

14 and 14a UPPER GATE STREET, CONWY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Report No. 209

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

14 and 14a UPPER GATE STREET, CONWY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF (G1395)

prepared for M. Picton, A Cause for Concern

by Richard Roberts

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 A Cause for Concern is in the process of extending its premises at 14 and 14A Upper Gate Street, Conwy. Because the application is within the confines of the Medieval town of Conwy, Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service recommended that any ground disturbance be subject to an archaeological watching brief. The application site comprises a roughly square plot of land approximately 6.0m x 6.5m, aligned north-east south-west to the rear of the property. To meet the condition of the planning consent, A Cause for Concern asked Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (Contracts Section) to undertake the archaeological work.

1.2 Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (Contracts Section) submitted a Project Design and costs for carrying out the recommended works. These were accepted and the Contracts Section undertook the archaeological monitoring of the foundation trenches, observing soil removal and recording any finds or features of archaeological interest revealed. The site was visited on 2 and 3 April 1996.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS

The aims of the work were to conduct a watching brief, and to record any remains of archaeological interest revealed during the excavation of the foundation trenches of the extension at 14 and 14A Upper Gate Street. The work was carried out according to the specification provided by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service.

3.0 RESULTS

On visiting the site it was discovered that half of the area had been severely truncated by the insertion of services and the creation of a level concrete area, and were devoid of any archaeological deposits. For this reason the watching brief concentrated on the north-west half of the application area.

The foundation trenches were approximately 70cm wide by 70cm deep. On removal of the turf a deposit of blackish grey-brown gritty sandy-silt with fragments of nineteenth century pottery (blue and white china and Buckley ware), with evidence of rubbish burning was noted. The deposit was up to 58cm in depth and immediately overlay the natural mid-yellow clays.

It is likely that any deposits of pre-nineteenth century date were removed when the area was levelled for housing during the nineteenth century. There is also a strong probability that the area was clear of buildings before this period; both the seventeenth century painting reproduced as plate 1 in Hemp WJ 1941 and the depiction of Conwy of 1742 by the brothers Buck, reproduced as fig. 28 in Soulsby 1983, indicate that the area beyond the immediate street frontage was open land under cultivation, probably an orchard.

4.0 SUMMARY

The excavation of the foundation trenches was monitored, but no deposits or finds of archaeological interest were noted.

5.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

5.1 Manuscript sources

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5.2 Published sources

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