

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Naylors Field, Arddleen, Powys

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
INTERIM REPORT



CPAT Report No 580

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Naylors Field, Arddleen, Powys
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
INTERIM REPORT

I Grant and N Jones
October 2003

Report for Keith Davies and Associates

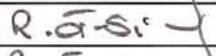
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CPAT Report Record

Report and status

CPAT Report Title	Naylors Field, Arddleen, Powys: Archaeological Excavation		
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CPAT Project No	1018/1065	CPAT Report No	580
Confidential (yes/no)	No	draft/final	Final

Internal control

	name	signature	date
prepared by	I. Grant		20/10/03
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checked by	R.J. Silvester		20/10/03
approved by	R.J. Silvester		20/10/03

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Contracting Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was invited to undertake excavations, during the autumn of 2002 and the summer of 2003, in advance of the development of a block of land at Naylor's Field, Arddleen, Powys (SJ 26041602), which involved the construction of 11 new dwellings with access, car parking and garden landscaping (Powys CC planning application no M99550).
- 1.2 Information held within the County Sites and Monuments Record indicated that the development would directly affect intact buried deposits related to the early Romano-British farmstead enclosure known as the Arddleen Enclosure (PRN 4627). Excavations in 1979 (Britnell and Musson 1984) revealed an inner and outer enclosure ditch, a group of internal gullies and a series of oval pits, some containing burnt material. Finds included pottery, burnt clay, stone objects, and plant remains and charcoal which provided local palaeo-environmental data. Further excavations were undertaken in 1998 and 1999 by Margaret Worthington, again locating the defences as well as internal features.
- 1.3 The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local authority, determined that a programme of archaeological work was required to ensure the preservation of the site by record in advance of the development. Accordingly a brief (No EXC 334 dated 26/8/99) was prepared, by the Curatorial Section, which described the scheme of archaeological works required.
- 1.4 The development proceeded in two phases with each area being subject to archaeological excavation prior to building work commencing. The initial phase of excavations was carried out in September and October 2002, concentrating on the area to the south of the enclosure, while the second phase was undertaken between May and August 2003, concentrating on the interior of the enclosure, together with sections across the defensive ditches. Although the original intention had been to excavate an additional area to the west of the enclosure, in the event this area was occupied by a substantial spoil dump. Following discussions with the curator it was agreed that this area should be excluded from excavation, with resources concentrating on the remaining area available.

2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The development plot is located to the rear of Naylor's House, west of the A483. Prior to the commencement of the development the area consisted of a large pasture field, sloping gently to the north-east, and occupying an area of 6520m². The site lies at around 70m above Ordnance Datum, overlooking the floodplain of the River Severn.
- 2.2 The soils of the area generally consist of stagnogley soils belonging to the Cegin Series (1983 Soil Survey of England and Wales map), while the underlying solid geology consists of mudstones and siltstones belonging to the Caradoc phase of the upper Ordovician era (1994 British Geological Survey map).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The double-ditched enclosure was initially identified as a cropmark during aerial reconnaissance by Dr J K St Joseph in 1976 (see fig. 02). This revealed the majority of the enclosure, although the northern side was obscured by a modern hedgeline and the north-eastern part had probably been lost during the construction of the adjacent Montgomery Canal. No trace of an entrance could be identified and it seems likely that this lay on the northern side of the site. The field also contained cropmarks of former ridge and furrow cultivation, the ridges running roughly north-east to south-west about c. 5m-7m apart, together with a possible headland or holloway along the southern boundary.
- 3.2 In 1979 a small-scale rescue excavation (Britnell and Musson 1984) was undertaken in advance of the re-routing of the A483 across the eastern part of the field. The excavations were limited by the available resources to the investigation of only part of the interior and providing dating evidence for the enclosure ditches.

- 3.3 A single section was excavated across the defences, revealing the inner ditch to be V-shaped, c. 4m wide and 1.4m deep, while the outer ditch was fairly broad and shallow, being c. 4.1m wide and 1.0m deep. Charcoal from the base of the inner ditch provided a calibrated radiocarbon date of either AD 75, or AD 125, with a one sigma value of AD 30-210. A number of features were identified within the interior of the enclosure including several drainage gullies and possible evidence of metalworking, although no definite structures could be determined. A small assemblage of Romano-British pottery was recovered, together with six sherds of VCP, typical of salt containers used in the Iron Age.
- 3.4 During the late 1990s further small-scale excavations were undertaken by Margaret Worthington, investigating the defensive ditches and a small area of the interior. The results are currently unpublished, although the location of the trenches was identified in a brief unpublished interim note.

4 EXCAVATION (Figs 01-04 and Plates 1-6)

4.1 The excavations were undertaken in two phases from September to October 2002 and May to August 2003, in advance of the respective phases of the development. In both instances the topsoil and modern overburden were removed under close archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator with a broad, flat, toothless bucket. The depth of overburden varied from 0.4m to 0.65m and its removal revealed the undisturbed natural subsoil which, although varying across the site, was typically a yellowyolive-coloured clay with occasional large rounded stones and shattered mudstone. The condition of the natural subsoil varied considerably across the site, the northern and western areas being particularly vulnerable to heavy waterlogging.

4.2 The entire excavated area, totalling 4,650m², was thoroughly cleaned by hand, with any remnant overburden being removed manually at this stage. A full written, drawn and photographic record was maintained throughout the excavation, a summary of which is provided in Appendix 2. Numbers in brackets in the following text refer to individual context numbers assigned to all features, layers and other deposits at the time of excavation.

External area

- 4.3 The first phase of excavation concentrated on the area to the south of the enclosure, but included a small section of the outer ditch (see Fig. 3). A number of modern and late post-medieval features were identified, including several land drains, which were sampled but not fully excavated.
- 4.4 Remnant traces of ridge and furrow cultivation were identified across much of the area, comprising parallel plough scars and the base of several plough furrows, all of which were aligned roughly south-west to north-east, confirming the cropmark evidence. In the south-west corner of the area a broad, shallow linear feature was identified running at right-angles to the ridge and furrow and coinciding with one of the cropmarks. Excavation revealed this to be a probable holloway, at least 6m wide and up to 0.5m deep. Finds recovered from the fill included ceramics of medieval origin through to the late 19th century, with additional quantities of clay-pipe, bottle glass and fragments of field drains. The bulk of the later post-medieval finds can be attributed to a 19th-century ceramic land-drain that had been placed along the length of the feature.
- 4.5 A complex of gullies was identified in the centre of the area, generally running north-west to south-east, with one principal gully having the appearance of a former field boundary. There was significant evidence for the recutting of the main gully, as well as its subsidiaries, and finds recovered from the fills included a good assemblage of 17th and 18th-century ceramics. It would appear that these features post-date the ridge and furrow cultivation and comparison with the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885 shows a field boundary, now absent, following approximately the same course.
- 4.6 A number of features were identified to the south of the field boundary, and also between it and the outer ditch which, although undated, had the appearance of being of greater antiquity. Some may therefore be contemporary with the enclosure. To the south of the boundary one pit (31), measuring 1.17m in diameter and 0.15m deep, contained a quantity of charcoal and burnt clay, with other features nearby including several possible postholes pre-dating the ridge and furrow cultivation. Several shallow gullies were identified between the boundary and the outer ditch of the enclosure, together with further postholes and two areas of disturbance likely to have resulted from the uprooting of windblown trees. To date no structural form has been assigned to these features, although

fragments of ceramics that have been recovered suggest activity ranging from the Bronze Age and Romano-British era through to the Medieval period.

Defensive ditches

- 4.7 The circuits of the defensive ditches were identified and planned within the excavated area and a number of sections were excavated across both the inner and outer ditches, including one long section across both ditches (see Fig. 4). The positioning and number of these sections was limited by the plan of the development and the need, as far as possible, to avoid deep excavations on the site of each house. This programme of sample excavation was only undertaken following consultation with the curator.
- 4.8 The inner ditch (133) was investigated in two sections, although only fully excavated in the more southerly section due to constant waterlogging in the north-eastern part of the site. The ditch was approximately 5m wide and up to 2.8m deep with a steep V-shaped profile with a characteristic 'ankle-breaking' trough cut into the base (see Plate 1). It was evident that the ditch had been re-cut or cleared of primary silt debris in the early part of its use. This was followed by a long period of neglect resulting in continuous silting, a process that included organic, charcoal and possible embankment debris, all of which was sampled from various levels to allow detailed palaeo-environmental and carbon-dating analysis. Coupled with further studies of other artefactual evidence recovered from the ditch it is hoped that this program of analysis will be able to establish the dating and phasing of the ditches as well as their relationship with interior features.
- 4.9 The outer ditch (149) was investigated in three sections, although again only fully excavated in the long section across this and the inner ditch. As with the inner ditch, it became apparent that the earlier excavations, including the section excavated in phase one of the current programme, had failed to identify the true extent of the feature and had effectively 'bottomed' the ditch at the top of the primary fill. The ditch was approximately 4.7m wide and up to 2.5m deep (see Plate 2). All of the excavated sections revealed multiple phases of ditch recutting/maintenance, although the profile remained largely unchanged and, unlike the inner ditch, had steep, almost vertical sides with an irregular curved base. As with the inner ditch, organic and charcoal samples were recovered from all of the critical phases. The tertiary silts produced numerous fragments of Samian possibly demonstrating heightened activity within the enclosure during the latter part of the 1st century AD, followed by a long period of ditch silting through the later centuries.
- 4.10 Surviving evidence for defensive banks associated with both ditches was not immediately apparent. The topography of the site, however, coupled with the remains of numerous stony spreads, suggested that a clay, stone and possible turf bank may well have existed between the two ditches. Furthermore, the primary silts of the outer ditch contained a large amount of redeposited clay, stone and sand, suggesting bank erosion. The inner ditch contained similar deposits including large quantities of stone rubble occurring in the latter phases of the silting process. The absence of features from immediately inside the inner ditch also suggests the existence of an internal bank, possibly up to c. 4m wide, although it would appear that by at least the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD the bank was no longer a physical barrier as large drainage gullies, possibly dating from this period, appear to flow directly into the silted ditch.

Enclosure interior

- 4.11 A significant number of features were identified within the enclosure, the most notable of which was a small roundhouse, with two or three phases of construction (see Fig. 4 and Plate 3). This was around 5.2m in diameter and defined by a slightly raised platform (361) surrounded by shallow drainage gullies with an entrance on the north-north-west side. Much of the interior had been disturbed by animal burrowing which, due to the partial infilling with stones, would appear to be contemporary with the building's period of use. This, and the lack of finds, suggest that the building was a food store rather than a dwelling. Several postholes were identified within the roundhouse, although they did not form an obvious pattern and indeed may not all be contemporary with the structure. One posthole contained the *in situ* base of a burnt post measuring approximately 0.3m in diameter and 0.3m in depth. The surrounding drainage gullies were generally V-shaped, only 0.2m wide and up to 0.22m deep, filled by a variable silty clay. All of the features recorded within the structure were associated with a firm deposit of burnt clay and charcoal, possibly an occupation layer. Further analysis and carbon dating of the retrieved samples from this area may well produce a timeline that can be attributed to the 1st or 2nd centuries AD.

- 4.12 A substantial drainage gully (223) was identified along the south-eastern side of the roundhouse, although the relationship between this and the roundhouse gullies could not be determined (see Fig. 4, Plate 4). It would appear, however, that the larger gully was either contemporary with, or later than, the roundhouse as the gullies associated with the latter appeared to have been truncated by this feature. The gully, which had a broad concave-shaped profile and measured c. 1.55m wide and up to 0.5m deep, was slightly sinuous with a butt end to the south-west and extended beyond the limits of excavation to the north-east. The fill comprised a series of clay-sand silts, characterised by a quantity of fire-cracked stones and a broad charcoal lens that, when sampled, was found to contain a fair percentage of burnt bone, probably of animal origin. A small quantity of daub together with ceramics of unknown provenance was also recovered.
- 4.13 The south-western arm of the gully also truncated a group of earlier features consisting of a broad but shallow linear gully, two pits and a number of associated small post-holes. No dateable artefacts were recovered from these features. Additionally, between the gully (223) and the southernmost arm of the inner ditch (133) (an area provisionally examined during excavations in the 1990s), a number of other shallow linear features of some antiquity together with a group of postholes were recorded. Two of the postholes, (343) and (345) (see Plate 5), were extremely well defined being, between 0.35m and 0.46m in diameter and up to 0.46m in depth. The results of the 1979 excavations show a network of large drainage gullies to the east of this area suggesting, therefore, the possible existence of another structure in this quadrant of the inner enclosure.
- 4.14 Beyond the northern extent of the roundhouse another group of features was identified. These comprised a series of shallow linear gullies, post-holes and pits, including two postholes (187 and 189) and an adjacent gully (193) which suggest a possible structure. At a point between this group of features and the northern bounds of the inner ditch two more substantial drainage gullies were identified, both orientated north-west to south-east and extending beyond the extent of the excavation. This area of the interior provided a significant quantity of dateable artefacts, with a large percentage of the entire assemblage of Romano-British pottery being recovered from one gully alone (157) (see Fig. 4, Plate 6). This also included the only significant dateable bronze artefact, a fragmented Romano-British brooch. Both of the drainage gullies appeared to be multi-phased and their relationship to the latter phases of the inner ditch will prove to be a key element in understanding the development of the Arddleen enclosure as a whole.

5 FINDS

- 5.1 A significant assemblage of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the excavation, comprising 408 sherds of predominantly Severn Valley ware, but with significant quantities of Samian, mortaria, Black Burnished Ware and Malvernian cooking pots. The assemblage currently awaits detailed specialist analysis following the approval of contingency expenditure.
- 5.2 The excavations produced only two Romano-British bronze artefacts, a small brooch and a badly corroded coin. These await further identification, together with seven iron objects which may need to be x-rayed, following the approval of contingency expenditure.
- 5.3 As well as the Romano-British material, the excavations have also produced a significant assemblage of medieval pottery (63 sherds) and post-medieval pottery (458 sherds), all of which will be studied in detail in due course.
- 5.4 The excavations included a programme of palaeo-environmental sampling from those features thought to contain any significant potential, but particularly from the defensive ditches. A total of 15 samples were taken and further assessment is required to determine their potential. Contingency sums have been included for preliminary assessment and full reporting and further details are provided in Appendix 1.
- 5.5 A number of features produced significant quantities of charcoal which have the potential for providing radiocarbon dates as well as the preservation of charred macro-plant remains. Contingency sums have been included for up to 6 radiocarbon dates and the identification of macro remains and further details are provided in Appendix 1.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The excavations have revealed considerable new detail regarding the Romano-British enclosure and its immediate environs. It is now clear that the enclosure was defended by substantial ditches which were considerably larger than had been previously thought. Within the interior, the excavations revealed a multi-phased roundhouse which may have been used as a store, as well as indications of perhaps two other structures.
- 6.2 At this stage, with only preliminary post-excavation work having been undertaken, it appears that the data from the excavations have considerable potential for improving our understanding of the site, providing cultural and environmental information as well as dating. Details of the post-excavation and publication proposals are provided in Appendix 1.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 The writers would like to thank the following people for their assistance during the project: Fiona Johnson, Ian Davies, Sean Daley, Gary Foster, Peter Jones, Ken Owen, Chris Lane, David Pepper, Lisa Carruthers, Martin Jenks and Conner Jenks, Steven Jones; Keith Davies and Vince Jones, Keith Davies and Associates.

8 REFERENCES

- Britnell, W J, & Musson, C R, 1984. Rescue excavation of a Romano-British double-ditched enclosure at Arddleen, Llandrinio, northern Powys, *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 133, 91-99.

APPENDIX 1

POST-EXCAVATION RESEARCH DESIGN

Summary of proposals

The preliminary assessment of the site archive has now been completed according to the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991), and an interim report has been produced summarising the results from the excavation (see main report).

Assessment of archaeological potential

The results from the preliminary assessment have demonstrated that the site archive has considerable potential for revealing significant information which could aid the interpretation of the site and further advance the understanding of Romano-British occupation in the region. The research potential is summarised below:

Site archive

The drawn and written record contains the primary data relating to the site and further analysis will be required to integrate these data with information from the artefactual record in order to produce a phased model of the archive. The general lack of stratigraphic sequences means that the dating and relationship of features depends to a large extent on the artefactual evidence and the integration of this information with the drawn and written record is crucial to the understanding of the site as a whole.

Artefactual record

The excavations produced a significant assemblage of artefacts which are summarised in Appendix 2, including over 400 sherds of Romano-British pottery, largely from stratified deposits. The preliminary assessment has indicated that the assemblage contains a significant proportion of diagnostic and datable sherds which will require the services of a number of specialists to identify and report on the Romano-British coarsewares, mortaria and samian.

Radiocarbon dating

A total of 33 charcoal samples were taken from a range of contexts, including stratified deposits within the inner and outer ditches. Radiocarbon dating of a number of samples from key contexts has the potential for complementing the artefactual evidence and assisting with phasing the site, particularly in relation to the earlier phases of occupation.

Palaeoenvironmental record

A number of bulk samples were taken from contexts likely to preserve palaeoenvironmental remains in the form of pollen and plant macro fossils. Specialist analysis has the potential for providing information on the fauna and flora of the site and its environs which will be of regional importance, adding to work already undertaken at a number of broadly contemporary sites within the area.

Conservation

A small number of iron objects were recovered from Romano-British contexts and x-radiographs are required to confirm their identification. It is not anticipated that any objects will require further conservation other than storage in a stable environment.

Proposed work programme

See also Project Management Plan. The anticipated work programme includes the following elements (numbered as in Project Management Plan):

- 1 *Administration*
Project management, the production of a summary report for *Archaeology in Wales 2003*, and the updating of the CPAT website.
- 2 *Site Archive*
More detailed studies of the drawn and written records, integrating dating and artefactual evidence, to produce a phased interpretation of the archaeology.

- 3 *Artefact analysis*
Detailed studies by appropriate specialists of the various categories of artefacts recovered from the excavation. A series of short specialist reports and identifications will be produced which will focus on the identification, dating, and significance of the artefacts. A small number of iron objects will require x-radiographs to assist identification.
- 4 *Radiocarbon dating*
The submission of up to 6 samples for radiocarbon dating at Beta Analytic Inc., Miami, Florida, USA. The charcoal will be identified by the Palaeo-environmental Research Unit, Manchester, prior to submission for dating.
- 5 *Palaeoenvironmental analysis*
Samples were recovered from a number of significant contexts which may provide palaeoenvironmental data relating to the site and its environs. A preliminary assessment of the samples will be undertaken by a specialist to determine the potential for further studies of pollen and macrofossil remains. At this stage a contingency estimate has been included to cover full analysis and reporting, although the costings may be revised following the preliminary assessment. Samples will be processed by the Palaeo-environmental Research Unit, Manchester.
- 6 *Publication*
Production of final excavation report, written by the excavator, Ian Grant, with the assistance of Nigel Jones and a discussion by Bill Britnell, for publication in *Montgomeryshire Collections*.
- 7 *Archive*
Deposition of site archive with SMR and finds with an agreed museum.

Proposed timing

To be completed by the end of March 2004, with the final publication submitted for inclusion in the next volume of *Montgomeryshire Collections*.

End products

- 1 Publication in *Montgomeryshire Collections*.
- 2 Summary report for *Archaeology in Wales 2003*.
- 3 Summary report on CPAT website
- 4 Site archive deposited with SMR
- 5 Artefacts deposited with museum

Financial Summary

Bill Britnell, 2 days
 Nigel Jones, 9 days
 Ian Grant, 30 days
 Fiona Johnson, 10 days
 Brian Williams, 10 days

Contingency funds*Radiocarbon dating*

Beta Analytic Inc., Miami, Florida, USA

6 Radiocarbon dates @ £250 per date **1,500**

Roman Pottery

Mortaria	Kay Hartley	100
Coarse Pottery	Wendy Owen	950
Samian	Peter Webster	100
		1150

Palaeoenvironmental analysis

Palaeo-environmental Research Unit, Manchester

Identification of wood charcoal prior to dating	150
1 plant macro identification	25
Preliminary processing of 8 samples @ £100 per sample	800
Up to 8 samples requiring full analysis @ 240 per sample	1920
	2895

Conservation

University of Wales College Cardiff
 X-Radiographs

150

TOTAL 5,695

Project Management Plan

		WJ Britnell Director	NW Jones Senior Proj. Arch.	I Grant Project Assist.	F Grant Project Assist.	Brian Williams	Specialist services
1	Administration						
1.1	Project Management	●	5				
1.2	Arch. in Wales report			●			
1.3	Update CPAT website		●				
2	Analysis of Site Archive				1		
2.1	Drawn/written records			5	2		
2.2	Integrate dating/artefactual evidence			3	2		
2.3	Phasing			3			
3	Artefact analysis						
3.1	Prehistoric pottery	●					
3.2	Lithics	●					
3.3	Roman pottery				2		●
3.4	Medieval pottery		1				
3.5	Post-medieval pottery		2	2	1		
3.6	Metalwork				1		
3.7	Conservation/x-rays						●
4	Radiocarbon dating						●
5	Palaeoenvironmental analysis						
5.1	sample assessment				1		●
5.2	detailed analysis						●
5.3	charcoal identification						●
6	Publication						
6.1	Draft report		1	10			
6.2	Drafting					10	
6.3	Discussion	1					
6.4	Readers' comments	1					
6.5	Report revision			3			
6.6	Final report			3			
7	Archive						
7.1	Deposition of archive with SMR			●			
7.2	Deposition of finds with museum			●			
	Total days 2003/04	2	9	30	10	10	

Project Management Plan: Timetable

		October	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1	Administration						
1.1	Project Management	•	•	•	•	•	•
1.2	Arch. in Wales report			•			
1.3	Update CPAT website		•				
2	Analysis of Site Archive						
2.1	Drawn/written records	•	•	•	2		
2.2	Integrate dating/artefactual evidence			•	•	•	
2.3	Phasing			•	•	•	
3	Artefact analysis						
3.1	Prehistoric pottery		•				
3.2	Lithics		•				
3.3	Roman pottery		•	•			
3.4	Medieval pottery		•	•			
3.5	Post-medieval pottery		•	•			
3.6	Metalwork				•		
3.7	Conservation/x-rays			•	•		
4	Radiocarbon dating		•	•			
5	Palaeoenvironmental analysis						
5.1	sample assessment		•	•			
5.2	detailed analysis			•	•	•	
5.3	charcoal identification		•				
6	Publication						
6.1	Draft report			•	•	•	
6.2	Drafting			•			
6.3	Discussion					•	
6.4	Readers' comments					•	•
6.5	Report revision						•
6.6	Final report						•
7	Archive						
7.1	Deposition of archive with SMR			•			
7.2	Deposition of finds with museum			•			
	Total days 2003/04	2	9	30	10	10	

APPENDIX 2

PROJECT ARCHIVE

Site archive

361 Context record forms
9 black and white negative films
8 colour slide films
8 colour print film
Photographic catalogue
Site drawings: 27 plans; 11 sections

Finds Summary

?Prehistoric pottery	2 sherds
Romano-British pottery	408 sherds
Medieval pottery	63 sherds
Post-medieval pottery	458 sherds
Clay pipe	63 fragments
Brick/tile/daub	80 fragments
Flint	5 fragments
Worked stone	2 fragments
Iron	7 Romano-British objects, 86 post-medieval objects
Bronze	2 Romano-British objects, 2 post-medieval objects
Metal-working	1 smithing hearth base
Bone	8 samples
Samples	33 charcoal samples 14 bulk soil samples 1 plant macro sample

APPENDIX 3

NAYLOR FIELDS, ARDDLEEN, POWYS SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION BY THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The proposed development of a block of land at Naylors Field, Arddleen, Powys (SJ26041602) involves the construction of 11 new dwellings with access, car parking and garden landscaping (Powys CC planning application no M99550).
- 1.2 The development plot is located to the rear of Naylors House, west of the A483. Information held on within the County Sites and Monuments Record indicates that the development will directly affect intact buried deposits related to the early Romano-British farmstead enclosure known as Arddleen Enclosure (PRN 4627). Excavations in 1979 (Britnell and Musson 1984) revealed an inner and outer enclosure ditch, a group of internal gullies and a series of oval pits, some containing burnt material. Finds included pottery, burnt clay, stone objects and plant remains and charcoal which provided local palaeo-environmental data. Further excavations have been undertaken in 1998 and 1999 by Margaret Worthington, again locating the defences as well as internal features.
- 1.3 The Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local authority, have determined that a programme of archaeological work is required to ensure the preservation the site by record in advance of the development. Accordingly a brief (No EXC 334 dated 26/8/99) has been prepared which describes the scheme of archaeological works required.
- 1.4 Changes to the development programme subsequent to the initial application have resulted in a two phase proposal with the construction of the three properties outside the Romano-British enclosure to be constructed first. It is anticipated that the entire area of the development will be subject to total archaeological excavation.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives are:
 - 2.1.1 to reveal by means of total excavation the nature, condition, significance and, where possible, the chronology of the archaeology within the area of the proposed development in so far as these aims are possible;
 - 2.1.2 to record any archaeology revealed within the area of excavation;
 - 2.1.3 to undertake a programme of post-excavation research, incorporating specialist reports where necessary, securing the full analysis and interpretation of the development area;
 - 2.1.4 to prepare an archive of the excavation and a report suitable for publication in which the results of the excavation are outlined and discussed.

3 Methods

- 3.1 Removal of topsoil and overburden by a machine fitted with a wide, flat, toothless bucket down to the level of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. This to be undertaken by the developer at his own cost under the close supervision of an archaeologist and to the satisfaction of the curator. Thereafter all excavation will be conducted by hand unless previously agreed with the curator.
- 3.2 Due to the size of the development area the excavation will be undertaken in two stages to allow for storage of spoil. Stage 1 will consist of an area of c. 2,500m² lying outside of the outer enclosure

ditch, to the south and south-west. Upon completion of this area, Stage 2 will consist of the interior of the enclosure together with the area of the two ditches (c. 4,000m²).

- 3.3 The excavation strategy will comprise rapid cleaning of the areas where overburden has been removed followed by total excavation of all archaeological features encountered, subject to any constraints imposed by health and safety etc. The strategy for excavating the enclosure ditches will consist of the detailed excavation and recording of 2m wide sections at intervals of 15m. The intervening sections will then be excavated more rapidly according to the stratigraphic profiles already determined in order to retrieve dating evidence and provide samples for possible environmental analysis/C14 dating.
- 3.4 Overall site planning and artefact location will be undertaken using total station surveying equipment which will be tied into the National Grid and OS datum as accurately as possible. Sections of individual features will be drawn by hand at 1:20.
- 3.5 All archaeological contexts will be excavated to the level of natural soils where possible. All features will be recorded by the use of written context record forms, photography in 35mm black and white print, colour print and colour slide, and drawn in plan/section as appropriate.
- 3.6 Appropriate features will be sampled for palaeoenvironmental data and bulk sampling will be undertaken as required. All sampling will be conducted by or following the advice of an environmental archaeologist. Samples for radiocarbon or other dating techniques will be taken as necessary. A general policy will be agreed prior to commencement of work.
- 3.7 All archaeological artefacts and environmental samples will be recorded and processed in a manner appropriate to the material involved. Those requiring conservation or other specialist treatment will be stored in a stable environment until such times as they can be examined by a specialist. All finds, except those deemed to be Treasure Trove, are the property of the landowner. It is anticipated that they will be donated to the appropriate local or regional museum, subject to agreement being reached with the landowner and the museum curator.
- 3.8 Subsequent to the excavation, the research potential of the site archive will be assessed, together with the archives from previous excavations and a report and archive prepared accordingly. The full potential of the archive cannot be known at this stage and consequently contingency sums must be reserved for use against possible specialist needs.
- 3.9 The site archive will be prepared to specifications laid out in Appendix 3 in the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991) and deposited with the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust.
- 3.10 An interim report will be produced according to the guidelines in section 12 of the Brief and deposited with the client and the curator within one month of the completion of the fieldwork element of the excavation.
- 3.11 A full report on the excavation, including reports by specialists, will be produced within one year for publication in an appropriate regional or national journal.

4 Resources and Programming

- 4.1 The excavation will be undertaken by a small team of skilled archaeologists under the supervision of Nigel Jones an experienced field archaeologist and member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. Overall supervision will be by Mr RJ Silvester, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 4.2 All report preparation and specialist liaison/integration will be completed by the same field archaeologist who conducted the excavation.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that the excavation will take no more than 15 weeks in all, with the initial phase taking approximately 4 weeks. The subsequent report would be prepared immediately thereafter, dependent

on the client's instructions and the arrangement of a suitable timetable. The date of commencement, at the time of writing, has yet to be agreed with the client, and will be dependent on the state of the site and agreed access. The curator will be informed of the detailed timetable and staffing levels when agreement has been reached with the client.

4.4 The conservation of finds will be undertaken by Cardiff University dept. Archaeology. Palaeo-environmental sampling/processing will be undertaken by Mike Walker, St David's University College, Lampeter. Artefact studies, illustration and reporting will be undertaken both in house and by appropriate specialists to be agreed with the curator once the nature of the artefact assemblages is known.

4.5 The following contingencies are intended as a guideline and represent the best possible estimate at this stage. A review of contingency sums should be undertaken following discussions with the curator and the client on completion of the excavation (see section 9.2 of the Curatorial Brief).

Radiocarbon dating	£1500
Environmental archaeology	£3000
Conservation	£700
Specialist fees	£600

4.6 Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.

4.7 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance.

5 References

Britnell, W.J., & Musson, C.R. 1984. Rescue excavation of a Romano-British double-ditched enclosure at Arddleen, Llandrinio, Northern Powys, *Archaeologia Cambrensis* 133, 91-99.

N.W. Jones
Senior Project Archaeologist
21st February 2002

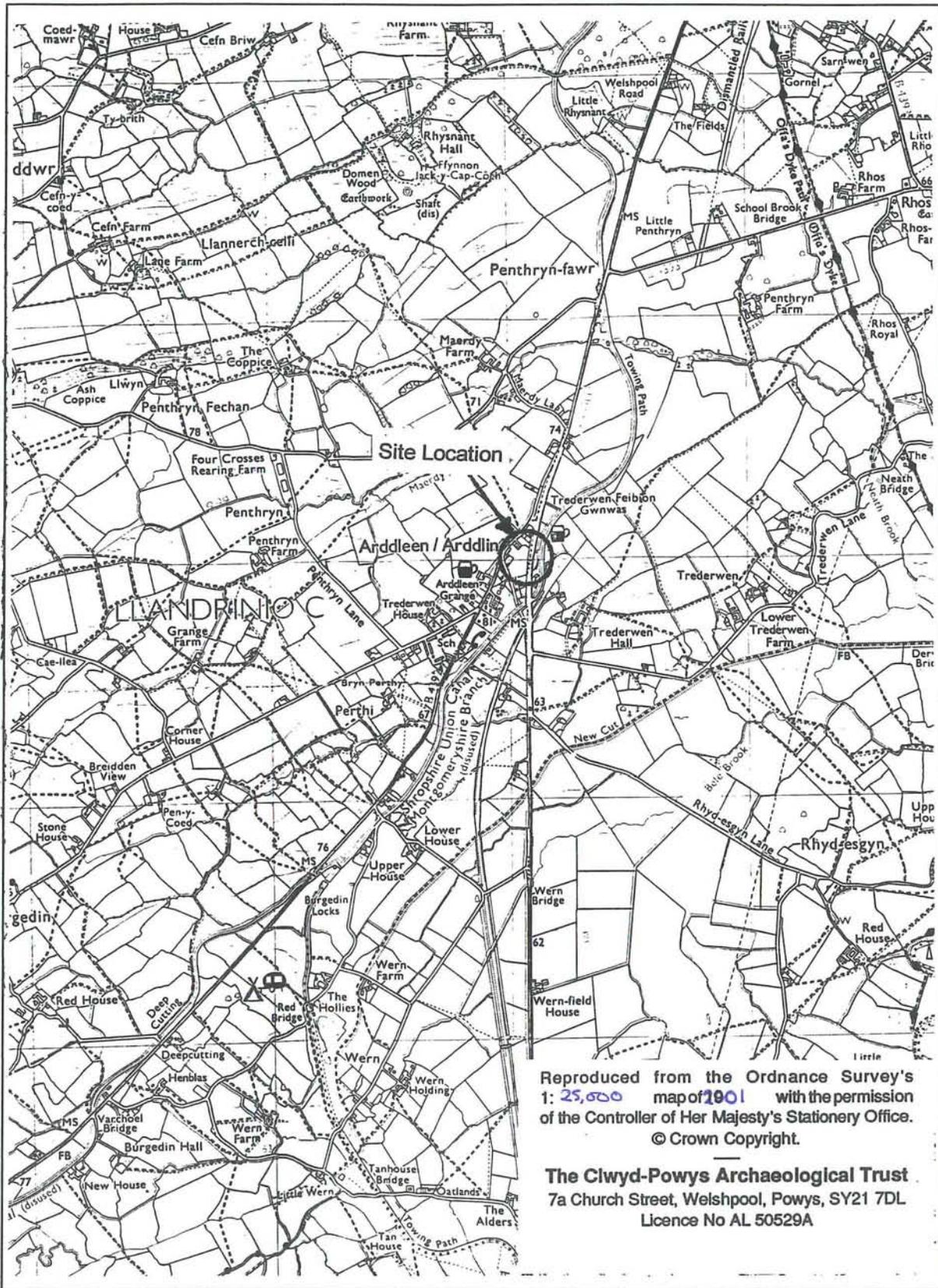


Fig 1. Site Location Scale 1:25,000

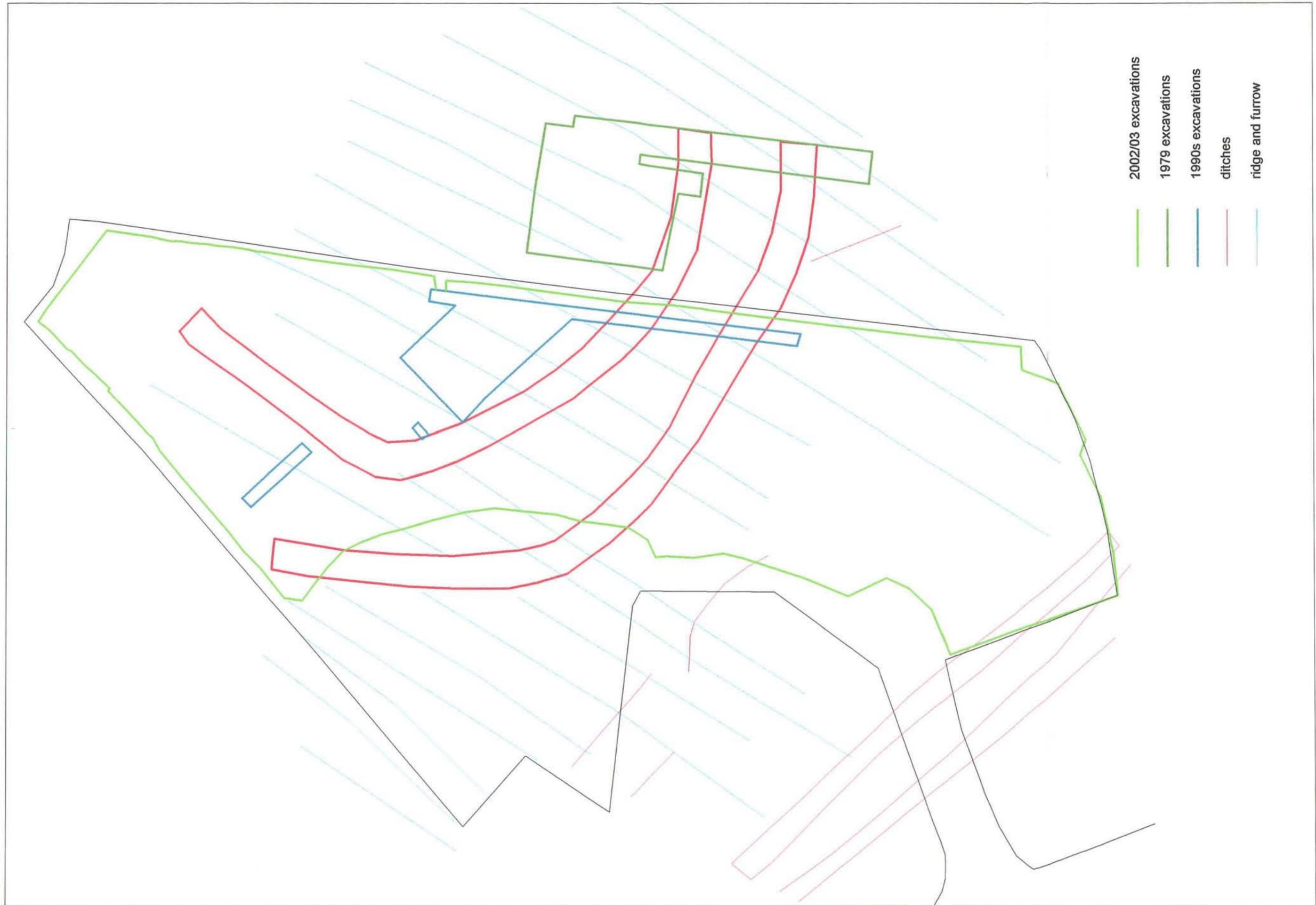


Fig. 2 Aerial photographic plot and location of trenches. Scale 1:500



Fig. 3 Overall excavation plan, contours at 0.2m intervals. Scale 1:500

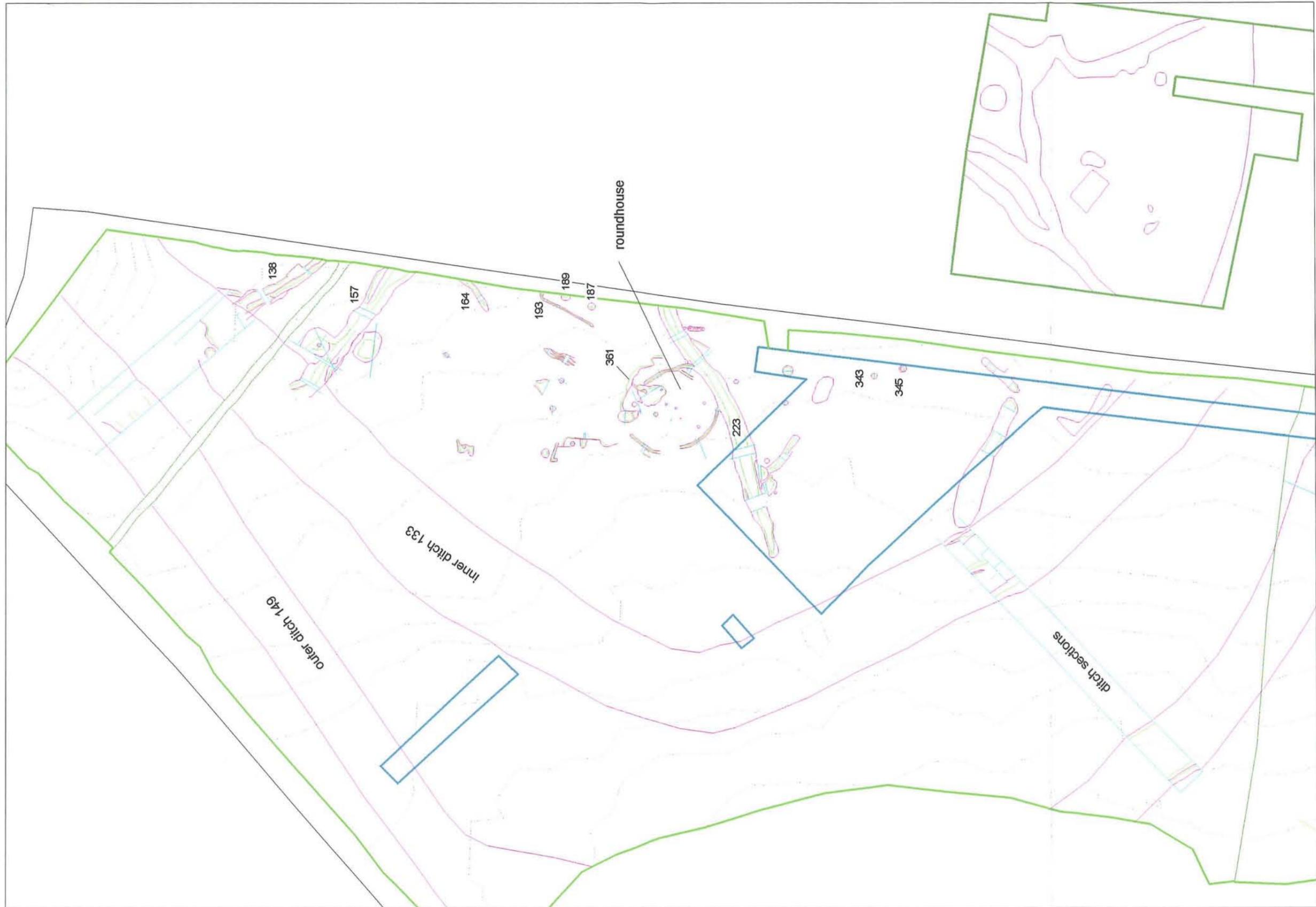


Fig. 4 Enclosure excavation plan, contours at 0.2m intervals. Scale 1:250



Plate 1 Inner ditch (133), south-east facing section (Photo CPAT 1487/5)



Plate 2 Outer ditch (149), south-east facing section (Photo CPAT 1478/30)



Plate 3 North-facing, post-excitation view of the roundhouse, with drainage gully (223) in the background (Photo CPAT 1489/22)



Plate 4 West facing view of drainage gully (223) (Photo CPAT 1489/31)



Plate 5 Post-excavation view of post-hole (343), east facing (Photo CPAT 1489/18)



Plate 6 Drainage gully (157), west facing (Photo CPAT 1477/24)