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Plate 66: Turn of internal passageway within the Miner's Rescue Center, 3-5 Maesgwyn Road, Wrexham - from the northeast - 2.00m scale



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Plate 81: Heat & Humidity training chamber within the Miner's Rescue Center, 3-5 Maesgwyn Road, Wrexham - from the northwest - 1.00m scale



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Plate 83: End of Gallery within the Miner's Rescue Center, 3-5 Maesgwyn Road, Wrexham - from the north - 2.00m scale

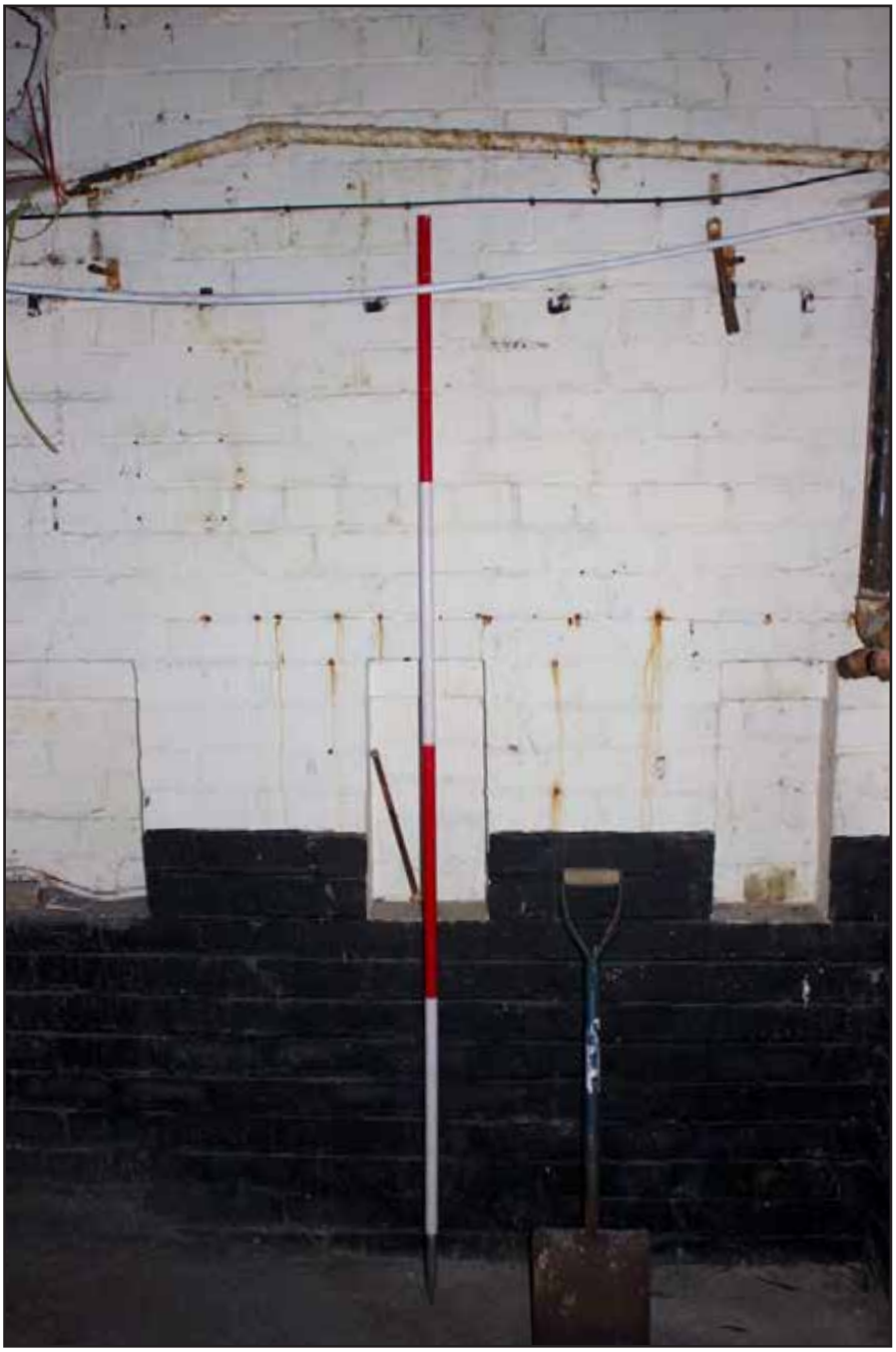


Plate 84: Boiler Room within the Miner's Rescue Center, 3-5 Maesgwyn Road, Wrexham - from the southeast - 2.00m scale

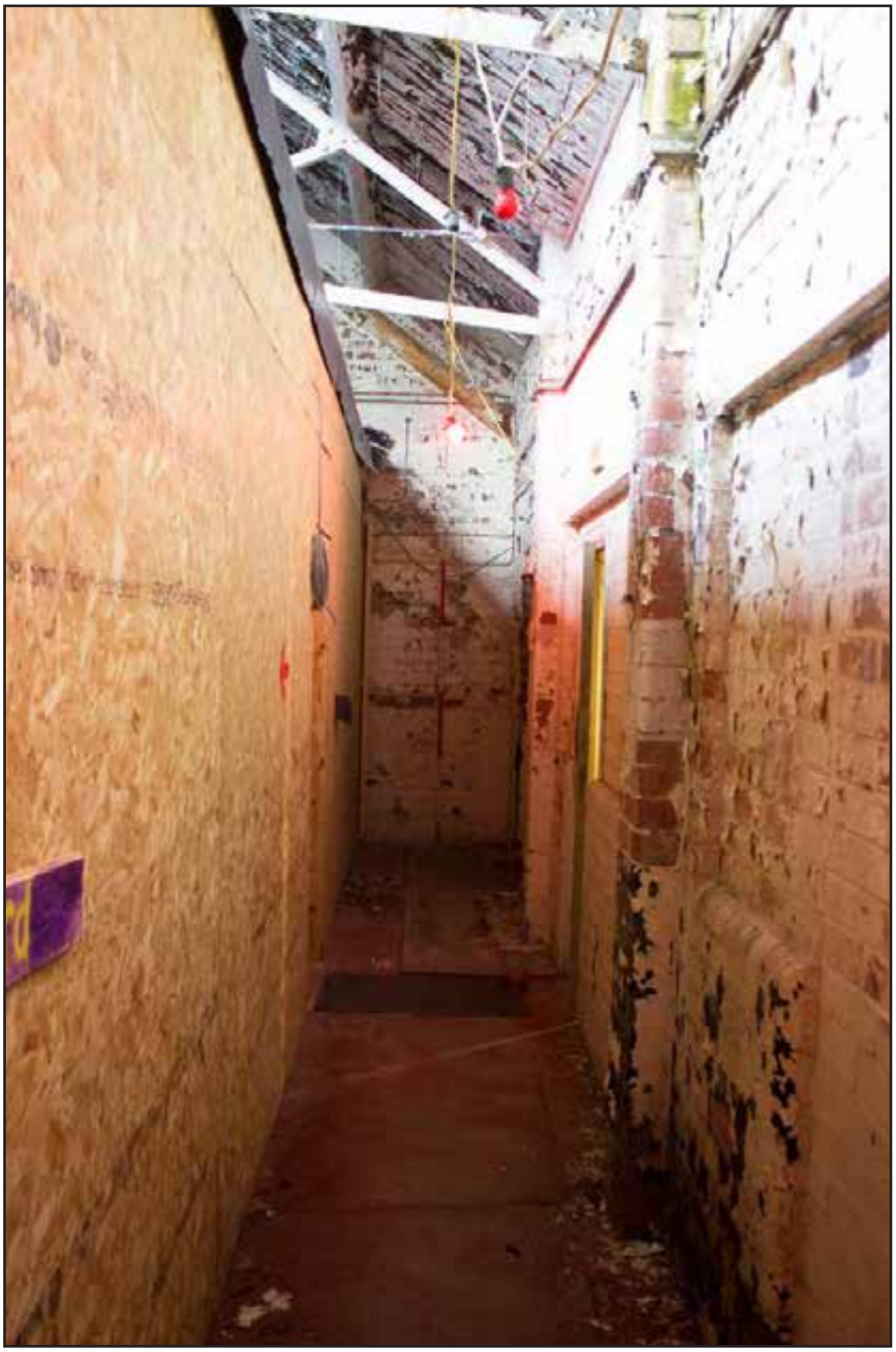


Plate 85: End of Gallery within the Miner's Rescue Center, 3-5 Maesgwyn Road, Wrexham - from the north - 2.00m scale



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Plate 92: Fire Brigade control console within Operations Room, Miner's Rescue Center, 3-5 Maesgwyn Road, Wrexham - from the northeast - 1.00m scale



Plate 93: Stairwell to cellar within the Miner's Rescue Center, 3-5 Maesgwyn Road, Wrexham - from the northeast - no scale

Association' in raised lettering. Underneath is a wide tripartite window in infilled opening, presumably a former vehicle entrance.

To the rear: left hand gable wing extends to the rear and encloses the central U-shaped single storey training gallery. Further flat roofed extensions to the rear of the Superintendents House.

Internal description: Largely refitted for modern office use but retains original stairs and layout, in particular the windowless training gallery housed in the single storey U-shaped building to the rear.

Listed for its special historic interest as a Mines Rescue Building, purpose built to serve the mines within the North Wales Coalfields and important for retaining its original form and layout, in particular the training gallery. It is a rare example within Wales and displays good architectural detailing and construction.

The photographic record was undertaken by Josh Dean BA archaeologist at Aeon Archaeology on the 12th May 2022. Upon approval from the Client and the CPAT Development Control Archaeologist the report will be archived with the CPAT Historic Environment Record (HER) (under the newly created ***Event PRN 213749***); the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW); and a copy retained at Aeon Archaeology, Chester under project code **A0365.1**, *Report no# 0347*.

8.0 SOURCES

Maps.

Ordnance Survey Open Data maps SJ NE35, NW35, SE35, SW35.

Secondary Sources

Historic England: Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice (2016)

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, (2020): Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures

APPENDIX I – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

Miners' Rescue Centre, 3-5 Maesgwyn Road, Wrexham LL11 2AP (2017/0120)

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Level 1 Historic Building Record

April 2022 v1.0

Project Code: A0365.1
Planning Ref. 2017/0120
Event PRN: Tbc

Miners' Rescue Centre, 3-5 Maesgwyn Road, Wrexham LL11 2AP (2017/0120)

April 2022 v1.0

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Project Code: A0365.1
Date: 23/04/2022
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REGISTERED ORGANISATION CIfA

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1.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Aeon Archaeology has been commissioned by Irvin Consultants, hereafter 'the Client', to produce a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for carrying out a level 1 historic building record of the grade II Listed Building (**ref: 87623**) of the former Miners' Rescue Centre complex, 3-5 Maesgwyn Road, Wrexham LL11 2AP (centred on **NGR SJ 32815 50742**) in advance of development. The complex consists of three buildings – Residential Unit; Workshop; and Rescue Centre.

Planning permission (**ref: 2017/0120**) was granted by Wrexham Borough Council, hereafter 'the Council', on the 3rd February 2017 for the conversion of the vacant miners rescue centre to form 2 no. self-contained apartments and 7 no. bedsits, together with museum and cafe. The following condition concerning archaeology and heritage was applied to the permission:

Condition 5

Development shall not begin until an appropriate photographic survey, equivalent to an English Heritage Level 1 study, of the existing buildings has been carried out in accordance with details to be submitted to, and approved by, the Local Planning Authority. The resulting digital photographs should be forwarded on a CD to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR. Email: markwalters@cpat.otg.uk Tel: 01938 553670). After approval by the Local Planning Authority, a copy of the photographs shall also be sent to the Historic Environment Record Officer, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the regional Historic Environment Record.

Reason: To secure a full photographic record of the original building prior to alteration/conversion.

The Development Management Archaeologist (DMA) at the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) made the following consultee comments regarding the development:

Information held within the Regional Historic Environment Record indicates that although the development appears to have limited sub-surface archaeological implications the proposals will affect a Grade II Listed former 19th century Miners Rescue Centre building which retain elements of its original layout, fabric, fixtures and fittings and is of national architectural and historical significance.

I would therefore ask that the applicant is required to carry out a Level 1 photographic survey before development commences, in order to preserve a baseline record of this building in its current condition.

It is a requirement that this WSI be approved in writing by the DMA at CPAT prior to the survey being undertaken.

The Miners Rescue Centre, Maesgwyn Road, Wrexham, was listed in 2010 cementing the buildings importance to the town.

As expected the building has been altered numerous times over the years.

The building was built in 1913 and is very traditional in appearance with large fenestration to the front elevation in particular. The principle facade of the buildings are constructed out of Ruabon Red brick with quoins and window dressings found at first floor level.

The roof coverings to the two buildings at the front of the site (Residential unit and workshop) comprise of red roofing tile. The rescue centre to the rear has a traditional slate finish with large roof windows at ridge level.

Other traditional features which add to the character of the buildings consist of single glazed windows with gloss painted timber frames and cast iron gutters and rainwater downpipes.

An arched masonry sign was originally situated above the link wall on the principle elevation.

This has fallen down at some point in the past but is still on site ready for reinstatement.

The Cadw Listed Building report provides the following information:

History: C1913, built by the North Wales Coal Owners Association to house the Mines Rescue Service for the North Wales coalfields.

External description: Superintendents House to right and lower workshop range to left. Red Ruabon brick to ground floor and quoins and window dressings to first floor, buff brick to first floor. Slate roof with decorative brick gable stack, mixture of plate glass sash and casement windows all with corbelled sills and those to the ground floor of the Superintendents House with hoodmoulds and keystones.

Superintendents House: Two storeyed 5 bay main wing with central window to first floor with paired sash windows to either side. Bracketed first floor string course with central arched doorway to the ground floor with recessed panelled door with glazed leaded margin lights to the frame. Two paired sashes to the right and tripartite window to the left. Two storey wing to rear.

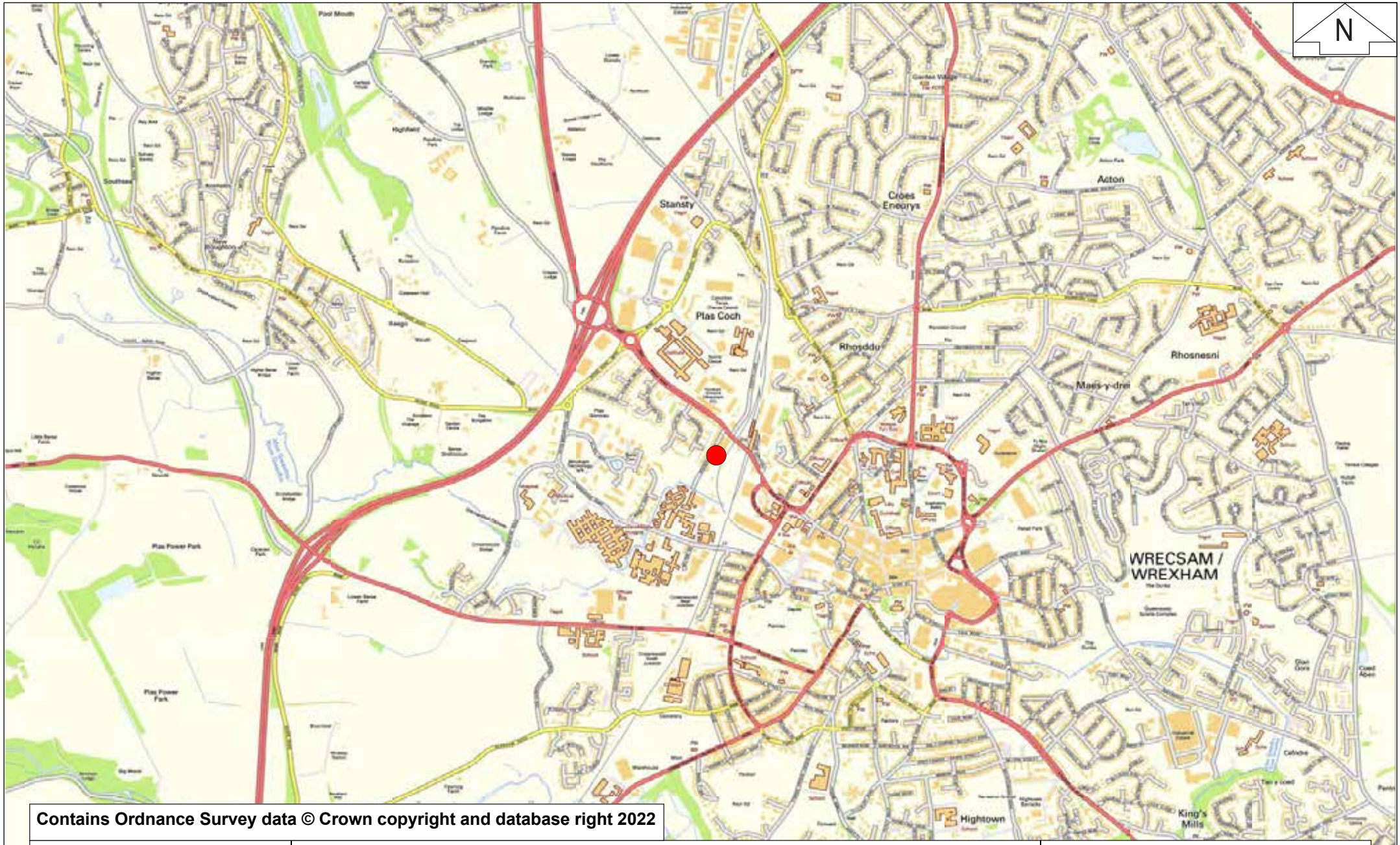
Workshop: two bay gabled wing with two further bays to right and single bay section linking with Superintendents House to right. Gabled wing has wide garage door entrance to left, paired casement window to right and above moulded red brick lunette in the gable and remains of panel with the word 'Rescue' in raised lettering. Linking section has semi-circular gable with moulded coping, scrolled stops and tympanum with the 'North Wales Coal Owners Association' in raised lettering. Underneath is a wide tripartite window in infilled opening, presumably a former vehicle entrance.

To the rear: left hand gable wing extends to the rear and encloses the central U-shaped single storey training gallery. Further flat roofed extensions to the rear of the Superintendents House.

Internal description: Largely refitted for modern office use but retains original stairs and layout, in particular the windowless training gallery housed in the single storey U-shaped building to the rear.

Listed for its special historic interest as a Mines Rescue Building, purpose built to serve the mines within the North Wales Coalfields and important for retaining its original form and layout, in particular the training gallery. It is a rare example within Wales and displays good architectural detailing and construction.

This design and all subsequent mitigation will conform to the guidelines specified in Historic England's '*Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice'* (2016) & *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020).

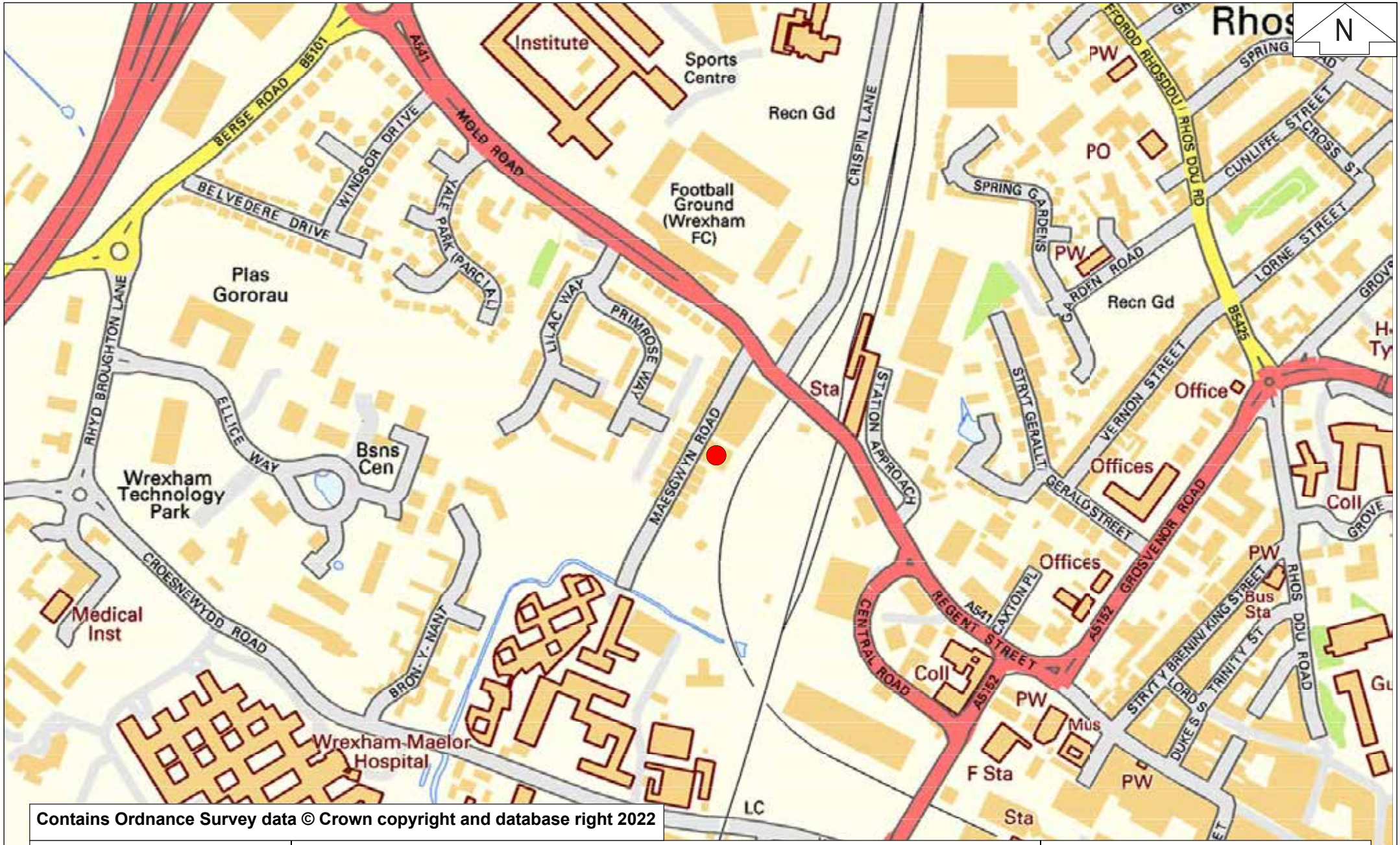


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Figure 01: Location of Miners' Rescue Centre, 3-5 Maesgwyn Road, Wrexham LL11 2AP. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

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Figure 02: Location of Miners' Rescue Centre, 3-5 Maesgwyn Road, Wrexham LL11 2AP. Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

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Figure 03: Location of Miners' Rescue Centre, 3-5 Maesgwyn Road, Wrexham LL11 2AP. Scale 1:1,250 at A4.

1 = Residential. 2 = Centre. 3 = Workshop

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2.0 POLICY CONTEXT

At an international level there are two principal agreements concerning the protection of the cultural heritage and archaeological resource – the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage , commonly known as the Valetta Convention. The latter was agreed by the Member States of the Council of Europe in 1992, and also became law in 1992. It has been ratified by the UK, and responsibility for its implementation rests with Department for Culture Media and Sport.

The management and protection of the historic environment in Wales is set out within the following legislation:

- The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (As amended)
- The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- The Town and County Planning Act 1990
- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
- The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 (As amended)

The Historic Environment (Wales) Act is the most recent legislation for the management of the Historic Environment and amends two pieces of UK legislation — the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The new Act has three main aims:

- to give more effective protection to listed buildings and scheduled monuments;
- to improve the sustainable management of the historic environment; and
- to introduce greater transparency and accountability into decisions taken on the historic environment.

With respect to the cultural heritage of the built environment the Planning (Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings) Act 1990 applies. The Act sets out the legislative framework within which works and development affecting listed buildings and conservation areas must be considered. This states that:-

"In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses" (s66(1))

Other known sites of cultural heritage/archaeological significance can be entered onto county-based Historic Environment Records under the Town and Country Planning 1995.

Planning Policy Wales sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. Chapter 6 covers the historic environment and emphasises that the positive management of change in the historic environment is based on a full understanding of the nature and significance of historic assets and the recognition of the benefits that they can deliver in a vibrant culture and economy.

Various principles and polices related to cultural heritage and archaeology are set out in the Planning Policy Wales which guide local planning authorities with respect to the wider historic environment.

The following paragraphs from Planning Policy Wales are particularly relevant and are quoted in full:

Paragraph 6.1.5 concerns planning applications:

The planning system must take into account the Welsh Government's objectives to protect, conserve, promote and enhance the historic environment as a resource for the general well-being of present and future generations. The historic environment is a finite, non-renewable and shared resource and a vital and integral part of the historical and cultural identity of Wales. It contributes to economic vitality and culture, civic pride, local distinctiveness and the quality of Welsh life. The historic environment can only be maintained as a resource for future generations if the individual historic assets are protected and conserved. Cadw's published Conservation Principles highlights the need to base decisions on an understanding of the impact a proposal may have on the significance of an historic asset.

Planning Policy Wales is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TAN). Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment contains detailed guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment during development plan, preparation and decision making on planning and listed building consent applications. TAN 24 replaces the following Welsh Office Circulars:

- 60/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology
- 61/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas
- 1/98 Planning and the Historic Environment: Directions by the Secretary of State for Wales

3.0 REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Building Record

The requirements are for a historic building record of the Miners Rescue Centre complex prior to alteration, however should observations or desk-based research suggest the potential for significant features to be encountered during the alteration works, the archaeological contractor should make arrangements to undertake any appropriate supplementary recording work during the development. The DMA at CPAT, as advisors to the Council, have requested that the building record be roughly commensurate with the Historic England's '*Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice'* (2016) **Level 1**.

Level 1 is essentially a basic visual record, supplemented by the minimum of information needed to identify the building's location, age and type. This is the simplest record, and it will not normally be an end in itself, but will be contributory to a wider study. Typically it will be undertaken when the objective is to gather basic information about a large number of buildings – for statistical sampling, for area assessments to identify buildings for planning purposes, and whenever resources are limited and much ground has to be covered in a short time. It may also serve to identify buildings requiring more detailed attention at a later date (Historic England. 2016).

Level 1 surveys will generally be of exteriors only, though the interior of a building may sometimes be seen in order to make a superficial inspection and to note significant features. Only if circumstances and objectives allow will any drawings be produced, and these are likely to take the form of sketches.

The level 1 survey will consist of Historic England's 'Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice' (2016) elements:

- written account: HE Guidance 2016 4.3.3 Items 1-4
- photographs: HE Guidance 2016 4.4.8 Items 1 (2 optional)
- drawn record: HE Guidance 2016 4.3.3 1 optional

4.0 METHOD STATEMENT

4.1 Level 1 Record

4.1.1 Written Account

The written account will include:

a. The precise location of the building as an address and in the form of a National Grid reference.

b. A note of any statutory designation (that is, listing, scheduling, Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, conservation area), where applicable. Information on statutory designations can be found on the CADW website. Non-statutory designations (local lists) may be added.

c. The date when the record was made, the name(s) of the recorder(s) and the location of any archive material.

d. A summary statement. This account should describe the buildings type and purpose, historically and at present, its materials and possible date(s), so far as these are apparent from a superficial inspection.

4.1.2 Photographs

The photographic record will include:

a. All photographs will be given a unique number to be used for identification. This unique number should be used in the labelling of digital images.

b. A general view or views of the building (in its wider setting or landscape).

c. The building's external appearance. Typically a series of oblique views will show all external elevations of the building, and give an overall impression of its size, shape and immediate setting. Where individual elevations include complex historical information it may also be appropriate to take views at right-angles to the plane of the elevation.

d. The overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas.

e. Any external or internal detail, structural or decorative, which is relevant to the buildings design, development and use, with scale where appropriate.

f. A photographic register detailing the photo number, the location and direction of each view, and the composition of the shot.

g. Photograph locations and directions of view should be marked on plans of each building separate photographed

h. Photographs should be of archive quality using a digital SLR (minimum 12 megapixel)

i. Photographs, where appropriate (i.e. not general shots) should include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale.

j. Photographs should be adequately lit and not blurry. Please check all photos before leaving the survey area and before submitting the final report and retake any blurred or poorly lit photos.

A Digital SLR (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution with appropriate photographic scale will be used throughout.

4.1.3 Drawn Record

The drawn record will include:

a. A plan showing the location and direction of view of each photograph. A separate plan should be provided of all floors affected by the proposed development.

b. Standard drawing conventions must be used, as depicted in Historic England (2016) Understanding Historic Buildings. A guide to good recording practice pp.35-40

4.2 Processing data, illustration, report and archiving

Following completion of the record as outlined above, a report will be produced incorporating the following:

- A copy of the design brief and agreed specification
- A site location plan
- A plan illustrating the location and direction of photographs
- Basic background and relevant historical, descriptive or analytical detail
- A full bibliography of sources consulted
- Illustrations, including plans and photographs, will be incorporated within the report.

5.0 DISSEMINATION AND ARCHIVING

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 with the RCAHMW within six months of the completion of the project.

Upon completion of the project copies of the report will be sent to the Client, regional HER and DMA at CPAT.

The project report and archive will adhere to the Welsh Trusts' and Cadw's *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)* (2018) including the translation of a non-technical summary into the medium of Welsh.

6.0 DIGITAL DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

6.1 Type of study

A level 1 historic building record of the grade II Listed Building (**ref: 87623**) of the former Miners' Rescue Centre complex, 3-5 Maesgwyn Road, Wrexham LL11 2AP (centred on **NGR SJ 32815 50742**).

6.2 Types of data

Photographs, photograph register, scaled drawings.

6.3 Format and scale of the data

Photographs taken in *RAW* format and later converted to *TIF* format for long term archiving and *JPEG* format for use in the digital report, converted using *Adobe Photoshop*. All photographs renamed using *AF5* freeware with the prefix (*project code_frame number*) and a photographic metadata created using Microsoft Excel (*.xlsx*) or Access (*.accdb*).

All written registers, pro-formas, and scaled drawings scanned as *.PDF* files.

6.4 Methodologies for data collection / generation

Digital data will be collected / generated in line with recommendations made in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2014. Rev 2020). Sections 3.3.1 and 3.3.3 are relevant:

> *3.3.1 Project specifications, research designs or similar documents should include a project specific Selection Strategy and a Data Management Plan.*
>
> *3.3.3 Project designs or schedules of works etc should outline the methodology used in recording all information, in order to demonstrate that all aspects of archive creation will ensure consistency; for instance in terminologies and the application of codes in digital data sets, highlighting relevant data standards where appropriate*

6.5 Data quality and standards

Consistency and quality of data collection / generation shall be controlled and documented through the use of standardised procedure as outlined in the WSI. This will include the use of standardised data capture file formats, digital proformas, data entry validation, peer review, and use of controlled vocabularies.

6.6 Managing, storing and curating data.

All digital data will be organised into Aeon Archaeology proformae project file systems and backed up to the cloud using *Digital River's Crashplan* with additional copies made to external physical hard drive.

6.7 Metadata standards and data documentation

Digital metadata created using Microsoft Excel (*.xlsx*) or Access (*.accdb*) of all photographic plates.

Paper metadata created from Aeon Archaeology proformas for contexts, artefacts, environmental samples, watching brief day sheets, trench sheets, and basic record sheets and then scanned to create digital .PDF copies.

6.8 Data preservation strategy and standards

Long term data storage will be through the submission of digital (.PDF) reports to the regional Historic Environment Record (HER); submission of digital (.PDF) reports and a project completion form to the Oasis database; submission of the scanned (.PDF) archive, photographic plates (.TIF), and metadata (*.xlsx*) (*.accdb)* to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS); and retention of copies of all digital files at Aeon Archaeology on physical external hard drive and uploaded to the cloud.

6.9 Suitability for sharing

All digital data will be placed within the public realm (through the channels in 6.8) except for where project confidentiality restricts the sharing of data. All data sets will be selected / discriminated by the Senior Archaeologist at Aeon Archaeology and written permission will be sought from all project specific Clients prior to the sharing of data.

6.10 Discovery by potential users of the research data

Potential users of the generated digital data (outside of the organisation) will be able to source the data and identify whether it could be suitable for their research purposes through access granted via the ADS and RCAHMW websites. Requests can also be made for data through the regional HER's and directly to Aeon Archaeology (info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk).

6.11 Governance of access

The decision to supply research data to potential new users will be via the associated website request (ADS, RCAHMW, HER) or via the Senior Archaeologist when made directly to Aeon Archaeology.

6.12 The study team's exclusive use of the data

Aeon Archaeology's requirement is for timely data sharing, with the understanding that a limited, defined period of exclusive use of data for primary research is reasonable according to the nature and value of the data, and that this restriction on sharing should be based on simple, clear principles. This time period is expected to be six months from completion of the project however Aeon Archaeology reserves the right to extend this period without notice if primary data research dictates.

6.13 Restrictions or delays to sharing, with planned actions to limit such restrictions

Restriction to data sharing may be due to participant confidentiality or consent agreements. Strategies to limit restrictions will include data being anonymised or aggregated; gaining participant consent for data sharing; and gaining copyright permissions. For prospective studies, consent procedures will include provision for data sharing to maximise the value of the data for wider research use, while providing adequate safeguards for participants.

6.14 Regulation of responsibilities of users

External users of the data will be bound by data sharing agreements provided by the relevant organisation or directly through Aeon Archaeology.

6.15 Responsibilities

Responsibility for study-wide data management, metadata creation, data security and quality assurance of data will be through the Senior Archaeologist (Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA) at Aeon Archaeology when concerning data generation and early/mid-term storage. Upon deposition with digital depositories the study-wide data management, metadata creation, data security and quality assurance of data will be the responsibility of the specific organisations' themselves.

6.16 Organisational policies on data sharing and data security

The following Aeon Archaeology policies are relevant:

- Aeon Archaeology Archive Deposition Policy 2022
- Aeon Archaeology Quality Assurance Policy 2022
- Aeon Archaeology Conflict of Interest Policy 2022
- Aeon Archaeology Outreach Policy 2022
- Aeon Archaeology Digital Management Plan 2022

7.0 PERSONNEL

The work will be managed by Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA, Archaeological Contractor and Consultant at Aeon Archaeology. Full details of personnel involved, with *curricula vitae,* can be supplied upon request.

8.0 MONITORING AND TIMING

Monitoring visits can be arranged during the course of the project with the Client and with the DMA at CPAT.

9.0 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.

10.0 INSURANCE

Liability Insurance – Export and General

- 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): £100,000

The current period expires 07/09/22

Professional Indemnity Insurance – Export and General

- Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 07/09/22

11.0 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 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (2014)* 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.