Cefn Road, Wrexham

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief

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wessexarchaeology



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Crynodeb

Mae Wessex Archaeology wedi'i gomisiynu gan Innova Renewables Ltd, i gynhyrchu cynllun ymchwilio ysgrifenedig (WSI) ar gyfer briff gwylio archaeolegol arfaethedig yn ystod y gwaith sylfaenol sy'n gysylltiedig â chodi fferm solar a chyfleuster storio batris, yn Ffordd Cefn, Wrecsam. Mae'r safle yn cynnwys arwynebedd o 1.84 hectar, wedi'i ganoli ar gyfeirnod grid cenedlaethol 336792 348702.

Mae tri darn o waith archeolegol wedi eu gwneud yn flaenorol ar y safle; Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys asesiad pen desg, arolwg geoffisegol, a gwerthusiad archeolegol.

Comisiynwyd Wessex Archaeology i ysgrifennu Asesiad Pen Desg Amgylchedd Hanesyddol a nododd fod potensial i'r safle gynnwys nodweddion a darganfyddiadau o ddiddordeb archeolegol, yn ymwneud â thirwedd cynhanesyddol i ganoloesol bosibl. Nodwyd clostir hirsgwar o fewn cornel y de-orllewinol yr ardal ddatblygu ar ffotograffau o'r awyr, y credir yn debygol ei fod yn dyddio o'r Oes Haearn, a nodwyd cefnen a rhych helaeth ar draws y safle.

Comisiynwyd Wessex Archaeology i wneud arolwg graddiomedr o'r Safle yn 2021. Nodwyd nifer o nodweddion o ddiddordeb archeolegol uchel o fewn y safle, gan ddangos y potensial ar gyfer tirwedd angladdol cynhanesyddol. Nodwyd dau crug crwn, gyda'r un mwyaf i'r dwyrain â phwll wedi'i leoli'n ganolog oddi mewn iddo, a allai fod yn arwydd o gladdedigaeth ganolog. Roedd yr un llai i'r gorllewin wedi'i diffinio'n well, wedi'i lleoli'n agosach at ardal gladdu dybiedig, oherwydd y cyfeiriadedd ac aliniad nifer o nodweddion pwll. Amgaewyd yr ardal hon gan ffos lydan y tybiwyd ei bod yn dyddio o'r Oes Efydd. Roedd nodweddion eraill a nodwyd yn yr arolwg geoffisegol yn cynnwys cefnen a rhych, hen ffiniau caeau, ffosydd a phyllau.

Yna comisiynwyd Wessex Archaeology i wneud gwerthusiad archeolegol yn 2022. Roedd y ffosydd gwerthuso yn targedu nodweddion a nodwyd yn ystod yr arolwg graddiomedr, yn ogystal ag ardaloedd yn gysylltiedig â nodweddion posibl a nodwyd ar olion cnydau. Cloddiwyd a chofnodwyd cyfanswm o 22 o ffosydd. Cadarnhaodd y gwerthusiad bresenoldeb nodweddion archeolegol sy'n arwydd o dirwedd gynhanesyddol, gan gynnwys pyllau, ffosydd, gylïau, twmpath llosg posibl a dau crug crwn. Roedd olion archeolegol yn bresennol mewn deg o'r ffosydd, gyda chrynodiad o nodweddion yng ngogledd yr ardal ddatblygu. Roedd pwll yn ffos 21 yn cynnwys crochenwaith yn dyddio o'r Oes Efydd. Dehonglwyd saith o'r ffosydd fel olion crugiau crynion, o'r Oes Efydd mae'n debyg. Roedd y mwyaf o'r rhain yn cynnwys bedd amlosgi posibl a adawyd yn ei le. Arsylwyd nodwedd gromliniol fawr a nodwyd yn yr arolwg geoffisegol fel clawdd isel a gofnodwyd yn ffos 1 ac mae'n bosibl ei fod wedi ffurfio ffin i'r crugiau crynion yn wreiddiol. Credir hefyd bod y twmpath llosg yn dyddio o'r Oes Efydd.

Mae'r briff gwylio archeolegol wedi'i leoli yn rhan ogleddol yr ardal ddatblygu, ar leoliad y crugiau crynion a'r nodweddion cysylltiedig. Yn ystod y gwerthusiad archeolegol, datgelwyd bod y pridd uwchben yr archeoleg yn eithaf bas yn yr ardal hon, felly mae potensial uchel i archeoleg gynhanesyddol gael ei datgelu a'i difrodi yn ystod y gwaith tir. Am y rheswm hwn, bydd yr holl waith sylfaen ymwthiol yn y maes hwn yn cael ei fonitro. Bydd hyn yn cynnwys lleihau'r tir sy'n gysylltiedig â gosod yr arae solar ar badiau concrit, cloddiadau ar gyfer sylfeini'r man storio batris a chysylltiadau cysylltiedig, a ffordd newydd.

Summary

Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by Innova Renewables Ltd, to produce a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for a proposed archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the erection of a solar farm, at Cefn Road, Wrexham. The site comprises a 1.84 hectare area, centred at NGR 336792 348702.

Three pieces of archaeological work have been conducted previously at the site; These include a desk-based assessment, geophysical survey, and an archaeological evaluation.

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to write a Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment which identified that there was potential for the site to contain features and finds of archaeological interest, relating to potential prehistoric to medieval landscape. A rectangular enclosure was identified within the south-western corner of the development area on aerial photography, thought likely to date to the Iron Age period, and extensive ridge and furrow was identified across the site.

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to conduct a gradiometer survey of the Site in 2021. A number of features of high archaeological interest were identified within the site, indicating the potential for a prehistoric funerary landscape. Two round barrows were identified, with the larger one to the east having a centrally located pit within it, potentially indicating a central burial. The smaller one to the west was more well defined, located closer to a presumed burial area, due to the orientation and alignment of a number of pit features. This area was enclosed by a broad ditch that was presumed to be Bronze Age in date. Other features identified in the geophysical survey included ridge and furrow, former field boundaries, ditches and pits.

Wessex Archaeology was then commissioned to carry out an archaeological evaluation in 2022. The evaluation trenches targeted features identified during the gradiometer survey, as well as areas associated with potential features identified on cropmarks. A total of 22 trenches were excavated and recorded. The evaluation confirmed the presence of archaeological features indicative of a prehistoric landscape, including pits, ditches, gullies, a possible burnt mound and two round barrows. Archaeological remains were present in ten of the trenches, with a concentration of features in the north of the development area. A pit in Trench 21 contained pottery dating to the Bronze Age. Seven of the ditches were interpreted as the remains of round barrows, of probable Bronze Age date. The larger of these contained a potential cremation grave that was left *in situ*. A large curvilinear feature identified in the geophysical survey was observed as a low bank recorded in trench 1 and may originally have formed a boundary to the round barrows. The burnt mound is also thought to be of probable Bronze Age date.

The archaeological watching brief is located in the northern part of the development area, on the location of the round barrows and associated features. During the archaeological evaluation, the soil above the archaeology was revealed to be quite shallow in this area, therefore there is high potential for prehistoric archaeology to be revealed and damaged during the groundworks. For this reason, all intrusive groundwork in this area will be monitored. This will include ground reduction associated with the installation of the solar array on concrete pads and an access road.

Cefn Road, Wrexham, Watching Brief

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by Innova Renewables Ltd, to produce a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for a proposed archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the erection of a solar farm. The works to be monitored cover an L-shaped area of 1.84 ha, in the north end of the development area, centred on NGR 336792 348702. The site is located on land to the north of Cefn Road, Adenbury, Wrexham, LL13 OPA (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 Works to be monitored include all ground reduction associated with the installation of the solar array on concrete pads and any associated connections, and a new road.

1.1.3 An archaeological evaluation was previously carried out at the site (Wessex Archaeology 2022a) which revealed the presence of archaeological features, comprising pits, ditches, gullies, a possible burnt mound and two round barrows. Features were predominantly in the north of the development area; therefore, any stripping this location will be the subject of the archaeological watching brief.

1.1.4 A planning application (P/2022/0541) submitted to Wrexham County Borough Council, was granted on 06/03/2023, subject to conditions. The following conditions relate to archaeology:

Condition 12.

No development shall take place within the application area until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

The archaeological programme of work will be undertaken and completed in accordance with the relevant Standards and Guidance laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. A copy of the resulting report should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, The Offices, Coed y Dinas, Welshpool, SY21 8RP Email: mark.walters@cpat.org.uk). Thereafter, the development shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved programme of archaeological work.

1.1.5 The Senior Planning Archaeologist of Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust was consulted prior to the works taking place. He observed that the soil above the archaeology is quite shallow in the northern part of the development area, and there is a high potential for prehistoric archaeology being revealed and damaged, particularly if current ground levels are stripped for the laying out of the solar array on concrete pads or where new access

tracks are cut. Therefore, archaeological monitoring should take place during the intrusive groundworks in this part of the development area.

1.1.6 This watching brief is part of a programme of archaeological works, which has included a desk-based assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2022b), a gradiometer survey (Wessex Archaeology 2021), and an archaeological evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2022a). The gradiometer survey identified circular and semi-circular anomalies which were thought to represent prehistoric barrows and inhumations. The archaeological evaluation confirmed the presence of archaeological features indicative of a prehistoric landscape, including pits, ditches, gullies, a possible burnt mound and two round barrows.

1.2 Scope of document

1.2.1 This WSI sets out the aims of the watching brief, and the methods and standards that will be employed. In format and content, it conforms to current best practice, as well as to the guidance in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, Historic England 2015a) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a).

1.2.2 This document will be submitted to Mark Walters, Senior Planning Archaeologist of Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, for approval prior to the start of the watching brief.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The site is located north of Cefn Road and adjacent to the Wrexham Industrial Estate, approximately 3.5 km south-east of the centre of Wrexham and 1.2 km north-west of the village of Marchwiel in the county of Wrexham, Wales. The overall development area lies across two fields currently used for arable farming; the eastern field measures 6.8 ha and the western field is 6 ha. The two fields cover a roughly triangular area, divided by a central field boundary and bounded by hedgerows and trees. The monitored area is an L-shaped zone of 1.84 ha, located on the central field boundary, which includes a small part of each field (Figure 1). Agricultural farmland lies to the north and south of the site.

1.3.2 The topography of the site slopes gradually from the northwest to south-east towards the river Clywedog in the south, ranging from 38 m OD to 32 m OD.

1.3.3 The underlying geology of the site comprises Salop Formation, a red-brown mudstone, sandstone and conglomerate overlain by superficial deposits of River Terrace sands and gravels from the river Clywedog (British Geological Survey 2023).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior desk-based assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2022b), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 1 km study area of the proposed development. A summary of the results is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Clwyd Powys Historic Environment Record (CPATHER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Previous investigations related to the proposed development

Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2022b)

2.2.1 This assessment identified that there was potential for the site to contain features and finds of archaeological interest, relating to a potential prehistoric landscape. A rectangular enclosure was identified in the south-western corner of the development area on aerial photography, as well as other linear features showing as cropmarks. In addition, it was determined that evidence of agricultural activity dating to the medieval period onwards had the potential to be present on the site.

Gradiometer Survey (Wessex Archaeology 2021a)

2.2.2 Wessex Archaeology conducted a gradiometer survey across the area of proposed development. The results can be seen in Figure 2. There were a number of features identified of high archaeological interest, indicating the potential for a prehistoric funerary landscape. A broad ditch was identified to the north-east of the development area which delimited two round barrows, of which the larger one to the east had a centrally located anomaly potentially indicating a central burial. The smaller barrow to the west was better defined and located at the edge of the presumed burial area. Semi-circular trends were identified to the north and south of the larger round barrow, although their weaker magnetic response did not allow for a confident interpretation. Several anomalies within the area were considered probable graves by their elongated form and regular north-east to south-west orientation. The features were suggested to be Bronze Age in date. A former field boundary was identified in the north-east corner of the watching brief area. Ridge and furrow were also evident across the site, on various alignments.

Archaeological Evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2022a)

2.2.3 Trenches were placed to target geophysical anomalies and to test blank areas identified in the gradiometer survey. The archaeological evaluation confirmed the presence of archaeological features indicative of a prehistoric landscape, including pits, ditches, gullies, a possible burnt mound and two round barrows. Ring ditches, likely to be the remains of round barrows, were located in Trenches 1 and 5. Pits were identified in Trench 22. A curvilinear bank and ditch bounding the barrows, was identified during the geophysical survey, and revealed during the evaluation in the eastern end of Trench 1. The geophysical survey indicated that the bank should curve to the west and continue to pass through trench 22, but this was not identified during the evaluation. It was suggested that banding of the natural substrate in this area may have masked its presence (Figure 2).

2.2.4 A pit in the south-east corner of the proposed watching brief area (in Trench 21) contained pottery dating to the Bronze Age period.

2.2.5 A burnt mound was located 100m to the south of the watching brief area, close to the River Clywedog. The burnt mound was devoid of artefacts and contained a large quantity of charcoal and burnt stone. Burnt mounds in the British Isles are generally dated to the prehistoric period (Barfield and Hodder 1987; Ó Drisceoil 1988).

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric

2.3.1 The site has geoarchaeological potential for preserving early prehistoric remains. The river Clywedog runs south of the site, which indicates that this landscape would have been an attractive settlement location to prehistoric populations for its accessibility to natural

resources. The river terrace deposits adjacent to this have the broad potential to contain reworked Lower and early Middle Palaeolithic artefacts, as well as contemporary late Middle and Upper Palaeolithic archaeology. Moreover, where layers of peat are preserved in alluvium, organic material may be present, preserving a wide range of paleoenvironmental evidence. Such deposits are commonly located within palaeochannels, and historic aerial photography has indicated that there is potential for palaeochannels to exist within the northern part of the site.

Bronze Age

A recent archaeological evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2022a) revealed a prehistoric landscape with features comprising pits, ditches, gullies, a possible burnt mound and two round barrows on the location of the proposed watching brief area. One pit was positively dated to the Bronze Age whilst several other features were phased to the Bronze Age based upon their form or relationship with other features.

Romano-British

2.3.2 Aside from a singular Romano-British coin findspot approximately 405 m to the north-west of the site, there are no records dating to the Romano-British period.

Medieval

2.3.3 There is no evidence for early medieval activity within this landscape, although Eyton, Sutton Green and Farnham were all identified as settlements within the Domesday Book. Wrexham and Marchwiel were part of the Kingdom of Powys, which would have been on the western side of Offa's Dyke and therefore has always been within Wales. There have been deer parks and enclosures identified within the Domesday Book for these settlements, and placename evidence for other local settlements (e.g., Holt, which means 'copse') indicate that the landscape was likely heavily wooded during this period.

2.3.4 Extensive areas of medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow have been identified on historic aerial photography; however, they have not been identified through LiDAR analysis and historic Google Earth imagery. Their preservation and impact, while visible on the gradiometer survey, was found to be limited during the archaeological evaluation.

Post-medieval

2.3.5 Several of the ditches identified during the archaeological evaluation were dated through pottery and ceramic building material to the post-medieval/modern period.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The aims (or purpose) of the watching brief, as defined in the CIfA *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a), are to:

- allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
- provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an

archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and

- guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

3.2 Objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the objectives of the watching brief are to:

- record all archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts that are exposed within the specified works area;
- record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results of the watching brief.

4 FIELDWORK METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Health and safety will override archaeological considerations in all works since, as stated in CIfA guidance, *Health and Safety regulations and requirements cannot be ignored no matter how imperative the need to record archaeological information; hence Health and Safety will take priority over archaeological matters* (CIfA 2014a, 10).

4.1.2 All works will be undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within this WSI. Any significant variations to these methods will be agreed in writing with the Senior Planning Archaeologist of Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, and the client prior to being implemented.

4.1.3 The watching brief will monitor all intrusive groundworks within the area shown on Figures 1 and 2. This will include ground reduction associated with the installation of the solar array on concrete pads, the new access road, or any other intrusive works.

4.2 Service location and other constraints

4.2.1 The client and/or their principal contractor will be responsible for the identification and protection of any above- and below-ground services within the watching brief area/s. The client and/or their principal contactor will also be responsible for informing Wessex Archaeology of, and delimiting, any other areas of environmental, ecological or other constraints.

4.3 Watching brief methods

4.3.1 The watching brief will be undertaken by at least one archaeologist, subject to the number of site operations being carried out at any one time. All mechanical excavation will, where possible, be undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket and all will be constantly monitored by the watching archaeologist.

4.3.2 Without causing unnecessary delay to the groundwork programme, the archaeologist may ask for the groundwork to be temporarily halted whilst investigations are carried out. If appropriate, areas of archaeological interest will be defined and suitably protected in advance of their investigation and recording.

4.3.3 Where necessary, the surface of archaeological deposits will be cleaned by hand. A sample of the archaeological features and deposits identified will be hand-excavated and recorded, sufficient to address the aims of the watching brief. Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavation will be visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval, and where appropriate will also be metal-detected by trained archaeologists. Artefacts and other finds will be collected and bagged by context.

4.3.4 If extensive, complex or well-preserved archaeological remains are identified, for which the scope of the approved watching brief WSI is insufficient, the watching archaeologist will halt the groundwork, delimit the area of archaeological interest, and report immediately to the Wessex Archaeology project manager. Wessex Archaeology will then inform the groundwork contractor, the client and the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust Senior Planning Archaeologist, as a contingent excavation or revised strategy may be required. The programme, and additional resources, for any contingent excavation will be agreed with the client. Accordingly, this WSI will need revising before any further fieldwork proceeds, and the revised WSI will need the approval of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust Senior Planning Archaeologist, on behalf of the LPA.

4.3.5 If human remains are uncovered, the specific methods outlined below (section 4.7.2) will be followed.

4.4 Recording

4.4.1 All exposed archaeological deposits and features will be recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system.

4.4.2 A complete record of excavated archaeological features and deposits will be made. This will include plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans, 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.

4.4.3 A full photographic record will be made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. This will record both the detail and the general context of the principal features and the site. Digital images will be subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.5 Survey

4.5.1 The real time kinematic (RTK) survey of all archaeological features will be carried out using a Leica Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) connected to Leica's SmartNet service. All survey data will be recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.5.2 If, due to unforeseen circumstances, it is not possible to survey using survey equipment prior to the destruction of the material, archaeological features will be located to either client plans that are related to OS mapping or structures/features that appear on OS mapping. This will be achieved using hand-held measuring tapes and the basic principles of triangulation.

4.6 Monitoring

4.6.1 The client will inform the Senior Planning Archaeologist of Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust of the start of the watching brief and its progress. Reasonable access will be arranged for the Planning Archaeologist to make site visits to inspect and monitor the progress of the watching brief, which will carry a charge. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, will be agreed in advance with the client and the Senior Planning Archaeologist of Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust.

4.7 Finds

General

4.7.1 All archaeological finds will be retained, although those of clearly very recent origin with negligible potential to provide information relevant to the project aims and objectives may be recorded on site and not retained. Where appropriate, soil samples may be taken and sieved to aid in finds recovery. Any finds requiring conservation or specific storage conditions will be dealt with immediately in line with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

Human remains

4.7.2 In the event of discovery of any human remains (articulated or disarticulated, cremated or unburnt), all excavation of the deposit(s) will cease pending Wessex Archaeology obtaining a Ministry of Justice licence (this includes cases where remains are to be left *in situ*).

4.7.3 Initially the remains will be left *in situ,* covered and protected, pending discussions between the client, Wessex Archaeology's osteoarchaeologist and the Senior Planning Archaeologist of Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust regarding the need for excavation/removal or sampling. Where this is deemed appropriate, the human remains will be fully recorded, excavated and removed from site in compliance with the Ministry of Justice licence.

4.7.4 Excavation and post-excavation processing of human remains will be in accordance with Wessex Archaeology protocols and in-line with current guidance documents (e.g., McKinley 2013) and the standards set out in CIfA Technical Paper 13 (McKinley and Roberts 1993). Appropriate specialist guidance/site visits will be undertaken if required.

4.7.5 The final deposition of human remains subsequent to the appropriate level of osteological analysis and other specialist sampling/examinations will follow the requirements set out in the Ministry of Justice licence.

Treasure

4.7.6 Wessex Archaeology will immediately notify the client and the Senior Planning Archaeologist of Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust on discovery of any material covered, or potentially covered, by the *Treasure Act 1996*. All information required by the Treasure Act (i.e., finder, location, material, date, associated items etc.) will be reported to the Coroner within 14 days.

4.8 Environmental sampling

4.8.1 All sampling will be undertaken following Wessex Archaeology's in-house guidance, which adheres to the principles outlined in Historic England's guidance (English Heritage 2011 and Historic England 2015b).

4.8.2 Bulk environmental soil samples, for the recovery of plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, small animal bones and other small artefacts, will be taken as appropriate from well-sealed and dateable contexts. In general, features directly associated with particular activities (e.g., pits, latrines, cesspits, hearths, ovens, kilns, and corn driers) should be prioritised for sampling over features, such as ditches or postholes, which are likely to contain reworked and residual material.

4.8.3 If waterlogged or mineralised deposits are encountered, an environmental sampling strategy will be devised and agreed with the Senior Planning Archaeologist of Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust as appropriate. Specialist guidance will be provided by a member of Wessex Archaeology's geoarchaeological and environmental team, with site visits undertaken if required.

4.8.4 Any samples will be of an appropriate size – typically 40 litres for the recovery of environmental evidence from dry contexts, and 10 litres from waterlogged deposits.

4.8.5 Following specialist advice, other sampling methods such as monolith, Kubiena or contiguous small bulk (column) samples may be employed to enable investigation of deposits with regard to microfossils (e.g., pollen, diatoms) and macrofossils (e.g., molluscs, insects), soil micromorphological or soil chemical analyses.

5 POST-EXCAVATION METHODS AND REPORTING

5.1 Stratigraphic evidence

5.1.1 All written and drawn records from the watching brief will be collated, checked for consistency and stratigraphic relationships. Key data will usually be transcribed into a database, which can be updated during any further analysis. The preliminary phasing of archaeological features and deposits will be undertaken using stratigraphic relationships and the spot dating from finds, particularly pottery.

5.1.2 A written description will be made of all archaeologically significant features and deposits that were exposed and excavated, ordered by period and/or feature group as appropriate.

5.2 Finds evidence

5.2.1 All retained finds will, as a minimum, be washed, weighed, counted and identified. They will then be recorded to a level appropriate to the aims and objectives of the watching brief. Recording and reporting will conform to the Type 1 (Description) level according to CIfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting*, to include appropriate quantification and characterisation. The report will include a table of finds by feature/context.

5.2.2 Metalwork from stratified contexts will be X-rayed and, along with other fragile and delicate materials, stored in a stable environment. The X-raying of objects and other conservation needs will be undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in-house conservation staff, or by another approved conservation centre.

5.2.3 Finds will be suitably bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidance given by the relevant museum and generally in accordance with the standards of the CIfA (2014b).

5.3 Environmental evidence

5.3.1 Bulk environmental soil samples will be processed by standard flotation methods. The residues will be fractionated into 5.6/4 mm and 1 mm and dried if necessary. The coarse residue fraction (>5.6/4 mm), and the fine fraction when appropriate, will be sorted and

discarded, with any finds recovered given to the appropriate specialist. The flot will be retained on a 0.25 mm mesh and scanned to assess the range of environmental remains present and their preservation. Unsorted fine residues will be retained until after any analyses and discarded following final reporting (in accordance with the Selection policy, below).

5.3.2 In the case of samples from cremation-related deposits the flots will be retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, with residues fractionated into 4 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm. In the case of samples from inhumation burial deposits, the sample will be wet-sieved through 9.5 mm and 1 mm mesh sizes. The coarse fractions (9.5 mm) will be sorted with any finds recovered given to the appropriate specialist together with the finer residues.

5.3.3 Any waterlogged samples will be processed by standard waterlogged flotation methods.

5.3.4 Recording and reporting will conform to the Type 1 (Description) level according to CIfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting*, to include appropriate quantification and characterisation.

5.4 Reporting

5.4.1 Following completion of the fieldwork and the assessment of the stratigraphic, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, a draft report will be submitted for approval to the client and the Senior Planning Archaeologist of Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust for comment. Once approved, a final version will be submitted.

5.4.2 The report will include the following elements:

- Non-technical summary;
- Project background;
- Archaeological and historical context;
- Aims and objectives;
- Methods;
- Results – stratigraphic, finds and environmental;
- Conclusions in relation to the project aims and objectives, and discussion in relation to the wider local, regional or other archaeological contexts and research frameworks etc;
- Archive preparation and deposition arrangements; including
    - A Data Management Plan
    - Archive Selection Strategy
    - Archive Content List
    - Archive deposition location and timing statement
- Appendices;
- Illustrations; and
- References.

5.4.3 A copy of the final report will be deposited with the HER, along with surveyed spatial digital data (.dxf or shapefile format) relating to watching brief.

Publication

5.4.4 If no further excavation works are undertaken, a short report on the results of the watching brief will be prepared for publication in a suitable journal, if considered appropriate and agreed with the client and the Senior Planning Archaeologist of Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust.

OASIS

5.4.5 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (http://oasis.ac.uk) will be created, with key fields completed, and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

6 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

6.1 Museum

6.1.1 It is recommended that the finds archive resulting from the evaluation be deposited with Wrexham County Museum / Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW). The museum will receive notification of the project prior to fieldwork commencing, and an accession number will be obtained if appropriate. The documentary archive will be deposited with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW).

6.2 Transfer of title

6.2.1 On completion of the watching brief (or extended fieldwork programme), every effort will be made to persuade the legal owner of any finds recovered (i.e., the landowner), with the exception of human remains and any objects covered by the *Treasure Act 1996*, to transfer their ownership to the museum in a written agreement.

6.3 Preparation of archive

Finds archive

6.3.1 Any finds (artefacts and ecofacts) will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Wrexham County Museum/Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW), and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; CIfA 2014c; NPAAW 2017; SMA 1995). The archive will usually be deposited within one year of the completion of the project, with the agreement of the client.

Documentary archive

6.3.2 The physical archive (paper records and graphics) and born digital data (site records, finds and environmental data, photographs, survey data and reports) will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; CIfA 2014c; NPAAW 2017; SMA 1995).

6.4 Selection strategy

6.4.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be

retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of future researchers and the receiving Museum.

6.4.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows CIfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

6.4.3 In this instance, given that the level of finds recovery is expected to be relatively low, decisions on selection will be deferred until after the fieldwork stage, and no detailed strategy is presented here.

6.4.4 The Data Management Plan shall also be updated in the final report along with the Selection Strategy once the final archive has been quantified, in line with CIfA guidance.

6.4.5 Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by the museum, or by Wessex Archaeology.

6.5 Security copy

6.5.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

7 COPYRIGHT

7.1 Archive and report copyright

7.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

7.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) in accordance with the *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records* (Welsh Archaeological Trusts 2022), where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research, or development control within the planning process.

7.2 Third party data copyright

7.2.1 This document, the watching brief report and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain

bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

8 WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY PROCEDURES

8.1 External quality standards

8.1.1 Wessex Archaeology is registered as an archaeological organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and fully endorses its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014d) and *Regulations for Professional Conduct* (CIfA 2019). All staff directly employed or subcontracted by Wessex Archaeology will be of a standard approved by Wessex Archaeology, and archaeological staff will be employed in line with the CIfA codes of practice, and will normally be members of the CIfA.

8.2 Personnel

8.2.1 The fieldwork will be directed and supervised by an experienced archaeologist from Wessex Archaeology's core staff. The overall responsibility for the conduct and management of the project will be held by one of Wessex Archaeology's project managers, who will visit the fieldwork as appropriate to monitor progress and to ensure that the scope of works is adhered to. Where required, monitoring visits may also be undertaken by Wessex Archaeology's Health and Safety manager. The appointed project manager and fieldwork director will be involved in all phases of the investigation through to its completion.

8.2.2 The analysis of any finds and environmental data will be undertaken by Wessex Archaeology core staff or external specialists, using Wessex Archaeology's standard methods, under the supervision of the departmental managers and the overall direction of the project manager. A complete list of finds and environmental specialists is provided in Appendix 1.

8.2.3 The following key staff are proposed:

- Project Manager: Catherine Douglas
- Fieldwork Director: TBC

8.2.4 Wessex Archaeology reserves the right, where necessary due to unforeseen circumstances, to replace nominated personnel with alternative members of staff of comparable expertise and experience.

8.3 Internal quality standards

8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology is an ISO 9001 accredited organisation (certificate number FS 606559), confirming the operation of a Quality Management System which complies with the requirements of ISO 9001:2015 – covering professional archaeological and heritage advice and services. The award of the ISO 9001 certificate, independently audited by the British Standards Institution (BSI), demonstrates Wessex Archaeology's commitment to providing quality heritage services to our clients.

8.3.2 Wessex Archaeology assigns responsibility to individual managers for the successful completion of all aspects of a project including reporting. This includes monitoring progress and quality; controlling the budget from inception to completion; and all aspects of health and safety for the project. At all stages, the project manager will carefully assess and monitor performance of staff and adherence to objectives, timetables and budgets, while the manager's own performance is monitored by the team leader or regional director. The

technical managers in the Graphics, Research, GeoServices and IT sections provide additional assistance and advice.

8.3.3 All staff are responsible for following Wessex Archaeology's quality standards but the overall adherence to and setting of these standards is the responsibility of the senior management team who, in consultation with the team leaders/regional directors, also ensure projects are adequately programmed and resourced within Wessex Archaeology's portfolio of project commitments.

8.4 Health and safety

8.4.1 All works will be undertaken in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work Act 1974*; the *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999* and all other applicable health and safety legislation.

8.4.2 Wessex Archaeology is an ISO 45001 accredited organisation (certificate number OHS 744383), confirming the operation of an Occupational Health and Safety Management System that complies with the requirements of ISO 45001:2018. The award of the ISO 45001 certificate, independently audited by the British Standards Institution (BSI), demonstrates Wessex Archaeology's commitment to delivering effective risk management across all its activities.

8.4.3 Wessex Archaeology will, for all projects, produce one or more task and site-specific risk assessments and method statements (RAMS), which will ensure our staff can work safely on the site. A copy of the RAMS and our Health and Safety Policy can be provided to the client. All staff on our sites will be made fully familiar with the RAMS before work commences.

8.4.4 We aim to work collaboratively on health and safety with clients and, where separately appointed, with principal contractors. We expect clients to provide in good time all the necessary risk information about a site that may affect the archaeological work, such as locations of utilities or any known ground contamination. We will comply with the project specific Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements, and any other specific additional requirements of the Principal Contractor.

8.4.5 All fieldwork staff are certified through the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) and have undergone UKATA Asbestos Awareness Training. Staff who carry out specific tasks are suitably trained and competent to do so through training accredited by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), Institution of Occupational Safety & Health (IOSH) and the National Plant Operators Recognitions Scheme (NPORS).

8.5 Insurance

8.5.1 Wessex Archaeology holds Employers Liability (£15,000,000), Public Liability (£15,000,000) and Professional Indemnity (£10,000,000) policies.

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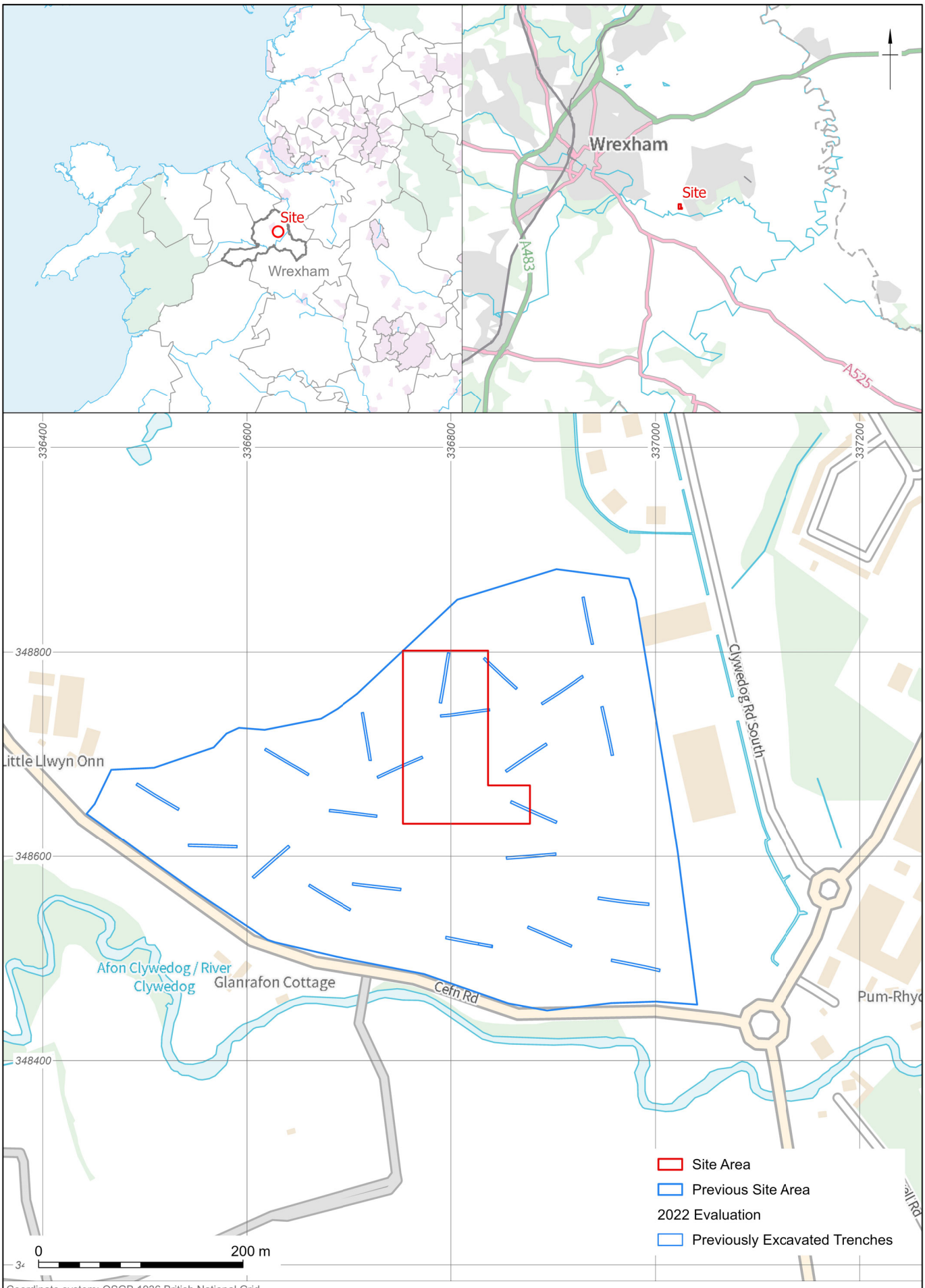
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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Finds and environmental specialists

Name	Qualifications	Specialism
Sander Aerts	BA, MSc	Archaeoentomological remains, animal bone, marine shell and archaeobotanical remains (carbonised)
Phil Andrews	BSc; FSA; MCIfA	Slag and metal working debris
Richard Bradley	BA; MA; MCIfA	Battlefield artefacts, particularly Civil War period lead shot
Ceridwen Boston	BSocSc; MA; MSc; DPhil	Osteoarchaeology; funerary archaeology
Elina Brook	BA; MA; PCIfA	Later prehistoric and Romano-British pottery, and small finds
Alex Brown	BA; MSc; PhD	Geoarchaeology, palynology
Liz Chambers	BA; MSc	Geoarchaeology
Fiona Eaglesham	BSc; MSc	Archaeobotanical remains
Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy	BA; MA; MCIfA	Human remains (inhumations)
Erica Gittins	BA; MA; PhD	Prehistoric flint
Phil Harding	PhD	Prehistoric flint, particularly Palaeolithic flint
Lorrain Higbee	BSc; MSc; MCIfA	Animal bone
Jessica Irwin	BSc	Post-medieval finds
Matt Leivers	BA; PhD; ACIfA	Prehistoric pottery and flint
Inés López-Dóriga	BA; MA; PhD	Archaeobotanical remains
Erica Macey-Bracken	BA; ACIfA	Post-medieval finds, ceramic building material and worked wood
Katie Marsden	BSc	Pottery from prehistoric to post-medieval/modern. Metalwork of all periods, including coins. Small and bulk finds including fired clay, ceramic building material, worked bone
Jacqueline McKinley	BTech; FSA	Human remains (inhumations and cremations)
Nicki Mulhall		Geoarchaeology and archaeobotanical remains
Emma Robertson	BA; MSc	Human remains (inhumations)
Megan Scantlebury	BA, MSc	Archaeobotanical remains
Rachael Seager Smith	BA; MCIfA	Pottery with particular emphasis on Roman ceramics; and metalwork, fired clay, ceramic building material, stone, worked bone, shale, glass, and wall plaster
Andrew Shaw	BA; MA; PhD	Palaeolithic lithic artefacts and Pleistocene geoarchaeology
Mark Stewart	BA; MPhil	Prehistoric flint. Worked stone, ceramic building material, glass, fired clay
Amy Thorp	BA; MA	Pottery with emphasis on Roman ceramics, small finds
Ed Treasure	BSc; MRes; PhD	Archaeobotanical remains, including plant remains and charcoal/wood
Kevin Trott	BA	Pottery from the Iron Age to early modern period, with emphasis on later Iron Age/Romano-British and medieval to post-medieval periods. Ceramic building material, fired clay/briquetage, metalwork/small finds, clay tobacco pipes, worked bone, stone artefacts, shale, glass, wall plaster, leather, marine shell
Thomas Wicks	BA; MA	Conservation of objects



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Figure 1: Proposed watching brief area and previous archaeological works

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336700
336800
336900
348800
348700
348600

Tr 22
Tr 1
Tr 5
Tr 21

0
50 m

Site Area
Previous Site Area
2022 Evaluation
Previously Excavated Trenches
Archaeology
Slot
Disturbance
Geology
Geophysical survey interpretation
Archaeology
Possible Archaeology
Former Field Boundary
Ferrous
Trend
Ridge and Furrow

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Figure 2: Proposed watching brief area, previous archaeological evaluation and geophysical survey results

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