



---

# Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan, LL18 5AG.

June 2018  
V 1.0



aeon archaeology



Archaeological Watching Brief  
Project Code: A0165.1  
Report no. 0170

---



aeon archaeology

---

# Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan, LL18 5AG

## June 2018

Report no. 0170 v1.0

Archaeological Watching Brief

Aeon Archaeology  
25, Mold Road  
Broughton  
Chester  
CH4 0PQ

Written by: Josh Dean BA ACIfA

Checked by: Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA



Project Code: A0165.1

Date: 5/06/2018

Client: Mr. John Saunders Davies

[info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk)

---

# Figures

**Figure 01:** Location of Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

**Figure 02:** Location of Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire. Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

**Figure 03:** Plan of footing trenches at Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan, showing direction of photography. Scale 1:100 at A4.

**Figure 04:** Generic section of footing trenches at Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan, Scale 1:20 at A4.

**Figure 05:** Historic map (Flintshire IV Bodelwyddan, Rhuddlan 1871) showing location of Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan.

**Figure 06:** Historic map (Flintshire IV.NE (includes: Cwm; Diserth; Rhuddlan 1898) showing location of Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan.

**Figure 07:** Historic map (includes: Cwm; Diserth; Rhuddlan 1909) showing location of Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan.

**Figure 08:** Historic map (includes: Cwm; Diserth; Rhuddlan 1938) showing location of Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan.

**Figure 09:** Historic map (includes: Cwm; Diserth; Rhuddlan 1949) showing location of Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan.

# Plates

**Plate 01:** Pre excavation shot - from the northwest - scale 2 x 1.00m

**Plate 02:** Pre excavation shot - from the northeast - scale 2 x 1.00m

**Plate 03:** Shot of southern footing (northeast to southwest trench) - from the northeast - scale 2.00m

**Plate 04:** Shot of southern footing (from within trench) - from the northeast - scale 2.00m

**Plate 05:** Shot of southern footing (from within trench) - from the southwest - scale 1.00m

**Plate 06:** Shot of western footing (northwest to southeast trench) - from the southeast - scale 1.00m

**Plate 07:** Collapse in northern footing - from the northeast - no scale

**Plate 08:** Collapse in northern footing - from the southwest - no scale

**Plate 09:** Generic section of extension footings - from the southwest - scale 1.00m

**Plate 10:** Completed excavation of footings - from the north - 2.00m scale



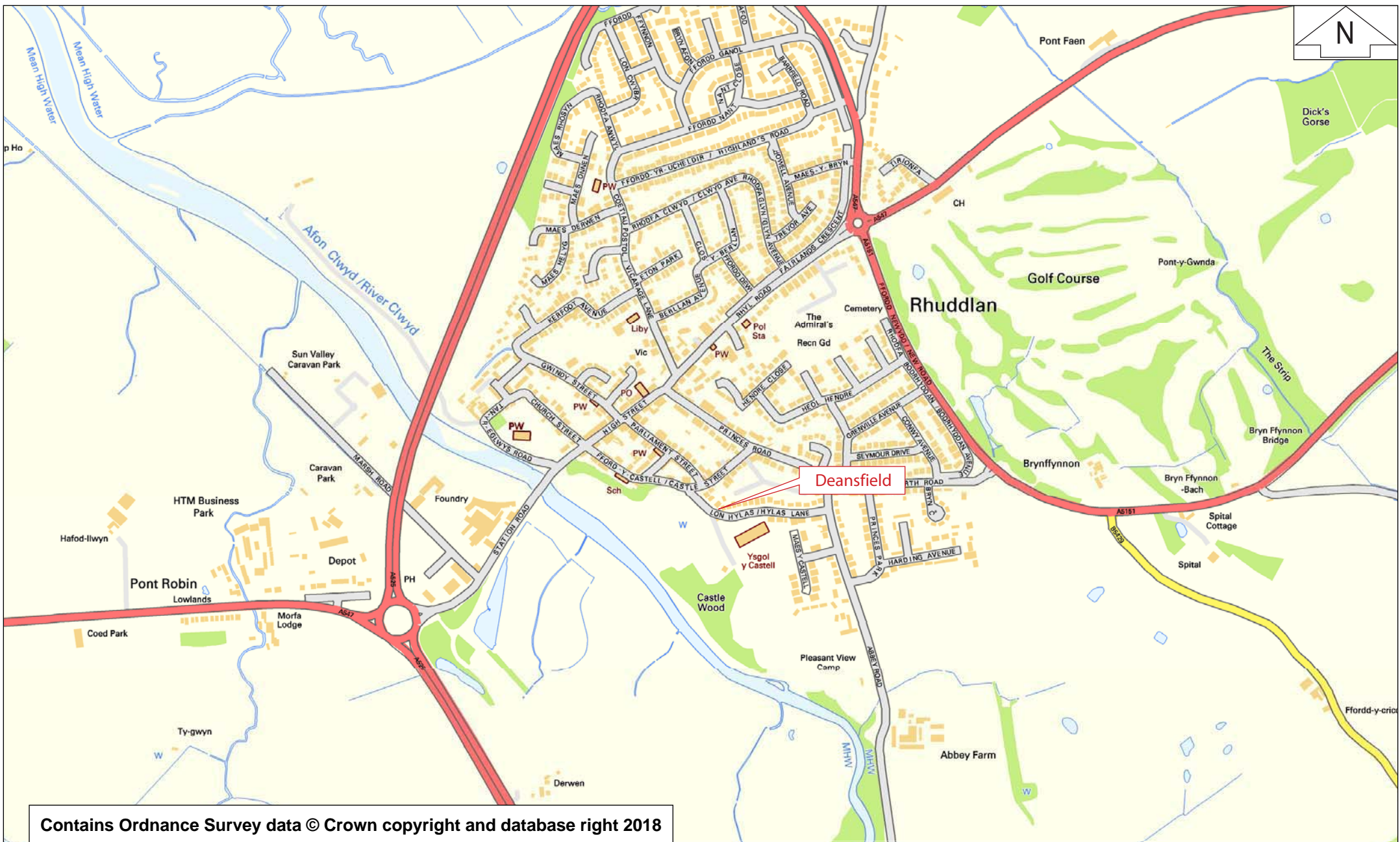
## Contents

1.0	NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY .....	2
2.0	INTRODUCTION .....	3
3.0	PROJECT AIMS.....	4
4.0	METHODOLOGY – ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF.....	6
4.1	Watching Brief.....	6
4.2	Data Collection from Site Records .....	6
4.3	Artefact Methodology .....	7
4.4	Environmental Samples Methodology.....	7
4.5	Report and dissemination.....	7
5.0	ACHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND .....	8
6.0	QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS .....	9
6.1	The Documentary Archive.....	9
6.2	Environmental Samples .....	9
6.3	Artefacts .....	9
7.0	RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF.....	10
7.1	The House Extension – Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan, (figures 1-9; plates 1-10).....	10
8.0	CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	12
9.0	SOURCES.....	13
	APPENDIX I: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF .....	14

## **1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Mr John Saunders Davies to carry out an archaeological watching brief at Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire LL18 5AG during the excavation of foundation trenches for two new house extensions as part of a condition of full planning permission. Upon attendance the Client advised that only one extension foundation trench would be excavated with the remaining extension not planned for several years.

The watching brief was therefore maintained during the excavation of a single foundation trench for the north-eastern extension. There were no archaeological remains or artefacts uncovered by the works and the stratigraphy showed that a levelling deposit had been spread across the area as either part of a former post-medieval orchard as a building platform for the current housing stock in the 1920s, thus covering any preserved archaeological remains.

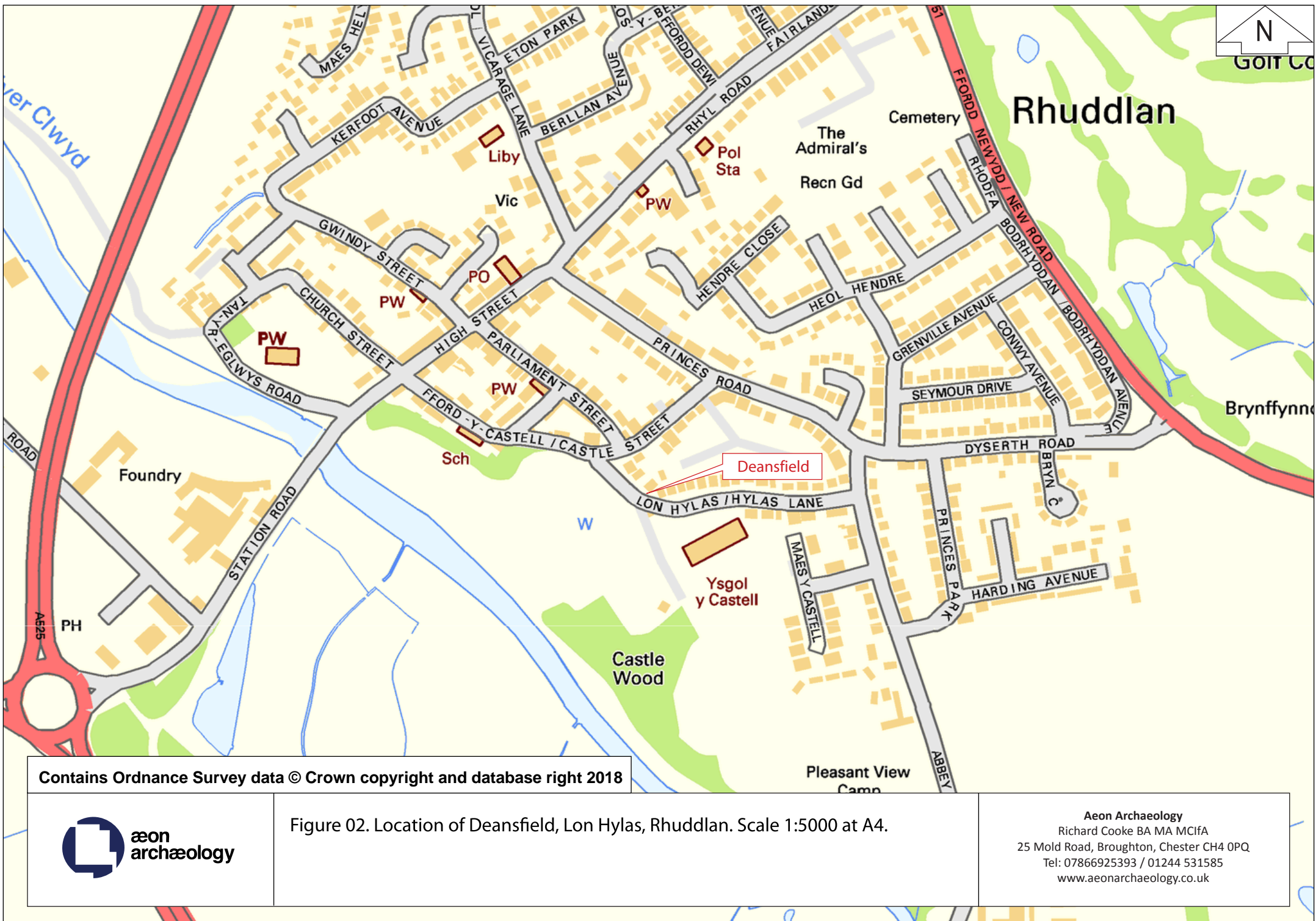


Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018



Figure 01. Location of Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

**Aeon Archaeology**  
 Richard Cooke BA MA MCIFA  
 25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ  
 Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585  
[www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk)



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018



Figure 02. Location of Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan. Scale 1:5000 at A4.

**Aeon Archaeology**  
 Richard Cooke BA MA MCIFA  
 25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ  
 Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585  
 www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Mr John Saunders Davies, hereafter the Client, to carry out an archaeological watching brief at Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire LL18 5AG (NGR SJ 02541 77960) (Planning Permission: 44/20170705/PF) (figures 01 and 02).

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken as part of mitigatory works during the groundworks associated with the construction of a new extension located at the north-eastern gable end of the property in order to satisfy the following planning condition:

### *Condition 3*

*The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeological contractor is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs. The Local Planning Authority will be informed in writing, at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development, of the name of the said archaeological contractor. A copy of the resulting report should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR within two months of the fieldwork being completed.*

A written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was undertaken by Aeon Archaeology in May 2018 (appendix I) which outlined the principle aims of the watching brief and the methods by which they would be met. This formed the basis of a method statement submitted for the work.

Relevant UK legislation on heritage includes the Welsh Government's Planning Policy Wales (PPW 2012), PPW is now supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TAN). Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment contains detailed guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment during development plan, preparation and decision making on planning and listed building consent applications. TAN 24 replaces the following Welsh Office Circulars:

- 60/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology
- 61/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas
- 1/98 Planning and the Historic Environment: Directions by the Secretary of State for Wales

Reference will also be made to the guidelines specified in Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).



### 3.0 PROJECT AIMS

The aim of the watching brief works was to characterise the known, or potential, archaeological remains uncovered during groundworks associated with the construction of a new extension to the property of Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan.

The broad aims of the archaeological watching brief were to:

- 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 watching brief itself are inadequate to support their treatment to an adequate and satisfactory standard.

The detailed objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to:

- 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.

The management of this project has followed the procedures laid out in the standard professional guidance *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006; rev 2015), and in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Archaeological Watching Brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014). Five stages are specified:

Phase 1: project planning

Phase 2: fieldwork

Phase 3: assessment of potential for analysis and revised project design

Phase 4: analysis and report preparation

Phase 5: dissemination

The current document reports on the phase 4 analysis and states the means to be used to disseminate the results. In this instance it was not necessary to prepare a revised project design as alluded to in Phase 3; as there was a paucity of evidence recovered in Phase 2 in terms of archaeological features and therefore did not warrant any alteration to the initial project design.

The site is to be set in its landscape context so that its full character and importance can be understood. All the information is to be presented in a report that will be held by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Monument Record of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) for

long term archiving so that it can be accessible to the public and future researchers. This phase of work also includes archiving the material and documentary records from the project.

## **4.0 METHODOLOGY – ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

### **4.1 Watching Brief**

The CIfA maintains a standard for archaeological watching brief which states that:

*An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant by-laws of CIfA.*

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the CIfA as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons (CIfA 2014a). The watching brief 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 a watching brief 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.

It is also important to note that a watching brief 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 watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

A watching brief 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.

All excavations were undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. A photographic record was maintained throughout, using a digital SLR camera (Canon 6000D) set to maximum resolution and any subsurface remains were to be recorded photographically, with detailed notations and measured drawings being undertaken if required.

In the event of archaeological discovery features were to be excavated by hand and fully recorded using Aeon Archaeology pro-formas, digital photographs, and plan and section drawings taken at a suitable scale (usually 1:20 for plan drawings and 1:10 for section drawings).

The archive produced is held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0165.1**.

### **4.2 Data Collection from Site Records**

A database of the site photographs was produced to enable active long-term curation of the photographs and easy searching. The site records were checked and cross-referenced and photographs were cross-referenced to contexts. These records were used to write the site narrative and the field drawings and survey data were used to produce an outline plan of the site.

All paper field records were scanned to provide a backup digital copy. The photographs were organised and precisely cross-referenced to the digital photographic record so that the CPAT HER can curate them in their active digital storage facility.

### **4.3 Artefact Methodology**

All artefacts were to be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. They would be bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. After processing, all artefacts would be cleaned and examined in-house at Aeon Archaeology. If required artefacts would be sent to a relevant specialist for conservation and analysis.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds was kept under review throughout the archaeological watching brief. Any changes in recovery priorities would be made under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Client and the CPAT Development Control Archaeologist. There was a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

### **4.4 Environmental Samples Methodology**

The sampling strategy and requirement for bulk soil samples was related to the perceived character, interpretational importance and chronological significance of the strata under investigation. This ensured that only significant features would be sampled. The aim of the sampling strategy was to recover carbonised macroscopic plant remains, small artefacts particularly knapping debris and evidence for metalworking.

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 would be obtained from Oxford Archaeology if required.

### **4.5 Report and dissemination**

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project was prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions were labelled, and cross-referenced, and will be lodged within a suitable repository to be agreed with the archaeological curator within six months of the completion of the project.

A draft copy of the report has been sent to the client and upon written approval from them paper and digital copies of the report will be sent to the regional HER, the CPAT Development Control Archaeologist, and will be logged with the RCAHMW. Copies of all notes, plans, and photographs arising from the watching brief will be stored at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0165.1** with the originals being lodged in a suitable repository to be agreed with the archaeological curator.

## **5.0 ACHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

Information held within the Clwyd-Powys Historic Environment Record indicated that the proposed new extension lay within the medieval historic core of the town of Rhuddlan and immediately adjacent to the boundary of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Rhuddlan Castle. The potential for any sub-surface archaeology here was unknown, but evaluation work and excavation to the west at *Hillview* had recently located medieval and post-medieval pits with associated ditched boundaries. Similar archaeology was anticipated at *Deansfield* with some potential for additional prehistoric and later archaeology similar to the deposits found to the south at Castle Hill and on the former Abbey Nurseries site (email correspondence from Mark Walters to Denbighshire planning authority).

## **6.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS**

### **6.1 The Documentary Archive**

The following documentary records were created during the archaeological watching brief:

Watching brief day sheets	1
Context Sheets	2
Digital photographs	26

### **6.2 Environmental Samples**

No environmental samples were taken as part of the watching brief as no suitable archaeological deposits were encountered.

### **6.3 Artefacts**

No artefacts were recovered during the watching brief.

## **7.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

### **7.1 The House Extension – Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan, (figures 1-9; plates 1-10)**

The archaeological watching brief was maintained by Josh Dean BA ACIfA, archaeological contractor at Aeon Archaeology. The site was attended on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and the weather conditions were bright and sunny.

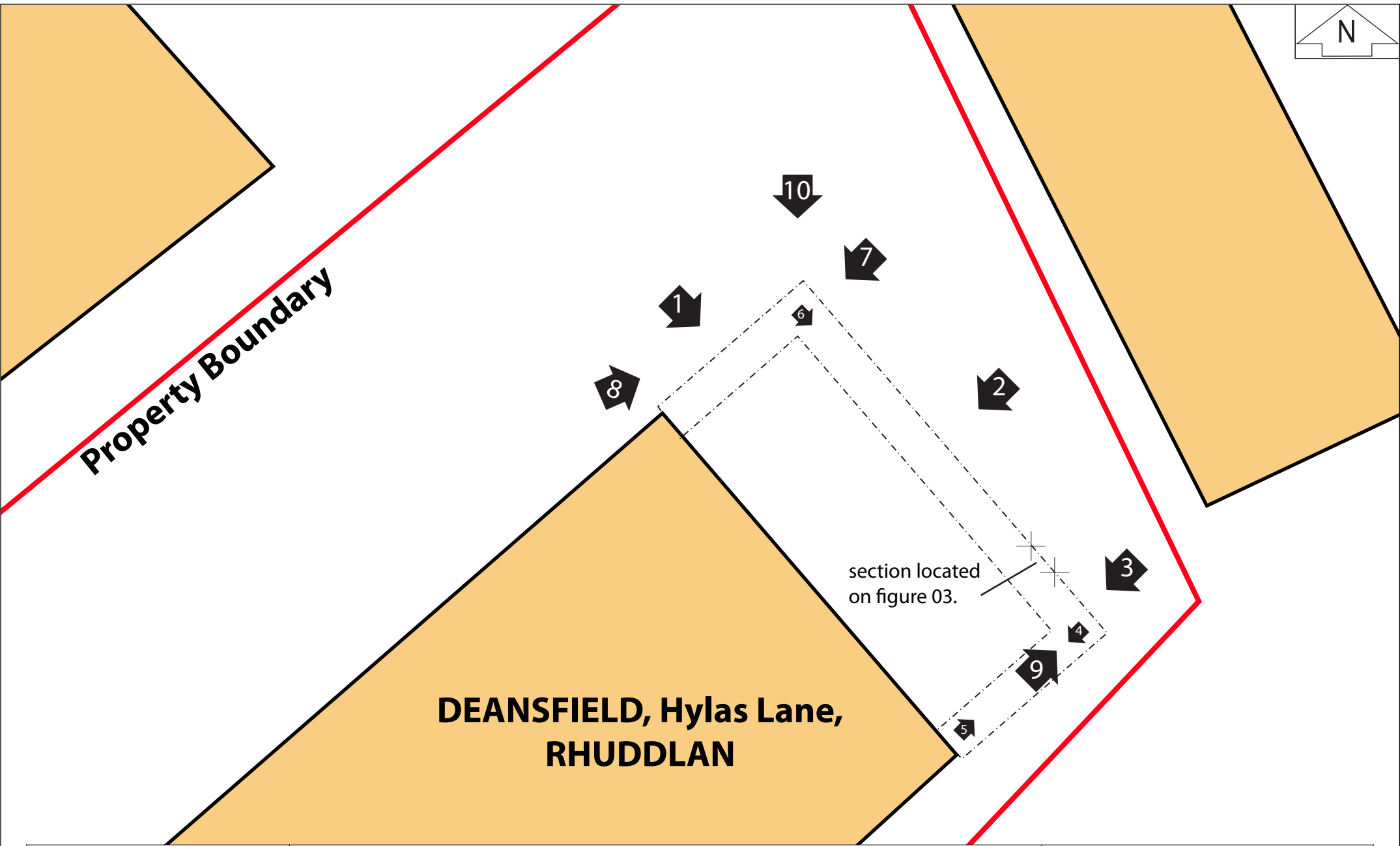
The watching brief was maintained during the excavation of the extension foundation trenches which measured 0.60m in width by 3.90m in length northwest to southeast and 5.30m northeast to southwest. The trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.40m through a 0.30m deep very soft, dark black-brown sand-silt topsoil (101) with occasional sub rounded/sub angular pebble inclusions. This lay above a >1.12m deep soft, mid grey-brown sand-silt imported soil (102) with infrequent rounded and sub-rounded pebble inclusions and very frequent flecks of charcoal. During the excavation the underlying natural geology was not reached. There were no archaeological features encountered during the watching brief however three sherds of post-medieval black-ware, a single sherd of red-glazed earthenware, and a single sherd of English brown stone-ware covering a period beginning in the late 18<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century were recovered from deposit (102).

#### ***Discussion***

The evidence recovered during the watching brief at Deansfield was limited and the unstable nature of the deposits made any attempt at further investigation too hazardous due to the health and safety concerns that were raised by the collapse of a section. The depth of the post-medieval deposits at Deansfield are considerable with the imported soil (102) being in excess of 1.10m in depth: the property appears to be visibly raised above Lon Hylas to the southwest and is also located on the brow of a hill very near to the summit. The ceramics recovered from excavation are all dated between the late 18<sup>th</sup> - early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Considering this evidence it can be suggested Deansfield may occupy land that may have been artificially raised up at some point within the last 100 years.

Other evidence in the form of historic map regression has been compiled from Ordnance Survey maps. The first edition six inch Ordnance Survey map of 1871 shows that the development area differed from the surrounding countryside as it was shown as a series of parallel lines (running northeast to southwest) with small circles arranged between those lines. There is no key that accompanies the map that would clarify what this symbology indicates, although it could represent land given over to orchards which would correlate with anecdotal evidence and colloquial knowledge from the area. As the maps progress through to the second edition map of 1898 and the third edition map of 1909 the area becomes devoid of the previous symbology present on the earlier map but also remains clear of any built structures, alluding that it may have changed use into an open field or simply that a designation for the land was no longer seen as necessary. By the 1938 Ordnance Survey map the area no longer has areas which are divided into open fields and a single structure is visible on Hylas Lane corner (possibly the eastern neighbouring property to Deansfield today) and terraced housing has been constructed to the east. The final map in this progression from 1949 is less detailed and has another structure (possibly the western neighbour to Deansfield today) and the same terraced housing away to the east (north of Hylas Lane).

The current depth of post medieval deposits at Deansfield may be interpreted in a number of ways, two of which are presented here; the current hill summit upon which Deansfield was erected may be the result of an orchard which was itself the result of a mass importation of fertile soil (102) from



**Figure 03:** Plan of footing trenches at Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan, showing direction of photography.  
Scale 1:100 at A4.

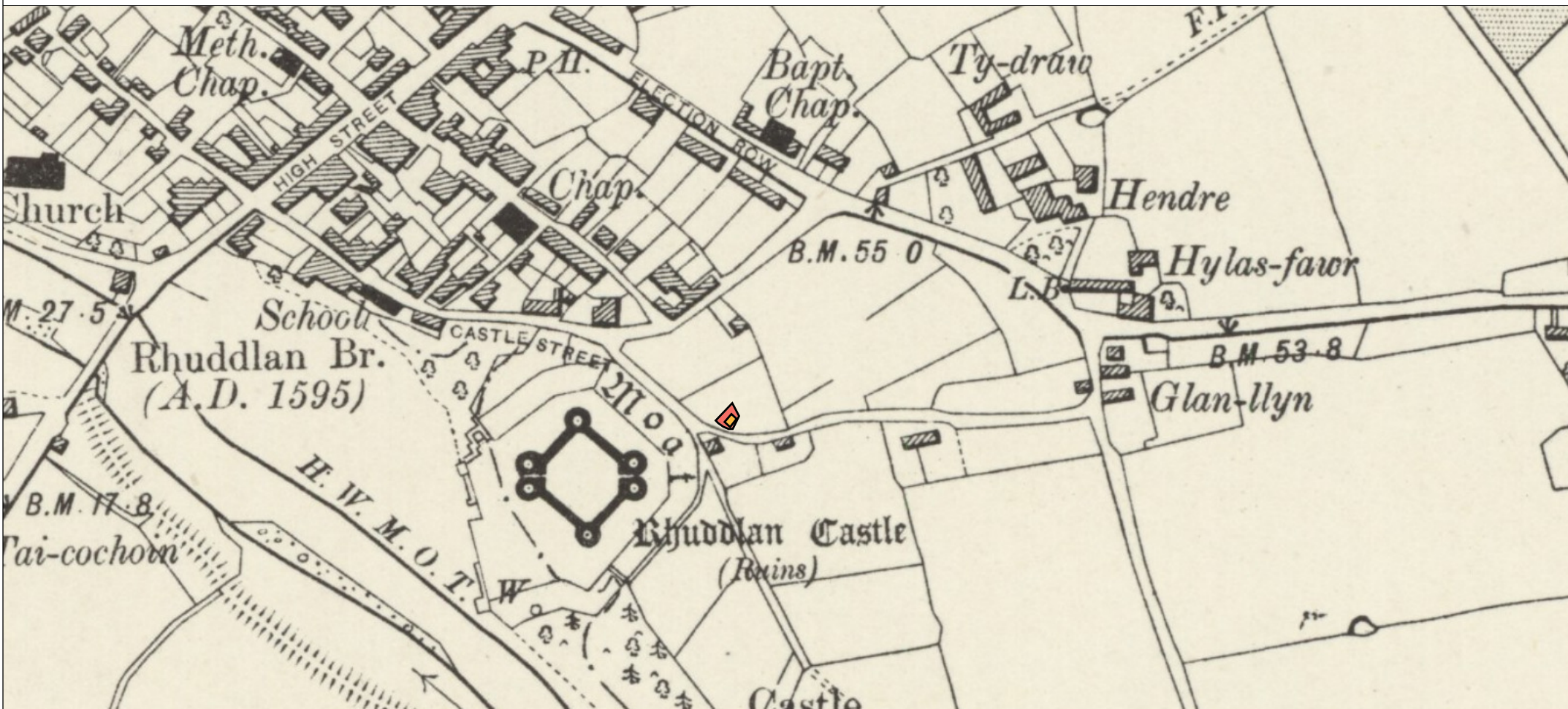
**Aeon Archaeology**  
Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA  
25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ  
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585  
[www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk)





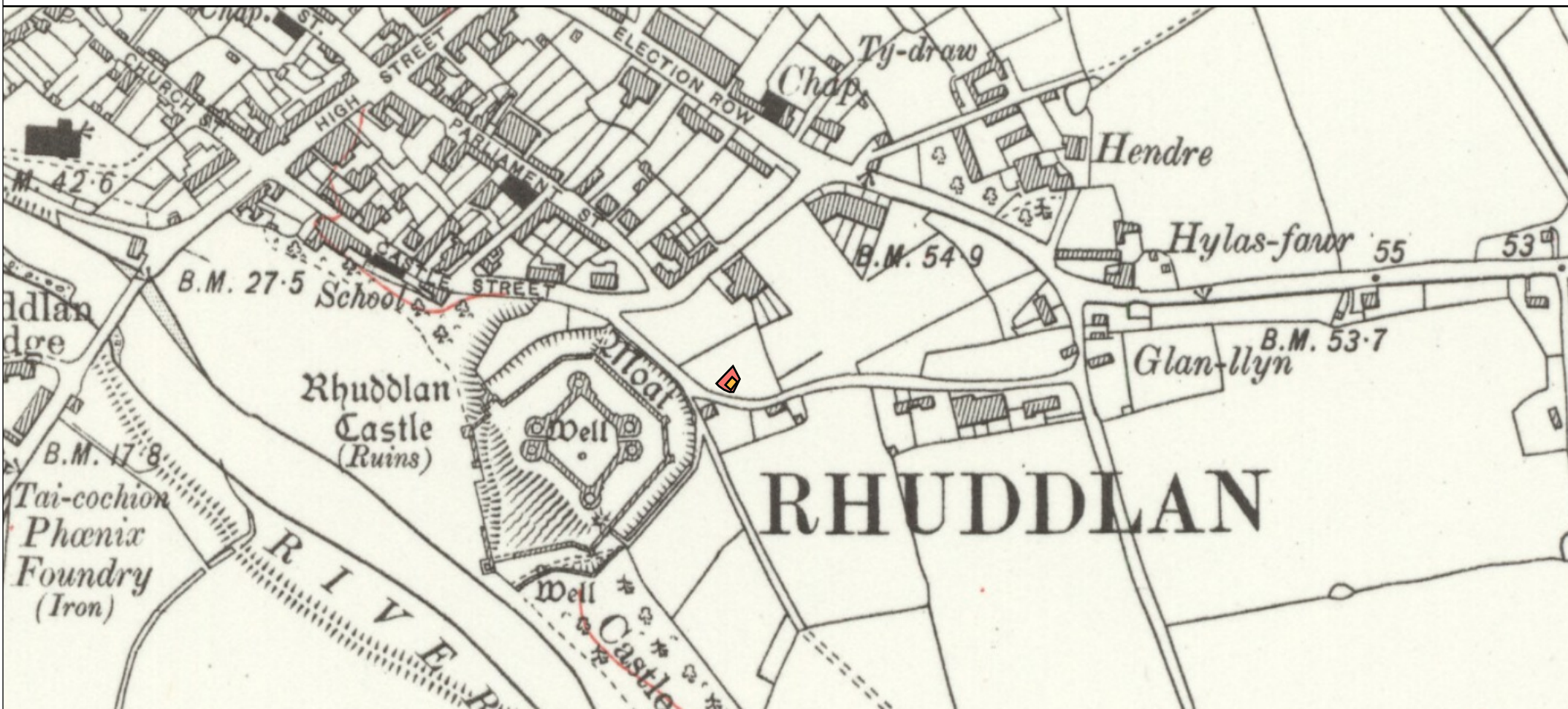
**Figure 05:** Historic map (Flintshire IV Bodelwyddan, Rhuddlan 1871) showing location of Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan (Red and Yellow on map).

**Aeon Archaeology**  
Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA  
25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ  
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585  
[www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk)



**Figure 06:** Historic map (Flintshire IV.NE (includes: Cwm; Diserth; Rhuddlan 1898) showing location of Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan (Red and Yellow on map).

**Aeon Archaeology**  
Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA  
25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ  
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585  
[www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk)



**Figure 07:** Historic map (Flintshire IV.NE (includes: Cwm; Diserth; Rhuddlan 1909) showing location of Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan (Red and Yellow on map).

**Aeon Archaeology**  
Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA  
25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ  
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585  
[www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk)



**Figure 08:** Historic map (Flintshire IV.NE (includes: Cwm; Diserth; Rhuddlan 1938) showing location of Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan (Red and Yellow on map).

**Aeon Archaeology**  
Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA  
25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ  
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585  
[www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk)

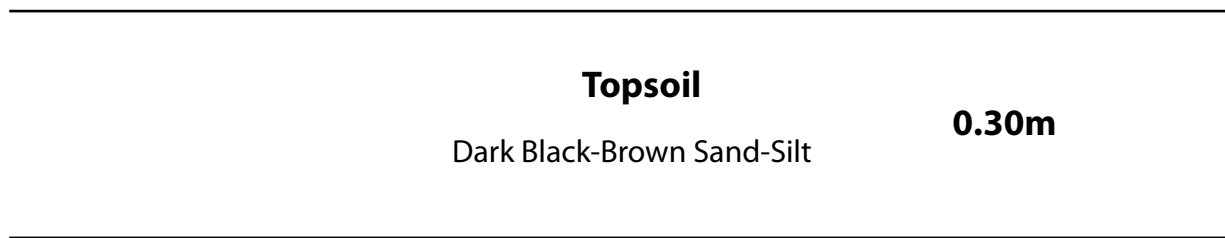


elsewhere – probably from the surrounding farmland which may well have been replete with post medieval ceramics and frequent charcoal deposits from an earlier time (as a result of manuring practices). Another possible explanation is that the deposit (102) may represent a vast cut and fill event that was necessary to stabilise waterlogged ground ahead of building work during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Figure : Generic section of Trench 1. (located on Figure 03)**

SW

NE



1:10





**Plate 01.** Pre excavation shot - from the northwest - scale 2 x 1.00m





**Plate 02:** Pre excavation shot - from the northeast - scale 2 x 1.00m



**Plate 03:** Shot of southern footing (northeast to southwest trench) - from the northeast - scale 2.00m



**Plate 04:** Shot of southern footing (from within trench) - from the northeast - scale 2.00m



**Plate 05:** Shot of southern footing (from within trench) - from the southwest - scale 1.00m



**Plate 06:** Shot of western footing (northwest to southeast trench) - from the southeast - scale 1.00m



**Plate 07:** Collapse in northern footing - from the northeast - no scale



**Plate 08:** Collapse in northern footing - from the southwest - no scale

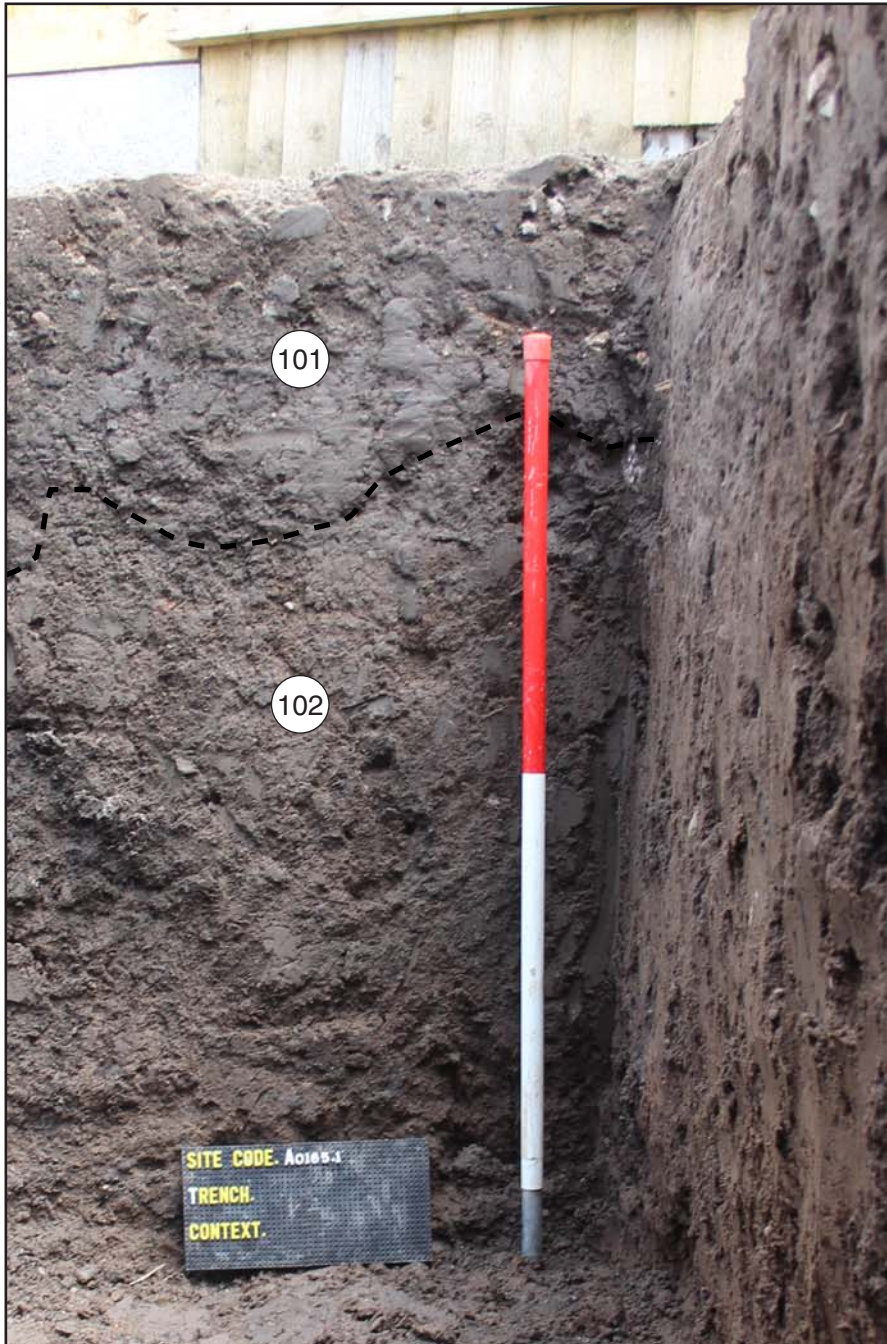


Plate 09: Generic section of extension footings - from the southwest - scale 1.00m





**Plate 10:** Completed excavation of footings - from the north - 2.00m scale

## **8.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The archaeological watching brief at Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire did not reveal any archaeological remains or any artefacts associated with the prehistoric period or the medieval period, despite the discovery further east at *Hillview* of pits and ditch features which were associated with the medieval and post-medieval period. One explanation for the depth of the deposits at Deansfield is that they may be masking medieval/post medieval features which reside lower down in stratigraphy; such deposits remain hidden beneath a deep deposit of imported soil (102) introduced from nearby farmland. Another explanation may be that any such archaeological remains were removed by a large cut and fill event at some point within the last 100 years; such a large investment of labor was perhaps necessary in order to stabilize the ground ahead of building work in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **9.0 SOURCES**

British Geological Survey website. [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk).

British Ordnance survey maps; SJ07NE, SJ07NW, SJ07SE and SJ07SW.

English Heritage, (2006, rev 2015). Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE).

National Library Scotland (2018), Map images, Historic maps; (Flintshire IV Bodelwyddan, Rhuddlan 1871), (Flintshire IV.NE (includes: Cwm; Diserth; Rhuddlan 1898), (Flintshire IV.NE includes: Cwm; Diserth; Rhuddlan 1909), (Flintshire IV.NE includes: Cwm; Diserth; Rhuddlan 1938) and (Flintshire IV.NE includes: Cwm; Diserth; Rhuddlan 1949).

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

**APPENDIX I: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**



aeon archaeology

---

**Deansfield, Lon Hylas  
Rhuddlan, Denbighshire, LL18 5AG**

**Written Scheme of Investigation  
for Archaeological Watching Brief.**

**May 2018  
V 1.0**



Project Code: A0165.1  
Planning Ref: 44/2017/0705/PF

---

1.0 INTRODUCTION .....	2
2.0 POLICY CONTEXT .....	3
3.0 ARCHEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	5
4.0 WATCHING BRIEF - ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS .....	5
5.0 METHODOLOGY.....	7
5.1 Archaeological Watching Brief .....	7
5.2 Watching brief report.....	8
5.2.1 Post-excavation Assessment.....	8
5.2.2 Post-excavation Report.....	9
6.0 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS DESIGNS (FAWDs).....	10
7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES.....	10
8.0 HUMAN REMAINS .....	10
9.0 ARTEFACTS .....	10
10.0 UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES: TREASURE TROVE .....	11
11.0 ARCHIVING .....	12
12.0 PERSONNEL.....	12
13.0 MONITORING AND LIAISON.....	13
14.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY.....	13
15.0 INSURANCE.....	13

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been commissioned by Mr John Saunders Davies, hereafter the Client, to provide a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for carrying out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the erection of extensions to the side and rear of the property at Deansfield, Hylas Lane, Rhuddlan, Rhyl LL18 5AG (NGR SJ 02541 77960).

The property lies to the northeast of Hylas Lane, approximately 7.85m northeast of the modern boundary of Rhuddlan Castle grounds, and within the historic core of Rhuddlan. Permission has been secured for the erection of extensions to the side and rear of the property and the installation of dormer windows.

A mitigation brief was not prepared for this scheme by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) Development Control Archaeologist but the following condition was assigned to full planning permission (**44/2017/0705/PF**):

### *Condition 3*

*The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeological contractor is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs. The Local Planning Authority will be informed in writing, at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development, of the name of the said archaeological contractor. A copy of the resulting report should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR within two months of the fieldwork being completed.*

### *Reason*

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

The work will adhere to the guidelines specified in Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).



Figure 01. Location of Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.



**Aeon Archaeology**  
 Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA  
 25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ  
 Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585  
[www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk)





Figure 02. Location of Deansfield, Lon Hylas, Rhuddlan. Scale 1:5000 at A4.



**Aeon Archaeology**  
 Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA  
 25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ  
 Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585  
[www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk)

## 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 World Cultural and Natural Heritage*<sup>1</sup> and the *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*<sup>2</sup>, commonly known as the Valetta Convention. The latter was agreed by the Member States of the Council of Europe in 1992, and also became law in 1992. It has been ratified by the UK, and responsibility for its implementation rests with Department for Culture Media and Sport.

The management and protection of the historic environment in Wales is set out within the following legislation:

- The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (As amended)
- The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- The Town and Country Planning Act 1990
- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
- The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 (As amended)

The Historic Environment (Wales) Act is the most recent legislation for the management of the Historic Environment and amends two pieces of UK legislation — the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The new Act has three main aims:

- to give more effective protection to listed buildings and scheduled monuments;
- to improve the sustainable management of the historic environment; and
- to introduce greater transparency and accountability into decisions taken on the historic environment.

With respect to the cultural heritage of the built environment the *Planning (Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings) Act*<sup>3</sup> 1990 applies. The Act sets out the legislative framework within which works and development affecting listed buildings and conservation areas must be considered. This states that:-

*“In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses” (s66(1))*

Other known sites of cultural heritage/archaeological significance can be entered onto county-based Historic Environment Records under the *Town and Country Planning 1995*.

Planning Policy Wales sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. Chapter 6 covers the historic environment and emphasises that the positive management of change in the historic environment is based on a full understanding of the nature and significance of historic assets and the recognition of the benefits that they can deliver in a vibrant culture and economy.

Various principles and policies related to cultural heritage and archaeology are set out in the Planning Policy Wales which guide local planning authorities with respect to the wider historic environment.

The following paragraphs from Planning Policy Wales are particularly relevant and are quoted in full:

Paragraph 6.5.5 concerns planning applications:

*The conservation of archaeological remains is a material consideration in determining a planning application, whether those remains are a scheduled monument or not. Where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings are likely to be affected by proposed development, there should be a presumption in favour of their physical protection in situ. It will only be in exceptional circumstances that*

---

<sup>1</sup> UNESCO, 1972, *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*

<sup>2</sup> Council of Europe, 1992, *European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage*

<sup>3</sup> Great Britain. *Planning (Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings) Act*. Elizabeth II.(1990), London: The Stationery Office

*planning permission will be granted if development would result in an adverse impact on a scheduled monument (or an archaeological site shown to be of national importance) or has a significantly damaging effect upon its setting. In cases involving less significant archaeological remains, local planning authorities will need to weigh the relative importance of the archaeological remains and their settings against other factors, including the need for the proposed development.*

Planning Policy Wales is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TAN). Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment contains detailed guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment during development plan, preparation and decision making on planning and listed building consent applications. TAN 24 replaces the following Welsh Office Circulars:

- 60/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology
- 61/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas
- 1/98 Planning and the Historic Environment: Directions by the Secretary of State for Wales

### 3.0 ARCHEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Information held within the Clwyd-Powys Historic Environment Record indicates that the proposed new extension will lie within the medieval historic core of the town of Rhuddlan and immediately adjacent to the boundary of the Scheduled Ancient Monument Rhuddlan Castle. The potential for any sub-surface archaeology here is unknown, but evaluation work and excavation to the west at *Hillview* has recently located medieval and post medieval pits with associated ditched boundaries. Similar archaeology is anticipated at *Deansfield* with some potential for additional prehistoric and later archaeology similar to the deposits found to the south at Castle Hill and on the former Abbey Nurseries site (email correspondence from Mark Walters to Denbighshire planning authority).

### 4.0 WATCHING BRIEF - ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS

The archaeological watching brief shall be maintained:

1. During the excavation of topsoil and foundation trenches for the new extensions.

The CIfA maintains a standard for archaeological watching brief which states that:

*An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant by-laws of CIfA.*

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the CIfA as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons (CIfA 2014). The watching brief 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 a watching brief 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.

It is also important to note that a watching brief 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 watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

A watching brief 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 watching brief 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 watching brief itself are inadequate to support their treatment to an adequate and satisfactory standard.

The specific objectives of the watching brief 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 Watching Brief

The methodology for the watching brief has been prepared with reference to the CIFA's document Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (2014) 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 CPAT Development Control Archaeologist (Mr Mark Walters). 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 watching brief. 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. Watching brief 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 watching brief 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 CPAT Archaeologist. The aim of the meeting will be to confirm that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief 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 watching brief 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).

The archive produced will be held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0165.1**.

## **5.2 Watching brief report**

### **5.2.1 Post-excavation Assessment**

A report on the results of the watching brief, 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 and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2014) 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 CPAT Archaeologist, 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 watching brief 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.

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 CPAT Archaeologist and to the client for comment and approval prior to production of the final report.



## **6.0 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS DESIGNS (FAWDs)**

The discovery of substantial archaeological remains and/or features during the archaeological works 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 CPAT archaeologist prior to implementation.

## **7.0 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 linear 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)

## **8.0 HUMAN REMAINS**

Any finds of human remains will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, and both the coroner and the CPAT Archaeologist 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.

## **9.0 ARTEFACTS**

All artefacts and ecofacts will be retrieved for identification and recording and will be treated in accordance with ClfA 2008 Guidelines for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).

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 CPAT Archaeologist. 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: Leigh Dodd

**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.**

## **10.0 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.

## **11.0 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 months of the completion of the fieldwork and sent to the Client and the CPAT Archaeologist for comment prior to finalisation of the report and dissemination. Bound copies of the report and an archive CD will be sent to the regional HER, the CPAT archaeologist and to National Monument Record, of 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. Copies of all digital files (inc. photos, report as PDF and Word, spreadsheets, databases, survey data etc) to be presented to each of above on optical disc (ie DVD).

## **12.0 PERSONNEL**

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

### **13.0 MONITORING AND LIAISON**

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

### **14.0 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.

### **15.0 INSURANCE**

Liability Insurance – Insignia Underwriting Policy 347002

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): £250,000

The current period expires 07/09/18

Professional Indemnity Insurance – Insignia Underwriting Policy 347002

Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 07/09/18

