

CPAT Report No. 1912




Llyswen – Hay on Wye Water Main Test Pits

Archaeological Watching Brief



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Client name: Dwr Cymru
 CPAT Project No: 2657
 Project Name: Llysven - Hay on Wye Water Main Test Pits
 Grid Reference: SO 23065 42763- SO 13238 38015
 County/LPA: Powys/Powys, Brecon Beacon National Park
 Planning Application: N/A
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Cover image: Three Cocks junction photographed during the 1950s.



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Summary

In October 2022 the Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust carried out an archaeological watching brief on behalf of Dwr Cymru in connection with the excavation of three trial holes to determine the route of a proposed scheme to install a new water main in 2023. Part of the scheme ran along Broad Street and Belmont Road in Hay on Wye. Three further trial holes were monitored to the south of Hay on Wye, two at Three Cocks and one at Llyswn.

The trial holes in Hay on Wye and Llyswn revealed nothing of archaeological significance, suggesting that any archaeological deposition had been truncated. A trial hole at Three Cocks revealed a buried roadway formation of uncertain date, possibly relating to the 19th century railway or a Roman road running between Kenchester and Brecon.

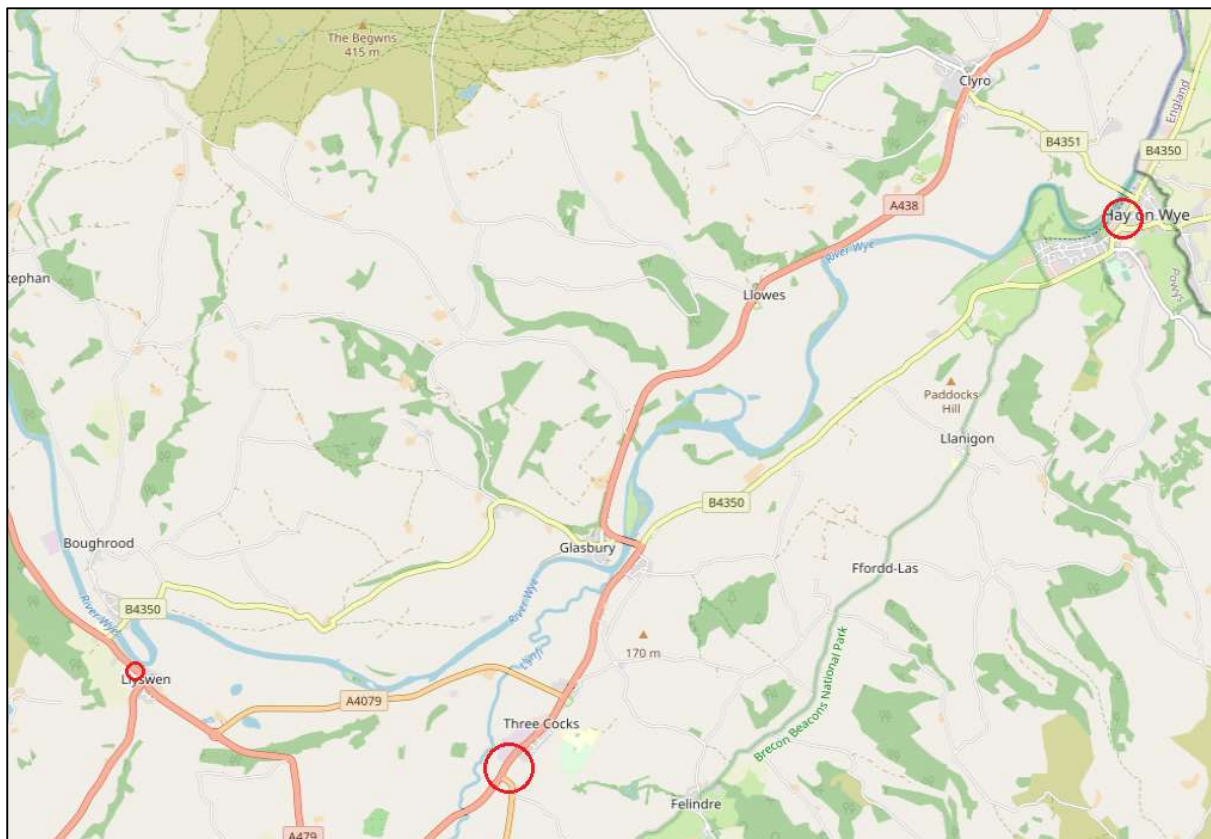
Crynodeb

Fis Hydref 2022, bu Adran Gwasanaethau Maes Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys yn cynnal briff gwyllo archaeolegol ar ran Dŵr Cymru, mewn cysylltiad â gwaith cloddio tri thwll arbrofol i benderfynu ar hynt cynllun arfaethedig i osod prif bibell ddŵr yn 2023. Roedd rhan o'r cynllun yn rhedeg ar hyd y Stryd Lydan a Heol Belmont yn y Gelli Gandryll. Gwnaed gwaith monitro ar dri thwll pellach i'r de o'r Gelli Gandryll, dau yn Aberllynfi ac un yn Llyswn.

Ni ddatgelodd y tyllau arbrofol yn y Gelli Gandryll na Llyswn unrhyw beth o arwyddocâd archaeolegol, sy'n awgrymu bod unrhyw ddyddodion archaeolegol wedi'u trychu. Datgelodd twll arbrofol yn Aberllynfi ffurfiad ffordd gladdedig ansicr ei dyddiad, o bosibl yn gysylltiedig â rheilffordd y 19eg ganrif neu ffordd Rufeinig yn rhedeg rhwng Kenchester ac Aberhonddu.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. In October 2022 the Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust carried out an archaeological watching brief on behalf of Dwr Cymru in connection with the excavation of three trial holes to determine the route of a proposed scheme to install a new water main in 2023. Part of the scheme ran along Broad Street and Belmont Road in Hay on Wye (SO 22824 42309-SO 23065 42763). Three further trial holes were monitored to the south of Hay on Wye, two at Three Cocks (SO 16648 36886 and SO 16959 37278) and one at Llyswen (SO 13238 38015).
- 1.2. The trial holes to be excavated in Hay were located within the Hay Conservation area (BBNP, 2016) and also within the historic core of the settlement (Silvester et al, 2013). The two trial holes located at Three Cocks were located on or close to the presumed line of a Roman route between Brecon and Kenchester, in Herefordshire. The trial hole at Llyswen is located within the historic core of the settlement (Silvester et al, 2010).
- 1.3. The groundworks were carried out under permitted development with the recommendation by Mark Walters, Senior Planning Officer at Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust that a programme of archaeological watching brief be maintained during the excavation of these test pits.



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Fig. 1 Plan showing the locations of groundworks (circled in red)

2 Watching Brief

- 2.1. The watching brief was conducted between the 16th and 19th of October 2022 in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2014, revised 2020). The locations of the trial holes are depicted in Fig. 2 and Fig. 6. It should be noted that Trial Hole 33 referred to in the written scheme of investigation was not excavated due to logistical issues.

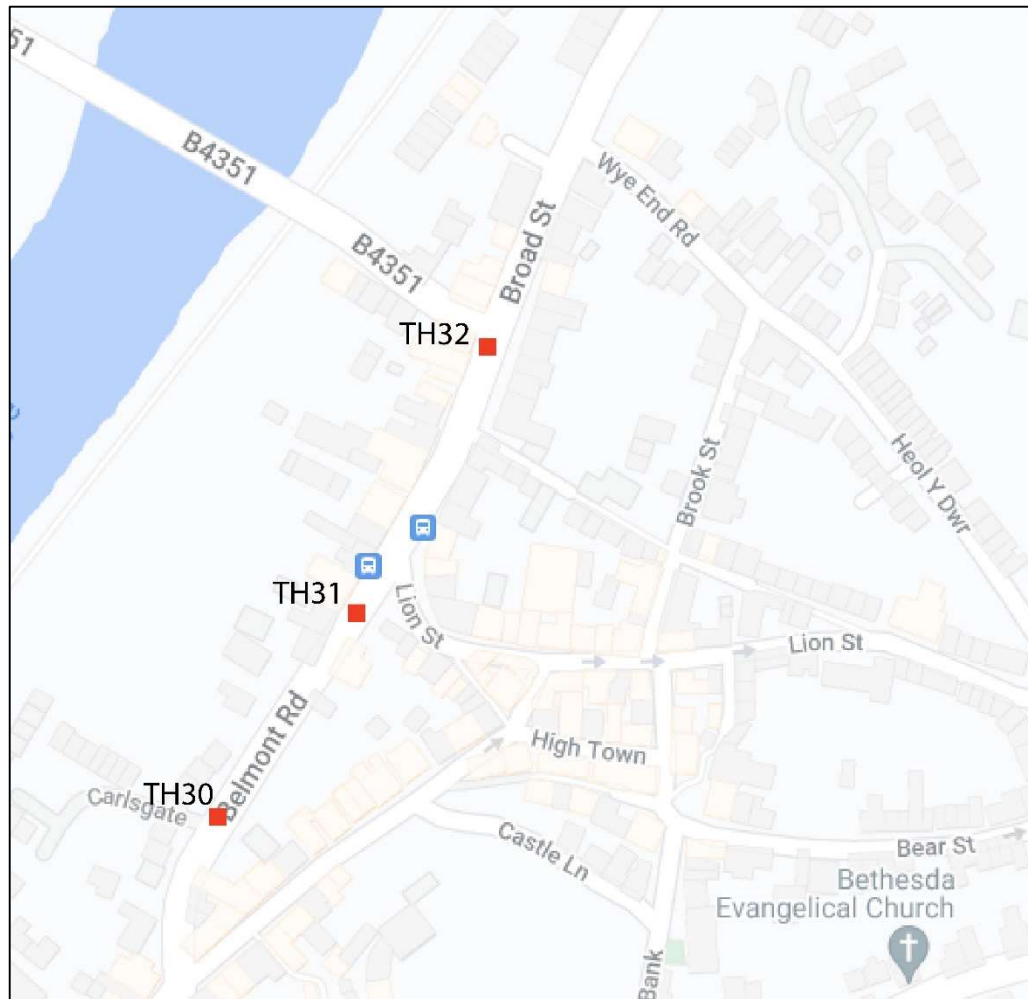


Fig. 2 Trial Hole locations located within Hay on Wye

Trial Hole	Location	Context Description	Interpretation
TH30 (Fig. 3)	Belmont Road, Hay on Wye SO 22841 42365	(3001) Tarmac 0.12m thick (3002) Concrete 0.3m thick (3003) Tarmac 0.1m thick (3004) Firmly compacted dark red clay, very frequent small angular stones >0.42m thick	Modern road surface Sub base deposit Earlier road surface Subsoil
TH31 (Fig. 4)	Belmont Road, Hay on Wye SO 22889 42434	(3101) Tarmac 0.12m thick (3102) Concrete 0.23m thick	Modern road surface Sub base deposit

		(3103) Tarmac 0.1m thick (3104) Compact orange clay occasional small rounded stones >0.3m thick	Earlier road surface Subsoil
TH32 (Fig. 5)	Broad Street, Hay on Wye SO 22939 42529	(3201) Tarmac 0.1m thick (3202) Compacted grey chipping 0.3m thick (3203) Sand 0.35m thick >0.35m thick	Modern road surface Sub base deposit Backfill for service pipes



Fig. 3 Trial hole 30 viewed from the south Photo CPAT 5029_010



Fig. 4 Trial hole 31 viewed from the north Photo CPAT 5029_003



Fig. 5 Trial hole 32 viewed from the north Photo CPAT 5029_006

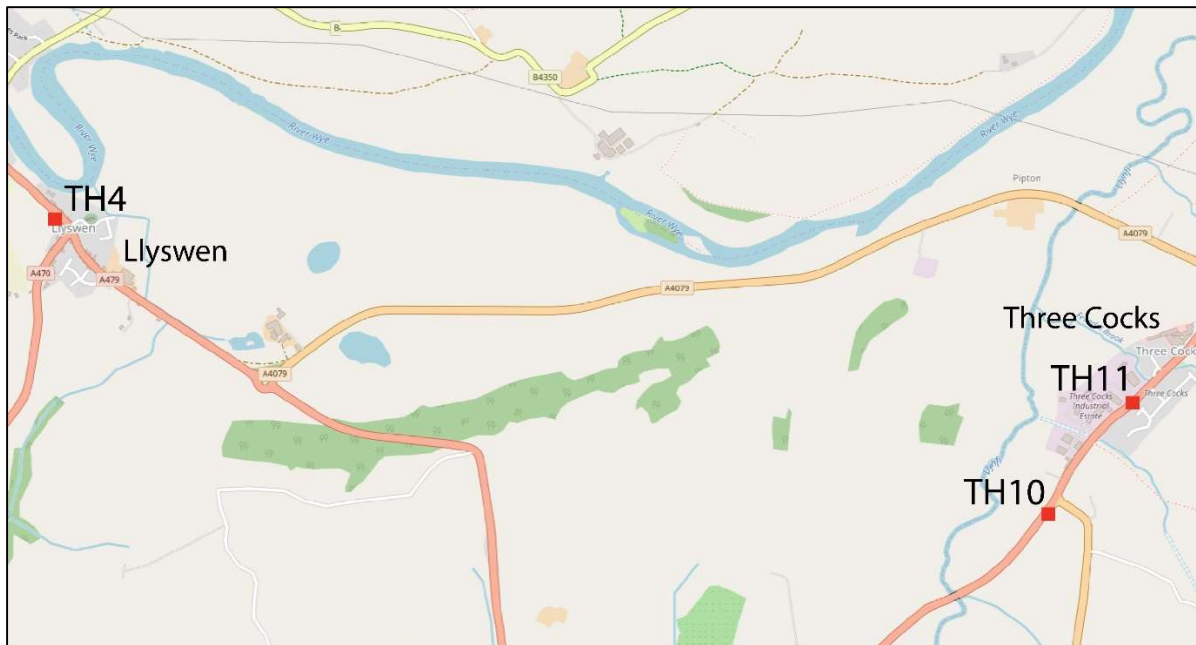


Fig. 6 Locations of the test pits in Llyswen and Three Cocks

Trial Hole	Location	Context Description	Interpretation
TH4 (Fig. 7)	A479 Llyswen SO 13230 38015	(0401) Tarmac 0.12m thick (0402) Gritty stone 0.25m thick (0403) Concrete 0.3m thick (0404) Compacted friable reddish silt, frequent large pebbles >0.38m thick	Modern road surface Sub base deposit Road formation layer Subsoil
TH10 (Fig. 8)	A438 near junction with A4078 SO 16639 36878	(1001) Tarmac 0.12m thick (1002) Tarmac 0.12m thick	Modern road surface Former road surface

		(1003) Scalpings 0.4m thick (1004) Compact dark red clay, frequent large rounded or sub angular stones >0.3m thick	Sub base deposit Subsoil
TH11 (Fig. 9)	A438 Three Cocks SO 16958 37263	(1101) Tarmac 0.1m thick (1102) Asphalt 0.2m thick (1103) Concrete and stone 0.2m thick (1104) Compacted reddish brown clay silt 0.05m thick (1105) Moderately compacted red silt clay 0.35m thick (1106) Compacted clay silt and angular stone formation, slopes steeply away to south, >0.35m thick >0.2m extent (1107) Firm dark red clay Not excavated into	Modern road surface Sub base deposit Sub base deposit Surface sealing underlying deposition Possible colluvium Possible buried roadway or agger Subsoil



Fig. 7 Trial Hole 4 viewed from the east Photo CPAT 5029_017



Fig. 8 Trial Hole 10 viewed from the south Photo CPAT 5029_019



Fig. 9 Trial Hole 11 viewed from the east Photo CPAT 5029_023

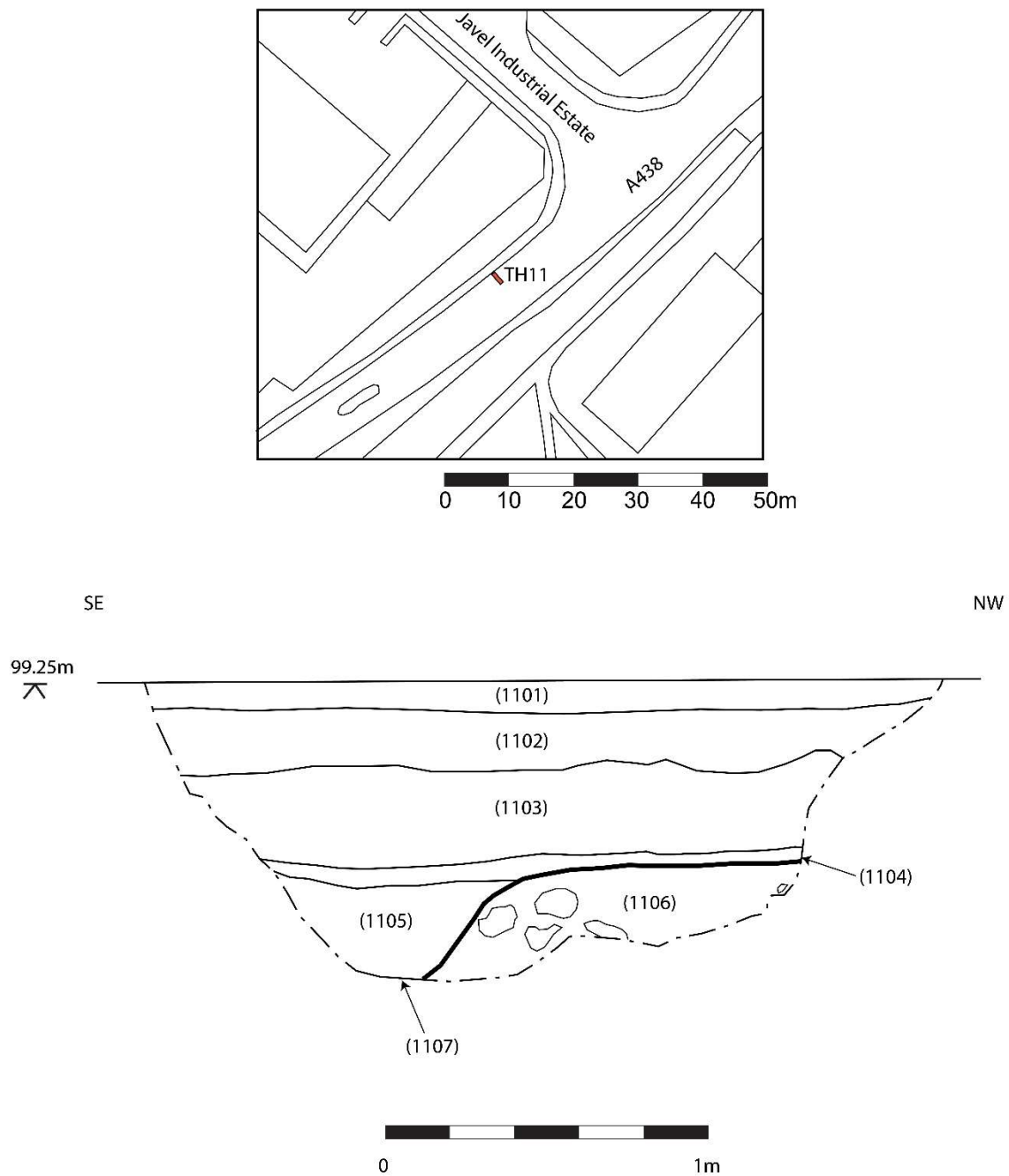


Fig. 10 Location plan and section of Trial Hole 11

3 Conclusions

- 3.1. Excavations in Hay on Wye along Belmont Road and Broad Street revealed nothing of archaeological significance, with all the upper deposition relating to the modern road

construction, which was laid directly onto the natural subsoil. The trial hole at Llyswen also revealed nothing of archaeological significance with all the upper deposition relating to the construction of the modern A470, constructed onto natural glacial or alluvial deposition. A trial hole excavated at the junction of the A438 south of the junction with the A4078, 0.6km southwest of Three Cocks also revealed modern road construction deposition overlying the subsoil.

- 3.2. The trial hole excavated at Three Cocks, adjacent to the modern Javel Industrial estate revealed a buried artificial soil formation approximately 0.55m below the modern road surface (Fig. 10). It was constructed from large angular stones and compacted silt clay and was oriented east to west or north-east south-west. The southern extent of the feature sloped steeply and was buried by a silty clay deposit, possibly hillwash from the adjacent slope to the south. No artefactual material was recovered so the date and purpose of this formation is uncertain.
- 3.3. The feature may have been a track bed associated with the 19th century railway junction between the Hereford, Hay and Brecon Railway and the Mid Wales Railway at Three Cocks, with the main line following the same route as the modern A438 trunk road. It was notable however that there was a complete lack of any track bedding material or industrial deposits normally associated with a 19th century railway line. Another possibility is that the feature formed part of the agger for a Roman road. The road between Kenchester and Brecon (RRX63b) is likely to have been located close to Three Cocks. There was a Roman fort (PRN 152152) at Gwernyfed Park to the south of the A438 which was preceded by a marching camp (PRN 152096), located immediately to the south-east. There was also evidence of iron smelting and forging activity at the fort or possibly within a vicus adjacent to it (PRN 520). It is suggested however that the main Roman road ran some 115m to the south of the fort site, based on the alignment of cropmarks identified to the southeast (PRN 48199)

4 Sources

Unpublished sources

Brecon Beacons National Park, 2016. *Hay-on-Wye Conservation Area Appraisal*

Silvester, R., J., Martin, C., H., R., 2010. *Historic settlements in the former Brecknock Borough*, Unpublished report CPAT 1056

Silvester, R., J., Martin, C., H., R., Watson, S., E., 2013. *Historic settlements in the Brecon Beacons National Park*, Unpublished report CPAT 1200

Online sources

archwilio.org.uk- accessed November 2022

Cartographic sources

1888 Ordnance Survey 6" 1st edition Brecknockshire Sheet 22 N.E.

5 Archive deposition Statement

- 5.1. In accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists definition of a sterile archaeological project, this watching brief 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 the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record (RCAHMW).

Appendix 1: CPAT WSI 2657

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust has been invited by Dave Stephens of Morrison Utility Services, to undertake an archaeological watching brief in connection with the excavation of four trial holes to determine the route of a proposed scheme to install a new water main in 2023. Part of the scheme runs along Broad Street and Belmont Road in Hay on Wye (SO 22824 42309-SO 23065 42763). Three further trial holes will be monitored to the south of Hay on Wye, two in Three Cocks (SO 16648 36886 and SO 16959 37278) and one at Llyswen (SO 13238 38015).
- 1.2. The trial holes to be excavated in Hay are located within the Hay Conservation area (BBNP, 2016) and also within the historic core of the settlement (Silvester et al, 2013). It is considered that there is a reasonable possibility of encountering buried remains associated with the medieval town.
- 1.3. Two trial holes located at Three Cocks are located on or close to the presumed line of a Roman route between Brecon and Kenchester, in Herefordshire. It is possible that the road or ribbon development along the road may be encountered in this area.
- 1.4. The trial hole at Llyswen is located with the historic core of the settlement (Silvester et al, 2010). It is considered that there is a reasonable possibility of encountering buried remains associated with the early medieval settlement.
- 1.5. The groundworks are being carried out under permitted development with the recommendation by Mark Walters, Senior Planning Officer at Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust that a programme of archaeological watching brief be maintained during the excavation of these test pits.

2 Methodology

Fieldwork

- 2.1. The watching brief will be conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2020). The watching brief will be undertaken to monitor groundworks associated with the excavation of seven trial holes. The excavation of any archaeological features or deposits will be undertaken by hand using the conventional techniques for archaeological excavation:
 - The presence or absence of archaeological features encountered during the ground works will be noted.
 - Where features of archaeological interest are identified during the ground works they will be systematically investigated by hand with sufficient work being undertaken to determine their date, character and function, using the conventional techniques for archaeological excavation and in accordance with CIfA Standard and Guidance.
 - All features will be located as accurately as possible on an overall plan of the development at an appropriate scale, showing boundaries depicted on Ordnance Survey mapping.
 - Contexts will be recorded on individual record forms, using a continuous numbering system, and be drawn and photographed as appropriate.
 - Plans will be drawn on permatrace to a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate.

- All photography will be taken using a digital SLR camera with a minimum resolution of 12 mega pixels, including a metric scale in each view, with views logged in a photographic register.
- In the event of human burials being discovered the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) will be informed. The remains will initially be left in situ, and if removal is required, a MoJ licences will be applied for under the Burial Act 1857.
- In the event of finding any artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasures Act 1996, the appropriate procedures under this legislation will be followed.

Post-excavation and reporting

- 2.2. All artefacts and environmental samples will be treated in a manner appropriate to their composition and a sampling strategy will be developed as appropriate:
- All stratified finds will be collected by context, or where appropriate, individually recorded in three dimensions. Unstratified finds will only be collected where they contribute significantly to the project objectives or are of particular intrinsic interest.
 - All finds and samples will be collected, processed, sorted, quantified, recorded, labelled, packed, stored, marked, assessed, analysed and conserved in a manner appropriate to their composition and in line with appropriate guidance.
 - arrangements to assess and study any artefacts, assemblages and environment samples.
 - Any artefacts recovered during the watching brief will be deposited with an appropriate museum, subject to the permission of the landowner.
- 2.3. Following the on-site work an illustrated report will be prepared containing conventional sections to include:
- Non-technical summary
 - Introduction
 - Site location
 - Archaeological Background
 - Watching brief
 - Conclusions
 - References
 - Appropriate appendices on archives and finds
- 2.4. The report summary will be provided in English and Welsh, in accordance with the Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) V1 (July 2018).

Site archive

- 2.5. The overall archive will conform to guidelines described in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Historic England 2015, the CIfA (2020) Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives and The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales (NPAAW, 2017).
- 2.6. The archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record (NMR), RCAHMW, including a copy of the final report. This archive will include all written, drawn, survey and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. A copy of the digital archive only will also be lodged with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust.

Sources

archwilio.org.uk- accessed October 2022

Brecon Beacons National Park, 2016. *Hay-on-Wye Conservation Area Appraisal*

Silvester, R., J., Martin, C., H., R., 2010. *Historic settlements in the former Brecknock Borough*, Unpublished report CPAT 1056

Silvester, R., J., Martin, C., H., R., Watson, S., E., 2013. *Historic settlements in the Brecon Beacons National Park*, Unpublished report CPAT 1200

3 Resources and programming

- 3.1. The watching brief will be undertaken by a skilled archaeologist under the overall supervision of Tim Malim, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). CPAT is also a CIfA Registered Organisation and as such agrees to abide by their Code of Conduct (2014) and the Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment (2014).
- 3.2. All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist(s) who conducted the site work. Copies of the report will be deposited with the client and the regional Historic Environment Record within one month of the completion of on-site works. If appropriate, a short report will be published in Archaeology in Wales.
- 3.3. Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 3.4. CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance, as well as Professional Indemnity insurance.

W Logan
13th October 2022