 and 16983), The chapel of St. Anne (PRN 102749) and a possible motte at The Crown Hotel (PRN 44450).
- 5.1.11 Post medieval Period. A total of five entries in the local HER were located within a 500m radius of

Area 2. These are as follows:

PRN 101472 – Lenten Pool, site of former pool in low lying area of Denbigh PRN 102591 – Bryn Park Mound – Possibly part of castle siegework PRN 26656 – Small quarry outside town walls PRN 70765 – No.s 4&6 Hall Square – Previously listed buildings, since unlisted PRN 57614 – Goblin Tower siegework finds

A total of four entries in the local HER were located within a 500m radius of Area 6. These are as follows:

PRN 101813 – Alavowlia Platforms, possible settlement site PRN 85133 – Alavowlia farm rubbing stone PRN 85145 – Alavowlia farmstead PRN 96125 – Salem Methodist Chapel

5.1.12 Modern. The local HER records only one entry of modern date within a 500m radius of Area 2.

PRN 70245 – WW1 prisoner of war hospital

The local HER records only fifteen entries of modern date within a 500m radius of Area 6 although these all belong to separate features within the Alavowlia farmstead. These are as follows:

PRN 85134 – Alavowlia farm building one PRN 85135 – Alavowlia Barn one PRN 85136 – Alavowlia Barn two PRN 85137 – Alavowlia farm building two PRN 85138 – Alavowlia farm milking parlour one PRN 85139 – Alavowlia farm milking parlour two PRN 85140 – Alavowlia farm animal shed PRN 85141 – Alavowlia farm enclosed yard PRN 85142 – Alavowlia farm orchard PRN 85143 – Alavowlia farm orchard PRN 85144 – Alavowlia farm farmyard PRN 85146 – Alavowlia farm farmyard PRN 85147 – Alavowlia farm farmhouse PRN 85148 – Alavowlia farm building range PRN 85149 – Alavowlia farm building three

5.2 Map Regression Analysis

5.2.1 The 1610 John Speed map (Fig 4) of Denbigh shows both assessment areas 1 and 2 in reasonably clear detail. Assessment area 6 appears to be located within the land surrounding the Friary. The land appears to be tree covered and relatively blank of structures. However, owing to the age of the map and the scale at which it has been produced this may not be an accurate reflection of the land use of the time. Assessment area 2 is shown as being made up of houses fronting onto the street with well defined garden areas to their rear. A small bridge is shown crossing a stream. The area is marked on the map as being named 'Lenton Poole'.

- 5.2.2 The mid 19th century Tithe map of the parish of Denbigh shows the agricultural land surrounding the town though no specific detail is shown of either assessment area. The map is therefore not included in this report.
- 5.2.3 The 1840 1st Series OS map (Fig 5) shows both assessment areas though not in particularly great detail. The area of Lenten pool, Area 2, appears much the same on the 1840 map as shown on Speed's 1610 map. Area 2 appears, as it did in 1610, to be covered by houses fronting onto streets with open areas to the rear. The same lack of change can be said of the appearance of Area 6. Area 6 is shown as being a relatively open area. The Friary is named 'Yr Abbey' on the 1840 map. An infirmary is also marked as being reasonably close to Area 6.
- 5.2.4 The 1875 1st Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey map (Fig 6) shows the assessment areas in very clear detail. Both areas, despite property boundaries and streets being shown very clearly, appear largely the same as seen on previous maps.
- 5.2.5 The 1900 2nd Edition six inch OS map (Fig 7&8) shows the assessment areas in very clear detail. In its basic detail the map appears similar to both the 1840 and 1875 maps discussed above. This is because not a great deal of development appears to have taken place to expand Denbigh beyond its 19th century size. Increased amounts of structures within the town itself are evident as are more roads (though this may in part be due to the better quality of this particular map). Area 2 appears to have more structures and a slightly more complex road network than had previously been evident. Urban expansion in the area however is not vast. Area 6 appears to have seen little increase in development by this point. Field boundaries are marked in the area though no other change is noted.
- 5.2.6 The 1912 2nd Edition six inch OS map (Fig 9) also shows an increased number of houses in both areas, though particularly in Area 6. No other features were noted.

5.3 Map Regression Summary

5.3.1 The map regression analysis has shown that both assessment areas have only become built up through increased urbanisation in the relatively recent past. Neither area lies at the heart of the medieval town of Denbigh, rather each lies on the outskirts. Development in these areas appears to be largely post-medieval and nineteenth century in date.

5.4 Aerial Photographs

5.4.1 The assessment areas are well covered by aerial photography, the majority dating from 1946 and 1954. However, owing to the urban nature of the areas, and the relatively small size of the trenches, aerial photograph analysis was not found to be a suitable assessment method. A full list of all the aerial photographs consulted is contained within the bibliographic section of this report.

5.5 **Portable Antiquites Scheme**

5.5.1 A search of the Portable Antiquites Scheme finds database yielded no results for either assessment area or their immediate surrounds.

6 Desk Based Assessment Conclusions

6.1.1 The HER data has shown that, aside from a plethora of post-medieval listed buildings, the majority of features recorded within a 500m radius of each assessment area are modern.

- 6.1.2 Each assessment area is in close proximity to Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Area 2 is close to the castle and surrounds whilst Area 6 is close to the site of the Carmelite Friary.
- 6.1.3 Each assessment area appears to be located on the edge of the suspected limit of the medieval town of Denbigh. They do not appear to have been developed until well into the post-medieval and modern period.

7 Watching Brief Results

7.1 Soils and ground conditions

7.1.1 Weather conditions during the groundworks in Area 6 were good, whilst during the groundworks in Area 2 weather conditions were very wet and windy. These conditions did not hamper any activity.

7.1.2 **Descriptions**

Area 6

A watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of several trial trenches within Area 6 in order to locate and inspect a modern culvert (Fig 10). The trial trenches were cut using a small mechanical excavator. Small trenches were cut by machine in order to locate both ends of the culvert (Plate 1). Trenches on both ends of the culvert were left open in order for an internal inspection to be carried out (Plate 2). Maximum excavation depth within trench one was approximately 1.85m, while within trench 2 a depth of approximately 1.35m was reached. The culvert runs north east – south west and measures 40m in length, 1.5m wide and 1.05m in height. The exposed subsoils were redeposited and mixed in nature. The underlying natural was not exposed.

Area 2

A total of eight trial trenches were excavated in order to assess main ground services and to see if sufficient space was present for the installation of a new culvert (Fig 11). All trenches were excavated by a small mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket.

- 7.1.3 Trench TT05 measured 7 metres in length, 1.2 metres wide, and had a maximum depth of 1.4 metres (Plate 3). It was aligned on a north west to south east axis. This trench was extended in width to avoid a water service. All deposits were mixed in nature and disturbed by modern activity. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed
- 7.1.4 Trench TT 06 measured 6 metres in length, 0.6 metre wide, and had a maximum depth of 1.4 metres (Plate 4). It was aligned on an east to west axis. All deposits were mixed in nature and disturbed by modern activity. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed.
- 7.1.5 Trench TT08 measured 3.2 metres in length, 0.6 metre wide, and had a maximum depth of 1.4 metres (Plate 5). It was aligned on a north to south axis. In both east and west facing sections a slag surface was exposed at a depth of 0.48 metres (Plate 6). This slag surface was also uncovered within trench TT 09 and was very compact in nature. The slag surface had been cut through by modern activity leaving it damaged at the northern and southern ends of the trench. The slag surface was above redeposited clay. No other archaeological features or deposits were exposed.

- 7.1.6 Trench TT09 measured 3.5 metres in length, 0.6 metre wide, and had a maximum depth of 1.5 metres (Plate 7). It was aligned on a north to south axis and was located approximately 15 metres east of trench TT08. As mentioned in the description of trench TT08, a slag surface was also exposed in this trench. It was located at a depth of 0.7 metres at the south end of the trench measuring 0.4 metres in length, 0.6 metres wide, and 0.25 metres thick and, as in trench TT08, was located above redeposited clay (Plate 8). Some small fragments of modern pottery and animal bone were uncovered from this deposit, but not retained. It had been cut through by modern activity at the north end. In the middle of this trench a stone pipe was exposed at a depth of 1.38 metres.
- 7.1.7 Trench TT09 was backfilled and later extended at the south end. This trench measured 3 metres in length, 0.6 metres wide, and had a maximum depth of 2.1 metres (Plate 9). The slag surface continued in this trench at the same depth, but was cut through by modern activity at the north end. The slag deposit measured 0.9 metres in length, 0.6 metres wide and 0.3 metres thick. Some modern tile, one glass fragment and animal bone from this deposit were uncovered, but not retained. The slag surface appeared to peter out towards the south end of the trench although a compact stony dark grey silty clay deposit did continue at the same depth. This was also cut through at the south end by modern activity (Plate 10). This same deposit was revealed underneath the slag surface and was situated above the redeposited clay. The natural geology was exposed at a depth of 1.3 metres.
- 7.1.8 Trench TT10 measured 4.5 metres in length, 0.6 metres wide, and had a maximum depth of 2.1 metres (Plate 11). It was aligned on a north west to south east axis. All deposits were mixed in nature and disturbed by modern activity. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed.
- 7.1.9 Trench TT11 measured 4 metres in length, 0.6 metres wide, and had a maximum depth of 2.1 metres (Plate 12) . It was aligned on a north west to south east axis. After removal of tarmac and hardcore, redeposited light brown clay was exposed at 1.2 metres. At a depth of 1.8 metres a small lens of grey clay was visible running along the south-west side of the trench. It was approximately 0.2 metres wide and 0.3 metres in depth. The total depth and extend of this lens was not visible. The grey clay contained occasional small rounded stones and a few flecks of charcoal. This feature is difficult to interpret as investigation was not possible due to the narrow width and depth of the trench.
- 7.1.10 Trench TT12 measured 4 metres in length, 0.6 metres wide, and had a maximum depth of 2.1 metres (Plate 13). It was aligned on a north west to south east axis. All deposits were mixed in nature and disturbed by modern activity. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed.

8 Finds

8.1.1 Only very few finds were recovered from the trenches. The majority of the finds assemblage consisted of 19th century and modern glass and ceramics as well as fragments of animal bone. Due to the low intrinsic value of these finds they were not retained.

9 Discussion and Interpretation

9.1 **Overall interpretation**

9.1.1 Evidence from the desk based assessment suggested that little archaeology, in terms of medieval features, was likely to be present owing to each assessment area being located on the very outskirts of the medieval town. The desk based assessment further suggested that any archaeology present was likely to be 19th century or later in date.

- 9.1.2 These conclusions were borne out by the lack of medieval archaeology located during the watching brief. Those features that were discovered, such as the slag surface, are likely to be relatively modern in date.
- 9.1.3 The findings of the work undertaken do not necessarily preclude medieval and earlier archaeological material existing in these areas. However, given that services are located in each area the likelihood of intact archaeological deposits being located is low.

10 Acknowledgements

10.1.1 Thanks to; Irma Bernardus for undertaking the watching brief, Sophie Watson at CPAT for providing the HER data and all the helpful staff at the RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

11 Bibliography & Sources

Search of regional HER, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, Welshpool

- 500m radius around each assessment area

Scheduled Ancient Monument GIS Polygons from Cadw

Search of aerial photographs held by the RCAHMW, Aberystwyth, and the Welsh Assembly collection, Cardiff. List of photographs consulted below:

Sortie No.	Frame No.	Date
3G/TUD/UK/34	5360	16/01/1946
3G/TUD/UK/34	5369-74	16/01/1946
3G/TUD/UK/34	5589-96	16/01/1946
3G/TUD/UK/204	5187-8	12/05/1946
3G/TUD/UK/204	5237-39	12/05/1946
3G/TUD/UK/204	5288-90	12/05/1946
58/1416	16-18	21/04/1954
58/1416	55-56	21/04/1954
58/1461	73-74	03/06/1954

Search of all readily available cartographic material held at the National Library, Aberystwyth and Envirocheck Landmark Mapping

- 1610 John Speed Map of Denbigh
- 1841 Tithe Map of Denbigh Parish
- 1st Edition 1:2500 1875 OS Map
- 2nd Edition 1:10560 1900 OS Map
- 2nd Edition 1:2500 1912 OS Map

Search of Portable Antiquites Scheme finds database – Denbigh Parish - 12th October 2009

British Geological Survey 2001. Solid Geology Map. UK South Sheet. 1:625000 Scale. 4th edition

Bowen, E 1720 *Britannia Depicta - Cited on* http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/wal/DEN/ - accessed 12th October 2009

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Wiles, J 2008 Denbigh Carmelite Friary.

http://www.coflein.gov.uk/en/site/93291/details/DENBIGH,+CARMELITE+FRIARY+(WHITE+FRIAR S)/ - accessed 12th October 2009



APPENDIX I: Figures



Fig 1: Map showing general location of assessment areas



Fig 2: Map showing locations of assessment area in relation to areas of suspected medieval activity and Scheduled Ancient Monuments



Fig 3: Map showing location of assessment areas in relation to HER sites



Fig 4: John Speeds 1610 Map of Denbigh with assessment areas overlaid



Fig 5: 1840 1st Series OS map of Denbigh showing assessment areas



Fig 6: 1875 1:2500 1st Edition OS Map showing both assessment areas



Fig 7: 1900 1:10560 2nd Edition OS Map showing assessment area 2



Fig 8: 1900 1:10560 2nd Edition OS Map showing assessment area 6



Fig 9: 1912 1:2500 2nd Edition OS Map showing assessment areas



Fig 10: Location of Trial Trenches in Area 2 (do not scale) (Google Earth Image, 2006)



Fig 11: Location of Trial Trenches in Area 6 near the remains of the Carmelite Friary, Denbigh (do not scale) (Google Earth Image, 2006)



APPENDIX II: Photo plates



Plate 1: Example view of a trial trench to locate culvert, looking east, scale 1 x 1m.



Plate 2: View of end of culvert in Trench 1, looking north-east, scale 1 x 1m.



Plate 3: View of Trench TT05, looking south-east. Scale 2 m.



Plate 4: View of Trench TT06, looking north-west. Scale 1 x 1 m.



Plate 5: View of Trench TT08, looking south. Scale 1 x 1 m.



Plate 6: Close up view of slag surface within sections of Trench TT08. Scale 1 x 1 m.



Plate 7: Shot of Trench TT09, looking South. Scale 1 x 1 m.



Plate 8: Close up shot of slag surface within Trench TT09. Scale 0.2 m.



Plate 9: View of extended trench TT09, looking south. Scale 2 m.



Plate 10: Close up view of slag surface within extended trench TT09. Scale 1 x 1 m.



Plate 11: View of trench TT10, looking north-west. Scale 2 m.



Plate 12: View of trench TT11, looking east. Notice lens of grey clay on bottom. Scale 2 m.



Plate 13: View of trench TT12, looking north-west. Scale 2 m.



APPENDIX III: Gazetteer

Area 2 HER Gazetteer

	16,768 Der 29/08/2002 16000/16768	C3		Lenten I CP	Pool 0	29/08/2002	(Multiple naintain/webmap/16000/16768.htm Multiper	iod
	Parish churc	h								
	16,983 Der 29/08/2002 16000/16983	C3		СР	-	1 29/08/2002	(Structure naintain/webmap/16000/16983.htm Medieva	1
	29,289 Der 29/08/2002 29000/29289	C3		CP 5	0	29/08/2002	(Buried feature naintain/webmap/29000/29289.htm Medieva	1
1 Mediev	101,472 Der 29/08/2002 val		CPAT	CP SJ04766		29/08/2002	(Landform naintain/webmap/101000/101472.htm	Post
	SITE OF FO	RMER POC	DL IN LOW	LYING	AREA O	F DENBIGH	H. N04	186;		
1 Mediev	102,591 Bry 29/08/2002 val		CPAT	CP SJ05426		29/08/2002	(Earthwork naintain/webmap/102000/102591.htm	Post
	MOUND NO	OTED BY D	AVIES NEA	AR THE	GOBLIN	N TOWER O	OF DEN	IBIGH T	OWN WALLS 97 PACES IN CIRC	
1	102,749 Der 29/08/2002 102000/1027	C3{6}		СР 4	157,749	29/08/2002	(Building naintain/webmap/102000/102749.htm	Medieval
	ST ANNES	OR FLEMIN	IGS CHAPI	EL.THE	UNDER	CROFT OF 1	15 ANI	D 17 BR	IDGE ST IS ALL THAT REMAINS	
1	105,955 Der 29/08/2002 Multiperiod	C3		CP SJ05066		0 29/	/08/200		Multiple G:/data/maintain/webmap/105000/105955.ht	m
	1 Location									
									o outcrop" of Carboniferous e Vale of Clwyd. A small tributary	
	26,656 Der 29/08/2002 26000/26656	C3		СР	166,301	29/08/2002	(Earthwork naintain/webmap/26000/26656.htm Post Mee	lieval
	Small quarry	v outside tow	n walls. Of	unknowi	n date.					
	38,244 Der 29/08/2002 38000/38244	C3		CP	e, excava 0	tion 1982-83 29/08/2002			Event naintain/webmap/38000/38244.htm 20th cen	tury

Area 2 HER Gazetteer

The Exchequer Gate consisted of a pair of towers with a gate passage, 3m wide, in between. Excavations in July and Aug

70,245 Kimnel Park Military 29/08/2002 C3{2} CPAT 70000/70245.htm SJ05000660	CP 171,466 29/08/2002 00	Building G:/data/maintain/webmap/70000/70245.htm 20th century						
WWI prisoner of war hospital in Denbigh (Nicol, N, 1999).								
70,765 Denbigh, Hall Square, 4 & 6 29/08/2002 C3 CPAT 70000/70765.htm SJ05326612	CP 171,743 29/08/2002	Building G:/data/maintain/webmap/70000/70765.htm Post Medieval						
This building was a grade II listed bu	lding but was delisted May 199	9.						
44,450 Denbigh, Crown Hotel, poss 29/08/2002 CPAT CP 44000/44450.htm SJ05100661	0 29/08/2002 G:/da	Document ata/maintain/webmap/44000/44450.htm Medieval						
Considered by Spurgeon to be a possible motte (Manley, J, Grenter, S & Gale, F, 1991, pp171).								
57,614 Denbigh town walls, Goblin 29/08/2002 CPAT CP 57000/57614.htm SJ05406591	B 0 29/08/2002	Finds only G:/data/maintain/webmap/57000/57614.htm Post Medieval						
An evaluation was undertaken by CPAT in the school grounds in November 2001 in response to a planning application to c								
58,495 Denbigh town walls, Goblin 29/08/2002 CPAT CP 58000/58495.htm SJ05436598	B 0 29/08/2002	2001 Event G:/data/maintain/webmap/58000/58495.htm 21st century						
An evaluation was undertaken by CPAT in the school grounds in November 2001 in response to a planning application to c								

101,474	Pen Palmant Cae 29/08/2002 101000/10147	C3{6} 4.htm	Road Pla CPAT		156,642 29/08/20	002	Placename G:/data/maintain/webmap/101000/101474.htm
Medieval PLACEN		SJ0666 IE WORI	D PALM	ANT AR	E THOUGHT TO	BE ALL	THAT REMAINS OF A MEDIEVAL
101,813 Post Med	Alavowlia Platfo 29/08/2002 101000/10181 lieval	C3{6}	CPAT 5680	СР	156,963 29/08/20	002	Earthwork G:/data/maintain/webmap/101000/101813.htm
IN A FIE SOME R	LD THAT SLOP	ES GENT ANGULA	TLY TO				LAR ILL-DEFINED PLATFORMS WITH HOLLOWAY. A DOUBTFUL
In Februa	ary 2003 an evalua	ation com	prising ra	apid desk-	-top a		
101,836 Medieval	Denbigh, Ysgol 29/08/2002 101000/10183	C3{6}	CPAT		156,986 29/08/20	002	Buried feature G:/data/maintain/webmap/101000/101836.htm
							g, 0-#.5m deep). Preliminary Probable ossuary of nearby friary.
In 1994 a	a larger area w						
102,021 Medieval		C3{6} 21.htm SJ05556			157,152 29/08/20		Structure G:/data/maintain/webmap/102000/102021.htm
						RE CENT	RE IN 1938.THE E SIDE WAS PART
85,133 Post Med	Denbigh, Rhyl R 29/08/2002 lieval	Road, Alat CPAT SJ06018	СР	rm, rubbi 0		G:/data/r	Structure naintain/webmap/85000/85133.htm 85000/85133.htm
Noted in		and prop	osed for 1	esidentia	l development (PR slot was dug down) and investigated during trial 1 face of the
85,134	Denbigh, Rhyl R 29/08/2002	CPAT	СР	rm, build 0	ing I 29/08/2002	G:/data/1	Building naintain/webmap/85000/85134.htm 85000/85134.htm
19th cent A small,		SJ06018 outbuildii		late roof.	Recorded on OS n	nap of 18	75 (Dodd, L J & Frost, P F, 2003, pp9)
85,135 19th cent Stone bar	•	CPAT SJ06055	CP 566832	0	29/08/2002		Building naintain/webmap/85000/85135.htm 85000/85135.htm three modern king-post frames. Long axi
85,136	Denbigh, Rhyl R					once on	Building
20th cent	29/08/2002 ury	CPAT SJ0605	CP 166847	0	29/08/2002		naintain/webmap/85000/85136.htm 85000/85136.htm corrugated sheet metal hay barn on a c

Area 6 HER Gazetteer

85,137 Denbigh, Rhyl Road, Alafowlia Farm, building II 29/08/2002 CPAT CP 0 29/08/2002	Building G:/data/maintain/webmap/85000/85137.htm 85000/85137.htm						
29/08/2002 CFAT CF 0 29/08/2002 20th century SJ0605166847	2 G./data/mamtani/weomap/85000/85157.htm 85000/85157.htm						
Rectangular structure recorded on the 1912 OS map. Site now occ	cupied by barn (PRN 85136) (Dodd, L J & Frost, P F, 2						
85,138 Denbigh, Rhyl Road, Alafowlia Farm, milking parlour 29/08/2002 CPAT CP 0 29/08/2002	6						
20th centurySJ0604666833Modern concrete, block-built milking parlour with concrete floor							
85,145 Denbigh, Rhyl Road, Alafowlia Farm 29/08/2002 CPAT CP 0 29/08/2002	Multiple G:/data/maintain/webmap/85000/85145.htm 85000/85145.htm						
Post Medieval SJ06026684	2 0./ data/ maintain/ webinap/05000/051+5.1111 05000/051+5.1111						
Post medieval farmstead comprising:- farmhouse (PRN 85146), cobbled yard (PRN 85147), a range of stone buildings (PRN 85148), a single stone building (PRN 85149), a single storey barn (PRN 85135) of mid 19th century date, a hay barn of late 20t							
85,139Denbigh, Rhyl Road, Alafowlia Farm, milking parlour29/08/2002CPATCP029/08/2002	•						
20th centurySJ0603766837Red brick building c.11m N-S by 2.5m E-W, with slated roof, from	nting lane and concrete yard (PRN 85144). Altered on						
85,140 Denbigh, Rhyl Road, Alafowlia Farm, animal shed	Building						
29/08/2002 CPAT CP 0 29/08/2002 20th century SJ0603966851	2 G:/data/maintain/webmap/85000/85140.htm 85000/85140.htm						
Concrete building c.6m x 4m with sloping corrugated roof and a s	ingle animal stall and corner feeder. Abuts the west s						
85,141 Denbigh, Rhyl Road, Alafowlia Farm, enclosed yard	Structure						
29/08/2002 CPAT CP 0 29/08/2002	2 G:/data/maintain/webmap/85000/85141.htm 85000/85141.htm						
20th centurySJ0603466851A small enclosed concrete yard associated with animal shed (PRN)	185140 (Dodd I I & Frost PE 2003 pp10)						
A small enclosed concrete yard associated with annual shed (I Ki	105140) (Dodd, L J & Most, I T, 2003, pp10).						
85,142 Denbigh, Rhyl Road, Alafowlia Farm, orchard	Document						
29/08/2002 CPAT CP 0 29/08/2002 19th century SJ0601766838	2 G:/data/maintain/webmap/85000/85142.htm 85000/85142.htm						
Orchard recorded on 1875 map. Part survives with a stone wall be	oundary on the west side of the building complex (Dodd						
85,143 Denbigh, Rhyl Road, Alafowlia Farm, animal pens	Structure						
29/08/2002 CPAT CP 0 29/08/2002							
20th century SJ0607766854							
Animal pens to the east of the main building complex at Alafowlia	a Farm. Probably dating to the first half of the 20th ce						
85,144 Denbigh, Rhyl Road, Alafowlia Farm, farmyard 29/08/2002 CPAT CP 0 29/08/2002	Structure G:/data/maintain/webmap/85000/85144.htm 85000/85144.htm						
20th century SJ0603566822							
Modern concrete farmyard to south of main building complex (Do	odd, L J & Frost, P F, 2003, pp10).						
85,146 Denbigh, Rhyl Road, Alafowlia Farm, farmhouse	Building						
29/08/2002 CPAT CP 0 29/08/2002	2 G:/data/maintain/webmap/85000/85146.htm 85000/85146.htm						
19th centurySJ0599166841Farmhouse, probably 19th century (Dodd, L J & Frost, P F, 2003,	pp10).						
	 /						

Area 6 HER Gazetteer

85,147 Denbigh, Rl 29/08/200	yl Road, Alafowlia Farm, cob 2 CPAT CP 0	bled yard 29/08/2002	Structure G:/data/maintain/webmap/85000/85147.htm 85000/85147.htm			
19th century	SJ0596266842		-			
Cobbled farmyard, pro	bably 19th century (Dodd, L J	& Frost, P F, 2003	s, pp10).			
	yl Road, Alafowlia Farm, bui	0 0	Building			
29/08/200 19th century	2 CPAT CP 0 SJ0596566851	29/08/2002	G:/data/maintain/webmap/85000/85148.htm 85000/85148.htm			
5		h side of cobbled ya	ard (PRN 85147), probably 19th century (Dodd, L			
85,149 Denbigh, Rl	yl Road, Alafowlia Farm, bui	lding III	Building			
29/08/200		29/08/2002	G:/data/maintain/webmap/85000/85149.htm 85000/85149.htm			
19th century	SJ0597666834	-1.1.1. 1				
Stone building at Alar	Wha Farm, on south side of co	obbied yard (PRN 8	35147), probably 19th century (Dodd, L J & Frost			
	rk Street, Ystrad House, watch		Event			
29/08/200		29/08/2002	G:/data/maintain/webmap/87000/87453.htm 87000/87453.htm			
20th century	SJ056662	luring initial group	d disturbance at land adjoining Ystrad House, p			
A watching oner carry	a out by Piolia Gale III 1998 0	iuring initial ground	r disturbance at fand aujoining Tstrad House, p			
58,086 Denbigh, Rl	yl Road, Alafowlia Farm, des	ktop study 2003	Event			
29/08/200		29/08/2002	G:/data/maintain/webmap/58000/58086.htm 58000/58086.htm			
21st century Desktop study underta	SJ06066677 ken as part of an evaluation ca	rried out by Farthu	orks in February 2003 (see also PRNs 39833 and			
Desktop study underta	ten as part of an evaluation ea	inted out by Lanniw	forks in reordary 2005 (see also r kivs 57055 and			
58,460 Denbigh Fri	ary, salvage recording 1985		Event			
29/08/200		29/08/2002	G:/data/maintain/webmap/58000/58460.htm 58000/58460.htm			
20th century	SJ0593766562					
The Carmelite friary w	as founded in about 1289 and	dissolved in 1538.	Establishment consisted of a church with claustr			
96,125 Denbigh, Ru	thin Road, Former Salem Met	thodist Chapel	Building			
29/08/200		0 29/08/2	002 G:/data/maintain/webmap/96000/96125.htm			
96000/96 Post Medieval	SJ0583366410					
		n of planning permi	ssion in 2002			
Chapel subject to photographic survey, as a condition of planning permission, in 2002.						



APPENDIX IV: Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Denbigh Flood Alleviation Scheme

Site Name:	Denbigh Town Centre
Site Code:	DFAS/09/WB
PRN:	-
NPRN:	-
SAM:	-
Other Ref No:	Report No. 597
NGR:	NGR SJ 05978 66494 NGR SJ 05003 66104
Site Type:	Urban
Project Type:	Desk Based Assessment & Watching Brief
Project Manager:	Chris E Smith
Project Dates:	December 2009
Categories Present:	Post medieval & Modern
Location of Original Archive:	CAPLtd
Location of duplicate Archives:	-
Number of Finds Boxes:	None
Location of Finds:	-
Museum Reference:	-
Copyright:	CAPLtd
Restrictions to access:	None



Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd Old Chapel Farm, Llanidloes Powys SY18 6JR Telephone: 01686 413857 E-mail: info@cambarch.co.uk

