

Results of Archaeological Works at Plas Coch Retail Park, Wrexham

NGR SJ 32589 51653

Project Number CR175-2019



CR ARCHAEOLOGY

Compiled by C. Rees & Matthew Jones
On Behalf of EPIC LIMITED

Summary

CR Archaeology were commissioned by Epic Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief in January 2019 at Plas Coch, Wrexham. Works were carried out in association with the erection of a Costa Coffee unit. There were known archaeological sites within the vicinity of the site, including the former Roman farmstead settlement at Plas Coch (PRN 13092) which was partially excavated in the mid 1990's. No archaeological features were uncovered during the site works. A small quantity of residual abraded Roman pottery and ceramic building material was recovered during the works.

Crynodeb

Comisiynydd CR Archaeoleg gan Epic Limited i ymgymryd to briff gnylio archeolegol ym put Ionawr 2019 ym Mhlas Coch, Wrecsam. Cynhalinydd gwaith mewn cydweithrediad to chodi uned Coffi Costa. Roedd yna safleoedd archeolegol hysbys yng nghyffiniau'r safle, gan gynnwys yr hen setliad fferm Rhufeinig ym Mhlas Coch (PRN 13092) a gloddwyd yn rhannol yng nghanol y 1990au. Neithir ddarganfuwyd unrhyw nodweddion archeolegol yn ystod y gwaith. Adennill swm bach o grochenwaith Rhufeinig a deunydd adeiladu ceramig gweddilliol yn ystod y gwaith.

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Planning Reference Number:	P/2018/0384
National Grid Reference:	SJ 32589 51653
Client:	EPIC LIMITED
Report Authors:	Catherine Rees & Matthew Jones
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1.0 Introduction

CR Archaeology were instructed by EPIC LIMITED to conduct archaeological works at the above site in compliance with planning conditions placed on the development (Planning Reference: P/2018/0384).

A specification (included as Appendix A) was written as a methodology for an Archaeological Watching Brief.

The development site was situated within an existing retail park on the outskirts of Wrexham (Figure 1). Planning permission had been granted for the erection of a drive-thru coffee shop (with associated external seating, retail sales and takeaway) together with parking, landscaping and engineering works and alterations to car park (Appendix A).

There were known archaeological sites within the vicinity of the site, including the former Roman farmstead settlement at Plas Coch (PRN 13092) which was partially excavated in the mid 1990's. The 1995 excavation north of Sainsbury's in the car park area revealed linear boundary ditches and some post holes with Roman pottery. The application site was located immediately north of the 1995 excavation area and it was considered a possibility that additional Roman period features and artefacts may be located during foundation and services excavation.

The original methodology for an archaeological watching brief at the site was that it would be conducted on all groundworks associated with the proposed project. The scope of the project was reduced following the commencement of site works as the depth of disturbance of underlying deposits was revealed. Following discussions with Mark Walters, the service trench excavations were conducted under archaeological supervision, but the works associated with the lower levels of the building footprint was not.

The watching brief showed that there was disturbance of deposits on the site to a depth in excess of 1m. No archaeological features were uncovered during the works. A small quantity of residual abraded Roman pottery and ceramic building material was recovered during the works. It was not recovered from a secure context and was from a deposit also containing Post Medieval material.

2.0 Project Aims

This scheme of works aimed to monitor groundworks at the site in order to assess the survival, character and date of any archaeological remains and to excavate/record any archaeological remains uncovered.

This was reduced from a full to a partial watching brief during the works as it became apparent that the depth of disturbance at the site was extensive, and it was considered highly unlikely that the foundation works for the Costa building would be of sufficient depth to reach any possible underlying deposits. It was also likely that the previous disturbance had destroyed any remains which may once have been present in this area.

It aimed to fulfil the mitigation criteria for undertaking an Archaeological Watching Brief as specified in the CIfA Standard and Guidance document (2014).

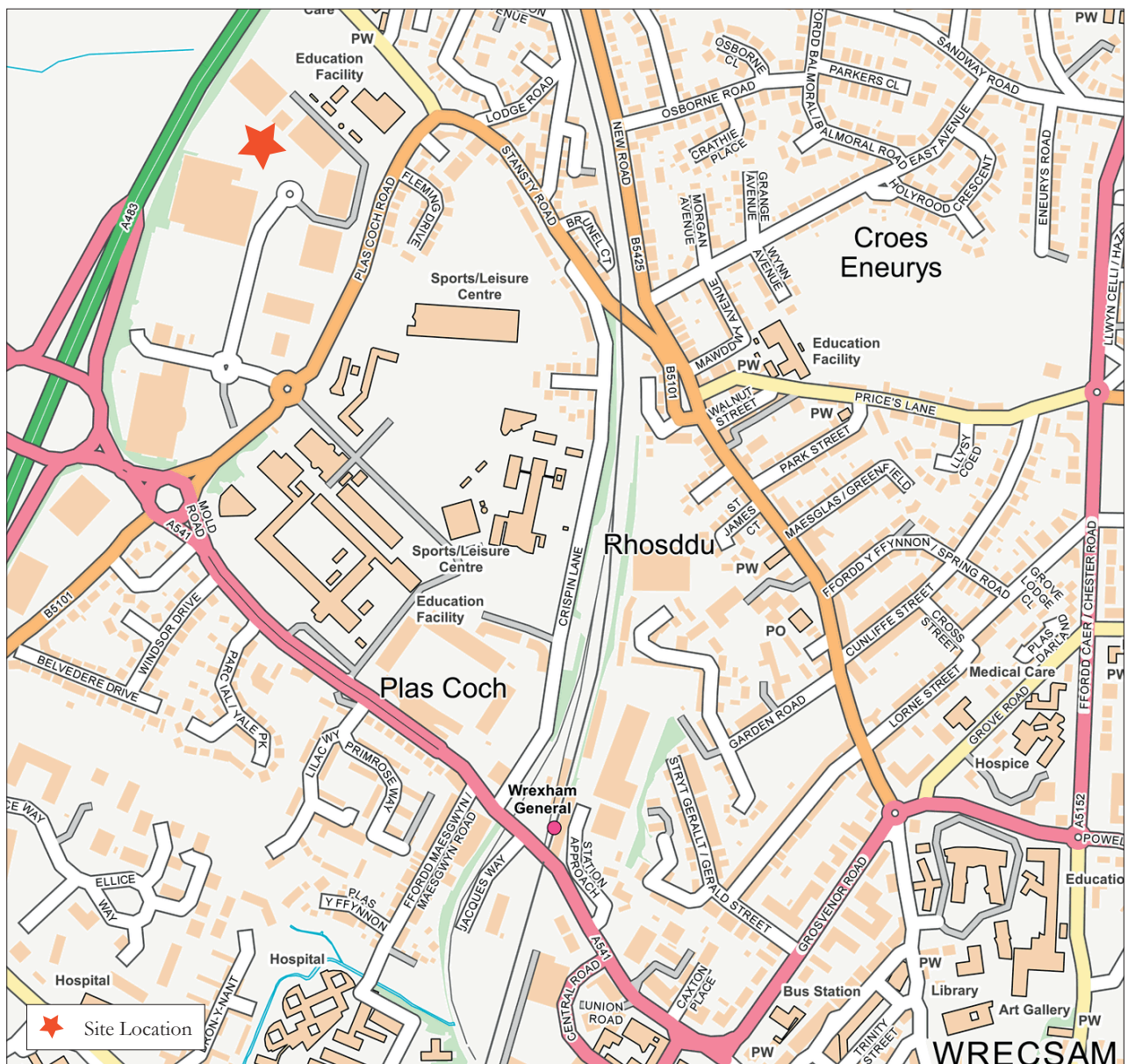
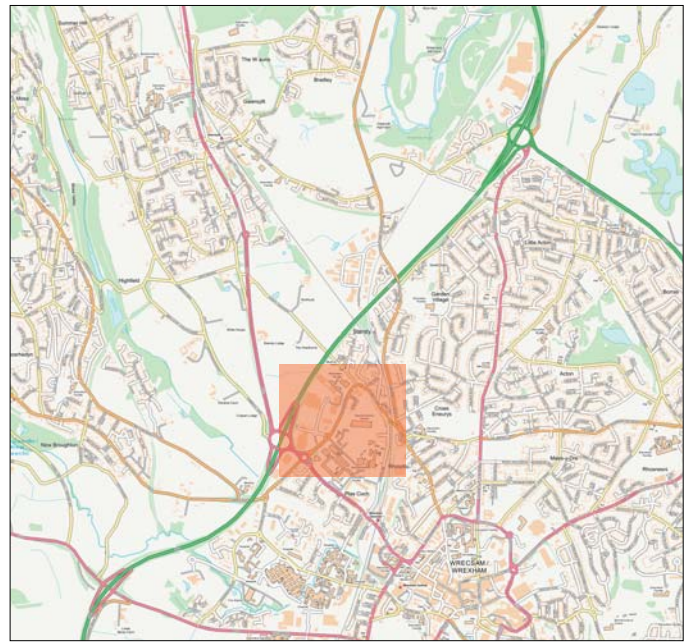
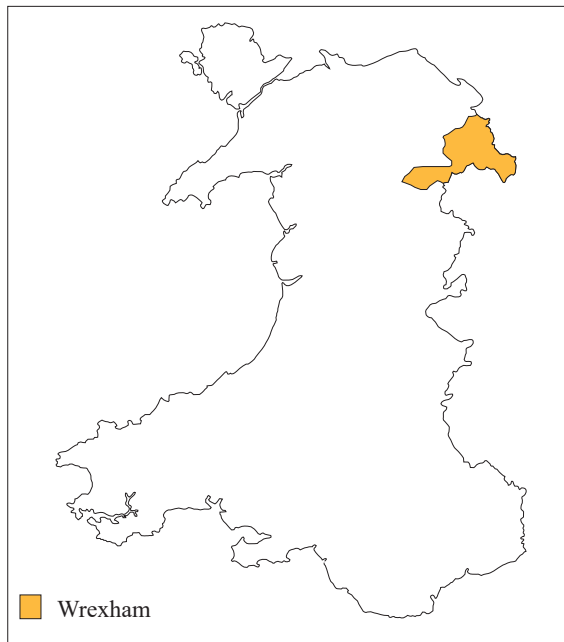


Figure 1. Site Location Map - Source: OS Open Data
(Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2019)

3.0 Scheme of Works – Methodology

The methodologies employed conformed to The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014).

3.1 Desk Based Research

A history of the site was compiled utilising information sourced from local archives and the Clwyd Powys Historic Environment Record Office. Due to the negative results of the works a map progression was not undertaken.

The Clwyd Powys Historic Environment Record were consulted and a search radius of 500m examined.

These works were carried out in accordance with the CIfA Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment (CIfA 2014).

This material forms the historical background for a full archaeological report. The report also includes the results of the Archaeological Watching Brief.

3.2 Archaeological Watching Brief

Initially this watching brief was to monitor all groundworks undertaken on the site, including all hard standing and subsoil/underlying deposits stripping and the excavation of foundations, access roads, hard standing, soakaways and any service trenches. On commencement of works it was found that the level and depth of disturbance at the site was extensive and following the monitoring of the works associated with the excavation of service trenches, and following discussion with Development Control Officer Mark Walters, it was determined that further monitoring at the site was unnecessary.

A CR Archaeology staff member was present during the machine excavation of all groundworks until it was deemed to be unnecessary. This work was undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

C.R Archaeology notified Clwyd Powys Archaeological Planning Services as to the date of the commencement of works and provided updates as to the site progress. A site visit was not necessary.

No archaeological remains were uncovered.

Fieldwork was to be conducted and managed by Matthew Jones (MA) of CR Archaeology.

3.2.1 Recording

The record forms at CR Archaeology are based on the English Heritage system and full written, graphic and photographic records were made in accordance with the English Heritage *Field Recording Manual*. Sample forms can be provided on request. The written record comprised a completed *pro-forma* trench record sheet.

A high-resolution 14.2mp (minimum) Sony Alpha digital camera was used to create a photographic record of the site. General photographs were taken as the results of the work were negative.

All photographic records were indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view were maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number. Images from photography will be stored in a loss-less digital format in this case '*.TIF'.

3.2.2 Additional Mitigation/Contingency Measures

No additional mitigation/contingency measures were necessary.

3.2.3 Recovery, Processing and Curation of Artefactual Material

All artefactual material was bagged and labelled with the site code and context number prior to their removal from site. The assemblage was limited, heavily abraded and not recovered from a secure context. It was therefore examined by Matthew Jones and will be retained as part of a teaching collection rather than deposited at the local museum as, according to best practice guidelines, it is not of sufficient quality/significance to be retained as part of a museum collection.

The works were carried out in accordance with The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (Revised 2014).

3.2.4 Archive Compilation

All records created during the fieldwork will be checked for consistency and accuracy and will form part of the *Primary Site Archive (P1)* (EH 2006). The archive will contain all data collected, including records and other specialist materials. It will be ordered, indexed, adequately documented, internally consistent, secure, quantified, conforming to standards required by the archive repository and signposted appropriately to ensure future use in research, as detailed in the English Heritage *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) methodology.

The archive will be assembled in accordance with the guidelines published in, *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museums & Galleries Commission 1994), *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990) and *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2007).

All materials contained within the *Primary Site Archive (P1)* that are subsequently identified by the *Assessment Report (P2)* as appropriate for analysis will be processed by suitable specialists and the resultant *Research Archive (P3)* will be checked and ordered according to MoRPHE criteria.

As no artefactual material is to be retained the paper/digital archive will be deposited at the RCAHMS. Archive material will be deposited in accordance with the terms and conditions for archive deposition.

3.3 Timetable for Proposed Works

Groundworks commenced on the site on 28th January and took 2 weeks. Clwyd Powys Archaeological Planning Services were informed of the exact site days to allow monitoring of works.

3.4 Staffing

The project was managed by Matthew Jones (BA (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology)).

3.5 Monitoring

The project was subject to monitoring by Clwyd Powys Archaeological Planning Services. The monitor was given prior notice of the commencement of the fieldwork.

They were notified in writing (via email) of the commencement dates for archaeological site work and were updated with the results of all works conducted as watching brief elements.

3.6 Health and Safety

A risk assessment was conducted prior to the commencement of works and site staff were familiarised with its contents. A first aid kit was located in the site vehicle.

All staff were issued with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the site work. This consisted of:

- Safety Helmets (EN397)
- Hi-visibility vests (EN471)
- Safety footwear – steel toecap and mid-sole boots and Wellingtons (EN345-47)
- Warm clothing

Staff hold a valid CSCS card.

CR Archaeology staff were not the principle contractor on site and complied with all Health and Safety Policy and specific on-site instructions provided by the client or their appointed Principal contractor or H&S coordinator.

3.7 The Report

The report clearly and accurately incorporates information gained from the programme of archaeological works. It presents the documentary evidence gathered in such a way as to create a clear and coherent record. The report contains a site plan showing the locations of photographs taken.

The report includes:

- bilingual summary
- a copy of the design brief and agreed specification
- a location plan
- full dimensional and descriptive detail of all identified finds
- a full bibliography of sources consulted
- a digital copy of the report and an archive compact disc/USB file

Copies of the reports in Adobe PDF format will be sent to the appropriate monitoring archaeologist for approval before formal submission. A bound paper copy and PDF digital copy of the report will be submitted as part of the formal submission. A digital Adobe PDF version and a bound paper copy of the final report and will be lodged with the Clwyd Powys Historic Environment Record within six months of completion of fieldwork. The new (2018) Guidance for the Submission of the Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records document will be followed.

3.7.1 Copyright

C.R Archaeology and sub-contractors shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides a licence to the client and the local authority for the use of the report by the client and the local authority in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

4.0 Topological and Geological Background

4.1 Topography

The development site is situated within an existing retail park on the outskirts of Wrexham off the A483.

4.2 Geology

The bedrock is recorded as “*Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation and Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation (undifferentiated) - Mudstone, Siltstone And Sandstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 310 to 319 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. Local environment previously dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas. These sedimentary rocks are fluvial, palustrine and shallow-marine in origin. They are detrital, forming deposits reflecting the channels, floodplains and deltas of a river in a coastal setting (with periodic inundation from the sea)*”. (www.mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

The superficial geology is recorded as “*Till, Devensian - Diamicton. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions (U). These sedimentary deposits are glacial in origin. They are detrital, created by the action of ice and meltwater, they can form a wide range of deposits and geomorphologies associated with glacial and inter-glacial periods during the Quaternary*” (www.mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

5.0 Historical Background

The CPAT HER was consulted and a search area covering a 500m search radius of Plas Coch Retail Park, Wrexham centred on NGR SJ 32589 51653 (HER Reference Number: E6444).

The search returned 11 core data entries, and 13 event data entries. The core data identified 2 sites of Roman date, 4 sites of Early Medieval date and 5 sites of Post Medieval date.

5.1 Roman

There are HER 2 entries of Roman date within a 500m search radius of the site. PRN 13092 records the Remains of a Roman farmstead found during excavation. The entry records:

“Remains of a Roman farmstead found during excavations in 1994 and 1996.

Salvage excavations in 1994 revealed a number of discontinuous shallow ditches, presumably boundary markers, a corn-drying kiln, a well and a possible hearth. There was no other evidence for buildings although a quantity of roofing tile was found. Pottery dated from 1st/2nd century to 3rd/4th century.

Excavations in 1996 uncovered a 2-phased, 2-roomed, Roman stone building set in an enclosure beside a probable trackway. Several other enclosures, 2 wells, possibly 2 corn-drying ovens, an area of dense postholes and a hearth were also visible. The stone building had clearly been preceded by a post-built structure. Roman ceramics found during the excavation suggest a date range from 2nd-4th centuries AD (Wait, G A, 1996, 73).

Probable civilian settlement dependent on agriculture (Grenter, S, & Jones, S 1994: 54)

New description from 2008 CPAT report 963;

The remains of a Roman settlement, perhaps but not certainly a farmstead, were found during excavations in 1994, 1995 and 1996. Salvage excavations in 1994 revealed a number of discontinuous shallow ditches, presumably boundary features and aligned mainly NW to SE but with some others at right angles, a corn-drying kiln, a well and a possible hearth. There was no other evidence for buildings although a quantity of roofing tile was found. A shallow re-cut ditch on the northern side of the examined area formed parts of the SW and SE sides of an enclosure, its entrance excavated on the SE side. Pottery dated from the 1st or 2nd century through to the 3rd or 4th century. Palaeoenvironmental samples from pits, ditches and the corn-drying kiln indicated the presence of cereal, chaff and weed seeds.

In 1995 further excavations to the NW revealed several ditches and post-holes and the stone foundations of the corner of a building, possibly hexagonal in layout. Excavations in 1996 uncovered a 2-phased, 2-roomed, Roman stone building -

presumably that first encountered in 1995 - set in an enclosure beside a probable trackway. Several other enclosures, 2 wells, possibly 2 corn-drying ovens, an area of dense postholes and a hearth were also visible. The stone building had clearly been preceded by a post-built structure, and there were three building phases in all. Roman ceramics found during the excavation suggest a date range from 2nd-4th centuries AD.

A watching brief 300m to the south (PRN 58188) identified no trace of Roman activity, and there are no other records of Roman finds or features from adjacent developments such as the Wrexham by-pass, the primary school or the tennis centre. This negative evidence favours a farmstead rather than a larger, nucleated settlement, but views differ and the 1996 excavation team preferring an administrative centre of small 'town' on the basis of the amount of pottery including amphorae and fine wares and the nearby discovery of a poorly recorded coin hoard (Silvester. R.J, 2008).

Several phases of Romano-British occupation which may be dated broadly to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. It was clear that archaeology had been lost and it is thought likely that the area investigated was not the main focus of the settlement. Interpretations of the site include a Romano-British farmstead, a small villa or a veterans' settlement (Jones, Nigel W, 2011)".

The second entry is PRN 132235 which records a coin hoard associated with the settlement described above. It is described as "*A coin hoard thought to have been found and dispersed by workers during construction of a Sainsbury's supermarket in 1991. (Jones, Nigel W, 2011)"*.

5.2 Early Medieval

The 4 entries of Early Medieval date (PRN's 27373, 27374, 27375, 27376) are all related to nearby Wat's Dyke.

5.3 Post Medieval

There are 5 entries of Post Medieval date. PRN 104447 was the site of milestone built over by a modern road.

PRN 58188 records the Post Medieval material associated with the excavation of the aforementioned Plas Coch Roman settlement.

PRN 17073 records the site of the Stansty Clayworks as shown on Brent and Symons' map of 1865 and the 1872 6-inch OS map. It produced 30,000 bricks in 1862.

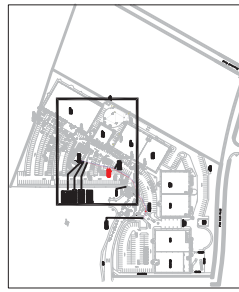
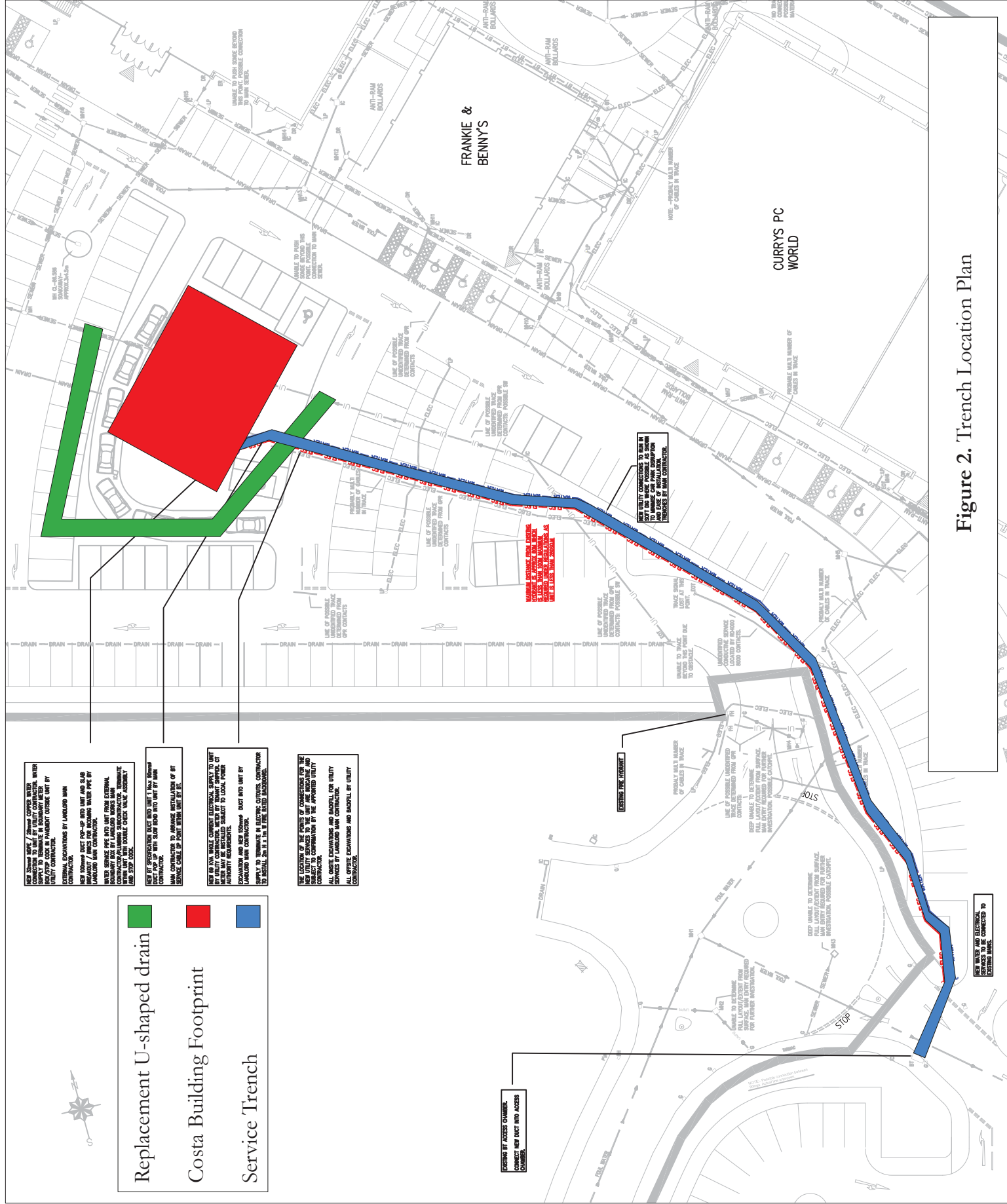
PRN's 32791 and 32797 record Grade II Listed Buildings – 8 Lodge Road (Stansty Cottage), an early 19th century, single storey probable former lodge and Nos 10-12 (even) Weston Drive (NE side).

6.0 Results of Archaeological Works (Figure 2, Plates 1-9)

The watching brief conducted at the Plas Coch site covered three areas: the foundations of the main building, a large U-shaped replacement drainage trench surrounding the main building area and a lengthy service trench (figure 2, Plates 1-6).

All deposits encountered during the works were of modern origin and associated with the retail park works.

A single deposit contained a small quantity of residual Roman material which had been disturbed during previous works at the site. The layer was not an intact archaeological deposit and, in addition to the Roman material, contained 19th and 20th century material. The drain and the service trench were cut to depths of 0.92 – 2.84m, which was well below the required development depth of the foundations for the main building plot.



- [illegible]

LEGEND: ALL BELOW GROUND UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

DRAIN — DRAIN — DRAIN — DRAIN	DRAINAGE
WATER — WATER — WATER — WATER	WATER
GAS — LOW PRESSURE ELECTRIC LV ELECTRIC HV TELECOMS — BT SEWER	GAS-LOW PRESSURE ELECTRIC LV ELECTRIC HV TELECOMS — BT SEWER
UTILITY METER	UTILITY METER

(M) EXISTING UTILITIES ARE SHOWN IN GREY/PINK COLOUR

[illegible]



Plates 1 - 6. Drain & Service Trench Sample Sections

Following discussion with Development Control Officer Mark Walters it was agreed that the watching brief would not cover the remainder of the site works as the level of disturbance encountered to date had demonstrated that the archaeological potential of the remaining site area was negligible.

6.1.0 Costa Building Footprint

The tarmac and some of the underlying bedding gravel was removed to an approximate depth of 0.40m over the footprint of the main building. It was determined that as the maximum depth of the foundations was to be 0.90m from top of tarmac further monitoring was unnecessary as the surrounding drainage trench (see below) had demonstrated that disturbance in that area was well in excess of this depth.

6.1.1 Replacement U-shaped drain

The drainage trench surrounding the main building plot was excavated to a depth of 1.53 - 2.84m. It was 1.8 – 2.0m in width.

Below the tarmac the entire deposit sequence was found to be made ground associated with the construction of the retail park. Diagnostic items found within these deposits included food wrappers dated to 1998 and fragments of broken tarmac and concrete. The underlying natural was encountered at depths of 0.95 - 1.61m.

6.1.2 Service Trench

The service trench had a width of 0.84- 1.0m. It varied in depth between 0.92 - 1.20m. The eastern length was made ground, and below the tarmac and bedding was a large mixed deposit of a black gravel with clay. There were lenses of bedding gravel containing modern rubbish. The earliest date noted on packaging was 2000. Also noted were fragments of broken tarmac and concrete.

A deposit of reddish-brown clay was recorded at a depth of 1m which contained a small quantity of Roman material. Also recovered from this deposit was a single piece of Buckley ware and a latex glove (see plate 5) proving the Roman material to be residual, rather than this layer being an intact archaeological deposit. The natural was encountered at a depth of 0.95 - 1.20m.

6.2 Artefactual Material

A small quantity of artefactual material was recovered from a single modern deposit. The service trench deposit contained Roman and 19th century pottery/CBM along a latex glove and plastic waste. The deposit was a modern tipping layer associated with the construction of the retail estate.

6.2.1 Roman

Ceramic Building Material (CBM) (Plate 7)

A small quantity of heavily abraded CBM was recovered. It was orange in colour with fine quartz grit. The two larger fragments represent the corners of bricks. The other fragments were too small to identify. Total weight 360g.

Black Burnished Ware (Plate 8)

Two sherds of heavily abraded black burnished ware were recovered - a small rim sherd and a single body sherd. The rim was squared and the sherd 3.5 cm in length. It was a black fabric with rare small white quartz grains. The form is consistent with having been part of a jar.

The second sherd was a square body sherd, of faded black exterior colour and light grey interior colour. There are some signs of ribbing in the interior.

6.2.2 Post Medieval (Plate 9)

A small rectangular sherd of pink fabric slipware pottery with a brown glaze was recovered. It has a fragmentary cream curved decoration and is of 19th century date.



Plate 7 (Above Left). Heavily Abraded Roman CBM

Plate 8 (Above Right). Two Sherds of Abraded Black Burnished Ware

Plate 9 (Left). Sherd of 19th Century Slipware Pottery

6.2.3 Modern

Modern material was recovered at all levels, and in most deposits these items included crisp packets, bread packaging, sweet wrappers and soft drink cans. There were also remnants of construction waste together with a broken machine bucket tooth, discarded work gloves, spray can lids and grease pots. Dates on the food waste were all within the 90's and early 2000s representing the construction dates of the retail park and clearly demonstrating the modern date of the overburden/made ground on site.

7.0 Conclusion

The watching brief showed that there was disturbance of deposits on the site to a depth in excess of 1m. All deposits were made ground associated with the construction of the retail park. No archaeological features were uncovered during the works. A small quantity of residual abraded Roman pottery and ceramic building materials were recovered during the works. This material was not recovered from a secure context, and was from a deposit also containing Post Medieval and Modern material.

8.0 Bibliography

AAF. 2007. *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*

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Watkinson, D. & Neal, V. 2001. *First Aid for Finds*. London. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works

Websites (All websites were consulted on 23/01/2019)

www.mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html

Appendix A.

Specification for Archaeological Works

Specification for Archaeological Works at Plas Coch Retail Park, Wrexham

NGR SJ 32589 51653

Project Number CR175-2019



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Illustrations

Figure 1. Site Location Map

Appendices

Appendix A. Proposed Works

1.0 Introduction

C.R Archaeology have been instructed by EPIC LIMITED to conduct archaeological works at the above site in compliance with planning conditions placed on the development (Planning Reference: P/2018/0384).

This specification has been written following an email conversation with Development Control Archaeologist Mark Walters of Clwyd Powys Archaeological Planning as a methodology for an Archaeological Watching Brief.

The development site is situated within an existing retail park on the outskirts of Wrexham (Figure 1). Planning permission has been granted for the erection of a drive-thru coffee shop (with associated external seating, retail sales and takeaway) together with parking, landscaping and engineering works and alterations to car park (Appendix A).

There are known archaeological sites within the vicinity of the site, including the former Roman farmstead settlement at Plas Coch (PRN 13092) which was partially excavated in the mid 1990's. The 1995 excavation north of Sainsbury's in the car park area revealed linear boundary ditches and some post holes with Roman pottery. The application site is located immediately north of the 1995 excavation area and additional Roman period features and artefacts may be located during the earliest stages of foundation and services excavation.

This document details the methodology for an archaeological watching brief which is to be conducted on all groundworks associated with the proposed project.

2.0 Project Aims

This scheme of works aims to monitor groundworks at the site in order to assess the survival, character and date of any archaeological remains and to excavate/record any archaeological remains uncovered.

It aims to fulfil the mitigation criteria for undertaking an Archaeological Watching Brief as specified in the CIfA Standard and Guidance document (2014).

3.0 Historical Background

The following section is, through necessity, brief and is intended to merely place the site in context. A more detailed history of the site will form an element in the proposed works and will concentrate more specifically on the site itself.

There are known archaeological sites within the vicinity of the site, including the former Roman farmstead settlement at Plas Coch (PRN 13092) which was partially excavated in the mid 1990's. The 1995 excavation north of Sainsbury's in the car park area revealed linear boundary ditches and some post holes with Roman pottery. The application site is located immediately north of the 1995 excavation area and additional Roman period features and artefacts may be located during the earliest stages of foundation and services excavation.

3.1 Topography

The development site is situated within an existing retail park on the outskirts of Wrexham off the A483.

3.2 Geology

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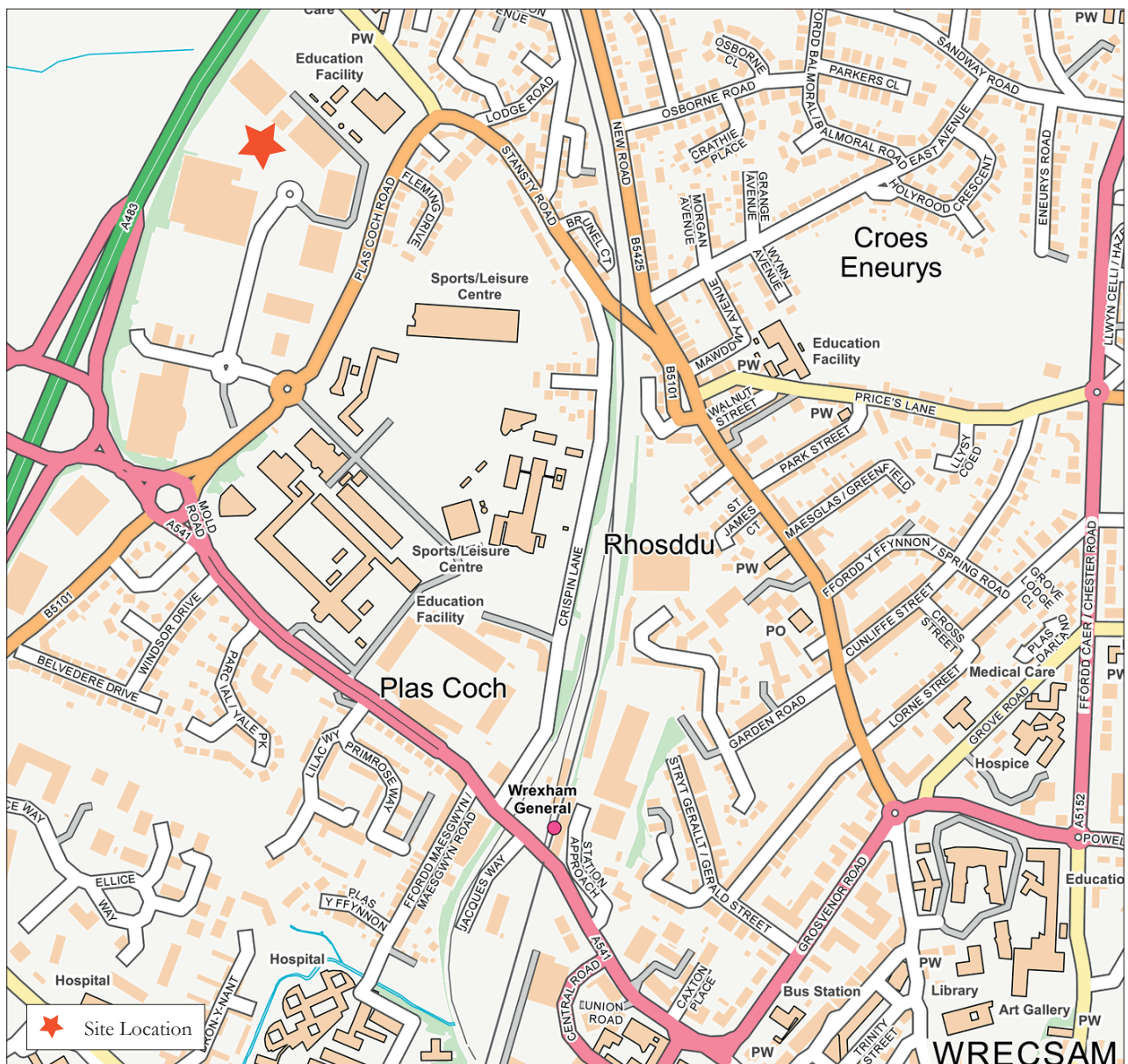
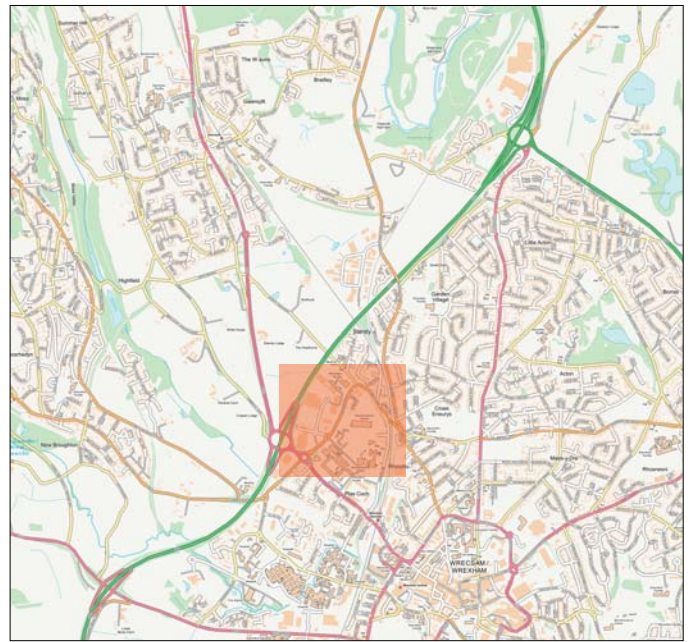
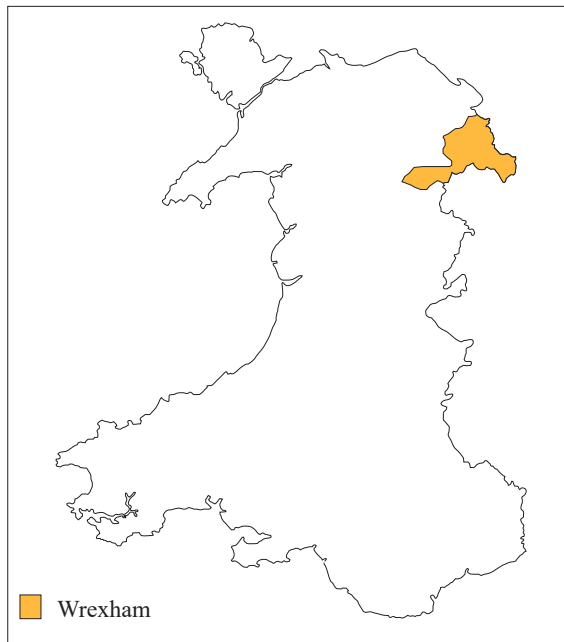


Figure 1. Site Location Map - Source: OS Open Data
 (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2019)

The superficial geology is recorded as “*Till, Devensian - Diamicton. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions (U). These sedimentary deposits are glacial in origin. They are detrital, created by the action of ice and meltwater, they can form a wide range of deposits and geomorphologies associated with glacial and inter-glacial periods during the Quaternary*” (www.mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

4.0 Scheme of Works – Methodology

The methodologies employed will conform to The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014).

4.1 Desk Based Research

A history of the site will be compiled utilising information sourced from local archives and the Clwyd Powys Historic Environment Record Office. A map progression will be undertaken along with a search of tithe records.

The Clwyd Powys Historic Environment Record will be consulted and a search radius of 500m will be examined.

These works will be carried out in accordance with the CIfA Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment (CIfA 2014).

This material will form the historical background for a full archaeological report. The report will include the results of the Archaeological Watching Brief.

4.2 Archaeological Watching Brief

This watching brief will monitor all groundworks undertaken on the site. This will include all hard standing and subsoil/underlying deposits stripping and the excavation of foundations, access roads, hard standing, soakaways and any service trenches.

A C.R Archaeology staff member will be present during the machine excavation of all groundworks. This work will be undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. If archaeological remains are encountered, then machine excavation will cease at this level until it is clear in plan that the full extent of any features have been uncovered within the development area.

C.R Archaeology will notify Clwyd Powys Archaeological Planning Services as to the date of the commencement of works and if any significant archaeological features are uncovered. A site visit will be arranged if necessary to allow for the inspection of works.

All archaeological remains/potential archaeological remains identified during the works will be marked using spray paint and cordoned off to allow excavation by C.R Archaeology staff. Any archaeological features, structures or remains will be trowel cleaned by hand. Investigation of such features, structures or deposits will be sufficient to determine their character, date, significance and quality. If features yield suitable material for dating/environmental processing, then samples will be taken for processing off site. The size of these samples will depend on the size of the feature but for smaller features a sample of up to 95% will be taken. For larger features a sample of up to 40 litres will be taken. In the event of a significant discovery Clwyd Powys Archaeological Planning Services will be informed of the discovery and a mitigation strategy agreed before works will progress.

Fieldwork is to be conducted and managed by Matthew Jones (MA) of C.R Archaeology. Additional staff can be brought in as required and all staff members will have experience equivalent to AIfA level and cv's can be provided on request.

4.2.1 Recording

The record forms at C.R Archaeology are based on the English Heritage system and full written, graphic and photographic records will be made in accordance with the English Heritage *Field Recording Manual*. Sample forms can be provided on request. The written record shall comprise completed *pro-forma* record sheets.

Plans, sections and elevations will be produced on gridded, archive standard stable polyester film at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate. Representative measured sections will be prepared as appropriate showing the sequence and depths of deposits. All drawings will be numbered and listed in a drawing register, these drawing numbers being cross-referenced to written site records. A 'harris matrix' diagram will be created.

A high-resolution 14.2mp (minimum) Sony Alpha digital camera will be used to create a photographic record of the site. This will be comprised of photographs of archaeological features and appropriate groups of features and structures. Included in each photograph will be an appropriate scale and north arrow. General photographs will also be taken in the event of a negative result.

All photographic records will be indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view will be maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number. Images from photography will be stored in a loss-less digital format in this case '*.TIF'.

4.2.2 Additional Mitigation/Contingency Measures

In the event of a significant archaeological discovery being made during the excavation, C.R Archaeology will immediately inform both the client and the development control archaeologist. Consultation will take place between C.R Archaeology, Clwyd Powys Archaeological Planning Services and the client with regards to the most suitable course of action.

In the unlikely event that human remains are encountered site work will cease with immediate effect. The coroner, client and monitoring body will be informed immediately. The company will abide by the requirements of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857. Any arrangements regarding the discovery of human remains will be at the discretion of HM Coroner whose instruction/permission will be sought. All human remains are to be preserved *in situ*, covered and protected. They will only be removed in exceptional circumstances and with the appropriate Ministry of Justice licence, environmental health regulations, Coroner's permission and, if appropriate, in compliance with the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981 or other local Act, with adequate security provided in such cases.

Any artefacts recovered that fall within the scope of the Treasure Act 1996 will be reported to the landowner, GAPS and to HM Coroner.

4.2.3 Recovery, Processing and Curation of Artefactual Material

All recovered artefactual material will be retained, cleaned, labelled and stored according to *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014) and *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 2001). The aim will be to create a stable, ordered, well-documented, accessible material archive forming a resource for current and future research (CIfA 2014).

All artefactual material will be bagged and labelled with the site code and context number prior to their removal from site. The archive reference number will be clearly marked on all finds.

Each assemblage will be examined according to typological or chronological criteria and conservation needs identified. An assessment report of all post-medieval material will be produced by Matthew Jones and further specialists will be appointed as required. A list of specialists will be prepared prior to the post-excavation phase of works.

Any specialist conservation necessary will be undertaken by Cardiff Conservation Services, Cardiff University. This will be conducted in accordance with guidelines issued by the Institute for Conservation.

Following analysis all archaeological material recovered it is hoped that the material will be deposited in Wrexham Museum. However, the client reserves the right to retain ownership of said artefacts. Processed assemblages will be boxed according to issued guidelines and a register of contents compiled prior to deposition. In the event that no artefactual material is recovered/the artefactual material is not to be retained/is to be retained by the client then the paper and digital archive will be deposited with the RCAHMW.

The works will be carried out in accordance with The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (Revised 2014).

4.2.4 Archive Compilation

All records created during the fieldwork will be checked for consistency and accuracy and will form part of the *Primary Site Archive (P1)* (EH 2006). The archive will contain all data collected, including records and other specialist materials. It will be ordered, indexed, adequately documented, internally consistent, secure, quantified, conforming to standards required by the archive repository and signposted appropriately to ensure future use in research, as detailed in the English Heritage *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) methodology.

The archive will be assembled in accordance with the guidelines published in, *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museums & Galleries Commission 1994), *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990) and *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2007).

All materials contained within the *Primary Site Archive (P1)* that are subsequently identified by the *Assessment Report (P2)* as appropriate for analysis will be processed by suitable specialists and the resultant *Research Archive (P3)* will be checked and ordered according to *MoRPHE* criteria.

Should archaeological material be recovered it is hoped any archive/artefactual material created/discovered during this archaeological project will be deposited in Wrexham Museum. Should no artefacts be recovered then the paper/digital archive will be deposited at the RCAHMW. This will also be the case should the client retain the artefact assemblage from the site. Archive material will be deposited in accordance with the terms and conditions for archive deposition.

4.3 Timetable for Proposed Works

It is envisaged that groundworks will commence within the next 1-2 weeks and will be carried out on a day rate basis and staff will attend site as necessary. Additional time will be allotted as necessary for archive research, report compilation and site archiving. Clwyd Powys Archaeological Planning Services will be informed of the exact site days to allow monitoring of works.

4.4 Staffing

The project will be managed by Matthew Jones (BA (Archaeology), MA (Archaeology)). All staff will have a skill set equivalent to the CIfA ACIfA level. C.Vs for all staff employed on the project can be provided on request. All projects are carried out in accordance with CIfA *Standard and Guidance* documents.

4.5 Monitoring

The project will be subject to monitoring by Clwyd Powys Archaeological Planning Services. The monitor will be given prior notice of the commencement of the fieldwork. A projected time-scale and copy of the risk assessment can be provided on request to the monitoring body prior to the commencement of works.

They will be notified in writing (via email) of the commencement dates for archaeological site work and will be updated with the results of all works conducted as watching brief elements. This will be initially as a telephone call & email with attached JPEG photographs and if/when required further interim reports will be compiled.

4.6 Health and Safety

A risk assessment will be conducted prior to the commencement of works and site staff will be familiarised with its contents. A first aid kit will be located in the site vehicle.

All staff will be issued with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the site work. Initially this is anticipated to consist of:

- Safety Helmets (EN397)
- Hi-visibility vests (EN471)
- Safety footwear – steel toecap and mid-sole boots and Wellingtons (EN345-47)

Any further PPE required will be provided by C.R Archaeology

All staff will have passed at least a CITB health and safety test at least operative level and will carry a Construction Related Organisation (CRO) White Card for Archaeological Technician (Code 5363) or a Site Visitor card.

C.R Archaeology staff are not the principle contractor on site and will also comply with any Health and Safety Policy or specific on-site instructions provided by the client or their appointed Principal contractor or H&S coordinator.

4.7 The Report

The report will clearly and accurately incorporate information gained from the programme of archaeological works. It will present the documentary evidence gathered in such a way as to create a clear and coherent record. The report will contain a site plan showing the locations of photographs taken.

As a minimum the report will include:

- bilingual summary
- a copy of the design brief and agreed specification
- a location plan
- all identified features and significant finds plotted on an appropriately scaled site plan
- full dimensional and descriptive detail of all identified finds and features
- a full bibliography of sources consulted
- a digital copy of the report and an archive compact disc/USB file

Copies of the reports in Adobe PDF format will be sent to the appropriate monitoring archaeologist for approval before formal submission. A bound paper copy and PDF digital copy of the report will be submitted as part of the formal submission. A digital Adobe PDF version and a bound paper copy of the final report and will be lodged with the Clwyd Powys Historic Environment Record within six months of completion of fieldwork. The new (2018) Guidance for the Submission of the Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records document will be followed.

In the event of a positive result of site works a short article will be submitted to the Archaeology in Wales Journal.

4.7.1 Copyright

C.R Archaeology and sub-contractors shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides a licence to the client and the local authority for the use of the report by the client and the local authority in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

5.0 Bibliography

AAF. 2007. *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*

English Heritage. 2006. *Management Of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE)*

GAT. 1999. *Historic Landscape Characterisation – Creuddyn & Arllechwedd Historic Landscape Character Areas*. Report 318 (Written by Dr D Gwyn and D. Thompson)

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014. *Code of Conduct*

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014. *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014. *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief*

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014. *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*

Walker, K.1990. *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage*, United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) Archaeology Section

Watkinson, D. & Neal, V. 2001. *First Aid for Finds*. London. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works

Websites (All websites were consulted on 23/01/2019)

www.mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html

Appendix B.

Proposed Development Plans

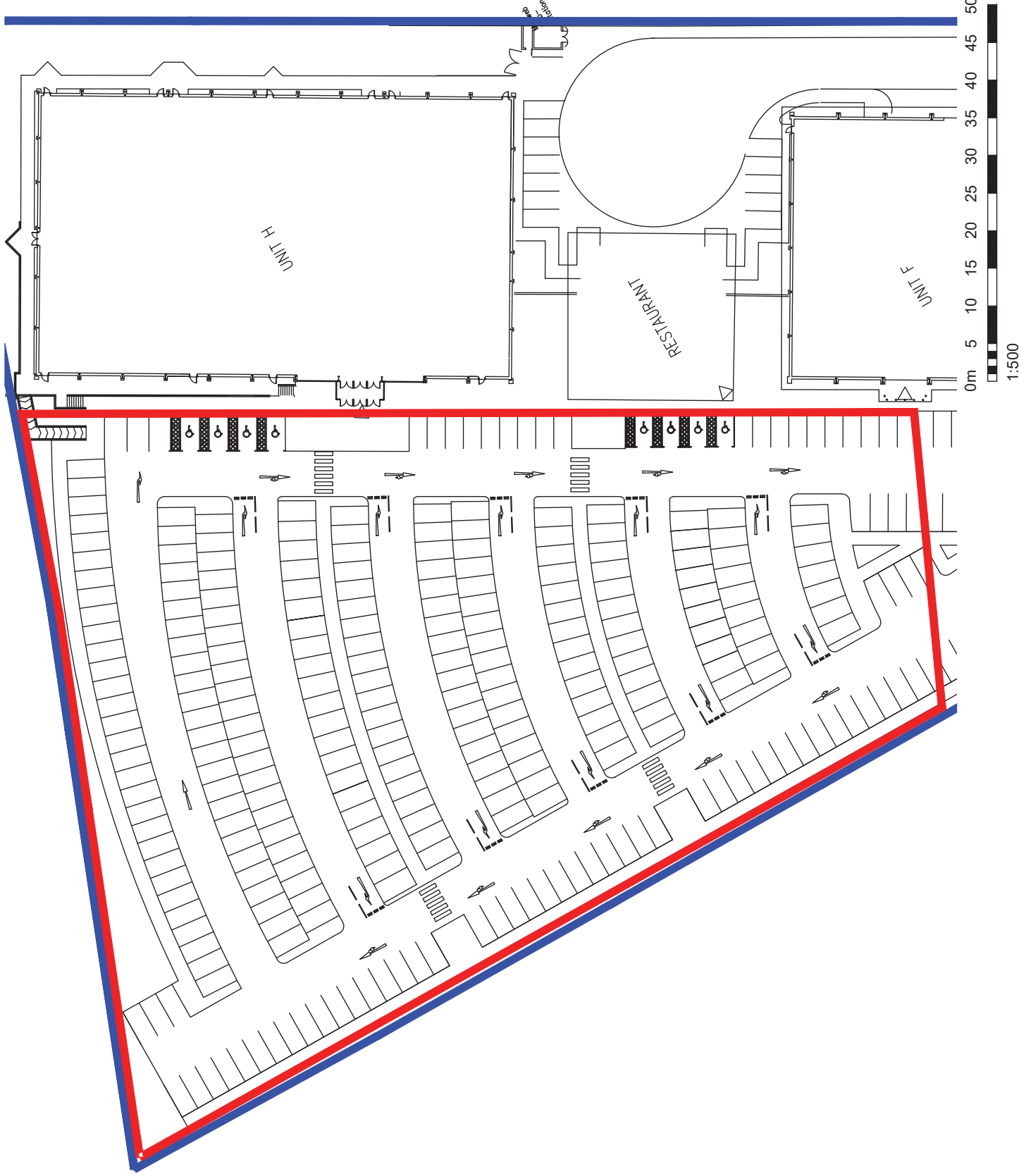
2. All sizes to be checked on site prior to construction.
3. This drawing is the copyright of the author.

Ownership Boundary
(8.45 Acres / 3.42 Hectares)

Application Boundary
(1.92 Acres / 0.78 Hectares)

Development Schedule

Existing Parking Spaces (within implied boundary): 289



14/07/2018 PLANNING APPLICATION ISSUE SMC

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client Ediston Real Estate

EDISTON REAL ESTATE

project

Plas Coch Retail Park
Wrexham, Wales

drawing Existing Site Plan
original size A3

scale 1:500
drawn SMC

date 07.03.18
checked AD

status PLANNING
drawn by AD

drawing no. G2717 AL(0)002
revision

2. All sizes to be checked on site prior to construction.
3. This drawing is the copyright of the author.

Ownership Boundary
(8.45 Acres / 3.42 Hectares)

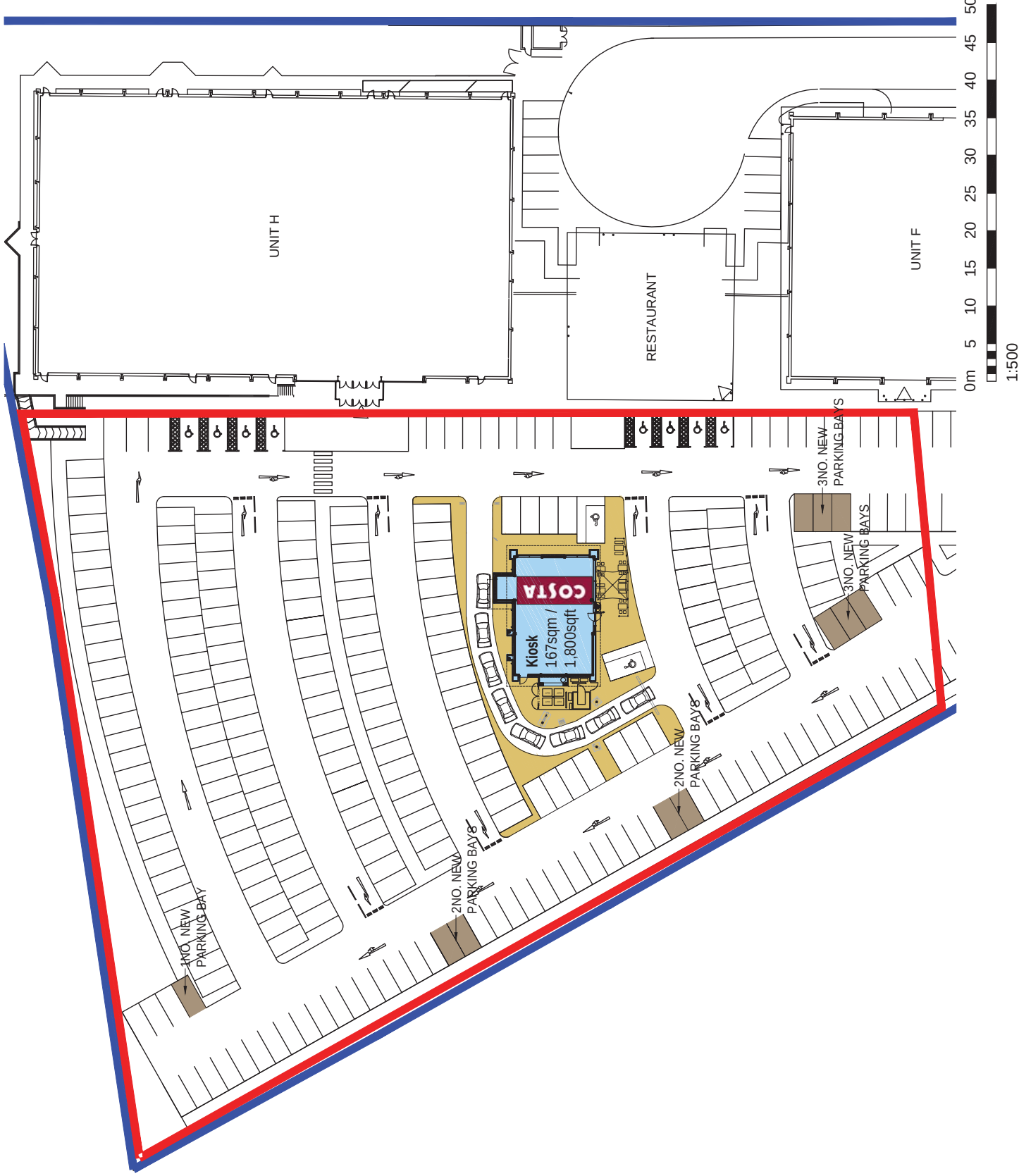
Application Boundary
(1.92 Acres / 0.78 Hectares)

Development Schedule

Existing Parking Spaces (within implied boundary): **289**

Proposed Parking Spaces (within implied boundary): **265**

Deficit - 24



A 10/09/18 External Seating Amended CEM
14/07/2018 PLANNING APPLICATION ISSUE SMC

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client Ediston Real Estate

EDISTON
REAL ESTATE

project

Plas Coch Retail Park

Wrexham, Wales

drawing Proposed Site Plan

original size A3

scale drawn SMC

date checked AD

status PLANNING

drawing no. AL(0)003

revision A

1. Do not scale this drawing - if in doubt ask.
2. All sizes to be checked on site prior to construction.
3. This drawing is the copyright of the author.

Ownership Boundary
(8.45 Acres / 3.42 Hectares)

Application Boundary
(1.92 Acres / 0.78 Hectares)

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0m 12.5 25 37.5 50 62.5 75 87.5 100 112.5 125



1:1250

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client

Ediston Real Estate

project
Plas Coch Retail Park
Wrexham, Wales

drawing
Location Plan
original size
A3

scale	1:1250	drawn	SMC
date	07.03.18	checked	AD
status	PLANNING	passed	AD
job no.	G2717	drawing no.	AL(0)001
		revision	

Appendix C.

Location and Direction of Photographic Plates

