



**Bodidris Hall, Llandegla,
Denbighshire, LL11 3AL.
April 2016
V 2.0**



aeon archaeology



Archaeological Watching Brief
Project Code: A0057.1
Report no. 0081



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Archaeological Watching Brief

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Project Code: A0057.1

Date: 18/04/2016

Client: Millhouse Group Ltd

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1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Millhouse Group Ltd to carry out a programme of archaeological watching brief during the renovation and groundworks associated with the alteration and conversion of the outbuildings and main Hall at Bodidris Hall, Llandegla, Denbighshire.

The excavation of new drainage trenches on the western side of the Hall produced stony and cobble layers associated with the post-medieval period and the demolition of the northern wing of the Hall. No structural remains were encountered.

The monitoring of the reduction of the floor level within the lobby uncovered the remains of a former cobbled surface and two red-brick hearths, suggesting that the room had been utilised for low-level industrial smithing or farrying. Two sandstone rubble walls were also uncovered that despite being stratigraphically earlier than at least one of the hearths, were almost certainly associated with a similar activity.

In April 2016 a return visit was required in order to record the stair well timber framing and stone access steps revealed by the removal of the existing 20th Century fabric.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Millhouse Group Ltd to carry out a programme of archaeological watching brief during the renovation and groundworks associated with the alteration and conversion of the outbuildings and main Hall at Bodidris Hall, Llandegla, Denbighshire (**NGR: SJ 20483 53701**) (figures 1 and 2).

The renovation and alteration work at Bodidris Hall had received planning permission under two separate planning applications.

The first application (ref: **17/2014/0980/PF**) was for the alteration of 4 dwellings and the conversion of redundant outbuildings into self-contained holiday cottages with associated works including the installation of a replacement effluent treatment plant.

A design specification had not been produced by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) Development Control Archaeologist (Mr. Mark Walters), but the following statement had been made a condition of full planning permission:

Condition 2

The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeological contractor is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area, so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists. The Local Planning Authority will be informed in writing, at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development, of the name of the said archaeological contractor. A copy of the watching brief report shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR tel: 01938 553670 within two months of the fieldwork being completed (Condition 6).

Reason

In the interests of investigation and recording of historic/listed buildings.

The second application (ref: **17/2014/1114/PF**) was for the change of use of Bodidris Hall Hotel to private dwelling incorporating alterations and partial demolition together with associated works.

A design specification had not been produced by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Planning Service, but the following statement had been recommended as a condition of full planning permission:

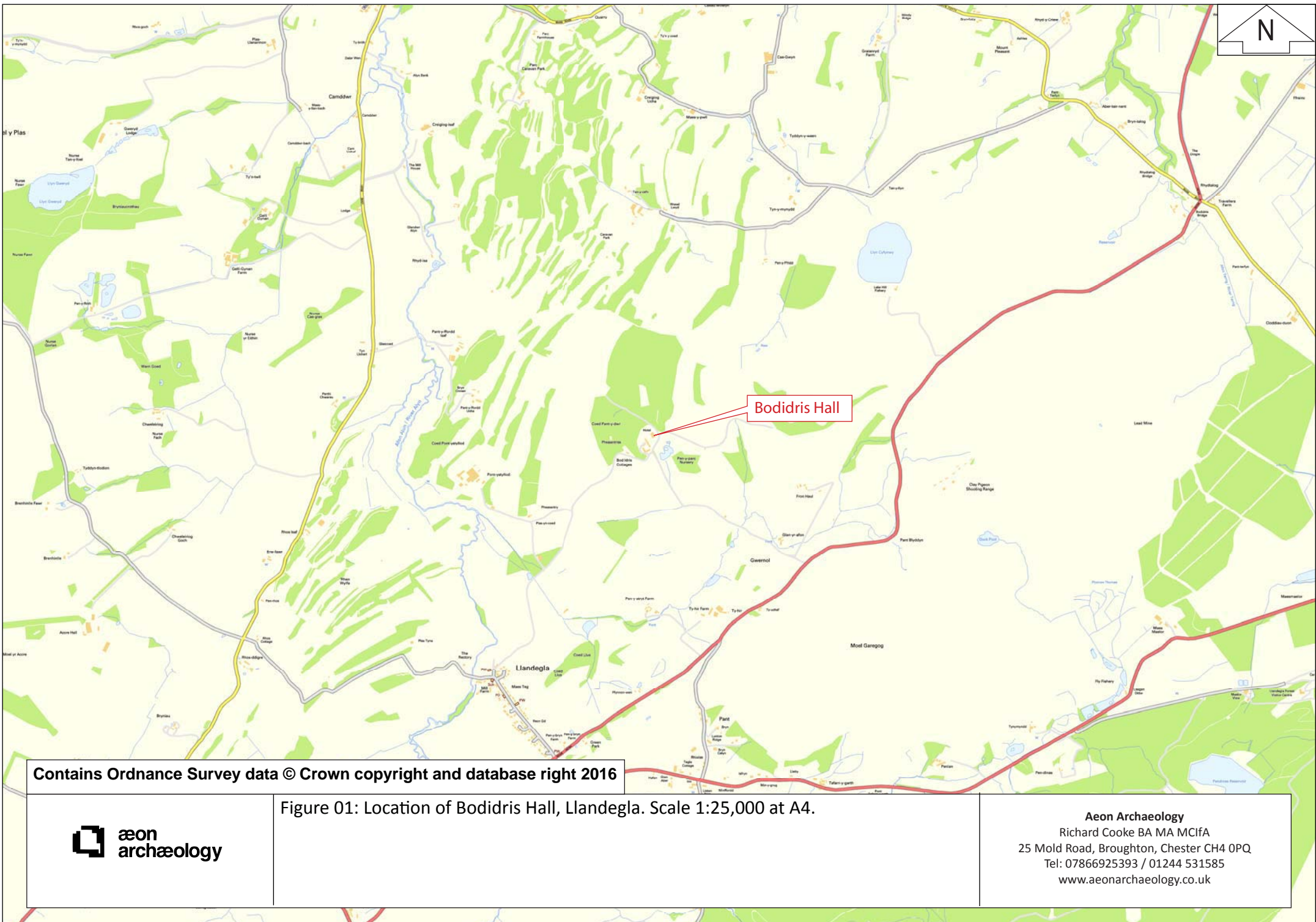
No development shall take place within the application area until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the archaeological curator for the Local Planning Authority. The archaeological programme of work will be undertaken and completed in accordance with the standards and guidance laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists and English Heritage MoRPHE (2006). On completion appropriate reports and an archive assessment will be submitted for approval to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR. tel: 01938 553670 (Condition 2).

The reason for this condition is:

In the interests of archaeological investigation and recording.

The use of such conditions is in line with the guidance set out in National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2012) and the Historic Environment Act (Wales) 2016. A written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (appendix I) was undertaken by Aeon Archaeology in April 2015 which outlined the principle aims of the watching brief and the methods by which they would be met. This formed the basis of a method statement submitted for the work. The archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with this document.

The work undertaken adhered to the guidelines specified in Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).



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Figure 01: Location of Bodidris Hall, Llandegla. Scale 1:25,000 at A4.



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Coed Pant-y-dwr

Pheasantries

Hotel

Bodidris Hall

Bod Idris Cottages

Pen-y-parc Nursery

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Figure 02: Location of Bodidris Hall, Llandegla. Scale 1:2,500 at A4.

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3.0 PROJECT AIMS

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) maintains a standard for archaeological watching brief which states that:

An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant by-laws of CIfA.

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the CIfA as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons (CIfA 2014a). The watching brief will take place within a specified area within the Site where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.

The CIfA further identifies the purpose of a watching brief as allowing, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works. It is also important to note that a watching brief provides an opportunity, if needed, for a signal to be made to all interested parties, before the destruction of the archaeological materials, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

A watching brief is, therefore, not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

The **watching brief** was to be maintained at Bodidris Hall during the following:

1. Replacement of existing ground floor surfaces and insert of new damp proofing in the outbuildings.
2. Taking up and relaying of the slate flag floors in G3, G4 and G6 (Hall) with new underfloor heating and insulated concrete - These works have the potential to reveal sub-surface deposits related to the earliest occupation of the site in the pre-sixteenth and sixteenth centuries. The flag floors should be carefully recorded and removed for later re-instatement in their original configuration. All soil levels below the flags must be carefully cleaned back by archaeologists to reveal any archaeologically significant contexts. Should significant archaeology be located it must be fully excavated down to the maximum level of disturbance proposed for the new floor levels.
3. The addition of external drains on the north and west sides of the house - These have the potential to reveal the earlier foundations of the Hall and any external features associated with formal landscaping, gardens, annexes or outbuildings. A watching brief should be maintained and any significant archaeology fully excavated down to the maximum insert level of the drains.
4. Trial pits to investigate the viability of new floor inserts - These have the potential to reveal the earlier foundations of the Hall and any subsequent alterations to the internal layout. A watching brief should be maintained and any significant archaeology fully excavated down to the maximum insert level of the drains.
5. The excavation of foundations for the new garage and the biomass boiler - The foundation preparation and excavation stages of construction for these structures have the potential to

reveal sub-surface archaeology related to a formal garden layout which may have been located to the east of the original house. Any significant archaeology that is observed must be fully excavated within the confines of the foundation trenches.

6. G2 lobby internal wall investigation to remove modern fabric - This has the potential to reveal 17th century fabric and a watching brief should be maintained so that any new historic features revealed by this process can be fully recorded.
7. A drawn, written and photographic record of any archaeological features, including structures that may be revealed by the work.
8. Preparation of a full archive report.

As the project developed items 1, 4, 5 and 6 were cancelled and thus no archaeological monitoring was required for these.

New interventions into the existing 20th Century fabric uncovered timber framing to the stair well and stone access steps which were recorded as part of the archaeological watching brief in April 2016.

The management of this project has followed the procedures laid out in the standard professional guidance *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015), and in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Archaeological Watching Brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014). Five stages are specified:

Phase 1: project planning

Phase 2: fieldwork

Phase 3: assessment of potential for analysis and revised project design

Phase 4: analysis and report preparation

Phase 5: dissemination

The current document reports on the phase 4 analysis and states the means to be used to disseminate the results. The purpose of this phase is to carry out the analysis identified in phase 3 (the assessment of potential phase), to amalgamate the results of the specialist studies, if required, with the detailed site narrative and provide both specific and overall interpretations. The site is to be set in its landscape context so that its full character and importance can be understood. All the information is to be presented in a report that will be held by the CPAT Historic Environment Record, the OASIS database, and The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW) so that it can be accessible to the public and future researchers. This phase of work also includes archiving the material and documentary records from the project.

4.0 METHODOLOGY – ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 Watching Brief

All soil removal was undertaken using a mini tracked excavator equipped with toothless ditching bucket. A photographic record was maintained throughout, using a digital SLR camera (Canon 550D) set to maximum resolution and any subsurface remains were to be recorded photographically, with detailed notations and measured drawings being undertaken if required.

In the event of archaeological discovery features were to be excavated by hand and fully recorded using Aeon Archaeology pro-formas, digital photographs, and plan and section drawings taken at a suitable scale (usually 1:20 for plan drawings and 1:10 for section drawings).

The archive produced is held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0057.1**.

4.2 Data Collection from Site Records

A database of the site photographs was produced to enable active long-term curation of the photographs and easy searching. The site records were checked and cross-referenced and photographs were cross-referenced to contexts. These records were used to write the site narrative and the field drawings and survey data were used to produce an outline plan of the site.

All paper field records were scanned to provide a backup digital copy. The photographs were organised and precisely cross-referenced to the digital photographic record so that the CPAT Historic Environment Record (HER) can curate them in their active digital storage facility.

4.3 Artefact Methodology

All artefacts were to be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. They would be bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. After processing, all artefacts would be cleaned and examined in-house at Aeon Archaeology. If required artefacts would be sent to a relevant specialist for conservation and analysis.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds was kept under review throughout the archaeological watching brief. Any changes in recovery priorities would be made under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Client and the CPAT Development Control Archaeologist. There was a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

4.4 Environmental Samples Methodology

The sampling strategy and requirement for bulk soil samples was related to the perceived character, interpretational importance and chronological significance of the strata under investigation. This ensured that only significant features would be sampled. The aim of the sampling strategy was to recover carbonised macroscopic plant remains, small artefacts particularly knapping debris and evidence for metalworking.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs would be obtained from Oxford Archaeology if required.

4.5 Report and dissemination

A full archive including photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project was prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions were labelled, and cross-referenced, and will be lodged within a suitable repository to be agreed with the archaeological curator within six months of the completion of the project.

A draft copy of the report has been sent to the client and upon written approval from them paper and digital copies of the report will be sent to the regional HER, the CPAT Development Control Archaeologist, the RCAHMW, and will be logged with the online OASIS database. Copies of all notes, plans, and photographs arising from the watching brief will be stored at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0057.1** with the originals being lodged in a suitable repository to be agreed with the archaeological curator.

5.0 SITE LOCATION AND HISTORY

Bodidris Hall is a Late Elizabethan mansion house, essentially of the later 16th Century, though perhaps incorporating part of an earlier structure, updated in the mid-17th Century. The Lloyds of Bodidris, an important gentry family, rose to prominence under the Tudors. The main buildings, a later 16th Century tower-like block and an earlier 17th Century domestic range, stand at right angles to each other around a courtyard which was once bounded on its northern side by a late 16th Century wing, demolished in 1958.

It has been suggested that the tower block at Bodidris is a derivative type of tower-house, similar to the solar tower at Gwydir Castle, and that the tower, being too small to form an independent living unit, must have been attached to another block, possibly where the 17th Century house now stands. However, several features in the tower - including a rare heraldic fireplace in upper chamber, the roof truss - suggest a later 16th Century rather than a medieval date, making a tower-house derivation seem less likely, particularly as no evidence of its defensive or semi-fortified character has survived. Bodidris may simply be a later 16th Century three-storey-and-attic block attached to an adjoining domestic range, comparable say with the arrangement at Allt-y-bella in Monmouthshire where a similar tower dated 1599 is attached to an older two-storey range.

Close to the main house at Bodidris are outbuildings to the southwest including the old stable block and Bodidris Cottage. Originally this formed an impressive hall-house, dated 1581: a building of considerable architectural stature, built at about the same time as Bodidris itself, possibly by Evan Lloyd who became Sheriff of Denbigh in 1583. Although in close proximity, the two houses presumably functioned independently, with separate gentry households in each, an example of the 'unit system' identified in Welsh vernacular architecture. Perhaps different generations of the Lloyd family lived apart in separate buildings. Possibly the main house was built as guest accommodation for the Earl of Leicester, who fought with Evan Lloyd in Ireland and knighted him in 1586. Leicester is said to have used Bodidris between 1563-1578 as a hunting lodge and his heraldic badge - the bear and ragged staff - appears on the southern gable.

During the 19th Century the ownership of the Bodidris estate passed to the Williams family of Bodelwyddan Castle. Sir Hugh Williams gave money to build a new school at Llandegla and his sister - Margaret, Lady Willoughby de Broke - paid for the rebuilding of Llandegla church.

Bodidris Hall is Listed at Grade II* as a highly important Tudor mansion, of distinctive and unusual plan, incorporating a tower block and main range. The house retains its early character in surviving or well-restored detail and ranks as one of the major early gentry houses of North Wales.

6.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS

6.1 The Documentary Archive

The following documentary records were created during the archaeological watching brief:

Watching brief day record sheets	5
Digital photographs	70
Context sheets	20
Drawings	4 on 4 sheets

6.2 Environmental Samples

A single environmental bulk sample was taken from brown-grey charcoal-rich silt-clay deposit (10) found within the main drainage trench. This sample has been retained by Aeon Archaeology but has not been processed as the deposit yielded a post-medieval ceramic sherd.

6.3 Artefacts

The following artefacts were recovered during the archaeological watching brief:

No.	Material	Location	Dimensions	Description
SF1	Ceramic	C1 context (08)	18.2g	base, red fabric, brown glaze (internal and external) post-medieval.
SF2	Ceramic	C1 context (09)	0.8g	body, pink fabric (layers apparent), clear/orange glaze (exterior, interior not present) post-medieval.
SF3	Ceramic	Main drain context (10)	19.2g	body, yellow/grey centre, orange towards surfaces, clear/dark brown-green glaze on interior, small patches of glaze on exterior, post-medieval.
SF4	Bone	C1 context (09)	4.8g	pig tooth.
SF5	Bone	C1 context (09)	5.0g	bone, initially thought to be rim sherd.
SF6	Bone	Main drain context (10)	2.2g	tooth in part of mandible, possibly pig.

7.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

The archaeological watching brief for the excavation of the new drainage trenches was maintained between 18th and 19th September 2015 and during the 1st and 3rd February 2016 for the reduction of the floor level within the Lobby (G3). Archaeological contexts have been assigned where relevant and are shown in brackets.

Northern gable connection to main drain (Figures 3 and 4; Plates 1-4)

The connection to the main drain ran from the northern gable of the Hall from northeast to southwest, and measured 6.27m in length by 0.6m in width by 0.5m in depth. The trench was excavated through a 0.06m deep layer of tarmac and hardcore (01) which overlay a 0.1m deep deposit of fairly firm, mid-brown and red-orange silty crushed shale hardcore levelling material (02). This overlaid a 0.19m deep moderately firm deposit of mottled grey and light-brown mixed demolition material (03), presumably from the demolished north wing. The deposit contained a small amount of dressed stone blocks and a large amount of bricks, all of which appeared to be 18th century or later in date, many of which were frogged. Below this was a firm mid yellow-brown shaley clay (04) which was different to the natural subsoil encountered in other areas, suggesting it may have been imported in advance of construction. No foundations associated with the demolished wing were encountered.

Connection C1 (Figures 3 and 4; Plates 5-9)

Connection C1 ran from the Hall wall in the northeast to the main drainage trench in the southwest, and measured 6.4m in length by 0.9m in width by 0.55m in depth. The trench was excavated through a 0.06m deep layer of tarmac and hardcore (01) which overlay a 0.05m deep deposit of fairly loose, mid orange-yellow coarse silt-sand (05) which most likely functioned as a levelling layer to the tarmac and may have been a continuation of deposit (02) seen in the northern gable connection trench. This overlay a 0.1m deep firm mid brown-grey stony-clay deposit (06) with frequent pebble and small stone inclusions thought to be a possible relict surface or perhaps a repair/replacement deposit of deposit (08 – see below). This had been cut by a modern drainage trench [07] on a roughly north-south alignment.

Against the southwest elevation of the Hall another modern drain was encountered, brick built and stone capped, presumably for rainwater. Below the compacted layer (06) was a >0.2m deep firm dark-grey clay-silt deposit with frequent cobbles measuring >0.2m in diameter (08). This deposit produced a post-medieval ceramic base sherd (SF1). Below this was a 0.2m deep stony layer (09), initially investigated as a surface but later found to be a fairly firm mottled brown-grey clay-silt deposit containing a small amount of domestic refuse including a sherd of post-medieval ceramic (SF2); an animal tooth (SF4); and a fragment of animal bone (SF5). Bedrock, again initially investigated as a surface, was found at the same level at this layer. Natural subsoil below this layer was yellow sandy clay.

Rainwater connections C2 and C3 (Figures 3 and 4; Plates 10 and 11)

Connections C2 and C3 ran from the Hall wall in the northeast to the main drainage trench in the southwest, and both measured 7.4m in length by 0.5m in width by a maximum of 0.6m in depth at the southwest end. These were shallower than the main connections and were all in disturbed areas – earlier drains having been located within each trench.

Both trenches were excavated through a 0.06m deep layer of tarmac and hardcore (01) which overlay a 0.05m deep deposit of fairly loose, mid orange-yellow coarse silt-sand (05) which most likely functioned as a levelling layer to the tarmac and may have been a continuation of deposit (02) seen in the northern gable connection trench. This deposit overlaid a brown-grey and orange mottled clay natural substrata.

Main Drain (Figures 3 and 4; Plates 12-17)

The main drain was excavated from north to south at the western end of the Hall, and measured 16.7m in length by 0.6m in width by a maximum of 0.92m in depth. At the northern end of the main drain the demolition deposit seen in the connection trench of moderately firm mottled grey and light-brown mixed demolition material (03) continued for approximately 3.0m. The cobble layer (06) found in Connection C1 was encountered approximately 5.0m to the south, and continued approximately 1.0m south of C1, at which point it petered out. Below the cobbles a layer of grey clay (10) produced a fragment of dark green-brown glazed pottery (SF3), probably early post-medieval in date. The layer also contained a pig tooth (SF6) and a fair amount of charcoal of which a bulk sample was collected. To the south of C1 the level of the natural subsoil raised dramatically and bedrock was encountered.

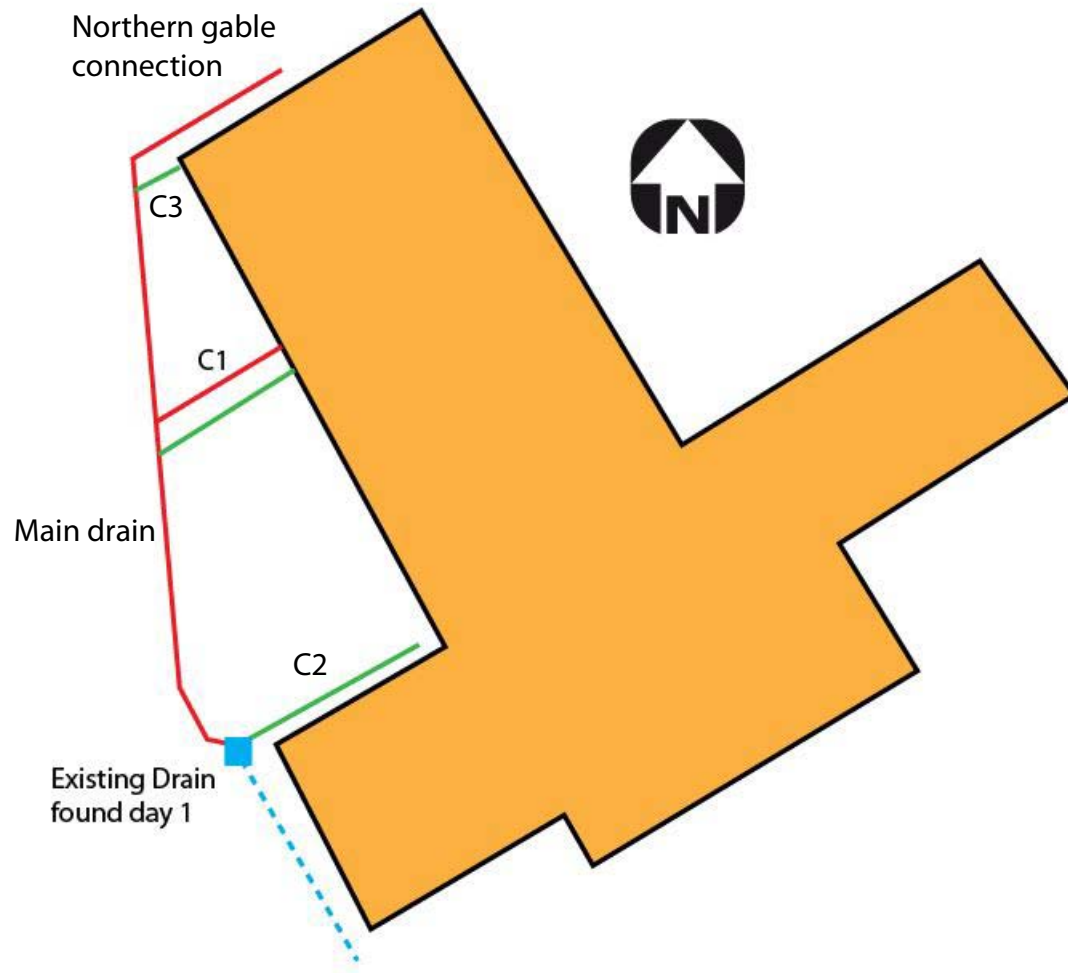




Plate 01: Pre excavation main drainage connection, from the southwest. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 02: Excavation of main drainage connection, from the northeast.



Plate 03: Main drainage connection, from the northeast. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 04: Section of main drainage connection, from the southeast. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 05: Drainage connection C1 showing levelling deposit (05) and cut of drain [07], from the southwest. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 06: Drainage connection C1 showing relict surface deposit (06) and cut of drain [07], from the southwest. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 07: Drainage connection C1 showing cobble deposit (08), from the southwest. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 08: Drainage connection C1 showing mixed stony deposit (09) and natural glacial substrata, from the southwest. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 09: Section of drainage connection C1, from the northwest. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 10: Drainage connection C2, from the southwest. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 11: Drainage connection C3, from the southwest. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 12: Pre excavation main drain location, from the north.



Plate 13: Main drain showing continuation of cobble deposit (08), from the east. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 14: Main drain showing dark brown-grey silt-clay deposit (10), from the northwest. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 15: Main drain trench, from the north. Scale 1.0m.

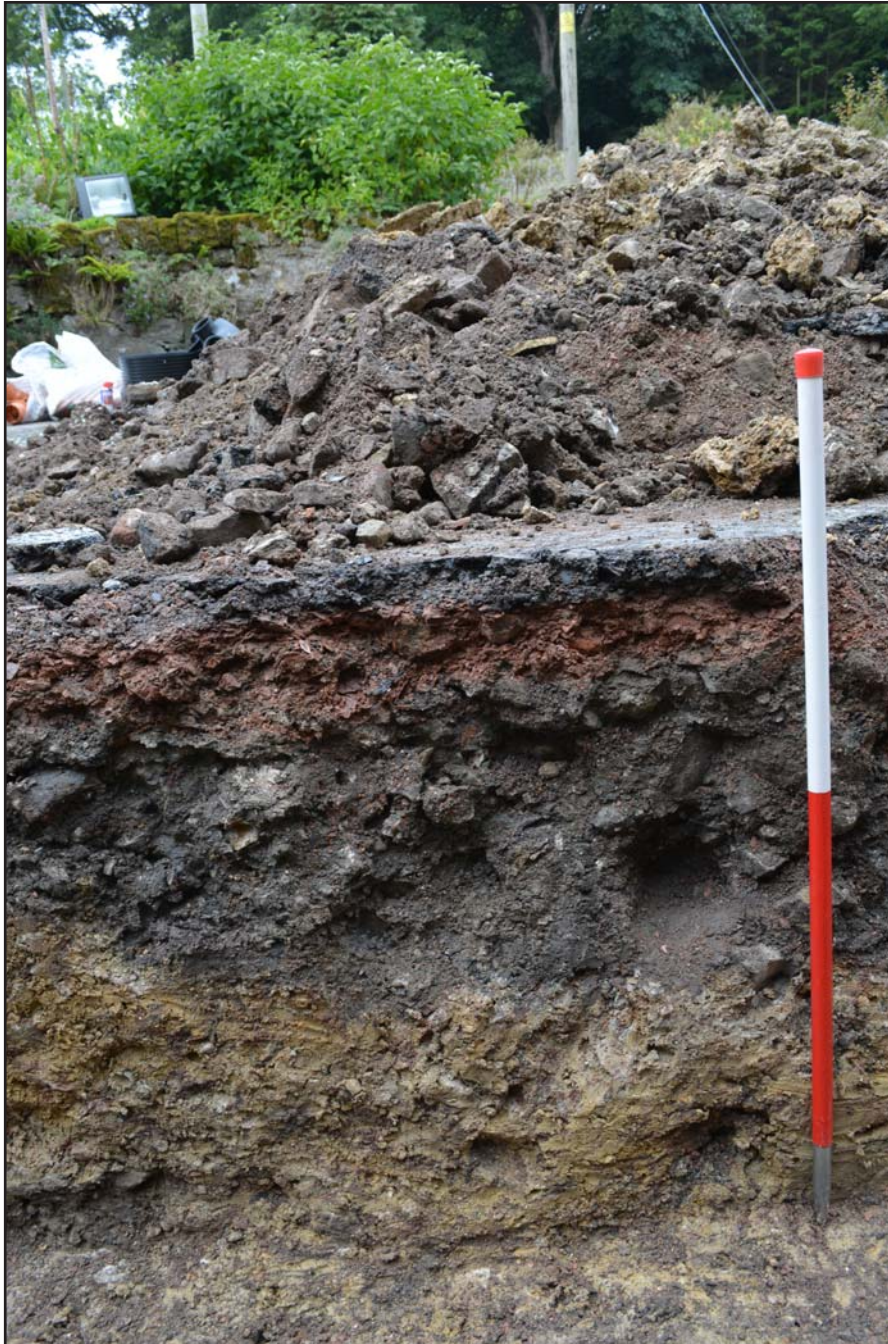


Plate 16: Section of main drain trench, from the east. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 17: General shot showing drainage trenches, from the southwest. Scale 1.0m.

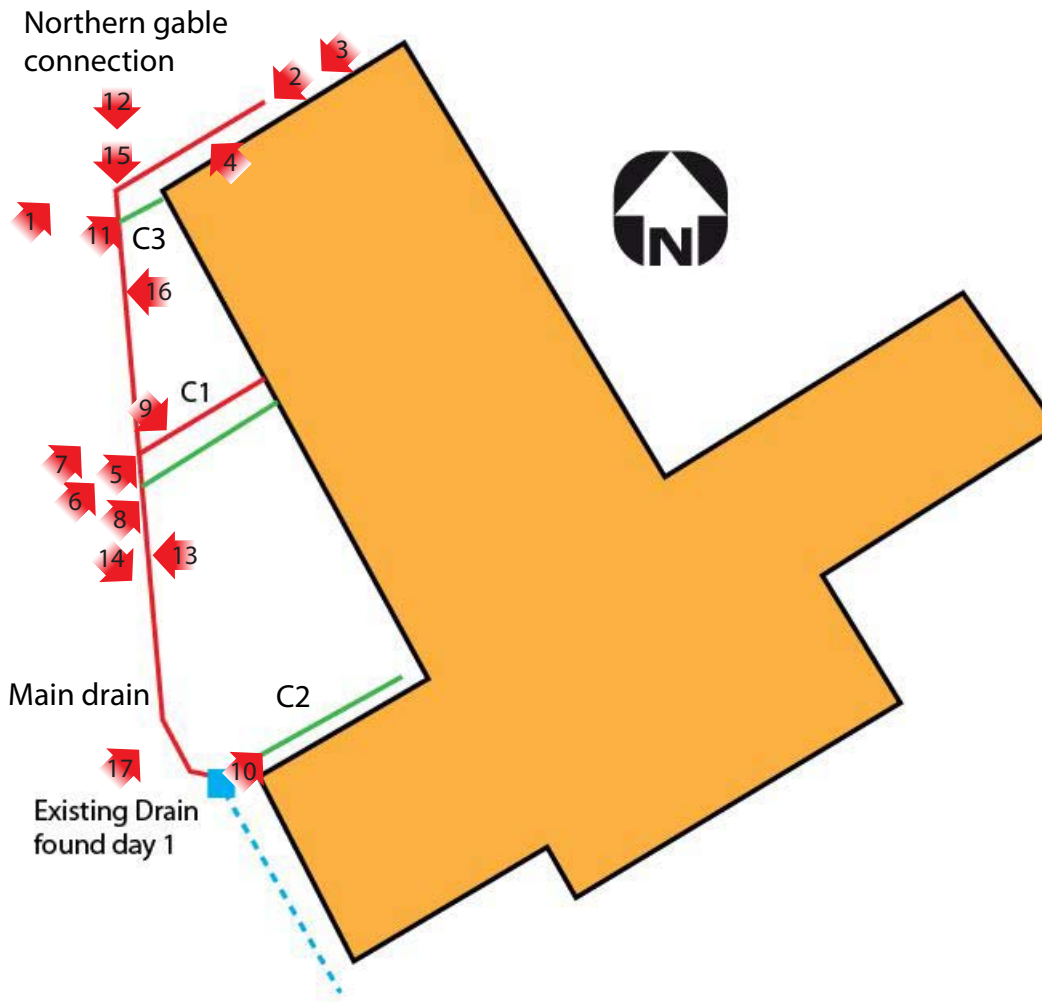


Figure 04: Location and orientation of drainage trench photographs at Bodidris Hall, Llandegla.

Lobby (G3) (Figures 5-7; Plates 18-27)

The existing stone slab floor in the lobby was photographed prior to it being carefully lifted by the site contractor and numbered, so that it could be put back in place upon completion of the reduction of the floor level. Once lifted a general levelling deposit of light yellow-orange sand was encountered which lay directly above a mid red-brown silt-clay with frequent brick and stone fragment inclusions. This deposit was reduced by approximately 0.3m by a mini tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

In the western corner of the room a mid grey-brown silt-clay deposit measuring 4.03m in length by 1.46m in width and with frequent sub-rounded, sub-angular and angular cobble inclusions (1002) was encountered. This deposit appeared to be a former surface layer that had been truncated and removed by later disturbance on its eastern and northern edges. The surface lay directly above the natural bedrock (1001) on its eastern edge but at its northern edge lay above a firm dark/mid brown sand-clay with small angular pebble inclusions (1007) that appeared to be a relict surface or compacted layer upon which the cobbles had been set.

In the southern corner of the room a rectangular red-brick structure (1006) measuring 1.46m in length by 1.25m in width was encountered. The base of this feature was not reached due to the required depth limits having been achieved, however the structure was at least two courses in height and was constructed from unfrosted red-brick measuring 0.23m in length by 0.11m in width by 0.08m in height bonded by mortar. The central aperture measured 0.8m in length by 0.22m in width and was in-filled with a friable black-grey silt-sand with frequent ash inclusions (1008) suggesting that the structure had functioned as a hearth or smithy.

To the immediate north red-brick structure (1006) was found to butt up against an L-shaped wall constructed from sandstone rubble bonded by mortar (1004) measuring 1.74m in length by 0.55m in width. This structure was on the same alignment as a second wall of sandstone located at the northern end of the room (1005) which measured 0.78m in length by 0.64m in width and together surrounded a rectangular hearth constructed from red-brick (1003). This feature measured 0.74m in length by 0.54m in width orientated northeast to southwest and stood at least five courses in height, although the base had not been encountered. It had been constructed from wire-cut unfrosted bricks measuring 0.23m in length by 0.11m in width by 0.08m in height and bonded by mortar. The central aperture measured 0.54m in length by 0.3m in width and was in-filled with a friable black-grey silt-sand with frequent ash inclusions suggesting that the structure had functioned as a hearth or smithy.

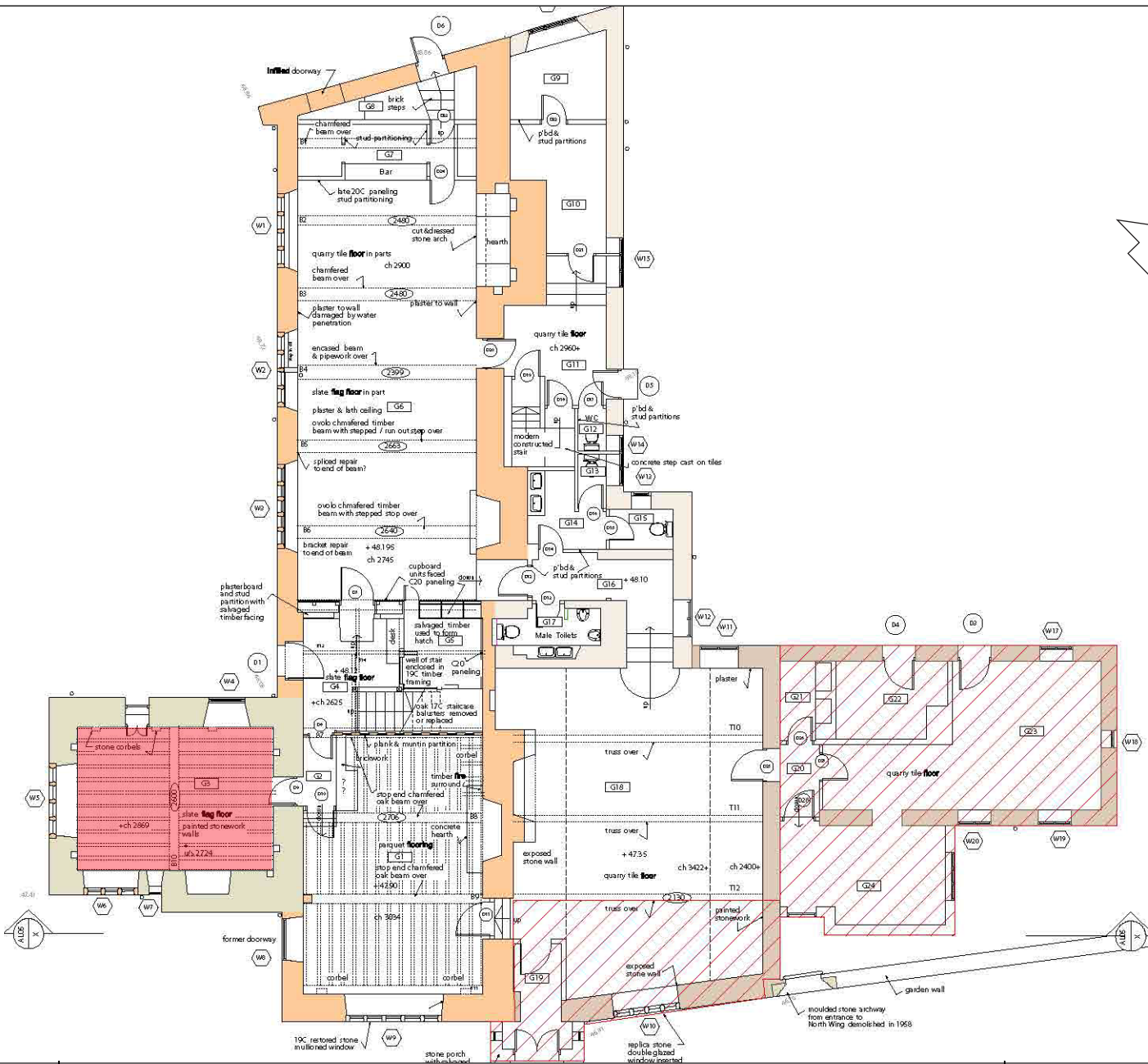


Figure 05: Location of Lobby G3 at Bodidris Hall, Llandegla. Scale 1:200 at A4.



Plate 18: Lobby (G3) showing existing flagged floor, from the east-northeast. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 19: Lobby (G3) showing existing flagged floor, from the northwest. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 20: Lobby (G3) showing existing flagged floor, from the southwest. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 21: Lobby (G3) showing existing flagged floor, from the southeast. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 22: Lobby (G3) post-excavation, from the northeast. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 23: Lobby (G3) post-excavation showing cobbled surface (1002), from the southeast. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 24: Lobby (G3) post-excavation showing cobbled surface (1002), from the northeast. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 25: Lobby (G3) post-excavation showing hearth (1006), from the west. Scale 1.0m.



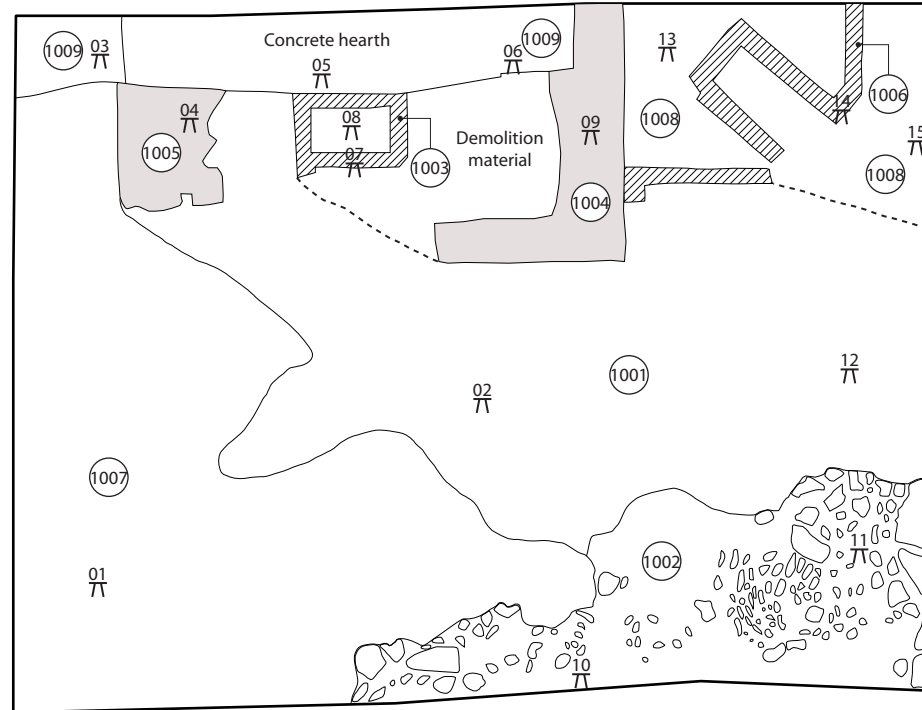
Plate 26: Lobby (G3) post-excavation showing hearth (1003) and wall (1005), from the northwest. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 27: Lobby (G3) post-excavation showing wall (1004), from the northwest. Scale 1.0m.

Spot Heights (reduced level - arbitrary TBM)

- 1 = 99.80m
- 2 = 99.73m
- 3 = 100.18m
- 4 = 99.95m
- 5 = 100.39m
- 6 = 100.20m
- 7 = 99.99m
- 8 = 99.95m
- 9 = 99.85m
- 10 = 99.96m
- 11 = 99.96m
- 12 = 99.78m
- 13 = 99.80m
- 14 = 99.84m
- 15 = 99.86m



1:50 at A4



Figure 06: Plan of Lobby (G3). Scale 1:50 at A4 (located on figure 7).

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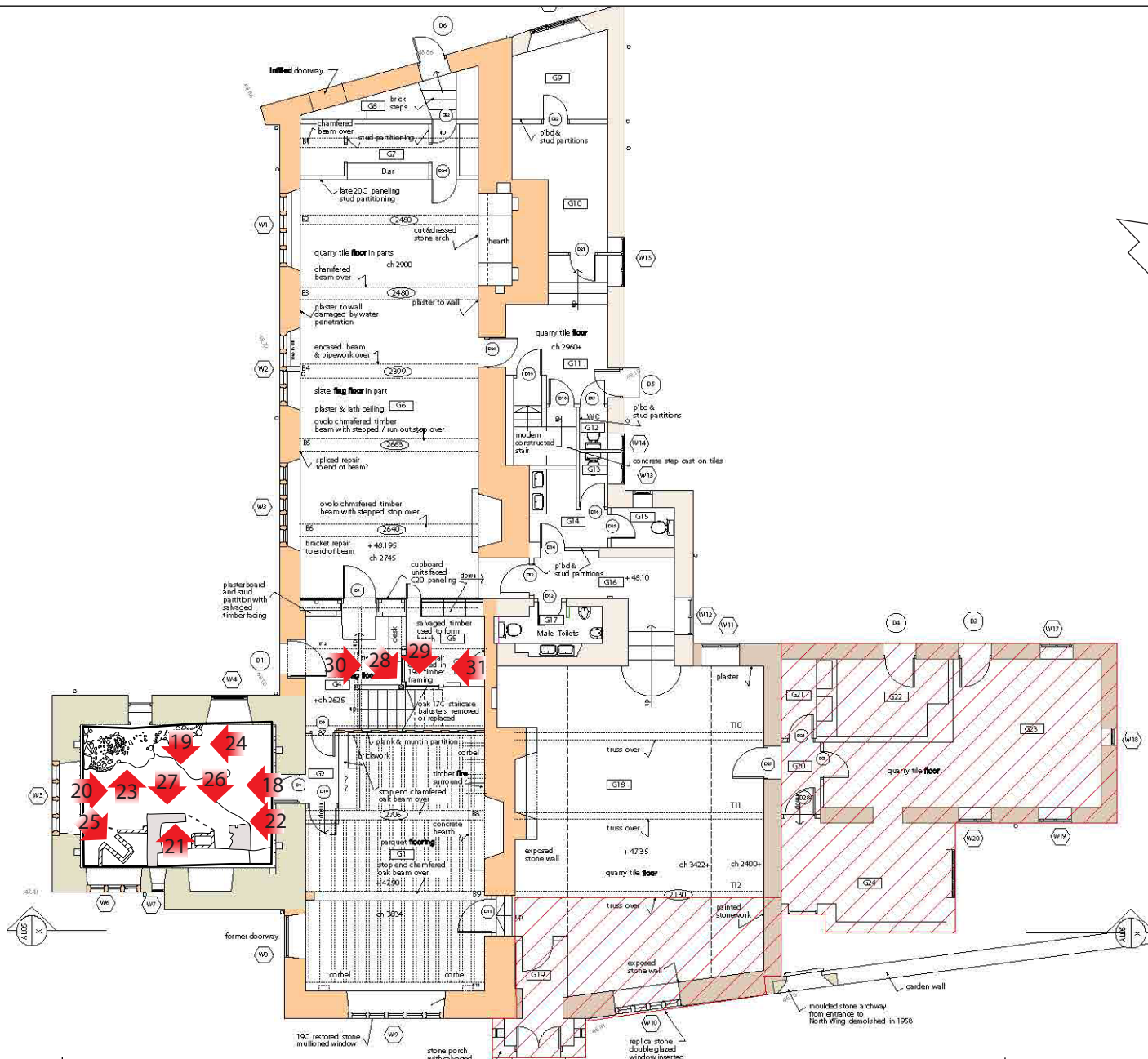


Figure 07: Location and orientation of photographs of Lobby G3 at Bodidris Hall, Llandegla. Scale 1:200 at A4.

Stair well steps and timber framing (Figures 7 and 8; Plates 28-31)

As part of later interventions into the existing 20th Century fabric a set of three stone steps were uncovered leading into the stair well, as well as timber framing and wattle and daub walls throughout the height of the well of the stair.

The three steps uncovered consisted of single slabs of light-grey stone measuring on average 1.1m in length by 0.3m in width by 0.2m in depth and alighting 0.6m in total between the entrance hall in the west and the stair well in the east. The upper and middle most steps had seen phases of repair with stone blocks averaging 0.2m in length by 0.1m in depth having been mortared in place.

Supporting the stair well was a large single horizontal chamfered beam measuring 2.4m in length by 0.15m in width by 0.2m in depth, spanning the length of the well and keyed into the wall masonry on the east side, and supported by an upright beam on the western side. This supported two upright beams – the eastern of which measured 0.45m in length and supported the second flight of the existing stair treads. The westernmost upright beam measured 4.12m in length and extended upwards throughout the length of the stair well. At the western end a series of four vertical bays separated by horizontal beams continued upward throughout the height of the well, each sub-divided into three side-by-side vertical panels via upright timber struts and covered in horizontal wattle, interspersed with a light grey daub.

The wooden beams and wattle and daub panelling are almost certainly original to the staircase and appear to be in a good condition. An information plaque on the stair suggests a 16th Century date for the staircase and there is no reason to suspect that the framing and wattle and daub do not belong to this phase of construction.

The steps and framing were photographed and an elevation drawing created and reproduced in figure 08.



Plate 28: Revealed timber framing in well of stair, from the west. Scale 0.5m.



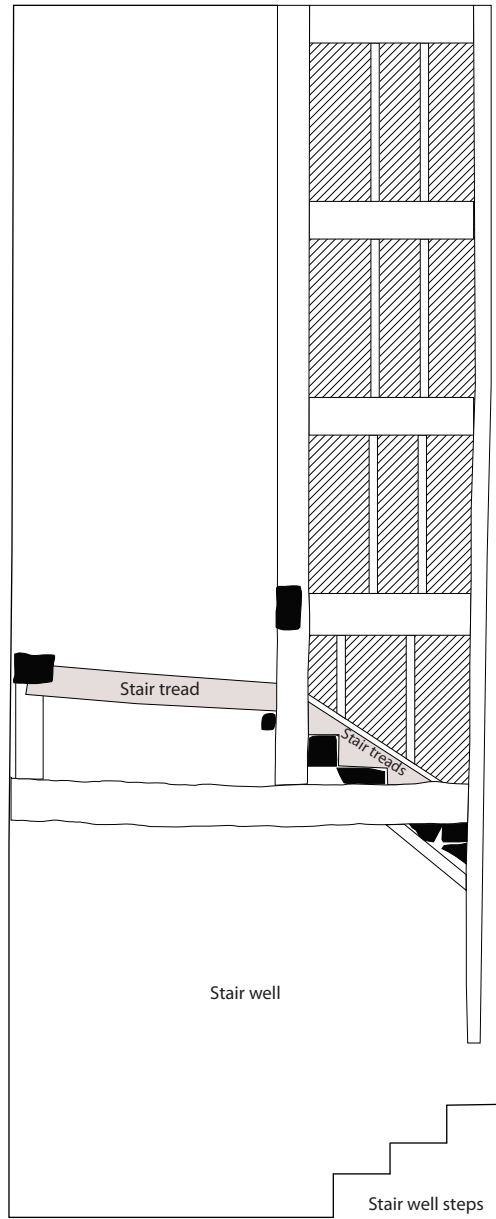
Plate 29: Revealed timber framing and wattle and daub walls in well of stair, from the northwest.



Plate 30: Revealed stone steps in well of stair, from the west. Scale 0.5m.



Plate 31: Revealed stone steps in well of stair, from the east. Scale 0.5m.







-  Wattle and daub
-  Framing, posts and beams
-  Timber beam of different material
-  Beams and joists



Figure 08: Elevation drawing of stair well showing timber framing and wattle and daub walls, from the northwest. Scale 1:40 at A4.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The archaeological watching brief at Bodidris Hall was maintained during the excavation of new drainage trenches on the western side of the building as well as during the reduction of the existing floor level within the lobby (G3).

The excavation of the drainage trenches uncovered a possible relict clay surface layer that lay above a cobble deposit, the latter of which produced animal teeth and a sherd of post-medieval ceramic. The trenches also revealed rubble material related to the demolition of the former northern wing of the Hall. No structures were encountered and the earliest deposits produced sherds of post-medieval ceramic.

The reduction of the lobby floor revealed a cobbled surface in the southern corner which had been set into a compacted clay layer. This surface may date to the earliest origins of the Hall in the late 16th Century although the discovery of two post-medieval red-brick hearths suggests that the room had been utilised for low-level industrial smithing and it is a possibility that the cobbled surface layer relates to this phase of activity. Unfortunately the surface had been truncated on its eastern side and as such no stratigraphical relationship could be ascertained between it and the red-brick structures.

The brick-built hearths uncovered within the Lobby almost certainly represent a phase of post-medieval low-level industrial forging or farrying. This suggests that the room had either fallen out of use as part of the main dwelling or had always been used as a workshop.

The manual forming of iron and other ferrous metals to make finished artefacts, or to repair existing ones, is known as secondary smithing or, more commonly, as blacksmithing. Primary smithing is the working of raw blooms into usable iron.

A forge or smithy will most commonly contain a hearth with its bellows, an anvil and a water container together with places to store fuel and stock iron. Smithies may be a workplace for a single smith, but can also be industrial buildings in which many smiths work, each with their own facilities. The two hearths uncovered appear to have been constructed using the same bricks and mortar type suggesting that they were contemporary in date and in use at the same time, possibly fulfilling the smithing requirements of the Hall and its associated estate farms.

High temperature is attained through combustion of the fuel (charcoal, coke or coal) using a strong blast of air from the bellows, and it is probable that these were situated at a lower level to which the floor was reduced, pumping air into the heart of each hearth. Raised hearths at waist-level height were in use during the Roman period and again from the Middle Ages onwards, and it is probable that the open end of the southernmost hearth was intended to increase accessibility and ease of handling of high-temperature items (Young, T. 2012).

The southernmost brick built hearth was found to butt up against an L-shaped sandstone rubble wall that appeared to be on the same alignment as a second sandstone wall to the north. The southernmost wall stratigraphically predated that of the red-brick hearth in the south, although the fact that the two sandstone walls appeared to respect the central hearth would suggest that a feature of similar purpose had been replaced by the brick hearth.

A return visit was made in April 2016 to record features uncovered during the removal of the 20th Century fabric. These consisted of three stone steps alighting into a stair well which also uncovered well preserved timber framing and wattle and daub panels belonging to the stair construction and likely to be of 16th Century date. These were fully recorded and will remain in-situ.

9.0 SOURCES

OS Maps

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**APPENDIX I – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**



**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION (WSI) FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF v1.0**

AEON PROJECT CODE: A0057.1

SITE: Bodidris Hall, Llandegla, Denbighshire LL11 3AL

NATIONAL GRID REF: SJ 20483 53701

DATE: 14th April 2015

PLANNING REF: 17/2014/0980/PF and 17/2014/1114/PF

PREPARED FOR: Millhouse Group



Aeon Archaeology is a Registered Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA)

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been asked by Millhouse Group to provide a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for carrying out an archaeological watching brief during the renovation and groundworks associated with the alteration and conversion of the outbuildings and main Hall at Bodidris Hall, Llandegla, Denbighshire (NGR: SJ 20483 53701).

It is requirement that the content of this WSI be approved by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Planning Service prior to the commencement of works.

The watching brief will be carried out on an **intensive** basis during all associated works, as detailed below.

Bodidris Hall is a grade II* Listed Building and lies approximately 2.0km northeast of Llandegla, at the end of a narrow lane leading north from the A5104, occupying a commanding hillside position with a walled garden to the north and listed estate buildings to the southwest.

Reference will be made to the guidelines specified in Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 1994, rev. 2001 and 2008).

2.0 BACKGROUND

The renovation and alteration work at Bodidris Hall has received planning permission under two separate planning applications.

The first application (ref: **17/2014/0980/PF**) is for the alteration of 4 dwellings and the conversion of redundant outbuildings into self-contained holiday cottages with associated works including the installation of a replacement effluent treatment plant.

A design specification has not been produced by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Planning Service, but the following statement has been recommended as a condition of full planning permission:

The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeological contractor is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area, so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists. The Local Planning Authority will be informed in writing, at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development, of the name of the said archaeological contractor. A copy of the watching brief report shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR tel: 01938 553670 within two months of the fieldwork being completed (Condition 6).

The reason for this condition is:

In the interests of investigation and recording of historic/listed buildings.

The second application (ref: **17/2014/1114/PF**) is for the change of use of Bodidris Hall Hotel to private dwelling incorporating alterations and partial demolition together with associated works.

A design specification has not been produced by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Planning Service, but the following statement has been recommended as a condition of full planning permission:

No development shall take place within the application area until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the archaeological curator for the Local Planning Authority. The archaeological programme of work will be undertaken and completed in accordance with the standards and guidance laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists and English Heritage MoRPHE (2006). On completion appropriate reports and an archive assessment will be submitted for approval to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR. tel: 01938 553670 (Condition 2).

The reason for this condition is:

In the interests of archaeological investigation and recording.

Bodidris Hall is a Late Elizabethan mansion house, essentially of the later 16th Century, though perhaps incorporating part of an earlier structure, updated in the mid-17th Century. The Lloyds of Bodidris, an important gentry family, rose to prominence under the Tudors. The main buildings, a later 16th Century tower-like block and an earlier 17th Century domestic range, stand at right angles to each other around a courtyard which was once bounded on its northern side by a late 16th Century wing, demolished in 1958.

It has been suggested that the tower block at Bodidris is a derivative type of tower-house, similar to the solar tower at Gwydir Castle, and that the tower, being too small to form an independent living unit, must have been attached to another block, possibly where the 17th Century house now stands. However, several features in the tower - including a rare heraldic fireplace in upper chamber, the roof truss - suggest a later 16th Century rather than a medieval date, making a tower-house derivation seem less likely, particularly as no evidence of its defensive or semi-fortified character has survived. Bodidris may simply be a later 16th Century three-storey-and-attic block attached to an adjoining domestic range, comparable say with the arrangement at Allt-y-bella in Monmouthshire where a similar tower dated 1599 is attached to an older two-storey range.

Close to the main house at Bodidris are outbuildings to the southwest including the old stable block and Bodidris Cottage. Originally this formed an impressive hall-house, dated 1581: a building of considerable architectural stature, built at about the same time as Bodidris itself, possibly by Evan Lloyd who became Sheriff of Denbigh in 1583. Although in close proximity, the two houses presumably functioned independently, with separate gentry households in each, an example of the 'unit system' identified in Welsh vernacular architecture. Perhaps different generations of the Lloyd family lived apart in separate buildings. Possibly the main house was built as guest accommodation for the Earl of Leicester, who fought with Evan Lloyd in Ireland and knighted him in 1586. Leicester is said to have used Bodidris between 1563-1578 as a hunting lodge and his heraldic badge - the bear and ragged staff - appears on the southern gable.

During the 19th Century the ownership of the Bodidris estate passed to the Williams family of Bodelwyddan Castle. Sir Hugh Williams gave money to build a new school at Llandegla and his sister - Margaret, Lady Willoughby de Broke - paid for the rebuilding of Llandegla church.

Bodidris Hall is Listed at Grade II* as a highly important Tudor mansion, of distinctive and unusual plan, incorporating a tower block and main range. The house retains its early character in surviving or well-restored detail and ranks as one of the major early gentry houses of North Wales.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS

The **watching brief** will be maintained during the following:

1. Replacement of existing ground floor surfaces and insert of new damp proofing in the outbuildings.
2. Taking up and relaying of the slate flag floors in G3, G4 and G6 (Hall) with new underfloor heating and insulated concrete - These works have the potential to reveal sub-surface deposits related to the earliest occupation of the site in the pre-sixteenth and sixteenth centuries. The flag floors should be carefully recorded and removed for later re-instatement in their original configuration. All soil levels below the flags must be carefully cleaned back by archaeologists to reveal any archaeologically significant contexts. Should significant archaeology be located it must be fully excavated down to the maximum level of disturbance proposed for the new floor levels.
3. The addition of external drains on the north and west sides of the house - These have the potential to reveal the earlier foundations of the Hall and any external features associated with formal landscaping, gardens, annexes or outbuildings. A watching brief should be maintained and any significant archaeology fully excavated down to the maximum insert level of the drains.
4. Trial pits to investigate the viability of new floor inserts - These have the potential to reveal the earlier foundations of the Hall and any subsequent alterations to the internal layout. A watching brief should be maintained and any significant archaeology fully excavated down to the maximum insert level of the drains.
5. The excavation of foundations for the new garage and the biomass boiler - The foundation preparation and excavation stages of construction for these structures have the potential to reveal sub-surface archaeology related to a formal garden layout which may have been located to the east of the original house. Any significant archaeology that is observed must be fully excavated within the confines of the foundation trenches.
6. G2 lobby internal wall investigation to remove modern fabric - This has the potential to reveal 17th century fabric and a watching brief should be maintained so that any new historic features revealed by this process can be fully recorded.
7. A drawn, written and photographic record of any archaeological features, including structures that may be revealed by the work.
8. Preparation of a full archive report.

If archaeological remains are encountered during the watching brief it may be necessary to suspend development work in that area. The client should have a suitable contingency in place in case of such a scenario.

4.0 PROGRAMME OF WORK

4.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) defines an archaeological watching brief as:

‘A formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.’ (IfA 1994, rev. 2008)

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Planning Service has requested that an **intensive** watching brief be maintained during the excavation of the foundation trenches. This level of watching brief entails that an appropriately qualified archaeologist is present during all associated ground disturbance.

All soil removal will be undertaken either by hand or using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. A photographic record will be maintained throughout, using a digital SLR camera (Canon 550D) set to maximum resolution and any subsurface remains will be recorded photographically, with detailed notations and measured drawings being undertaken if required.

In the event of archaeological discovery features will be excavated by hand and will be fully recorded using Aeon Archaeology pro-formas, digital photographs, and plan and section drawings taken at a suitable scale (usually 1:20 for plan drawings and 1:10 for section drawings).

The archive produced will be held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0057.1**.

4.2 Archive

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project will be prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions will be labelled and cross-referenced, and lodged in an appropriate place (to be decided in consultation with the regional Historic Environment Record) within six months of the completion of the project. The report will also be lodged with the online OASIS database.

5.0 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

The identification of significant archaeological features during the watching brief stage may necessitate further archaeological works. This will require the submission of new cost estimates to the contractor and may be subject to a separate WSI, to be agreed by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Service prior to implementation.

This WSI does not include a methodology or cost for examination of, conservation of, or archiving of finds discovered during the evaluation, nor of any radiocarbon dates required, nor of examination of palaeoenvironmental samples associated with any peat deposits. The need for these will be identified in the post-fieldwork programme (if required), and a new WSI will be issued for approval by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Service prior to implementation.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

If necessary, relevant archaeological deposits will be sampled by taking bulk samples (a minimum of 10.0 litres and maximum of 30.0 litres) for flotation of charred plant remains. Bulk samples will be taken from waterlogged deposits for macroscopic plant remains. Other bulk samples, for example from middens, may be taken for small animal bones and small artefacts.

Bulk environmental samples will also be taken from any fills, deposits or structures which yield archaeological artefacts, charcoal flecks/ fragments, bone, or any other historic remains.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs will be obtained from Oxford Archaeology.

For guidance purposes the following volume criteria represent the minimum feature sampling requirements:

- 50% of each discrete feature (e.g. pits and postholes)
- 25% of the exposed areas of each linear feature and all terminals/intersections
- 50% of structural features (e.g. beamslots, ring-ditches)
- 50%-100% of domestic/industrial working features (e.g. hearths and ovens)

7.0 HUMAN REMAINS

Any finds of human remains will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, and both the coroner and the Shropshire Archaeology Planning and Advisory Service Archaeologist informed. If removal is necessary it will take place under appropriate regulations and with due regard for health and safety issues. In order to excavate human remains, a licence is required under Section 25 of the Burials Act 1857 for the removal of any body or remains of any body from any place of burial. This will be applied for should human remains need to be investigated or moved.

8.0 SMALL FINDS

The vast majority of finds recovered from archaeological excavations comprise pottery fragments, bone, environmental and charcoal samples, and non-valuable metal items such as nails. Often many of these finds become unstable (i.e. they begin to disintegrate) when removed from the ground. All finds are the property of the landowner; however, it is recommended that all finds are donated to an appropriate museum where they can receive specialist treatment and study. Access to finds must be granted to Aeon Archaeology for a reasonable period to allow for analysis and for study and publication as necessary. All finds would be treated according to advice provided within *First Aid for Finds* (Rescue 1999). Aeon Archaeology staff will undertake initial identification, but any additional advice would be sought from a wide range of consultants.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds will be kept under review throughout the fieldwork phase. Any changes in recovery priorities will be under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Shropshire Archaeology Planning and Advisory Service Archaeologist. There will be a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds with the exception of unstratified items dating to the twentieth or twenty-first centuries AD which will be recorded by material, type, form, identification and weight, and discarded.

All finds will be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. Their location will be recorded; finds numbers attributed, bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. Where specialist advice is required provision will be made to do so at the earliest possible convenience.

After processing, artefacts which are suitable will be cleaned and conserved in-house. Artefacts requiring specialist cleaning and conservation will be sent to the relevant specialist. All finds will then be sent to a specialist for analysis, the results of which will then be assessed to ascertain the potential of the finds assemblage to meet the research aims of the project. The value of the finds will also be assessed in terms of the wider educational and academic contributions.

9.0 UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES: TREASURE TROVE

Treasure Trove law has been amended by the Treasure Act 1996. The following are Treasure under the Act:

- *Objects other than coins* any object other than a coin provided that it contains at least 10% gold or silver and is at least 300 years old when found.
- *Coins* all coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found (if the coins contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least 10. Any object or coin is part of the same find as another object or coin, if it is found in the same place as, or had previously been left together with, the other object. Finds may have become scattered since they were originally deposited in the ground. Single coin finds of gold or silver are not classed as treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act.
- *Associated objects* any object whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or that had previously been together with, another object that is treasure.
- *Objects that would have been treasure trove* any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. These objects have to be made substantially of gold or silver, they have to be buried with the intention of recovery and their owner or his heirs cannot be traced.

The following types of finds are not treasure:

- Objects whose owners can be traced.
- Unworked natural objects, including human and animal remains, even if they are found in association with treasure.
- Objects from the foreshore which are not wreck.

All finds of treasure must be reported to the coroner for the district within fourteen days of discovery or identification of the items. Items declared Treasure Trove become the property of the Crown.

The British Museum will decide whether they or any other museum may wish to acquire the object. If no museum wishes to acquire the object, then the Secretary of State will be able to disclaim it. When this happens, the coroner will notify the occupier and landowner that he intends to return the object to the finder after 28 days unless he receives no objection. If the coroner receives an objection, the find will be retained until the dispute has been settled.

10.0 STAFF & TIMETABLE

10.1 Staff

The work will be managed and undertaken by Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA, Archaeological Contractor and Consultant at Aeon Archaeology.

10.2 Timetable

The evaluation work can currently be undertaken from late May 2015, although the client is encouraged to give as much notice as possible to Aeon Archaeology as project commitments are currently high.

11.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Aeon Archaeology has a Health and Safety Policy Statement which can be supplied upon request. Furthermore, site-specific Risk Assessments and Method Statements are compiled and distributed to every member of staff involved with the project prior to the commencement of works.

12.0 INSURANCE

Liability Insurance – Towergate Insurance Policy 000467

- Employers' Liability: Limit of Indemnity £10m in any one occurrence
- Public Liability: Limit of Indemnity £2m in any one occurrence
- Legal Defence Costs (Health and Safety at Work Act): £250,000

The current period expires 30/09/15

Professional Indemnity Insurance – Towergate Insurance Policy 2011025521290

- Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 30/09/15

13.0 GENERAL

All project staff will adhere to the *Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*.

The project will follow the requirements set down in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* prepared by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

A Method Statement and Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork and circulated to all staff concerned.

Please note the following:

Aeon Archaeology will not be held responsible for any delays to the work programme resulting from the discovery of archaeological sites or finds.

The cost quoted does not include examination of, conservation of or archiving of finds discovered during the archaeological programme, nor of any radiocarbon dates required, nor of examination of palaeoenvironmental samples.

SPECIALISTS

Specialist advice required will be sought from the following list if required:

- Bone: Nora Bermingham
- Glass: Hilary Cool, Barbican Research Associates.
- Metal artefacts: Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services, Cardiff.
- Slag, burnt clay, hammerscale: Dr. Tim Young, Geoarch, Cardiff.
- Stone artefacts: Oxford Archaeology
- Wood artefacts: Jane Foley, Foley Conservation, Builth Wells.
- Leather: Quita Mould, Barbican Research Associates.
- Waterlogged environmental: Dr Mike Allen, Allen Environmental Archaeology.
- Environmental samples: Oxford Archaeology
- Numismatics: Peter Guest, Barbican Research Associates.
- Pottery (all periods): Oxford Archaeology
- Clay pipe: Oxford Archaeology

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation of waterlogged material:

- Organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)
- Non-organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)

