

Archaeology Wales

Summergeil House, Watery Lane, Womaston, Powys

Archaeological Evaluation



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Report No. 1619

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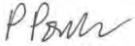



Archaeology Wales

Summergil House, Watery Lane, Womaston, Powys

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared for The Interior Architect Design Company Ltd, on behalf of Orbis

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October 2017

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Non-Technical Summary

This report results from work undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd at Summergil House, Watery Lane, Womaston, Powys. It draws upon the results of an archaeological evaluation on the site of proposed auxiliary educational outbuildings.

The proposed development site lies in close proximity to the site of a motte-and-bailey castle (PRN 317), designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Cadw RD118). The extent of the bailey is unclear and it has been suggested that it may formerly have included the proposed development area.

The archaeological evaluation has been recommended by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in its capacity as advisor to the local planning authority, Powys County Council (planning application P/2017/0653). The archaeological investigation was carried out at the request of The Interior Architect Design Company Ltd, on behalf of Orbis.

The overall soil sequence encountered across the development area comprised a natural (geological) deposit of firm light orange-brown silt (103) (203) below a subsoil of soft light brown silt soft (101) (201), with an overlying topsoil of dark brown humic silt (100) (200). The subsoil and natural had been truncated and made-ground (102) (202) deposited across the development site.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the archaeological investigation. The soil sequence recorded in the two evaluation trenches indicated extensive ground disturbance in this area, with made-ground deposits recorded 0.6m to 1.2m below surface. The made-ground potentially extends across the footprint of the proposed development. The results of the evaluation therefore indicate that the foundation design for the proposed classrooms will not have a significant impact on the potential archaeological resource.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and Scope of Work

An archaeological evaluation comprising two trial trenches has been undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) in association with a proposed development of auxiliary educational outbuildings at Summergil House, Watery Lane, Womaston, Presteigne, Powys, LD8 2PT (Figure 1). The local planning authority is Powys County Council and the application reference is P/2017/0653.

The proposed development site lies in close proximity to the site of a motte-and-bailey castle (PRN 317), designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (RD118). This castle site survives as a *circa* 4.4m high motte, surrounded by a water-filled moat. A detached line of banking lies to the north and east, which may represent part of an associated bailey, although the full extent of any bailey is unclear and it has been suggested that it may formerly have extended westward to include the proposed development area. The proposed development site also sits within the grounds of Womaston House (PRN 20644), a 19th century house now used as part of a school complex.

In its capacity as archaeological advisors to Powys County Council, the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust Planning Service (CPAT-PS) have requested an that an intrusive archaeological evaluation of the development area is undertaken prior to the determination of the planning application to assess the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource, in accordance with *Planning Policy Wales (Welsh Government, Edition 9, November 2016)* and *Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment (Welsh Government, May 2017)*.

The purpose of the proposed programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation is to provide the local planning authority with the information that they have requested from the client in response to their planning application, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy (revised edition 9, 2016), Section 6.5 and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017).

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the work to be undertaken was drawn up by Philip Poucher, project manager for AW. This was subsequently approved by CPAT (Appendix II).

The archaeological investigation was carried out at the request of The Interior Architect Design Company Ltd, on behalf of their client Orbis.

The AW project number is 2549 and the site code is WLW/17/WB. The project details are summarised on the Archive Cover Sheet (Appendix III).

The archaeological work has been undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

1.2 Topography and Geology

The proposed development site lies on the eastern side of the current complex of buildings that define the Summergil House school site, adjacent to a modern-built sports hall to the west, and poly-tunnel greenhouses to the east. The site occupies a lawned area on gentle south-facing slopes. A grassed-covered area of pasture extends to the south, separated by post-and-wire fencing, forming a generally open area to the south of the school complex buildings. This area is bounded on all sides by mature trees. Along the lower southern edge runs the Summergil/Hindwell Brook. Behind the trees on the eastern side lies the site of the motte and bailey castle and an adjacent pond. The main access is via Watery Lane, which runs around the eastern and northern sides of the motte and bailey castle site. Upper House Farm lies immediately to the north, and Lower House Farm lies immediately to the east of the castle, separated by Watery Lane.

The site lies within an undulating landscape known as the Walton Basin, formed by the three watercourses of Summergil Brook, Knobley Brook and Riddings Brook. The brooks meet approximately 1.5km to the east, continuing as the Hindwell Brook which continues eastward to eventually meet the River Lugg near Presteigne. The landscape opens out across the valley base to the south, through which runs the Summergil and Riddings Brooks. To the north the land rises in a series of low but prominent hills separating the site from Knobley Brook. The sides of the Basin rise sharply in a series of high hilltops. Evenjobb is the nearest nucleated settlement *circa* 1.7km to the north. The larger settlements of Kington is located 4.5km to the southeast, and Presteigne *circa* 6km to the northeast. The site lies within 300m of the English/Welsh border.

The development area is located at NGR 326685, 260550 (SO 2669 6055) and is situated at approximately 180m-185m above Ordnance Datum (OD).

The regional geology as mapped by the British Geological Survey (1:50,000 scale) indicates that the bedrock geology comprises mudstones, siltstones and sandstones of the Wenlock Rocks formation. The superficial geology consists of Devensian Till (BGS 2017).

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

The site lies adjacent to Womaston Castle Mound (PRN 317/SAM RD118), the remains of a motte and bailey castle. There is little recorded history associated with this castle site, the date of its construction and its subsequent occupants remain unknown. Such sites are however medieval in date, and it lies close to the Welsh- English border and was therefore likely built in response to the numerous conflicts prevalent in this area throughout the medieval period.

The flat-topped motte is *circa* 30m in diameter, and up to 4.4m high, surrounded by a water-filled moat. A detached line of banking around 147m long runs to the north and east, parallel to Watery Lane, which may be part of an original bailey defence. However the full extent of the bailey, and any features associated with this castle site, are unknown. When the site was recorded in the Radnorshire Inventory after a site visit in 1911 (RCAMHW 1913) the motte was described as having been transformed into an 'ornamental feature', and the moat

was described as an ‘innovation’. The inventory description also suggests the associated castle enclosure may have originally incorporated a large area to the west, including the current house and grounds (and proposed development site), with a secondary enclosure incorporating the field to the north. The Scheduled Area of Womaston Castle Mound incorporates the castle mound and length of banking to the north and east. The proposed development lies outside the Scheduled Area.

The site also lies within the grounds of Womaston (later Summergil) House (PRN 20644). There also appears to be little readily-available history of this house, it is recorded as a Regency period house (NPRN 31040), although this does not accord with historic mapping evidence. The house sat within grounds that included a ha-ha and lawns to the south, including a croquet lawn and gravelled walks, and an extensive orchard to the north. The castle motte and adjacent pond were included within the grounds. Landscaping associated with the house is likely, and the nearby motte may have been adapted to incorporate it into the grounds. Historic mapping evidence suggests that the original house site may have moved during the mid to late 19th century. The tithe map of 1841 shows a complex of buildings arranged around a central courtyard lying to the northeast of the current house, and to the northwest of the motte, an area now crossed by the access road and car park of the current complex. The courtyard arrangement suggests agricultural buildings, with the main house lying just off to the southwest. By the time of the Ordnance Survey map of 1889 the house had been built in its current location, the original house may have been incorporated into the outbuildings adjacent to the house, but the courtyard arrangement to the northeast appears to have been removed. The surrounding fields and enclosures had also been extensively redesigned to incorporate woodland to the north of the house and extensive orchard beyond. The castle and adjacent pond are surrounded by woodland, with a footpath laid out around them, with the castle motte accessed via a footbridge. There is no indication of development within the proposed development area, which appears to have always been within the open field to the south of the house and west of the castle.

Beyond the proposed development site and its immediate surrounds, the Walton Basin area has a rich and varied archaeological background (Jones 2013). Large numbers of scattered Neolithic and Bronze Age flint artefacts have been found throughout the area, with a significant complex of Neolithic monuments a short distance to the west. The earliest of which would appear to be the Hindwell cursus, built at some point after 3950-3520 BC and before 2870-2247 BC. Two parallel ditches run for 4.6km, and effectively divide the Walton Basin in two. Seemingly contemporary with it is the Womaston causewayed enclosure (lying *circa* 600m to the northwest of the proposed development site), dated to around 3660-3340 BC, lying on a low hill overlooking the cursus. After the cursus fell out of use three large palisaded enclosures were built, two at Hindwell and one at Walton, in the period between around 2800-2400 BC, possibly in sequence. A large ring-ditch, 100m in diameter, is also recorded at Walton Court Farm, dated to between 2570-2300 BC. Associated settlement in the area is likely, although direct evidence remains elusive. The surrounding area is likely to have contained cultivated land and managed woodland.

Bronze Age activity in the area is represented by scatters of flints finds, numerous standing stones within the basin, and a series of burial mounds occupying the high ground surrounding the basin. Iron Age activity can be seen in the large hillforts on high ground overlooking the basin, including the large hillfort of Burfa Bank, some 1.5km to the east.

During the Roman period an auxiliary fort was established at Hindwell, *circa* 800m to the west, possibly during the early Roman campaigns into Wales in the 50s AD. A civilian settlement and a bath house have also been discovered nearby. Roman roads have been identified on all four sides of the fort. One such road has been traced leaving the eastern side of the fort, with settlement alongside it between the fort and a small stream to the north of Summergil Brook. The projected route of this road takes it to the north of the proposed development area through Upper House Farm. This route may be represented by the farm track that runs east from Upper House Farm. Further afield a number of marching camps, signal stations and other activity have been identified. Little is currently understood about activity in the area following the collapse of Roman administration in the early 5th century AD. The only recorded monument in this area is Offa's Dyke, which lies just over 1km to the east.

A number of medieval castle sites are recorded in and around the Basin, of which Womaston Mound is one, reflecting the turbulent history of the area during the medieval period. Medieval villages have been recorded at Old Radnor and Kinnerton, with a larger settlement established at New Radnor. There is currently no evidence of settlement associated with the Womerston Mound castle site.

2 Aims and Objectives

The archaeological work is intended to elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material that might be affected by the development; and in particular, its character, distribution, extent, condition, date and relative significance. The work will provide information, which is sufficiently detailed, to allow informed planning decisions to be made in order to safeguard the archaeological resource.

3 Methodology

3.1 Fieldwork

The methodology for the archaeological evaluation followed that set out within the approved Written Scheme of Investigation. This work included the following key elements:

- The trial trenches were excavated by a JCB 3CX mechanical excavator fitted with a (toothless) ditching bucket.
- All identified deposits and features were examined and recorded during the evaluation.
- Machine excavation was undertaken in 50-100mm spits. All deposits were investigated during the evaluation.
- The trenches were hand cleaned using pointing trowels to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features;

- All identified deposits and features were examined and recorded during the watching brief;
- All areas were photographed using high-resolution (10mp+) digital photography;
- The on-site illustrations were undertaken on drafting film using recognised conventions and scales (1:10, 1:20 and 1:50, as appropriate);
- All the deposits were described in the field on pro-forma context sheets using a continuous number sequence for all contexts;
- Plans and sections were related to Ordnance Survey datum, tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to topographical boundaries.

The evaluation was undertaken by Adrian Hadley and Irma Bernardus on 20th and 21st September 2017.

Context numbers 100-203 were allocated during the fieldwork. They were ascribed to the soil deposits identified during the evaluation (summarised in Appendix I).

The archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with the CIfA's Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation (2014) and current Health and Safety legislation.

3.2 Finds

The finds retrieved during the watching brief were bagged by context.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental Samples

No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered during the archaeological fieldwork.

4 Results of the Evaluation (Figures 3-5; Plates 1-20)

4.1 Trench 1

The trial trench was excavated 20.1m long by 1.6m wide, and was aligned roughly northeast to southwest. The depth of excavation was between 0.35m and 1.2m. Ground levels were recorded at 183.30m OD and 183.60m OD at the northeast and southwest ends of the trench, respectively.

The topsoil, a dark brown humic silt (100), was typically 0.2m thick, but varied between 0.05m and 0.30m. The subsoil, a light brown silt (101), was encountered only at the

northeast end of the trench, approximately 0.15m to 0.20m below ground level, at *circa* 183.10m OD. This deposit was 0.35m-0.40m thick.

Made-ground (102) was encountered across most of the trench, at 0.05m to 0.30m below ground level, typically 0.25m below surface, at *circa* 183.44m OD. This deposit was up to 1m thick, extending below limit of excavation at the centre of the trench. Modern tyre tracks were impressed in to this deposit, identified within the trench base, some 1.2m below surface, at *circa* 182.70m OD. These appeared to be from a JCB or similar vehicle, which indicate previous re-grading of the site in addition to the depth of made-ground across the development site.

The natural, a light orange-brown silt (103), was encountered at the northeast end of the trench at approximately 0.50m below surface, at *circa* 182.75m OD. This deposit was over 0.15m deep, extending below the limit of excavation. The southwest side of the trench was not fully excavated below made-ground (102), down to the natural (103), due to live services in this area.

The soil sequence prior to ground disturbance in this area is evident at the northeast end of Trench 1. This comprised 0.15m of natural silt (103), overlain by 0.35m-0.40m of subsoil (102), below 0.15m-0.20m of topsoil.

4.2 Trench 2

The trial trench was excavated 20.2m long by 1.6m wide, and was aligned roughly northeast to southwest. The depth of excavation was between 0.70m and 1.1m. The ground levels were recorded at 182.90m OD and 182.60m OD at the northeast and southwest ends of the trench, respectively.

The topsoil, a dark brown humic silt (200), was typically 0.2m thick, but varied between 0.15m and 0.20m thick. The subsoil, a light brown silt (201), was encountered at the northeast end of the trench, some 0.20m below ground level, at *circa* 182.70m OD.

Made-ground (202) was encountered across most of the trench, at 0.15m-0.20m below ground level, typically 0.20m below surface, at *circa* 182.70m OD. This deposit was up to 1m thick, extending below the limit of excavation in the central part of the trench.

The natural, a light orange-brown silt (203), was encountered at the northeast and southwest sides of the trench, some 0.55m below surface, at *circa* 181.95m OD. This deposit was over 0.30m deep, extending below the limit of excavation. A small area in the central part of the trench was not fully excavated below made-ground (202), down to the natural (103), due to live services in this area.

A small sondage was excavated towards the northeast end of the trench, extending 0.4m below base of trench, at *circa* 181.40m OD, this being some 1.45m below ground level. The soil sequence recorded at this location comprised 0.25m of natural silt (203), overlain by 1m of made-ground (202), below 0.2m of topsoil (200).

4.3 The Finds

An assemblage of modern material was recovered during the archaeological investigation. These were retrieved from the topsoil (100) (200) and made ground (102) (202) layers. No residual medieval or early post-medieval finds were present in the assemblage. It is proposed the artefacts recovered from the topsoil are discarded.

5 Conclusions

5.1 Overall Interpretation

The overall soil sequence encountered across the development area comprised a natural (geological) deposit of firm light orange-brown silt (103) (203) below a subsoil of soft light brown silt soft (101) (201), with an overlying topsoil of dark brown humic silt (100) (200). The subsoil and natural had been truncated and made-ground (102) (202) deposited across the development site; this comprised bands of redeposited topsoil, subsoil and natural, as well imported stone and sand. This layer contained wood, plastic, polystyrene and modern ferrous objects. The base of the made-ground consisted of an intermittent layer of grey silt, in to which was impressed tyre marks in Trench 1; this indicated this was previously the surface layer that has been tracked over. It is therefore evident that the natural and subsoil was truncated prior to ground levels being raised within the development site.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the archaeological investigation. The finds retrieved from the topsoil (100) (200) and made ground (102) (202) layers were modern in date. No residual medieval or early post-medieval finds were present in the assemblage.

5.2 Assessment of Impact and Archaeological Potential

The soil sequence recorded in the two evaluation trenches indicates extensive ground disturbance in this area, with made-ground deposits recorded 0.6m to 1.2m below surface. Although undisturbed subsoil was recorded at the end of the two evaluation trenches, it seems likely that the made-ground extends across the footprint of the proposed development. The results of the evaluation indicate that the foundation design for the proposed classrooms will not have a significant impact on the potential archaeological resource. However, there remains a general potential for archaeological deposits immediately beyond the development site, within the grounds of Summergil House and more widely, in the general vicinity of Womaston Castle.

5.3 Storage and Curation

The site archive will be prepared in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (CIfA, 2014), *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission 1994), *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for*

Long-Term Storage (UKIC 1990) and *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Compilation, Transfer and Curation* (AAF 2007). The resultant archive will conform to the *National Standards for Wales for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives* (WAT 2008).

6 Bibliography and References

Published

RCAHMW. 1913, *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments of Wales and Monmouthshire: III County of Radnor*, London.

Unpublished

Jones, N.W. 2013, *Walton Basin Project 2012-13. Archaeological Conservation in Rural Environments (ACRE) CPAT Report No.1195.1.*

Historic Maps

Anon	1841	Tithe Survey for Old Radnor Parish
Ordnance Survey	1889	Scale: 1:2,500 (25 inches to 1 mile). <i>Promap</i>
Ordnance Survey	1903	Scale: 1:2,500 (25 inches to 1 mile). <i>Promap</i>
Ordnance Survey	1928	Scale: 1:2,500 (25 inches to 1 mile). <i>Promap</i>
Ordnance Survey	1977	Scale: 1:2,500. <i>Promap</i>

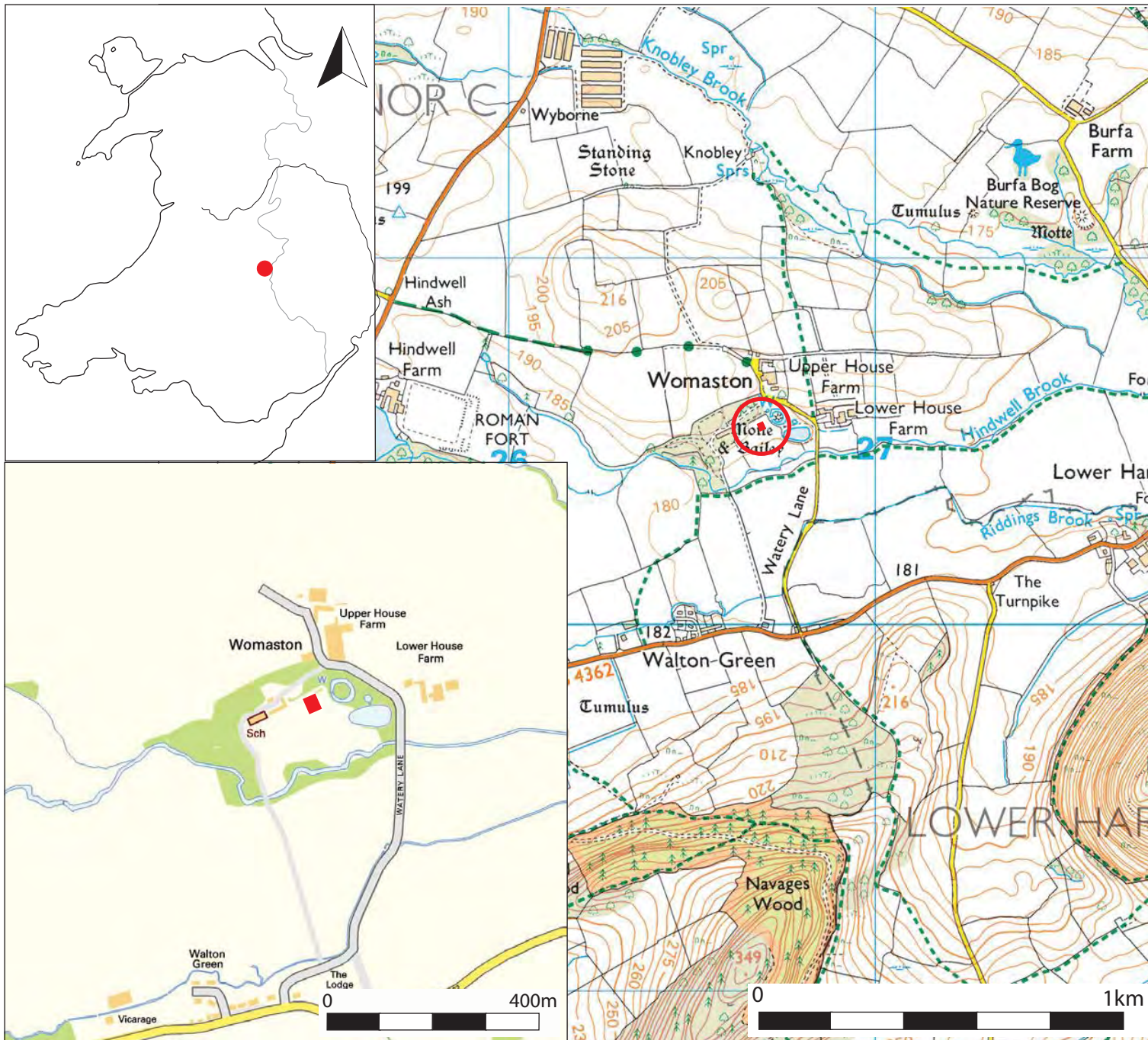
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<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/>
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Davidson A., Davies W., Gray M. & Silvester R.J. 2016, *A Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales: Medieval.*
<http://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/pdf/refresh2016/medieval2016.pdf>
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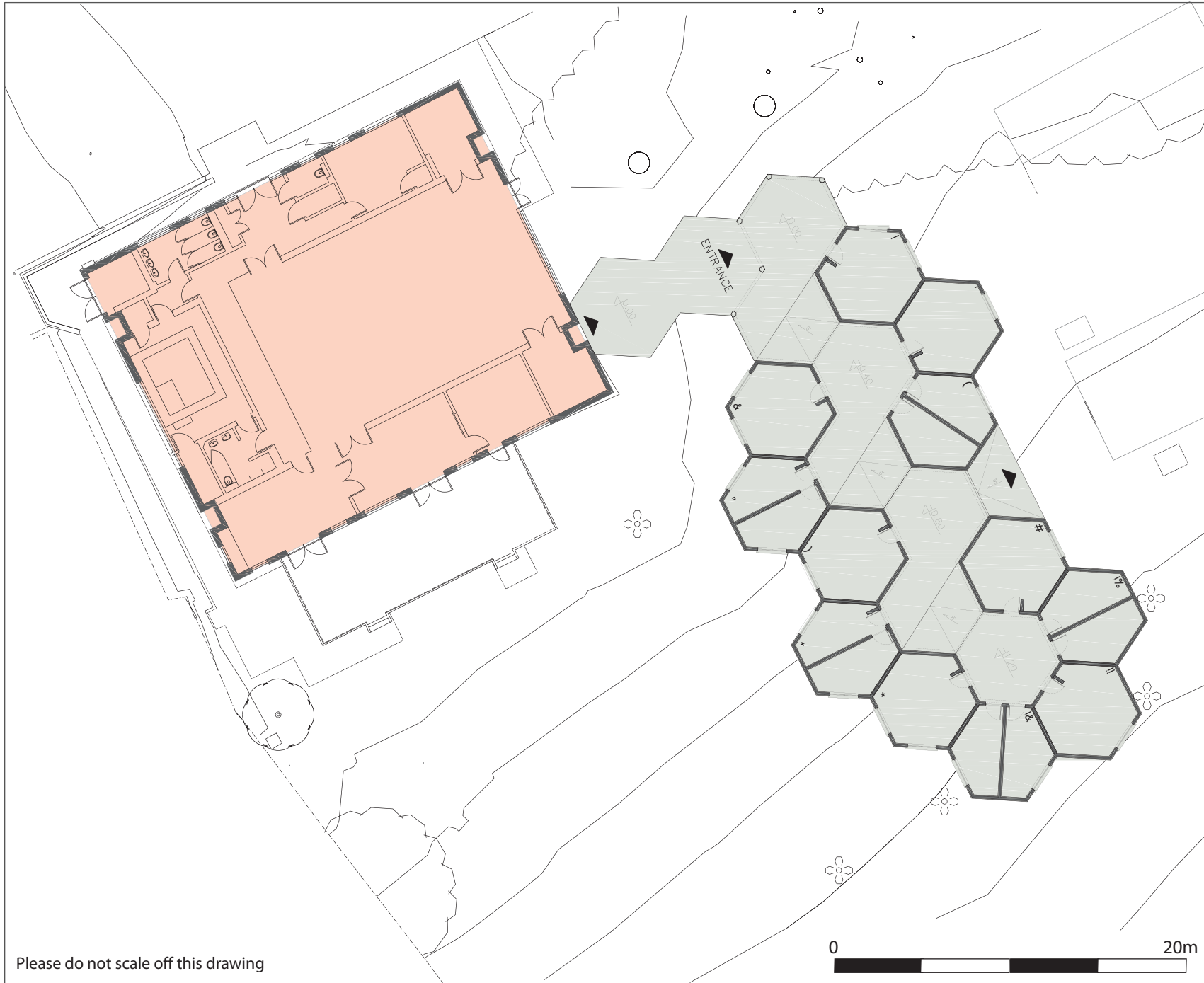
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Figures



— Location of site

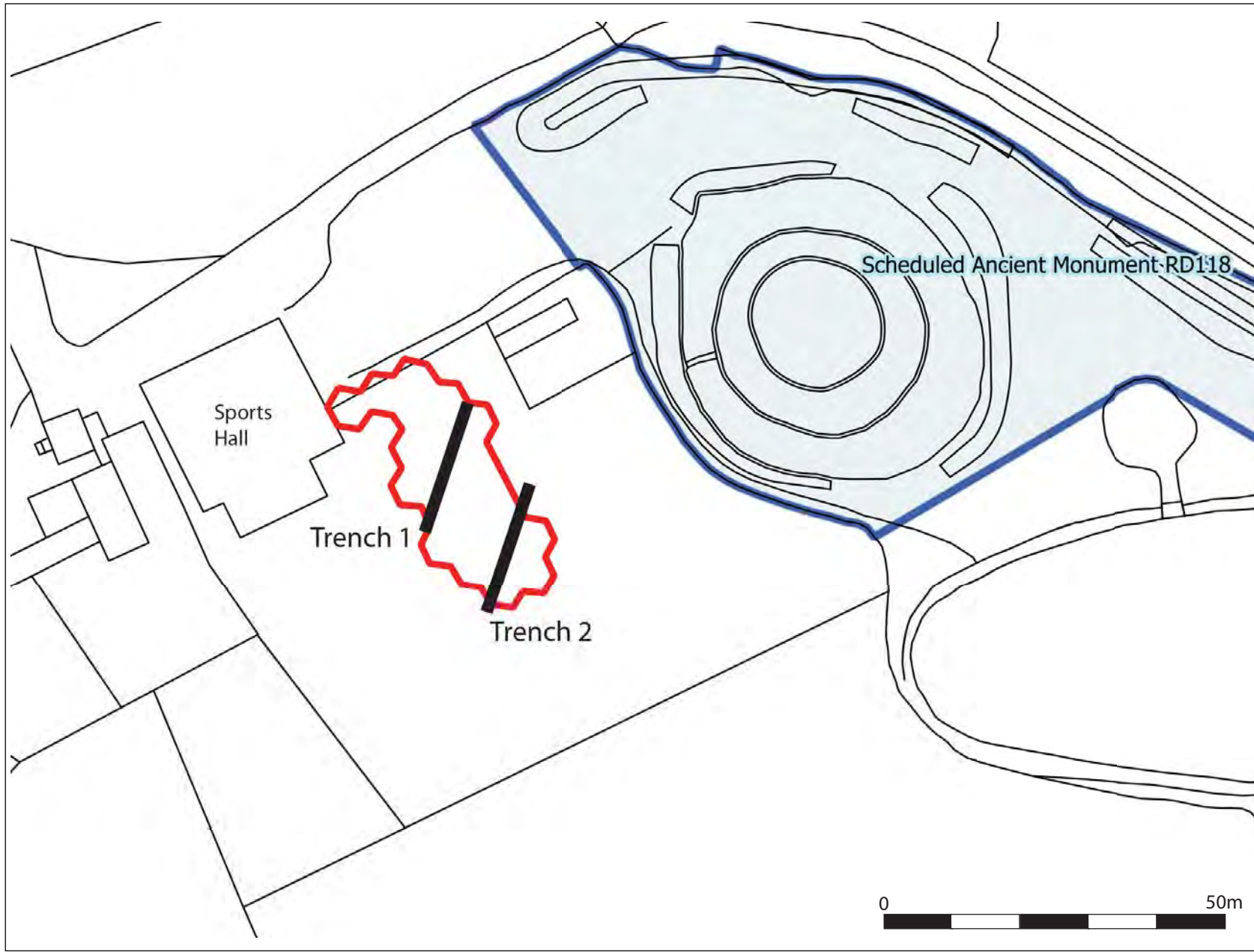
Figure 1
Location map



Key

- Existing school
- Proposed development

Figure 2
 Plan of the proposed development.
 Original drawing produced by Interior Architectural Design Company Ltd.

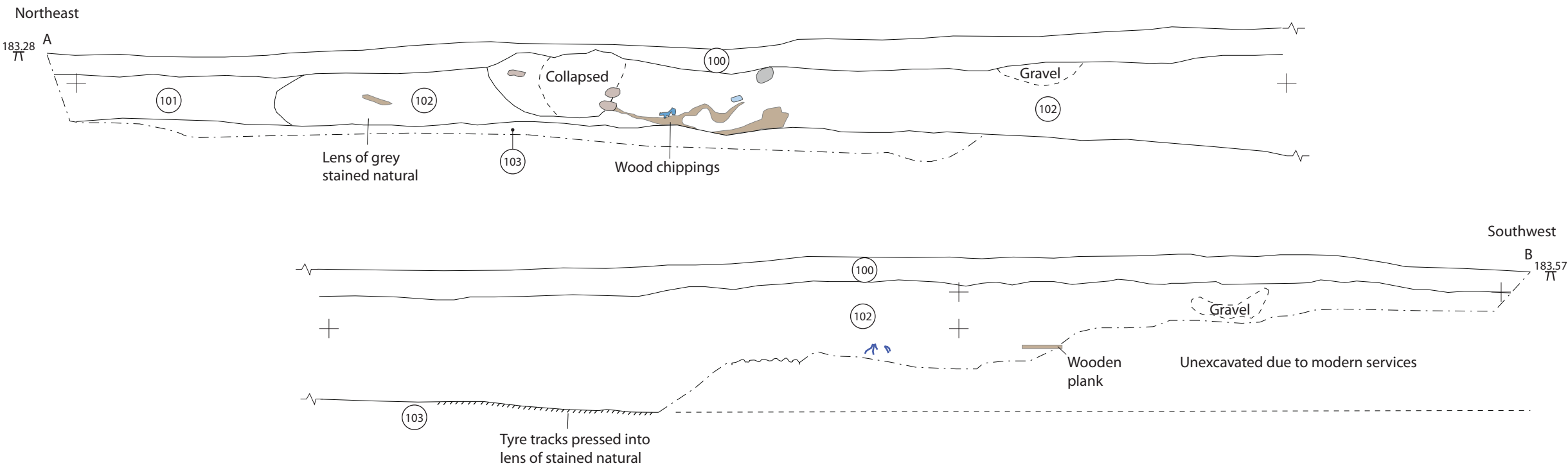


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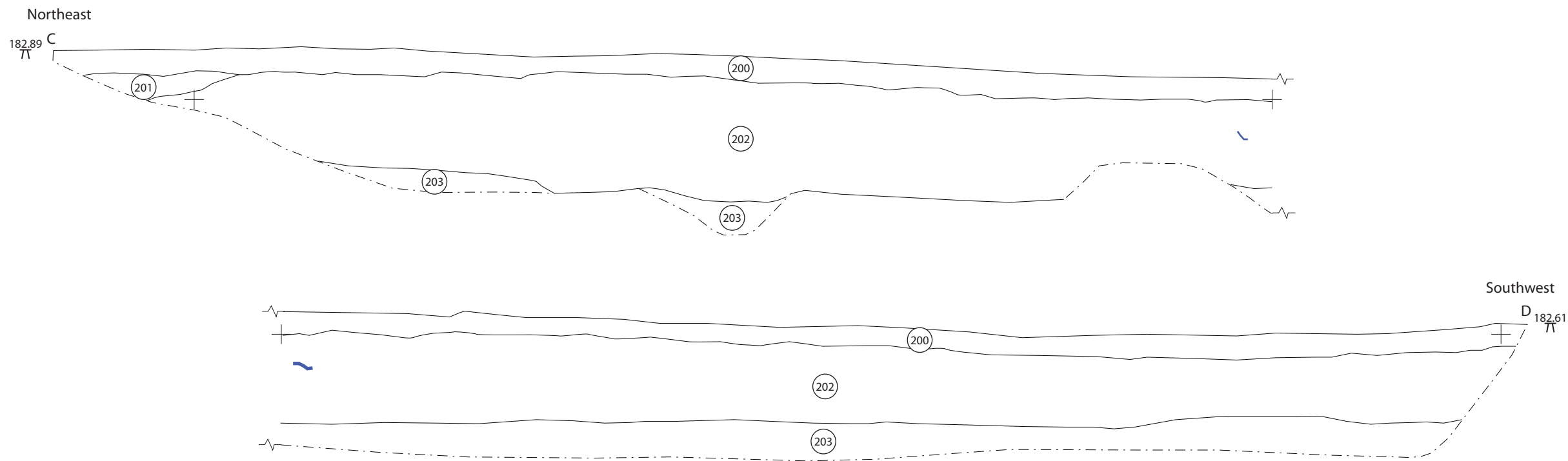
— Proposed development

Figure 3
Trench location plan

Section along Trench 1



Section along Trench 2



Job Title: MG118 Womaston Castle Mound, Summergil House, Womaston

Drawing Title: Sections of Trench 1 & 2

Date: September 2017

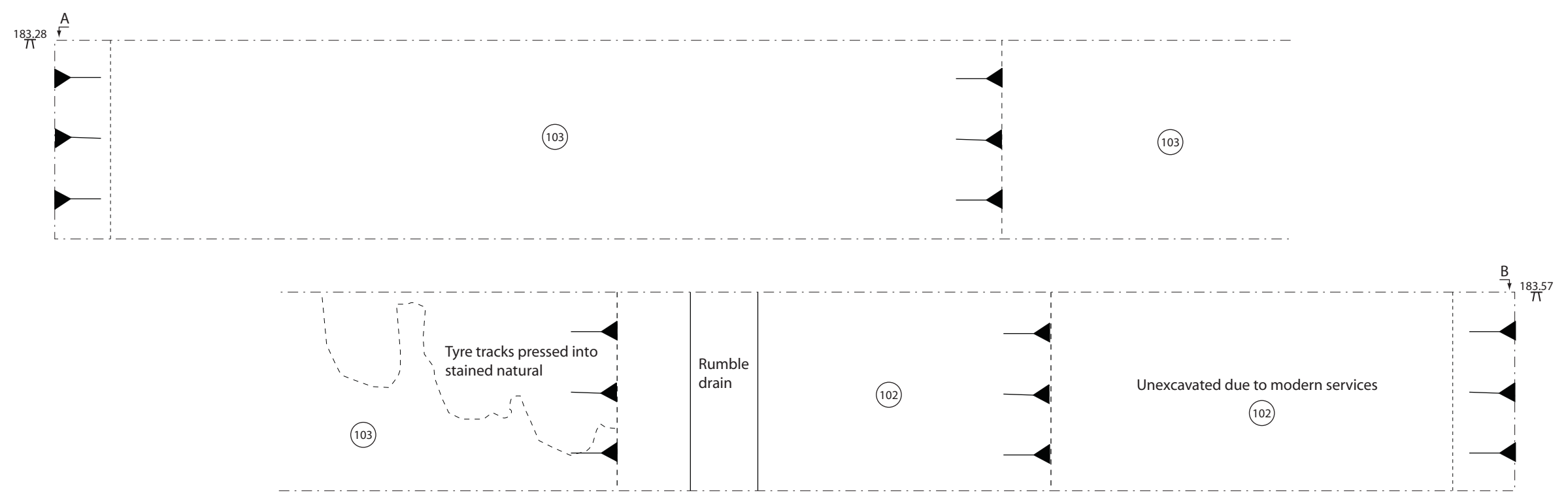
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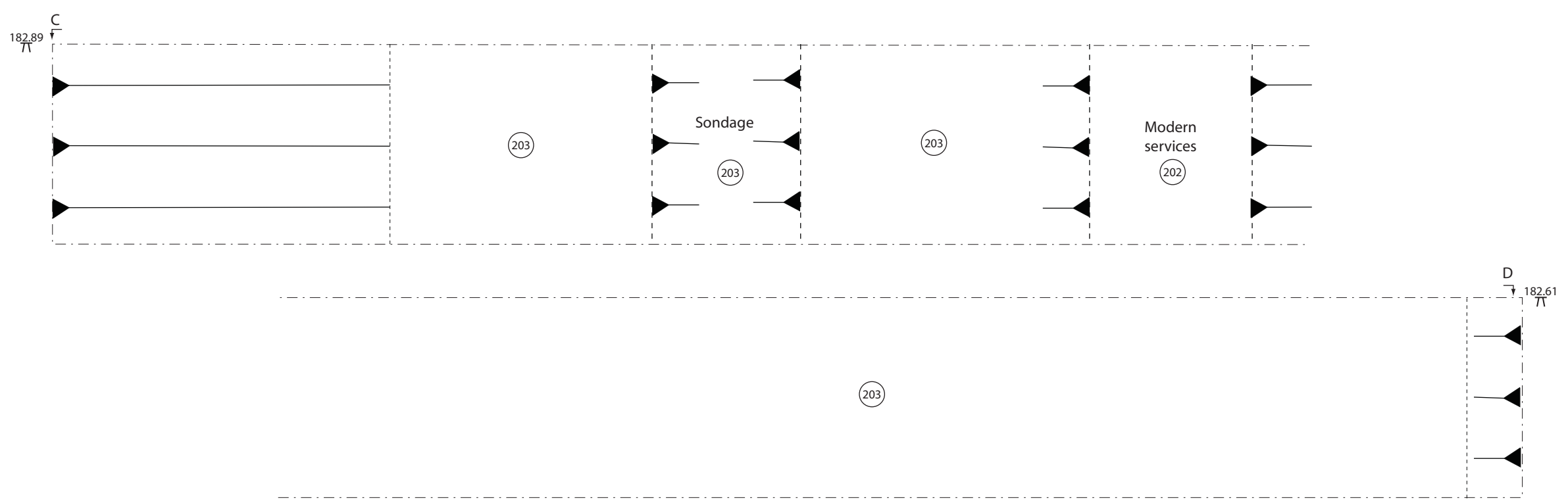
Figure 4



Post-excavation plan of Trench 1



Post-excavation plan of Trench 2



Note: all heights are metres above Ordnance Datum

Job Title: MG118 Womaston Castle Mound, Summergil House, Womaston

Drawing Title: Plans of Trenches 1 & 2

Date: September 2017

Drawn By: ILB

Scale: 1:40 @ A3

Figure 5



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Plates



Plate 1. General view of the evaluation area, with Summergil House in the background. Looking west.



Plate 2. Trench 1. Looking south-southwest.



Plate 3. Trench 1. Looking north-northeast.



Plate 4. Trench 1: oblique view of the east-southeast facing section. Looking southwest.



Plate 5. Northeast side of Trench 1 (east-southeast facing section).
Looking southwest.



Plate 6. Southwest side of Trench 1 (east-southeast facing section).
Looking southwest.



Plate 7. Trench 1: oblique view of the west-northwest facing section. Looking south.



Plate 8. Northeast side of Trench 1 (west-northwest facing section). Looking east.



Plate 9. Southwest side of Trench 1 (west-northwest facing section).



Plate 10. Base of Trench 1, showing tyre marks within made ground. Looking south-southwest.



Plate 11. Trench 2. Looking south-southwest.



Plate 12. Trench 2. Looking north-northeast.



Plate 13. Trench 2: oblique view of the west-northwest facing section. Looking south.



Plate 14. Northeast side of Trench 2 (west-northwest facing section). Looking south.



Plate 15. Southwest side of Trench 2 (west-northwest facing section).
Looking east-northeast.



Plate 16. Trench 2: oblique view of the west-northwest facing section.
Looking northeast.



Plate 17. Representative section at the northeast end of Trench 2 (west-northwest facing section).



Plate 18. Trench 2: oblique view of the east-southeast facing section. Looking southwest.



Plate 19. Northeast side of Trench 2 (east-southeast facing section).
Looking north.



Plate 20. Southwest side of Trench 2 (east-southeast facing section).
Looking southwest.

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Appendix I

Context Descriptions

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS					
Context	Identifier	Type	Description	Depth BGL	Interpretation
100	Deposit	Layer	Uncompact dark brown humic silt with occasional sub-rectangular to flat fine to medium siltstone/mudstone gravel. Finds of occasional modern metal and plastic material. Deposit depth: 0.05m-0.30m.	At Surface	Topsoil
101	Deposit	Layer	Soft light brown silt with occasional sub-rectangular to flat fine to medium siltstone/mudstone gravel. No finds. Deposit depth: 0.35m-0.40m.	0.15m - 0.20m	Subsoil
102	Deposit	Layer	Bands of dark brown, light brown and light orange-brown silt, representing redeposited topsoil, subsoil and natural, respectively, as well deposits of imported 10mm stone / chippings and coarse red sand. A layer of firm grey silt extended intermittently along the base of the made ground. Finds of wood, plastic, polystyrene and modern ferrous objects. Deposit depth: > 1m.	0.05m - 0.30m	Made Ground (Modern)
103	Deposit	Layer	Firm light orange-brown silt with occasional sub-rectangular to flat fine to medium siltstone/mudstone gravel. Deposit depth: > 0.15m.	0.50m	Natural (Geological Deposit)
200	Deposit	Layer	Uncompact dark brown humic silt with occasional sub-rectangular to flat fine to medium siltstone/mudstone gravel. Finds of occasional modern metal and plastic material. Deposit depth: 0.15m-0.20m.	At Surface	Topsoil
201	Deposit	Layer	Soft light brown silt with occasional sub-rectangular to flat fine to medium siltstone/mudstone gravel. No finds. Deposit depth: > 0.20m.	0.20m	Subsoil
202	Deposit	Layer	Bands of dark brown, light brown and light orange-brown silt, representing redeposited topsoil, subsoil and natural, respectively, as well deposits of imported 10mm stone / chippings and coarse red sand. A layer of firm grey silt extended intermittently along the base of the made ground. Finds of wood, plastic, polystyrene and modern ferrous objects. Deposit depth: > 1m.	0.15m - 0.20m	Made Ground (Modern)
203	Deposit	Layer	Firm light orange-brown silt with occasional sub-rectangular to flat fine to medium siltstone/mudstone gravel. Deposit depth: > 0.30m.	0.55m	Natural (Geological Deposit)

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Appendix II

Written Scheme of Investigation

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION
FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION
AT SUMMERGIL HOUSE, WATERY LANE, WOMASTON

Prepared for:
Orbis

Planning Application Number: P/2017/0653
Project No: 2549

August 2017



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Figure 1. Site location

Figure 2. Site development plan

Figure 3. Trench location plan

Summary

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details a programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation to be undertaken by Archaeology Wales at the request of Orbis.

The programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation will be undertaken prior to the determination of a planning application for the development of auxiliary educational outbuildings and all associated works at Summergil House, Watery Lane, Womaston, Presteigne centred on SO 26680 60554. The associated Planning Application No. is P/2017/0653.

The site lies in close proximity to Womaston Castle Mound, a motte and bailey site (PRN 317), also designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (RD118). There is the potential that enclosures associated with the castle site may encompass the proposed development area. Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust – Planning Services therefore recommended that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken of the proposed development area prior to the determination of the planning application.

All work will be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

1. Introduction and planning background

This WSI details the methodology for a programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation to be undertaken in association with the proposed development of auxiliary educational outbuildings and all associated works at Summergil House, Watery Lane, Womaston, Presteigne centred on SO 26680 60554 (Figure 1 and 2). The associated Planning Application No. is P/2017/0653.

The proposed development site lies in close proximity to the site of a motte and bailey castle (PRN 317), designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (RD118). This castle site survives as a *circa* 4.4m high motte, surrounded by a water-filled moat. A detached line of banking lies to the north and east, which may represent part of an associated bailey, although the full extent of any bailey is unclear and it has been suggested that it may formerly have extended westward to include the proposed development area. The proposed development site also sits within the grounds of Womaston House (PRN 20644), a 19th century house now used as part of a school complex.

This WSI has been prepared by Philip Poucher, Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of The Interior Architect Design Company Ltd, on behalf of their client Orbis.

The methodology set out in this WSI has been agreed with Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust Planning Service (CPAT-PS) in its capacity as archaeological

advisors to Powys County Council (the local planning authority). CPAT-PS has recommended that an intrusive archaeological evaluation of the development area is undertaken prior to the determination of the planning application to assess the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

The recommendations made by CPAT-PS are set out in an email to the local planning authority dated 26/7/17.

The purpose of the proposed programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation is to provide the local planning authority with the information that they have requested from the client in response to their planning application, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy (revised edition 9, 2016), Section 6.5 and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017).

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

2. Site Description

The proposed development site lies on the eastern side of the current complex of buildings that define the Summergil House school site, adjacent to a modern-built sports hall to the west, and poly-tunnel greenhouses to the east. The site occupies a lawned area on gentle south-facing slopes. A grassed-covered area of pasture extends to the south, separated by post-and-wire fencing, forming a generally open area to the south of the school complex buildings. This area is bounded on all sides by mature trees. Along the lower southern edge runs the Summergil Brook. Behind the trees on the eastern side lies the site of the motte and bailey castle and an adjacent pond. The main access is via Watery Lane, which runs around the eastern and northern sides of the motte and bailey castle site. Upper House Farm lies immediately to the north, and Lower House Farm lies immediately to the east of the castle, separated by Watery Lane.

The site lies within an undulating landscape known as the Walton Basin, formed by the three watercourses of Summergil Brook, Knobley Brook and Riddings Brook. The brooks meet approximately 1.5km to the east, forming the Hindwell Brook which continues eastward to eventually meet the River Lugg near Presteigne. The landscape opens out across the valley base to the south, through which runs the Summergil and Riddings Brooks. To the north the land rises in a series of low but prominent hills separating the site from Knobley Brook. The sides of the Basin rise sharply in a series of high hilltops. Evenjobb is the nearest nucleated settlement *circa* 1.7km to the north. The larger settlements of Kington lie 4.5km to the southeast, and Presteigne *circa* 6km to the northeast. The site lies within 300m of the English/Welsh border.

The underlying geology of the area comprises mudstones, siltstones and sandstones of the Wenlock Rocks formation, overlaid with Devensian Till (BGS 2017).

3. Archaeological background

The site lies adjacent to Womaston Castle Mound (PRN 317/SAM RD118), the remains of a motte and bailey castle. There is little recorded history associated with this castle site, the date of its construction and its subsequent occupants remain unknown. Such sites are however medieval in date, and it lies close to the Welsh-English border and was therefore likely built in response to the numerous conflicts prevalent in this area throughout the medieval period.

The flat-topped motte is *circa* 30m in diameter, and up to 4.4m high, surrounded by a water-filled moat. A detached line of banking around 147m long runs to the north and east, parallel to Watery Lane, which may be part of an original bailey defence. However the full extent of the bailey, and any features associated with this castle site, are unknown. When the site was recorded in the Radnorshire Inventory after a site visit in 1911 (RCAMHW 1913) the motte was described as having been **transformed into an 'ornamental feature', and the moat was described as an 'innovation'.** The Inventory description also suggests the associated castle enclosure may have originally incorporated a large area to the west, including the current house and grounds (and proposed development site), with a secondary enclosure incorporating the field to the north. The Scheduled Area of Womaston Castle Mound incorporates the castle mound and length of banking to the north and east. The proposed development lies outside the Scheduled Area. The potential impact of the proposed development on the setting of Womaston Castle Mound will be assessed in a separate report, also undertaken as part of the planning application process.

The site also lies within the grounds of Womaston (later Summerhill) House (PRN 20644). There appear to be little readily-available history of this house, it is recorded as a Regency period house (NPRN 31040), although this does not accord with historic mapping evidence. The house sat within grounds that included a ha-ha and lawns to the south, including a croquet lawn and gravelled walks, and an extensive orchard to the north. The castle motte and adjacent pond were included within the grounds. Landscaping associated with the house is likely, and the nearby motte may have been adapted to incorporate it into the grounds. Historic mapping evidence suggests that the original house site may have moved during the mid to late 19th century. The tithe map of 1841 shows a complex of buildings arranged around a central courtyard lying to the northeast of the current house, and to the northwest of the motte, an area now crossed by the access road and car park of the current complex. The courtyard arrangement suggests agricultural buildings, with the main house lying just off to the southwest. By the time of the Ordnance Survey map of 1889 the house had been built in its current location, the original house may have been incorporated into the outbuildings adjacent to the house, but the courtyard arrangement to the northeast appears to have been removed. The surrounding fields and enclosures had also been extensively redesigned to incorporate woodland to the north of the house and extensive orchard beyond. The castle and adjacent pond are surrounded by woodland, with a footpath laid out around them, with the castle motte accessed via a footbridge. There is no indication of development within

the proposed development area, which appears to have always been within the open field to the south of the house and west of the castle.

Beyond the proposed development site and its immediate surrounds, the Walton Basin area has a rich and varied archaeological background (Jones 2013). Large numbers of scattered Neolithic and Bronze Age flint artefacts have been found throughout the area, with a significant complex of Neolithic monuments a short distance to the west. The earliest of which would appear to be the Hindwell cursus, built at some point after 3950-3520 BC and before 2870-2247 BC. Two parallel ditches runs for 4.6km, and effectively divide the Walton Basin in two. Seemingly contemporary with it is the Womaston causewayed enclosure (lying *circa* 600m to the northwest of the proposed development site), dated to around 3660-3340 BC, lying on a low hill overlooking the cursus. After the cursus fell out of use three large palisaded enclosures were built, two at Hindwell and one at Walton, in the period between around 2800 – 2400 BC, possibly in sequence. A large ring-ditch, 100m in diameter, is also recorded at Walton Court Farm, dated to between 2570-2300 BC. Associated settlement in the area is likely, although direct evidence remains elusive. The surrounding area is likely to have contained cultivated land and managed woodland.

Bronze Age activity in the area is represented by scatters of flints finds, numerous standing stones within the basin, and a series of burial mounds occupying the high ground surrounding the basin. Iron Age activity can be seen in the large hillforts on high ground overlooking the basin, including the large hillfort of Burfa Bank, some 1.5km to the east.

During the Roman period an auxiliary fort was established at Hindwell, *circa* 800m to the west, possibly during the early Roman campaigns into Wales in the 50s AD. A civilian settlement and a bath house have also been discovered nearby. Roman roads have been identified on all four sides of the fort. One such road has been traced leaving the eastern side of the fort, with settlement alongside it between the fort and a small stream to the north of Summergil Brook. The projected route of this road takes it to the north of the proposed development area through Upper House Farm. This route may be represented by the farm track that runs east from Upper House Farm. Further afield a number of marching camps, signal stations and other activity has been identified. Little is currently understood about activity in the area following the collapse of Roman administration in the early 5th century AD. The only **recorded monument of this era in the area is Offa's Dyke, which lies just over 1km** to the east.

A number of medieval castle sites are recorded in and around the Basin, of which Womaston Mound is one, reflecting the turbulent history of the area during the medieval period. Medieval villages have been recorded at Old Radnor and Kinnerton, with a larger settlement established at New Radnor. There is currently no evidence of settlement associated with the Womerston Mound castle site.

4. Objectives

This WSI sets out a program of works to ensure that the intrusive trial trench evaluation will meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for **Archaeologist's** *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014)*.

The objective of the intrusive trial trench evaluation will be to locate and describe, by means of strategic trial trenching, archaeological features that may be present within the development area. The work will elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance. The work will include an assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within national and regional research frameworks.

The intrusive trial trench evaluation will result in a report that will provide information of sufficient detail to allow informed planning decisions to be made which can safeguard the archaeological resource. Preservation *in situ* will be advocated where at all possible, but where engineering or other factors result in loss of archaeological deposits, preservation by record will be recommended.

A written report will be compiled following the fieldwork. Sufficient desk-top research will be undertaken to ensure that the results of this work are properly understood, interpreted and reported.

The report will include a comprehensive assessment of the historic context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within regional, national and, if relevant, international research frameworks.

4.1. Site Specific Research Aims

It is important to recognize that whilst primarily designed to mitigate impacts, developer-led archaeology is also regarded as research activity with an academic basis, the aim of which is to add to the sum of human knowledge. Curators recognize the desirability of incorporating agreed research priorities as a means of enhancing the credibility of the development control process, ensuring cost-effectiveness and legitimately maximizing intellectual return.

A research framework for the archaeology of Wales has been produced (2011-2014) and currently in the process of review. This intrusive trial trench evaluation has the capacity to identify areas where subsequent mitigation may contribute to the following published research aims:

Settlements and Houses – Higher status sites, as described in *A Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales East and Northeast Wales – Medieval* (2003).

Military Sites – earthwork castles, as described in *A Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales: Medieval Draft Paper* (November 2016).

5. Timetable of works

5.1. Fieldwork

The programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation will be undertaken prior to the determination of the planning application associated with the proposed development. The work is proposed to start in September 2017. Archaeology Wales will update CPAT-PS with the exact date.

5.2. Report delivery

The report will be submitted to Orbis and to CPAT-PS within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional HER.

6. Fieldwork

6.1. Detail

The work will be undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered **Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation** (2014).

The archaeological project manager in charge of the work will satisfy him/herself that all constraints to ground works have been identified, including the siting of live services and Tree Preservation Orders.

The agreed evaluation areas will be positioned to maximise the retrieval of archaeological information and to ensure that the archaeological resource is understood.

It is proposed that two trenches will be machine-excavated within the planned development area (Figure 3). The trenches will measure 20m in length, by 1.5m in width. The exact positioning of the trenches will depend on the position of any extant services or other obstructions that come to light during the initial phase of ground works. The locations and dimensions of the trenches will be agreed with CPAT-PS prior to the commencement of works.

The evaluation trenches (Trenches 1 & 2) will be excavated to the top of the archaeological horizon by a machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under close archaeological supervision. All areas will be subsequently hand cleaned using pointing trowels and/or hoes to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features and to determine their significance. The excavation of the minimum number of archaeological features will be undertaken, to elucidate the character, distribution, extent and importance of the archaeological remains. As a minimum small discrete features will be fully excavated, larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated) and long linear features will be sample excavated along their length - with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature and to investigate terminals, junctions and relationships with other features. Should this percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form

and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined full excavation of such features/deposits will be required.

Sufficient excavation will be undertaken to ensure that the natural horizons are reached and proven, where this can be practically and safely achieved. If safety reasons preclude manual excavation to natural, hand augering may be used to try to assess the total depth of stratification within each area. The depth of the excavation will conform to current safety requirements. If excavation is required below 1.2m the options of using shoring will be discussed with the client and CPAT-PS.

Where potentially significant archaeological features be encountered during the course of the evaluation then CPAT-PS and the client will be informed at the earliest possible opportunity. CPAT-PS may subsequently request that further archaeological work is undertaken in order to fully evaluate areas of significant archaeological activity. Such work may require the provision of additional time and resources to complete the archaeological investigation.

6.2. Recording

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc) using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

All features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries.

Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 12MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

The archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will have access to the AW metal detector and be trained in its use.

6.3. Finds

The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for **Archaeologists' Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological (2014)** will form the basis of finds collection, processing and recording.

All manner of finds regardless of category and date will be retained.

Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under *The Treasure Act 1996* will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (normally Phil Parkes at Cardiff University).

6.4. Environmental sampling strategy

Deposits with a significant potential for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental material will be sampled, by means of the most appropriate method (bulk, column etc). Where sampling will provide a significant contribution to the understanding of the site AW will draw up a site-specific sampling strategy alongside a specialist environmental archaeologist. All environmental sampling and recording will follow **English Heritage's** *Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology* (2002).

6.5. Human remains

In the event that human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established and the coroner informed. All human remains will be left *in situ* and protected during backfilling. Where preservation *in situ* is not possible the human remains will be fully recorded and removed under conditions that comply with all current legislation and include acquisition of licenses and provision for reburial following all analytical work. Human remains will be excavated in accordance with the Chartered **Institute for Archaeologist's** *Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains: Technical Paper Number 13* (1993).

6.6. Specialist advisers

In the event of certain finds, features or sites being discovered, AW will seek specialist opinion and advice. A list of specialists is given in the table below although this list is not exhaustive.

Artefact type	Specialist
Flint	Kate Pitt (Archaeology Wales)
Animal bone	Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall (APS)
Clay pipe	Hilary Major (Freelance)
Glass	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst (University of York)/Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy (University of Leicester)/ Quita Mold (Freelance)
Metal work and metallurgical residues	Dr Tim Young (GeoArch)

Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson (Bradford University)
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby (Freelance)
Roman Pottery	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)/ Peter Webster (Freelance)
Post Roman pottery	Stephen Clarke (Monmouthshire Archaeology)
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot (Freelance)
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling (University of Wales – Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers (Freelance)

6.6.1. Specialist reports

Specialist finds and palaeoenvironmental reports will be written by AW specialists, or sub-contracted to external specialists when required.

7. Monitoring

CPAT-PS will be contacted approximately five days prior to the commencement of archaeological site works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

Any changes to the WSI that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to CPAT-PS for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.

Representatives of CPAT-PS will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the field evaluation. No area will be back-filled, until CPAT-PS has had the opportunity to inspect it, unless permission has been given in advance. CPAT-PS will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

8. Post-fieldwork programme

8.1. Archive assessment

8.1.1. Site archive

An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2006) upon completion of the project.

The site archive (including artefacts and samples) will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and deposited with an appropriate receiving organisation, in compliance with ClfA Guidelines (*Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, 2014). The legal landowners consent will be gained for deposition of finds.

8.1.2. Analysis

Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of analysis and reporting will be undertaken. This will result in the following inclusions in the final report:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the watching brief, all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings (if features are encountered) with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- Written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate.
- An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development
- A discussion of the local, regional and national context of the remains by means of reviewing published reports, unpublished reports, historical maps, documents from local archives and the regional HER as appropriate.
- A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples finds and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.

8.2. Reports and archive deposition

8.2.1. Report to client

Copies of all reports associated with the intrusive trial trench evaluation, together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, including photographs and illustrations, will be submitted to the client and CPAT-PS upon completion.

8.2.2. Additional reports

After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of all reports will be deposited with the relevant county Historical Environment Record, the National Monuments Record and, if appropriate, Cadw.

8.2.3. Summary reports for publication

Short archaeological reports will be submitted for publication in relevant journals; as a minimum, a report will be submitted to the annual publication of the regional CBA group or equivalent journal.

8.2.4. Notification of important remains

Where it is considered that remains have been revealed that may satisfy the criteria for statutory protection, AW will submit preliminary notification of the remains to Cadw.

8.2.5. Archive deposition

The final archive (site and research) will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution, usually the relevant Local Authority museums service. Arrangements will be made with the receiving institution before work starts.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, copies of all reports and the final archive will be deposited no later than six months after completion of the work.

Copies of all reports, the digital archive and an archive index will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER. A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to CPAT-PS.

8.2.6. Finds deposition

The finds, including artefacts and ecofacts, excepting those which may be subject to the Treasure Act, will be deposited with the same institution, subject to the agreement of the legal land owners.

9. Staff

The project will be managed by Philip Poucher (AW Project Manager) and the fieldwork undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced AW staff. Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of CPAT-PS and the client.

Additional Considerations

10. Health and Safety

10.1. Risk assessment

Prior to the commencement of work AW will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. A copy will be sent to the client (or their agent

as necessary) for their information. All members of AW staff will adhere to the content of this document.

10.2. Other guidelines

AW will adhere to best practice with regard to Health and Safety in Archaeology as set out in the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (2002)*.

11. Community Engagement and Outreach

Wherever possible, AW will ensure suitable measures are in place to inform the local community and any interested parties of the results of the site investigation work. This may occur during the site investigation work or following completion of the work. The form of any potential outreach activities may include lectures and talks to local groups, interested parties and persons, information boards, flyers and other forms of communication (social media and websites), and press releases to local and national media.

The form of any outreach will respect client confidentiality or contractual agreements. As a rule, outreach will be proportional to the size of the project.

Where outreach activities have a cost implication these will need to be negotiated in advance and in accordance with the nature of the desired response and learning outcomes.

12. Insurance

AW is fully insured for this type of work, and holds Insurance with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hiscox Insurance Company Limited through Towergate Insurance. Full details of these and other relevant policies can be supplied on request.

13. Quality Control

13.1. Professional standards

AW works to the standards and guidance provided by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*. AW fully recognise and endorse the Chartered Institute for **Archaeologists' Code of Conduct**, *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* and the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs* currently in force. All employees of AW, whether corporate members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists or not, are expected to adhere to these Codes and Standards during their employment.

13.2. Project tracking

The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

14. Arbitration

Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision **in accordance with the Rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' Arbitration Scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists** applying at the date of the agreement.

15. References

Anon 1841 Tithe Survey for Old Radnor Parish

Jones, NW 2013 *Walton Basin Project 2012-13. Archaeological Conservation in Rural Environments (ACRE)* CPAT Report No.1195.1

Ordnance Survey 1889 1:2500 map, Herefordshire

Ordnance Survey 1903 1:2500 map, Herefordshire

Ordnance Survey 1928 1:2500 map, Herefordshire

Ordnance Survey 1977 1:2500 plan

RCAHMW 1913 *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments of Wales and Monmouthshire: III County of Radnor* London

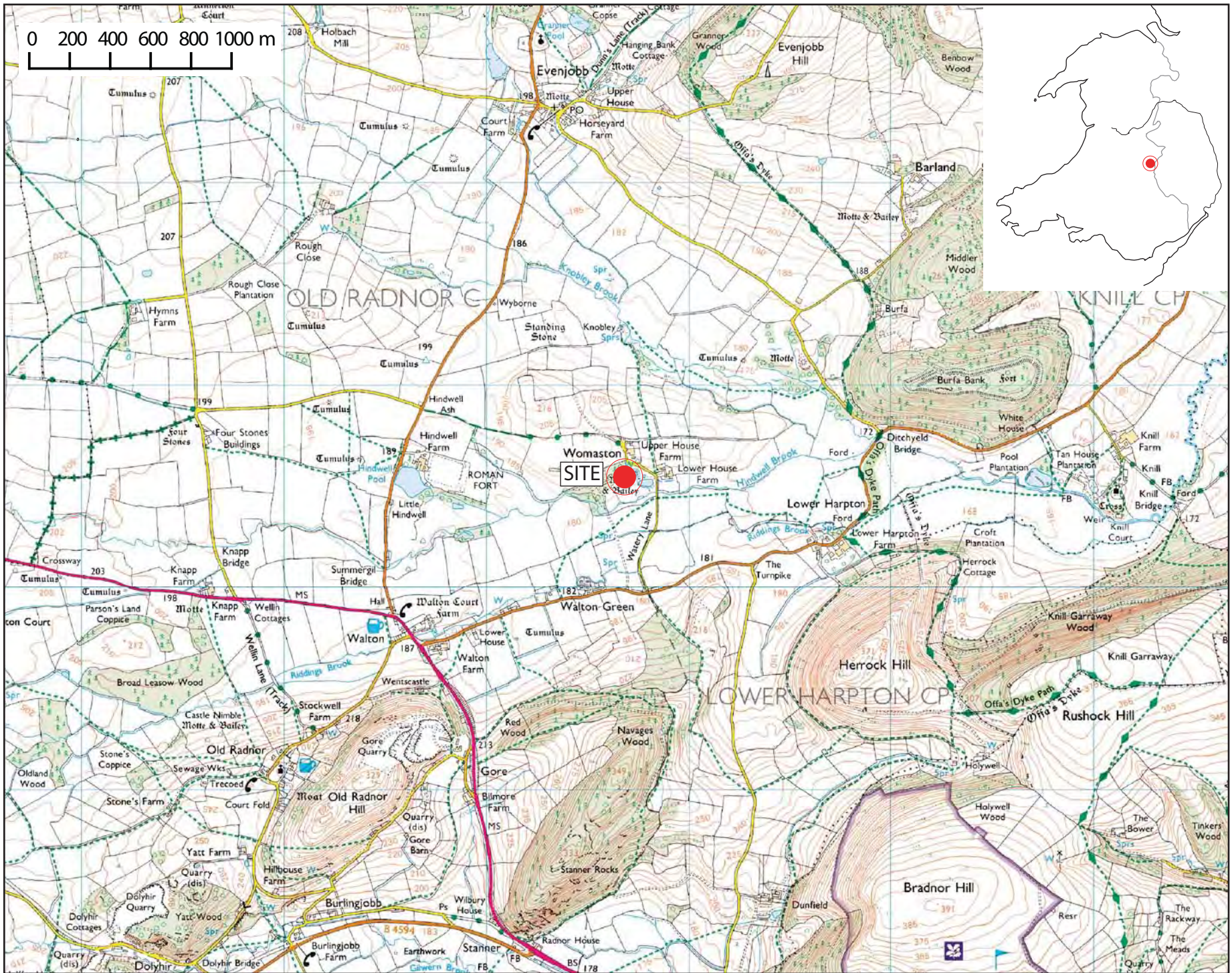


Figure 1: Location map, 1:25 ,000 @ A4

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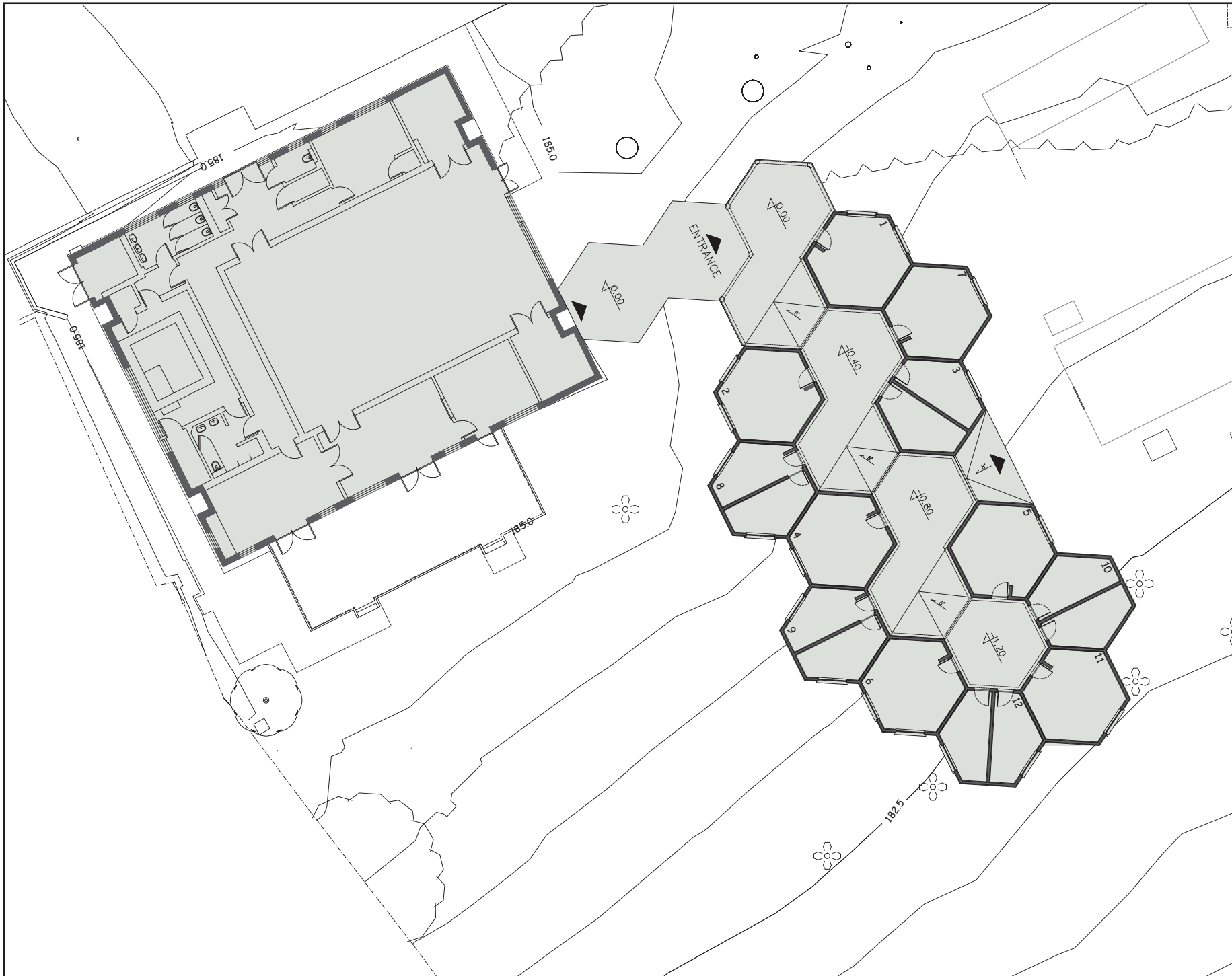


Figure 2: Proposed development plan, produced by The Interior Architectural Design Company Ltd, drawing #2, May 2017. Not reproduced to original scale.

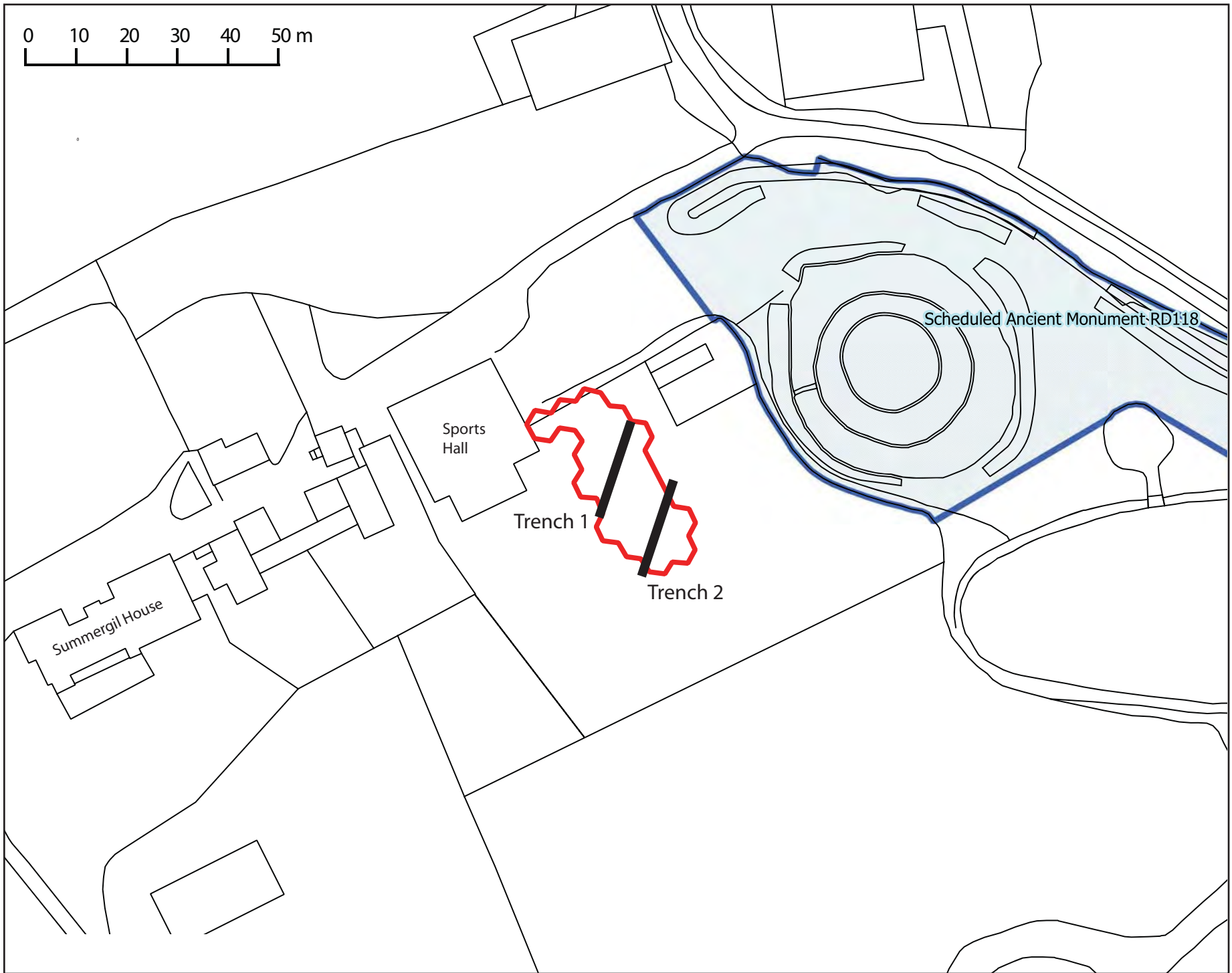


Figure 3: Trench location plan, overlaid on proposed development outline (in red). Also showing extent of Scheduled Ancient Monument. 1:1000 @ A4

Archaeology Wales

Appendix III

Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Summergil House, Watery Lane, Womaston, Powys

Site Name: Summergil House

Site Code: WLW/17/EV

SAM: Cadw RD118 (Womaston motte-and-bailey)

NPRN: 306365 (Womaston motte-and-bailey)
31040 (Womaston House)
86768 (Womaston House garden)

PRN: 317 (Womaston motte-and-bailey)
20644 (Womaston House)

NGR: 326685, 260550 (SO 2669 6055)

Site Type: Garden / Historic Settlement

Project Type: Evaluation

Project Manager: Philip Poucher

Project Dates: September 2017

Categories Present: 20th Century

Location of Original Archive: AW

Location of Duplicate Archives: RCAHMW, CPAT

Number of Finds Boxes: None

Location of Finds: AW

Museum Reference: N/A

Copyright: AW

Restrictions to Access: None

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