

CPAT Report No. 1473

New Hall, Chirk, Wrexham

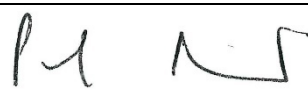
Archaeological Watching Brief



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Client name: Mark Myddelton
 CPAT Project No: 2173
 Project Name: New Hall, Chirk
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Summary

A watching brief was conducted during the excavation of a service trench for a new water supply within the grounds of New Hall, Chirk, Wrexham (SJ 27496 38972). Part of the pipe trench crossed the line of the medieval moat to the east of the house in an area where it had been infilled with rubble during the 1960s, although no archaeologically significant deposits were revealed.

The only artefact recovered during the watching brief was a Nuremberg jeton, likely to date from AD 1550–1635.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) conducted a watching brief during the excavation of a service trench for a new water supply within the grounds of New Hall, Chirk, Wrexham (SJ 27496 38972; planning application P/2015/0850).



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Fig. 1 Location of New Hall

- 1.2. Listed building consent was granted for the replacement of the water supply, the repair and reinstatement of stone boundary walls and the repair and restoration of four dormer windows. The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local authority, determined that the watching brief is required to ensure the preservation by record of any archaeological remains which may be disturbed by the development. Accordingly the consent included the following conditions:

6 No part of the works shall commence until a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation has been secured and submitted and approved, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority.

7 The works shall be carried out in strict accordance with the programme of archaeological works as approved in connection with condition no 6 and a copy of the resulting report shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority within one month of the completion of the field work.



Fig. 2 Aerial view of New Hall from the east. Photo CPAT 87-mb-0140

2 Background

- 2.1. New Hall was originally a medieval moated site, the moat still surviving in part, having been filled on the north and east sides since 1837. The house was the base for the Edwards family, who traced their origin from Tudor Trefor, through Iorwerth Hen in the 12th century, and Ednyfed Gam. The first building was probably built by John Edwards Hen (1435-1498). In 1721 the property was sold by Sir Roger Puleston to Robert Myddelton.
- 2.2. Christopher Saxton's (1577) and John Speed's (1610) maps of Denbighshire show an enclosure to the north-west of the castle with Newhall on its edge, raising the possibility that it might have functioned as a parker's residence (Silvester 2014).
- 2.3. The main house (PRN 23511; listed building 621), which is listed grade II, is built of rubble stonework and has a T-shaped plan, with two storeys and attics. It was largely taken down and rebuilt in 1757, and was extensively altered and reroofed in the later

19th century. The house was extended to the north-east in the 19th century and attached at the same time to an earlier structure, perhaps part of a late medieval house lying at right angles to the main front, and which later became the dairy. The main part of the south-east front is 18th-century. A watching brief in 1994 identified evidence of earlier building phases, including of 16th century and evidence of re-use of timber (Cole 1994).

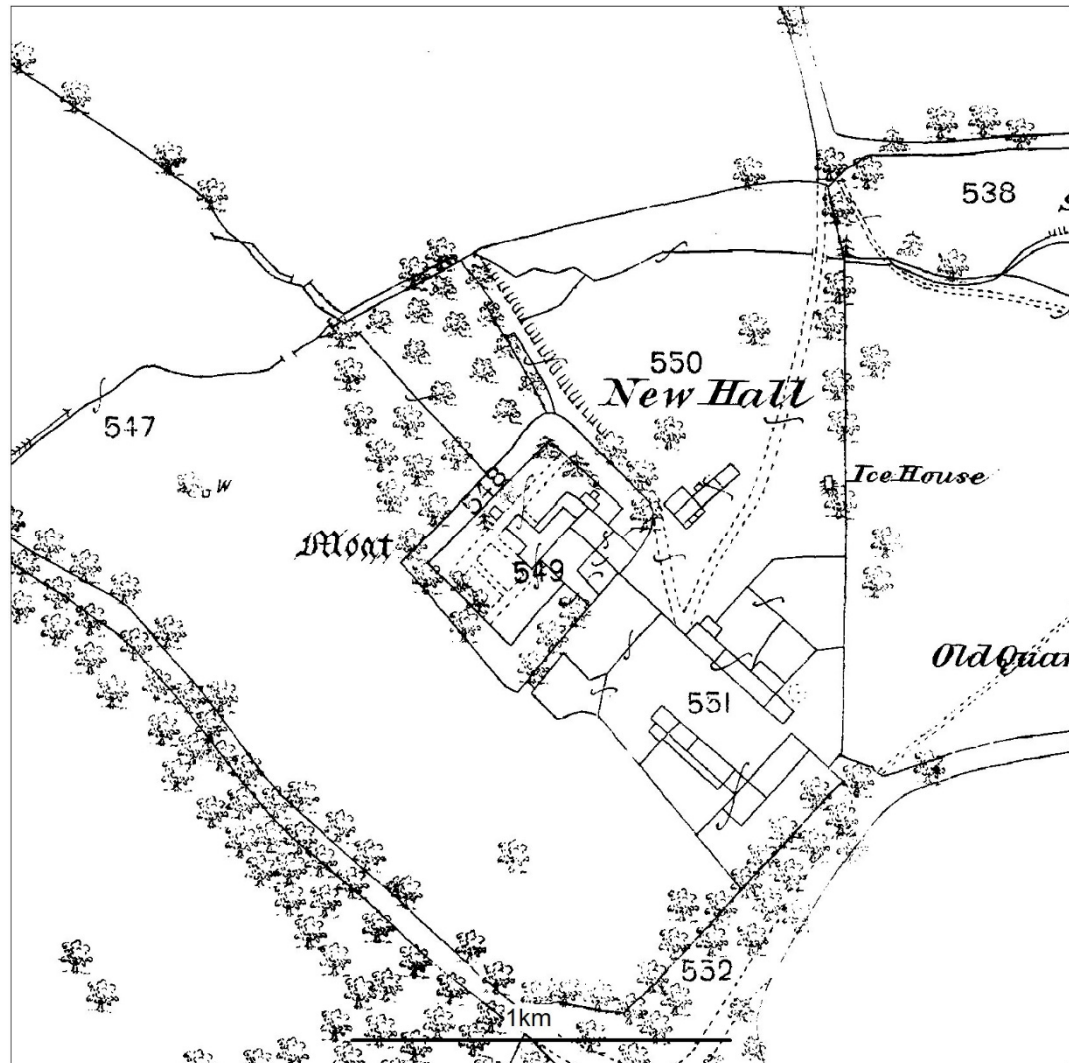


Fig. 3 Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1st edition mapping of 1873 showing the moat surrounding New Hall

3 Watching Brief

- 3.1. The watching brief was maintained by Ian Davies on 9 January 2017 during the excavation by machine of a trench to accommodate a new water pipe (Fig. 4). Part of the pipe trench had been excavated previously (Fig. 4, A-B), the watching brief monitoring the remaining work (Fig. 4, B-C).
- 3.2. The new pipe trench was c. 0.5m wide and up to 0.7m deep and revealed around 0.2m of topsoil, overlying 0.2-0.3m of mixed yellow-grey, stony, clay-silt, lying above the natural subsoil.

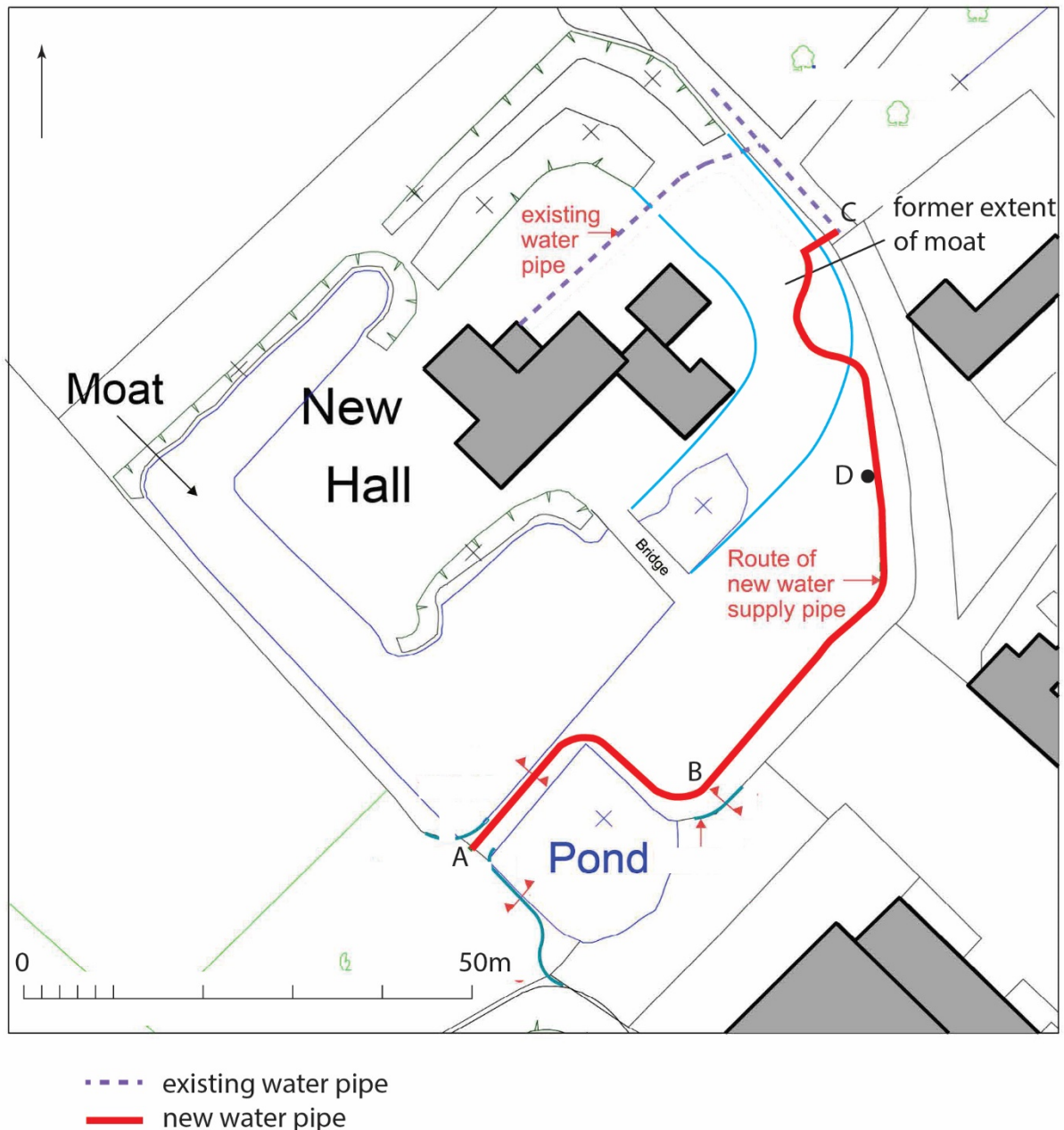


Fig. 4 The location of the new water pipe

- 3.3. The watching brief revealed that part of the moat had been infilled by the deposition of a layer of rubble containing yellow Ruabon bricks and a short section of iron rail (Fig. 6). Information from the client suggests that this was undertaken during the 1960s at around the same time that the Glyn Valley Tramway station in Chirk was demolished. The station occupied land which, like New Hall, was owned by the Myddelton family and it is possible that the material used to infill the moat was derived from there. The relatively shallow depth of the pipe trench precluded the observation of earlier deposits within the moat.



Fig. 5. The pipe trench to the south-east of the moat. Photo CPAT 4286-0001



Fig. 6 The pipe trench crossing the line of the moat showing an example of the brick rubble, together with a section of iron rail. Photo CPAT 4286-0023

4 Finds

Identified by Mark Walters

- 4.1. The only artefact recovered during the watching brief was a Nuremberg jeton of the late 16th to early 17th century, probably AD 1550-1635. The jeton is the common rose/orb type often associated with Hans Krauwickel II, a member of a family of private minters from Nuremberg. However, the few letters which can be identified from the legend on the reverse of the jeton do not obviously match those minted by Krauwickel and it may therefore have been produced by a contemporary moneyer.

Obv. Three crowns, alternately with three lis, arranged around a central rose

Legend: - - - - S REICHVT - - . - O - M - - -

Rev. Imperial orb within a tressure of three arches and three angles

Legend: indecipherable but includes the letters O and M

- 4.2. The jeton was recovered from the spoil excavated from the trench at point D on Fig. 4. The find has been returned to the client.



Fig. 7 The Nuremberg jeton

5 Conclusion

- 5.1. The watching brief was maintained during the excavation of a trench for a new water pipe within the grounds of New Hall, near Chirk. Part of the pipe trench crossed the line of the medieval moat to the east of the house in an area where it had been infilled with rubble during the 1960s. The composition of the rubble, which contained yellow, Ruabon bricks and a section of iron rail, suggests that the material may have been derived from the demolition of the Glyn Valley Tramway station in Chirk. No archaeologically significant deposits were revealed during the course of the work.
- 5.2. The only artefact recovered during the watching brief was a Nuremberg jeton, likely to date from AD 1550–1635.

6 Sources

Cole, J., 1994. *New Hall, Chirk, Clwyd: an archaeological watching brief*

Pratt, D., 1996. New Hall Moated Site, Chirk, *Transactions of the Denbighshire Historical Society* 45, 7-20.

Silvester, R. J. and Hankinson, R., 2014. Parks: Scheduling Enhancement Programme. CPAT Report No.

1873 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25", Denbighshire 40.05

7 Archive deposition Statement

- 7.1. The project archive has been prepared according to the CPAT Archive Policy and in line with the *CIfA Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives guidance* (2014). The digital archive only will be deposited with the regional Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and the paper/drawn/digital archive with the National Monuments Record (RCAHMW). A summary of the archive is provided in Appendix 1.

Appendix 1: Site Archive

CPAT Event PRN: 140150

1 watching brief form

4 context record forms

1 context register

1 finds register

1 photographic register

Appendix 2: CPAT WSI 1661

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) have been invited by Gerry Kellet, Real Planning, to prepare a specification for undertaking a watching brief during the excavation of a service trench for a new water supply within the grounds of New Hall, Chirk, Wrexham (SJ 27496 38972; planning application P/2015/0850).
- 1.2. Listed building consent has been granted for the replacement of the water supply, the repair and reinstatement of stone boundary walls and the repair and restoration of four dormer windows.
- 1.3. The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local authority, have determined that the watching brief is required to ensure the preservation by record of any archaeological remains which may be disturbed by the development. Accordingly the consent included the following conditions:
 - 6 No part of the works shall commence until a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation has been secured and submitted and approved, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority.
 - 7 The works shall be carried out in strict accordance with the programme of archaeological works as approved in connection with condition no 6 and a copy of the resulting report shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority within one month of the completion of the field work.
- 1.4. New Hall is a grade II listed building (PRN 23511) set within a medieval moat. The current building dates from 1757, although incorporating elements of the earlier, medieval building.
- 1.5. It is understood that part of the new water supply has already been installed and the planning conditions therefore apply to the remainder of the installation.

2 Methodology

- 2.1. The watching brief will be conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014). The watching brief will be undertaken to direct the excavation of the remaining length of the service trench which will be excavated by a machine fitted with a toothless bucket. The trench will be excavated carefully in order to identify and record any significant archaeological deposits which may be revealed. The attending archaeologist will be responsible for directing the machine and must be allowed sufficient time to undertake an appropriate level of investigation and recording for all potentially significant archaeological deposits.

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- 2.2. 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 8 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 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.
- 2.3. 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 evaluation will be deposited with an appropriate museum, subject to the permission of the owner.
- 2.4. Following the on-site work an illustrated report will be prepared containing conventional sections to include:
- Non-technical summary
 - Introduction
 - Site location
 - Topography and Geology

-
- Archaeological Background
 - Evaluation
 - Watching brief
 - Conclusions
 - References
 - Appropriate appendices on archives and finds
- 2.5. The site archive will be prepared to specifications in English Heritage's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) system and the ClifA *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2014), to be deposited with the regional Historic Environment Record (HER).

3 Resources and programming

- 3.1. The watching brief will be undertaken by a skilled archaeologist under the overall supervision of Nigel Jones, 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 (RAO No 6) 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	£50 per visit
Finds conservation etc	£285 per day
Radiocarbon dating	£330 each
Finds specialist	£285 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.

N W Jones

10 March 2015