

LLANFAES COMMUNITY HALL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF (G1451)

Report No. 258

**Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust**

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prepared for Llanfaes Community Council

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Introduction

It was proposed to construct an extension to the existing community hall at Llanfaes, which would involve the disturbance of underground deposits in an area of high archaeological potential. The site lay within or close to the edge of the Medieval town of Llanfaes, and a number of finds of that date had been recovered from the surrounding fields, thus suggesting that Medieval structures may lie within the area of the development. Planning permission was granted for the development subject to the applicant securing the "implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation".

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust was employed to carry out the archaeological work, which was to consist of a watching brief conducted during the early phases of construction.

Methodology

The construction work took place in December 1996. The archaeological watching brief was concerned only with the early stages of the work, which consisted of (i) the removal of an existing concrete slab, (ii) the clearance of the ground beneath the slab, and (iii) the digging of the foundation trenches. The extension measured approximately 10m by 7m.

Following the removal of the concrete slab, the exposed surface was levelled by machine, and then hand cleaned by trowelling. Part of the area (some 7m by 2m) was then excavated by machine to the depth of the proposed foundations (c. 1.0m deep), and the sides and base of the excavation were examined.

The foundation trenches were examined by hand-cleaning the sides at selected areas.

Results

No archaeological features or finds were noted either from the examination of the interior of the site, or from the foundation trenches.

The material revealed by the excavation was a mixture of brown clays and silts with water worn pebbles. The material did not appear natural, and it was concluded that the deposits had been brought onto the site, probably for levelling when the original centre was built.

Although the earlier ground surface was not found, the steeply sloping nature of the site prior to levelling makes it unlikely that archaeological deposits would be present, despite the large quantity of archaeological evidence from the surrounding fields.

Acknowledgements

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