

Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

LAND AT RHOSROBIN WREXHAM

For Liberty Properties

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

LAND AT RHOSROBIN WREXHAM

Client: Liberty Properties

Local Authority: Wrexham County Borough Council

NGR: 333280,352800

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document sets out the method to be employed for the evaluation fieldwork, reporting and archiving at a site at Rhosrobin, Wrexham, LL11 4RB, hereafter referred to as 'the site' (FIGURE 1).
- 1.2. This document has been produced by Matthew Williams of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Liberty Properties Ltd. It has been produced following consultation with Mark Walters, the archaeological Planning advisor to Wrexham Borough Council (WBC), who requested archaeological an evaluation to provide further information prior to advising on the planning application.
- 1.3. The site was subject to a geophysical survey and the results are shown in Appendix 1. The trenches were located based on the results of the survey after discussion with Mark Walters.
- 1.4. Further mitigation work may be required based on the results of this stage of work. The scope of any further works is not covered in this document.

2. Site Background

2.1.PLANNING

- 2.1.1. The trial trenching will take place pre-determination and the results will inform future planning decisions.

2.2.GEOLOGY

- 2.2.1. The bedrock geology is Halesowen formation (mudstone, sandstone and siltstone) and the drift deposits are glaciofluvial sand and gravels (BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY 2014).

2.3.TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.3.1. The land east of the Dyke consists of a large paddock with rough grass. There is a small pasture field in the north. To the west of the Dyke is a large pasture field. The south of the site consists of three fields of rough grass which rises gently to the south. At the north end of the large southern field is a copse of immature trees that surround a depression in the ground.

2.4.ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

- 2.4.1. There are various scattered features and findspots of Roman date within the vicinity. These are generally rural agricultural features.
- 2.4.2. The site is bisected by Wat's Dyke, and Early Medieval earthwork constructed by the Anglo-Saxons to define the boundary between Mercia and Wales. The bank survives to a maximum of 1.3m high but is in poor condition. The ditch, on the west side, is not extant. 470m to the north of the site is Bryn Alyn Iron Age hillfort. Both the Dyke and the hillfort are scheduled monuments.
- 2.4.3. The site is likely to have been farm land from the Medieval period onwards.

3. Aims

3.1. The aims of the evaluation are:

- ◆ To investigate the features identified from the geophysical survey
- ◆ To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains
- ◆ To assess the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site
- ◆ To assess the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological remains on the site
- ◆ To assess the anticipated impact of the development proposals on any surviving archaeological remains
- ◆ To collect enough information to allow a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised, if required

4. Methodology

4.1.1. Five trenches are proposed which have been located to investigate features identified from the geophysical survey. (FIGURE 2)The rationale for each is:

Trench	Size (m)	Rationale
1	6 x 2	Investigate linear feature 3
2	6 x 2	Investigate southern part of linear anomalies 4
3	6 x 2	Investigate northern part of linear anomalies 4
4	9 x 2	Investigate southern ring of anomalies 5
5	15 x 2	Investigate northern ring of anomalies 5

Table 1 - Trench rationales

4.1.2. The trench locations will be accurately surveyed prior to excavation and related to the National Grid. The trench location is subject to reasonable change by the field officer dependent on conditions on site, to avoid services or obstructions. No changes will be made that affect the aims of the project.

4.1.3. Trenches will be excavated using appropriately sized plant. This will normally be a 360 degree tracked excavator with a 1.8m wide toothless bucket.

4.1.4. Modern overburden will be removed by machine under the supervision of an archaeologist. Recent make-up deposits and bulk deposits can be removed by machine after identification with hand cleaning.

4.1.5. Examination and cleaning of all archaeological deposits will be by hand using appropriate hand tools. Any archaeological deposits will be examined and recorded both in plan and section. The objective will be to define remains rather than remove them.

4.1.6. The trenches have been located to investigate ditch like anomalies. In each case the aim of the trench is to excavate and record the full profile and fills of the feature.

4.1.7. Should a trench reveal archaeological deposits of interest the possibility of extending the trench or moving the position of another trench in relation to the specific site area may be discussed with the adviser to the Local Authority.

4.1.8. All works will be carried out in accordance with the Code of Conduct as set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (CHARTERED INSTITUTE FOR ARCHAEOLOGISTS

2014A).

4.2. FINDS

- 4.2.1. All identified finds, artefacts, industrial and faunal remains will be collected and retained. Certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained. No finds will, however, be discarded without the prior approval of Wrexham Museums.
- 4.2.2. Excavated material will be examined in order to retrieve information to assist in the analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts.
- 4.2.3. The finds assemblage will be retained for deposition with the site archive in Wrexham Museums.
- 4.2.4. Marking of finds will follow the requirements of Wrexham Museums. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self-sealing plastic bags marked with the same details.
- 4.2.5. All finds which constitute Treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act for England and Wales (Amended 2001) will be reported to the coroner by the finder within 14 days of discovery.
- 4.2.6. Any human remains will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. If removal is essential it can only take place under appropriate government regulations. Furthermore, if removal is essential, such removal will be in accordance with the Excavation and Post Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains (MCKINLEY & ROBERTS 1993) and the Guidelines for the Standards for Recording Human Remains (BRICKLEY & MCKINLEY 2004).
- 4.2.7. Should finds that require immediate conservation be encountered, they will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation “Conservation Guideline No. 2” (UNITED KINGDOM INSTITUTE FOR CONSERVATION 1983). Appropriate guidance set out in the Museums and Galleries Commissions “Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections” (MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES COMMISSION 1992) and the current CifA guidelines will also be followed. Packaging of all organic finds and metalwork will follow the

UKIC/Rescue guidelines, 'First Aid for Finds' (LEIGH 1998). Any necessary conservation and treatment of metalwork will be arranged in conjunction with specialist conservators.

4.3.ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

4.3.1. Environmental sampling during the evaluation will target a representative range of contexts from each phase and examine the survival of material and key archaeological contexts. Should significant environmental deposits be encountered, they will be taken and processed in line with English Heritage guidelines. Provision will be made for the requirement of the following samples:

- ◆ Bulk samples of 30-60 litres, or 100% of the context, for process using a floatation tank for the recovery of charred plant remains from the 'flot' and artefacts such as small bones, mineralised plant remains, charcoal and hammer scale from the residues.
- ◆ Samples of 1-5 litres from waterlogged deposits for analysis of waterlogged plant remains. These may be taken as sub-samples from bulk samples.
- ◆ Samples of 5-15 litres from waterlogged deposits for analysis of insect remains and other macroscopic artefacts. These may be taken as sub-samples from bulk samples.
- ◆ Samples of 2 litres for mollusc analysis, with associated continuous column samples.
- ◆ Monolith samples which may be sub-sampled for diatom, spore or pollen analysis.
- ◆ Monolith samples for soil micromorphology.

4.3.2. All environmental samples will be assessed for potential through summary analysis by an environmental specialist.

4.3.3. Bulk samples will be processed as soon as possible or discarded with the agreement of the Local Authority Archaeological Advisor. Residues will be

treated as part of the finds assemblage.

4.4.SCIENTIFIC DATING

4.4.1. Where appropriate, samples for scientific dating will be taken. Provision will be made for:

- ◆ Dendrochronological analysis from timbers.
- ◆ C14 dating from organic material, which may be taken as sub-samples from bulk or monolith samples.
- ◆ Archaeomagnetic dating from hearths or other suitable deposits.

4.5.RECORDING SYSTEM

4.5.1. A site code will be used to label all sheets, plans and other drawings; all context and recording sheets; all photographs (but not negatives); all other elements of the documentary archive.

4.5.2. The recording system used will follow the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (SPENCE 1994). Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto *pro-forma* recording sheets. Relevant context, sample and photograph registers and environmental sample sheets will also be used. Context sheets will include all relevant stratigraphic relationships and for complex stratigraphy a separate matrix diagram will be employed. This matrix will be fully checked during the course of the evaluation. If there is any doubt over recording techniques, the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual will be used as a guide.

4.5.3. A site location plan (at an appropriate scale, usually OS 1:25,000) will be prepared showing investigation area and development site in relation to the surrounding locality.

4.5.4. This will be supplemented by a detailed plan (at an appropriate scale, usually OS 1:200 or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated in relation to the investigation area.

4.5.5. Burials will be drawn at 1:10. Other detailed plans will be drawn at an

appropriate scale, usually 1:50 or 1:20.

- 4.5.6. The extent of any visible archaeological deposits will be recorded in plan. Long sections showing layers and any cut features will be drawn at 1:50. Short sections will be drawn at 1:20.
- 4.5.7. Sections containing significant deposits, including half sections, will be drawn at an appropriate scale, usually 1:10 or 1:20. All sections will be related to the Ordnance Datum using spot heights and registers of sections and plans will be kept.
- 4.5.8. Upon completion of each significant feature at least one sample section will be drawn, including a profile of the top of natural deposits. The stratigraphy of each trench will be recorded, even if no archaeological deposits have been identified.
- 4.5.9. An adequate photographic record will be made of any significant archaeological remains, including photographs of sections. This will include black and white prints illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate the general nature of the archaeological works. A register of all photographs taken will be kept on standardised forms.
- 4.5.10. A Harris Matrix stratification diagram will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the excavation.

4.6.COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 4.6.1. On site staff will be allowed to answer questions from members of the public regarding the archaeology of the area and potential archaeology of the site as described in publicly available information.
- 4.6.2. Detailed inquiries from members of the public regarding the results of the works, or sensitive information, will be directed to the project manager.

5. Report

5.1. A formal report on the results of the archaeological evaluation will be prepared on completion of the fieldwork. The report will conform to Annex 2 of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CHARTERED INSTITUTE FOR ARCHAEOLOGISTS 2014B) and will include:

- ◆ A non-technical summary (abstract)
- ◆ Introductory statements and site background
- ◆ The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
- ◆ A description of the nature, extent, date, condition and significance of all archaeological deposits recorded during the works, with specialist opinions and parallels from other sites if required.
- ◆ Illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs as necessary.
- ◆ A catalogue of finds, including any specialist reports.
- ◆ A discussion and summary of the results, including a statement of significance.
- ◆ An index of the contents and location of the archive.
- ◆ Sources consulted.
- ◆ A copy of the OASIS record sheet.

5.2. Following approval, two bound copies of the report will be sent to the client. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the report will be submitted to the appropriate Historic Environment Record within six months of completion of the report.

5.3. If requested, a copy of any relevant spatial data, including feature distribution and phase plans where appropriate and registered to the National Grid, will also be sent to the appropriate Historic Environment Record in ESRI Shapefile format.

5.4. L-P : Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby

provides an exclusive licence to the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in this document. Any document produced to meet planning requirements can be copied for planning purposes by the Local Planning Authority. Any information deposited in the Sites and Monuments Record or Historic Environment Record can be freely copied without reference to the originator for research or planning purposes.

6. Archive

- 6.1. The site archive will be so organised as to be compatible with current requirements of Wrexham Museums.
- 6.2. On completion of finds analysis, the landowner will be asked to sign a Deed of Transfer transferring title of the finds to Wrexham Museums.
- 6.3. The integrity of the site archive will be maintained. All finds and records will properly be curated (subject to the Deed of Transfer) by Wrexham Museums and be available for public consultation. Appropriate guidance set out in the MGC “Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections” , and the “Selection, Retention and Disposal of Archaeological Collections” (SOCIETY OF MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGISTS 1993) will be followed in all circumstances.
- 6.4. The minimum acceptable standard for the archival report is defined in the “Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment” (ENGLISH HERITAGE 2009). It will include all materials recovered (or the comprehensive record of such materials) and all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. It will also contain a site matrix, a site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data.
- 6.5. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (WALKER 1990) will be followed.
- 6.6. Pursuant to these agreements the archive will be presented to Wrexham Museums within six months of the completion of the fieldwork (unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority or English Heritage). In addition, written confirmation from the client will be provided for the transfer of ownership.
- 6.7. The project will be registered and regularly updated as part of the OASIS project.
- 6.8. Wrexham Museums shall be granted license for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, as long as such use is non-profit making and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulation 2003.

7. Access and Safety

- 7.1. Reasonable access to the site will be arranged for the Local Planning Authority and their archaeological advisor who may wish to make site inspections to ensure that the archaeological investigations are progressing satisfactorily.
- 7.2. The archaeological advisor should be given notice of at least one working week prior to the commencement date of site works.
- 7.3. Before any site work commences, a Risk Assessment Document will be produced setting out the site specific health and safety policies that will be enforced in order to reduce to an absolute minimum any risks to health and safety.
- 7.4. All relevant health and safety regulations will be followed. Barriers, hoardings and warning notices will be installed as appropriate. Safety helmets and visibility jackets will be used by all personnel as necessary.
- 7.5. No personnel will work in deep unsupported excavations. The installation of temporary support work and other attendance will be provided as required.

8. Staffing and Timetable

8.1.1. The project manager is Matthew Williams of L – P : Archaeology. The on site manager will be Matthew Williams, Dan Garner or Blair Poole of L - P : Archaeology. Additional staff will be used depending on the timetable.

8.1.2. No dates have been agreed for the fieldwork. The field is expected to take approximately one week on site.

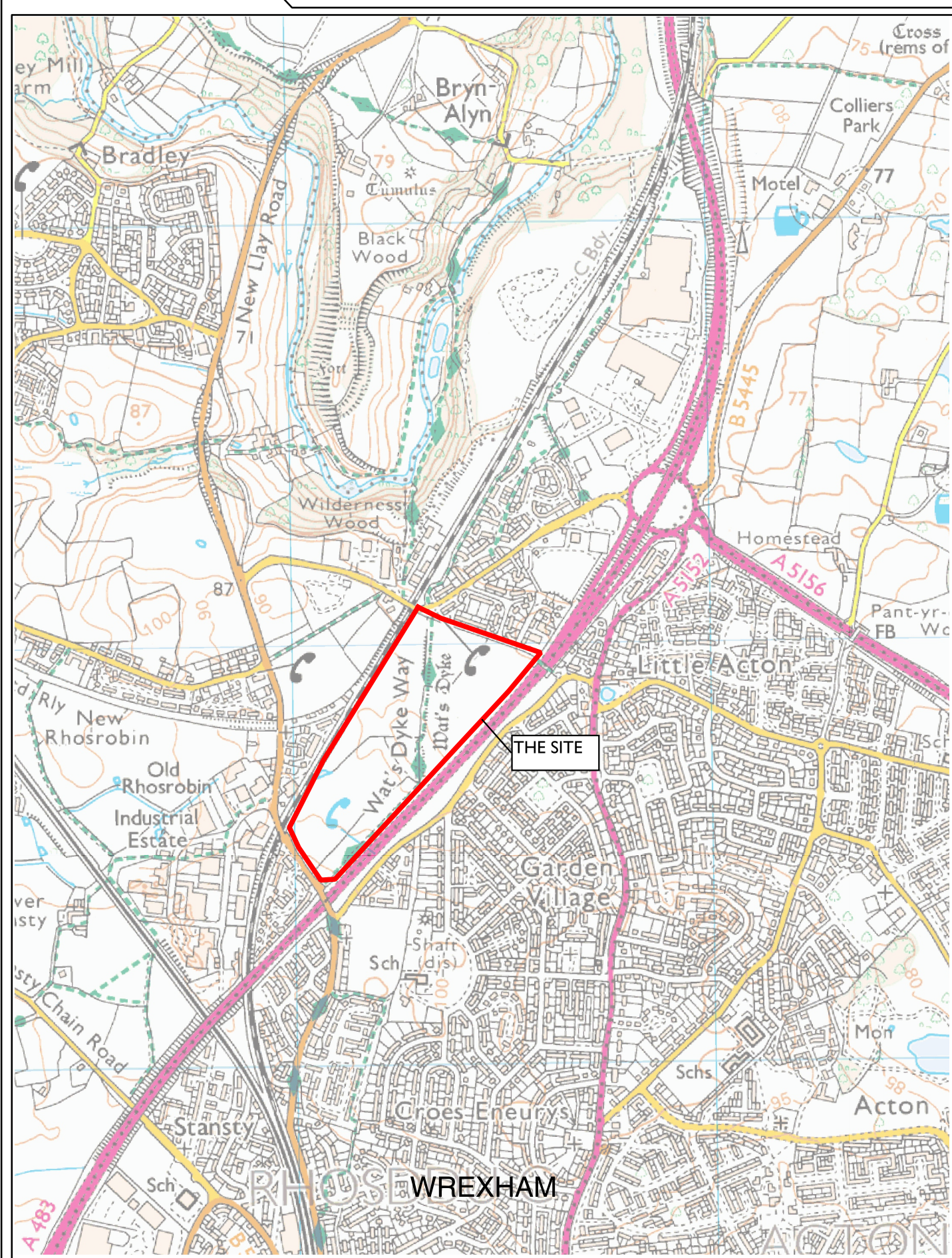
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FIGURES

FIGURE 1 // Site Location



PROJECT // I742C - Rhosrobin, Wrexham

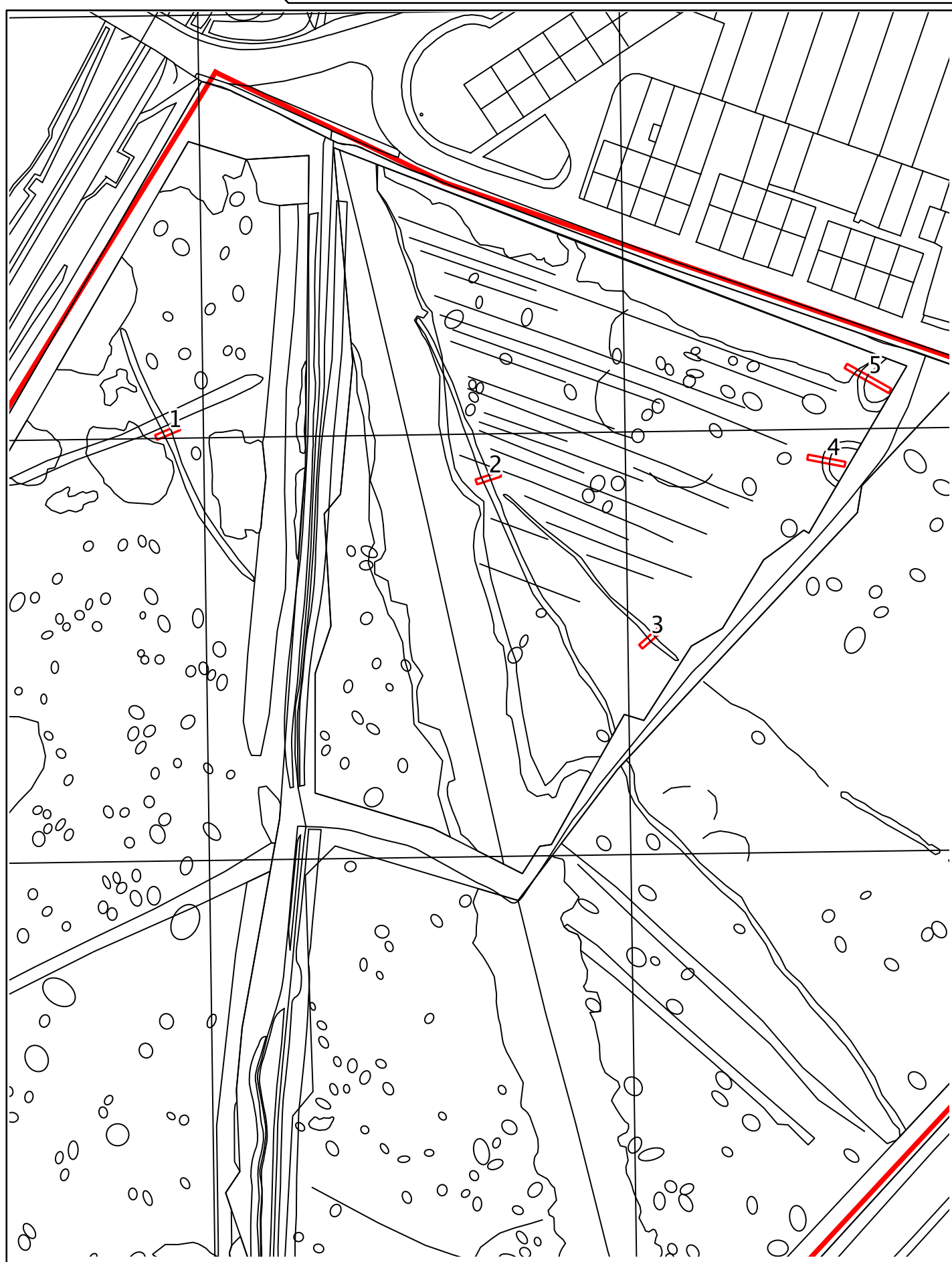
DESCRIPTION // Site Location

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FIGURE 2 // Trench locations



0 50 m



PROJECT // 1742C - Rhosrobin, Wrexham

DESCRIPTION // North site showing trench locations over geophysics

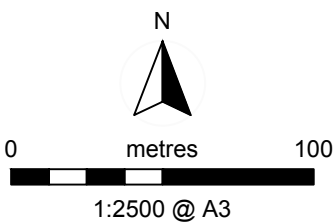
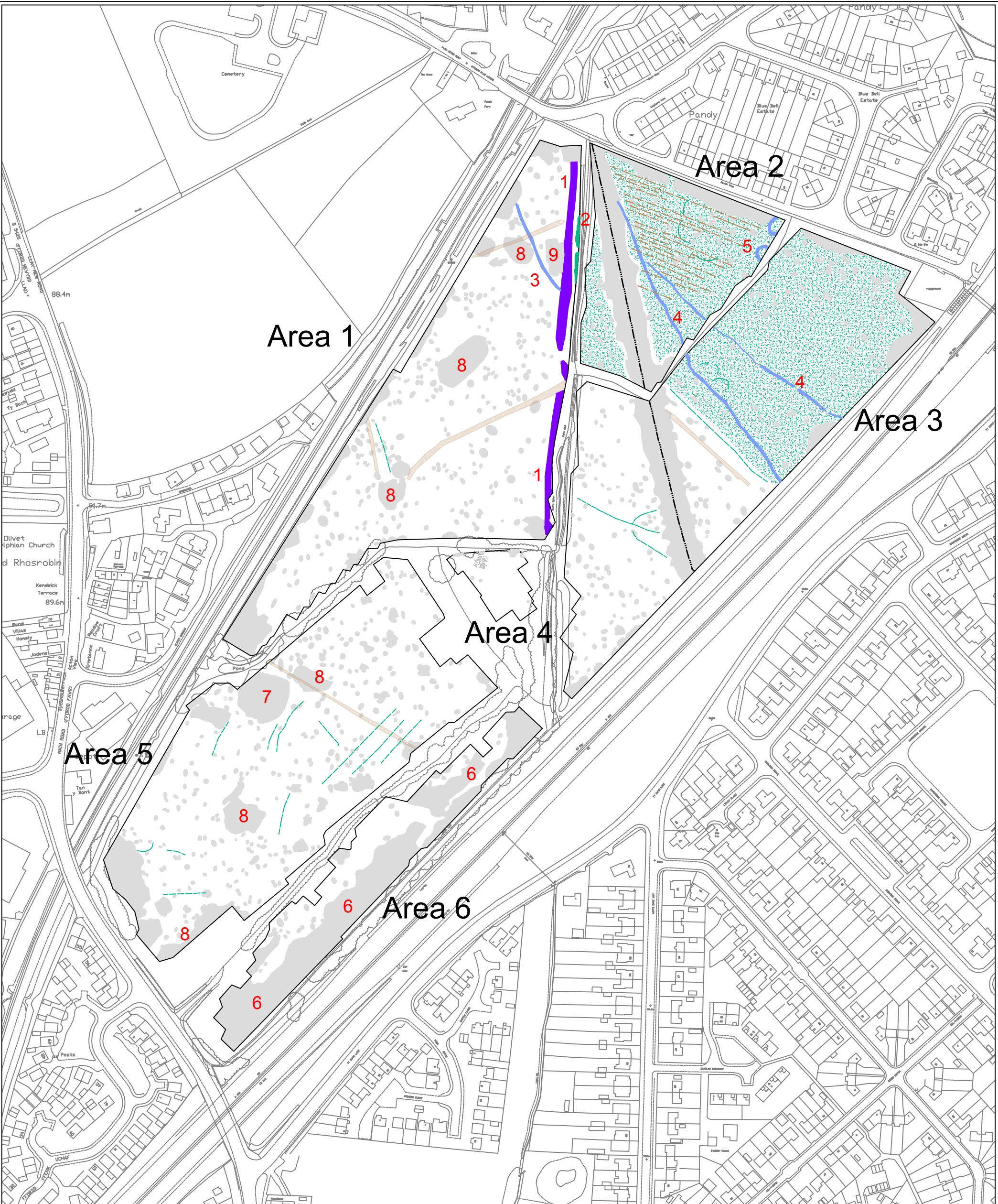
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GEOPHYSICS RESULTS

APPENDIX I



- | | | | |
|--|---|--|------------------|
| | Archaeology / ?Archaeology | | Ridge and furrow |
| | Old field boundary | | Ferrous / Pipe |
| | Uncertain Origin
(discrete anomaly / increased response / trend) | | |

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Project: G1537 Land East of Tan y Bont,
Main Road, Rhosrobin

Title: Magnetometer Survey- Interpretation

Based on the Ordnance Survey Map provided by the client. Reproduced with
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Drawn by: NT

Figure 4