



Maelor Works, Marchwiel Wrexham

Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment



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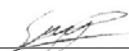
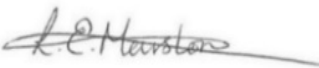
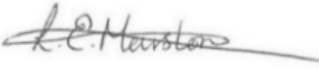
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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Clover Truck and Plant to prepare a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment for the former site of Maelor Works, Marchwiel, Wrexham centred on National Grid Reference 338125, 3489023.

The site was formerly part of the Royal Ordnance Factory (ROF) 35, Marchwiel, Wrexham, specifically built for the production of cordite (Section 28) towards the end of 1939. Following the closure of ROF Marchwiel at the end of the war, the site was used as a small-scale gasworks known as the Maelor Works which supplied gas to the newly created Wrexham Industrial Site which replaced large parts of the ordnance factory.

Of the former ROF buildings, only three of the blending houses and the case store survive on the site. The significance of the buildings has been subsequently impacted by modern alterations, loss of associated features and plant, as well as change of use. However, they have historical and group value as legible surviving parts of the Royal Ordnance Factory which collectively aid in understanding the spatial organisation of the factory and the production chain involved in the manufacturing of cordite.

The site does not contribute to the significance of any current designated heritage assets within the local area as part of their setting. While there are partial views of the Grade II listed Parkey Farmhouse (CADW: 18062) from the southern part of the site, the site itself does not contribute towards the significance of the farmhouse as a part of its setting.

A review of the HER data, geological and topographic profiles and historic mapping indicates that the previously developed parts of the site are highly unlikely to contain remains of archaeological interest that predate the construction of ROF Marchwiel. Furthermore, the later use of the site as part of the Maelor Works has resulted in localised impact to remains associated with Royal Ordnance Factory.

The scope and need for further archaeological and setting assessment would be contingent upon the siting / nature of any future development and should be agreed in consultation with the Local Planning Authority Archaeological Adviser.

Crynodeb

Comisiynwyd Wessex Archaeology gan Clover Truck and Plant i baratoi asesiad desg yr amgylchedd hanesyddol ar gyfer hen safle gwaith Maelor, Marchwiel, Wrecsam sy'n canolbwyntio ar gyfeirnod grid cenedlaethol 338125, 3489023.

Roedd y safle yn flaenorol yn rhan o ffatri Frenhinol yr Ordans 35, Marchwiel, Wrecsam, a adeiladwyd yn benodol ar gyfer cynhyrchu cordit (adran 28) tua diwedd 1939. Yn dilyn cau'r FFO Marchwiel ar ddiwedd y rhyfel, defnyddiwyd y safle fel gwaith nwy ar raddfa fechan a elwir yn waith Maelor a gyflenwai nwy i safle diwydiannol Wrecsam a oedd newydd ei greu, a ddisodlodd rannau helaeth o'r ffatri Ordans.

O'r hen adeiladau FFO, dim ond tri o'r tai blendio a'r siop, sydd wedi goroesi ar y safle. Mae arwyddocâd yr adeiladau wedi effeithio gan newidiadau modern, colli nodweddion cysylltiedig a peiriannau, yn ogystal â newid defnydd. Fodd bynnag, mae ganddo nhw gwerth hanesyddol fel rhannau o'r ffatri Ordans sydd wedi goroesi ac sydd yn cynorthwyo i ddeall trefniadaeth ofodol y ffatri a'r gadwyn gynhyrchu sy'n gysylltiedig â gweithgynhyrchu cordit.



Nid yw'r safle yn cyfrannu at arwyddocâd unrhyw asedau treftadaeth dynodedig cyfredol o fewn yr ardal leol fel rhan o'u lleoliad. Er bod yna olygfeydd rhannol o ffermdy Parkey rhestredig gradd II (CADW: 18062) o ran ddeheuol y safle, nid yw'r safle ei hun yn cyfrannu tuag at arwyddocâd y ffermdy fel rhan o'i lleoliad.

Mae adolygiad o'i data CAH, proffiliau daearegol a thopograffeg, a mapio hanesyddol ar gyfer y safle yn nodi bod y rhannau o'r safle a ddatblygwyd yn flaenorol yn annhebygol iawn o gynnwys olion o ddiddordeb archeolegol sy'n rhagflaenu adeiladu FFO Marchwiel. At hynny, mae'r defnydd diweddarach o'r safle fel rhan o waith Maelor wedi golygu bod effaith lleol ar y fferm yn y ffatri Ordnans.

Byddai'r cwmpas a'r angen am asesiadau archaeolegol a lleoliad pellach yn dibynnu ar leoliad/natur unrhyw ddatblygiad yn y dyfodol a dylid cytuno arno gan ymgynghori â chynghorydd archaeolegol yr awdurdod cynllunio lleol.

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Maelor Works, Marchwiel Wrexham

Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Clover Truck and Plant (hereafter 'the Client') to prepare a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment of land at Maelor Works, Marchwiel, Wrexham (hereafter 'the Site', **Figure 1**), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 338125, 348023.

1.1.2 This study is intended to help inform the possible re-use of the Site and pre-application consultations with Wrexham Borough Council. For this reason, no design details regarding the reuse of the Site have been prepared.

1.2 Scope and Aims

Scope of document

1.2.1 This assessment was requested by the Client in order to determine, as far as is possible from existing information, the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment resource within the proposed development areas, and to provide an initial assessment of the potential impact of development on the historic assets that embody that significance.

1.2.2 The Historic Environment, as defined in Cadw's *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* (2011, 36), comprises:

'All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and deliberately planted or managed.'

1.2.3 Cadw's *Conservation Principles* (2011, 36) define a Historic Asset as:

'An identifiable component of the historic environment. It may consist or be a combination of an archaeological site, an historic building, or a parcel of historic landscape. Nationally important historic assets will normally be designated.'

Aims

1.2.4 The specific aims of this assessment are to:

- *outline the known and potential historic assets within the Site based on a review of existing information within a defined study area;*
- *assess the significance of known and potential historic assets through weighted consideration of their valued components;*
- *identify constraints and opportunities relating to the historic environment within the areas proposed for change; and*

- *assess the impact of potential development or other land changes on the significance of the historic assets and their setting.*

1.3 Copyright

- 1.3.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (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 the report.

2 PLANNING BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 There is national legislation and guidance relating to the protection of, and proposed development on or near, important archaeological sites or historical buildings within planning regulations as defined under the provisions of the *Town and Country Planning Act 1990*. In addition, local authorities are responsible for the protection of the historic environment within the planning system.
- 2.1.2 The following section summarises the main components of the national and local planning and legislative framework governing the treatment of the historic environment within the planning process. Further detail is presented in **Appendix 2**.

2.2 Designated heritage assets

- 2.2.1 Designation is defined in the document *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* (Cadw, 2011, 35) as

'The recognition of particular heritage value(s) of an historic asset by giving it formal status under law or policy intended to sustain those values'.

- 2.2.2 For the purposes of this assessment, designated heritage assets are considered to comprise the following:

World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest and Conservation Areas.

- 2.2.3 Statutory protection is provided to certain classes of designated heritage asset under the following legislation:

- *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990;*
- *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979; and*
- *Protection of Wrecks Act 1973.*

- 2.2.4 Further information regarding heritage designations is provided in **Appendix 2**.

2.3 National Planning Policy in Wales

- 2.3.1 The principal national guidance on the importance, management and safeguarding of the historic environment within the planning process in Wales is outlined in Planning Policy Wales (PPW), edition 10, December 2018 Chapter 6: Distinctive and Natural places - The Historic Environment. This states that:

It is important that the planning system looks to protect, conserve and enhance the significance of historic assets. This will include consideration of the setting of an historic asset which might extend beyond its curtilage. Any change that impacts on an historic asset or its setting should be managed in a sensitive and sustainable way (Welsh Government 2018, para 6.1.7).

- 2.3.2 PPW is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs) and Circulars issued by the Welsh Office and the National Assembly of Wales. PPW, the TANS, Circulars and policy clarification letters comprise national planning policy in Wales. Advice on the historic environment is primarily contained in *Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment* (Welsh Government 2017), which provides guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment during decision making.

- 2.3.3 The *Planning (Wales) Act* 2015 was passed on the 6th July 2015. This makes provision for the preparation and revision of a new National Development Framework for Wales and the production of Strategic Development Plans.

- 2.3.4 The Historic Environment (Wales) Act became law in March 2016. This made changes to existing laws to help strengthen the protection for some designated assets and introduced new structures to support the positive management of change in the historic environment. It makes amendments to the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act* 1979 and the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act* 1990 as they are enacted in Wales.

- 2.3.5 Cadw has produced a series of guidance documents that complement the legislative framework and associated planning policy, informed by Cadw's *Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales* (2011). Of particular relevance to this assessment are:

- *Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales (2017a);*
- *Managing Change to Listed Buildings in Wales (2017b);*
- *Managing Scheduled Monuments in Wales (2018); and*
- *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (2017c).*

- 2.3.6 To summarise, national planning guidance in Wales provides a framework which:

- *recognises that historic assets are a finite and non-renewable resource;*
- *requires an assessment and/or evaluation of the historic environment resource affected by the proposals and an impact assessment of the proposed development on the importance of the historic assets;*
- *takes into account the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of historic assets and their setting;*
- *places weight on the conservation of designated heritage assets.*

2.4 Local planning policy

- 2.4.1 Wrexham County Borough Council is currently preparing the Local Development Plan (LDP) which will replace the current adopted Unitary Development Plan (Wrexham Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) 2013 to 2028).
- 2.4.2 The LDP will be a long-term land use and development strategy focused on achieving sustainable development and will:
- *guide development for housing, employment, retail and other uses;*
 - *set out policies that will be used to decide planning applications; and*
 - *safeguard areas of land requiring protection or enhancement.*

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The methodology employed during this assessment has been based upon relevant professional guidance including the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' '*Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment*' (CIfA, 2017).

3.2 Study Area

- 3.2.1 A Study Area was established within a 1 km radius of the Site boundary. The recorded historic environment resource within the Study Area was considered in order to provide a context for the discussion and interpretation of the known and potential resource within the Site.

3.3 Sources

- 3.3.1 A number of publicly accessible sources of primary and synthesised information were consulted. These comprised:
- *datasets maintained by Cadw for designated sites located within Wales;*
 - *National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW), which holds the national collection of information about the historic environment of Wales, and is maintained by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW);*
 - *the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT), comprising a database of recorded archaeological sites, find spots, and archaeological events within the region;*
 - *aerial photography available online (<http://aerialphotos.wales.gov.uk/>, and <http://lle.wales.gov.uk/home>). Other aerial photography archives could not be studied due to closures resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic;*
 - *national heritage datasets including Archaeological Data Service (ADS), Portable Antiquities Scheme and Parks and Gardens UK;*
 - *historic manuscripts, surveyed maps, and Ordnance Survey maps; and*
 - *published and unpublished archaeological reports relating to excavations and observations in the vicinity of the Site were studied.*

- 3.3.2 A bibliography of documentary, archive and cartographic sources consulted is included in the References section of this report.

3.4 Site visit

- 3.4.1 A Site visit was undertaken on Monday 8th June 2020. The aim of the Site visit was to assess the general aspect, character, condition and setting of the Site and to identify any prior impacts not evident from secondary sources. The Site visit sought to ascertain if the Site contains any previously unidentified features of evidential, aesthetic, communal or historical value.

3.5 Significance

- 3.5.1 Significance (within the historic environment) is defined in Cadw's *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* (2011; p.38) as:

- 3.5.2 *'The sum of the cultural heritage values, often set out in a Statement of Significance'*

- 3.5.3 Current national guidance for the assessment of the significance of historic assets is based on criteria provided by Cadw's (2011) *Conservation Principles*. Within this document, significance is weighed by consideration of the potential for the asset to demonstrate the following value criteria:

- **Evidential value** - deriving from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity;
- **Historical value** - deriving from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present.
- **Aesthetic value** - deriving from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place; and
- **Communal value** - deriving from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.

Setting assessment

- 3.5.4 The significance of a historic asset is also informed by their setting.
- 3.5.5 The manner in which the setting assessment was undertaken was informed by the guidance published by Cadw (2017) in *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales*.
- 3.5.6 This guidance defines setting as:
- 'the surroundings in which it is understood, experienced and appreciated, embracing present and past relationships to the surrounding landscape... Setting is not itself a historic asset... The importance of setting lies in what it contributes to the significance of a historic asset'* (Cadw 2017, 2).

3.5.7 The guidance advocates a systematic and staged approach to the assessment of the effects of development:

Stage 1: Identify the historic assets that might be affected by a proposed change or development.

Stage 2: Define and analyse the settings to understand how they contribute to the significance of the historic assets and in particular, the ways in which the assets are understood, appreciated and experienced.

Stage 3: Evaluate the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance.

Stage 4: If necessary, consider options to mitigate or improve the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance.

3.5.8 For the purposes of this assessment only stages 1 and 2 were completed.

3.6 Assumptions and limitations

3.6.1 Data used to compile this report consists of secondary information derived from a variety of sources, only some of which have been directly examined for the purposes of this Study. The assumption is made that this data, as well as that derived from other secondary sources, is reasonably accurate.

3.6.2 The records held by the NMRW and CPAT are not a record of all surviving historic assets, but a record of the discovery of a wide range of archaeological and historical components of the historic environment. The information held within it is not complete and does not preclude the subsequent discovery of further elements of the historic environment that are, at present, unknown.

3.6.3 This assessment was written in June 2020. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, several repositories were initially closed in March 2020 to the public and later closed entirely to help combat the spread of the disease. As a result, it has not been possible to obtain sources from several archives include the National Archives, The Historic England Aerial Photography Library or Wrexham Archives and Local Studies Service. Were possible sources have been used from previous projects completed by Wessex Archaeology in the nearby vicinity.

4 SITE VISIT, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

4.1 Site visit

4.1.1 The Site is located in the southwest corner of the former Royal Ordnance Factory (ROF) Marchwiel, occupied today by the Wrexham Industrial Estate and HMP Berwyn (**Figure 1**). The Site comprises of former ROF Marchwiel buildings (Blending Houses and Case Store), modern industrial buildings (guard room, plant buildings, monitoring stations, depots and ancillary structures), hardstanding, two car park areas, storage yards and an area of woodland (**Plates 1-18**). The Site is presently vacant but has most recently been used by several small commercial business and for storage.

- 4.1.2 The Site has an overall flat topography with a recorded above Ordnance Datum (aOD) of between 36 and 37 m. This general flatness of the topography is both a result of its previous use as ROF Marchwiel and the general topography of the surrounding landscape. The Site has been partially levelled for its use as a part of ROF Marchwiel, as demonstrated by steep artificial banks to its northwest corner; here the Site is higher than the adjacent land to its north and west.

4.2 Geology

- 4.2.1 The underlying geology of the Site is recorded by the British Geological Survey Viewer (British Geological Survey) as the Kinnerton Sandstone Formation with superficial deposits of Till, Devensian – Diamicton.

5 BASELINE RESOURCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The following section identifies the known and potential heritage assets and their settings which may be affected by the development of the Site, assesses the degree to which these settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage assets, and assesses the effects of the proposed development on that significance.

5.2 Designated historic assets

- 5.2.1 The Site contains no designated heritage assets. Within the Study Area there are six Grade II Listed Buildings (**Figure 1**). The following designated heritage assets are those with some degree of intervisibility which forms parts of the asset's setting or have a meaningful spatial or historic association with the Site. Therefore, they are most likely to be affected by any change within the Site:

- *Parkey Farmhouse (list entry 18062); and*
- *Pum-Rhyd (list entry 18058).*

- 5.2.2 These heritage assets are considered further in **Section 7**.

- 5.2.3 The Site is neither intervisible, being screened by intervening development, topography or plantings, nor has any meaningful historic functional associations with the remaining designated heritage assets within the Study Area or beyond. The Site is therefore considered not to lie within their setting and any future proposals, which are proportionate in scale to what exists already, will consequently result in no harm to the significance of these designated heritage assets.

- 5.2.4 If future proposals were to include tall buildings that exceed the current maximum height of what exists on Site already, further designated heritage assets could be affected. In this instance, the comments made in the baseline may need to be reviewed and a new assessment will need to take place.

- 5.2.5 Designated heritage assets are illustrated in **Figure 1**.

5.3 Non-designated historic assets: archaeological and historic context

- 5.3.1 The following section comprises a summary of the archaeological and historical development of the Site and the Study Area.

- 5.3.2 The Site's archaeological potential, that is its likelihood to contain remains of archaeological interest sufficient to be considered a historic asset in terms of PPW, has been determined based on our professional judgement and a review of the available evidence for the Site and surrounding area, including the HER data, historic mapping, topography and geology, the site visit, and a consideration of site formation processes.
- 5.3.3 Due to significant past impacts to the Site which are likely to have removed or significantly truncated any archaeological remains, the following section does not entail an exhaustive review of the HER data, but rather summaries past impacts to the Site and indicates any residual potential that might exist. A complete list of historic mapping and reports consulted during this assessment are included within the **References** section.
- 5.3.4 HER data is presented in **Figure 2**. A phased plan of the Site's buildings is shown in **Figure 3**. Historic mapping dating from 1873 to 1992 are illustrated in **Figures 4 to 8**. A gazetteer of HER data is included as **Appendix 3**.
- 5.4 Summary of Archaeological potential, Site history, and previous impacts**
- 5.4.1 In light of the lack of archaeological investigation within the Study Area¹, the archaeological character of the area is not well understood. Removing the possible medieval and post-medieval agricultural features identified in the HER, and post-medieval and 20th-century buildings mapped through historic map regression exercises, there are only a limited amount of historic assets remaining. Those that are left also only relate to the recovery of isolated findspots of prehistoric (**100142**), medieval (**117867**, **486161**), post-medieval (**132416**) or unknown origin (**86014**).
- 5.4.2 Typically, prehistoric communities favoured areas of permeable geology and / or elevated topography within proximity to bodies of water. These bodies, which could include small streams to large lakes, provided the communities with fresh water and a means to acquire food and materials. In fact, 980 m to the northwest of the Site a possible prehistoric enclosure has been identified in close proximity to the River Clywedog, in an area of recorded permeable sand and gravel geology (**409142**). The enclosure may indicate a prehistoric presence in the landscape. However, as the enclosure has not been subject to more detailed archaeological survey, its existence has not been confirmed.
- 5.4.3 There is an absence of Romano-British remains recorded in the HER for the entire Study Area. Romano-British material often appears in HERs because of the volume of cultural material relative to most other periods and because much of that material is readily identifiable. The general lack of Romano-British features and material recorded from the search area suggests that the absence of evidence may be genuine and not simply a reflection of the lack of fieldwork.
- 5.4.4 The HER entries for the medieval and post-medieval periods indicate that the Site was located within a well-developed agricultural landscape. There are 17 entries for ridge and furrow, identified from LiDAR data, throughout the Study Area (see **Appendix 3**). There is no indication that the Site was settled during this period, with the closest known medieval settlement located in Wrexham to the northwest of the Study Area.

¹ All four investigations that have taken place within the Study Area to date relate to non-intrusive surveys which provide no meaningful information in the assessment of the Site's archaeological potential.

5.4.5 A review of the available historic mapping (not reproduced) indicates that Site was enclosed mixed-use farmland by the mid-19th century, owned by three landowners; Lawrence Brook Esquire, Randle Thomas Esquire and Robert M. Thomas. The Site was further split between two occupiers; Harriet Roberts who lived at Parkey Farm to the southwest of the Site and John Edwards who occupied a smaller farmstead of unknown name to the north of the Site. Both farmsteads are visible on the 1873 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map (**Figure 4**).

5.4.6 With the exception of minor amendments to field boundaries, no significant change occurred to the Site until the construction of Royal Ordnance Factory Marchwiel in 1939 (discussed below).

ROF Marchwiel

5.4.7 In the 1930s, in the lead up to the Second World War, plans were put forth for the construction of a new ordnance factory at Marchwiel to ease pressure on the outdated Royal Gunpowder Factory (RGPF) located at Waltham Abbey (Cocroft 2000:203). However, concerns were raised by engineers undertaking an assessment on the use of the site due to its vulnerability to aerial bombardment and limited road access. At the same time, the Air Ministry were also looking into its use due to its general flat topography, while the Ministry of Agricultural objected on account of the loss of 2000 acres of good farmland (D. Mack Smith; NA CAB/102/625). Eventually, these concerns were quashed following re-evaluation and construction of ROF Marchwiel began in late 1939.

5.4.8 The new factory, designated for use in the production of cordite, was laid out in accordance with the revised provisions of the *Explosive Act* of 1875, and the lessons learnt from previous explosions and accidents in terms of lessening the resistance of key buildings to internal explosions. Strategic sections were also duplicated and to counter against aerial bombardment buildings were designed to resist incendiary bombs and blasts. This, however, led to poor ventilation and the need to use artificial lighting. Overall, the factory covered a total area of 1700 acres, cost £12 million to build and employed over 10,000 workers.

5.4.9 These dispersed units were grouped in sections by process, most being surrounded by mounded banks, and were connected by service roads, truck and trolley ways and standard and light gauge railways where appropriate (**Figure 5**). Water and other services (such as steam, gas and electricity) were carried in sunken ducts inside the factory and there was also a ring trench round the factory with buried connections. It appears that there may also have been above-ground piped connections for chemicals and other liquids (labelled M.N.T). In terms of layout, the factory buildings were set a specific distance apart and almost in a checkered card layout following lessons learnt in World War One where buildings had been positioned much closer together, resulting in several explosive chain events (Cocroft 2002).

5.4.10 As with the factory layouts, the individual buildings were standardised according to their functional principles and allowed no funds for decorative embellishment. They were utilitarian, designed for speedy and economic erection using relatively unskilled labour with maximum economy in the use of buildings materials. Flexibility was also an important consideration by the Ministry of Supply, who recognised that munitions would change over time. Almost all the buildings designed, not just at Marchwiel but in other factories, were single storey with brick walls and lightweight steel trussed roofs designed to lift in the event of an explosion. There were, however, some exceptions to this as some of the surviving ROF Marchwiel buildings appear to have used a reinforced concrete roof instead (Crowcroft 2000:207). Rows of steel windows provided natural light, and interior walls were plastered and painted white to provide clean, washable surfaces. Storage magazines also had flat concrete roofs, often grassed over, and blast-proof concrete walls or earth bunding.

- 5.4.11 The Site was used as part of Production Section 28 that handled the production of the cordite (MS 28/ -) (**Figure 5**). The cordite was the final process in the overall production of the explosives at ROF Marchwiel. The creation of the cordite involved taking the raw material produced in the northern parts of the factory (nitro-glycerine and nitrocellulose) with other materials (mineral jelly), blending them together in the blending houses (sometimes known as incorporator houses) before they were transported to press houses where they were created into rods and left to dry on trays in specially created drying houses. Once dried they were either sorted and packed into wax cases or placed on reels ready for transport. Cordite used for the Royal Navy differed and instead was in pellet form and boxed. Once complete, the cordite was taken by the railway line built specifically for use by ROF Marchwiel to Crewe where it was transported to its designated filling factory.
- 5.4.12 The buildings located in the Site comprised of blending houses (**28/112**)², a blending case and tray store (**28/222**), a case store (**28/223**), lavatories (**28/237**), a drying sorting house (**28/264**), passive shelters (**28/240**), a type 3 Police observation post (**19/0015**), and several smaller ancillary buildings which probably also acted as shelters. The railway line built specifically for ROF Marchwiel also passed through the Site and had a loading platform (**28/244**) just east of the case store. It is thought that the nitro-glycerine produced in the northern part of the factory was transported on the railway network to the Site where it was blended with the other components to create the cordite (Sumpter 1999:4-6). The railway line would also have been used to transport workers in from the surrounding towns and villages.
- 5.4.13 Following Allied victory in 1945, ROF Marchwiel was quickly closed and arrangements were made to dispose of the site by the Ministry of Supply. In 1945, a detailed report was published and it was decided that the Site was part of the factory to be placed into a basic care and maintenance regime. Much of the northern part of ROF Marchwiel continued for a time as operational ordnance factories due to the ever-looming threat of the Cold War and a possible urgent need for ordnance in the event of a Russian strike. New advancement in military technology, especially the jet engine and rocket missiles required new forms of cordite, which were not readily available. However, this perceived threat never came and by 1963 most of the factory had either been demolished, remained in a basic care programme or had been altered for commercial industrial use.
- 5.4.14 Outside of the Site, only a handful of the former buildings that collectively made up Section 28 of ROF Marchwiel survive. Including those within the Site, they comprise two additional blending houses to the north (28/212M and 28/212L), a reeling, drumming and packing house (28/219), section offices for chemist and engineering foreman, and P.A.D sector command post (28/225), dining room and shifting room- 40 persons (28/232), tray drying stove (28/252U and 28/252V) and reel drying stores for single and 11 strand reels (28/254B).

² The 1948 plan of ROF Marchwiel provides the unique identifier for the blending house as 28/112. This number does not exist within the inventory of buildings (HLG 71/872) and it is thought this is a mistake with the buildings actually being part of the 28/212 group that were used as blending houses.

Maelor Works

- 5.4.15 It is thought that by 1958, the Site was in use as a small-scale gasworks known as Maelor Works. The RAF aerial photograph for the ROF Marchwiell dated to January 1958 clearly shows the presence of gasholders and new development within the Site (aerial image F21/58/2344/0041)³. However, it is not clear if 1958 was its official opening date. In the National Archives exists a plan and documents relating to the construction and approval of Maelor Works, Wrexham by the Welsh Gas Board dated to 1961 (CUST 49/5768). This document could not be viewed or obtained due to the closure of the National Archives at the time of writing. Regardless, it would appear that Maelor Works was opened sometime between 1958 and 1961.
- 5.4.16 The names assigned to the gas works is interesting. Maelor reflects the name given to former land in northeast Wales which formed the centre for the Kindom of Powys which was later controlled by the kingdom of Mercia. Maelor was later conquered during the Edwardian Conquest of Wales in the 13th century. Today, its broad translation is “land of the prince” on account of its former British control. The land was formerly awarded back in 1536 under the Laws in Wales Act and there are several other areas and buildings within the wider area that include the use of Maelor in their naming. It is most likely the name reflects this former piece of land, which Wrexham bordered, or was part of.
- 5.4.17 Several changes had occurred to the Site as parts of its new function, visible on the 1961 Edition Ordnance Survey map (**Figure 6**). Many of the former ROF Marchwiell buildings present within the Site were demolished except for three of the blending houses and the case store. In their place, new development had been built which included the construction of a single storey administrative building and construction of two large rectangular buildings, likely used in the production of the gas, functioning as plant buildings. At the time, most gas was still being produced by heating coal (coal gasification), known as town gas. Coal gasification required specific machinery (boilers, retorts, condensers, exhausts etc.) which was likely housed within these two buildings, either as horizontal or vertical variants. The brick infill present on the west elevation of one of the plant buildings that still survives in the Site either previously had extruding piping or the boiler vents (**Plate 9**). The gas itself was stored in two gasholders located in the Site, one in the western part, the other in the northeast corner.
- 5.4.18 The Site continued to be used as a gasworks with later additions to the Site occurring in 1979 (**Figure 7**) and 1992 (**Figure 8**). This included the expansion of both plant buildings and further small ancillary structures in the north and south. The greatest change was the construction of a new east-west aligned building in the centre of the Site. The overall function of the building is not clear, with only its foundations surviving today. Though, its size would suggest use as a factory or much larger plant room, possibly a result of a greater need for gas following the expansion of Wrexham Industrial Site.
- 5.4.19 With the passing of the *Gas Act of 1972*, Britain removed the local gas council and following a 10-year restructuring programme ceased all production of coal gas, instead relying on foreign importation of natural gas (Thomas 2014). This appears to have affected the Site which is no longer labelled as *works* on the 1992 Ordnance Survey map and instead as *offices* (**Figure 8**).

³ Aerial image viewed on <https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/308980/details/marchwiell-royal-ordnance-factory-wrexham>

- 5.4.20 Several of the buildings on the Site still appeared to have required access to gas as three gas tanks used for the storage of natural gas were added in the southwest corner of the Site on the location of the former railway line. To the east, a reservoir had also been installed along with two monitoring stations and a third gasholder not present on historic mapping. These three buildings would have been built when it was still in use as a gasworks and do not reflect its later use for light commercial/offices. From 1992 the Site has been used primarily for light commercial uses, as offices and for storage with several of the former gas works building demolished between 1992 and 2016⁴. The only significant change that occurred to the Site during this period was the removal of former gas holders and construction of a new depot building (**Plate 6**). To replace Maelor Works, a new plant was established just east of the Site that was specifically designed to accommodate and distribute natural gas.

Summary

- 5.4.21 A review of the available data for the Site indicates little potential for remains of archaeological interest pre-dating the construction of ROF Marchwiel. In addition, subsequent construction and demolition within the Site, related to its use as a gasworks, and latterly for storage and office uses, is likely to have truncated, possibly completely removed, any structural remains of former ROF buildings within its footprint. A phased plan of the Site's buildings is presented in **Figure 3**.

6 BUILT HERITAGE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The following section provides further details on the design and construction of the buildings within the Site.
- 6.1.2 All post-1992 structures are considered to have no heritage value. All areas of hardstanding, including the concrete bases for the former gas holders, are also considered to have no heritage value. They are consequently not considered any further within this report, other than where they affect the significance of historic assets.

6.2 ROF Blending Houses (28/112L, 28/112M and 28/112P) (Plates 1-5)

- 6.2.1 The ROF Marchwiel blending houses are single storey structures with reinforced concrete frames and brick infill, steel trussed roofs, and half-storey office extensions. Steel framed windows were installed on at least two elevations of the blending houses while the exterior brickwork was rendered and painted. The interior of the building would also have been white to provide a clean, washable surface. Each building has a principal entrance, a roller shutter door for vehicular access, and several emergency exits. In addition, to aid in the event of an explosion, each building is set below the existing ground level with the surrounding earth designed to absorb some of the blast in the event of an explosion. The buildings have been adapted to modern office and storage use, frequently with replacement windows, fixtures, and fittings being evident.
- 6.2.2 Given the former function and history of the three buildings they would meet criteria to be considered non-designated historic assets. The blending houses are discussed in greater detail in **Section 7**.

⁴ Satellite imagery was viewed on Google Earth Pro dated to the 31/12/2006, 3/2/2007, 1/6/2020, 22/7/2012, 23/6/2016 and 72/6/2018.

6.3 ROF Case Store (28/223B) (Plate 6-7)

- 6.3.1 The ROF Case Store is positioned in the southern part of the Site and was formerly located adjacent to the ROF Marchwiel railway line. Much like the blending houses, the case store was built to a common design; steel-framed with brick infill and a 'M'-shaped roof finished with corrugated iron sheeting. Unlike other buildings case stores were allowed floor to ceiling windows as they were used purely for storage of non-explosive elements. Most would have been open plan which helped in their later civilian uses as they could be laid out as needs required (Cocroft 2000: 219). However, the windows that are currently in place on the case store together with the doorways are all modern additions, as too is the metal roller shutter on the west elevation.
- 6.3.2 Given the age, former function and history of the building it would meet criteria to be considered a non-designated historic asset. The case store is discussed in greater detail in **Section 7**.

6.4 Maelor Works buildings: 1958-1992

- 6.4.1 The remaining buildings within the Site relate to the Site's use as a former gasworks. All of these buildings are built with practicality and affordability in mind, reflecting the approach made to post-war industrial architecture, a time when materials were in short supply. None of the buildings have any unique architectural qualities, nor do they show a particularly unique design. It is clear too from the Site visit, that none of the structures are likely to contain any of the previous gasworks machinery (**Plate 9**) and that many have undergone redevelopment as part of their later use. None of these structures are considered to comprise non-designated historic assets; they have very little, if any, heritage significance.

7 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

7.1 Designated historic assets

Parkey Farmhouse (list entry 18062)

- 7.1.1 Parkey Farmhouse is a Grade II Listed late 18th or early 19th-century farmhouse. The building is three storeys, of brick construction, with stone quoins, under a grey slate roof with chimney stacks to the east and west gable ends. The farmhouse is believed to have served as the home farm for the Parkey Hall, which was demolished in 1972, and located to the north of the Site.
- 7.1.2 Parkey Farmhouse derives its significance from its historical and aesthetic value as a good example of a late 18th to early 19th-century farmhouse in the local vernacular style and through its historic association with Parkey Hall; a former two-storey timber framed 16th-century house located to the northeast of the Site (CPAT entry 27616). Further significance is derived from its group value through the farm buildings to the west and south of the farmhouse which form its associated farmyard.
- 7.1.3 The farmhouse's setting is defined by its rural location with agricultural land located in all directions. Beyond the agricultural land, the wider setting is defined by the Site and wider areas of industrial development on land formerly associated with ROF Marchwiel. These aspects of the wider setting are at present shielded from the farmhouse due to intervening development and topography and do not contribute in an ability to understand and appreciate the listable interests of the farmhouse.

7.1.4 The immediate setting, that is the agricultural land, is an important aspect of the setting and contributes to the significance of the asset. The agricultural land helps reinforce the historic narrative of the building as part of a working farmstead, in use for over 200 years.

7.1.5 The Site forms part of Parkey Farmhouse's wider setting but has little direct intervisibility, nor any meaningful historic functional or spatial associations, with the farmhouse. It is therefore considered to make no contribution to its significance.

Pum-Rhyd (list entry 18058).

7.1.6 Pum-Rhyd is a Grade II Listed late 17th-century farmhouse. The building is a single-storey timber-framed structure with later brick infill, under a grey slate roof, with a single brick chimney stack. The building is said to have been damaged by a fire and was substantially rebuilt in the 18th century.

7.1.7 Based on the list entry for the asset, its significance is primarily derived from its historical, evidential, and aesthetic values as a good example of a farmhouse of 17th-century origins and late Georgian remodelling.

7.1.8 The farmhouse derives interest from its setting, the spatial and visual relationship between the constituent parts of the farmstead, particularly the 19th-century farm buildings to the south and southwest. The woodland that runs to the north, and located within the Site, has no effect on the setting's contribution to significance. It is not a designed feature of the landscape nor is it appreciable from the farmhouse due to the existing tree line that runs along the perimeter of the farmstead, which lies outside the Site boundary. In regard to the other sections of the Site, intervisibility is also non-existent due to the existing farm buildings and considerable distance between the Site and the farmhouse. Overall, the Site is not considered to form a meaningful part of the setting of the farmhouse and makes no contribution to its significance.

7.2 Non-designated historic assets

ROF Marchwiel Blending Houses and case store

7.2.1 The blending houses and case store have historical value as some of the last surviving elements of ROF Marchwiel. Research has established that ROF Marchwiel was the only Second World War Royal Ordnance Factory established in Wales to produce cordite. The buildings are generally well-preserved, retaining much of their original external appearance and internal layout, despite later alterations, repairs, and reuse. Their significance is enhanced by their group value with one and other, and with surviving elements of the former works within the surrounding landscape.

7.2.2 The blending houses are a rare survival in the wider UK context, as the sister sites developed during the Second World War at Bishopton, Glasgow, ROF Ranskill and Nottingham have all been demolished or redeveloped. Well preserved remains survive at Waltham Abbey, but as a long-served site, these comprise a series of overlaying schemes of different dates and are much altered.

- 7.2.3 The spatial relationship between the blending houses and case store is significant to understand the design and layout of the wider ROF Marchwiel site. The buildings were designed to be set a specific distance apart to protect against bomb damage or accidental explosion, with areas of the site divided by function. In 1945, an expert panel wrote in their assessment of the viable use of ROF Marchwiel following disarmament that: *'each of the factory units was designed for a highly complicated chemical process which progresses through numerous stages, each building or group of buildings having a special purpose, and forming, as it were, a link in the chain of production'* (TNA AVIA 22/411). Understanding of this process chain is still possible due to the surviving buildings in the Site but also those to the east and north. Collectively, they have high group value and help understand military logistics in building placement and process flow.
- 7.2.4 All four of the buildings were decommissioned and reused as part of Maelor Works, which has resulted in the removal of the original fixtures and fittings. The removal of these elements has eroded the significance of the buildings and limits our ability to understand the processes that took place within.
- 7.2.5 Change in use and adaptation of the Site and wider ROF Marchwiel site over the course of the later 20th and 21st centuries has impacted on the cohesion and significance of the whole, with changes of ownership and later buildings, uses, and demolitions being detrimental to the significance of the original elements. Within the Site, the later gasworks buildings and subsequent demolitions, muddle the historic legibility of the building group and further diminish its significance.
- 7.2.6 On balance, the original ROF Marchwiel buildings within the Site are assessed to comprise non-designated historic assets of, at best, moderate significance.

Archaeological assets

- 7.2.7 The Site has limited potential to contain any archaeological remains that predate the construction of ROF Marchwiel. Nevertheless, it does have potential to contain remains of former ROF Marchwiel buildings demolished during the latter half of the 20th century. Such remains may have been truncated by the development of the Site as Maelor works and by subsequent demolition and remediation programs that have taken place (see planning ref: P/2014/0658). Any below ground remains related to the former ROF Marchwiel buildings are unlikely to hold significant evidential value; evidence for industrial processes are not likely to be present or well preserved, and the location and function of those buildings can be sufficiently gleaned from a study of historic site mapping and inventories (for example HLG 71/872).

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Discussion

- 8.1.1 The effect of the development proposals on the known and potential heritage resource within the proposed development area will be a material consideration in determination of any future proposals for the Site.
- 8.1.2 This assessment has found that the surviving ROF Marchwiel blending houses and case store comprise non-designated historic assets of, at best, moderate significance. The remaining buildings within the Site relate to its former use as Maelor Works and as modern commercial space. These building have limited, if any, heritage value.



- 8.1.3 The former blending houses and case store have an identified group value. They also have a broader group value with remains of ROF Marchwiel within the wider landscape. The demolition of any of these building as part of any future scheme would require clear justification to outweigh the impact upon the significance of the building group and ROF Marchwiel as a whole.
- 8.1.4 A review of the HER data, geological and topographical profile, and historic mapping for the Site indicates that the developed parts are highly unlikely to contain any remains of archaeological interest, predating the construction of the ROF Marchwiel. Furthermore, the later use and redevelopment of the site as part of Maelor Works will have resulted in localised impacts to any remains of ROF Marchwiel. Any such remains would be of only limited evidential value.
- 8.1.5 Nevertheless, the scope and need for further archaeological assessment would be contingent upon the siting / nature of any future development and should be agreed in consultation with the Local Planning Authority Archaeological Adviser.

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Historic Environment Records

Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record

Cartographic sources

1840 Tithe Map of the Wrexham Parish (online)

1873 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map

1899 Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map

1912 Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map

1961 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

1979 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

1992 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

The National Archives Document Sources

Original documentation concerning ROF Marchwiel falls into several categories:

The Cabinet Office Historical Section files (CAB 102) are generally higher-level analytical records, largely consisting of draft histories or material gathered to compile such histories. These include:

CAB 102/13 Hornby, W. Factories and plant HMSO 1958

CAB 102/270 ROFs and agency factories

CAB 102/273 100 + pages of material used by Mr Hornby when writing 'Factories and plant', chapter IX on munitions factories, locations and siting

CAB 102/625 Typescript draft histories of the Second World War ROFs by Mack Smith, D. including two pages on ROF Marchwiell, that are extensively referenced

CAB 102/628 Construction of ROFs

The Ministry of Supply files (SUPP 5) are concerned with munitions production and supply and include a mixture of technical notes on various processes carried out at ROF Marchwiell and ROF Bishopstown, and correspondence and reports on the set up of the factories. These include:

SUPP 5/1218 Technical notes on the exudation of mineral jelly from wet-mix cordite, 1943

SUPP 5/1219 Technical notes on the peeling and drumming of cordite static charges, 1943

SUPP 5/1220 Technical notes on methods of analysis of mixed acids, 1943

SUPP 5/1635 Manufacturing method statement for solvent cordite, 1943

SUPP 5/1258 A file compiled in 1939 concerning the proposed ROF cordite factory at Marchwiell. Consisting of over 100 pages, including 4 maps of the site of the factory, it discusses the expenditure and logistics of setting up the factory in depth

The Office of Works files (WORK) relate to construction activity at ROF Marchwiell, comprising contracts and discussions over payment to contractors. These include:

WORK 13/1389/1389/11 Concerning construction of air-raid shelters in November 1939

WORK 13/1389/1389/12 Air-raid shelter construction in January 1940

WORK 26/19/2 Construction contracts recording on-going arguments about payments between 1939 and 1945

AVIA files were registered Ministry of Supply files which relate to functions taken over by the Ministry of Aviation in 1959. AVIA 22 files concern Armed Forces general administration. AVIA 46 files concern documents related to historical aspects of the Second World War. AVIA 51 files concern financial aspects of the ROFs. These include:

AVIA 22/411-3 Disposal of ROF Marchwiell by the Ministry of Supply between 1945 and 1946, including the report of the expert panel convened in late 1945

AVIA 22/1916 Financial authority for wet mixing process conversion at ROF Marchwiell, 1941

AVIA 22/2499 Acquisition of ROF Marchwiell, 1939 records the argument between the Ministry of Supply and Ministry of Agriculture

AVIA 22/2509-10 Acquisition of ROF Marchwiell

AVIA 22/2511 Acquisition and release of ROF Marchwiell

AVIA 46/275 Explosive ROFs

AVIA 51/58 Assesses the war potential of former ROFs in Wales between 1951 and 1954 against the backdrop of the Korean War and increased Cold War tensions. This includes the 1948 coloured 1:5,000 plan of the factory, amended by Mr Philips of the Explosives Division in April 1952, and seriously considered the potential of Factory 2 for reuse as a picrite factory. It records that about 1,200 acres of the site was still unoccupied with mounding still *in situ*. This file was not declassified until 1985.

HLG files concern planning issues within the remit of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning and its predecessors. These include:

HLG 71/831 Disposal of ROF Marchwiel 1945 to 1947

HLG 71/872 Conversion of former Ministry of Supply ROFs Marchwiel and Ranskill to civil use, 1945. This file included the crucial inventory of the buildings at ROF Marchwiel, made in November 1944.

BT files concern Board of Trade factories and storage facilities. BT 106 concerns manufacturing and trade and commerce. These include:

BT 106/123, 124, 129, 130 and 131 Board of Trade negotiations over transfer of sulphuric acid plant at ROF Marchwiel 1947 to 1949

Online resources [all accessed 18/06/2020]

<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>

<http://www.biab.ac.uk/>

<http://opendomesday.org/>

<http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>

<http://www.magic.gov.uk>

<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/index.html>

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Terminology

Glossary

The terminology used in this assessment follows definitions contained within Annex 2 of NPPF:

Conservation	The process of managing change to an historic asset in its setting in ways that will best sustain its heritage values, while recognizing opportunities to reveal or reinforce those values for present and future generations.
Designation	The recognition of particular heritage value(s) of an historic asset by giving it formal status under law or policy intended to sustain those values.
Heritage	All inherited resources which people value for reasons beyond mere utility.
Heritage, cultural	Inherited assets which people identify and value as a reflection and expression of their evolving knowledge, beliefs and traditions, and of their understanding of the beliefs and traditions of others.
Historic asset	An identifiable component of the historic environment. It may consist or be a combination of an archaeological site, an historic building, or a parcel of historic landscape. Nationally important historic assets will normally be designated.
Historic environment	All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and deliberately planted or managed.
Historic environment record	A public, map-based data set, primarily intended to inform the management of the historic environment. In Wales these are maintained by the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts.
Setting	The surroundings in which an historic asset is experienced, its local context, embracing present and past relationships to the adjacent landscape.
Significance (within the historic environment)	The sum of the cultural heritage values, often set out in a Statement of Significance.
Value	An aspect of worth or importance, here given by people to historic assets.
Value, aesthetic	Value deriving from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place.
Value, communal	Value deriving from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.
Value, evidential	Value deriving from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity.
Value, historical	Value deriving from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present

Chronology

Where referred to in the text, the main archaeological periods are broadly defined by the following date ranges:

Prehistoric		Historic	
Palaeolithic	970,000–9500 BC	Romano-British	AD 43–410
Early Post-glacial	9500–8500 BC	Saxon	AD 410–1066
Mesolithic	8500–4000 BC	Medieval	AD 1066–1500
Neolithic	4000–2400 BC	Post-medieval	AD 1500–1800
Bronze Age	2400–700 BC	19th century	AD 1800–1899
Iron Age	700 BC–AD 43	Modern	1900–present day

Appendix 2: Legislative and planning framework

Designated Heritage Assets

Designation	Associated Legislation	Overview
World Heritage Sites	-	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee inscribes World Heritage Sites for their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) – <i>cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity</i> . England protects its World Heritage Sites and their settings, including any buffer zones or equivalent, through the statutory designation process and through the planning system. The National Planning Policy Framework sets out detailed policies for the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment, including World Heritage Sites, through both plan-making and decision-taking.
Scheduled Monuments and Areas of Archaeological Importance	<i>Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</i>	Under the <i>Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</i> , the Secretary of State (DCMS) can schedule any site which appears to be of national importance because of its historic, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest. The historic town centres of Canterbury, Chester, Exeter, Hereford and York have been designated as Archaeological Areas of Importance under Part II of the <i>Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</i> . Additional controls are placed upon works affecting Scheduled Monuments and Areas of Archaeological Importance under the Act. The consent of the Secretary of State (DCMS), as advised by Historic England, is required for certain works affecting Scheduled Monuments.
Listed Buildings	<i>Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990</i>	In England, under Section 1 of the <i>Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990</i> , the Secretary of State is required to compile lists of buildings of special architectural or historic interest, on advice from English Heritage/Historic England. Works affecting Listed Buildings are subject to additional planning controls administered by Local Planning Authorities. Historic England is a statutory consultee in certain works affecting Listed Buildings. Under certain circumstances, Listed Building Consent is required for works affecting Listed Buildings.
Conservation Areas	<i>Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990</i>	A Conservation Area is an area which has been designated because of its special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. In most cases, Conservation Areas are designated by Local Planning Authorities. Section 72 (1) of the <i>Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990</i> requires authorities to have regard to the fact that there is a Conservation Area when exercising any of their functions under the Planning Acts and to pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of Conservation Areas. Although a locally administered designation, Conservation Areas may nevertheless be of national importance and significant developments within a Conservation Area are referred to Historic England.
Registered Parks and Gardens and Registered Battlefields	<i>National Heritage Act 1983</i>	The Register of Parks and Gardens was established under the <i>National Heritage Act 1983</i> . The Battlefields Register was established in 1995. Both Registers are administered by Historic England. These designations are non-statutory but are, nevertheless, material considerations in the planning process. Historic England and The Garden's Trust (formerly known as The Garden History Society) are statutory consultees in works affecting Registered Parks and Gardens.
Protected Wreck Sites	<i>Protection of Wrecks Act 1973</i>	The <i>Protection of Wrecks Act 1973</i> allows the Secretary of State to designate a restricted area around a wreck to prevent uncontrolled interference. These statutorily protected areas are likely to contain the remains of a vessel, or its contents, which are of historical, artistic or archaeological importance.

National Planning Policy in Wales:

Planning Policy Wales, edition 10, December 2018 Chapter 6: Distinctive and Natural Places - The Historic Environment Available at: https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-02/planning-policy-wales-edition-10.pdf	
Para 6.1.7	It is important that the planning system looks to protect, conserve and enhance the significance of historic assets. This will include consideration of the setting of an historic asset which might extend beyond its curtilage. Any change that impacts on an historic asset or its setting should be managed in a sensitive and sustainable way.
Para. 6.1.9	Any decisions made through the planning system must fully consider the impact on the historic environment and on the significance and heritage values of individual historic assets and their contribution to the character of place.
Para. 6.1.10	There should be a general presumption in favour of the preservation or enhancement of a listed building and its setting, which might extend beyond its curtilage. For any development proposal affecting a listed building or its setting, the primary material consideration is the statutory requirement to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building, its setting or any features of 124 125 special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.
Parra. 6.1.15	There is a strong presumption against the granting of planning permission for developments, including advertisements, which damage the character or appearance of a conservation area or its setting to an unacceptable level. In exceptional cases, the presumption may be overridden in favour of development considered desirable on public interest grounds.
Para. 6.1.19	The effect of a proposed development on a registered park or garden, or its setting, is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.
Para. 6.1.21	Planning authorities should protect those assets included on the register of historic landscapes in Wales... The register should be taken into account in decision making when considering the implications of developments which meet the criteria for Environmental Impact Assessment or, if on call in, in the opinion of the Welsh Ministers, the development is of a sufficient scale to have more than a local impact on the historic landscape.
Para. 6.1.22	The impacts of proposed developments on a World Heritage Site and its setting and, where it exists, the World Heritage Site buffer zone and its essential setting, is a material consideration in the determination of any planning application ¹⁰⁹
Para. 6.1.23	The planning system recognises the need to conserve archaeological remains. The conservation of archaeological remains and their settings is a material consideration in determining planning applications, whether those remains are a scheduled monument or not.
Para. 6.1.26	Where archaeological remains are known to exist or there is a potential for them to survive, an application should be accompanied by sufficient information, through desk-based assessment and/or field evaluation, to allow a full understanding of the impact of the proposal on the significance of the remains.
Para. 6.1.27	If the planning authority is minded to approve an application and where archaeological remains are affected by proposals that alter or destroy them, the planning authority must be satisfied that the developer has secured appropriate and satisfactory provision for their recording and investigation, followed by the analysis and publication of the results and the deposition of the resulting archive in an approved repository.

Local Planning Policy

Wrexham Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) 2013 to 2028). Available at: https://www.wrexham.gov.uk/english/planning_portal/plan_policy/local_development_plan_new.htm (Accessed on 10/06/2020)	
Local Development Plan	Wrexham County Borough Council is preparing the Local Development Plan (LDP) which will replace the current adopted Unitary Development Plan. The LDP will be a long-term land use and development strategy focused on achieving sustainable development and will: • guide development for housing, employment, retail and other uses; • set out policies that will be used to decide planning applications; and • safeguard areas of land requiring protection or enhancement. Consultation portal: https://wrexham-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/



Appendix 3: Gazetteer

CPAT ID	Name	Period	Easting	Northing
409142	LITTLE LLWYN ONN ENCLOSURE	Prehistoric	336700	348590
100142	Cadbury factory axe	Bronze Age	338580	346600
118967	Abenbury, penny of Edward	Medieval	336600	348550
82606	Bedwell Hall ridge and furrow I	Medieval	337510	347410
82607	Bedwell Hall ridge and furrow II	Medieval	337440	347440
82608	Bedwell Hall ridge and furrow III	Medieval	337400	347500
82610	Bedwell Hall ridge and furrow IV	Medieval	337400	347600
82611	Bedwell Hall ridge and furrow V	Medieval	337360	347610
101526	Cae Mynach Fieldname	Medieval	338000	349120
82612	Maelor Abattoir ridge and furrow	Medieval	337340	347680
128270	Pickhill Farm, ridge and furrow	Medieval	339045	347717
142067	Pickhill Old Hall	Medieval	338893.3	346948
486161	COIN	Medieval		
82633	Bedwell Hall ridge and furrow	Medieval to Post-medieval	337630	347290
82641	Bedwell Hall ridge and furrow VI	Medieval to Post-medieval	337490	347630
82642	Cross Lanes ridge and furrow I	Medieval to Post-medieval	337499	347246
82643	Cross Lanes ridge and furrow II	Medieval to Post-medieval	337436	347192
82634	Maelor Abattoir ridge and furrow I	Medieval to Post-medieval	337340	347700
82635	Maelor Abattoir ridge and furrow II	Medieval to Post-medieval	337260	347750
82639	Maelor Abattoir ridge and furrow III	Medieval to Post-medieval	337100	347710
82636	The Hollies ridge and furrow I	Medieval to Post-medieval	337080	347540
82637	The Hollies ridge and furrow II	Medieval to Post-medieval	336900	347340
82638	The Hollies ridge and furrow III	Medieval to Post-medieval	337920	347180
132416	Abenbury, cannon ball	Post -medieval	337900	349100
145745	Bedwell Hall	Post -medieval	337569	347341
145746	Bedwell Hall	Post -medieval	337567	347323
41778	Bedwell Hall	Post -medieval	337584	347312
146191	Chetwynd Grove	Post -medieval	337155	347241
146192	Chetwynd Grove	Post -medieval	337147	347230
146193	Chetwynd Grove	Post -medieval	337139	347226
146194	Chetwynd Grove	Post -medieval	337132	347220
146195	Chetwynd Grove	Post -medieval	337151	347214
146196	Chetwynd Grove	Post -medieval	337149	347219
67703	Chetwynd Grove, farmstead	Post -medieval	337132	347214
67702	Chetwynd Grove, orchard	Post -medieval	337165	347264
86019	Cross Lanes Building	Post -medieval	338285	347202
55236	Five Fords Farm	Post -medieval	336628	348301



CPAT ID	Name	Period	Easting	Northing
55239	Five Fords Farm weir	Post -medieval	336650	348456
55238	Five Fords Farm, ford	Post -medieval	336699	348455
102868	Five Fords Farm, house	Post -medieval	336653	348326
55237	Five Fords Farm, orchard	Post -medieval	336716	348300
104512	Five Fords Mill	Post -medieval	337250	348420
55240	Five Fords pond I	Post -medieval	336857	347973
55241	Five Fords pond II	Post -medieval	336983	348021
55242	Five Fords pond III	Post -medieval	337109	348030
55244	Five Fords pond IV	Post -medieval	337233	348128
55243	Five Fords pond V	Post -medieval	337197	348022
55245	Five Fords pond VI	Post -medieval	337112	347826
86016	Five Fords sluice I	Post -medieval	336511	347991
86013	Five Fords Sluice II	Post -medieval	336962	348162
86012	Five Fords Sluice III	Post -medieval	336761	347927
55253	Hollyhedge ridge and furrow	Post -medieval	336738	347494
61394	Maelor Saesneg pond 377	Post -medieval	337667	346932
61396	Maelor Saesneg pond 379	Post -medieval	337860	346920
61397	Maelor Saesneg pond 380	Post -medieval	337851	346868
61398	Maelor Saesneg pond 381	Post -medieval	338231	346899
61399	Maelor Saesneg pond 382	Post -medieval	338035	346800
61400	Maelor Saesneg pond 383	Post -medieval	338028	346774
61401	Maelor Saesneg pond 384	Post -medieval	338120	346767
61403	Maelor Saesneg pond 386	Post -medieval	338800	346968
61404	Maelor Saesneg pond 387	Post -medieval	338890	346859
61405	Maelor Saesneg pond 388	Post -medieval	339041	346916
61412	Maelor Saesneg pond 395	Post -medieval	339379	347634
61417	Maelor Saesneg pond 400	Post -medieval	339159	347738
61418	Maelor Saesneg pond 401	Post -medieval	339157	347938
61421	Maelor Saesneg pond 404	Post -medieval	338484	347771
61422	Maelor Saesneg pond 405	Post -medieval	338434	347834
61423	Maelor Saesneg pond 406	Post -medieval	338522	347884
61424	Maelor Saesneg pond 407	Post -medieval	338604	347856
61425	Maelor Saesneg pond 408	Post -medieval	338871	347811
61426	Maelor Saesneg pond 409	Post -medieval	338907	347731
61427	Maelor Saesneg pond 410	Post -medieval	338779	347735
61428	Maelor Saesneg pond 411	Post -medieval	338883	347603
61429	Maelor Saesneg pond 412	Post -medieval	338644	347657
61430	Maelor Saesneg pond 413	Post -medieval	338748	347556
61431	Maelor Saesneg pond 414	Post -medieval	338699	347310
61432	Maelor Saesneg pond 415	Post -medieval	338585	347208
61433	Maelor Saesneg pond 416	Post -medieval	338408	347017
61434	Maelor Saesneg pond 417	Post -medieval	338420	347102



CPAT ID	Name	Period	Easting	Northing
61435	Maelor Saesneg pond 418	Post -medieval	338309	347164
61436	Maelor Saesneg pond 419	Post -medieval	338406	347348
61437	Maelor Saesneg pond 420	Post -medieval	338179	347433
61438	Maelor Saesneg pond 421	Post -medieval	337974	347782
61439	Maelor Saesneg pond 422	Post -medieval	337964	347386
61440	Maelor Saesneg pond 423	Post -medieval	337504	347041
61443	Maelor Saesneg pond 426	Post -medieval	337232	347258
61444	Maelor Saesneg pond 427	Post -medieval	337128	347428
61445	Maelor Saesneg pond 428	Post -medieval	337152	347433
61446	Maelor Saesneg pond 429	Post -medieval	337164	347447
61447	Maelor Saesneg pond 430	Post -medieval	337341	347471
61448	Maelor Saesneg pond 431	Post -medieval	337355	347478
61449	Maelor Saesneg pond 432	Post -medieval	337369	347463
61450	Maelor Saesneg pond 433	Post -medieval	337357	347456
61451	Maelor Saesneg pond 434	Post -medieval	337270	347657
61452	Maelor Saesneg pond 435	Post -medieval	337164	347683
61453	Maelor Saesneg pond 436	Post -medieval	337438	347714
61454	Maelor Saesneg pond 437	Post -medieval	337579	347695
61455	Maelor Saesneg pond 438	Post -medieval	337579	347726
61456	Maelor Saesneg pond 439	Post -medieval	337608	347728
61457	Maelor Saesneg pond 440	Post -medieval	337702	347402
61468	Maelor Saesneg pond 451	Post -medieval	336977	347527
61469	Maelor Saesneg pond 452	Post -medieval	336965	347572
61470	Maelor Saesneg pond 453	Post -medieval	336963	347633
61471	Maelor Saesneg pond 454	Post -medieval	336618	347700
61488	Maelor Saesneg pond 471	Post -medieval	338749	348581
61489	Maelor Saesneg pond 472	Post -medieval	338796	348453
61490	Maelor Saesneg pond 473	Post -medieval	338864	348281
61491	Maelor Saesneg pond 474	Post -medieval	338725	348286
61492	Maelor Saesneg pond 475	Post -medieval	338578	348160
61493	Maelor Saesneg pond 476	Post -medieval	338767	348184
61494	Maelor Saesneg pond 477	Post -medieval	338911	348205
61495	Maelor Saesneg pond 478	Post -medieval	339119	348031
61496	Maelor Saesneg pond 479	Post -medieval	339100	348059
61497	Maelor Saesneg pond 480	Post -medieval	339166	348023
26984	Marchwiel, Burial Ground Field	Post -medieval	337490	348600
128588	Parkey Farm, railway sidings office	Post -medieval	338014	347565
41783	Parkey Farmhouse	Post -medieval	338023	347830
147678	Parkey Lodge	Post -medieval	338545	348151
147679	Parkey Lodge	Post -medieval	338549	348154
147680	Parkey Lodge	Post -medieval	338551	348162
147681	Parkey Lodge	Post -medieval	338554	348186



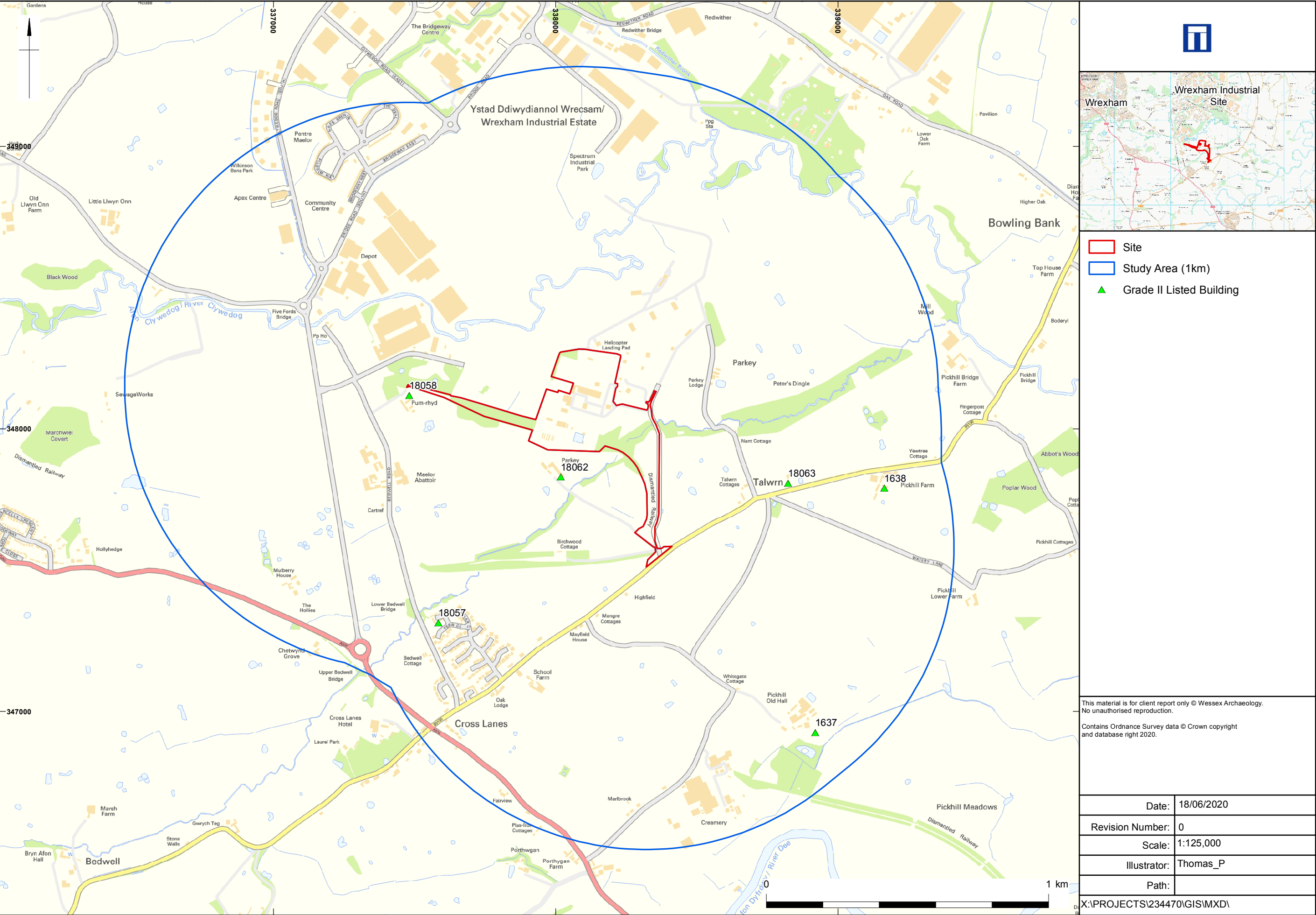
CPAT ID	Name	Period	Easting	Northing
147691	Parky Farm	Post -medieval	337979	347864
147692	Parky Farm	Post -medieval	338013	347860
147693	Parky Farm	Post -medieval	338015	347839
147694	Parky Farm	Post -medieval	338026	347842
147695	Parky Farm	Post -medieval	338016	347859
147696	Parky Farm	Post -medieval	338014	347857
86015	Pen y Bryn Farm	Post -medieval	337557	348629
104174	Pickhill Bridge Mill	Post -medieval	339300	348400
147948	Pickhill Farm	Post -medieval	339154	347822
147949	Pickhill Farm	Post -medieval	339147	347801
26275	Pickhill Hall	Post -medieval	339167	347789
147971	Pickhill Old Hall	Post -medieval	338807	346943
147972	Pickhill Old Hall	Post -medieval	338815	346937
147973	Pickhill Old Hall	Post -medieval	338844	346942
147974	Pickhill Old Hall	Post -medieval	338866	346948
147975	Pickhill Old Hall	Post -medieval	338884	346953
147976	Pickhill Old Hall	Post -medieval	338892	346951
147977	Pickhill Old Hall	Post -medieval	338894	346973
147978	Pickhill Old Hall	Post -medieval	338916	346988
147979	Pickhill Old Hall	Post -medieval	338879	346986
147980	Pickhill Old Hall	Post -medieval	338887	346984
147981	Pickhill Old Hall	Post -medieval	338904	346962
148136	Pum-rhyd	Post -medieval	337486	348116
148137	Pum-rhyd	Post -medieval	337485	348119
148138	Pum-rhyd	Post -medieval	337463	348085
148139	Pum-rhyd	Post -medieval	337477	348098
41779	Pum-Rhyd	Post -medieval	337480	348118
104511	Redwither Lane Smithy	Post -medieval	337460	348520
104514	Redwither smithy	Post -medieval	338000	349200
148343	Talwrn	Post -medieval	338683	347803
148344	Talwrn	Post -medieval	338678	347801
148345	Talwrn	Post -medieval	338671	347797
148346	Talwrn	Post -medieval	338666	347794
148347	Talwrn	Post -medieval	338662	347792
148348	Talwrn	Post -medieval	338664	347788
148349	Talwrn	Post -medieval	338666	347754
148350	Talwrn	Post -medieval	338661	347766
148351	Talwrn	Post -medieval	338662	347787
86008	Talwrn building	Post -medieval	338586	347330
41784	Talwrn House	Post -medieval	338828	347807
148412	The Five Fords	Post -medieval	336615	348313
148413	The Five Fords	Post -medieval	336620	348315



CPAT ID	Name	Period	Easting	Northing
148414	The Five Fords	Post -medieval	336633	348318
148415	The Five Fords	Post -medieval	336636	348287
148416	The Five Fords	Post -medieval	336638	348281
148417	The Five Fords	Post -medieval	336640	348261
148418	The Five Fords	Post -medieval	336630	348327
148419	The Five Fords	Post -medieval	336633	348328
148420	The Five Fords	Post -medieval	336636	348329
148421	The Five Fords	Post -medieval	336642	348330
148422	The Five Fords	Post -medieval	336624	348281
148444	The Hollies	Post -medieval	337056	347444
148445	The Hollies	Post -medieval	337079	347440
148446	The Hollies	Post -medieval	337082	347423
148447	The Hollies	Post -medieval	337081	347419
86018	The Hollies Milestone	Post -medieval	337014	347342
86010	Ty'n y coed	Post -medieval	336914	348967
86011	Ty'n y coed footbridge	Post -medieval	336838	348421
86017	Wrexham and Ellesmere Railway (section)	Post -medieval	336780	347687
27162	FIVE FORDS, MARCHWIEL	Post -medieval	338460	346820
87081	PICKHILL HALT	Post -medieval	337631	347132
403362	8 FERN CLOSE, BEDWELL COURT, CROSS LANES	Post -medieval	338350	347740
36347	GLEBE FARM	Post -medieval	337960	347170
87082	SESSWICK HALT	Post -medieval	337995	347851
403484	PARKEY FARM, CROSS LANES, MARCHWIEL	Post -medieval	337568	347322
403282	PIPISTRELLE BARN, BEDWELL ROAD, CROSS LANES	Post -medieval	337583	347313
301091	BEDWELL HALL, BEDWELL	Post -medieval	338300	349000
270489	ANTI TANK BLOCK, WREXHAM REGIS	Post -medieval	338830	347830
301804	TALARN STABLE & CARRIAGE-HOUSE, MARCHWIEL	Post -medieval	338840	347840
301806	TALARN COW HOUSE; TALWRN COW HOUSE, MARCHWIEL	Post -medieval	338820	347810
301797	TALARN HOUSE; TALWRN HOUSE, MARCHWIEL	Post -medieval	338880	346970
11624	PICKHILL OLD HALL, FORMER CHAPEL, SESSWICK	Post -medieval	338901	346926
266477	PICKHILL OLD HALL, GARDEN, SESSWICK	Post -medieval	338890	346950
27691	PICKHILL OLD HALL, SESSWICK	Post -medieval	338500	348440
27616	PARKEY HALL; PLAS PARCAU, SESSWICK	Post -medieval	338921	346922
37212	PICKHILL OLD HALL DOVECOTE, SESSWICK	Post -medieval	338880	346970
37213	PICKHILL OLD HALL	Post -medieval	337460	348100
96528	PUM-RHYD, MARCHWIEL	Post -medieval	338150	349190
7426	BETHEL CALVINISTIC METHODIST CHAPEL, REDWITHER	Post -medieval	339160	347800
144689	Marchwiel, Cadbury Staff - WW2 Tablet, war memorial	Modern	338501	346601
72336	Pickhill Halt	Modern	338640	346820

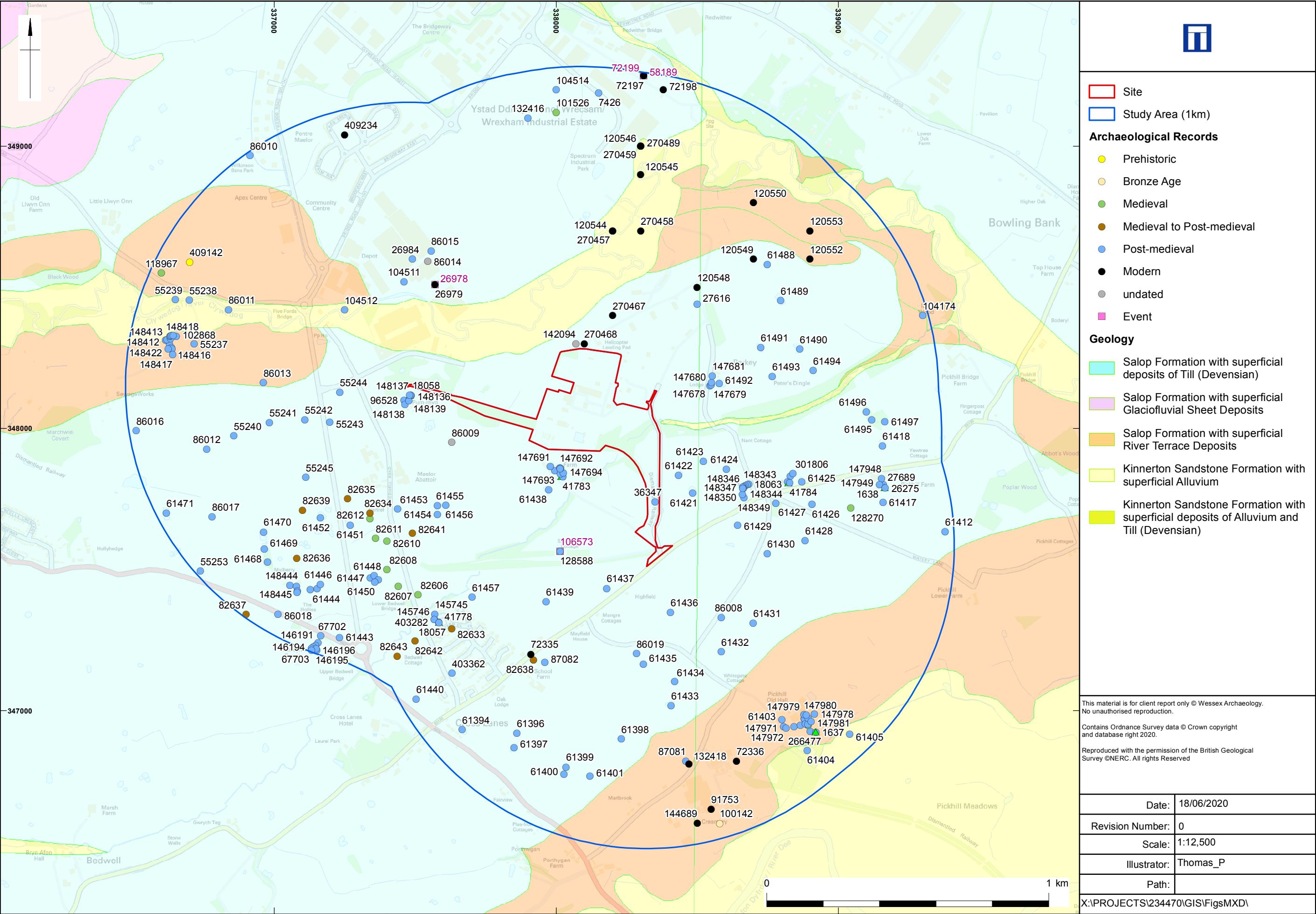


CPAT ID	Name	Period	Easting	Northing
132418	Wrexham and Ellesmere Railway, Pickhill Halt railway station	Modern	338471.7	346809.8
72335	Wrexham and Ellesmere Railway, Sesswick Halt railway station	Modern	337910	347200
120544	Wrexham, ROF Marchwiel, Abenbury, Pillbox	Modern	338200	348700
120546	Wrexham, ROF Marchwiel, Abenbury, Pillbox	Modern	338300	349000
26979	Wrexham, ROF Marchwiel, munitions store	Modern	337570	348510
120545	Wrexham, ROF Marchwiel, Sesswick, Pillbox	Modern	338300	348900
120548	Wrexham, ROF Marchwiel, Sesswick, Pillbox	Modern	338500	348500
120549	Wrexham, ROF Marchwiel, Sesswick, Pillbox	Modern	338700	348600
120550	Wrexham, ROF Marchwiel, Sesswick, Pillbox	Modern	338700	348800
120552	Wrexham, ROF Marchwiel, Sesswick, Pillbox	Modern	338900	348600
120553	Wrexham, ROF Marchwiel, Sesswick, Pillbox	Modern	338900	348700
72197	Wrexham, ROF Marchwiel, WWII bunker I	Modern	338310	349250
72198	Wrexham, ROF Marchwiel, WWII bunker II	Modern	338380	349200
409234	PENTRE MAELOR HOUSING ESTATE	Modern	337250	349040
91753	MAELOR CREAMERY, PICKHILL LANE, MARCHWIEL, WREXHAM	Modern	338550	346650
270457	PILL BOX VIII, WREXHAM REGIS	Modern	338200	348700
270458	PILL BOX VII, WREXHAM REGIS	Modern	338300	348700
270467	PILL BOX X AND XI, WREXHAM REGIS	Modern	338200	348400
270468	PILL BOX VI, WREXHAM REGIS	Modern	338100	348300
270459	PILL BOX I, WREXHAM REGIS	Modern	338300	349000
27689	PICKHILL FARM, SESSWICK	Modern	336630	348290
86009	Maelor Abbatoir soilmark	Undated	337630	347950
86014	Pen y Bryn stone	Undated	337545	348592
142094	Sesswick, Farmstead	Undated	338070	348300
106573	Parkey Farm, former railway sidings office, photographic survey 2004	Event	338014	347565
26978	Wrexham, Fivefords Industrial Estate, assessment 1996	Event	337570	348510
58189	Wrexham, ROF Marchwiel, WWII bunkers, photographic survey 1999	Event	338310	349250
72199	Wrexham, ROF Marchwiel, WWII bunkers, survey 1999	Event	338310	349250

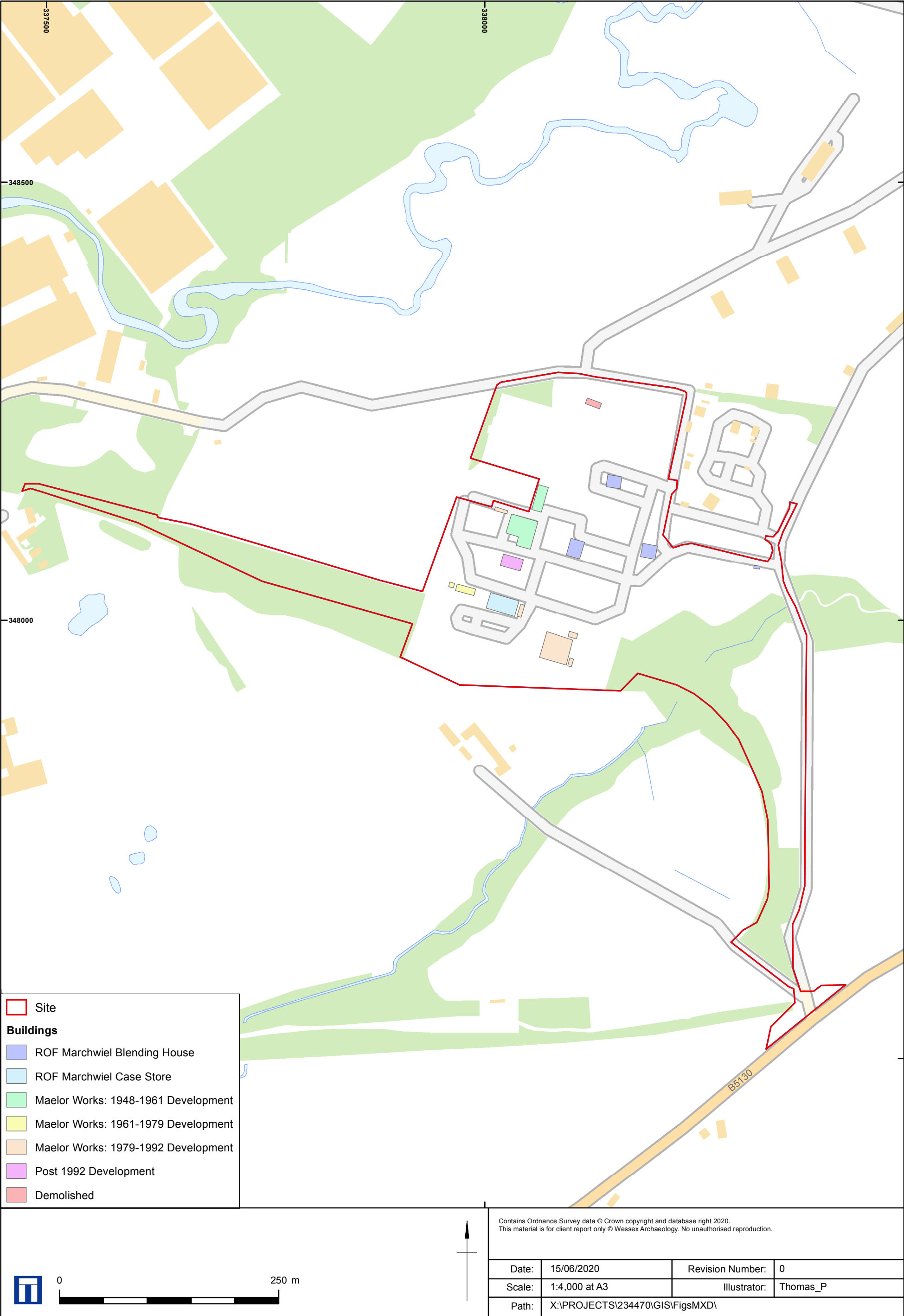


Site, Study Area and Designated Heritage Assets based on CADW

Figure 1

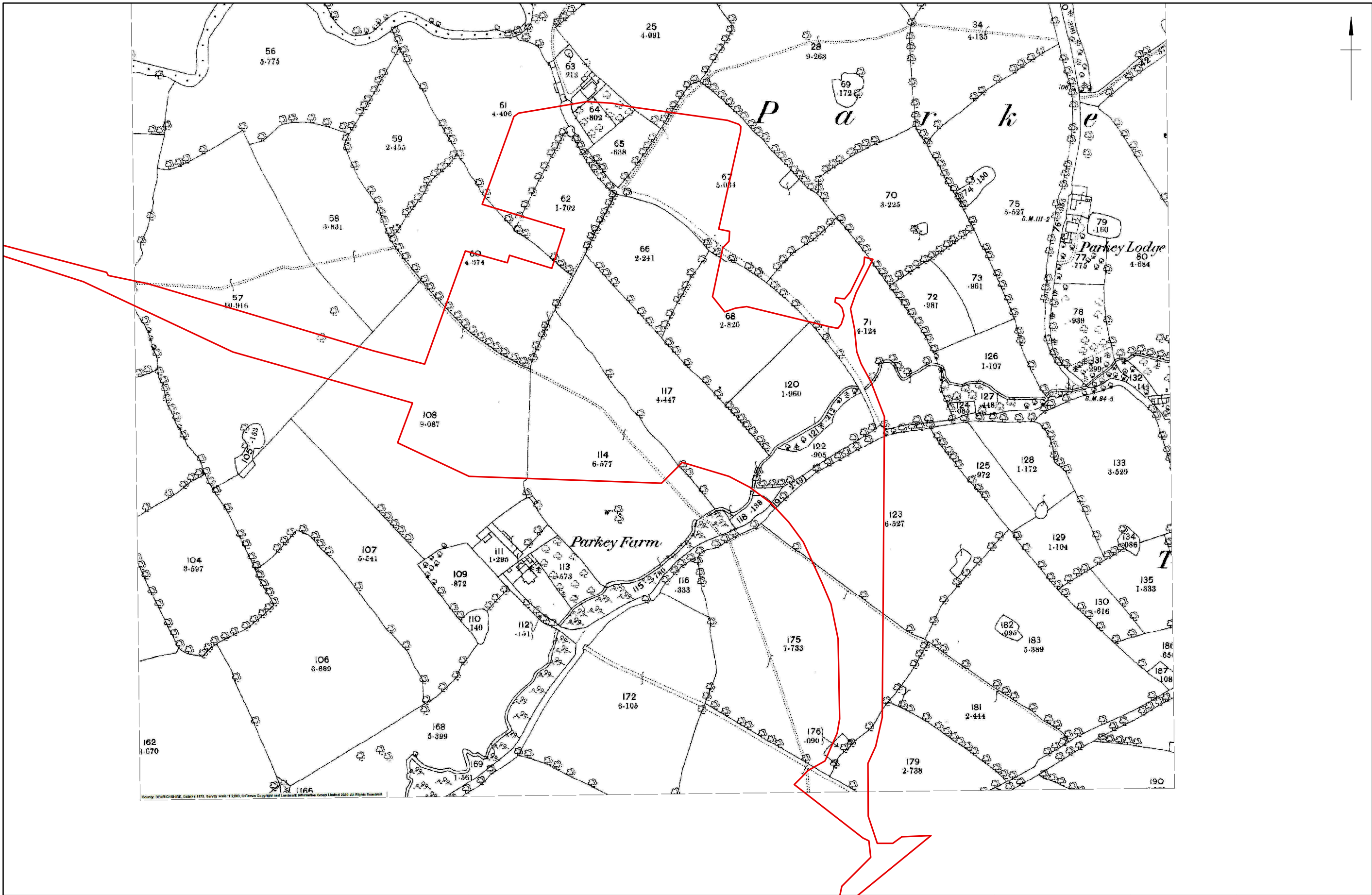


Site, Study Area, Archaeological Records and Recorded Geology (based on CPAT and British Geological Survey) Figure 2

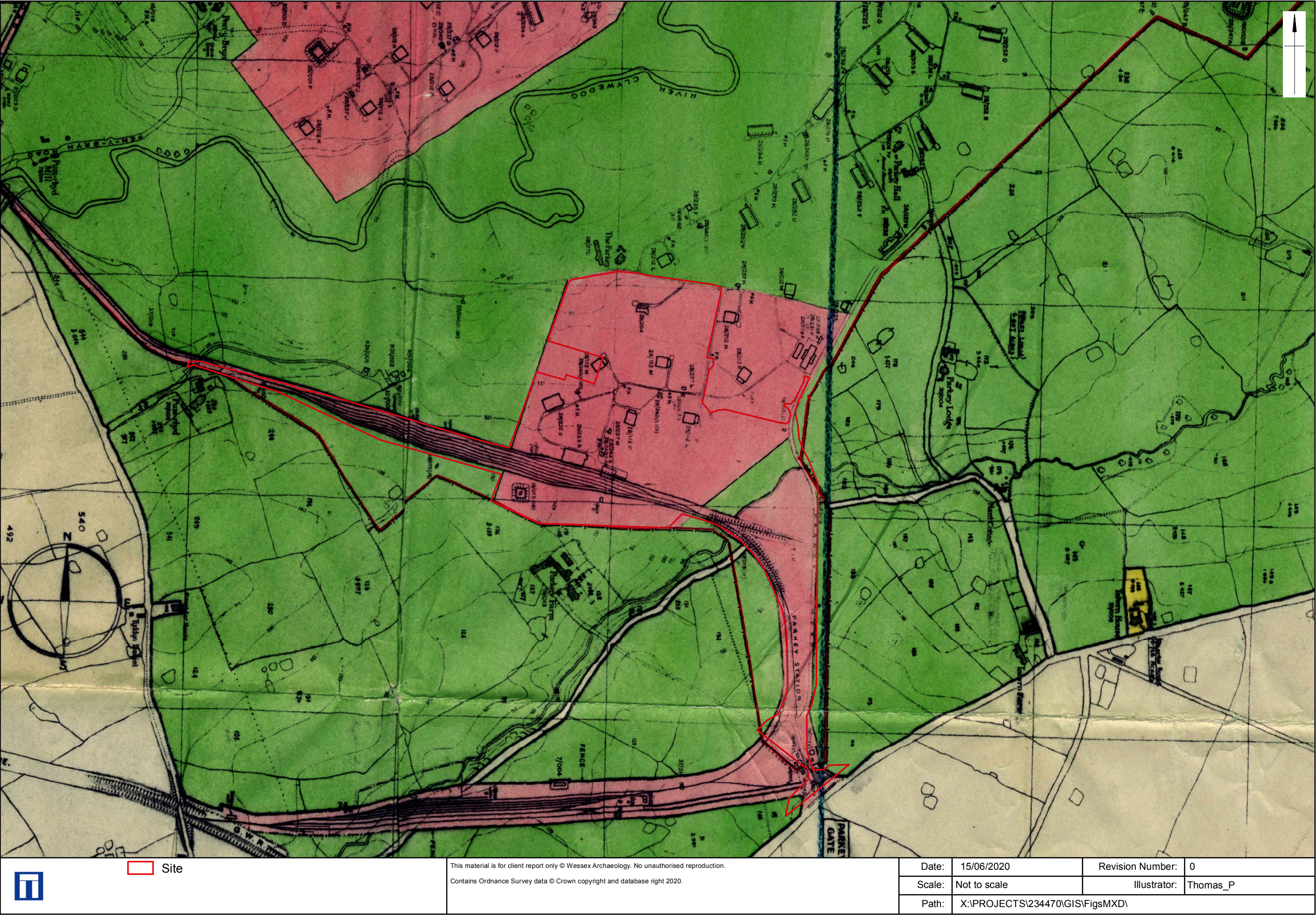


Site Building Plan

Figure 3

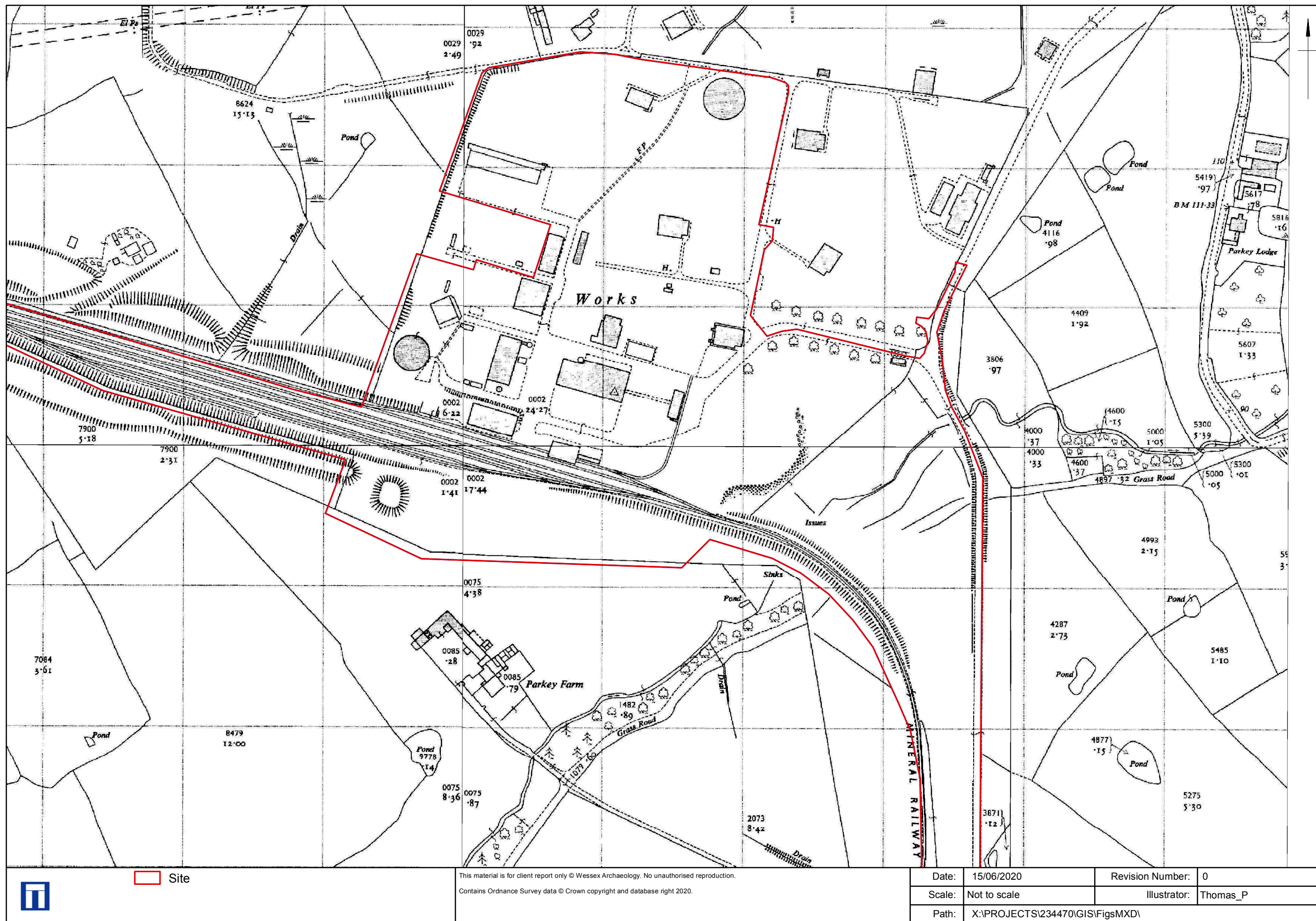


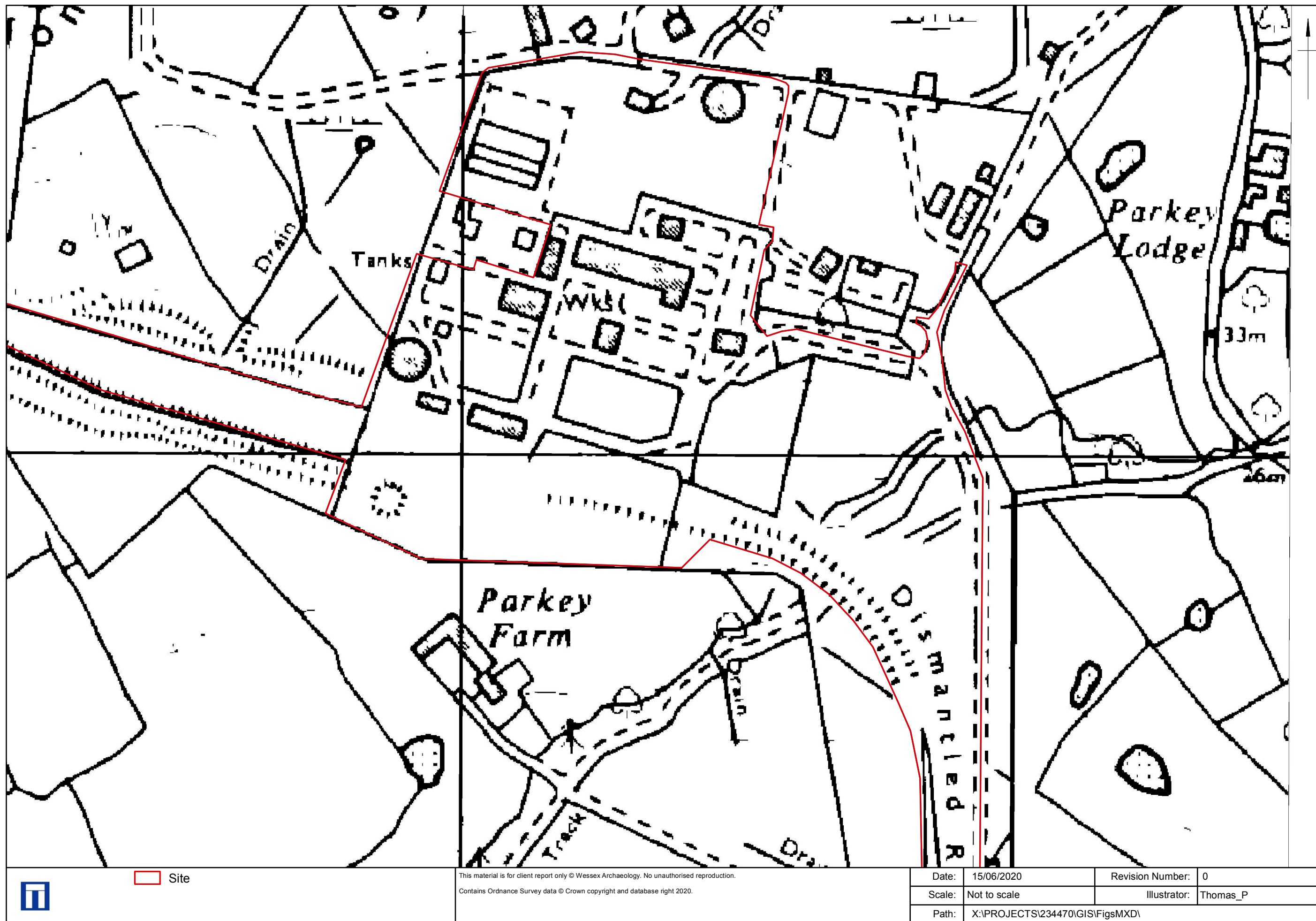
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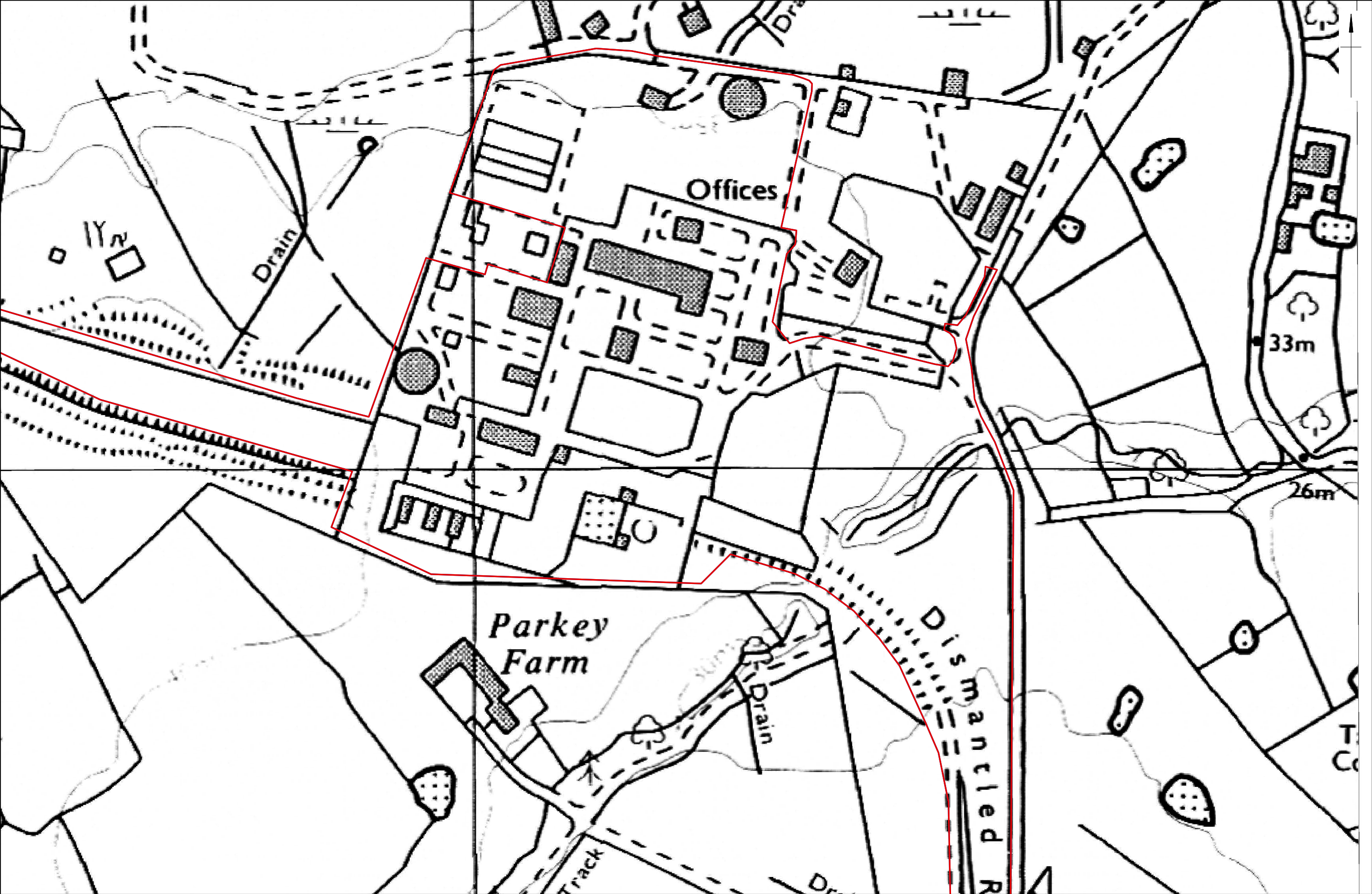


Extract of 1:5000 plan of ROF Marchwiell dated 1948

Figure 5







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Plate 1) View of ROF Marchwiel Blending House 28/112L, facing north



Plate 2) View from the main access road through the Site, facing southwest

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Plate 3) View from the main access road through the Site, facing west



Plate 4) View of ROF Marchwiel Blending House 28/112P, facing northwest

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Plate 5) ROF Marchwiell Blending House 28/112M, facing north



Plate 6) ROF Marchwiell Case Store 28/223B with modern ancillary structure, facing southwest

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Plate 7) View of the west elevation of ROF Marchwiel Case Store 28/233B, facing southeast



Plate 8) Maelor Works Plant Building, facing northwest

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Plate 9) View of the rear first-floor elevation of the Maelor Works Plant Building, facing northeast



Plate 10) Maelor Works Administrative Building, facing northwest

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Plate 11) Maelor Works guard room located on the main access road, facing southeast



Plate 12) Maelor Works workshop, facing southwest

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Plate 13) Modern depot building, facing southwest



Plate 14) View of the northwest section of the Site from the centre of the northern section of the Site, facing west

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Plate 15) Former site of 1961-1979 Maelor Works building, facing southeast



Plate 16) Former site of the ROF Wrexham Drying Store House (28/264), facing east

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Plate 17) View towards Parkey Farm (CADW 18062) from the southern section of the Site, facing southwest

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