

CPAT WSI 2627

Trevor Basin, Canal Improvements

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Written Scheme of Investigation

submitted by

Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

on behalf of

Canal and River Trust



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS
CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust is a Registered Organisation
with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) works to protect, record and interpret all aspects of the historic environment. We advise developers and local authorities on archaeology and planning, undertake archaeological projects for public- and private-sector clients, and have wide-ranging programmes of community archaeology events and activities.

The CPAT Field Services team is the leading archaeological practice in mid- and north-east Wales, and one of the longest-established commercial archaeology contractors in Europe.

CPAT is one of 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 Registered Organisation (RO) with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). 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

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys

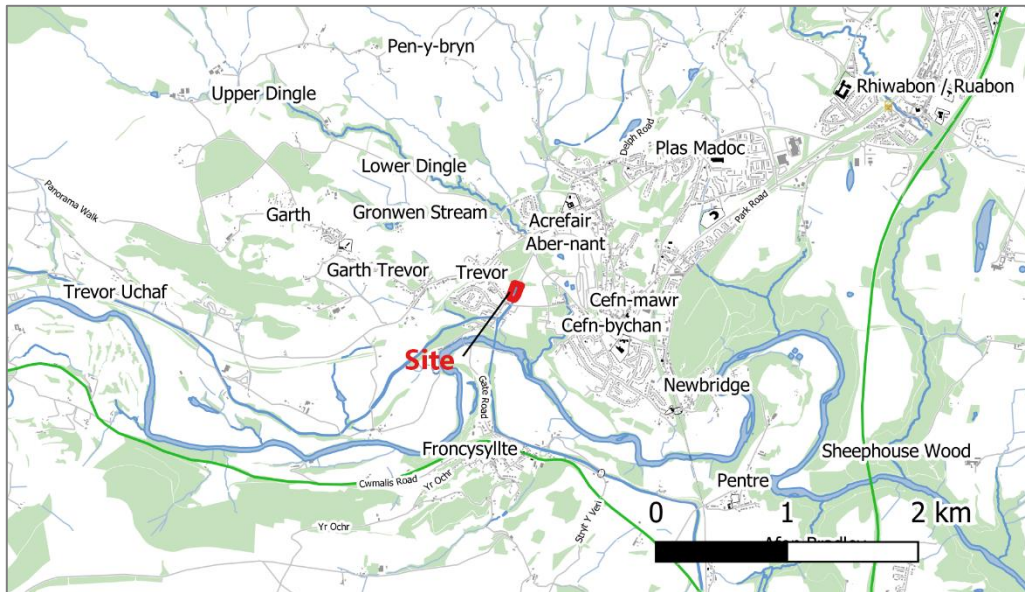
Mae Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys (CPAT) yn gweithio i warchod, cofnodi a dehongli pob agwedd ar yr amgylchedd hanesyddol. Rydym yn cynghori datblygwyr ac awdurdodau lleol ar archaeoleg a chynllunio ac yn ymgymryd â phrosiectau archaeolegol ar ran cleientiaid yn y sectorau cyhoeddus a phreifat, ac mae gennym raglenni eang eu hystod o ddigwyddiadau a gweithgareddau archaeolegol cymunedol.

Tîm Gwasanaethau Maes CPAT yw'r prif bractis archaeolegol yng nghanolbarth a gogledd-ddwyrain Cymru, ac mae'n un o'r contractwyr archaeoleg masnachol mwyaf hirsefydlog yn Ewrop.

Mae CPAT yn un o bedair ymddiriedolaeth archaeolegol a sefydlwyd yng Nghymru yng nghanol y 1970au i ddarparu gwasanaeth archaeolegol ledled Cymru. Mae'r Ymddiriedolaeth yn elusen gofrestredig a hefyd yn gwmni cyfyngedig, ac mae ei gweithgareddau'n cael eu rheoli gan fwrdd Ymddiriedolwyr. Mae hefyd yn Registered Organisation (RO) gyda'r Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). Mae mwy o wybodaeth am yr Ymddiriedolaeth, gan gynnwys adroddiadau cryno ar rai o'r prosiectau diweddar mwyaf arwyddocaol hefyd i'w gweld ar ei gwefan yn www.cpat.org.uk

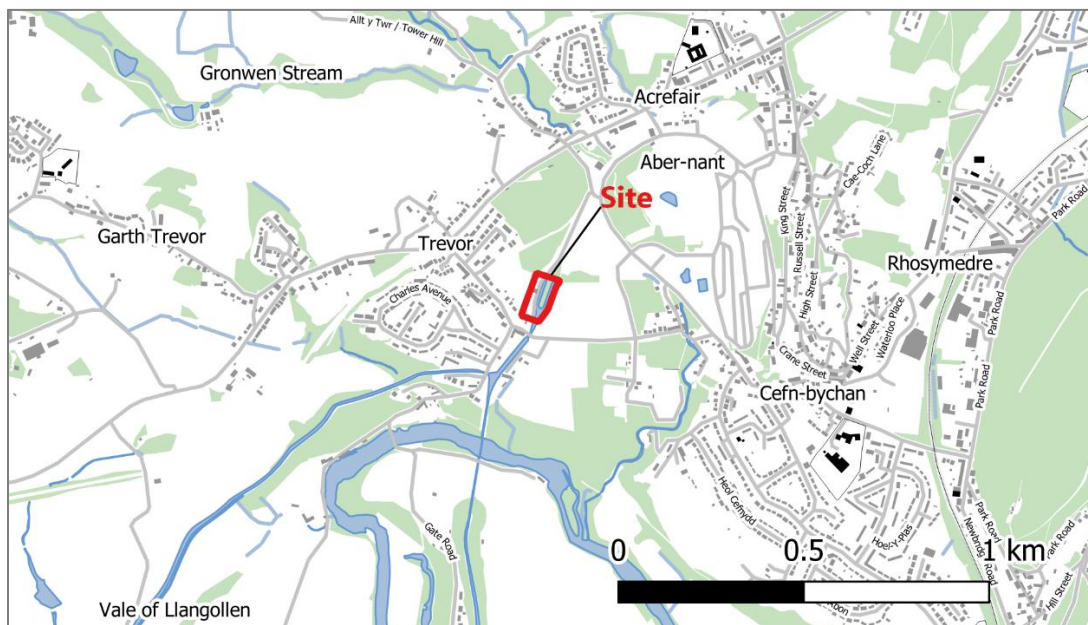
1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust has been instructed by Mr Stephen Hough of the Canal and River Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief in connection with the relocation of a boat hire base at Trevor Basin, Wrexham LL20 7TY.
- 1.2. The development is currently in pre-determination pending a planning application to Wrexham County Borough Council for the redevelopment of the canal basin for use as a boat hire business, which will include the erection of two buildings and a storage enclosure.



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Figure 1a Site location (general)



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Figure 1b Site location (detail)

- 1.3. In sections 6 and 7 of the planning application, it was recommended that a watching brief be undertaken during all groundwork pertaining to the development and that no works can commence until this Written Scheme of Investigation has been approved.
- 1.4. The pre-commencement conditions set out by Development Control were as follows:
 - 1.4.1. *No part of the development / works shall commence until details of an on-site watching brief, prepared and to be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist, for the duration of the construction works has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The archaeological watching brief must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs*
 - 1.4.2. *The works shall be carried out in strict accordance with the watching brief approved in connection with condition no.6 and a copy of the resulting report should be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust.*
 - 1.4.3. *On approval the digital archive shall be submitted to the Historic Environment Records Officer at Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust.*
 - Reasons
 - 1.4.4. *The site may contain archaeological remains which should be recorded if they are damaged in accordance with Policies GDP1 and EC11 of the Wrexham Unitary Development Plan*
- 1.5. The recommendations by the local Development Control Archaeologist were made due to the historical significance of the Trevor basin canal and its associated infrastructure.

2 Methodology

Fieldwork investigation & recording

- 2.1. A plan of the permitted development is shown in Figure 2.
- 2.2. The watching brief will be conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014). The watching brief will be undertaken to monitor groundworks associated with the construction of the new build (Figure 2, 3). 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 OS 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.
- Photography will apply a digital SLR camera with a minimum resolution of 12 mega pixels, include a metric scale in each view, and 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.

Artefact selection strategy

- 2.3. Unstratified finds will only be collected where they contribute significantly to the project objectives or are of particular intrinsic interest. All artefacts will be retained from stratigraphically secure contexts of 18th-century date or earlier. In the case of later or disturbed contexts, all 18th-century or earlier material will be retained, together with a sample of later finds to assist with dating and phasing, unless later deposits/artefacts are deemed to be of high archaeological value.
- 2.4. CPAT has a retention policy for artefacts which prioritises as follows:

High priority for retention

- Rare finds from stratified and unstratified contexts
- Prehistoric and early medieval assemblages
- Key stratigraphic dating assemblages crucial to the structural development of the site
- Assemblages which are not well represented in museum collections

High priority for disposal

- Unstratified material unless intrinsically dateable and unusual/rare
- Artefacts from residual/intrusive contexts unless of key stratigraphic importance to the site
- Assemblages already well represented in museum collections
- Unprocessed environmental/soil samples

Post-excavation and reporting

- 2.5. 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 owner.
- 2.6. Following the on-site work an illustrated report will be prepared containing conventional sections to include:
- Non-technical summary
 - Introduction
 - Site location
 - Archaeological Background
 - Aims & objectives
 - Methodology
 - Watching brief results
 - Conclusions
 - References
 - Appropriate appendices on archives and finds
- 2.7. 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

- 2.8. The overall archive will conform to guidelines described in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE), Historic England 2015, the CIfA (2014) *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).
- 2.9. The paper and digital 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.

Data management plan

- 2.10. The project will be conducted in accordance with CPAT's data management policy. All paper records will be collated, catalogued and labelled with the unique project code. All digital data will follow strict file naming, to include the unique project code, and be sorted into a standard series of sub-folders. The digital data will be catalogued, including a list of file types and relevant software, and managed on an Excel spreadsheet.

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 *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (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. 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. Any further work over and above the original watching brief and report would be the subject of a separate WSI and costing. The following figures provide an indication of the types of additional services and indicative costs which might be required, for which the client is advised to make some provision.

Curatorial monitoring	£150 per visit
Finds conservation etc	£350 per day
Radiocarbon dating	£500 each
Finds specialist	£350 per day

- 3.4. Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 3.5. CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance, as well as Professional Indemnity insurance.

Chris Matthews MRes

1st June 2022



Figure 2. Proposed development