



**Bersham Bank Colliery Tip,
Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen,
Wrexham LL14 4EG
(2015/0337)**

April 2023 V 1.0



Photographic Building Survey

Project Code: A0417.1

Report no. 0392

Event PRN: 214132



æon archaeology

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April 2023 v1.0

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Photographic Building Survey

**Aeon Archaeology
Obsidian Offices
Chantry Court
Chester
CH1 4QN**

Written by: Josh Dean BA

Checked by: Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA



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Client: Brownshore Management

info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk



Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG

April 2023 v1.0

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1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Comisiynwyd Aeon Archaeology gan Brownshore Management, i gynnal arolwg adeiladu ffotograffig o Gwrthod Mwynglawdd Bersham Bank, Ffordd Plas Grono, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG (yn ganolog ar NGR SJ 31245 48174) cyn adennill tomen rwbwl y pwll glo a'r safle cysylltiedig. yn gweithio

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Brownshore Management, to carry out a photographic building survey of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG (centred on NGR SJ 31245 48174) *in advance of the reclamation of the colliery spoil tip and associated works.*

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology **was** commissioned by Brownshore Management, hereafter ‘the Client’, to carry out a photographic building survey of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG (centred on **NGR SJ 31245 48174**) in advance of the reclamation of the colliery spoil tip and associated works.

The Bersham Colliery Winding Engine House (Grade II), Former Bersham Colliery Baths, Canteen and Offices (Grade II) and Bersham Colliery No 2 Winding Gear (Grade II* and Scheduled Monument) are located within 100m of the application site, situated on the opposite side of Colliery Road.

Full planning permission was secured by the Client from Wrexham County Borough Council, hereafter ‘the Council’, on the 10th May 2018 with the following pre-commencement condition concerning archaeology being applied to the permission (**2015/0337**):

Condition 17

The development hereby approved shall not begin until an appropriate photographic survey of the colliery spoil and its relationship with colliery buildings has been carried out in accordance with details to be submitted to and approved and in writing by the Minerals Planning Authority. The resulting photographs shall be deposited with the Country Sites and Monuments Record operated by the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust, 7a Church Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7DL.

A Heritage Impact Assessment was undertaken by HCUK Group in 2022 (ref: 7666A) and the following is reproduced in full:

The colliery spoil tip has been identified in previous applications as a significant feature within the setting of the listed buildings of Bersham Colliery Winding Engine House; Former Bersham Colliery Baths, Canteen and Offices and Bersham Colliery No 2 Winding Gear, with the latter also being a scheduled monument. This group of historic assets, which represent the surviving features of the historic Bersham Colliery site, are linked visually and by association with the tip (p11).

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).

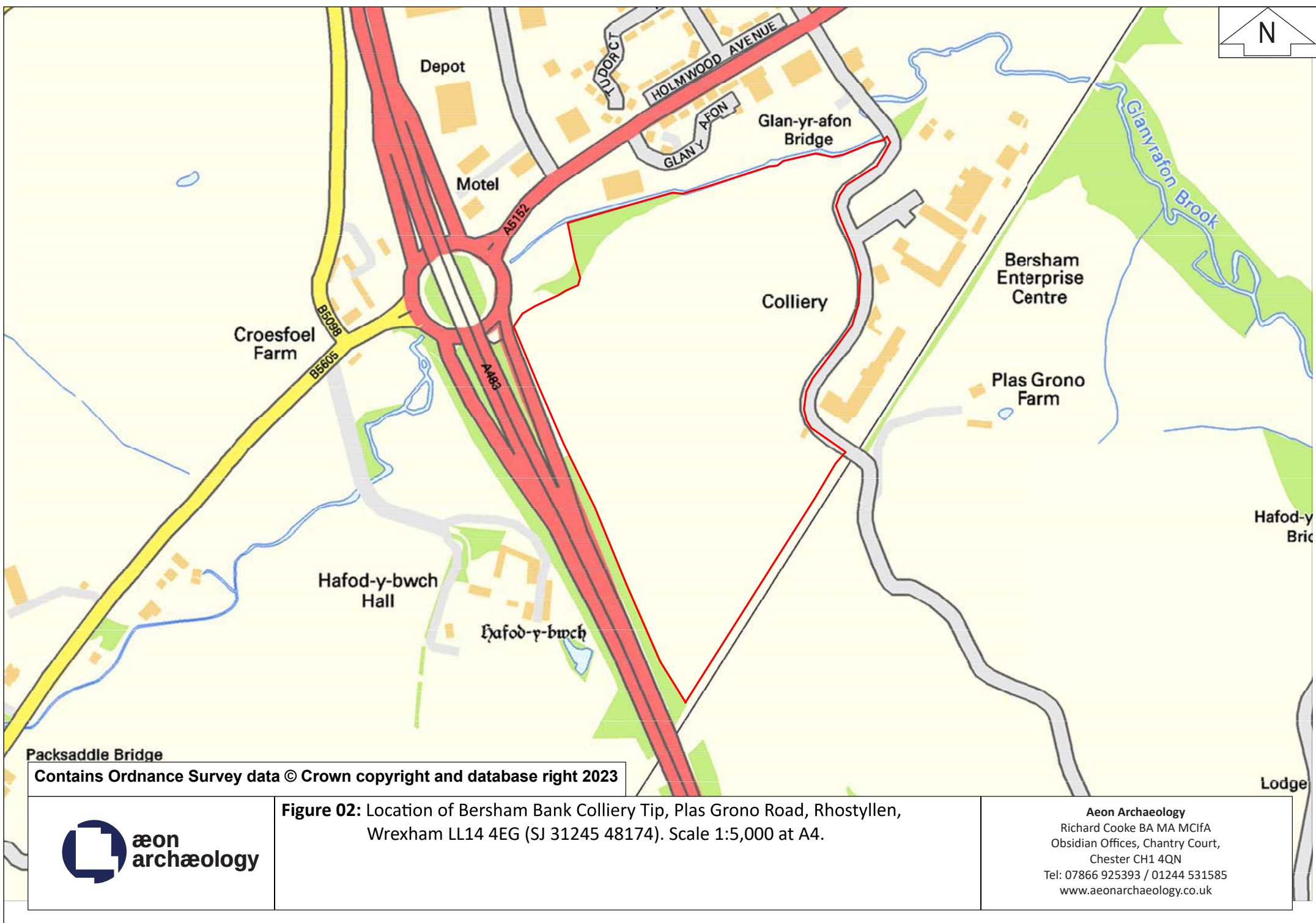


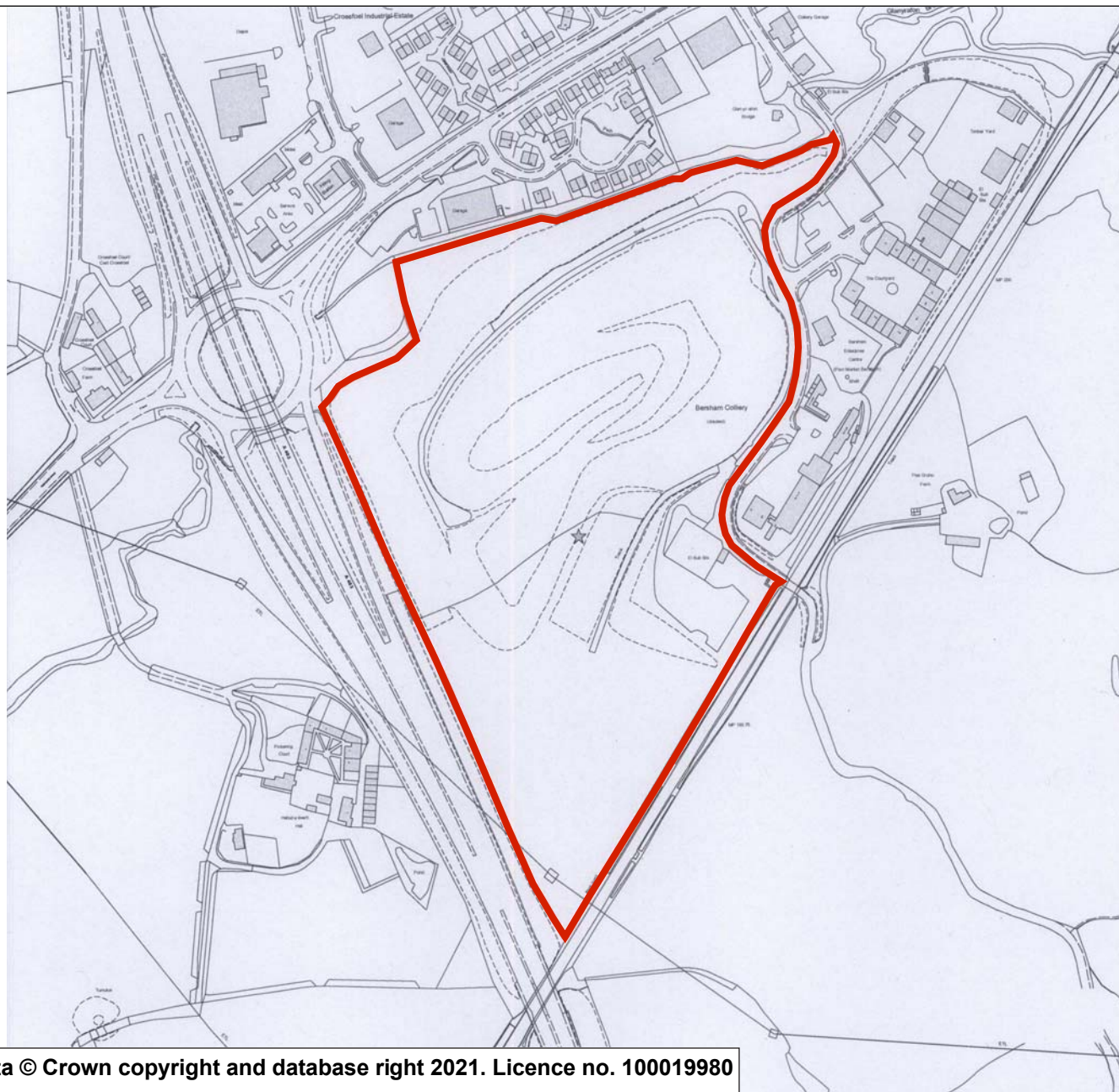
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Figure 01: Location of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG (SJ 31245 48174). Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

Aeon Archaeology
 Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
 Obsidian Offices, Chantry Court,
 Chester CH1 4QN
 Tel: 07866 925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk



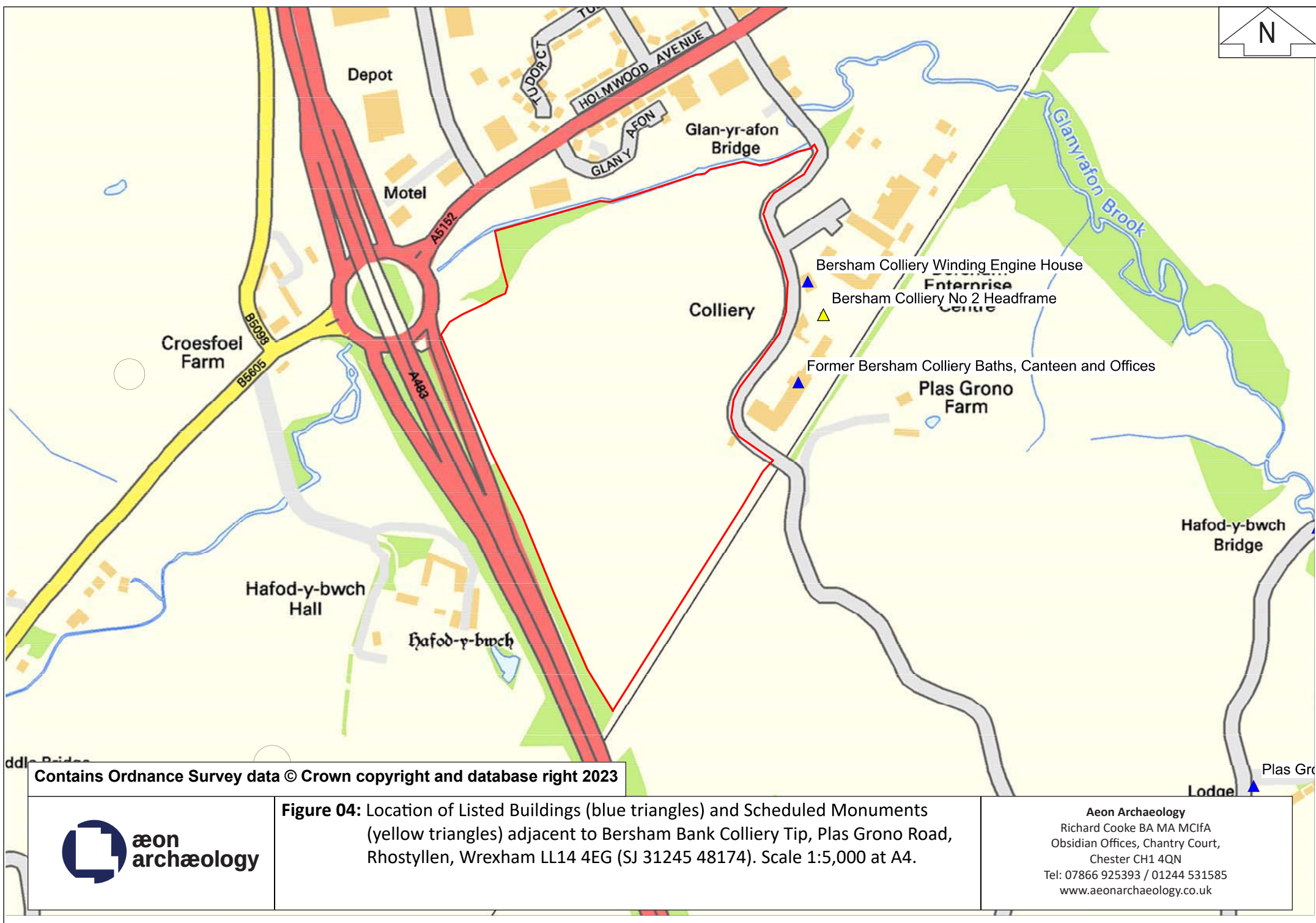


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Figure 03: Location of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG (SJ 31245 48174). Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

Aeon Archaeology
 Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
 Obsidian Offices, Chantry Court,
 Chester CH1 4QN
 Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk



3.0 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 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 Country 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 policies 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

4.0 REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Building Record

The requirement was for a Photographic Building Survey of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG (centred on **NGR SJ 31245 48174**) in advance of the reclamation of the colliery spoil tip and associated works. However, should observations or desk-based research suggest the potential for significant features to be encountered during the demolition / 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, has requested that the building record be roughly commensurate with the Historic England's '*Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*' (2016) **Photographic Record**.

A photographic survey provides a very full visual record, but without a written or drawn survey. A photographic survey may be called for when recording a building which has complex and important decoration or historic furnishing but for which there is no need for detailed analysis.

It may also be appropriate in recording a building of well-known type which is under threat but where existing documentation is in other respects adequate or when for some other reason drawings and historical analysis are not required.

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

- written account: HE Guidance 2016 4.4.8 Items 1-9
- photographs: HE Guidance 2016 4.5.2 Items 1-5 (6 optional) and 7
- drawn record: HE Guidance 2016 4.3.3 Items 7 and 8

5.0 METHOD STATEMENT

5.1 Photographic Record

5.1.1 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.

5.1.2 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.

5.1.3 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

5.2 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.

6.0 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 and DMA at CPAT. Upon written approval of the report by the latter the digital report and high-resolution digital images will be lodged with the HER via the HEDDOS portal.

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 updated 2022) including the translation of a non-technical summary into the medium of Welsh.

7.0 DIGITAL DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

7.1 Type of study

Photographic Building Survey of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG (centred on **NGR SJ 31245 48174**) *in advance of the reclamation of the colliery spoil tip and associated works.*

7.2 Types of data

Photographs, measured plans, context sheets, context register, photographic register, trench sheets.

7.3 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*).

7.4 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* (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

7.5 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.

7.6 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.

7.7 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.

7.8 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) and retention of copies of all digital files at Aeon Archaeology on physical external hard drive and uploaded to the cloud.

7.9 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.

7.10 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 RCAHMW website. Requests can also be made for data through the regional HER's and directly to Aeon Archaeology (info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk).

7.11 Governance of access

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

7.12 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.

7.13 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.

7.14 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.

7.15 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.

7.16 Organisational policies on data sharing and data security

The following Aeon Archaeology policies are relevant:

- Aeon Archaeology Archive Deposition Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Quality Assurance Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Conflict of Interest Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Outreach Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Digital Management Plan 2020

8.0 PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

(*Figures 1-7; Plates 1-54*)

The **Bersham Bank Colliery Tip** at Rhostyllen is a significant landmark and feature within the setting of the listed buildings, *Bersham Colliery Winding Engine House; Former Bersham Colliery Baths, Canteen and Offices* and *Bersham Colliery No 2 Winding Gear*, with the latter also being scheduled monument.

It is located to the south and west of the settlement of Rhostyllen and is closely bounded by the A483 trunk road along its western side. The colliery tip is approximately (3.10km) southwest of Wrexham City Centre, to the northeast of Rhosllannerchrugog (2.75km) and to the southeast of Coedpoeth (4.30km). The site is also to the north/northeast (1.10km) of Bonc yr Hafod, Colliery Tip (Hafod Colliery) and to the west (1.40km) of the National Trust property at Erddig.

The site is accessed via a junction of the A483 (Croesfoel Interchange) leading onto Wrexham Road (A5152), then by turning right onto Colliery Road and following that road around the eastern side of the Colliery Tip before arriving at the main access for the site.

The Colliery Tip is a large mound of material aligned northeast to southwest and roughly measures 350m in length by 265m in width and 50m high. The mound is sub-rounded in plan and slopes upwards from the northeast to a flattened peak at the southwest which overlooks the A483. The mound is comprised of approximately 6 million tonnes of shale, a mixture of black and red shale.

The Colliery Tip is located adjacent to **Bersham Colliery Complex (PRN 36696)**. The site has been entered onto the HER as **Rhostyllen, Plas Grono Road, Bersham Bank Colliery Tip (PRN 132621)** and the **Winding Engine House (PRN 36695)** is separately designated. The **Bersham Colliery: No 2 Winding Gear (Ref: DE199)** is a scheduled monument giving it special interest and legal protection within the context of the site.

The following section is reproduced from HCUK Heritage Impact Assessment (see below):

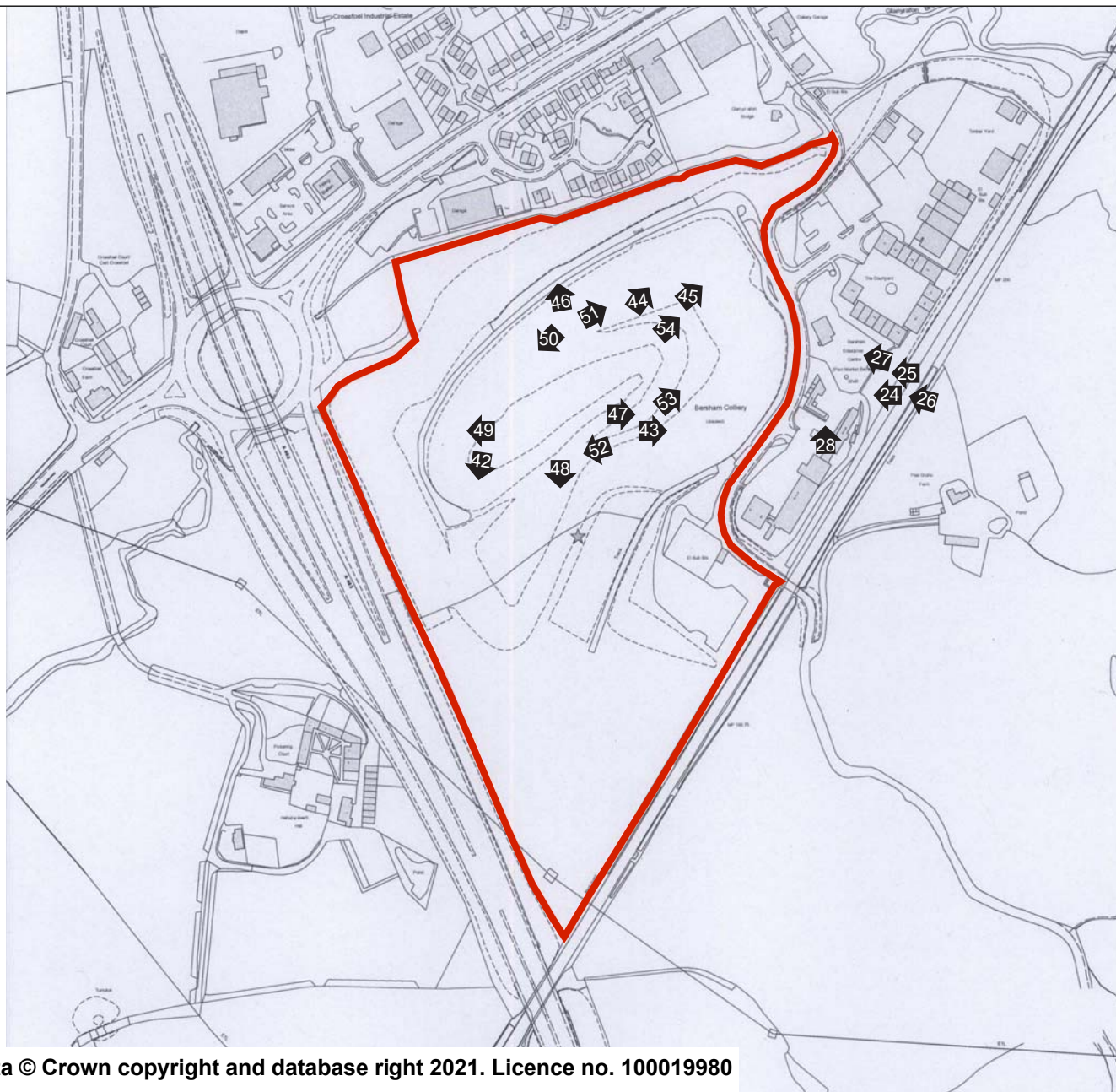
The site was originally known as Glanrafon Colliery and sinking was started in 1864 by Messrs Barnes & Co of Liverpool who traded as the Bersham Coal Company. The site was originally a brickworks and some of the hand-made bricks were used to line the shafts. Sinking proved to be difficult and was not completed until 1869, with the first coal not being sold until 1874. In 1912, Bersham Coal Company became a subsidiary of Broughton & Plaspower Coal Co Ltd but continued to operate independently. In 1936 the parent company was acquired by Lancashire Steel Corporation Ltd and it then absorbed the subsidiary to operate the colliery directly. In 1947, in company with a huge number of private firms, the National Coal Board took over Bersham and in 1986 they changed their name to British Coal Corporation.

The last coal was brought up in December 1986 when it was closed by British Coal as being uneconomical. Work continued into early 1987 to salvage equipment from underground but quite a lot was abandoned. There were two shafts which originally had steam winding



Figure 05: Figure showing location of photographic plates encompassing the context of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip in Background, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG. Scale 1;20,000 @ A4.





Key



Photograph
Direction

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Figure 07: Figure showing location of photographic plates with wide angle views from Listed Buildings and from Bershram Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG. Scale 1;5,000 @ A4.

Aeon Archaeology
Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA
Obsidian Offices, Chantry Court,
Chester CH1 4QN
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk



Plate 01: From bridge over A483, Context shot of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the south-southeast



Plate 02: From Hafod Road, Context shot of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the southeast



Plate 03: From Middle Sontley Farm, shot of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the southeast



Plate 04: From Hafod Road, west of Erddig, Context shot of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham
LL14 4EG - from the southeast



Plate 05: From Hafod Road, northwest of Erddig, Context shot of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the east



Plate 06: From Erddig west door, Context shot of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the east



Plate 07: From Wrexham Road, A5152, near Old Farm Road, Context shot of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the northeast



Plate 08: From B road northeast of Bersham Cricket Club, Context shot of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the northeast



Plate 09: From Plaspower Lane near Pandy Cottage, Context shot of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the northwest



Plate 10: From Bronwylfa Road, B5426, near Legacy Tower, Context shot of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the west



Plate 11: From Wrexham Road, B5605, near Pentre Bychan, Context shot of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the southwest



Plate 12: From Corkscrew Lane, near Pentre Bychan, Context shot of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the southwest



Plate 13: From Bonc yr Afon, Context shot of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the southwest



Plate 14: From A483 northbound approach, Context shot of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham
LL14 4EG - from the south-southeast



Plate 15: From A483 northbound approach, Context shot of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham
LL14 4EG - from the southwest



Plate 16: From A483 northbound approach, Context shot of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham
LL14 4EG - from the west



Plate 17: From A483 northbound approach, Context shot of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham
LL14 4EG - from the northwest



Plate 18: From A483 northbound approach, Context shot of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham
LL14 4EG - from the north-northwest



Plate 19: From ramp to Tudor Court/ Glan Yr Afon, shot of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the north



Plate 20: From Esso Garage, shot of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip (west half) , Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the west-northwest



Plate 21: From Esso Garage, shot of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip (east half) , Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the west



Plate 22: From Croesfoel Interchange, shot of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the northwest



Plate 23: From Wrexham Road (A5152) near Old Farm Road, context shot of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the northeast



Plate 24: Bersham Bank Colliery, Baths, Canteen & Offices with Colliery Tip in Background, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the east



Plate 25: Bersham Bank Colliery, Offices & No.2 Winding Gear with Colliery Tip in Background, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the east



Plate 26: No.2 Winding Gear with Colliery Tip in Background, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the east



Plate 27: No.2 Winding Engine House with Colliery Tip in Background, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the east



Plate 28: Bersham Bank Colliery, Offices & No.2 Winding Gear with Colliery Tip in Background, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the south



Plate 29: Top of Bersham Bank Colliery, Baths, Canteen & Offices with Colliery Tip in Background, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the south-southeast



Plate 30: Bersham Bank Colliery, Baths, Canteen & Offices with Colliery Tip in Background, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the east



Plate 31: Bersham Bank Colliery, Baths, Canteen & Offices with Colliery Tip in Background, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the east



Plate 32: Base of No.2 Winding Gear with Colliery Tip in Background, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the east



Plate 33: Base of No.2 Winding Gear & left side of Engine Winding House with Colliery Tip in Background, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the east



Plate 34: Engine Winding House with Colliery Tip in Background, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the south



Plate 35: Engine Winding House with Colliery Tip in Background, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the east



Plate 36: Engine Winding House and No.2 Winding gear with Colliery Tip in Background, Plas Grono Road, Rhosyllen, Wrexham
LL14 4EG - from the east



Plate 37: No.2 Winding Gear leg, with Colliery Tip in Background, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the east-northeast



Plate 38: Bersham Bank Colliery Offices with Colliery Tip in Background, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the northeast



Plate 39: From Bersham Bank Colliery Tip to No.2 Winding Gear, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the west



Plate 40: From Bersham Bank Colliery Tip to Winding Engine House, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the west



Plate 41: From Bersham Bank Colliery Tip to Baths, Canteen & Offices, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the west-southwest



Plate 42: To Bonc yr Hafod from Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the north



Plate 43: To Erddig from Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the west



Plate 44: To Rhosyllen Church from Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhosyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the southwest



Plate 45: To St. Giles Cathedral from Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the southwest



Plate 46: View to the north (Llay) from Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the south



Plate 47: View to the east (Erd dig) from Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the west



Plate 48: View to the south (Shropshire) from Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the north



Plate 49: View to the west (Cyrn y Brain) from Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the east



Plate 50: View of top of northwest area of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the northeast



Plate 51: View of top of northeast area of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the west



Plate 52: View of top of southwest area of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the southeast



Plate 53: View of top of southeast area of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the southwest



Plate 54: View of northeast access track on Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG - from the southwest

engines but these were replaced by electric ones in later years. No.1 Upcast Shaft was 10ft diameter and 1,260ft deep. No.2 Downcast Shaft was 12ft in diameter and 1,269ft deep. It had a 300h.p. electric winding engine and was mostly used for winding coal and materials. Its maximum load at a time was 2 tonnes and it averaged around 2,000 tonnes per day. The worst disaster was in 1880 when there was an underground explosion that killed eight men, including the manager Mr Pattison. A ninth man died of his injuries nine days later. There is a memorial to these men in Rhostyllen Church.

The Heritage Impact Assessment which was undertaken by HCUK Group in 2022 (ref: 7666A) stated the following and is now reproduced in full:

The colliery spoil tip has been identified in previous applications as a significant feature within the setting of the listed buildings of Bersham Colliery Winding Engine House; Former Bersham Colliery Baths, Canteen and Offices and Bersham Colliery No 2 Winding Gear, with the latter also being a scheduled monument. This group of historic assets, which represent the surviving features of the historic Bersham Colliery site, are linked visually and by association with the tip (p11).

The photographic record was undertaken by Josh Dean BA archaeologist at Aeon Archaeology on the 5th April 2023. Upon approval from the Client and the CPAT Development Control Archaeologist the report will be archived with the CPAT Historic Environment Record (HER); the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW); and a copy retained at Aeon Archaeology, Chester under project code **A0417.1**, Report no# 0392.

9.0 SOURCES

Maps.

Ordnance Survey Open Data maps SJ NE07, NW07, SE07, SW07.

Secondary Sources

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

HCUK Group (2022) *Bersham Colliery, Rhosyllen*, Heritage Impact Assessment, Project Ref 7666A.

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



æon archaeology

**Bersham Bank Colliery Tip,
Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen,
Wrexham LL14 4EG
(2015/0337)**

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
for Photographic Building Survey**

March 2023 v1.0



Project Code: A0417.1
Planning Ref: 2015/0337
Event PRN: Tbc



Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG (2015/0337)

March 2023 v1.0

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1.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Aeon Archaeology has been commissioned by Brownshore Management, hereafter ‘the Client’, to produce a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for carrying out a photographic building survey of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhosyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG (centred on **NGR SJ 31245 48174**) in advance of the *reclamation of the colliery spoil tip and associated works*.

The Bersham Colliery Winding Engine House (Grade II), Former Bersham Colliery Baths, Canteen and Offices (Grade II) and Bersham Colliery No 2 Winding Gear (Grade II* and Scheduled Monument) are located within 100m of the application site, situated on the opposite side of Colliery Road.

Full planning permission was secured by the Client from Wrexham County Borough Council, hereafter ‘the Council’, on the 10th May 2018 with the following pre-commencement condition concerning archaeology being applied to the permission (**2015/0337**):

Condition 17

The development hereby approved shall not begin until an appropriate photographic survey of the colliery spoil and its relationship with colliery buildings has been carried out in accordance with details to be submitted to and approved and in writing by the Minerals Planning Authority. The resulting photographs shall be deposited with the Country Sites and Monuments Record operated by the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust, 7a Church Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7DL.

A Heritage Impact Assessment was undertaken by HCUK Group in 2022 (ref: 7666A) and the following is reproduced in full:

The colliery spoil tip has been identified in previous applications as a significant feature within the setting of the listed buildings of Bersham Colliery Winding Engine House; Former Bersham Colliery Baths, Canteen and Offices and Bersham Colliery No 2 Winding Gear, with the latter also being a scheduled monument. This group of historic assets, which represent the surviving features of the historic Bersham Colliery site, are linked visually and by association with the tip (p11).

It is a requirement that this WSI be approved in writing by the Development Management Archaeologist (DMA) at the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) prior to the survey being undertaken.

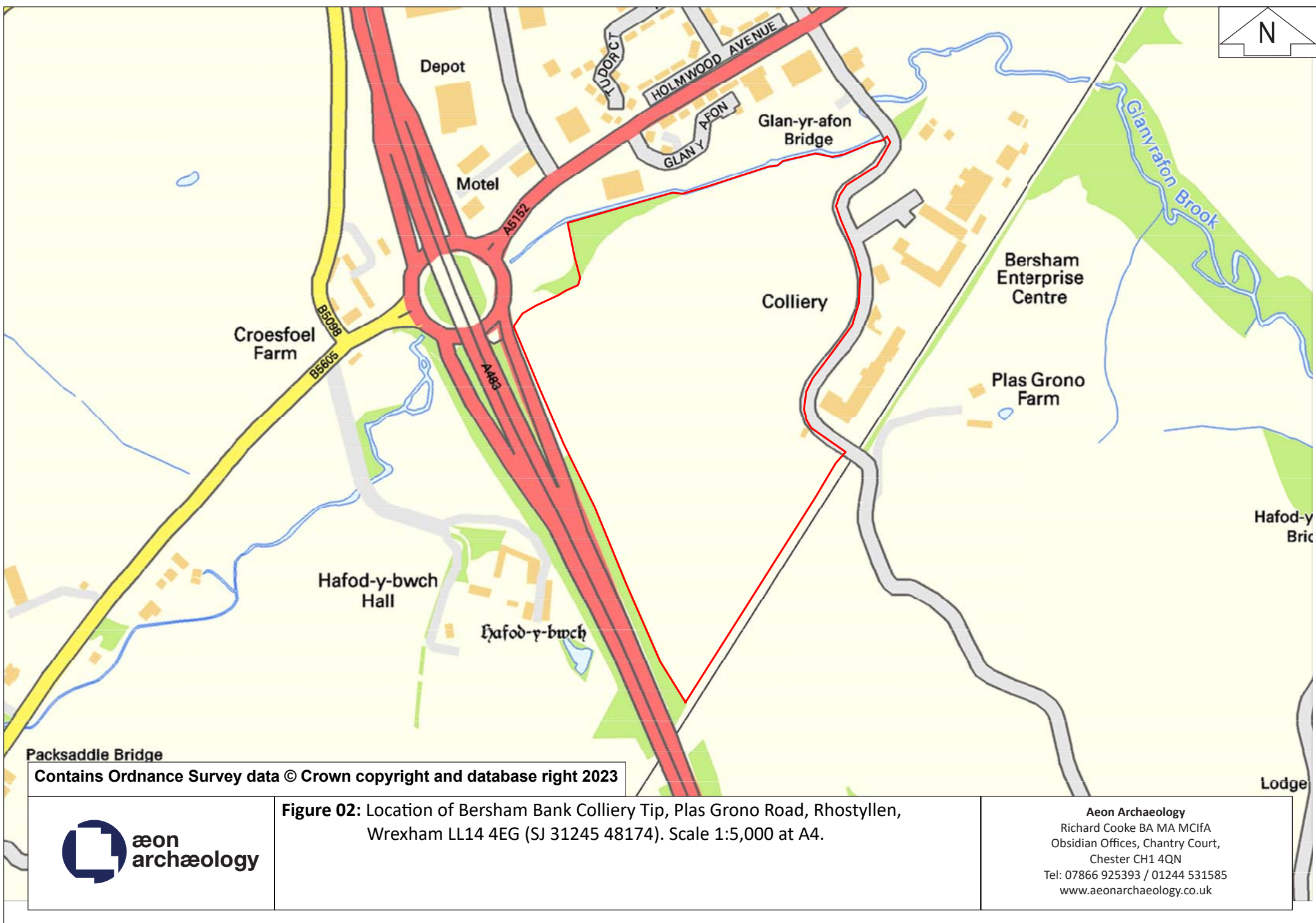
This design and all subsequent mitigation will conform to the guidelines specified in Historic England’s ‘*Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*’ (2016) & *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (Chartered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

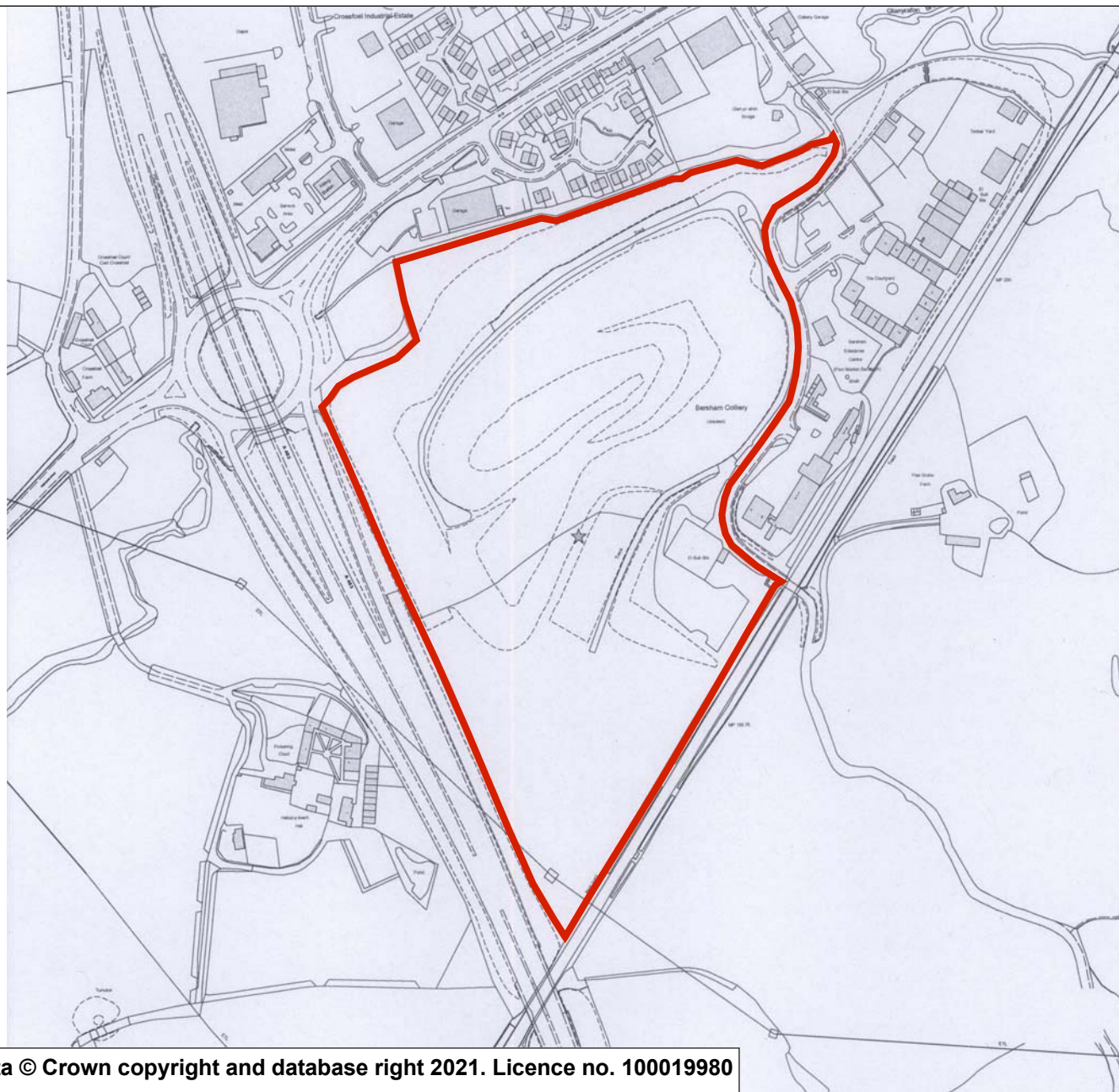


Figure 01: Location of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhostyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG (SJ 31245 48174). Scale 1:20,000 at A4.



Aeon Archaeology
 Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
 Obsidian Offices, Chantry Court,
 Chester CH1 4QN
 Tel: 07866 925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk



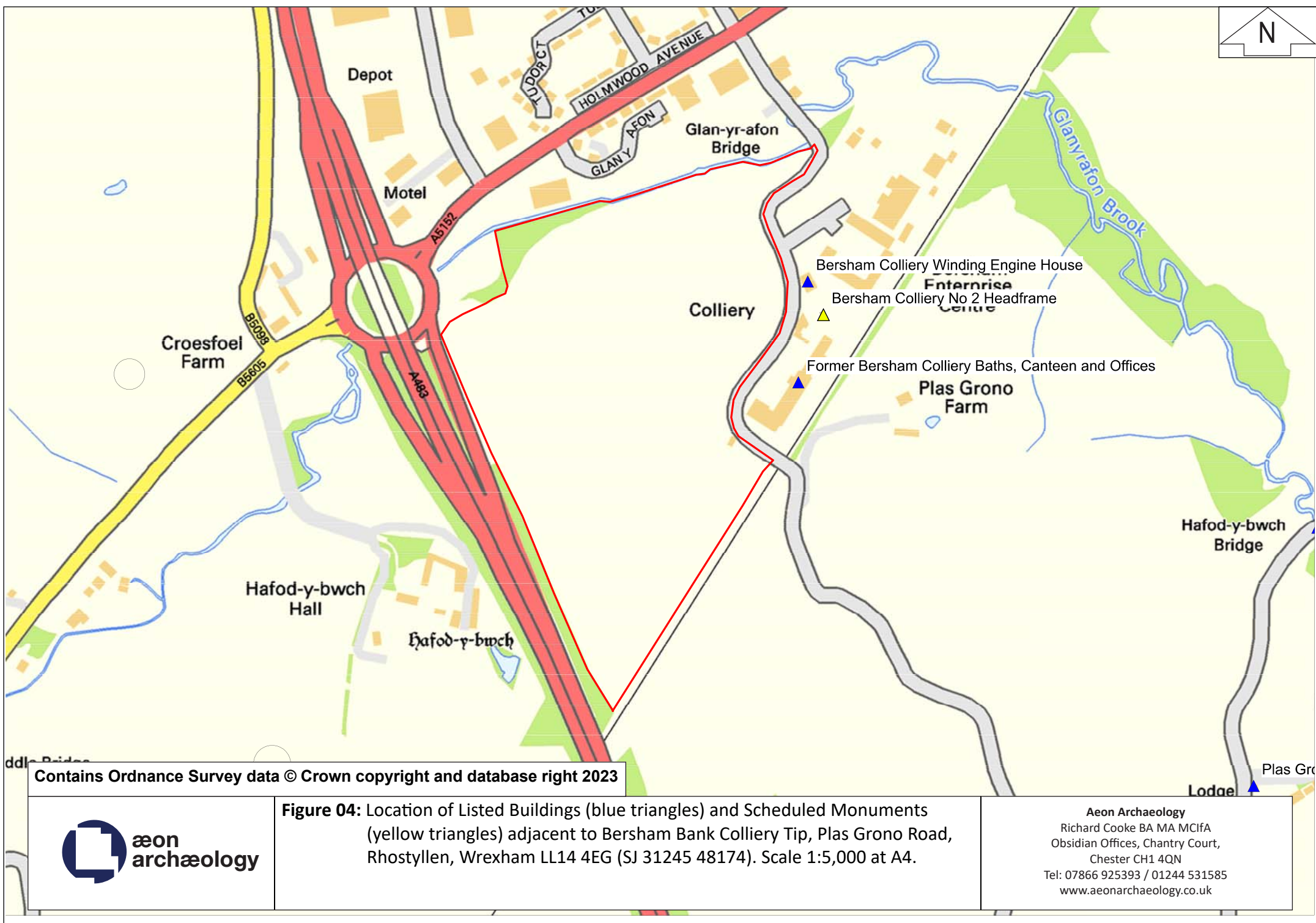


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Figure 03: Location of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhosyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG (SJ 31245 48174). Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

Aeon Archaeology
 Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
 Obsidian Offices, Chantry Court,
 Chester CH1 4QN
 Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk



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 Country 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 policies 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 an historic building record of the Bersham Bank Colliery Spoil Tip prior to reclamation, however should observations or desk-based research suggest the potential for significant features to be encountered during the 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, has requested that the building record be roughly commensurate with the Historic England's '*Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*' (2016) **photographic survey**.

A photographic survey provides a very full visual record, but without a written or drawn survey. A photographic survey may be called for when recording a building which has complex and important decoration or historic furnishing but for which there is no need for detailed analysis.

It may also be appropriate in recording a building of well-known type which is under threat but where existing documentation is in other respects adequate or when for some other reason drawings and historical analysis are not required.

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

- written account: HE Guidance 2016 4.4.8 Items 1-9
- photographs: HE Guidance 2016 4.5.2 Items 1-5 (6 optional) and 7
- drawn record: HE Guidance 2016 4.3.3 Items 7 and 8

4.0 METHOD STATEMENT

4.1 Photographic Record

4.1.1 Written Account

The written account will include:

- a. The precise location of the Site 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 Site's 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 Site (in its wider setting or landscape and in relation to the Bersham Colliery Winding Engine House (Grade II), Former Bersham Colliery Baths, Canteen and Offices (Grade II) and Bersham Colliery No 2 Winding Gear (Grade II* and Scheduled Monument).
- c. The Site's external appearance. Typically a series of oblique views will show the layout of the Site, 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. A photographic register detailing the photo number, the location and direction of each view, and the composition of the shot.
- e. Photograph locations and directions of view should be marked on plans
- f. Photographs should be of archive quality using a digital SLR (minimum 12 megapixel)
- g. Photographs, where appropriate (i.e. not general shots) should include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale.
- h. 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.
- 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 updated 2022) 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 photographic building survey of Bersham Bank Colliery Tip, Plas Grono Road, Rhosyllen, Wrexham LL14 4EG (centred on NGR SJ 31245 48174).

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 the scanned (.PDF) archive, photographic plates (.TIF), and metadata (.xlsx) (.accdb) to the RCAHMW; 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 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 (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 07/09/23

Professional Indemnity Insurance – Export and General

- Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 07/09/23

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.

