Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol
National Trust

Erddig Hall and Garden, Erddig, Wrexham, LL13 0YT
New Wayfaring and Interpretation Signage
Heritage Impact Statement

Kathy Laws, January 2025

Introduction

National Trust are planning a number of new wayfaring and interpretation signs to improve visitor experience of the estate land surrounding Erddig Hall and Garden.

Two new wayfaring (orientation) signs are planned along with three interpretation signs. The locations of the new signs are shown on Figure 1 in relation to designated Heritage Assets across the estate.

A significant part of the Erddig Estate is designated as a Grade 1 Registered Park and Garden (PGW(C)62(WRE). It is noted as an outstanding example of an early eighteenth century formal garden in the Dutch style set within an eighteenth century park designed by William Emes. Significant views are noted extending from the east side of the hall towards Sontley Farm and from the west side (front) of the hall out across the Emes landscape.

There are three Scheduled Monuments within the Registered Park. DE017, Erddig Motte and Bailey Castle is a medieval earthwork castle associated with Hugh d'Avranches, Earl of Chester from 1071 who had been tasked by the Norman King to gain control in the Welsh Borders.

DE 173 Wat's Dyke sections N&S of the Court is an early historic (8th century) boundary marker between the historic kingdoms of Wales, and Mercia to the east which takes the form of a bank and ditch. DE 152 Wat's Dyke section extending from Erddig Park to Middle Sontley is the section of the dyke to the south of the Motte and Bailey.

There are numerous Listed Buildings across the estate. Designated as grade 1 is Erddig Hall (LB ref 1533). Grade II* includes the stable courtyard range (LB ref 1584), the kitchen laundries and bakehouse (LB ref 17850), the screen and gates closing the formal gardens (LB ref 17859), and the Cup and Saucer cylindrical cascade (LB17869). There are a further 29 listed buildings and structures at grade II.

Additionally, there are a number of non-designated historic assets across the estate land, including some less well preserved sections of Wat's Dyke, ridge and furrow earthworks, old field boundaries, a military firing range and features associated with lost elements of the historic designed landscape.

Sources

Cof Cymru National Historic Assets of Wales Search Cadw records | Cadw Welsh Goivernment

National Trust Historic Buildings Sites and Monuments Record

National Trust Heritage Records Online Home | National Trust Heritage Records - National Trust Heritage Records Online

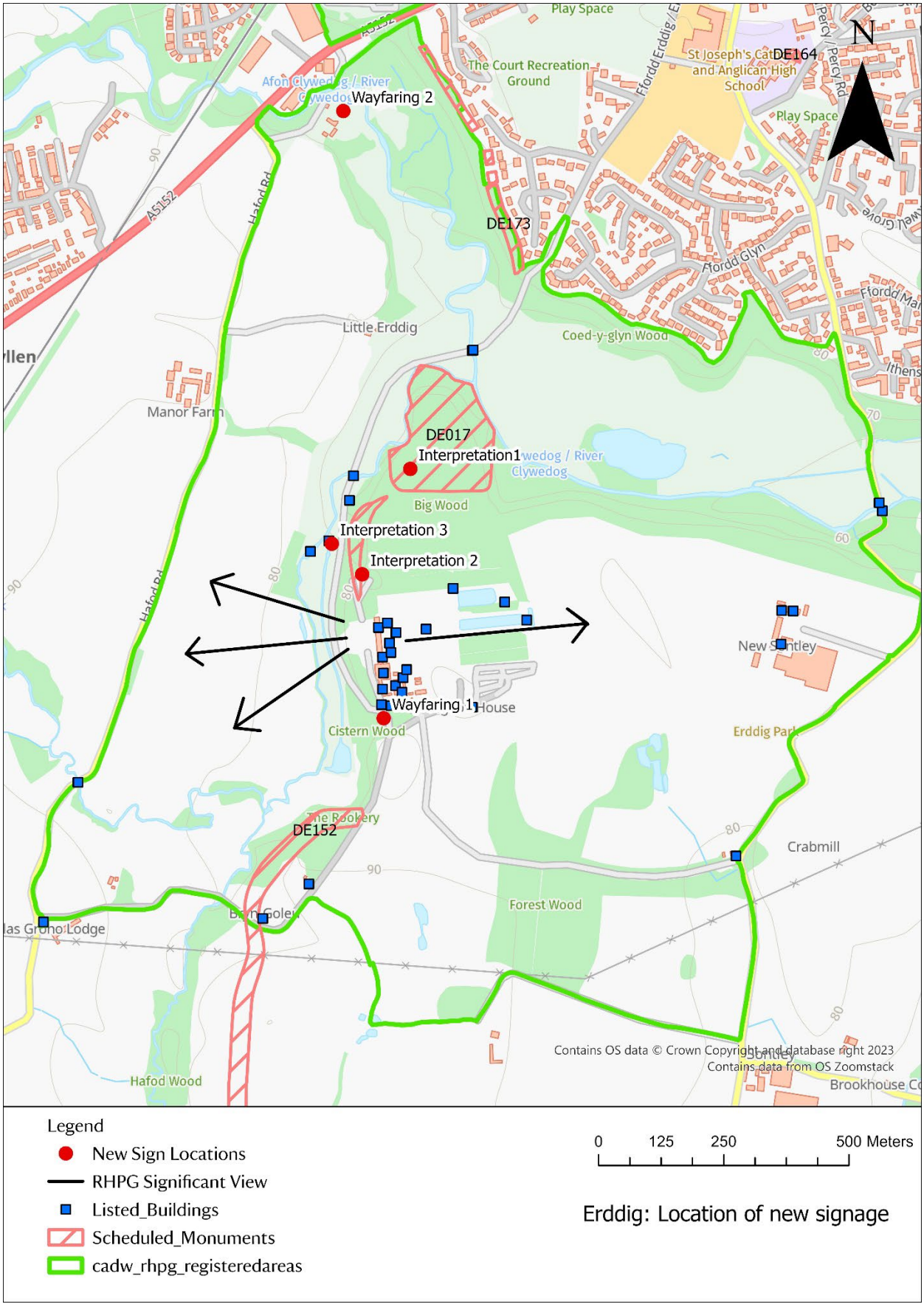


Figure 1: Locations of new wayfaring and interpretation signs

Heritage impact assessment

Wayfaring Sign 1

This sign would be located at SJ 32604 48073 adjacent to the track that people walking in the park to the front of Erddig Hall would take. The sign would measure 940 x 690 mm and be mounted upright on wooden posts standing 1800mm above the ground and require post holes 500 mm in diameter and 900 mm deep.

The sign would replace an existing orientation sign shown below.



Ground disturbance is minimal and no disturbance to sub surface archaeology is anticipated.

The new sign does not impact on the significant views defined by the registered park and garden designation (see Figure 1). The location is close to two Grade II listed buildings, the Coachman's House (LB ref 17865) and the gates to the Erddig forecourt (LB ref 17866) but does not impact on views towards those structures.

Wayfaring sign 2

This sign would be located at SJ 32497 49299, adjacent to the path entering the estate from Felin Puleston. The sign would measure 940 x 690 mm and be mounted upright on wooden posts standing 1800mm above the ground and require post holes 500 mm in diameter and 900 mm deep.

This is a new sign to assist visitors entering the parkland at this entry point.



Ground disturbance is minimal and no disturbance to sub surface archaeology is anticipated.

A building adjacent is not listed and of low significance. The sign does not impact on the significant views defined by the registered park and garden designation (see Figure 1).

Interpretation Sign 1

An existing sign for DE017, Erddig Motte and Bailey Castle is to be replaced. The posts for the existing sign have been concreted in and therefor to minimise ground disturbance it will be removed by sawing through the posts at ground level. It is proposed to relocate the new sign to the south of the "ditch" which defines the bailey to an area which looks towards the bailey. The new sign will be located at SJ 32663 48573 which is still within the scheduled monument area but giving a wider view across the monument.

The new sign will be A1 (841mm x 594mm) sitting in a wooden frame measuring approximately 940mm x 690mm. The frame will be attached to two upright wooden posts and positioned at an angle comfortable for viewing approximately 100mm above ground level. To install the sign, post holes approximately 300 x 300 mm and 600 mm deep will be dug.



DE017 existing sign to be removed, access to the bailey behind



DE017 proposed location of new sign, access to the bailey in view

The new sign will be located in a position overlooking the monument that it is providing information and an interpretive illustration for. A tilt frame design allows the person looking at the sign to view both the information and the monument. This is considered a positive visual impact on the setting of the scheduled monument.

The sign does not impact on the significant views identified in the registered park and garden.

The sign will require a small amount of ground disturbance within the Scheduled Monument area. While this is seen as a slight negative impact on the monument it can be mitigated for by the provision of a watching brief on the ground works. A separate Scheduled Monument Consent application is being submitted in respect of Scheduled Monument DE017.

Interpretation Sign 2

A new sign is proposed for Scheduled Monument DE152 Wats Dyke: Section extending from Erddig Park to Middle Sontley. This will be located adjacent to the edge of the Scheduled Monument area overlooking the monument at SJ 32558 48347.

The new sign will be A1 (841mm x 594mm) sitting in a wooden frame measuring approximately 940mm x 690mm. The frame will be attached to two upright wooden posts and positioned at an angle comfortable for viewing approximately 100mm above ground level. To install the sign, post holes approximately 300 x 300 mm and 600 mm deep will be dug.



DE152 proposed location of new sign overlooking Wat's Dyke

The new sign is located in a position overlooking the monument that it is providing information and an interpretive illustration for. A tilt frame design allows the person looking at the sign to view both the information and the monument. This is considered a positive visual impact on the setting of the scheduled monument.

The sign does not impact on the significant views identified in the registered park and garden.

The sign will require a small amount of ground disturbance close to the Scheduled Monument area. While this might be seen as a slight negative impact on the monument it can be mitigated for by the provision of a watching brief on the ground works. A separate Scheduled Monument Consent application is being submitted in respect of the Scheduled Monument DE152.

Interpretation Sign 3

A new interpretation sign is proposed to replace an existing sign in front of the grade II listed Ram Pump (LB ref 178680) at SJ 32475 48397. The grade II* Cup and Saucer cylindrical cascade (LB ref 17869) is located nearby.

The new sign will be A1 (841mm x 594mm) sitting in a wooden frame measuring approximately 940mm x 690mm. The frame will be attached to two upright wooden posts and positioned at an angle comfortable for viewing approximately 100mm above ground level. The sign will be in landscape orientation. To install the sign, post holes approximately 300 x 300 mm and 600 mm deep will be dug.



The new sign is located in a position overlooking the listed structure that it is providing information and an interpretive illustration for. The new sign will be in a landscape orientation rather than portrait as existing. A tilt frame design allows the person looking at the sign to view both the information and the structure. This is considered a positive visual impact on the setting of the listed structure.

The sign does not impact on the significant views identified in the registered park and garden and is of a sufficient distance from the grade II*cylindrical cascade to have no visual impact on this structure.

The sign will require a small amount of ground disturbance for installation but this will not have any physical impacts on the listed structure.