

CPAT Report No.1913


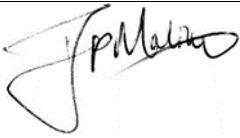
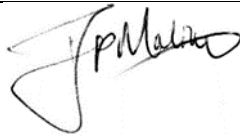
Llansantffraid Electric Cable at Scheduled Monument MG216

Archaeological Watching Brief



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS
CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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 CPAT Project No: 2638
 Project Name: Llansantffraid Electric Cable
 Grid Reference: SJ228206
 County/LPA: Powys
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Summary

A watching brief was undertaken on 8th of August 2022 by CPAT on behalf of Scottish Power Energy Networks for the installation of new power cabling within a scheduled monument (MG216 Roman Supply Depot). It was carried out in a field in the village of Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain, near Oswestry. This required the excavation of two cable trenches which were widened around the area of the pole. No archaeological activity was found.

Crynodeb

Bu Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys yn cynnal briff gwyllo ar 8fed Awst 2022 ar ran Scottish Power Energy Networks ar gyfer gosod ceblau pŵer newydd o fewn heneb gofrestrdig (MG216 Depo Cyflenwadau Rhufeinig). Cynhaliwyd ef mewn cae ym mhentref Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain, ger Croesoswallt. Roedd hyn yn galw am gloddio dwy rych ceblau a ledwyd o amgylch ardal y polyn. Ni ddarganfuwyd unrhyw weithgarwch archeolegol.

1 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on behalf of the client Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) to oversee the excavation of two shallow trenches for the placement of electrical cabling and poles. The site was located in the village of Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain, near Oswestry at SY22 6AX (322820,320635). An archaeological watching brief was required due to the location of the site on a scheduled monument (MG216) for a Roman supply depot.



Fig. 1 Location of site

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2 Historical Background

2.1. This section provides a brief summary of the archaeology and history of the study area and its immediate surrounds, to enable the findings of the assessment to be placed in a wider context.

The site was located on a scheduled ancient monument, a Roman supply depot, consisting of a roughly oval banked enclosure located approximately 80m north-west to south-east by approximately 100m, set on ground falling to the south-east. It is an enclosure that is defined by two ditches. It is thought to be Roman, however no datable material has been found and it may actually be a later prehistoric settlement feature. There is a heavy presence of prehistoric pottery in the area although none found so far on this specific site.

3 Watching Brief

- 3.1. The watching brief was conducted on the 8th of August 2022 in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) (2014) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2020). It consisted of the observation of two trenches for poles 2 and 3 excavated using a toothless digger.
- 3.2. The trench for pole 2 was offset from the south-west boundary of the hedge line approximately 85m north-west of pole 3. The trench was oriented south-west – north-east and measured 3m in length x 0.30m wide x 0.80m in depth. It was widened to 1m at the location of the pole. Two layers were visible in the trench. A top soil layer 0.25m in depth overlaying a sub-soil layer measuring 0.45m in depth, consisting of stiff light yellowish-grey clay silty gravel.



Fig. 3 Trench for pole 2. View to west. Photo CPAT 5030-6

- 3.3. The trench for pole 3 was located in the south-east corner of the scheduled area. The trench measured 25m length x 0.30m width x 0.80m in depth. It was also widened to 1m at the pole. The layers visible were the same as those in the pole 2 trench.
- 3.4. No archaeological activity was recovered.

4 Conclusions

- 4.1. Although a scheduled monument with known archaeological potential as a Roman supply depot, in these specific locations the narrow trenches were archaeologically sterile.



Fig. 4. Cable trench for pole 3. View to north-west. Photo CPAT 5030-2

5 Sources

Unpublished sources

CADW Scheduled Ancient Monuments full report (accessed 05/05/22) for MG216

6 Archive deposition Statement

In accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists definition of a sterile archaeological project, this watching brief/evaluation has produced nothing of evidential value and the digital project report comprises a sufficient record of the work undertaken. The digital report will be deposited with Cadw, the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record (RCAHMW).

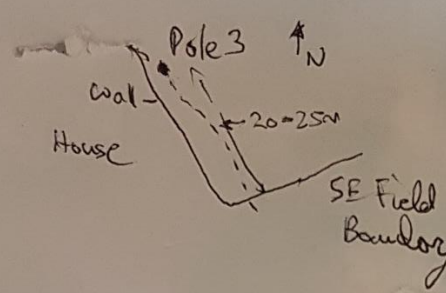
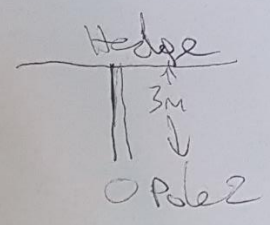
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Site records

1 Watching Brief recording sheet

8 digital photographs, CPAT film no 5030

Appendix 1: Watching Brief Recording Sheet

CPAT WATCHING BRIEF VISIT FORM			
Project No		Date	8/8/22
Project Name	Clansantffraid	Record by	J. ID
Arrive	7.45 am	Depart	3.30 pm
Authorised by		Company	Gardner's
Additional staff		Monitored by	client/curator etc
NGR of works			
Nature of works monitored			
<p>Excavation of trench from hedge to Pole 2</p>  			
Summary of archaeology		Give NGRs for features	
<p>Trench from hedge to Pole 2 = 3m long x 30cm wide by 8cm deep</p> <p>topsoil 15cm deep, pale greyish-yellow</p> <p>Stony subsoil 15cm -</p> <p>Overlying a stony pale greyish yellow natural silty gravel</p> <p>No Arch.</p> <p>Trench from Pole 3 to SE Boundary = approx 25m. width + depth as with Pole 2</p>			
Photos		Plans	
FINDS			
nothing	pot	metal	glass wood bone CBM w/stone w/flint other
Find nos			
Sample nos			