Summary assessment:

6.16. The potential for medieval activity is **Low**, with any features likely to be associated with agricultural activity, with probable links to Vale Crucis Abbey or the Trevor family. Any features identified from this period could be considered to be of **Low-Medium** significance.

Post-Medieval and Modern Periods

6.17. There is a single designated and a single non-designated post-medieval asset located within the proposed development area. The former is the Scheduled World Heritage site, Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor Basin (DE175), which the proposed pathway runs adjacent to and underneath. The latter is the overflow/sluice channel for the canal running from Trevor Basin into the River Dee. The channel is for the most part stone-lined and crosses the northern end of the proposed pathway (PRN 1687116).

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Trevor Basin (DE175)

6.18. Built between 1795 and 1808, the Trevor Basin and Pontcysyllte Aquaduct are an exceptional example of early 19th-century engineering pioneered by the renowned industrialist Thomas Telford. The canal was first proposed in the late 18th century to connect Chester and the Mersey estuary to the Severn and the Midlands canal network. To navigate through the Welsh valleys, two aqueducts were planned, which would allow the canal to cross the rivers Ceiriog and Dee (Chirk and Pontcysyllte respectively), with the latter terminating in Trevor (Wakelin, 2015).

6.19. Accounts from the aqueduct's completion described the process of its construction as having been "*composed of works more difficult of execution than can perhaps be found anywhere…*" (UNESCO, 2019). This alludes to the level of significant landscaping that was required, not only to establish the canal and basin but also to facilitate the building of the aqueduct. A reconstruction of the building of the aqueduct by The Royal Commission for Historical and Ancient Monuments Wales (RCHAMW) depicts the level of ground engineering and infrastructure that was required, this included a wide cut through the hills on either side of the River Dee, and the establishment of a funicular railway for transporting materials. This was depicted by RCHAMW on the northeast side of the aqueduct. It is not clear from which information this interpretation was drawn but it is most likely accurate given that the stone was likely delivered via the Cefn Mawr Quarry plateway but would also have offered a more stable platform than the western side of the canal.

6.20. There are five listed buildings within the study area that are associated with the canal. These include the Telford Inn (formerly known as Scotch Hall) (LB 1306), which is a late 18th century house that was most likely built by the Ellesmere Canal Company as a residence for Telford's supervising engineer during the construction of the canal and the aqueduct (1795-1805).

6.21. There are several other listed buildings within the Trevor Basin associated with the canal including the bridge adjacent to the Telford Inn (LB 19966) and a pair of docks both located on the east side of Trevor Basin (LB 87547).



Figure 4: Stills from the RCHAMW reconstruction of Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.

Other post-medieval activity

6.22. In addition to the aqueduct and basin, there are several designated assets including a scheduled late 17th-century stone bridge to the west of Pontcysyllte Aqueduct (DE 1602).

6.23. After the establishment of the canal and later the Llangollen Railway, Trevor saw rapid growth as an industrial centre during the Industrial Revolution. Like nearby Ruabon, Trevor became a major producer of bricks, with several sites including the Garth brickworks to the northwest of Trevor Wharf, producing the Etruria Marl red brick that became synonymous with Ruabon (Jones, 2004). There was also the Tref-Y-Nant Fire-clay works established to the north of Trevor Wharf and built before 1858 and acquired by the Ruabon-based brick maker J C Edwards in the 1860s (RCAHMW, 2011). Near the canal, there were also iron foundries, several coal mines, quarries, and chemical works, all of which fed into both the Llangollen Canal and the Llangollen Railway, exporting across Britain.

Summary assessment:

6.24. The potential for post-medieval archaeology within the development area is **High,** which given its potential direct associated with the Pontcysyllte and Trevor World Heritage Site, would be of **High to Very High** significance.

7 Historic Map and Geographic Data Analysis

7.1. For this assessment, historical maps have been obtained from a range of sources including the Clwyd Record Office Hawarden, the National Library of Scotland and the National Library of Wales, as well as reference material held by the Heneb: Clwyd-Powys Archaeology office.

Table 2: Historic map regression

Map date	Source	Description	Features/ Changes
1803	Clwyd Record Office	Map showing the proposed extension to the Ellesmere Canal (Llangollen Canal).	The map is relatively low detailed but shows the area of the proposed development as relatively featureless aside from being situated within a wooded area.
1838	National Library of Wales	Tithe map and apportionment for the parish of Llangollen	The tithe map shows the site covering two plots. The first is a narrow field with a linear boundary running parallel to the east of the aqueduct, and its western extent under the aqueduct. This un-named plot is noted as being owned by the Ellesmere Canal Company. Adjacent to the east, in an area that is now forested, is an enclosed arable field named 'Cae Bychan' which was owned by the Trevor Hall estate.
1871	Clwyd Record Office	25" first edition Ordnance Survey Map. Denbighshire XXXV.13.	The narrow plot shown in the Tithe is still present. The plot to the east is still shown as a field but is now bordered to the east and north by the overflow channel (sluice) from the Trevor Basin. The northern extent of the development area shows a road/pathway leading under the aqueduct to the eastern side of Trevor Wharf.
1872	National Library of Scotland	6" first edition Ordnance Survey Map. Denbighshire XXXV.13.	No change
1898	National Library of Scotland	6" second edition Ordnance Survey Map. Denbighshire XXXV.13.	No change
1909	National Library of Scotland	25" second edition Ordnance Survey Map. Denbighshire XXXV.13.	No change
1938	National Library of Scotland	6" second edition Ordnance Survey Map. Denbighshire XXXV.13.	No change
1949	National Library of Scotland	6" second edition Ordnance Survey Map. Denbighshire XXXV.13.	No change
2022	Natural Resources Wales	LiDAR analysis Maps 3, 4 and 5	The former linear field boundary crossing the proposed development area can be seen as a very prominent linear striation in all of the maps. Overlying the northern end of this feature is a large linear mound, possibly a spoil heap?

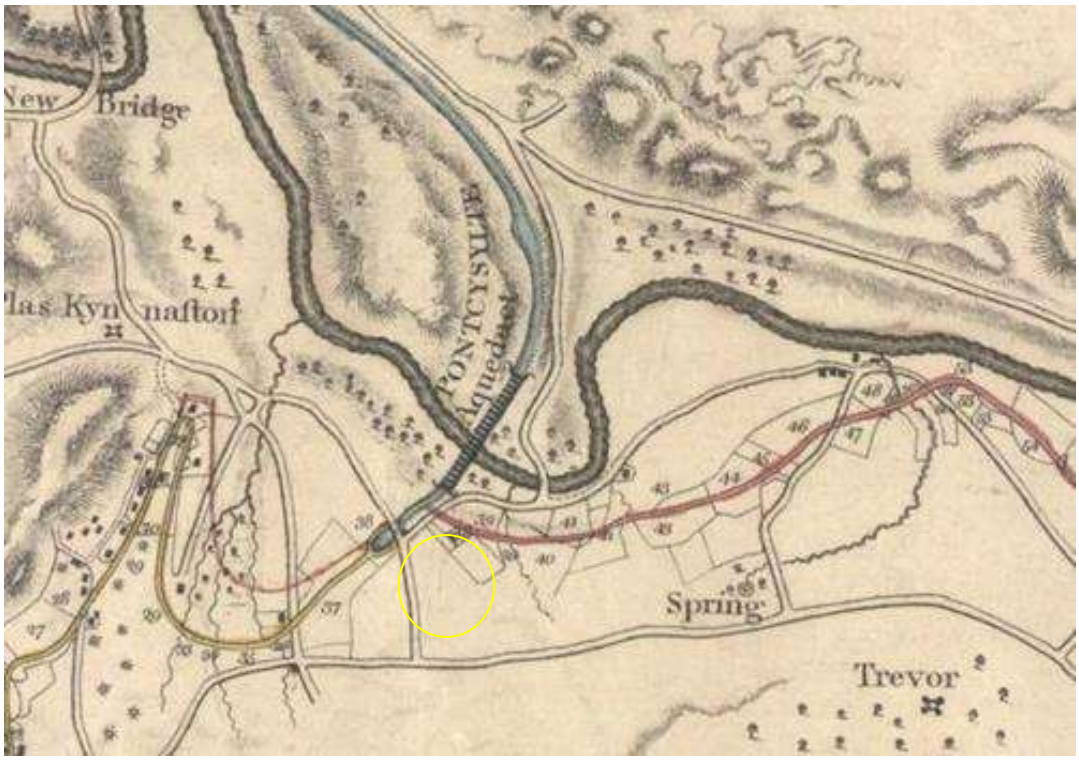


Figure 5: Extract from the 1803 Plan of a railroad from Ruabon Brook to the Ellesmere Canal near north end of the aqueduct off Pontcysylte (NEWA Ruthin QSD/DC/7).

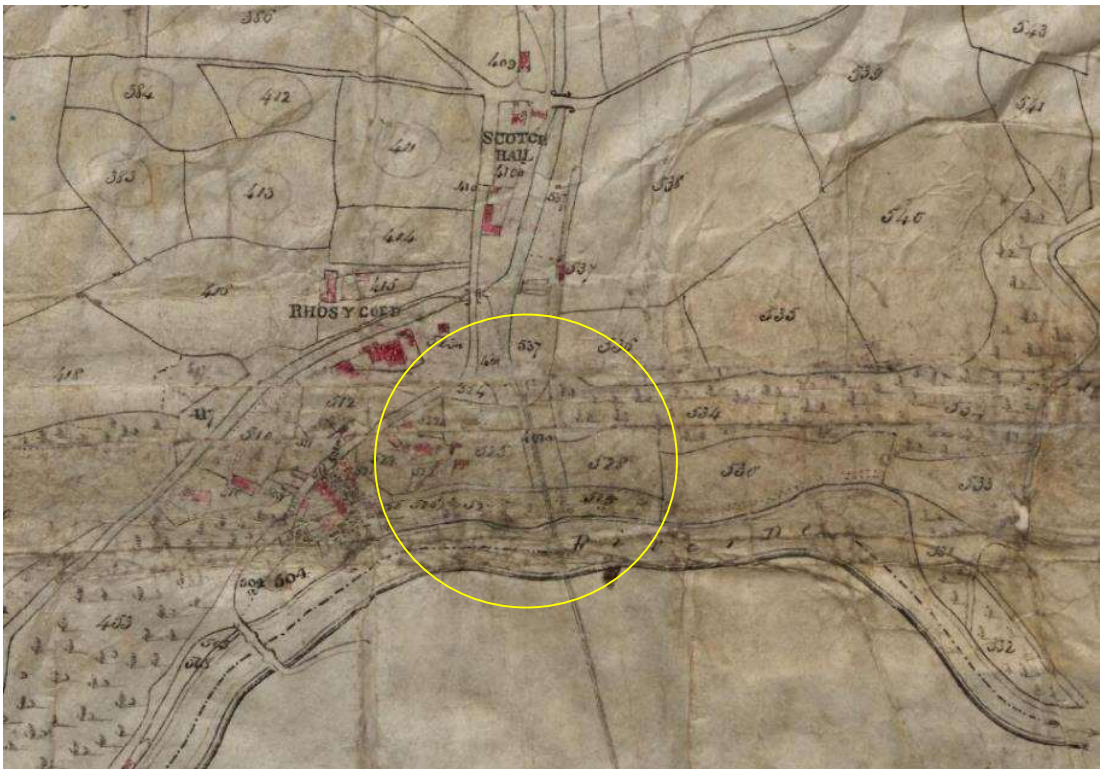


Figure 6: 1838 Tithe map of the Parish of Llangollen. Reproduced with the permission of the LIyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru – The National Library of Wales.

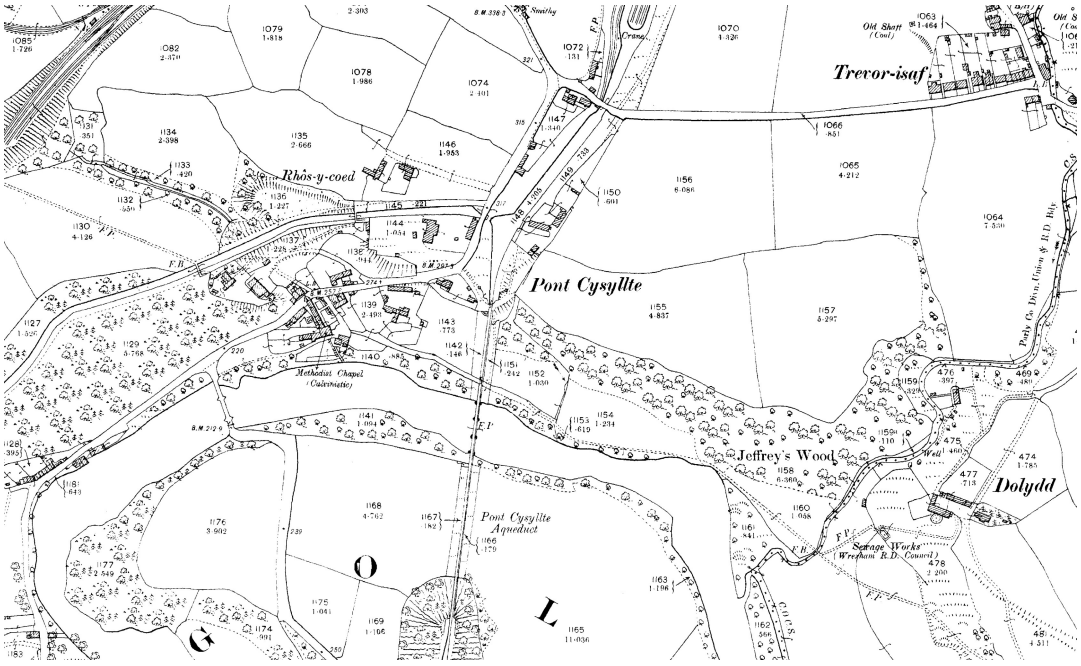


Figure 7: 1871 First edition OS survey map Denbighshire XXXV.13 (Clwyd Record Office).

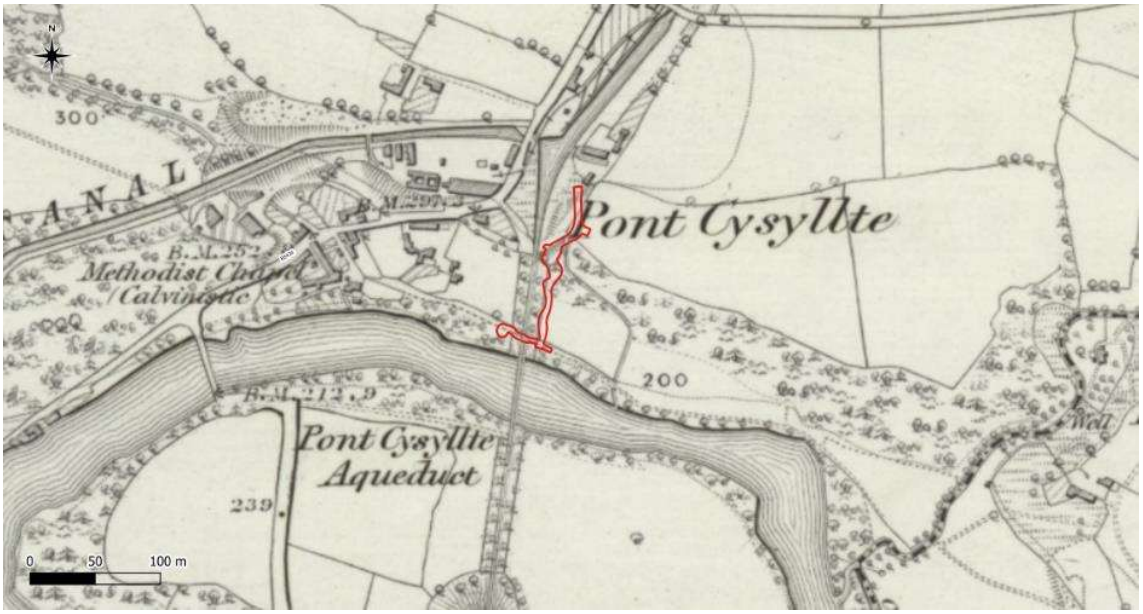


Figure 8: 1872 Ordnance Survey 6 inch map Denbighshire Sheet XXXV Surveyed: 1872 to 1873, Published: 1879. Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland

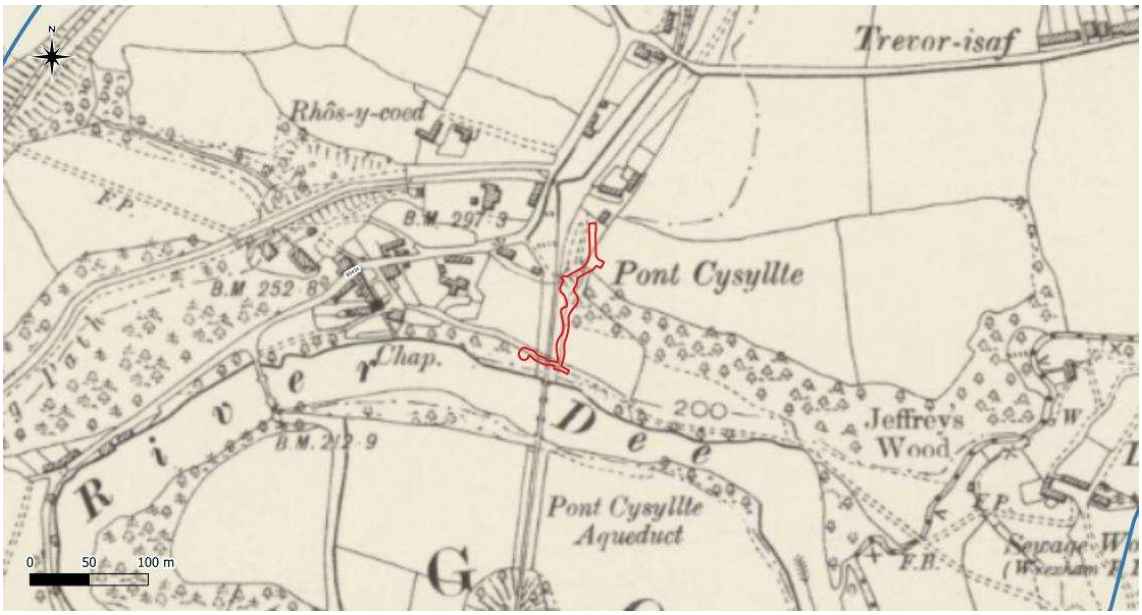


Figure 9: 1898 Ordnance Survey 6 inch Denbighshire Sheet XXXV.Revised: 1898, Published: 1900 Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland

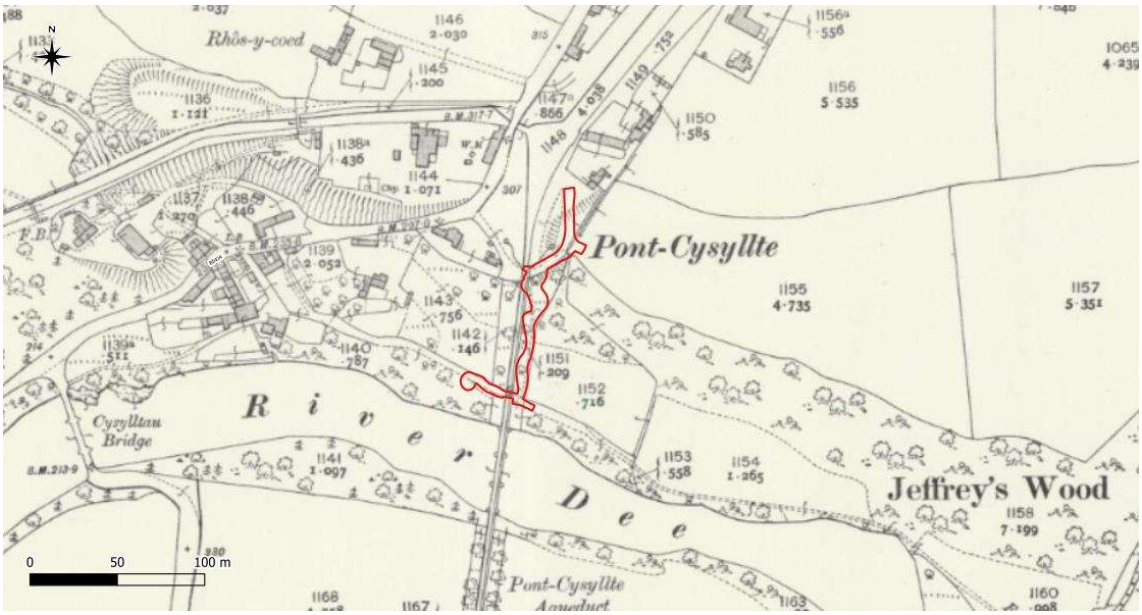


Figure 10: 1909 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map Denbighshire XXXV.13 Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland

8 Site visit

8.1. The site visit was conducted on the 16th of April 2024 by Heneb: CPA archaeologist Matthew Thomas. The following presents a summarised record of the landscape and features observed, along with interpretations and descriptions. The weather was bright and visibility good, though heavy undergrowth in the woodland impacted access in some areas. A total of 42 photographs were taken, most of these related to the extant path but also include a pair of previously unrecorded linear stone features of potentially historic value. Nearby built heritage was also recorded.

Trevor Basin, Brick Workshop/Store



Figure 11: Trevor Basin, Brick Workshop/Store (CPA Photo PD24-060_003)

8.2. Situated northeast of the Trevor Basin terminus of the proposed pathway, this single storey mid-to-late 19th-century timber-roofed brick and mortar building appears to have been constructed in connection with the canal and dry dock, its first cartographic appearance being on the 1880 plan. Apparently constructed in three phases, the central part of the building comprises a red brick structure 6.05m long, 5.4m wide and with an overall height of 5.1m; a 4.02m long extension of blue brick is attached to the south-eastern end, with an additional red brick section appended to the north-western extent. The building is recorded in the Clwyd-Powys Historic Environment Record (CP-HER) as heritage asset PRN 96138.

Trevor Basin Waste Water Channel (Northern Extent)

8.3. This masonry, brick and concrete overflow culvert, situated to the east of the main basin, drains canal water from behind the dry dock area southwards before entering a short (c. 5m) underground section passing beneath the easternmost extent of the proposed pathway. There is at least one significant area of damage to the culvert's south easterly wall in an area c. 20m due south of the brick workshop/store, causing pooling outside of the drainage channel (see Figure 13 below). At present this is not impacting the proposed development area, but further flooding/wall failure may impact the pathway's easternmost extent. The channel is recorded in the Clwyd-Powys Historic Environment Record (CP-HER) as heritage asset PRN: 213714.



Figure 12: Trevor Basin Waste Water Channel (Northern Extent), viewed from the north east (CPA Photo PD24-060_005)

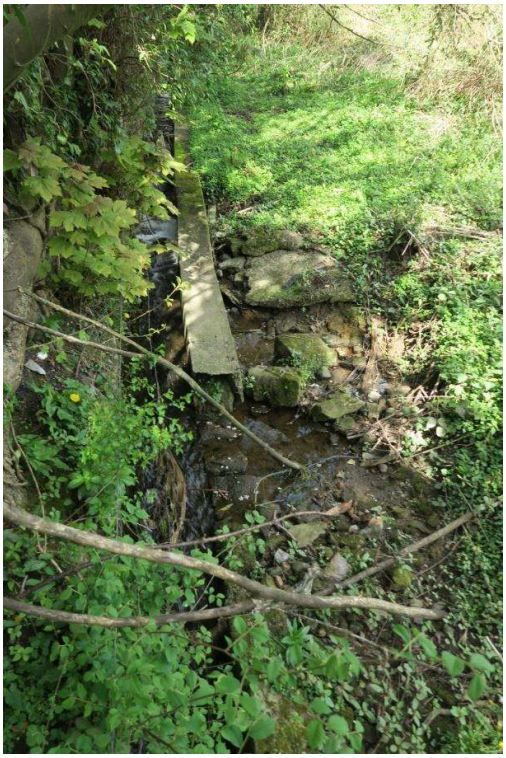


Figure 13: Damage and consequent pooling to the south eastern wall of Trevor Basin Waste Water Channel (Northern Extent), viewed from the south west (CPA Photo PD24-060_007)

Trevor Basin Waste Water Channel (Southern Extent)

8.4. The southern extent of the water channel is primarily brick-lined, topped on each bank by masonry coping stones and featuring some occasional patches of concrete, potentially evidence of later repair. Both the shape and differing proportions of brick/stone/concrete used in the construction appear slightly different to that of the northern extent, potentially indicating that the two extents represent an evolution of the water management scheme at Pontcysyllte. Situated to the southeast of the main basin, it continues the drainage of canal water from behind the dry dock area, carrying the outflow of the northern extent as it emerges from the short (c. 5m) underground section beneath the easternmost extent of the proposed pathway. The line of the culvert heads due south for c. 20m before taking a sharp turn to the southeast, carrying the water to an outflow point sufficiently distant from the aqueduct to prevent scouring or damage to the piers; a sophisticated water-management design intended to protect the aqueduct structure. The channel is recorded in the Clwyd-Powys Historic Environment Record (CP-HER) as heritage asset PRN: 1687116.

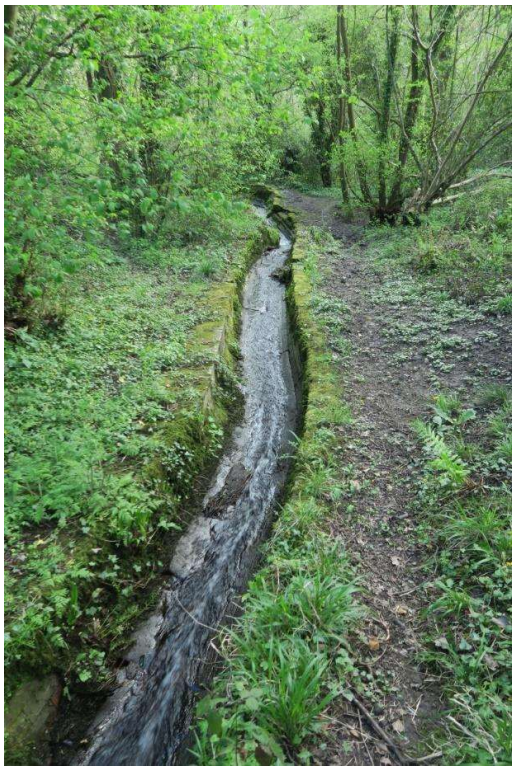


Figure 14: Trevor Basin Waste Water Channel (Southern Extent), viewed from the north (CPA Photo PD24-060_020)

Parallel Linear Stone Foundations/Inclines

8.5. Noted during the survey were two previously unrecorded heavily overgrown masonry structures, a pair of parallel inclined surfaces of angular cut stone blocks, sloping down from just below the northern end of the aqueduct towards the river on a 160° NNW-SSE alignment, set approximately 3.5m apart between the inner edges. The dimensions of each incline are width c. 1.5m, possibly widening to >2m at their NNW extent, visible depth >0.5m, length c. 10m+ (top end lost in undergrowth). It's likely that they have been truncated at their northern extent, potentially during landscaping undertaken to create the extant pathway; their southern extents may have been truncated/buried by a woodland trail that crosses below the features at this point. Elements of a possible third structure, a low stone wall/linear of no more than a single course, were noted running east to west c. 2 metres to the north of the inclines, but poor footing and dense undergrowth prevented defining it further. While no additional masonry remains were seen it is feasible that either or both of the parallel inclines may continue downslope south of the woodland trail, either as sub-surface or standing remains within the dense undergrowth.

8.6. The position and alignment of the two structures, heading directly to where the canal would have terminated prior to the completion of the aqueduct, suggests that they may represent an early phase of water management such as a pair of pipe-platforms or the outer walls of a single broad drainage channel, possibly pre-dating the extant water channels described above. Alternatively they may form some part of the construction infrastructure associated with the building of the aqueduct, though their alignment differs from that shown taken by the funicular trackway in the RCHAMW interpretation (seen in Figure 4). In either case they may represent some of the earliest elements of the structure at Pontcysyllte. An additional possibility is that they may have provided some form of buttressing and/or revetment function