# Land at Church View, School Lane, Bronington, Wrexham SY13 3HN (P/2023/0802)

## Project Design for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

**January 2026 v1.0**

Project Code: A0600.1
Planning Ref: P/2023/0802
Event PRN: TBC

# Land at Church View, School Lane, Bronington, Wrexham SY13 3HN

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been commissioned by Henry Fearnall, hereafter 'the Client', to provide a project design (PD) for carrying out a phase of archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks associated with the *erection of a dwelling* on land at Church View, School Lane, Bronington, Wrexham SY13 3HN (**SJ 48794 39483**), hereafter 'the Site' (figures 01-03).

Full planning permission (**P/2023/0802**) was secured by the Client from Wrexham County Borough Council, hereafter 'the Council', on the 22nd October 2024 with the following condition concerning archaeology being applied to the permission:

*Condition 10*

*The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeological contractor is present during the groundworks so that the archaeological monitoring and recording can be conducted. The monitoring and recording must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recordings.*

*A copy of the resulting report should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (neil.bayliss@cpat.org.uk). On approval by the Local Planning Authority, project data must be submitted and approved for inclusion in the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust's Historic Environment Record. For any questions regarding this submission process, please contact the HER Team at her@cpat.org.uk. The full digital archive must also be submitted and 2 approved for inclusion within the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW or the Archaeology Data Service, ADS.*

*Reason: To secure preservation by record of any archaeological remains which may be revealed during ground excavations for the consented development.*

It is a requirement that this PD is approved by the Development Management Archaeologist (DMA) at Heneb Clwyd Powys Archaeology (CPA), in their role as archaeological advisors to the Council, prior to the commencement of the archaeological monitoring and recording.

The DMA at CPA made the following consultee comments regarding the proposed scheme:

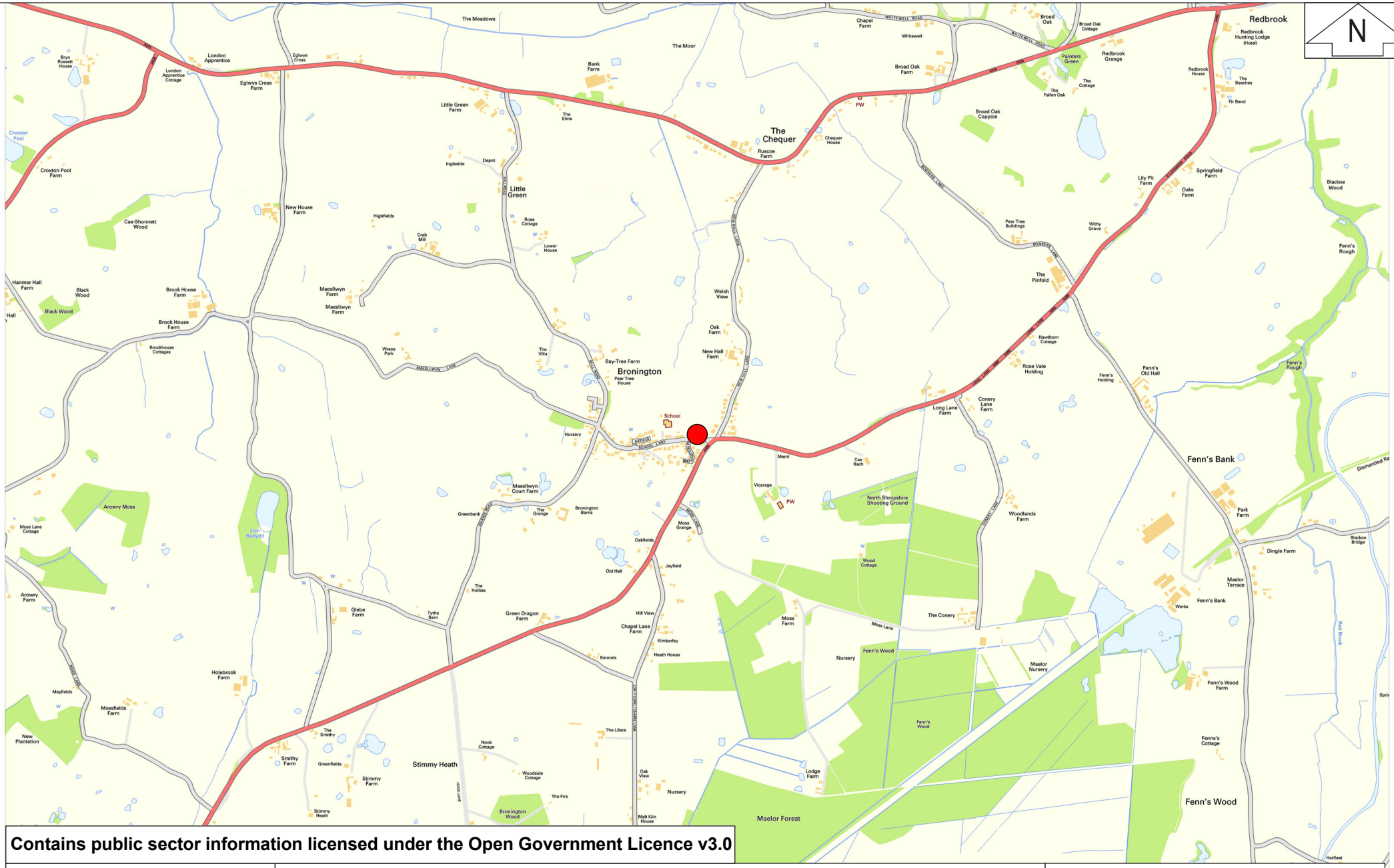
*Information held within the Regional Historic Environment Record indicates that the proposed development is within the Medieval Core of Bronington, and 20m east of a potential Medieval platform (PRN 105315). These sites often contain previously unknown sub-surface archaeology including former extensions, rubbish pits, former plot boundary ditches, garden features and artefacts from other periods.*

*In this case we recommend that the initial ground preparation for this area is completed with a qualified archaeologist present due to the high potential for sub-surface archaeology. This is in accordance with the Planning Policy Wales (Feb 2021) and TAN 24 (May 2017) guidance, and an appropriate condition is supplied below.*

*The works should be completed by an archaeologist who is part of a recognised professional archaeological organisation working to the Standard and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA) relating to Archaeological Monitoring and Recording. The archaeologist should be working in accordance with an approved project design/written scheme of investigation*

*(WSI) and should preferably be part of a Registered Archaeological Organisation with CIFA accreditation.*

The work will adhere to the guidelines specified in *The Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023) and *The Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023).




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**Figure 01:** Location of Church View, School Lane, Bronington, Wrexham SY13 3HN (SJ 48794 39483). Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

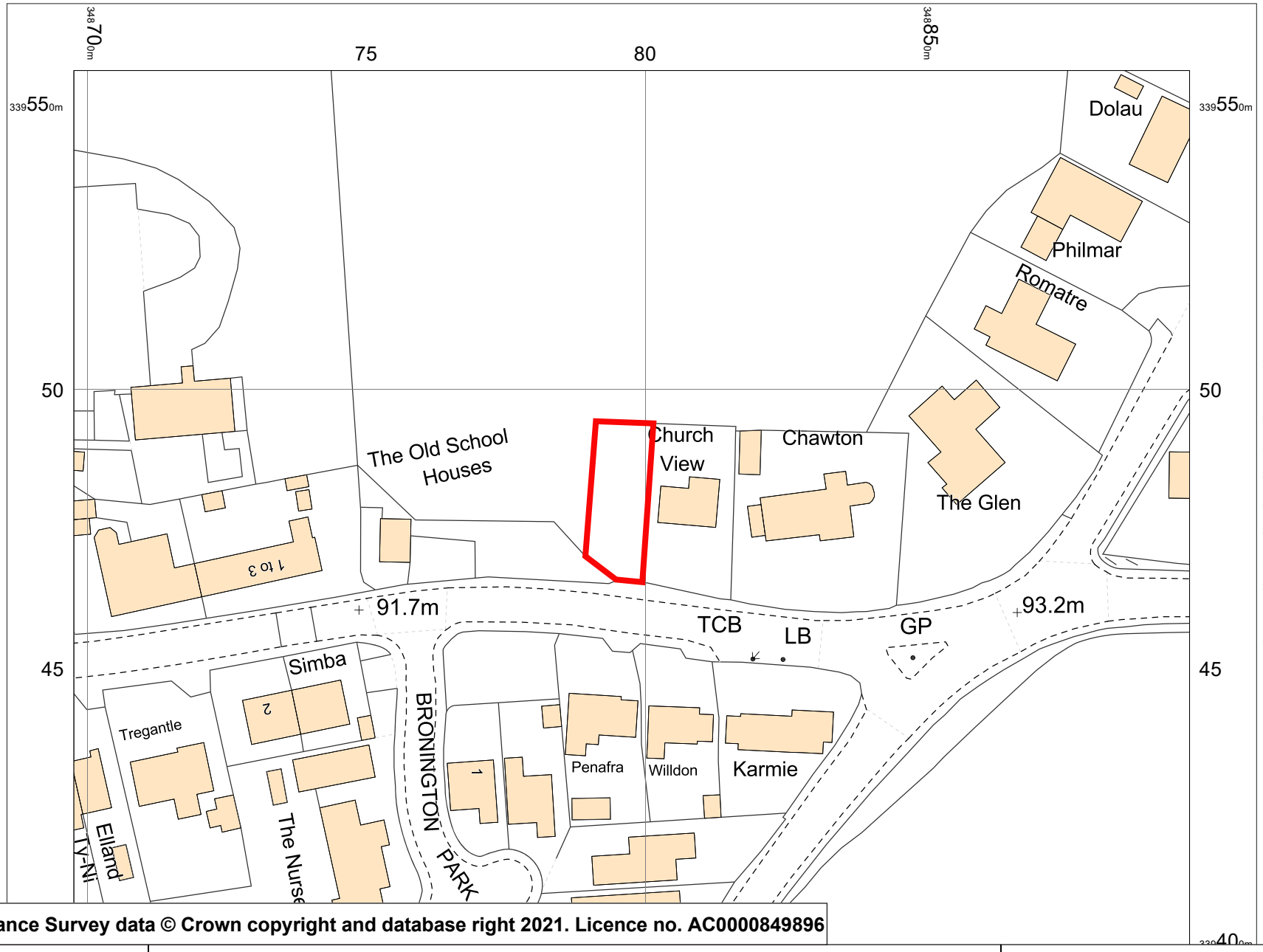
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**Figure 02:** Location of Church View, School Lane, Bronington, Wrexham SY13 3HN (SJ 48794 39483). Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

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**Figure 03:** Site plan. Scale 1:1,000 at A4.

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## 2.0 POLICY CONTEXT

At an international level there are two principal agreements concerning the protection of the cultural heritage and archaeological resource: the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (adopted 1972; in force 1975) and the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised) (the Valetta Convention). The Valetta Convention was adopted by the Council of Europe in January 1992 and entered into force internationally in May 1995. The United Kingdom ratified the Convention in September 2000 and it entered into force for the UK in March 2001. Responsibility for UK treaty obligations sits with the UK Government; in practice, delivery in Wales is taken forward through the Welsh planning and historic environment system, including Cadw's statutory functions and the duties placed on decision makers.

The management and protection of the historic environment in Wales is set out primarily within the following legislation (as amended):

- Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023
- Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as it applies in Wales)
- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
- Planning (Wales) Act 2015
- Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as it applies in Wales)
- Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012 (as amended)

The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 is the current principal statutory framework for the protection and management of the Welsh historic environment. It is a consolidation Act which brings together, in a modern and accessible form, the key Welsh law for scheduled monuments, listed buildings and associated historic environment systems. The Act came fully into force on 4th November 2024 and, in doing so, replaced (in Wales) the earlier principal legislation that had previously governed these matters, including the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The reforms introduced through the 2016 Act remain important in substance, but the operative Welsh provisions are now found within the 2023 Act.

With respect to the cultural heritage of the built environment, the statutory duty to give particular weight to the conservation of Listed Buildings in Wales is now expressed through the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended for Wales). In particular, section 314A requires the decision maker, when considering whether to grant planning permission for development affecting a listed building or its setting, to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the listed building, its setting, and any features of special architectural or historic interest.

Historic Environment Records (HERs) should no longer be described as "county-based" records maintained under "Town and Country Planning 1995". In Wales, there is now a statutory duty (within the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023) for the Welsh Ministers to compile and keep up to date a historic environment record for each local authority area, to ensure public accessibility, and to support evidence-based decision making. In practice, HER content remains central to desk-based assessment, evaluation, mitigation design and proportionate planning decisions.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. The most recent PPW is Edition 12 (last updated 19 July 2024). Chapter 6 addresses the historic environment and emphasises that positive management of change should be based on a proper understanding of the nature and significance of historic assets and the benefits they can deliver for place, culture and the economy. PPW makes clear that the historic environment is a finite and shared resource, and that it can only be sustained for future generations where historic assets are appropriately protected and conserved. In practical terms, this underpins the expectation that proposals affecting historic assets (including archaeological remains) are informed by proportionate assessment, and that harm is avoided, minimised and mitigated in a transparent manner.

PPW is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs). Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment (May 2017) contains detailed guidance on how the planning system should consider the historic environment during development plan preparation and decision making on planning applications and related consents. TAN 24 superseded (and cancelled) the Welsh Office Circulars 60/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology, 61/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas, and 1/98 Planning and the Historic Environment: Directions by the Secretary of State for Wales. Where older guidance or legacy text refers to superseded Welsh legislation, this should now be read across to the equivalent provisions within the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 and associated Welsh regulations and guidance.

## 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Bronington lies within the distinctive historic landscape of Maelor Saesneg, a lowland zone east of the River Dee whose gently undulating topography and glacial and alluvial deposits contrast with much of upland Wales. The Dee and its tributaries have strongly structured land-use potential over millennia, with evidence suggesting relative stability in the river's broader course since later prehistoric or Roman times.

From the early medieval period, Maelor Saesneg formed part of a politically contested borderland in which power shifted between Welsh polities and Mercia. Landscape-scale frontier works, including Offa's and Wat's Dykes, are understood to reflect the consolidation of Anglo-Saxon authority in the wider region during the later 8th century, and the broader administrative history of Maelor Saesneg suggests sustained cross-border influence in governance and landholding thereafter. Historic landscape characterisation for the wider Bronington area also notes place-name evidence consistent with early medieval settlement in the surrounding district, and the later agrarian landscape retained strong signatures of long-term cultivation and reorganisation.

The Council's observations that the proposed development lies within the medieval core of Bronington and close to a recorded medieval platform (PRN 105315) are consistent with the broader historic character of Maelor Saesneg, where medieval settlement commonly developed alongside open-field agriculture. In this landscape, arable land around settlements was historically organised into open fields subdivided into strips, a system which has left widespread traces in the form of ridge and furrow and strip-field patterns. The wider administrative context is also relevant: Maelor Saesneg is first recorded as a distinct territory in the early 13$^{th}$ century and, following the late 13$^{th}$ century conquest of Wales, came under English Crown control and was incorporated administratively within Flintshire under the Statute of Wales. Within this setting, nucleated or semi-nucleated settlements and their associated plots typically accumulated complex sequences of domestic and agricultural activity over time.

Later medieval occupation in the broader Bronington area is underlined by high-status portable material recovered locally, notably the "Bronington Hoard". Reporting associated with the hoard indicates deposition after 1465, within the Wars of the Roses period, and the assemblage has been treated as regionally significant material culture evidence for the later 15$^{th}$ century. While the hoard findspot is not, in itself, determinative for any given development parcel, it provides an important contextual indicator that later medieval wealth, mobility, and patterns of concealment and loss are represented within the community's historic landscape.

From the post-medieval period, the Maelor Saesneg landscape is characterised by progressive modification of medieval agrarian frameworks, including enclosure, boundary definition and agricultural improvement, while retaining local survivals of earlier strip-fields and ridge and furrow in places. In many lowland border communities, this period is also associated with incremental rebuilding, plot subdivision, the creation of gardens and ancillary structures, and the excavation of new ditches, pits and drains, often overprinting medieval boundaries rather than wholly removing them.

In the 19th century, Bronington's built heritage included the development of an ecclesiastical centre at Holy Trinity, which Cadw records as a church with an early component said to have been adapted from an 18$^{th}$ -century barn, converted in 1836, with later additions including the chancel and tower in 1864. This illustrates the broader pattern of improvement and investment characteristic of the period, alongside ongoing agricultural use and settlement consolidation in the surrounding landscape. horizons.

## 4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING - ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS

The archaeological monitoring and recording shall be maintained:

1. *During all groundworks.*

The CIfA maintains a standard which states that archaeological monitoring and recording:

*Will record and report on the archaeological resource within a specified area, using methods that are described in a project design that is fit for purpose. The programme of work undertaken will be carried out by suitably competent persons in accordance with that project design and the CIfA Code of conduct and give due regard to the guidance for archaeological monitoring and recording. All archaeological monitoring and recording will result in a report, published accounts where appropriate, and a stable, ordered, accessible archive (2023).*

Archaeological monitoring and recording is defined by the CIfA as 'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons' (CIfA 2023). The archaeological monitoring and recording will take place within a specified area within the Site where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.

The CIfA further identifies the purpose of archaeological monitoring and recording 'as allowing, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works' (ibid).

It is also important to note that archaeological monitoring and recording provides an opportunity, if needed, for a signal to be made to all interested parties, before the destruction of the archaeological materials, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the archaeological monitoring and recording itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

Archaeological monitoring and recording is, therefore, not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

The aims of the archaeological monitoring and recording are:

- To allow, within the resources available, the opportunity to gain information about and record the presence/absence, nature and date of archaeological remains on the Site affected by excavations and groundworks, the presence and nature of which could not be established with sufficient confidence in advance of works which may disturb them.

- To provide the facility to signal to the relevant authorities, before irreversible impact to remains that an archaeological and/or historic find has been made for which the resources allocated to the archaeological monitoring and recording itself are inadequate to support their treatment to an adequate and satisfactory standard.

The specific objectives of the archaeological monitoring and recording are:

- To observe and recover any artefacts of archaeological significance.

- To record the location, dimensions and nature of any deposits, features, structures or artefacts of archaeological significance.

- To recover samples of any deposits considered to have potential for analysis for palaeoenvironmental data should the opportunity arise.

## 5.0 METHODOLOGY

### 5.1 Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

The methodology for the archaeological monitoring and recording has been prepared with reference to the CIfA's document *The Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* (2023) and *The Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2020) and will be kept under constant review during the project, in order to see how far it is meeting the terms of the aims and objectives, and in order to adopt any new questions which may arise.

Curatorial monitoring of the archaeological work on behalf of the Council will be carried out by the DMA at CPA. To facilitate the curatorial monitoring, the officer shall be provided with a minimum of two weeks' notice of the start of the archaeological work.

A suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist(s) from Aeon Archaeology will be commissioned for the maintenance of the archaeological monitoring and recording. On arrival on site, the archaeologist(s) will report to the site manager and conform to the arrangements for notification of entering and leaving site. The archaeologist(s) will keep a record of the date, time and duration of all attendances at site, the names and numbers of archaeologists deployed and any actions taken. The archaeologist will be provided with a Health & Safety Induction by the construction contractor and wear a safety helmet, safety footwear and high visibility jacket/vest at all times.

If deposits and or artefacts are exposed during excavations for the development which require recording and recovery, it may be necessary to delay works whilst the proper investigation and recording takes place. Archaeological monitoring and recording recording can often be undertaken without delay to groundworks, depending upon the specific circumstances and flexibility of all the staff on site.

Within the constraints of the terms of the archaeological monitoring and recording work, the archaeologist will not cause unreasonable disruption to the maintenance of the work schedules of other contractors on site. In the event of archaeological discoveries the treatment of which (either arising from the volume/quantity of material and/or the complexity/importance of the material) is beyond the resources deployed the Client will be notified and a site meeting/telephone consultation arranged with the DMA at CPA. The aim of the meeting will be to confirm that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the archaeological monitoring and recording itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard and identify measures which would be sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard prior to destruction of the material in question.

Any archaeological deposits, features and structures identified which can be investigated and recorded under the terms of the archaeological monitoring and recording will be excavated manually in a controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project – subject to the limitations on site access.

It may not be necessary to excavate the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits but the inter-relationships between archaeological deposits, features and structures will be investigated sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project and the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits will be investigated where practicable.

The method of recording will follow the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and the stratigraphy will be recorded in written descriptions even where no archaeological deposits have been identified. The archaeologist will record archaeological deposits using proformae recording forms and

locate them on a large-scale site plan related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum references.

The groundworks excavations shall be undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The drawn record will comprise plans at scale 1:20 and sections at scale 1:10; propriety electronic hardware and software to prepare site drawings may be used as appropriate.

The photographic record will be maintained throughout using a digital SLR camera (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution (72 dpi) and all archaeological features will be recorded photographically with photographs taken in RAW format and later converted to TIFF format for long-term storage and JPEG format for presentation and inclusion in the archive. The standards for the digital archive will adhere to those set out in '*Guidelines for Digital Archaeological Archives'* (RCAHMW, 2015).

### 5.2 Archaeological Monitoring and Recording report

#### 5.2.1 Post-excavation Assessment

A report on the results of the archaeological monitoring and recording, in accordance with the recommendations in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006; 2015), and in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* (2023) and *The Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2020) will be required to be produced upon conclusion of the archaeological fieldwork. The report will be completed within a maximum of two months of completion of work on site and may include examination and quantification leading to the identification of function, form, date, method of manufacture, material/fabric type, source, parallels, attributes and condition of artefacts; of the exploitation of wild or domesticated resources; the reconstruction of environments; and the nature of human populations.

Full analysis of the results of the project, including: dating and interpretation of excavated features; pottery and other finds analysis; analysis of industrial residues by an appropriate specialist or specialists; analysis of samples for environmental data (including pollen, plant macrofossils and beetles) by an appropriate specialist or specialists; radiocarbon dating; discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context, including relating the excavated features and palaeoenvironmental data to evidence from nearby sites, and discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context may be required.

The scope of post-excavation assessment will subject to a specification for approval by the DMA at CPA, upon the conclusion of the fieldwork project and preliminary report.

### 5.2.2 Post-excavation Report

Following completion of the stages outlined above, a report will be produced that will include:

- A non-technical summary.
- A table of contents.
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the site.
- A statement of the project aims.
- An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same to include a statement on preservation bias and the means of data collection and sampling strategies.
- A factual summary of the history, development and use of the site.
- A statement setting out the nature, quantity and condition of the material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) including commentary on any bias observed due to collection and sampling strategies and commentary on long-term storage requirements.
- A statement setting out the nature and quantity of the documentary archive (notes, photographs, drawings, digital data).
- A general site plan indicating the position and size of the areas subject to archaeological monitoring and recording and the locations of archaeological deposits identified and recorded during the works.
- Plans and sections at appropriate scales, augmented with appropriate photographs. All plans and sections will be related to the Ordnance Survey datum levels and to the National Grid.
- Other maps, plans, drawings, stratigraphic matrices and photographs as appropriate.
- Summary assessment reports on the artefact, bio-archaeological, dating and other assessments/analyses.
- A discussion of the location, extent, date, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits and finds identified during the project.
- A discussion of any research implications arising from the archaeological work.
- Notes on consultations with conservators and the nominated archive repository related to the immediate and long-term conservation and storage requirements for the data held in the site archive and recommendations of retention/discard of artefacts and ecofacts.
- A bibliography of sources consulted.
- Appendices to the report will include artefact catalogues, reports on assessments/analyses and an index to the project archive and a statement on its location/proposed repository.
- In addition the post-excavation report will summarise and draw together the findings of all of the phases of work.
- An updated Data Management Plan (DMP), an archive Selection Strategy, and an archive content list will be included.

Illustrations will include plans of the location of the study area and archaeological sites. Historical maps, when appropriate and if copyright permissions allow, will be included. Photographs of relevant sites and of the study area where appropriate will be included.

A draft copy of the report will be sent to the DMA at CPA and to the Client for comment and approval prior to production of the final report.

## 6.0 DIGITAL DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

### 6.1 Type of study

Archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Church View, School Lane, Bronington, Wrexham SY13 3HN (SJ 48794 39483).

### 6.2 Types of data

Photographs, photograph register, scaled drawings.

### 6.3 Format and scale of the data

Photographs taken in *RAW* format and later converted to *TIF* format for long term archiving and *JPEG* format for use in the digital report, converted using *Adobe Photoshop*. All photographs renamed using *AF5* freeware with the prefix (*project code_frame number*) and a photographic metadata created using Microsoft Excel (*.xlsx*) or Access (*.accdb*).

All written registers, pro-formas, and scaled drawings scanned as *.PDF* files.

### 6.4 Methodologies for data collection / generation

Digital data will be collected / generated in line with recommendations made in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2014. Rev 2020). Sections 3.3.1 and 3.3.3 are relevant:

> *3.3.1 Project specifications, research designs or similar documents should include a project specific Selection Strategy and a Data Management Plan.*
>
> *3.3.3 Project designs or schedules of works etc should outline the methodology used in recording all information, in order to demonstrate that all aspects of archive creation will ensure consistency; for instance in terminologies and the application of codes in digital data sets, highlighting relevant data standards where appropriate*

### 6.5 Data quality and standards

Consistency and quality of data collection / generation shall be controlled and documented through the use of standardised procedure as outlined in the PD. This will include the use of standardised data capture file formats, digital proformas, data entry validation, peer review, and use of controlled vocabularies.

### 6.6 Managing, storing and curating data.

All digital data will be organised into Aeon Archaeology proformae project file systems and backed up to the cloud using *Digital River's Crashplan* with additional copies made to external physical hard drive.

### 6.7 Metadata standards and data documentation

Digital metadata created using Microsoft Excel (*.xlsx*) or Access (*.accdb*) of all photographic plates.

Paper metadata created from Aeon Archaeology proformas for contexts, artefacts, environmental samples, archaeological monitoring and recording day sheets, trench sheets, and basic record sheets and then scanned to create digital .PDF copies.

### 6.8 Data preservation strategy and standards

Long term data storage will be through the submission of digital (.PDF) reports to the regional Historic Environment Record (HER), the RCAHMW and retention of copies of all digital files at Aeon Archaeology on physical external hard drive and uploaded to Digital River's Crashplan.

### 6.9 Suitability for sharing

All digital data will be placed within the public realm (through the channels in 5.8) except for where project confidentiality restricts the sharing of data. All data sets will be selected / discriminated by the Senior Archaeologist at Aeon Archaeology and written permission will be sought from all project specific Clients prior to the sharing of data.

### 6.10 Discovery by potential users of the research data

Potential users of the generated digital data (outside of the organisation) will be able to source the data and identify whether it could be suitable for their research purposes through access granted via the RCAHMW website. Requests can also be made for data through the regional HER's and directly to Aeon Archaeology (info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk).

### 6.11 Governance of access

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

### 6.12 The study team's exclusive use of the data

Aeon Archaeology's requirement is for timely data sharing, with the understanding that a limited, defined period of exclusive use of data for primary research is reasonable according to the nature and value of the data, and that this restriction on sharing should be based on simple, clear principles. This time period is expected to be six months from completion of the project however Aeon Archaeology reserves the right to extend this period without notice if primary data research dictates.

### 6.13 Restrictions or delays to sharing, with planned actions to limit such restrictions

Restriction to data sharing may be due to participant confidentiality or consent agreements. Strategies to limit restrictions will include data being anonymised or aggregated; gaining participant consent for data sharing; and gaining copyright permissions. For prospective studies, consent procedures will include provision for data sharing to maximise the value of the data for wider research use, while providing adequate safeguards for participants.

### 6.14 Regulation of responsibilities of users

External users of the data will be bound by data sharing agreements provided by the relevant organisation or directly through Aeon Archaeology.

### 6.15 Responsibilities

Responsibility for study-wide data management, metadata creation, data security and quality assurance of data will be through the Senior Archaeologist (Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA) at Aeon Archaeology when concerning data generation and early/mid-term storage. Upon deposition with digital depositories the study-wide data management, metadata creation, data security and quality assurance of data will be the responsibility of the specific organisations' themselves.

### 6.16 Organisational policies on data sharing and data security

The following Aeon Archaeology policies are relevant:

- Aeon Archaeology Archive Deposition Policy 2025
- Aeon Archaeology Quality Assurance Policy 2025
- Aeon Archaeology Conflict of Interest Policy 2025
- Aeon Archaeology Outreach Policy 2025
- Aeon Archaeology Digital Management Plan 2025

## 7.0 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS DESIGNS (FAWDs)

The discovery of substantial archaeological remains and/or features during the archaeological monitoring and recording may result in the requirement for an extended programme of archaeological mitigation. This may require the submission of revised quotes to the client as well as a new specification which will be required to be approved by the DMA at CPA prior to implementation.

## 8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

Relevant archaeological deposits will be sampled by taking bulk samples (a minimum of 10.0 litres and maximum of 30.0 litres) for flotation of charred plant remains. Bulk samples will be taken from waterlogged deposits for macroscopic plant remains. Other bulk samples, for example from middens, may be taken for small animal bones and small artefacts.

Bulk environmental samples will also be taken from any fills, deposits or structures which yield archaeological artefacts, charcoal flecks/ fragments, bone, or any other historic remains.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs will be obtained from Oxford Archaeology.

For guidance purposes the following volume criteria represent the minimum feature sampling requirements:

- 50% of each discrete feature (e.g. pits and postholes)
- 25% of the exposed areas of each liner feature and all terminals/intersections
- 50% of structural features (e.g. beamslots, ring-ditches)
- 50%-100% of domestic/industrial working features (e.g. hearths and ovens)

## 9.0 HUMAN REMAINS

Any finds of human remains will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, and both the coroner and the DMA at CPA informed. If removal is necessary it will take place under appropriate regulations and with due regard for health and safety issues. In order to excavate human remains, a licence is required under Section *25* of the Burials Act 1857 for the removal of any body or remains of any body from any place of burial. This will be applied for should human remains need to be investigated or moved.

## 10.0 ARTEFACTS

All artefacts and ecofacts will be retrieved for identification and recording and will be treated in accordance with CIfA 2020 Guidelines for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020).

All artefacts are the property of the landowner but it is recommended that finds are deposited with the rest of the project archive within an appropriate museum. Furthermore, the client agrees to granting access to all artefacts recovered by Aeon Archaeology for analysis, study and publication as necessary. All finds would be treated according to advice provided within *First Aid for Finds* (Rescue 1999). Aeon Archaeology staff will undertake initial identification, but any additional advice would be sought from a wide range of consultants.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds will be kept under review throughout the archaeological works. Any changes in recovery priorities will be under guidance from an appropriate specialist and

agreed with the DMA at CPA. There will be a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

All finds will be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. Their location and height will be plotted; finds numbers attributed, bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. Where specialist advice is required provision will be made to do so at the earliest possible convenience.

After processing, artefacts which are suitable will be cleaned and conserved in-house. Artefacts requiring specialist cleaning and conservation will be sent to the relevant specialist. All artefacts will then be sent to a specialist for analysis, the results of which will then be assessed to ascertain the potential of the finds assemblage to meet the research aims of the project. The value of the finds will also be assessed in terms of the wider educational and academic contributions.

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation of waterlogged material:

- Organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)
- Non-organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation and analysis of artefacts:

- Bone: Nora Bermingham
- Glass: Hilary Cool, Barbican Research Associates.
- Metal artefacts: Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services, Cardiff.
- Slag, burnt clay, hammerscale: Dr. Tim Young, Geoarch, Cardiff.
- Stone artefacts: George Smith, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Bangor.
- Wood artefacts: Jane Foley, Foley Conservation, Builth Wells.
- Leather: Quita Mould, Barbican Research Associates.
- Environmental Material: Dr Mike Allen, Allen Environmental Archaeology.
- Numismatics: Peter Guest, Barbican Research Associates.
- Ceramics: Dan Garner

If well preserved materials are found it may be necessary to employ additional staff. Furthermore, it may be necessary to suspend work within a specific region of the site, or across the whole site, while conservation and excavation/recording takes place. Aeon Archaeology accepts no responsibility for any costs incurred from delays as a result of unexpected archaeological finds.

## 11.0 UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES: TREASURE TROVE

Treasure Trove law has been amended by the Treasure Act 1996. The following are Treasure under the Act:

- *Objects other than coins* any object other than a coin provided that it contains at least 10% gold or silver and is at least 300 years old when found.

- *Coins* all coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found (if the coins contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least 10. Any object or coin is part of the same find as another object or coin, if it is found in the same place as, or had previously been left together with, the other object. Finds may have become scattered since they were originally deposited in the ground. Single coin finds of gold or silver are not classed as treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act.

- *Associated objects* any object whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or that had previously been together with, another object that is treasure.

- *Objects that would have been treasure trove* any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. These objects have to be made substantially of gold or silver, they have to be buried with the intention of recovery and their owner or his heirs cannot be traced.

The following types of finds are not treasure:

- Objects whose owners can be traced.

- Unworked natural objects, including human and animal remains, even if they are found in association with treasure.

- Objects from the foreshore which are not wreck.

All finds of treasure must be reported to the coroner for the district within fourteen days of discovery or identification of the items. Items declared Treasure Trove become the property of the Crown.

The British Museum will decide whether they or any other museum may wish to acquire the object. If no museum wishes to acquire the object, then the Secretary of State will be able to disclaim it. When this happens, the coroner will notify the occupier and landowner that he intends to return the object to the finder after 28 days unless he receives no objection. If the coroner receives an objection, the find will be retained until the dispute has been settled.

## 12.0 ARCHIVING

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project will be prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions will be labelled, and cross-referenced, and lodged with the National Monument Record, RCAHMW within six months of the completion of the project.

A draft copy of the report will be produced within six weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and will include an updated Data Management Plan (DMP), an archive Selection Strategy, and an archive content list. A copy of the report will be sent to the Client and the DMA at CPA for comment prior to finalisation of the report and dissemination. Digital copies of the report and archive will be sent to the regional HER and the DMA at CPA, with the original paper archive being deposited with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) for long term archiving. Furthermore, a summary of the project will be sent to *Archaeology in Wales* for publication.

The project report and archive will adhere to the Welsh Trusts' and Cadw's *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)* (2018) including the translation of a non-technical summary into the medium of Welsh.

## 13.0 PERSONNEL

The work will be managed by Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA, Archaeological Contractor and Consultant at Aeon Archaeology.

## 14.0 MONITORING AND LIAISON

Regular liaison and site monitoring meetings will take place during all stages of work. The DMA at CPA will be informed of the start date and of discreet subsequent stages.

## 15.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Aeon Archaeology has a Health and Safety Policy Statement which can be supplied upon request. Furthermore, site-specific Risk Assessments and Method Statements are compiled and distributed to every member of staff involved with the project prior to the commencement of works.

## 16.0 INSURANCE

Liability Insurance

Employers' Liability: Limit of Indemnity £10m in any one occurrence
Public Liability: Limit of Indemnity £2m in any one occurrence
Legal Defence Costs (Health and Safety at Work Act): £100,000

The current period expires 26/08/26

Professional Indemnity Insurance

Limit of Indemnity £1m any one claim

The current period expires 26/08/26

## 17.0 SOURCES

Cadw. (n.d.). Church of the Holy Trinity (Listed building full report; Reference number 1653).

Cadw. (n.d.). Registered historic landscapes.

Heneb. (n.d.). Maelor Saesneg: Historic Landscape Character Area.

Heneb. (n.d.). Higher Lanes, Bronington and Willington Worthenbury communities, Wrexham County Borough (HLCA 1126).

## APPENDIX I - ARTEFACT SELECTION STRATEGY

| Aeon Archaeology Artefact Selection Strategy | |
|---|---|
| Project: | on land at Church View, School Lane, Bronington, Wrexham SY13 3HN |
| Location: | SJ 48794 39483 |
| Client: | Henry Fearnall |
| Curator: | DMA at CPA |
| Receiving Institution: | Wrexham Museum Service |
| Landowner: | Henry Fearnall |

| **Stone** | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Period** | **Retain** | **Dispose** |
| *Prehistoric* | Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy for specific knapping debitage, encompassing all collections, whether stratified or not, that enhance our understanding of prehistory or lithic technology. | Unstratified artefacts |
| *Roman* | Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy for stratified assemblages. | Selected elements of common unstratified material. |
| *Early medieval* | All stratified and unstratified. | None |
| *Medieval* | Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy for stratified assemblages. | Selected elements of common unstratified material. |
| *Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial* | Only rare or unusual examples. | Majority. |
| *Modern* | Only rare or unusual examples. | Majority. |
| | | |
| **Ceramic** | | |
| *Prehistoric* | All stratified and unstratified. | None. |
| *Roman* | Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy for stratified assemblages. | Selected elements of common unstratified material. |
| *Early medieval* | All stratified and unstratified. | None |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Medieval* | Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy for stratified assemblages. | Selected elements of common unstratified material. |
| *Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial* | Only rare or unusual examples. | Majority. |
| *Modern* | Only rare or unusual examples. | Majority. |
| | | |
| **Construction Building Material (CBM)** | | |
| *Prehistoric* | Not usually retained. Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy. | Majority. |
| *Roman* | Not usually retained. Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy. | Majority. |
| *Early medieval* | Not usually retained. Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy. | Majority. |
| *Medieval* | Not usually retained. Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy. | Majority. |
| *Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial* | Usually not retained. | Majority. |
| *Modern* | Usually not retained. | Majority. |
| | | |
| **Metal** | | |
| *Prehistoric* | All. | None. |
| *Roman* | All. | None. |
| *Early medieval* | All. | None. |
| *Medieval* | All. | None. |
| *Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial* | Only rare or unusual examples. | Majority. |
| *Modern* | Not normally retained. | All. |
| | | |
| **Glass** | | |
| *Prehistoric* | All. | None. |
| *Roman* | All. | None. |
| *Early medieval* | All. | None. |
| *Medieval* | All. | None. |
| *Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial* | Only rare or unusual examples. | Majority. |
| *Modern* | Not normally retained. | All. |
| | | |

| **Bone, antler and ivory** | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Prehistoric* | All. | None. |
| *Roman* | All. | None. |
| *Early medieval* | All. | None. |
| *Medieval* | All. | None. |
| *Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial* | Only rare or unusual examples. | Majority. |
| *Modern* | Not normally retained. | All. |
| | | |
| **Wood** | | |
| *Prehistoric* | All. | None. |
| *Roman* | All. | None. |
| *Early medieval* | All. | None. |
| *Medieval* | All. | None. |
| *Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial* | Only rare or unusual examples. | Majority. |
| *Modern* | Not normally retained. | All. |