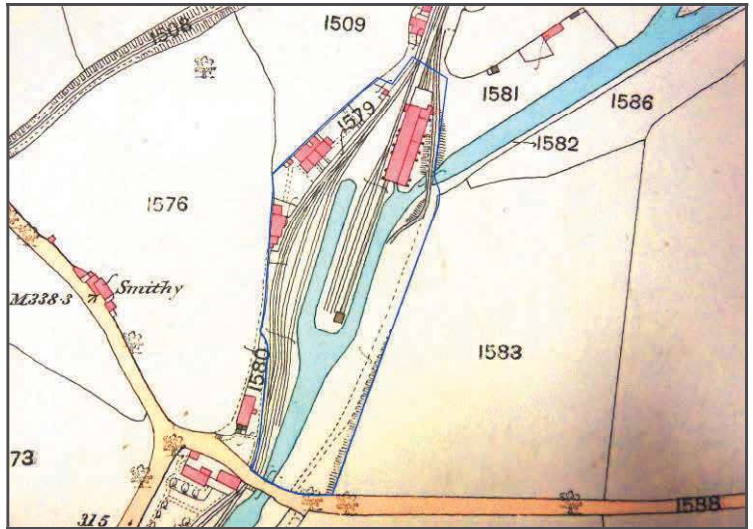


A Proposed New Boat Hire Centre at Trevor Basin, Pontcysyllte Aqueduct WHS, Wrexham: Heritage Statement and Impact Assessment



1st edition Ordnance Survey map, published 1880

ARS Ltd Report 2021/76

March 2020/May 2021

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**A Proposed New Boat Hire Centre at Trevor Basin, Pontcysyllte
Aqueduct World Heritage Site, Wrexham:
Heritage Statement and Impact Assessment
Archaeological Research Services Ltd Report 2021/76**

May 2021



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CPAT HER search ref: E6544

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by the Canal & River Trust (C&RT) to produce a Heritage Statement and Impact Assessment for a proposed development at Trevor Basin, Denbighshire. This is in advance of the submission of a planning application for the relocation of the Anglo Welsh boat hire base from its current location to the south of Scotch Hall Bridge, to a new location to the north of the bridge which, until recently, was occupied by Jones The Boats boat hire centre.

The assessment concludes that, overall, the proposed development would have an overwhelmingly beneficial impact upon the significance of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct WHS, Scheduled Monument and Conservation Area.

There could be some slight adverse impacts upon buried archaeological remains and minor impacts to the historic fabric of the canal walls, but these could be mitigated through appropriately worded planning conditions, and via Scheduled Monument Consent, in consultation with Cadw and CPAT.

Further archaeological monitoring and recording could reveal evidence that might contribute to an understanding and appreciation of the way in which the canal wharf and transfer dock was used and inhabited in the past, and how it has changed over time. This could contribute to the evidential value of this part of Trevor Basin, by informing the historical narrative concerning how the site has evolved from its origin as a Canal Tavern adjacent to a vital transport hub at the height of the Industrial Revolution, to one of the premier boat hire centres on the modern canal network.

CRYNODEB ANNHECHNEGOL

(To be inserted)

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and Planning Background

Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by the Canal & River Trust (C&RT) to produce a Heritage Statement and Impact Assessment for a proposed development at Trevor Basin, Denbighshire. This is in advance of the submission of a planning application for the relocation of the *Anglo Welsh* boat hire base from its current location to the south of Scotch Hall Bridge to a new location to the north of the bridge, which, until recently, was occupied by *Jones The Boats* boat hire centre. Further details regarding the development proposal are provided in Sections 1.2 and 1.3 below, based upon the information provided by the C&RT.

An interim Heritage Statement (Brown 2020) was produced in March 2020 immediately prior to the initial UK-wide ‘lockdown’ caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, and the subsequent furloughing of ARS Ltd staff engaged on the project. This initial draft of the Heritage Statement comprised the baseline assessment and background research, including the results of map regression and a walkover survey, but the document lacked a Statement of Significance and Impact Assessment at that point. Nevertheless, this was deemed sufficient to inform the initial pre-application consultations between the C&RT and Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC), as well as consultations with Cadw and the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT)’s County Archaeologist regarding the scope of an initial phase of intrusive archaeological investigations. Cadw confirmed that they were in agreement with the approach, which meant that the Statement of Significance and impact assessment could subsequently be developed to incorporate the results of the archaeological evaluations.

An initial phase of archaeological evaluation was undertaken within the proposed development area (PDA) in March 2021 (Tong 2021). The results of this initial phase of evaluation have helped to inform this updated Heritage Statement and Impact Assessment.

1.2 Need for the development

Since inscription in 2009, the *Pontcysyllte Aqueduct World Heritage Site* has experienced an incremental increase in visitors especially at Trevor Basin, which now receives over 300,000 annual visits. Despite the growth in visitor numbers the visitor amenity offer remains limited. In partnership with Wrexham County Borough Council and Solutia, the Trust commissioned a Masterplan for Trevor Basin with the principle aims of:

- ◆ Maximising economic and community benefit
- ◆ Enhancing the visitor attraction and dwell time and
- ◆ Improving accessibility.

An aspiration for the Masterplan is that mixed-use options are both viable and deliverable to create an iconic visitor destination.

One distinct element of the Masterplan is the reconfiguration of Trevor Basin, which recommends that the main visitor entrance is moved to the north end of the site with commercial boating activity re-located away from the main Basin and situated in the canal arms.