

Archaeological assessment of Clun, Shropshire

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with contributions by Derek Hurst, Richard Morriss, Elizabeth Pearson and Paul Stamper

Summary

The historic town of Clun was surveyed during the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey, a desk-based study of 64 smaller historic towns in Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Archaeological and documentary evidence relating to the historic core of Clun was carefully analysed, comprising topographic data, published and unpublished archaeological reports, museum collections, primary and secondary historical sources, historical maps, and field data recorded by the project team.

Detailed evidence is provided on the character and layout of the settlement in the medieval and post-medieval periods. For each period the available information is analysed and mapped in detail, and a model of the development of the town is proposed. In addition, the evidence for pre-urban occupation is considered, together with evidence of 19th century occupation. All archaeologically-relevant information has been recorded as part of the county Sites and Monuments Record. Specialist assessments of artefacts, ecofacts, standing buildings and documentary sources are included. A detailed archaeological research framework has been developed for Clun, which will inform future archaeological investigations as well as management decisions.

The historic core of Clun contains buried archaeological deposits, and these are judged to have high potential. In addition there is high potential for the recovery of artefact and ecofact assemblages. The historic buildings constitute a complementary body of evidence, and are judged to have high potential for detailed study and recording. The surviving documentary sources are extensive and consequently the potential for further study is high.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and landuse

The urban area of Clun is located at NGR SO 300 808 in South Shropshire District. The modern settlement of Clun comprises the historic core with some small scale housing development on its edges.

1.2 Topography, geology and soils

Clun lies at a height of between 180m and 200m OD. The town is situated on the slopes on either side of the river Clun, the valley of which forms an east-west routeway across the high ground of the Clun Forest. The soils are argillic or stagnogleyic argillic brown earths of the Rowton association and alluvial gley soils of the Conway association overlying glacio-fluvial or river terrace gravel, till and river alluvium (Soil Survey of England and Wales, Ragg *et al* 1984). The underlying geology is Devonian Raglan Mudstone

Formation (British Geological Survey 1:125,000, sheet 52°N-0.4°W).

1.3 Chronological outline

Clun was the centre of a large Anglo-Saxon estate (Croom 1988, 72) and may have been the site of a minster church (Crannage 1903). The manor is mentioned in 1086 (Thorn and Thorn 1986), and the Domesday village was probably situated around the church on the south bank of the river (Beresford 1988, 479; Morriss 1990). After the Conquest the manor of Clun was held first by the de Says, and from 1199 until 1572 by the FitzAlans (Eyton 1860; Morriss 1990). In the first half of the 12th century the manors of Clun and Obley were separated from the Purslow Hundred to form the Honour of Clun, a Marcher lordship with Clun at its centre (Morriss 1990).

The castle at Clun is not mentioned in the Domesday Book, but it was probably built some time in the next half century. It was in existence by 1140-50 when it was mentioned in the Pipe Rolls (Renn 1973). In 1196 Clun Castle was besieged by Prince Rhys and reduced to ashes (Eyton 1860). It has been suggested that the laying out of a town at Clun dates from the rebuilding of the castle in stone after this event (Rowley 1972). However it is possible that the town was already in existence before this time, and indeed Beresford notes that the early 12th century was the most fruitful period for the founding of towns in Shropshire (Beresford 1988, 478-479).

The town of Clun was a manorial borough with no royal charter, and as such was similar to the other FitzAlan borough of Ruyton XI Towns (Kenyon 1917). The town enjoyed moderate prosperity in the medieval period and acted as a centre where Welsh and English cultures could meet and mingle (Davies 1978, 20-22; Rowley 1986). The Honor of Clun contained the Tempsiter, an area set aside for the Welsh, to the west of Offa's Dyke (Eyton 1860), and a special Welsh court was held at Clun throughout the medieval period (Rowley 1986).

In 1204 a charter for a three day fair was granted. In 1272 there were 183 burgages, a Saturday market and two fairs (Beresford and Finberg 1973). In 1277 a grant of murage was received (Bond 1987; Morriss 1990). By the mid-13th century Clun appears to have been quite prosperous and was larger than Oswestry (Morriss 1990). Most of this prosperity seems to have been based on the wool trade (Davies 1978, 118-119). In 1302, however, the value of the borough was assessed and it was noted that while 85 burgesses paid rent, some 60 tenements were lying empty (Eyton 1860; Rowley 1986). The prosperity of the town was not helped by attacks from both the Welsh and English. As well as the attack by Prince Rhys in 1196 (Eyton 1860, 229), the town was burnt by Llywelyn in 1234 (Eyton 1860, 252), and possibly by King John in 1216 (Jones 1933). It has been stated that the town and castle were also attacked by Owen Glyndwr *c* 1400, but the evidence for this is unclear (Morriss 1990).

Following the Act of Union in 1536 the Honour of Clun was incorporated into the new Welsh County of Montgomeryshire but was soon transferred to Shropshire (Davies 1978, 20-22; Morriss 1990). In 1605 the town contained around 100 burgage tenements. The burgesses included knights, esquires, gentlemen, venerables, yeomen, husbandmen, craftsmen and tradesman. It was noted, however, that the burgesses neglected to attend the market (Salt 1888). The two borough maces date to this period (Anon nd). The castle was too ruinous to be garrisoned during the Civil War but the church was burnt by Royalist troops (Crannage 1903).

The town was in decline by the 17th century, and by 1835 only 24 burgesses remained (Kenyon 1917). In 1867 it was noted that "little life or energy seems left in the place. It has an air of listless decadence" (Anon 1867). The borough was finally abolished in 1886 but it had ceased to exercise any municipal functions many years before that (Kenyon 1917).

1.4 Placename studies

The name Clun, now used for both the town and the river, is derived from a British name *Colauna* whose meaning is uncertain. The name may have referred to a Roman or post-Roman settlement but it is more probable that the settlement at Clun was a much later foundation named after the river Clun (Gelling 1990, 91; Gelling 1992). The earliest reference to a settlement at Clun is in 1002 when there is a mention of the will of Wulfric *aet Clune* (Morriss 1993). At Doomsday the manor was still referred to as *Clune*. In the 13th century it is referred to as *Cluna*, *Cloune*, *Clawne*, and *Clone* and later *Clonne* (1317), *Cloon* (1369) and *Clun* (1660) (Morriss 1990).

1.5 Syntheses of documentary and archaeological data

The documentary evidence relating to Clun has been summarised by Eyton (1860) and Kenyon (1917). More recently syntheses of the historical and archaeological information relating to the castle have been published (Morriss 1990; Morriss 1993; Remfrey 1994a, 1994b).

The present assessment was carried out by the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey in 1994. The text was revised in March 1995 to incorporate the results of fieldwork undertaken by the Survey (see section 1.7). No information published after December 1994 has been incorporated into this assessment.

1.6 Cartographic sources

Nineteenth century maps including the tithe map of 1847 (Foxall nd) and the Ordnance Survey first edition 1:2500 maps (*Shropshire sheet LXIX.7, 17* (1884)) have been used to aid in the identification of remains and the definition of components.

1.7 Archaeological excavations and surveys

The City of Hereford Archaeology Unit have undertaken building recording, evaluation and excavation work at Clun Castle (Appleton-Fox 1992; Morriss 1993; Shoesmith 1990). Buried deposits have also been encountered in the area of the medieval pleasance and fishponds attached to the castle. When this area, known as "The Parks", was drained in 1843 some thick oak posts, one foot in diameter and buried upright were discovered (SA 5440). Reports of a circular ring of masonry and a hut with a hearth and stone seat in the same vicinity suggest an antiquarian excavation but there is no published report of this (SCC SMR site file, SA 3051).

The only archaeological evidence from outside the castle grounds comes from chance finds and observations. In the 1950s there was a report of foundations in gardens off Kid Lane. These were interpreted as part of St Thomas's chapel and in the 1980 an architectural fragment, possibly medieval, was found in the same vicinity (SCC SMR site file SA 3088). A Romano-British lead spindle whorl was reported from the site of the Midland Bank on the west side of the Square (SA 5435; Chitty 1955).

Fieldwork was undertaken by the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey in November 1994. This identified remains, investigated and revised the extent of components, and recorded 18th and 19th century cellarge and modern developments in the urban area.

1.8 Acknowledgments and personnel

Survey fieldwork was carried out by Victoria Buteux and Laura Templeton. Analysis and report writing were carried out by Victoria Buteux and the report was edited by Hal Dalwood.

2 Pre-urban evidence

The Clun-Clee ridgeway running between the Severn at Bewdley and the Kerry Hills is thought to have been in use from the Neolithic period and valley of the Clun is a natural east-west routeway. Artefactual and aerial photographic evidence indicates that the area around the modern town of Clun was occupied from prehistory. It is possible that there was a settlement on the site of the later town from the Roman period (see section 1.4). There is no concrete evidence of a Romano-British settlement, however, despite the discovery of a spindle whorl of that date (SA 5435) in the centre of the town. What is more certain is that in the late Saxon period there was a settlement at Clun possibly centred around the predecessor of the present church on the south side of the river.

3 Medieval archaeological evidence

3.1 Medieval remains and buildings

The castle is still a substantial earthwork with banks and ditches. It contains standing remains of the great tower, two semi-circular towers and fragments of curtain wall. Some of the gardens and fishponds belonging to the castle still survive as earthworks. Within the town medieval foundations may have been located off Kid Lane but these are no longer visible. The church of St George has been described and planned, and the sequence of construction interpreted (Crannage 1903; SA 13509). Four secular buildings of medieval date also survive but these have not been studied in detail (SA 13513, SA 14506, SA 17706, SA 17909).

3.2 Medieval urban components

Analysis of the evidence summarised above and of cartographic and documentary sources indicated the existence of twenty two urban components. The characteristics of these urban components are summarised below.

Castle (SA 1198). A castle was constructed at Clun on a natural spur in the bend of the river some time between 1086 and 1140 (Renn 1973). This castle was probably a timber motte and bailey, as it was reduced to ashes by the forces of Prince Rhys in 1196 and subsequently rebuilt in stone (Eyton 1869; Rowley 1986, 112). In its final form it consisted of a motte with two baileys. The entrance to the town was probably through the southern bailey. An extent of 1272 notes that the castle was small but competently built (Eyton 1860). At this period the tower on the motte needed leading and the bridge linking it to the bailey was in need of repair. The bailey itself was surrounded by a ditch with a gate and a partly constructed wall. Within the bailey were a grange, stable and a bakery all in need of repair (Morriss 1993). The present Great Tower is a later addition and probably dates to the 14th century (Morriss 1994, 43; Remfrey 1994a, 17). An earlier keep on the site may be represented by the masonry on a slight ridge above the bailey entrance to the west of the Great Tower (Remfrey 1994a, 15). In 1440 the *inquisition post mortem* of Beatrice, Countess of Arundel mentions a chapel, a well, a barbican with a great chamber, a newly built great house, a castle gate, a great grange, gardens within the bailey as well as a number of other buildings (Morriss 1993). The fishponds and pleasance stood outside the bailey, across the river, to the west of the castle. The pleasance or pleasure house would have stood within a square moated enclosure and would have consisted of one or more pavilions ranged around a central formal garden (Watson and Musson 1993).

By the mid-16th century the castle was ruinous (Anon 1881) and it does not seem to have been garrisoned during the Civil War (Morriss 1993). It would seem that the castle lost its defensive function by the end of the middle ages but the last reference to it as a residence is in 1654 (Jones 1933).

Town defences (SA 5447, SA 5448). No town defences survive at Clun but in 1277 the town received a grant of murage (Morriss 1990). A reference in a document of 1589 to the town ditch forming the eastern boundary of burgages in Frog Lane supports the idea that the town defences were actually constructed and confirms observations of possible traces of defences at the back of Newport Street, Frog Street and Bridge Street (SA 6229; SA 5445; Turner 1971; NAR fieldwork reports; Morriss 1990). Bond (1987) suggests that these 13th century defences (SA 5448) may have encompassed an earlier circuit. The curved shape of Kid Lane and Bridge Street may reflect the line of a bank and ditch creating in effect an extra bailey to the castle (SA 5447) and protecting the bridge and market place. It has been suggested that such a circuit dates to the 12th century, but there is no documentary or archaeological evidence for this (Bond 1987). The town defences do not seem to have been in use after the medieval period.

Churchyard (SA 5454). It is possible that a minster church existed at Clun in the Anglo-Saxon period although no church was mentioned in Domesday. Crannage (1903) considers the earliest masonry within St George's Church to be Norman, but others who examined the structure of the church prior to its restoration in 1877 believed that parts of a larger pre-Conquest church were still visible in the structure of the nave (Morriss 1990; Bagshaw 1851; P Halliwell pers comm). The extent of the medieval churchyard is not known and the boundary of this component has been drawn using the 1847 tithe map (Foxall nd).

Chapel (SA 3088). The chapel of St Thomas may have been built in the 13th century to provide for the new planned town of Clun to the east of the castle (Morriss 1990). The chapel had disappeared by the 17th century and its exact location is not known although reports of foundations and masonry perhaps relating to it have been reported on Kid Lane (SCC SMR site file SA 3088).

Market place (SA 5449). The right to hold a three day fair was granted to William FitzAlan in 1204 (Eyton 1860). The location of the medieval market place is not documented but it may have always been held in the area now known as The Square. This area was within the proposed line of the 12th century defences (SA 5447). In the 16th century a building which acted as a courthouse, market building and goal was built to the east of the motte (see section 4.2) and it is possible that this area, within the castle defences, was the site of the medieval and early post-medieval market place.

Street system (SA 5450). The decline of the town after the medieval period has preserved the medieval street system to a large extent. The routes aligned north to south and east to west which cross by the church are possibly pre-conquest in date, although if no bridge was present at that time the main road may have crossed the river at the ford to the east (SA 5438, see below). The rest of the streets probably date to the 13th century when a planned town was laid out to the east of the castle.

Bridging points (SA 13512, SA 5438). The position of the medieval street, market and tenement plots suggest that there was a bridge at the bottom of Church Street from at least the 13th century. There is some dispute over the date of the present bridge (SA 13512), but it would appear to be later than this (DoE listing; Anon 1908). The earliest crossing point at Clun may have been the ford to the east (SA 5438), and this continued in use as a crossing point until the construction of a footbridge in the 19th century.

Tenement plots (SA 5451, SA 5452, SA 5453, SA 5455, SA 5456, SA 5457, SA 5458, SA 5459, SA 5460, SA 5461, SA 5462, SA 5463, SA 5480). Tenement plots to the south of the river (SA 5451, SA 5452 and SA 5453), next to the church, are possibly in the area of the earliest settlement at Clun. The tenement plots as shown on

the 1884 Ordnance Survey map are very regular, and this area may have been reorganised at some time after the development of the town on the northern side of the river.

Tenement plots SA 5455, SA 5456 and SA 5480 are within the proposed circuit of the early town defences (see above), and may have been occupied soon after the construction of the castle in the late 11th or early 12th century. Powells Lane and Ford Street are principal components of the planned urban layout linking the High Street and Newport Street. The internal boundaries within tenement plots SA 5460 and SA 5461, however, suggest that the development of this area occurred in stages perhaps with the High Street frontages being built up first. SA 5457, SA 5462 and SA 5463 are also part of the planned extension of the town. SA 5458 and SA 5459 contain non-uniform plots possibly reflecting earlier boundaries or the line of the 13th century town defences.

3.3 Medieval urban form

Definition and classification. The medieval urban form (SA 5485) has been defined and mapped, based on the extent of the identified urban components and in particular the limits of the earthworks of the castle and associated features and the tenement plots. The available evidence indicates that the medieval urban form of Clun can be classified as a medium sized medieval market town (English Heritage 1992).

Survival. The builders of the castle utilised the natural slope of the ground but the man-made earthworks are substantial and represent deep archaeological deposits. There are many traces of broken masonry on or just below the surface of the motte and in addition many irregularities in the ground surface that clearly relate to buried structures (Morris 1993). Excavation within the tower has provided a firm indication that much of the basement level has not been cleared out since the castle was abandoned (Shoesmith 1990), and that *c* 0.5m of late medieval deposits survive in this area. Lack of fieldwork has meant that the survival of buried archaeological deposits in the rest of the town has not been demonstrated. The continuous occupation of the town from at least the 13th century, and in some places possibly from the late Anglo-Saxon period, suggests, however, that stratified deposits are likely to have developed. Medieval deposits will have been damaged by post-medieval activity but the decline of the town after the medieval period may have limited the extent of this. Waterlogged remains may exist by the river and fishponds. Six medieval buildings including the castle and the church survive and the boundaries of the medieval town including the streets and tenement plots can still be observed. With the exception of the town defences the medieval form is well preserved in the modern townscape.

4 Post-medieval archaeological evidence

4.1 Post-medieval remains and buildings

There have been no recorded observations of buried deposits of post-medieval date from Clun. There are three listed buildings dating from the 16th century, 16 from the 17th century, and 13 from the 18th century, as well as the 18th century lychgate and six 18th century tombs in the churchyard. The majority of these structures have not been studied in detail.

4.2 Post-medieval urban components

Analysis of the evidence summarised above and of cartographic and documentary sources indicated the existence of 21 urban components. The characteristics of these urban components are summarised below.

Churchyard (SA 5482). St George's Church was burnt during the Civil War and a brief was granted in the reign of Charles II for its rebuilding. The brief states that the church was almost completely destroyed, but in fact much of the medieval structure survives (Crannage 1903). The extent of the post-medieval churchyard has been drawn using the 1847 tithe map (Foxall nd). Other features of the churchyard are the 18th century lychgate (SA 13510) and several fine 18th century tombs.

Market place (SA 5449). If The Square was the site of the medieval market place (see section 3.2) then it continued in use during the post-medieval period. The Market Hall (SA 151) was constructed in 1780 to replace the old Court House to the east of the castle (see below). The Square may have been larger than it is now as buildings to the east appear to be infilling. The earliest building in this area dates to the 19th century (SA 13538) but any encroachment onto the market place may have occurred at a much earlier date.

Court House (SA 5446). A building which served both as a court house for the manor and borough and as the market hall and town gaol was constructed on the northern bailey of the castle during the reign of Elizabeth I (Morriss 1990). This may have been the site of an earlier courthouse but there is no known documentary reference to this. This building is shown on an etching of 1731 but was demolished around 1780 when the new Town Hall in the Square was constructed (Kenyon 1917; Morriss 1990).

Street system (SA 5481). There is little evidence of change in the street system of Clun between the medieval and post-medieval periods. The exception to this is Hospital Lane which, if it does lie on the line of the town ditch mentioned in 1589, must be post-medieval in date.

Bridging points (SA 5438, SA 13512). Both the stone bridge and the ford continued in use throughout the post-medieval period.

Tenement plots (SA 5451, SA 5452, SA 5453, SA 5455, SA 5456, SA 5457, SA 5458, SA 5459, SA 5460, SA 5461, SA 5462, SA 5463, SA 5480, SA 5483). There appears to have been little or no expansion of tenement plots in Clun after the middle ages. Indeed as the town declined, particularly after the 17th century, the density of occupation decreased, and by the end of the 19th century components such as SA 5453 on the edge of the town were almost deserted (Foxall nd).

Almshouses (SA 13514). Trinity Hospital was founded before 1607 by Henry Howard, Earl of Northampton, and was intended for twelve poor men and a warden who were to devote themselves to the services of God (Prescott 1992). The building was constructed in 1618 on the very edge of the town.

Mill (SA 5439). The area to the north of the castle is noted as the site of Walk Mill on the 1847 tithe map (Foxall nd). This area is on the higher ground in what appears to be an outer bailey of the castle. The lower ground next to the river and a mill leat has been included in this component. Walk Mill may be medieval in origin but at present there is no evidence for this.

4.3 Post-medieval urban form

Definition and classification. The post-medieval urban form (SA 5486) has been defined and mapped, based on the extent of the identified urban components and in particular the limits of the tenement plots. The available evidence indicates that the post-medieval urban form of Clun can be classified as a small post-medieval market town (English Heritage 1992).

Survival. Lack of fieldwork has meant that the survival of buried archaeological deposits dating to the post-medieval date has not been demonstrated in Clun. The

considerable number of standing buildings dating to this period suggests that deposits associated with them may have survived, however. The decline in the intensity of occupation within the town between the 16th and 18th centuries may mean that deposits of this date are less substantial than those of earlier periods. They will lie close to the surface and are easily damaged. Waterlogged remains may exist by the river.

The components of the urban form comprising churchyard, tenement plots, street system and almshouses can be readily identified and the survival of all these components is good.

5 Post-1800 archaeological evidence

The remit of the present study has not allowed for a detailed survey and assessment of the archaeological evidence relating to Clun in the period from 1800. Further work is required before such an assessment can be carried out. Major archaeological remains have been identified, however, including the Methodist chapels (SA 5442, SA 14505) and the corn mill (SA 5443). There are seventeen listed 19th century buildings, one set of listed 19th century gateposts and 31 listed churchyard monuments within the study area.

6 Specialist assessments

6.1 Assessment of artefactual evidence J D Hurst

Little artefactual evidence is available for Clun. The earliest artefact from the study area is a Romano-British lead spindle whorl (SA 5435). The only other artefacts recorded are of medieval and post-medieval date and most of this material derives from recent excavation at the castle. The medieval finds from the castle comprise pottery, including a waster, painted wall plaster and building materials, including stone roof tile (SA 1198; Davies 1933, 120; City of Hereford Archaeology Unit 1990). A stone architectural fragment, possibly of Norman date, was also discovered to the east of Kid Lane (SA 3088). Post-medieval pottery has been noted on the castle site (City of Hereford Archaeology Unit 1990, Appleton-Fox 1992).

6.2 Assessment of environmental evidence E A Pearson

No structured environmental sampling policy has been exercised on archaeological evaluations or excavations in Clun to date, although some animal bone, including fowl and lamb was hand-collected during recording and excavation works at the castle (SA 1198; City of Hereford Archaeology Unit 1990). These remains were recovered from a burnt deposit sealing what was considered to be a late medieval abandonment layer in the centre of the northern part of the keep. In 1843, when The Parks, which included a medieval pleasance and fishponds (see section 3.2), were drained, thick oak posts one foot in diameter were discovered, suggesting that organic material may survive in this area.

6.3 Assessment of documentary sources P A Stamper

The many and varied administrative units centred at one time or another on Clun including lordship, honour, hundred, forest, castle, halimote wallicorum, manor, borough, and parish, have produced a complex, and confusing, wealth of documentary records. The main collection of material is in the Powis collection in SRO, and a catalogue to this is available in that office. Principal groups of primary sources are listed in section 9.

The main secondary historical sources consulted during the archaeological assessment include Eyton (1860), Kenyon (1916), Morriss (1990) and Salt (1888). Secondary historical sources identified but not studied during the archaeological assessment include

Bayliss (1957-60), Clark-Maxwell (1909; 1915) and Clough (1968).

6.4 Assessment of buildings R Morriss

Despite having the population of a village, Clun, with its large church, castle, market house, market place, several pubs and a supermarket housed in a former purpose-built bank, still has some architectural pretensions to urban status. Architecturally, its character is diverse, both in date and materials. The historic buildings are concentrated largely on High Street, the Square, Bridge Street and Church Street. Most of the obviously planned medieval settlement north of High Street is completely lacking in any buildings older than the 19th century. The survival of one large early 16th century cruck-framed hall house (SA 17965), next to later 17th century timber-framed cottages (SA 14563) in Little Hospital, at the north-eastern corner of the 'new town', probably represents vestiges of a wider spread of buildings. Indeed, the siting of Trinity Hospital in 1618, outside the assumed medieval defences, may indicate lack of room within them. There may, of course, have been other reasons.

Except for the castle, the church, and the Hospital, the surviving medieval and post-medieval buildings are timber-framed, though generally remodelled in 18th or 19th century render. These include several late medieval cruck-framed buildings, for example 12 and 17-19 High Street (SA 17706 and SA 14506), although the rest are generally of square box-framing. Many of the buildings from the end of the 17th century onwards were built in the local limestone rubble. These include the most prestigious houses still standing, The Vicarage, Vicarage Road (SA 13515) of *c* 1700, and the Old Vicarage (or Creswell House) on Bridge Street (SA 13533) built in the mid-18th century. Brick only seems to have become a significant material in the 20th century.

Generally the scale of the surviving buildings in the town is less pretentious, with most houses being of two storeys. There are too few surviving timber-framed buildings to gain much information of the town's former character. All but one of the surviving medieval vernacular buildings are on the north bank, either on High Street or the Square. Indeed, there are only three timber-framed buildings listed as being south of the river, all being close to the bridgehead. The significance of this lack of older buildings on Church Street and around the church itself is unclear.

Many of the houses are built with long frontages along the main streets and there seems to have been little pressure on land within the centre of the town. Indeed, the presence of a 15th century cruck-framed barn along High Street (SA 17706) could possibly support this assumption. There are few historic buildings in the rear plots.

Survey and analysis. Little survey and less analysis appears to have been carried out on the town's buildings, with the exception of work on the castle and church.

Assessment of the listing details. The list dates to 1985 and is well up to the standards now expected. It is both comprehensive in scope and detailed in description.

7 Archaeological research framework

7.1 Model of urban development

A model of the medieval and post-medieval town of Clun has been produced which is predictive and capable of testing through archaeological investigation. This model has both chronological and spatial (landuse) dimensions (see sections 2 to 5) and is based on an analysis of documentary, cartographic and archaeological sources. The model is derived from the current academic understanding of urban development in Britain, and forms one element of a developing regional research framework. The model is provisional and will be subject to confirmation or revision in the future as new information becomes available,

or new studies lead to changing understandings of towns in the region.

7.2 Chronological framework

Archaeological and documentary evidence indicates that urban occupation commenced at Clun in the 12th century, but probably developed from the nucleus of a medieval rural settlement which may date to before the Conquest. This settlement was probably situated around the present St George's Church on the south side of the River Clun. In the 12th century a planned town was laid out next to the castle on the north of the river. The town expanded during the medieval period when Clun was at its most prosperous. Documentary and cartographic evidence suggests that there was a period of economic decline in the 17th to 19th centuries, and that there was little expansion of the town at that period.

The broad outlines of this chronological framework are provisional and require testing through archaeological investigation. For example, very little is known about the development of the Norman town and any information on the date of the first settlement here and the chronology of its development and decline would be particularly useful.

7.3 Urban landuse

The medieval and post-medieval components identified here (sections 3.2 and 4.2) have been mapped and constitute a model of urban landuse for each period. These landuse models are partial and provisional and capable of testing through archaeological investigation.

With the exception of the castle none of the medieval and post-medieval components of Clun have been archaeologically investigated and the nature and extent of occupation in each period needs to be confirmed. Of particular interest would be any archaeological information on the location of the medieval market place and of the town defences. The wool trade is known to have been important to Clun in the medieval period but there is no information on the type, number or location of associated industries such as fulling, dyeing or tanning. Any documentary and archaeological evidence of the type and location of industries in the medieval and post-medieval periods, therefore, would be particularly important.

7.4 Potential for survival of buried remains

The earthworks of the castle represent a substantial depth of buried deposits and may overly earlier ground surfaces. Survey and evaluation work on the castle has also demonstrated that the buried remains of buildings lie close to the surface (Morris 1993) and that within the tower substantial stratified deposits survive (Shoesmith 1990). No archaeological information is available on the depth of archaeological deposits in the rest of Clun but the continuous occupation of at least parts of the town from the 11th century mean that stratified deposits are likely to exist. The potential of these deposits is high. Dated artefactual and environmental assemblages from stratified deposits would provide important information on town life. Of particular importance would be waterlogged deposits which may occur next to the river or in the ditches of the castle or town defences.

Fieldwork was undertaken by the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey in November 1994. The extent of 18th and 19th century cellarage was mapped, together with the extent of 20th century development (new buildings and major landscaping work). This showed that there was moderate observable cellarage along the main streets but extensive modern redevelopment within the historic core. It is likely that evidence for more extensive cellarage has been obscured by modern refurbishment of frontages and pavements.

7.5 Potential for artefactual studies J D Hurst

Excavation and watching brief work has been undertaken at Clun Castle and has demonstrated the survival of substantial post-medieval archaeological deposits here. Some contexts that have not been sampled to date, for instance the castle ditches, could be of special significance for the survival of artefactual evidence as they may include waterlogged finds.

No archaeological excavation has been undertaken in the town outside the castle, and the extent of surviving artefactual evidence in buried deposits here cannot yet be assessed in any detail. However it is likely that the fishponds (SA 3050) might contain waterlogged deposits and these could be of special significance for the survival of artefactual evidence as they may include waterlogged finds. To date the only artefacts known to have come from the town have been chance finds, ie the lead spindle whorl (SA 5435) and structural debris (SA 3088), and provide little information on the extent and quality of any surviving archaeological deposits.

Clun has been continuously occupied since at least the 11th century and possibly much longer. Such a long sequence of occupation is relatively rare in the region. Continuous occupation, coupled with the presence of waterlogged deposits in part of the town, may have produced a situation where artefactual survival is exceptional particularly as the decline of the town since the 17th century (Morriss 1990) may signify that medieval deposits have not been extensively disturbed by later activity.

Period discussion. So few artefacts have so far been discovered in Clun that a detailed assessment of the range of periods represented and their significance cannot be undertaken. However, what limited evidence there is suggests that there is a good potential for medieval artefacts in the study area, including objects of high quality (eg painted wall plaster).

The presence of a pottery waster is notable (Davies 1933; not seen), though it is perhaps unlikely that this indicates pottery making at the castle. Papazian and Campbell (1992, 73) place Clun in the centre of the distribution area of Powys Siltstone-tempered ware, and so it is possible that the Clun district has some association with pottery production in the medieval period.

Pottery groups have been of small size (ie less than 100 sherds). Although precise quantifications were not available it was clear that sherds numbered in the lower end of this range. No identification of fabrics has taken place.

7.5 Potential for environmental remains E A Pearson

As there has been only a small amount of fieldwork carried out in Clun, and no wet-sieving of samples for environmental remains, the full potential of deposits in the town for the recovery of environmental remains and for research is largely unknown.

As the soils are silty and seasonally waterlogged, organic remains, including plant macrofossils, pollen and insects may be preserved by waterlogging, particularly in deposits bordering the river or in the ditches and fishponds associated with the castle. This material may provide information relating to the surrounding environment and to dumped occupational rubbish, particularly where tenement plots are close to the river.

Areas with alluvial deposits are of particular interest as archaeological deposits, including environmental material, are often well-sealed beneath the alluvium. Analysis of the biological remains and of the sediments can provide useful information on the source of the alluvium and therefore changes of landuse in the river catchment area. Elsewhere such studies have provided much information on the effect of human activity on the landscape particularly clearance and agricultural activity (Robinson 1992).

Environmental remains providing information on the occupation of the town may be recovered from, for example, the tenement plots, and if buried soils are sealed beneath the earthworks of the castle, it may be possible to investigate the previous use of the land (for example, whether the land was under cultivation or pastureland) using soil micromorphology and pollen analysis. In some cases there may be little other archaeological evidence for the previous use of the land.

As few environmental remains have been recovered in Clun, any environmental material would be of interest. This could provide information on the past environment, diet, living conditions and agricultural or industrial economy. Future excavation should include a policy of sampling and wet-sieving deposits in order to recover plant, insect, molluscs and small animal remains in conjunction with hand-collection of larger items. Where appropriate, specialist sampling for soil and pollen analysis may be required.

7.7 Potential for the study of standing buildings R Morriss

Clun has several medieval buildings that warrant much closer study, especially as it has a small cluster of cruck-framed structures. There are enough post-medieval timber-framed buildings that could also be studied in some depth to allow a synthetic analysis of the architectural changes in the town.

7.8 Summary of research potential

The historic core of Clun contains buried archaeological deposits, and these are judged to have high potential. In addition there is high potential for the recovery of artefact and ecofact assemblages. The historic buildings constitute a complementary body of evidence, and are judged to have high potential for detailed study and recording. The surviving documentary sources are extensive and consequently the potential for further study is high.

8 Management framework

8.1 Urban archaeological area

The mapped extent of the medieval and post-medieval urban forms defined above indicated the extent of the urban area (Clun Urban Archaeological Area). The significance of the urban archaeological area is assessed below.

8.2 Existing protection measures

The different parts of the urban area are afforded different measures of protection through legislation and the planning process. Directly relevant measures are outlined below.

Scheduled ancient monument. There are two Scheduled Ancient Monuments in Clun, the castle (Shropshire no 3) and the Town Hall (Shropshire no 122). It is possible that following the current Monument Protection Programme English Heritage may modify the scheduled area or add other monuments in Clun to the schedule.

Listed buildings. There are a total of ninety two structures listed as of historical or architectural importance within the urban area. These include thirty seven churchyard monuments and a 20th century telephone kiosk. Although unlisted, some other buildings are of considerable historic importance. The management of all historic buildings requires special care and attention, while the management of Listed Buildings is especially important. Listed Buildings are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, and unauthorised alteration is a serious offence. This protection is also likely to preserve archaeological remains under and around such buildings and it is important that archaeological and historic building

matters are considered together.

In South Shropshire District, specialist advice on the management of historic buildings is provided by the District Council with support from the County Council. Some grant aid is available for the repair of historic buildings and information and advice is available from the District Council Conservation Officer.

Conservation Area. A Conservation Area has been defined which almost entirely encompasses the archaeological area (South Shropshire Local Plan: deposit draft (1992)).

8.3 Management approach

The archaeological urban area of Clun contains earthworks and buried remains relating to medieval and post-medieval occupation, associated with contemporary buildings. The buried remains vary in complexity and depth, and demonstrably contain significant archaeological information. It is desirable that any proposed development within the urban area that has a potential impact on earthworks or buried remains should be assessed by the appropriate archaeological body as early as possible in the planning process.

The course of action recommended will depend upon the nature of the development and current planning legislation and frameworks. The archaeological response will be framed using both the archaeological information summarised in this document and any subsequent information recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record, supplemented by other sources as and when available.

9 Principal groups of primary sources compiled by P A Stamper

(SRO: Shropshire Record Office; SPL: Shrewsbury Local Studies Library)

SRO 552	The Powis collection. A major and important source for Clun. Includes c 50 bailiffs' and other accounts of the 14th to 17th centuries; 55 medieval court rolls and many for the post-medieval period. SRO has a TS transcript 'Clun Court Rolls 1328-1561' which includes much of the medieval material.
SRO 1386	Minister's account 1518
SRO 3651	Lists of bailiffs and burgesses 1776-1816
SRO 715	Map of former borough of Clun (nd)
SRO 355	Clun Castle Estate (168 acres) divided for sale 1850
SRO 552	Map including church and castle c 1850
SRO 3375	Tithe map 1847
SPL Deed 5923	Account roll 1370
Clun Church records	The parish records are kept in the vestry. They include registers from 1653 and churchwardens' accounts from 1658.
Trinity Hospital Clun	Records in the custody of the warden include wardens' accounts from 1619 onwards; seven early 17th century deeds of endowment; and early 17th century and later inventories of goods belonging to the hospital

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11 Mapping

The illustrations for this report comprise CAD plots of the urban components for each period and a location plot of archaeological remains combined with OS digital map data (1995) at 1:5000. These plots are current at the date of the completion of this report (March 1995). After this date new information will be held by the Shropshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

- * Historic buildings (listed and other recorded buildings) and urban area
- * Archaeological remains and urban area
- * Medieval urban form and components
- * Post-medieval urban form and components
- * Observed cellaring and 20th century development
- * Urban area and scheduled ancient monuments