



CAMBRIAN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECTS

Newtown Wesleyan Methodist Church, Back Lane, Newtown

Archaeological Evaluation & Desk Based Assessment



By
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Report No. 648

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Prepared For: John Harbron

On Behalf of: The Methodist Church in Wales

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Report No: **648**

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Non Technical Summary

This report results from work undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd (CAP) for Mr John Harbron, Newtown, on behalf of the Methodist Church in Wales.

The work involved a desk based assessment of the area of the proposed development and its immediate surroundings followed by an archaeological field evaluation. The desk based assessment highlighted the development area as being located within the medieval town of Newtown. The field evaluation highlighted the presence of eight burials within the single evaluation trench, with the strong possibility that many more exist beyond the area excavated. All of the graves were located at a similar depth and all were likely 19th or early 20th century in date.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 The site is located on land to the rear of the Methodist church on Back Lane, Newtown, Powys at grid coordinate SO 10708 91703 (Fig 1). The work was carried out in advance of a proposed extension being added to the rear of the church.
- 1.1.2 An archaeological desk based assessment and field evaluation were deemed necessary as part of the planning conditions imposed on the site. A brief for the works was drawn up by Mark Walters of the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust against which a works specification was drawn up by Mark Houlston (CAP).

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site of the proposed development lies approximately 100m to the south of the course of the river Severn and is within the centre of the large urban settlement of Newtown. The site is located at approximately 102m AOD and is positioned within a natural loop in the river Severn on a reasonably flat plain. The wider surrounding landscape is mostly made up of upland pasture fields with very little woodland.
- 1.2.2 The solid geological formations beneath the assessment area are mainly composed of limestone rock formations of the Silurian era (British Geological Survey 2001).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 Lewis (1833) states that: NEWTOWN, a newly created borough, market town, and parish, in the upper division of the hundred of NEWTOWN, county of MONTGOMERY, NORTH WALES, 8 miles (S. W. by W.) from Montgomery, and 179 (W. N. W.) from London, on the road from Welshpool to Aberystwith, containing 4550 inhabitants, and with Penyglodva, nearly 6000. Very little is known either of the origin or of the early history of this place, which since the beginning of the present century has, from the celebrity of its flannel manufacture, risen into importance and obtained a distinguished rank among the manufacturing and commercial towns in this part of the principality. The name, which is synonymous with Trenewydd, that given to it by the Welsh, is evidently in allusion to a somewhat recent date, but whether with reference to its origin, or to any

more ancient town which previously existed near the site, has not been ascertained. On the banks of the Severn, at the distance of about a mile, on the left of the road to Welshpool, are some remains of a British encampment, but no historical event is recorded which in any way connects it with the town ; and on the right of the same road are traces of the Roman way from Caer-Sws to the Gaer near Montgomery. At the former of these places coins, bricks, and other relics of Roman antiquity, have been discovered ; and there are some remains of the castle of Dolvorwyn, near the town. During the civil war of the seventeenth century, Charles I., on his way to Chester, was hospitably entertained for two days and two nights by Sir John Pryce, at Newtown Hall, the residence of that family since the time of Henry VI., on his departure from which he narrowly escaped being made prisoner by Sir Thomas Myddelton. The town is situated in a beautiful valley on the banks of the river Severn, and consists of one principal street, intersected by several smaller streets ; the old houses are in general of timber and brick, but those of modern erection are of handsome appearance. A substantial bridge of stone over the Severn was completed in 1827, in lieu of an ancient bridge of wood which stood near the site : this new structure, which is called the Long Bridge, consists of three arches of more than sixty feet span, and connects the parish of Newtown with Pen-y-gloddva, Frankwell, and the Basin, which are in the parish of Llanllwchaiarn, having been erected within the last seven years on the opposite side of the river, and now form part of the town : the arches and the parapets are of grey freestone, and the piers and spandrils of blue stone found in the neighbourhood : this bridge was erected by the county, at an expense of more than £4000. A stone bridge of one arch was built, in 1823, over the town brook, on the road to Welshpool, which, by way of distinction, is called the Short Bridge. The town, which appears to be more flourishing, and to be rising into greater importance than any in North Wales, is indifferently paved, partially lighted with gas, and amply supplied with water. Considerable improvements have taken place within the last few years, among which is the construction of a new road leading through the heart of the county of Radnor to Builth, and forming the most direct road from Chester, and the northern parts of Wales, to the south-western part of England. A book society was established in 1830, which is liberally supported by subscription among the inhabitants of the town and the immediate vicinity. The environs abound with pleasing and romantic scenery, and a fine view of the town is obtained from the summits of the hills on the north and south sides. At the distance of about a mile and a half on the road to Builth there is a picturesque and strikingly beautiful spot, which is much resorted to by the inhabitants : from the summit of a shelving mass of rock, eighty feet high, a stream of water rushes with impetuosity, forming in its descent a fine cascade, and winds at the base through a glen which is richly planted with shrubs and trees of various kinds.

The staple trade of this place and its neighbourhood is the manufacture of flannel, which was first introduced about forty years since, and for several years conducted upon a small scale, the average number of pieces not exceeding ten per week. The superior fineness of the Welsh wool, and the peculiar softness of the water of the Severn, afforded every facility for conducting this manufacture to advantage; and the skill and care bestowed by the masters on the finishing of the goods have distinguished the flannels of Newtown for unrivalled excellence of quality. The manufacture is now carried on to a very considerable extent, affording employment to more than three thousand persons in the town and neighbourhood, in which not less than fifty factories have been established, working fifty thousand spindles, one thousand two hundred looms, and fifty carding-engines, which are propelled by water and steam. The average number of pieces, each containing one hundred and sixty yards, at present manufactured is two hundred and fifty per week, which are of the finest quality, and obtain a ready sale in the market, which is

henceforward to be held for that purpose, every alternate Thursday, in a spacious building recently erected, and opened on September 6th, 1832, the proprietors of which are shareholders of £25 each. Hitherto the market for the sale of flannels has been held at Welshpool, but the manufacturers and other inhabitants of this place have erected the above-named building, with the view of withdrawing it entirely from that town, and establishing it permanently here. Connected with these factories there are not less than twenty fulling-mills and several extensive bleaching-grounds. Machinery of every description is also made in the town, as well for general purposes as for the improvement of the manufacture, into which it has been introduced with complete success. A foundry upon an extensive scale has been erected, in which castings of every kind connected with the works, and articles of every description, are made: there are also potteries for the coarser kinds of earthenware, and several tanneries and malt-kilns, a considerable trade being carried on in malt ; and it is in contemplation to erect a carpet-manufactory in the town. An act of parliament was obtained, in 1814, for extending the Montgomeryshire canal from Garthmill to this town, a distance of eight miles, which has been carried into effect with great benefit to the trade of the place : this new line of inland navigation, which is called the Western branch of the Montgomeryshire canal, was opened on the 1st of March, 1819, and, in the course of the following year, the basin, which is three hundred feet in length and one hundred feet wide, was completed. Several convenient wharfs and yards have been erected for storing coal, bricks, slates, timber, and other articles of merchandise, and numerous lime-kilns have been built along the banks of this canal, which has contributed to facilitate the conveyance of the heavier articles of manufacture, and to supply the neighbourhood with commodities of every kind. The markets, which are abundantly supplied and numerously attended, are on Tuesday, for corn and provisions, and on Saturday for provisions only. The market-hall is a plain brick building, situated in the centre of the principal street : the lower part is appropriated to the use of the corn market, and the upper to the sale of wool, of which considerable quantities are purchased every market day. It is in contemplation to take down this building, which obstructs the principal thoroughfare, leaving room only for a single waggon to pass with difficulty on each side, and to erect another in a more convenient situation. The tolls of the market belong to Viscount Clive, as lord of the manor of Cedewen, in which the town is included. The fairs are on the first Tuesday in February, the last Tuesday in March, the first Tuesday in May, June 24th, the last Tuesday in August, October 24th, and December 16th: of these the May, June, and October fairs are very large, and amply supplied with horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, and all kinds of wares ; at the October fair, of which the first day is always for sheep and pigs, more than eighteen thousand sheep are generally sold. By the late act for amending the representation of the people Newtown has been constituted a contributory borough, uniting with the other boroughs in the county in the return of a member to parliament : the right of election is vested in every male person of full age occupying, either as owner or as tenant under the same landlord, a house or other premises of the annual value of not less than ten pounds, provided he be capable of registering as the act directs : the present number of such tenements within the limits of the borough, which are described in the Appendix to this work, is two hundred and sixty-two. The town is within the jurisdiction of the county magistrates, who hold a petty session for the division on the first Monday in every month; and constables and other officers are appointed at the court leet of the lord of the manor, which is held annually at Easter. It is supposed that the county gaol was formerly in this town, and near the market-place is an ancient building, now converted into a public house, which is still called the " Old Gaol," but will probably be taken down with a view to the improvement of this part of the town.

The living is a rectory, locally in the archdeaconry, and in the diocese, of St. Asaph, rated in the king's books at £ 8. 15., and in the patronage of the Bishop of St. Asaph. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is an ancient structure, in the early style of English architecture, with a low square tower surmounted by a belfry of wood : the interior consists of two aisles, separated by a central range of pillars and pointed arches of wood, which support the roof, and a chancel, separated from the body of the church by an elaborately carved and richly gilt and painted screen, which was removed hither from Abbey Cwm-Hir, in the county of Radnor : there are some marble monuments, chiefly to the family of Pryce of Newtown Hall ; and numerous texts of scripture in frames are hung round the walls. His Majesty's commissioners proposed a grant of £4000, for the erection of an additional church, and land for a burial-ground adjoining the site, on condition that the inhabitants would raise among themselves £1500 by subscription; but from some cause the proposition has not been yet carried into effect. There are places of worship for Baptists, Independents, and Welsh Calvinistic and Wesleyan Methodists. An academy for the education of young men for the ministry among the Independents was removed to this town from Llanvyllin, in 1821, which, together with a grammar school attached to it, is supported chiefly by the congregational fund under the superintendence of the Board in London. There are Sunday schools in connexion with the established church and the several dissenting congregations, in which about one thousand four hundred children are instructed. A dispensary was instituted in 1825, by William Pugh, Esq., of Bryn Llywarch, who, during the first year, defrayed the whole expense of its establishment, amounting to more than £200 : it is now supported by general subscription among the inhabitants, and is productive of great benefit to the numerous families employed in the manufactures of the place. In a fine park adjacent to the town, on the west, stands Newtown Hall, the seat of the Rev. G. A. Evors ; and the surrounding country is enlivened by numerous other gentlemen's residences, among which may be mentioned Black Hall, the seat of Charles Jones, Esq.; Bryn Llywarch, that of W. Pugh, Esq.; Dolerw, that of W. Lutener, Esq. ; Dolvorgan, that of John Edwards, Esq. ; Dolvorwyn Hall, that of the Rev. J. Price; Glan Havren, that of Mrs. Herbert ; and Cregynog, that of C. H. Tracey, Esq. The poor are maintained by an average annual expenditure amounting to £ 1013.

- 1.3.2 The National Gazetteer of Great Britain and Ireland (Hinson, 1868), written some 35 years later, states: "NEWTOWN, (or Tre' Newydd), a parish, market town and newly created borough, in the hundred of Newtown, county Montgomery, 9½ miles from Welshpool, 7 from Montgomery, and 29½ from Oswestry, by the Cambrian railway, on which it is a station. It is situated in a fertile vale on the banks of the river Severn, by which it is nearly surrounded, and which is here crossed by a bridge of three arches. The direct road from Welshpool to Aberystwith passes through the town, and the Montgomery canal is within a short distance. It was formerly called Llanfair Ynghedrevain, or St. Mary's, in the cantref of Cydewain, and was then only a small village. It is now a modern manufacturing town, consisting of several streets, and containing about 6,000 inhabitants.

The houses are mostly timber, framed with lath and plaster facings, like the buildings of Llanidloes. It has been considerably extended during late years, and contains upwards of fifty factories, chiefly for fine flannels, but its prosperity is not considered proportionate to its advantages of position, owing chiefly, as is said, to the popular objections to machinery in lieu of hand-weaving in this part of Wales. It contains a new flannel hall, erected at a cost of £4,000, in 1832, when the market was removed from Welshpool, also a post-office, and a plain brick townhall, but has no corporation.

The National Provincial bank of England, and the North and South Wales bank, have branch offices in the town. Machinery of every description is made, and there are foundries, potteries, malt-kilns, tanneries, wharfs, and lime-kilns. Petty sessions for the hundred, and the winter assizes, are held at Newtown, which has been made a contributory borough with Montgomery, in the return of a member to parliament. The Newtown and Llanidloes Poor-law Union comprises seventeen parishes.

The living is a rectory* in the diocese of St. Asaph, value £406, in the patronage of the bishop. The old church, situated nearly in the centre of the town, is a venerable structure, dedicated to St. Idloes. It consists of a nave and chancel, with an aisle of equal breadth on the south side, divided from the main body by a wooden arcade of eight bays, but is now fast falling to decay. Pugh says, the walls in his time were covered with small cards in lacerated frames, containing portions of Scripture, and from the roof were suspended several old knights' mantles upon poles. It formerly possessed an altar-piece of the Last Supper, painted and presented by the poet Dyer; also a remarkable rood-screen, enriched with carving, gold, and colour. The antique font and screen are of most curious workmanship, said to have been brought from the Abbey of Cwmhir, in Radnorshire, and have been recently removed to the new church, which was built in 1847. There are places of worship for the Independents, Baptists, and Wesleyan Methodists, also National and other schools. The charities produce about £25 per annum.

A little distance from the town is Newtown Hall, formerly the seat of the Pryses, surrounded by a park. Sir John Pryse, the last of this family, married three wives. The first two embalmed and placed them in his chamber, one on either side of his bed. The third, however, admitting no rival-ship either by the living or dead, refused to supply their vacated places till their remains were interred. Sir John also survived his third wife, whom he so affectionately regarded, that, on her decease, he engaged a woman named Bridget Bostock to restore her to life, but she exerted her mysterious powers without any desirable effect. Market days are Tuesday and Saturday. Fairs are held on the first Tuesdays in February and May, the last Tuesdays in March and August, 24th June, 24th October, and 16th December.

- 1.3.3 The church itself is the fourth Wesleyan Chapel built in the town, and the second on this site. The original 1835 chapel, built of stone in the classical style with a portico added in 1878, an extension added in 1881, was damaged by floods, and in 1982 was demolished. It was collapsed into its own cellar and a new chapel was built over it in two stages. The new, modern building is a steel-framed structure clad in red brick with blue dressings, with a central glass roof and wings covered in steel sheeting. It was constructed between 1983 and 1989, with the worship area opening in 1984 and the hall in 1989, all at a cost of £140,000. The organ and two stained glass windows were salvaged from the old building (Mathieson, 2008).
- 1.3.4 No records of burials in the graveyard to the rear of the church could be located. During construction work on the current church the majority of gravestones appear to have been moved to one side of the graveyard.
- 1.3.5 Construction of the Argos building in the plot next to the church located features of medieval date including a kiln (Walters, Pers.comm).

2 Aims and Objectives

2.1 Desk Based Assessment

2.1.1 The main scope and objectives of the desk based study were to reveal the nature, significance and, where possible, the chronology of the archaeology within the area of the proposed development. The purpose of the desk-based assessment, in accordance with standards and guidance as laid down by the *Institute for Archaeologists*, is to gain information about the known or potential archaeological resource within the given area (including presence or absence, character and extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and relative quality of the potential archaeological resource), in order to make an assessment of its merit in context, leading to one or more of the following:

- The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource;
- The formulation of a strategy for further investigation, whether or not intrusive, where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be devised;
- The formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a program of research.

2.2 Field Evaluation

The main purpose of the Field Evaluation was:

- 2.2.1 To establish the presence/absence of intact archaeological remains within the assessment area;
- 2.2.2 To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present.
- 2.2.3 To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features
- 2.2.4 To appraise the likely impact of any development on any surviving archaeological deposits and if appropriate to make suggestions for a mitigation strategy or, where areas contain archaeology of national importance, for preservation *in situ*.

3 Desk Based Assessment Methodology

3.1.1 For the purposes of the archaeological desk based study the following repositories were visited/consulted;

- Regional Historic Environment Record, Welshpool
- Portable Antiquities Scheme (Powys)
- National Library, Aberystwyth
- RCAHMW, Aberystwyth

- Archaeology Data Service
- Cadw

3.1.2 At these repositories the following sources were consulted:

- All Ordnance Survey Maps
- Tithe Enclosure Award and Parish Maps
- Estate Maps
- Historical documents pertaining to the site
- Archaeological books and journals
- Unpublished reports
- Aerial photographs
- SAM data

3.1.3 At the Welshpool Historic Environment Record a search of all sites recorded in the HER as being located either within or up to 500m from the edge of the proposed development area was undertaken. This was then supplemented with a similar search of data held by the Archaeology Data Service.

3.1.4 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and Guidance: for an archaeological desk based assessment*.

4 Evaluation Methodology

4.1 Scope of Fieldwork

4.1.1 The evaluation consisted of a single machine excavated trench (Fig 2).

The trench was 'L' shaped. Each long section measured 10m in length by 2m wide. The maximum excavation depth of the trench was approximately 1m below the current ground surface.

4.1.2 Project Manager Chris E Smith and Project Assistant Irma Bernardus undertook the evaluation. The trench was cleaned by hand. Plans and sections were recorded and drawn at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. All areas were photographed using high resolution digital photography.

4.1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and Guidance: for an archaeological evaluation* and current Health and Safety legislation.

4.2 Finds

4.2.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context.

4.3 Palaeo-environmental evidence

4.3.1 No deposits suited to environmental sampling were recovered during the course of the

evaluation.

5 Desk Based Assessment Results

5.1 Map Regression Analysis

- 5.1.1 The 1818-46 map (Fig 3) shows the assessment area in clear detail. As the first chapel on the site was constructed in 1835 the map can be shown to date from between 1818 and 1834. The church is shown as not being in existence by this time. Indeed the route of Back Lane itself does not seem to have formed by this time either with only a boundary marked on the map.
- 5.1.2 The 1836 1st Series OS Map (Fig 4), although produced at a very small scale, appears to show a route through the area of Back Lane, though no church is clearly visible. This is more likely due to the scale of the map as the church itself would have been standing almost a year at this point.
- 5.1.3 The 1845 map (Fig 5) again shows the area in very clear detail. The church and graveyard are clearly marked though Back lane does not seem to be a through road at this point.
- 5.1.4 The 1891 1st Edition 1:10560 OS map (Fig 6) again shows the area in very clear detail. Both the church and graveyard are clearly depicted. Little difference from the 1845 map, in terms of development, is evident. This map is the first to name Back lane. At this point Back lane does not appear to run past the church but turns sharply westwards before it meets the church site and joins Broad Street.
- 5.1.5 The 1903 2nd Edition 1:10560 OS map (Fig 7) shows very little difference to the 1891 1st Edition. Both the church and graveyard are shown in clear detail with no change from the 1891 map. This map is the first to name the road adjoining Broad Street to the north of the church as Severn Place.
- 5.1.6 The 1938-1953 Edition 1:10560 OS map (Fig 8) also shows very little difference to the 1891 and 1903 maps. The road to the south of the church, leading from the end of Back Lane and adjoining Broad Street is named as Wesley Street, no doubt influenced by the church.

5.2 Map Regression Summary

- 5.2.1 The map regression analysis has shown that, in the last 200 years, slow urban growth has encroached onto the assessment area. Development around the site of the church appears to have reached a peak around 1845 with only small changes evident after this date.

5.3 HER Data

- 5.3.1 A search of the Regional HER in Welshpool revealed a total of 63 known entries within a 500m radius of the assessment area (Fig 9).
- 5.3.2 Palaeolithic. No finds or features from the Palaeolithic period are recorded within a 500m radius of the assessment area.

5.3.3 Mesolithic. No finds or features from the Mesolithic period are recorded within a 500m radius of the assessment area.

5.3.4 Neolithic. Two features from the Neolithic period are recorded within a 500m radius of the assessment area.

PRN1795 – Collection of 12 flints
PRN1796 – Badly damaged Neolithic axe

5.3.5 Bronze Age. No finds or features from the Bronze Age period are recorded within a 500m radius of the assessment area.

5.3.6 Iron Age. No finds or features from the Iron Age period are recorded within a 500m radius of the assessment area.

5.3.7 Roman Period. Two features from the Roman period are recorded within a 500m radius of the assessment area.

PRN1033 – Part of Roman sword
PRN44883 – Various finds

5.3.8 Post Roman/Dark Age/Saxon/Viking. No finds or features from the Post Roman/Dark Age/Saxon/Viking Age period are recorded within a 500m radius of the assessment area.

5.3.9 Medieval Period. Twenty five features from the Medieval period are recorded within a 500m radius of the assessment area.

PRN1034 – Newtown Hall Mound
PRN1039 – Newtown Hall
PRN1801 – Lady Well
PRN1802 – Pen y Glodfa Finds
PRN16462 – Newtown Church (St. David) yard
PRN17202 – Skinner St/Old Church
PRN29198 to PRN29211 – Newtown Medieval town
PRN31016 – Newtown Old Church (St. Mary) yard
PRN34979 – Wesley Place, Oven
PRN1037 – Newtown Old Church (St. Mary)
PRN37505 – Beander Mill
PRN85532 – Medieval Market
PRN85540 – Medieval Fairs
PRN44882 – Find

5.3.10 Post medieval Period. Sixteen features from the Post-medieval period are recorded within a 500m radius of the assessment area.

PRN20566 – Rostherne bank house
PRN17703 – Newtown Church (St. David) Bells
PRN20567 – Newtown House
PRN20573 - Rostherne bank house
PRN31040 – 1 Wesley Street
PRN31042 – 7 Wesley Street

PRN31057 – Cwrt Plas-yn-Dre meeting house
PRN40173 – 2 Wesley Street
PRN40174 – 3 Wesley Street
PRN40175 – 4 Wesley Street
PRN40389 – 7 Wesley Street ‘Lloyds’
PRN35016 – 4 Crown Street
PRN21884 – Site of old Town Hall
PRN13144 – Newtown Short Bridge
PRN13131 – Kerry Road National School
PRN87213 – Llanllwchaearn Sawmill

- 5.3.11 Modern. Twelve features from the Modern period are recorded within a 500m radius of the assessment area.

PRN16463 – Newtown Church (All Saints) yard
PRN17690 - Newtown Church (All Saints) bells
PRN31017 – Newtown Old Church (St. Mary) Tomb
PRN34931 – Newtown Longbridge
PRN70276 – Newtown, Bethel, Welsh Presbyterian Church
PRN70277 – Newtown War Memorial
PRN70278 – Wesleyan Methodist Church
PRN72407 – New church street school
PRN85923 – Cambrian Mill
PRN85924 – Oversevern Mill race
PRN87208 – Oversevern Mill

- 5.3.12 Multiperiod. Four features of Multiperiod date are recorded within a 500m radius of the assessment area.

PRN16925 – Newtown Church
PRN16296 – Newtown Church
PRN16927 – Newtown Old Church (St. Mary)
PRN15742 - Newtown

5.4 **Aerial Photographs**

- 5.4.1 Aerial Photographs held at the Royal Commission, Aberystwyth, and Welsh Assembly collection were consulted as part of the desk based assessment.
- 5.4.2 The photographs were all taken at high altitude and thus showed very little detail of the assessment area. As none showed any features within the assessment area they are not reproduced within this report.

5.5 **Portable Antiquities Scheme**

- 5.5.1 A search of the Portable Antiquities Scheme finds database yielded no results for the assessment area.

6 Desk Based Assessment Conclusions

- 6.1.1 The HER data has shown that there are a wide range of archaeological features located within a 500m radius of the assessment area.
- 6.1.2 The majority of the features belong to the Medieval and Post-medieval periods. Older sites do exist, dating back as far as the Neolithic period, though these are far fewer in number.
- 6.1.3 The location of a medieval oven (PRN34979) in the adjacent plot highlights the possibility that intact medieval deposits may exist within the area of proposed development.
- 6.1.4 From the desk based assessment it can be concluded that there is a possibility that medieval and possibly earlier features may be located within the area of proposed development.

7 Evaluation Results

7.1 Soils and ground conditions

- 7.1.1 The site and weather conditions were damp and rainy. The upper ground conditions were damp, whilst soil below was dry and thus very hard.

7.2 Distribution of deposits

- 7.2.1 The topsoil in Trench 1 (101) was a moderately compacted mid brown silt and reached a depth of around 0.2m on average. This deposit contained occasional sherds of 19th century and modern pottery.
- 7.2.2 Natural deposits were not reached in the trench owing to the presence of graves across the area.

7.3 Description of trench

Trench 1 (Figs 2&10) (Plates 1-3)

- 7.3.1 The trench was 'L' shaped. It measured approx 10 x 2m along each section and had a (Plates 1-3).
- 7.3.2 Removal of turf and topsoil (101) revealed a moderately compacted mid brown silt subsoil deposit (102). This was present within the whole trench. It was comprised of a mid brown silt material with frequent small stone and slate inclusions. The layer measured around 0.2m deep on average across the whole trench. Removal of (102) revealed the cuts of eight graves, all aligned roughly east –west.
- 7.3.3 Further mechanical excavation, under close archaeological supervision, revealed the slate slab tops of four of the graves. The graves consisted of coffin shaped brick structures with coffins within. The structures were then capped in large slate slabs. All four of the exposed graves were located at one metre below the current ground surface. The four graves which were not fully exposed were therefore located at a lower depth.

- 7.3.4 Between grave cut 1 and grave cut 2 a small area of cobbling/rough flooring was revealed (017). However, owing to it being truncated on both sides by graves, only a thin strip remained intact.
- 7.3.5 No further features were identified. Owing to the density of the graves within the relatively small trench, no natural deposits were encountered.

8 Finds

- 8.1.1 Very few finds were recovered from the evaluation trench. From amongst the top and subsoil deposits fragments of 19th and 20th century ceramic were recovered. These were the only finds recovered and were not retained.

9 Palaeo-environmental

- 9.1.1 No deposits suited to environmental sampling were recovered during the evaluation.

10 Discussion and Interpretation

10.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 10.1.1 The assessment was slightly hampered by the wet conditions arising from rain showers although this did not effect the majority of on site progress.

10.2 Evaluation interpretation

- 10.2.1 The evaluation was designed to test for the presence or absence of archaeological features within the assessment area. It has shown that a relatively high density of graves are located within the area, all at approximately 1m below the current ground surface.
- 10.2.2 The conclusion in the desk based assessment that intact medieval features may be present within the area was slightly borne out by the presence of the area of cobbling/rough flooring. This was heavily truncated, however, and little is likely to survive beyond the confines of the evaluation trench.

10.3 Significance

- 10.3.1 The field evaluation undertaken at Newtown Methodist Church is significant in that it has identified a seemingly constant depth (1m below the current ground surface) above which burials appear not to exist.

10.4 Recommendations

- 10.4.1 Dependent upon the method to be employed during the construction of the proposed extension, it may be prudent for an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during groundworks.
- 10.4.2 Further movement of grave markers, most notably the ones laid flat as pathways, should not be subject to a watching brief.

11 Acknowledgements

11.1.1 Thanks to: Irma Bernardus for her assistance with the evaluation, the JCB driver from Malcolm Coates Plant Hire, Sophie Watson at CPAT for providing the HER data, Mark Walters at CPAT for monitoring and all the helpful staff at the RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

12 Bibliography & Sources

British Geological Survey 2001. *Solid Geology Map. UK South Sheet. 1:625000 Scale.* 4th edition

Lewis, S. 1833. *A Topographic Dictionary of Wales*

Mathieson. A. 2008. Local Information Sheet 34: Newtown - Capel

Hinson, C. 1868. *National Gazetteer of Great Britain and Ireland*

Search of regional HER, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, Welshpool

- 500m radius around the assessment area

Search of all readily available cartographic material held at the National Library, Aberystwyth

- 1818-1846 Plan
- 1836 First Series OS Map
- 1st Edition 1:10560 1891 OS Map
- 2nd Edition 1:10560 1903 OS Map
- 1938 OS Map

Search of Portable Antiquities Scheme finds database - July 2010



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APPENDIX I:

HER Data Gazetteer

NAME Newtown, New Road Finds PRN 1.033 PERIOD1 Roman

SHORTTEXT PART OF ROMAN SWORD. FOUND IN FOUNDATIONS OF SPORTSMAN INN NEWTOWN. OTHERWISE

NAME Newtown Hall Mound PRN 1.034 PERIOD1 Medieval

SHORTTEXT

MUCH MUTILATED LATE C 13TH MOTTE AND BAILEY. FILLED DITCH TO N OF NOW D SHAPED MOTTE AND SMALL STONE BUILDING PROB CIVIL WAR REFORTIFICATION. BAILEY 79M N-S BY 61M E-W IN NE CORNER PRESENT PARK. MOAT TO S.

Damage to motte by BMX biker 1988.

NAME Newtown Hall PRN 1.039 PERIOD1 16th century

SHORTTEXT

SITE OF LATE C 16TH HALL. DEMOLISHED BEFORE 1911 (RCAHM, 1911).

Powys County Council's Offices now on site of Hall (Shropshire Star, 1998).

NAME Newtown, Broad St 8 "Withybush" F PRN 1.795 PERIOD1 Prehistoric

SHORTTEXT COLLECTION OF 12 FLINTS MOSTLY BROWN AND HEAVILY PATINATED FOUND IN A GARDEN ON THE N

NAME Newtown, Bryn St Finds PRN 1.796 PERIOD1 Neolithic

SHORTTEXT BADLY DAMAGED NEOLITHIC AXE. FOUND AT 17 BRYN STREET NEWTOWN.

NAME Lady Well PRN 1.801 PERIOD1 Medieval

SHORTTEXT WELL. FORMERLY PUMPED FOR DOMESTIC USE. ABANDONED 1909 NOW COVERED OVER. SHOWN ON

NAME Pen y Glodfa Finds PRN 1.802 PERIOD1 Medieval

SHORTTEXT ECCLESIASTICAL MEDAL FOUND AT PEN Y GLODFA IN 1873 (RCAHM, 1911). NO FURTHER DETAIL

NAME Newtown PRN 15.742 PERIOD1 Multiperiod

SHORTTEXT 1 Location

NAME Newtown Church (St David), yard PRN 16.462 PERIOD1 Medieval

SHORTTEXT Survey of memorial inscriptions carried out 1986-1995 (Montgomeryshire Genealogical Society, 1996).

NAME Newtown Church (All Saints), yard PRN 16.463 PERIOD1 19th century

SHORTTEXT

NAME Newtown Church PRN 16.925 PERIOD1 Multiperiod

SHORTTEXT Church and churchyard.

NAME Newtown Church PRN 16.926 PERIOD1 Multiperiod

SHORTTEXT Parish church

NAME Newtown Old Church (St Mary), chu PRN 16.927 PERIOD1 Multiperiod

SHORTTEXT The parish church, by the river, abandoned in the 1840s because of flooding (Haslam, 1979).

NAME Newtown, Skinner St/Old Church St PRN 17.202 PERIOD1 Medieval

SHORTTEXT MEDIEVAL IRON ARROWHEAD. C12TH-C13TH ? (JONES, N., 1990, 161)

NAME Newtown Church (All Saints), bells PRN 17.690 PERIOD1 19th century

SHORTTEXT SE TURRET CONTAINS 1 BELL. NO INSCRIPTION. DATES TO BUILDING OF CHURCH c.1850 (EISEL, J.C.,

NAME Newtown Church (St David), bells PRN 17.703 PERIOD1 Post Medieval

SHORTTEXT

W TOWER CONTAINING RING OF 6 BELLS
TREBLE - THE GIFT OF SR IOHN PRYCE BART 1727
SECOND - VIVAT REX ET REGINA A:D 1727
THIRD - ECCLESIAM ANGLICANUM PERPETUUM CONSERVABIT DEUS AD 1727
FOURTH - GLORIA DEO IN ECCLESIA SANCTORUM AD 1727
FIFTH - SR

NAME Rostherne Bank House PRN 20.566 PERIOD1 Post Medieval

SHORTTEXT A three unit, half-timbered (square), type 'C', sub-Medieval House. It is now divided into two, either side of th

NAME Newtown (Ladywell St) House PRN 20.567 PERIOD1 Post Medieval

SHORTTEXT A half-timbered House in close studding style. This style increased after ca. 1570 (NMR 1979).

NAME Rostherne Bank House PRN 20.573 PERIOD1 17th century

SHORTTEXT A late 17th century, half-timbered in black and white, central-chimney, town House. It was originally two-storeyed

NAME Newtown Medieval Town PRN 29.198 PERIOD1 Medieval

SHORTTEXT

NAME Newtown Medieval Town PRN 29.199 PERIOD1 Medieval

SHORTTEXT

NAME Newtown Medieval Town PRN 29.200 PERIOD1 Medieval

SHORTTEXT

NAME Newtown Medieval Town PRN 29.201 PERIOD1 Medieval

SHORTTEXT

NAME Newtown Medieval Town PRN 29.202 PERIOD1 Medieval

SHORTTEXT

NAME Newtown Medieval Town PRN 29.203 PERIOD1 Medieval

SHORTTEXT

<u>NAME</u>	Newtown Medieval Town	<u>PRN</u>	29.204	<u>PERIOD1</u>	Medieval
<u>SHORTTEXT</u>					
<u>NAME</u>	Newtown Medieval Town	<u>PRN</u>	29.205	<u>PERIOD1</u>	Medieval
<u>SHORTTEXT</u>					
<u>NAME</u>	Newtown Medieval Town	<u>PRN</u>	29.206	<u>PERIOD1</u>	Medieval
<u>SHORTTEXT</u>					
<u>NAME</u>	Newtown Medieval Town	<u>PRN</u>	29.207	<u>PERIOD1</u>	Medieval
<u>SHORTTEXT</u>					
<u>NAME</u>	Newtown Medieval Town	<u>PRN</u>	29.208	<u>PERIOD1</u>	Medieval
<u>SHORTTEXT</u>					
<u>NAME</u>	Newtown Medieval Town	<u>PRN</u>	29.209	<u>PERIOD1</u>	Medieval
<u>SHORTTEXT</u>					
<u>NAME</u>	Newtown Medieval Town	<u>PRN</u>	29.210	<u>PERIOD1</u>	Medieval
<u>SHORTTEXT</u>					
<u>NAME</u>	Newtown Medieval Town	<u>PRN</u>	29.211	<u>PERIOD1</u>	Medieval
<u>SHORTTEXT</u>					
<u>NAME</u>	Newtown Old Church (St Mary), yar	<u>PRN</u>	31.016	<u>PERIOD1</u>	Medieval
<u>SHORTTEXT</u>	Survey of memorial inscriptions carried out by Montgomeryshire Genealogical Society in 1995 (Montgomeryshire				
<u>NAME</u>	Newtown Old Church (St Mary), tom	<u>PRN</u>	31.017	<u>PERIOD1</u>	19th century
<u>SHORTTEXT</u>	Grade II* listed tomb				
<u>NAME</u>	Newtown, Wesley Pl 1	<u>PRN</u>	31.040	<u>PERIOD1</u>	Post Medieval
<u>SHORTTEXT</u>	Delisted 1997. Formerly 62/1/184 grade II.				
<u>NAME</u>	Newtown, Wesley St 7	<u>PRN</u>	31.042	<u>PERIOD1</u>	Post Medieval
<u>SHORTTEXT</u>	Delisted 1997. Formerly 62/A/189 grade II.				
<u>NAME</u>	Cwrt Plas-yn-Dre Friend's Meeting	<u>PRN</u>	31.057	<u>PERIOD1</u>	Post Medieval
<u>SHORTTEXT</u>	Grade II listed friends meeting house				
<u>NAME</u>	Newtown, Wesley Pl 2	<u>PRN</u>	40.173	<u>PERIOD1</u>	Post Medieval
<u>SHORTTEXT</u>	Delisted 1997. Formerly 62/A/185 grade II.				

NAME Newtown, Wesley Pl 3 PRN 40.174 PERIOD1 Post Medieval

SHORTTEXT Delisted 1997. Formerly 62/A/186 grade II.

NAME Newtown, Wesley Pl 4 PRN 40.175 PERIOD1 Post Medieval

SHORTTEXT Delisted 1997. Formerly 62/A/187 grade II.

NAME Newtown, Wesley St 7 `Lloyd and L1 PRN 40.389 PERIOD1 Post Medieval

SHORTTEXT Delisted 1997. Formerly 62/A/190 grade II.

NAME Newtown, Longbridge PRN 34.931 PERIOD1 19th century

SHORTTEXT Masonry bridge of 3 spans, built 1852, with cast-iron footpath extension on either side (Groucott, J 1980).

NAME Newtown, Wesley Place, oven PRN 34.979 PERIOD1 Medieval

SHORTTEXT Truncated oven and flue passage of 14th/14th century with scatter of pottery. No evidence of buildings was rec

NAME Newtown, Crown Street 4, post-medi PRN 35.016 PERIOD1 17th century

SHORTTEXT

A number of former buildings of 17th or 18th century date excavated prior to redevelopment.

A stone wall, 0.25-0.3m wide and up to 0.35m high, ran across the area excavated. This was interpreted as the wall of former building. A brick wall ran alo

NAME Newtown Old Church (St Mary) PRN 1.037 PERIOD1 Medieval

SHORTTEXT

MOSTLY FOUNDATIONS REMAIN EXCEPT FOR ONE WALL ROOF HEIGHT AND ANOTHER WINDOW LEVEL. LAWN AND ORNAMENTAL GARDENS NOW TAKE OVER. OLD GRAVE YARD STILL VISIBLE.

(SMR, 1995)

It was recorded in 1886 that during some excavations in the old church, a

NAME Newtown, site of Old Town Hall PRN 21.884 PERIOD1 Post Medieval

SHORTTEXT Site of old town hall built 1616 and demolished 1852 (CPAT 1978).

NAME Newtown, Beander Mill PRN 37.505 PERIOD1 Medieval

SHORTTEXT Mill, recorded in 1516, possibly earlier in 1279. Converted to combined corn and flannel mill in early 19th cent

NAME Newtown Short bridge PRN 13.144 PERIOD1 Post Medieval

SHORTTEXT At southern end of town, over Green Brook a tributary of the River Severn. Single arch stone bridge rebuilt (origi

NAME Newtown, Kerry Road, National Scho PRN 13.131 PERIOD1 Post Medieval

SHORTTEXT Built by Thomas Penson at same time as St David's Church (PRN 31011) (1843-7) and in same buff brick, cost úl,

NAME Newtown, Bethel, Welsh Presbyteria PRN 70.276 PERIOD1 19th century

SHORTTEXT Chapel built by the Welsh Presbyterians in 1870. Plans were drawn by R. Owens and the builder was John Evans. It

NAME Newtown, War Memorial PRN 70.277 PERIOD1 20th century

SHORTTEXT

War memorial located in a grassed enclosure at the junction of New Road and Short Bridge Street in Newtown. It is a large granite obelisk inscribed
"To our glorious dead
In memory
of those from this town
who fell in the Great War
1914-1918
19

NAME Newtown, Wesleyan Methodist Chur PRN 70.278 PERIOD1 20th century

SHORTTEXT The 5th known building to have been used for worship by the Wesleyans in Newtown. It was opened in 1983 and exten

NAME Newtown, Town Hall PRN 72.405 PERIOD1 20th century

SHORTTEXT Originally built as a free library, the Town Hall building was made possible through a combination fo local fund

NAME Newtown, New Church Street, schoo PRN 72.407 PERIOD1 19th century

SHORTTEXT Cartographic evidence shows that there used to be a school on the site of St. David's House in Newtown - not ch

NAME Newtown, Medieval Market PRN 85.532 PERIOD1 Medieval

NAME Newtown, Medieval Fairs PRN 85.540 PERIOD1 Medieval

SHORTTEXT Two annual fairs (17-19 June and 17-19 March) were granted to Roger Mortimer at his manor at Newtown (then L

NAME Newtown find PRN 44.882 PERIOD1 Medieval

SHORTTEXT Finds recorded by National Museum & Galleries of Wales catalogue.

NAME Newtown find PRN 44.883 PERIOD1 Roman

SHORTTEXT Finds recorded by National Museum & Galleries of Wales catalogue.

NAME Newtown, Cambrian Mill PRN 85.923 PERIOD1 19th century

SHORTTEXT Depicted on OS 1st edition 1:2,500

NAME Newtown, Oversevern Mill, mill race PRN 85.924 PERIOD1 19th century

SHORTTEXT

Depicted on OS 1st edition 1:2,500.

The tail race was at one time part of a plan to feed water to the new Western Branch of the Montgomeryshire Canal but this plan was never executed (Hughes, S, 1983, pp37).

NAME Newtown, Oversevern Mill PRN 87.208 PERIOD1 19th century

SHORTTEXT The arrival in 1806 of the Revd George Evors, a descendant of the Pryce family through the female line, saw the

NAME Newtown, Llanllwchaiarn Sawmill PRN 87.213 PERIOD1 Post Medieval

SHORTTEXT Sawmill said to have been on the site of All Saints Church (PRN 16925) before 1880. May have been linked to W



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APPENDIX II:

Figures

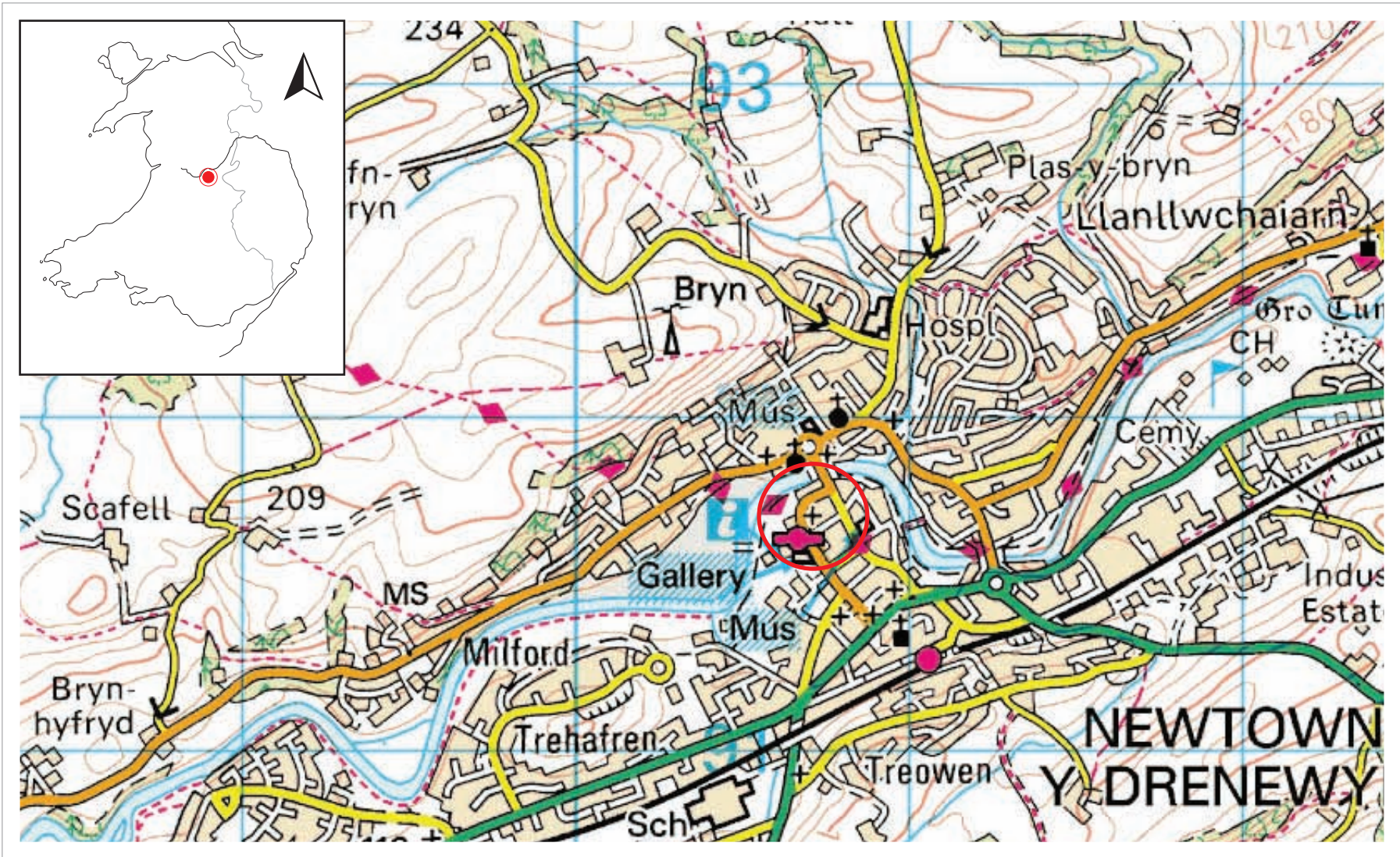


Fig 1: Map showing general location of assessment area



Area of Headstones

Trench

Rear of Church

0 10m

Fig 2: Trench Location Plan





Fig 3: 1818-46 Plan showing assessment area



Fig 4: 1836 First Series OS Map showing assessment area

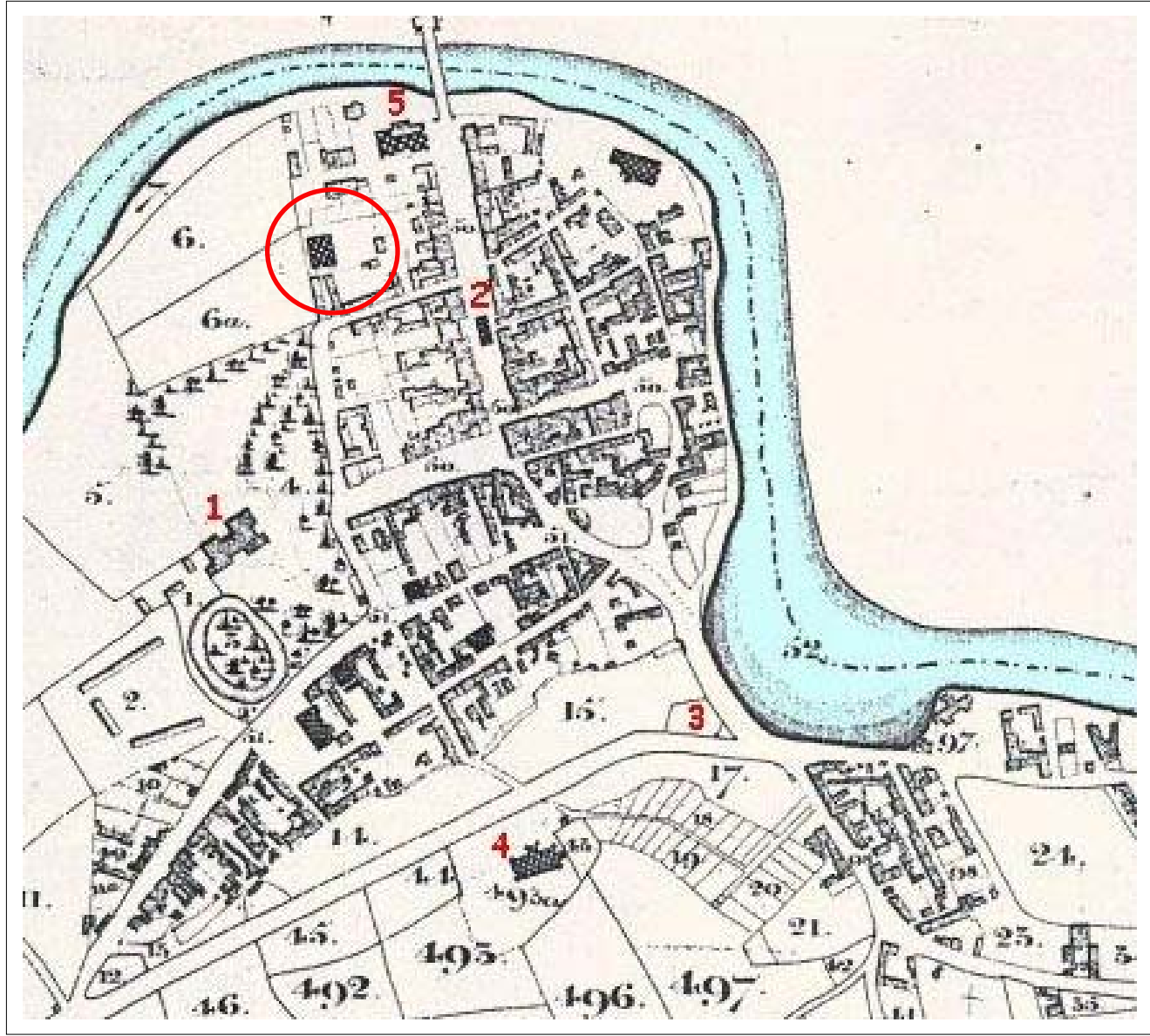


Fig 5: 1845 Plan showing assessment area

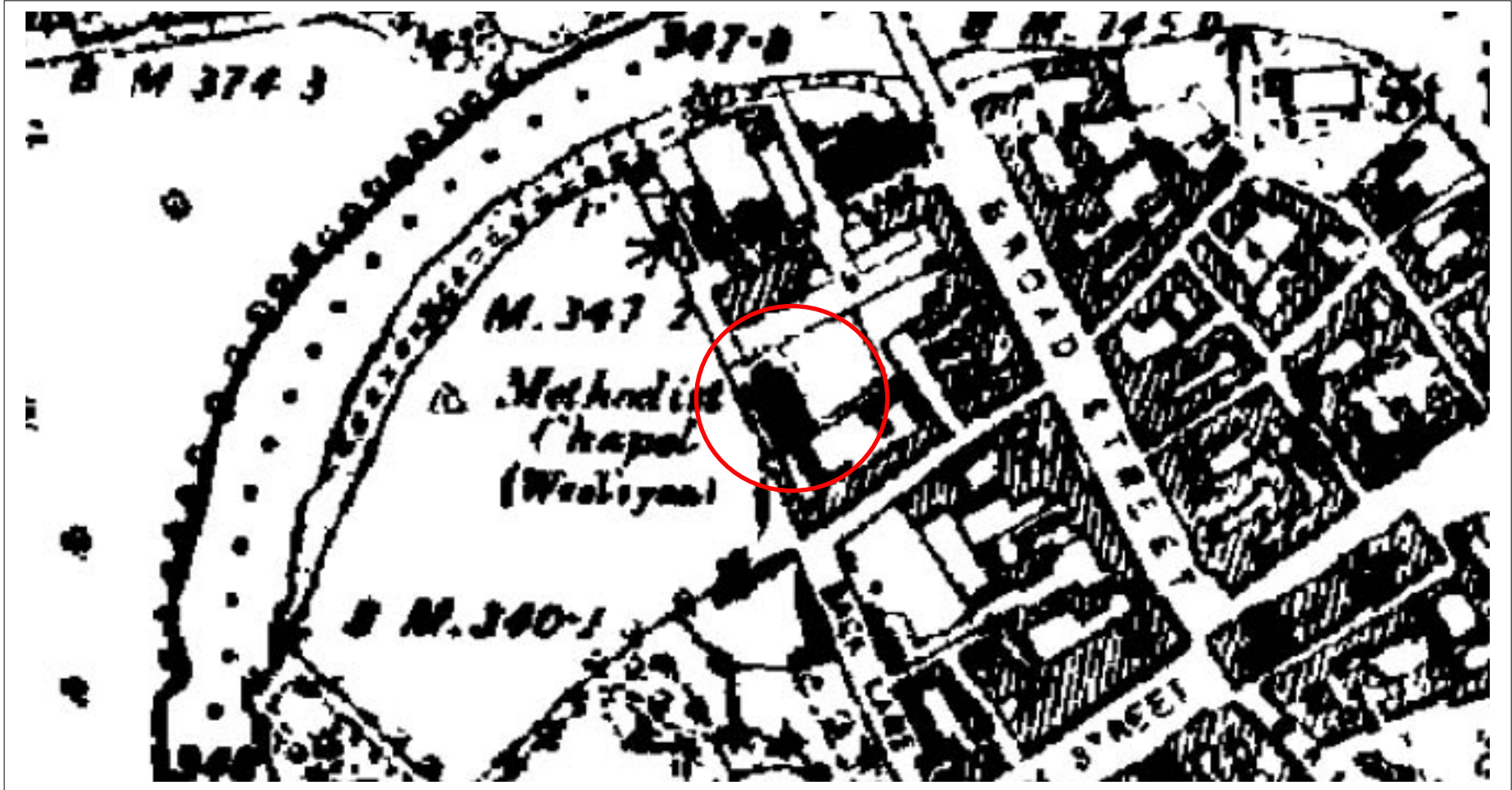


Fig 6: 1891 1st Edition 1:10560 OS map showing assessment area

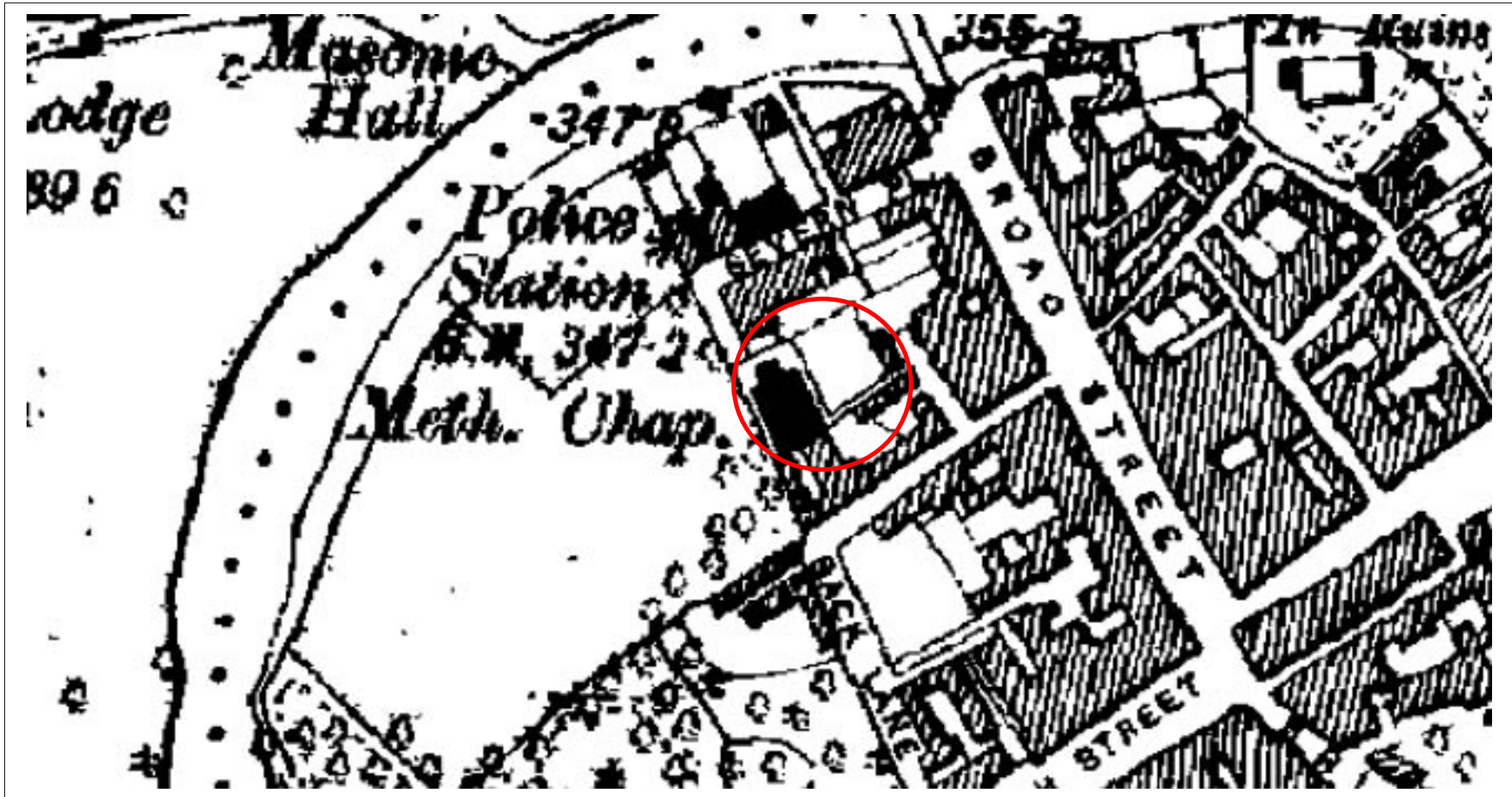


Fig 7: 1903 2nd Edition 1:10560 OS Map showing assessment area

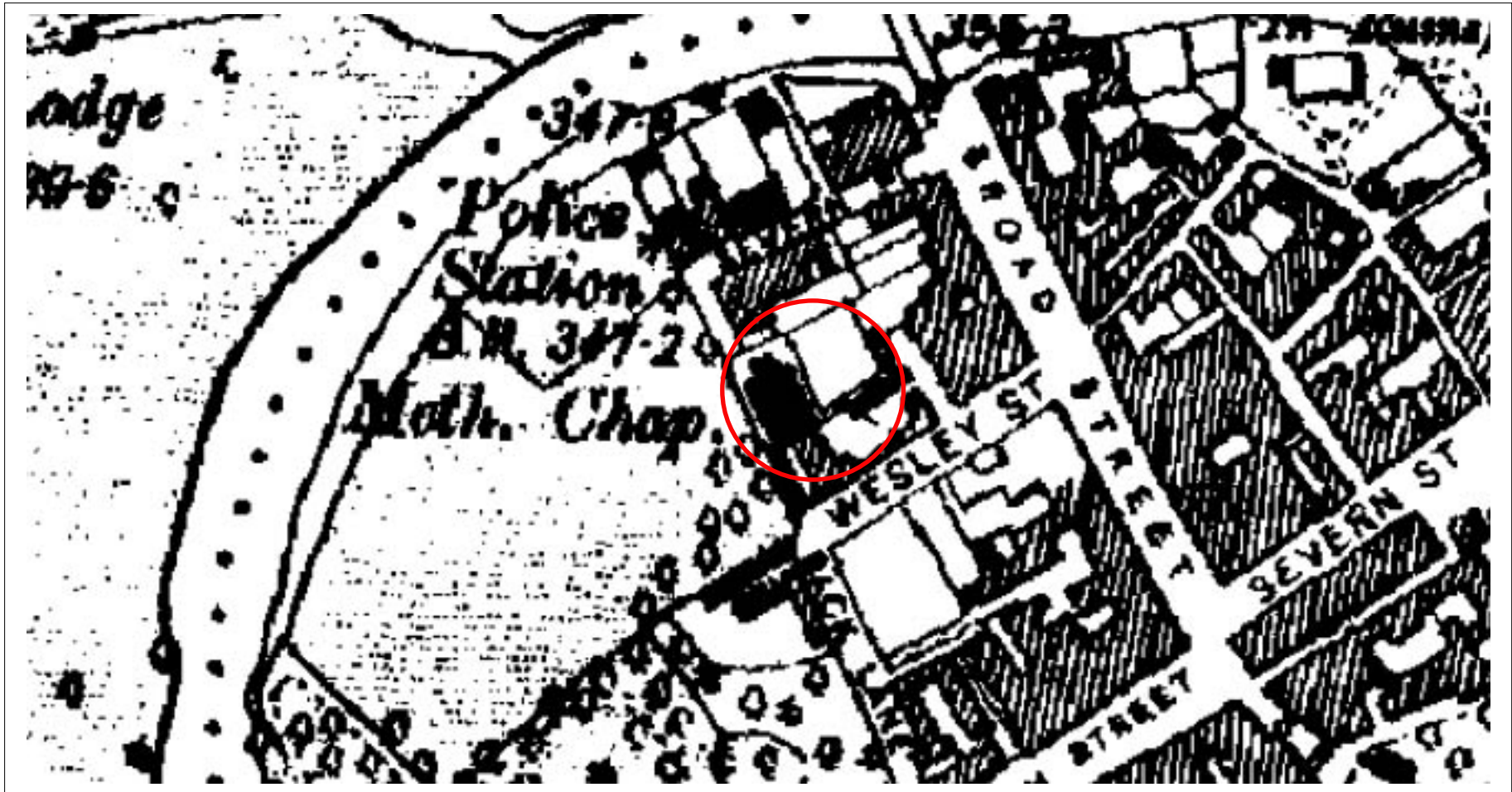


Fig 8: 1938-53 1:10560 OS Map showing assessment area

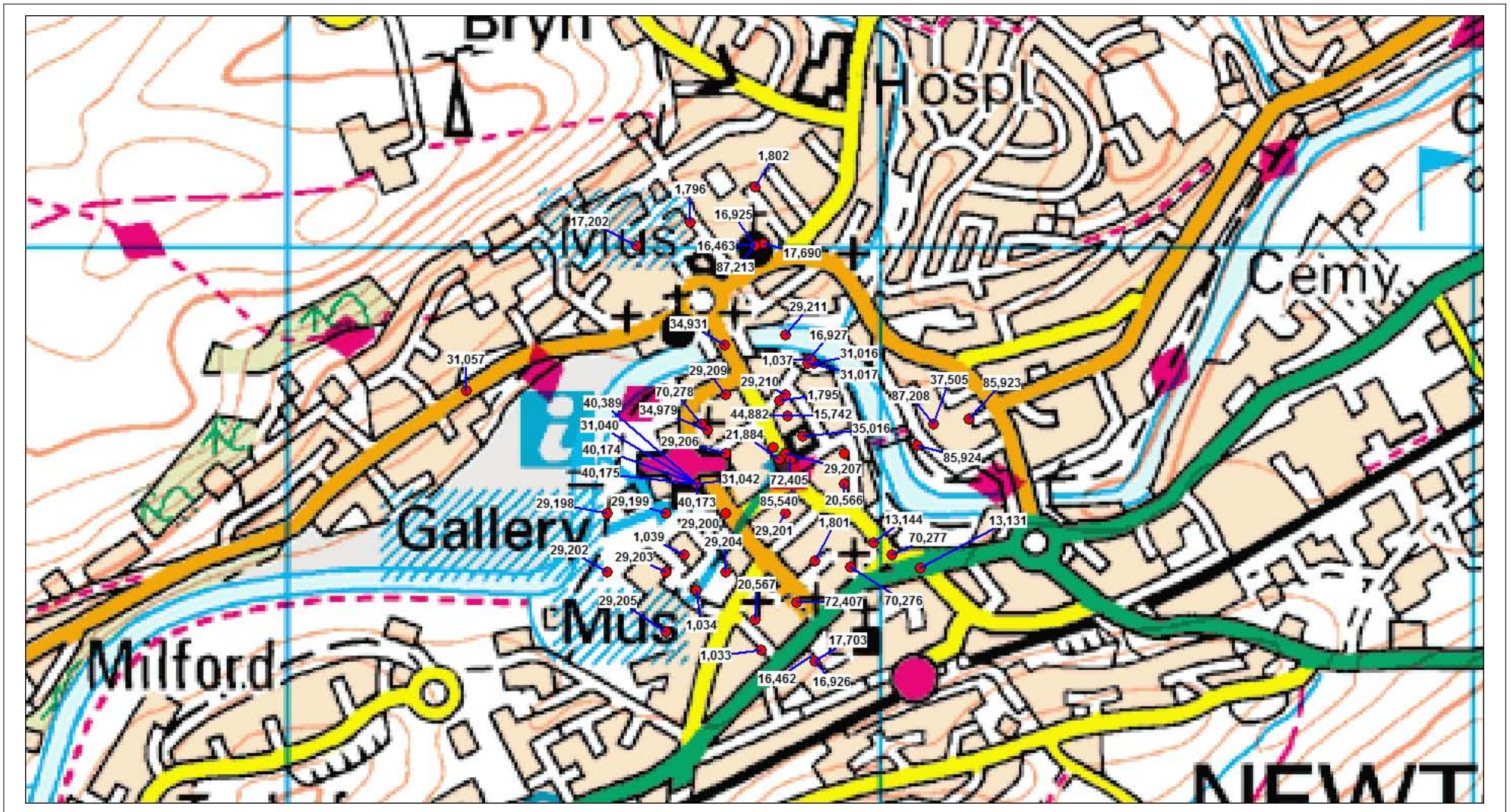
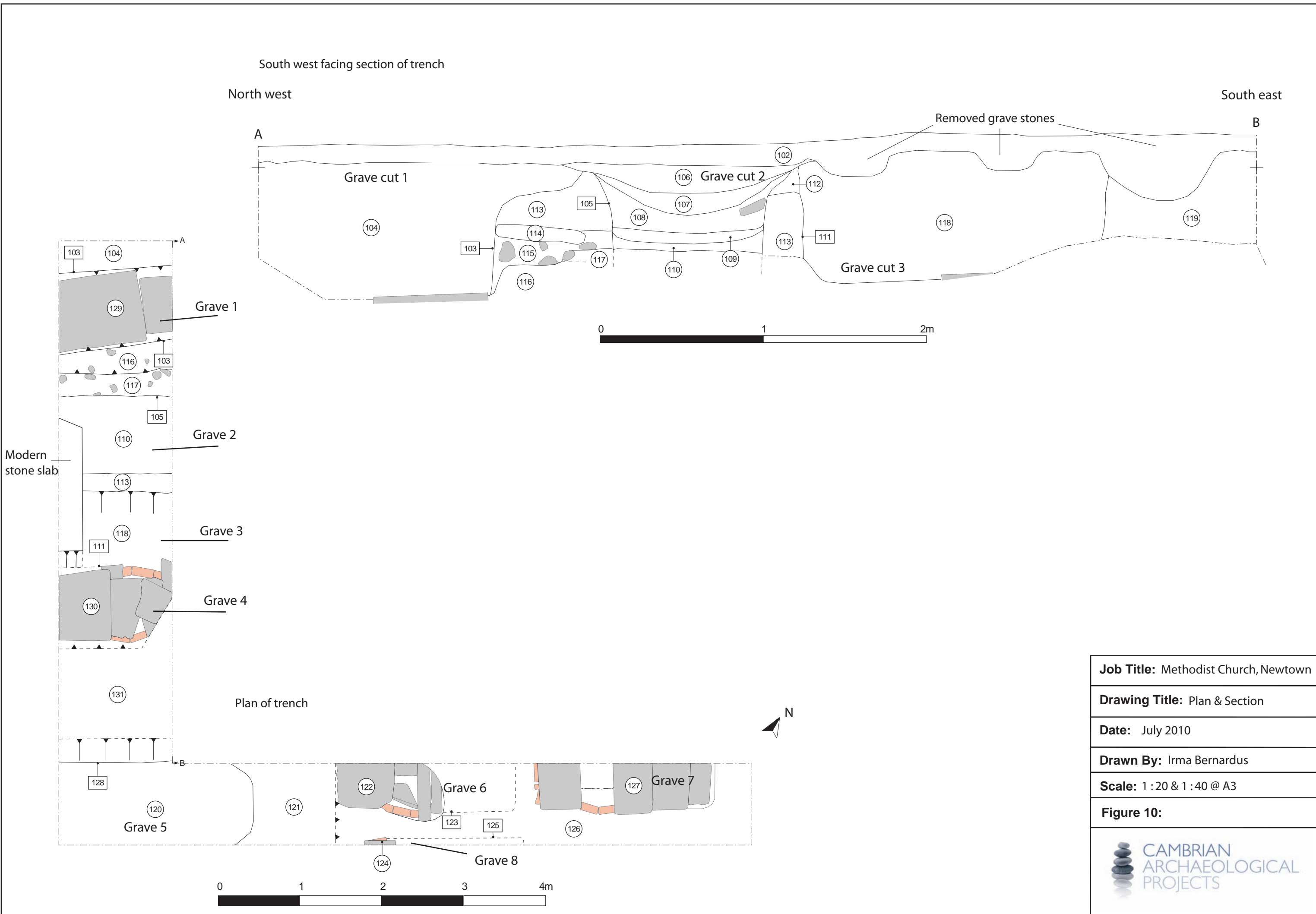


Fig 9: Distribution of known archaeological features within 500m of the assessment area. All numbers refer to PRN numbers (Appendix 1)



Job Title: Methodist Church, Newtown

Drawing Title: Plan & Section

Date: July 2010

Drawn By: Irma Bernardus

Scale: 1 : 20 & 1 : 40 @ A3

Figure 10:





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APPENDIX III:

Plates



Plate 1:View along trench looking south east, scale 1x1m



Plate 2: View along trench looking south west, scale 1x1m



Plate 3: View of small strip of intact, possibly medieval, floor/cobbling (117) between grave cuts 1 (left) and 2 (right), Scale 1x1m



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APPENDIX IV:

Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Site Name:	Newtown Wesleyan Methodist Church
Site Code:	NMC/10/EV
PRN:	-
NPRN:	-
SAM:	-
CAP Report No:	CAP Report 648
NGR:	SO 10708 91703
Site Type:	Methodist Church
Project Type:	Archaeological Evaluation & Desk Based Assessment
Project Manager	Chris Smith
Project Dates:	July 2010
Categories Present:	Post medieval
Location of Original Archive:	-
Number of Finds Boxes:	0
Location of Finds:	N/A
Museum Reference:	-
Copyright:	CAP Ltd.
Restrictions to access:	None



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