

CPAT Report No. 1752




# Elancott, Howey, Llandrindod Wells, Powys

Archaeological Mitigation



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS  
CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:
		
Richard Hankinson Senior Archaeologist	Paul Belford Director	Paul Belford Director
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YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS  
 CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR, United Kingdom

+44 (0) 1938 553 670

[trust@cpat.org.uk](mailto:trust@cpat.org.uk)

[www.cpat.org.uk](http://www.cpat.org.uk)

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## Summary

Archaeological mitigation work was carried out by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in August 2020 in the grounds of Elancott, Llandrindod Wells (NGR: SO 0485 5904), in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. The work was commissioned by the developer and was required as part of the planning process. The site lay on the suggested alignment of a Roman road which runs south from the nearby fort of Castell Collen and structural remains were expected to be revealed.

Although the projected line of the Roman road was expected to pass through the area of the development, no evidence to confirm its presence was recognised. Part of the area appeared to have been disturbed and this may be related to the construction and/or demolition of a building adjoining the plot that was depicted on the second edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map. Alternatively, it may be that the Roman road lies on a slightly different alignment that avoids the area of the development.

## Crynodeb

Bu Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys yn gwneud gwaith lliniaru archaeolegol ym mis Awst 2020 ar diroedd Elancott, Llandrindod (Cyfeirnod Grid Cenedlaethol: SO 0485 5904), cyn i annedd newydd gael ei chodi. Comisiynwyd y gwaith gan y datblygwr ac roedd yn ofynnol fel rhan o'r broses gynllunio. Roedd y safle ar aliniad awgrymedig ffordd Rufeinig sy'n rhedeg i'r de o gaer Castell Collen gerllaw a'r disgwyl oedd y byddai gweddillion strwythurol yn cael eu datgelu.

Er mai'r disgwyl oedd y byddai llinell arfaethedig y ffordd Rufeinig yn pasio trwy ardal y datblygiad, ni welwyd unrhyw dystiolaeth i gadarnhau ei phresenoldeb. Roedd yn ymddangos y bu aflonyddu i ran o'r ardal ac mae'n bosibl bod hyn yn gysylltiedig ag adeiladu a/neu ddymchwel adeilad a oedd yn gyffiniol â'r llain a oedd wedi'i ddarlunio ar ail argraffiad map 1:2500 yr Arolwg Ordnans. Ar y llaw arall, mae'n bosibl bod y ffordd Rufeinig yn gorwedd ar aliniad ychydig yn wahanol sy'n osgoi ardal y datblygiad.

# 1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust was appointed by Gareth Cleaton, the developer, to carry out a programme of archaeological work in advance of the construction of a new dwelling on land in the grounds of Elancott, Howey, Llandrindod Wells (NGR: SO 0485 5904). The site is located on the edge of the village of Howey, about 1km to the south-south-west of Llandrindod Wells (Fig. 1).
- 1.2. The new dwelling was proposed to be constructed in the garden to the south-east of Elancott. Initial site clearance was carried out without archaeological oversight, with subsequent works comprising cleaning and recording of the cleared area to see if evidence of the Roman road running south from the fort at Castell Collen, approximately 4km to the north, could be identified. The site work was carried out on 27 August 2020.



*Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018*

*Fig. 1: Site location in relation to Howey village and the line of the Roman road*

## 2 Historical Background

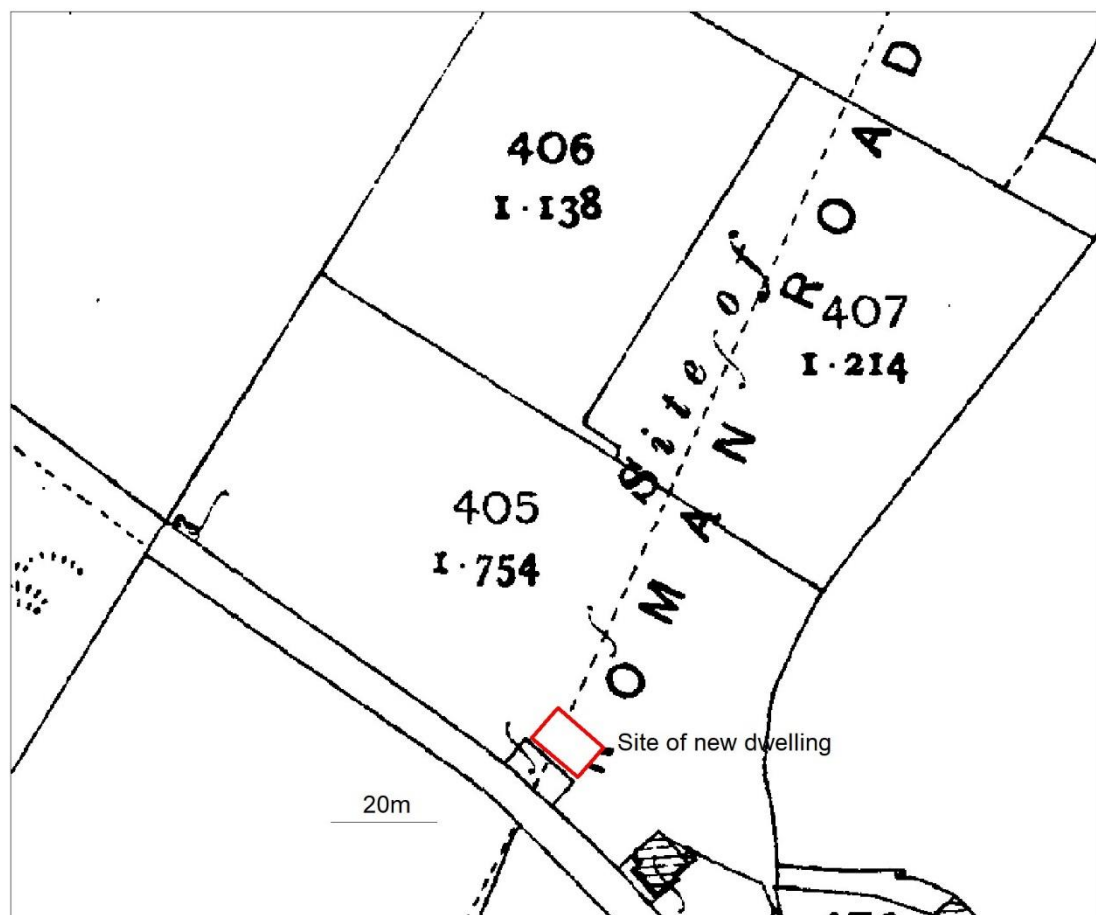
- 2.1. This section provides a brief summary of the relevant archaeology and history of the site area and its immediate surrounds, to enable the findings of the work to be placed in a wider context.

### ***Roman Period (AD 43 – 410)***

- 2.2. The Roman road alignment depicted on Fig. 1 is that of the road numbered RR623a, which ran generally south-south-west from the fort at Castell Collen, on the outskirts of Llandrindod Wells, to similar Roman military sites at Caerau and Llandoverly (Burnham and Davies 2010, 94). A number of practice camps of the same period lie alongside the road to the north of Elancott and highlight its course in the area of Llandrindod Common. The modern Ordnance Survey mapping (Fig 1) implies that the course is lost at about the point where the route passes Elancott, though the 1904 Ordnance Survey map (Fig 2) implies that the route was then visible in the fields to the south.

### ***Post-Medieval and Modern Periods***

- 2.3. Fig. 2 also shows that there was a building sited immediately to the south of the footprint of the new dwelling in 1904, though this was not depicted on the preceding map of 1889 and has no visible remains. The owner was aware of it having been demolished; there are no other known features of potential archaeological interest in the immediate vicinity.



*Fig. 2: Extract from the 1904 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map*

## **3 Archaeological Mitigation**

- 3.1. The mitigation was conducted on 27 August 2020 in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) (2020) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* and their (2014) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*.



*Fig. 3: Plan showing the footprint of the new dwelling and features of archaeological interest*



*Fig. 4: North-west/south-east section across the line of the Roman road, from the east. Photo CPAT 4785-0003*

- 3.2. When the site was visited the surface soils had already been partly removed, so it was agreed with the development control archaeologist, Mark Walters of CPAT, that a section would be cleaned across the line of the Roman road within the footprint of the new dwelling to allow for the recording of any surviving features. The area of the footprint measured 11.5m north-west/south-east by 7.5m and the cleaned area within that was 1.0m wide (Fig. 3, A-B).
- 3.3. No evidence of either of the ditches that would have flanked the road was revealed, though there was some disturbed stone at the north-west end of the cleaned area which might once have been part of the agger. The soils (see Fig. 4) comprised yellow clay at a depth of between 0.45m and 0.55m, covered by a 0.25m-thickness of grey clay and the surface soil which was a brown silty soil, between 0.2m and 0.3m thick. The disturbed stone was at the same level as the top of the grey clay.

## 4 Conclusions

- 4.1. Comparison of the modern and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Ordnance Survey mapping with the site location suggests that the Roman road should have been visible in an approximately central position within the footprint of the new dwelling. This does not seem to have been the case, though the presence of disturbed stone at the north-western end of the cleaned section suggests that it may have been present nearby in the past.
- 4.2. The most likely reason for the lack of visible remains is related to the building shown in close proximity to the footprint on Figs 2 and 3. This may indicate that the road had been affected by the building of this structure in the later years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Alternately, it may be that there is a minor discrepancy with the projected line of the Roman road which takes it outside the area that was examined.

## 5 Sources

### Published sources

Burnham, B.C., and Davies, J.L. (Ed), 2010. *Roman Frontiers in Wales and the Marches*, Aberystwyth: RCAHMW.

### Cartographic sources

1889 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1<sup>st</sup> edition Radnorshire 28.01

1904 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Radnorshire 28.01

## 6 Archive deposition Statement

- 6.1. 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* (2020). The archive is entirely digital and will be deposited jointly with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and the National Monuments Record (RCAHMW). No artefacts were recovered.

Archive summary

CPAT Event PRN: 140349

3 digital photographs, CPAT film no 4785