



**Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold,
Flintshire CH7 6SQ (062365)**

December 2021 V 1.0



Archaeological Watching Brief

Project Code: A0327.1

Report no. 0321

Event PRN: 213691



æon archaeology

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Project Code: A0327.1

Date: 08/12/2021

Client: Mr. Thomas Bletcher
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Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6SQ (062365)

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1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Comisiynwyd Aeon Archaeology gan Mr. Thomas Bletcher, i gynnal briff gwylio archeolegol wrth godi'r llawr carreg gwreiddiol fel rhan o welliannau i Adeilad Rhestredig gradd II (cyf: 303) Neuadd Argoed, Mynydd Isa, Yr Wyddgrug, Sir y Fflint. CH7 6SQ.

Roedd y briff gwylio yn cynnwys gwylio wrth i lefel y ddaear gael ei ostwng yn y Pantri a hefyd Neuadd Fynedfa Argoed Hall - gyda symud llawr cerrig fflag yn y Neuadd Fynedfa i ddechrau. Gostyngwyd lefel y ddaear yn y ddwy ystafell gan 0.36m, trwy dynnu haen bridd wedi'i gwneud o tywod- silt ynn gyda brics coch a chynhwysion llechi wedi torri. Yn ystod y cyfnod hwn o waith darganfuwyd bod y wal ogleddol wedi'i hadeiladu o rwbel carreg wedi'i bondio â morter calch ac yn y neuadd fynediad bod yr holl ddrychiadau wedi'u hadeiladu o frics coch.

Yn y Neuadd Fynedfa ar ôl symud yr cerrig a'r hen bridd, darganfuwyd set goll o risiau brics coch a arferai arwain at yr islawr. Fe'i lleolwyd o flaen y lle tân ar y drychiad gogleddol ac roedd y rhain wedi'u cau â mwy o frics coch a'u selio o dan y deunydd ôl-lenwi.

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Mr. Thomas Bletcher, to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the lifting of the existing floor as part of improvements to the grade II Listed Building (ref: 303) of Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6SQ.

The watching brief included observation as the ground level was reduced within the former Pantry and also the Entrance Hall of Argoed Hall – with the removal of a Flagstone floor in both rooms. The ground level in both rooms was reduced by a total of 0.36m, this included removing a backfill material comprising of ashy sand-silt with red brick and slate inclusions. During this phase of works it was found that within the Pantry the northern wall was constructed from stone rubble bonded by lime mortar and within the entrance hall that all of the elevations were constructed from red-brick.

Within the Entrance Hall following the removal of the Flagstones and the backfill material, a former set of red-brick steps which previously led into the cellar was found. It was located in front of the fireplace on the northern elevation and these had been blocked up with more red bricks and sealed beneath the backfill material.

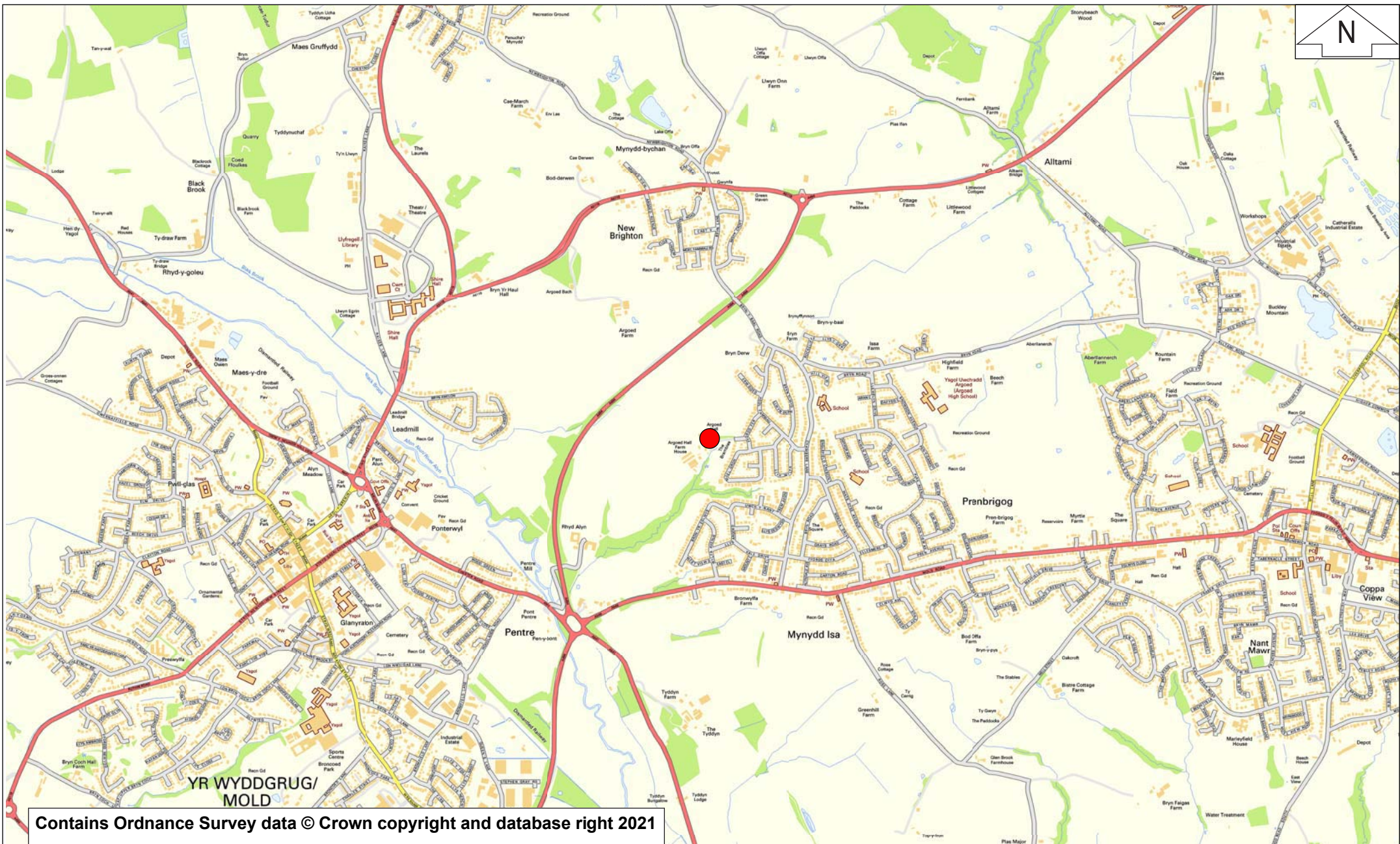
2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Mr. Thomas Bletcher, hereafter ‘the Client’, to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the lifting of the existing floor as part of improvements to the grade II Listed Building (ref: 303) of Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6SQ (centred on **NGR SJ 25423 64434**) (figures 01-03).

Listed Building Consent (LBC) is currently pending (as of 4th October 2021) however it is assumed that an archaeological watching brief will be made a condition of the consent (**ref: 062365**).

A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was previously written and it details the aims and objectives of the project and the methods by which the condition will be met in order to meet the spirit and intent of the archaeological condition of LBC 062365.

The work will adhere to the guidelines specified in *The Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020).



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Figure 01: Location of Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6SQ.
Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

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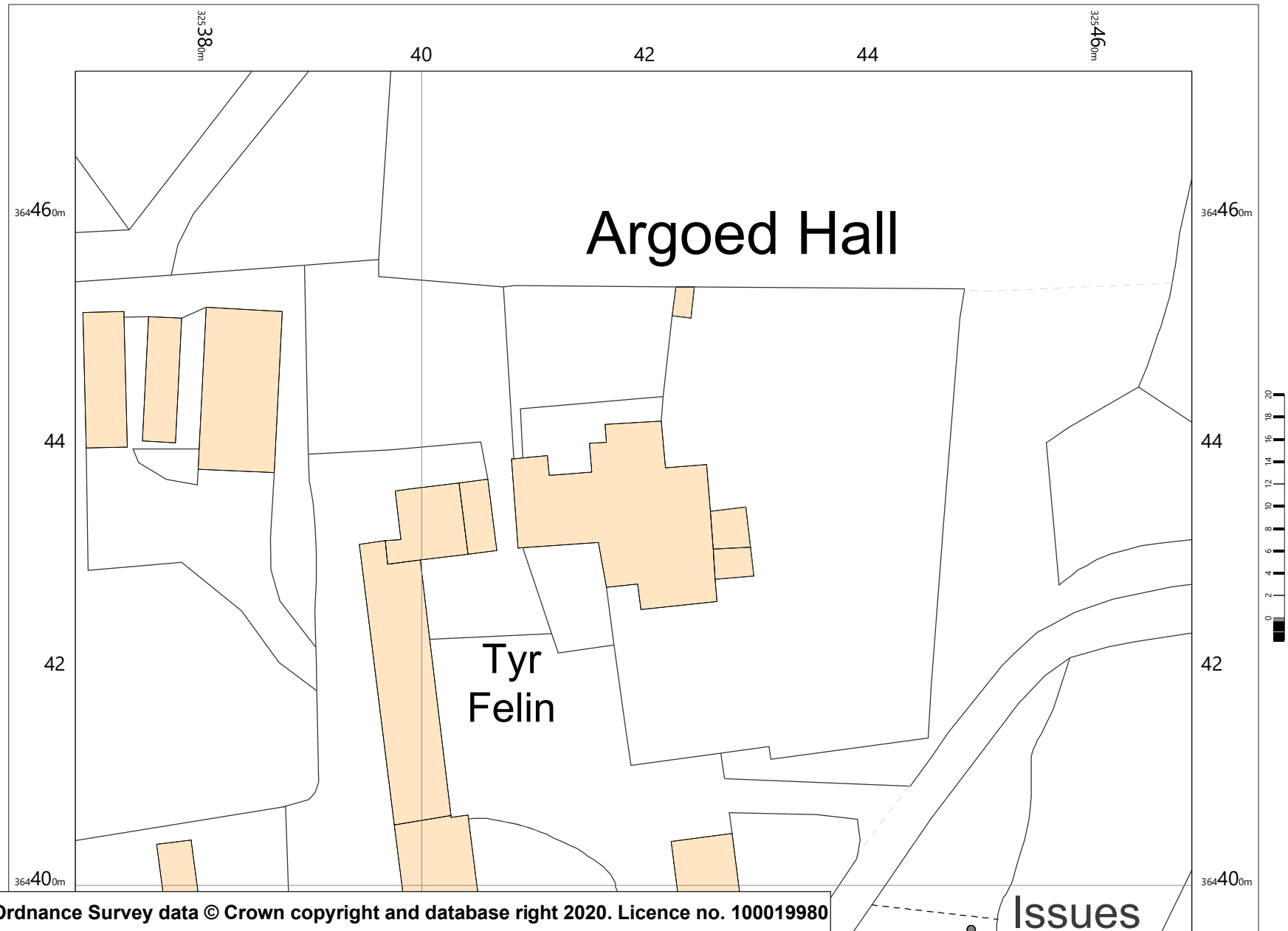


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Figure 02: Location of Arggoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6SQ.
Scale 1:5,000 at A4.



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Figure 03: Location of Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6SQ.
Scale 1:500 at A4.

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3.0 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 and the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, 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 County 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 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 6.1.5 concerns planning applications:

The planning system must take into account the Welsh Government's objectives to protect, conserve, promote and enhance the historic environment as a resource for the general well-being of present and future generations. The historic environment is a finite, non-renewable and shared resource and a vital and integral part of the historical and cultural identity of Wales. It contributes to economic vitality and culture, civic pride, local distinctiveness and the quality of Welsh life. The historic environment can only be maintained as a resource for future generations if the individual historic assets are protected and conserved. Cadw's published Conservation Principles highlights the need to base decisions on an understanding of the impact a proposal may have on the significance of an historic asset.

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

4.0 PROJECT AIMS

The aim of the watching brief works was to characterise the known, or potential, archaeological remains uncovered during site investigation/ groundworks associated with the lifting of the existing floor as part of improvements to the grade II Listed Building (ref: 303)

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.

5.0 METHODOLOGY – ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

5.1 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 **A0327.1**.

5.2 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 Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) Historic Environment Record (HER) can curate them in their active digital storage facility.

5.3 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 Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) Development Control Archaeologist. There was a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

5.4 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.

5.5 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 **A0327.1** with the originals being lodged in a suitable repository to be agreed with the archaeological curator.

6.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The following information is sourced from the Heritage Impact Assessment produced by Paterson Macaulay & Owens Chartered Architects (5019).

Argoed Hall is a Grade II Listed property, set in a small garden of approximately 0.15ha, located along Argoed Hall Lane, Mynydd Isa and is bordered by stock fencing and stone/brickwork walling.

The three-storey private family dwelling comprises pebbledash external walls with slate roofs and yellow brick chimneys. As recorded in the Listing Document, the mid-17th century property and has been subject to extensive partial rebuilding and alteration, with a majority of these works believed to have been carried out in the late C19/early C20. These alterations include works to the windows and the addition of a brick veranda. Only three of the original stone mullioned windows remain, with the remaining units being wooden or metal framed.

Internally, the property has three fully accessible floors above ground level, with a stone staircase leading to a cellar beneath the existing kitchen. Access to this space is also afforded by an external stone stair, enclosed in a low-level brickwork wall. The two-storey wing of the property, located to the west side of the building, comprises one large room to the first floor with exposed timber roof structure.

This space is accessed by 4no. steps from the bathroom. Internal features of note include some original large oak beams, supporting first and ground floor ceilings and the staircase. Described as in Jacobean style, a wide timber stair with landings at each flight is formed around a square core made from four large oak newels, reaching from the ground floor to the second floor.

Originally the manor house of a large estate owned by the Earl of Derby, and subsequently passed through various families, the property was purchased by Flintshire County Council in 1934 and sold again as a freehold in 1968.

As previously mentioned, it is obvious that the property has undergone extensive partial rebuilding and alterations over time, including its separation from a section of its previously contiguous farm buildings by the demolition of one bay, between the house and the section of the original building that is now referred to as Ty'r Felin. So, whilst early descriptions of Argoed Hall record it as having 11 bays, it now only has 7.

Most of the windows to the property are single glazed and wooden framed, likely dating from late Victorian or Edwardian times, with stone lintels and cills. Very few fenestration units to the property are metal. To the south western elevation of the Hall, stands a flat roofed brick verandah, a later addition to the property, also with metal framed windows. This elevation, considered to be the 'main elevation' of the property, also shows the existing two storey granary section. This structure, not wholly in keeping with the main building in style or scale, has also been subject to some alterations over time, including the installation of a C20 metal stair access to the first floor and photovoltaic panels to the roof.

A large external bread oven attached to the rear of the property can also be seen in old photographs.

This has since disappeared, most likely as part of the renovations carried out by the person who originally purchased the house from the council.

Other features to the elevations, of no particular historic or architectural merit, include the yellow brick chimneys, all in a relatively good condition, decorative barge boards and finials and attached timber framed glasshouse (to be restored).

The ground floor comprises porch, vestibule, entrance hall, pantry, sitting room, drawing room, verandah, ground floor WC and stair. The existing kitchen is located above a cellar, on a suspended timber floor.

The first floor comprises 3no. bedrooms, bathroom and access to the second floor of the 'granary' (above the ground floor sitting room).

The second floor has two large bedrooms and access to the roof space is possible from here.

Notable internal features to the Hall include a C17 stair, sometimes described as being Jacobean style, formed around a square core made of four large oak newels, reaching from the ground to the second floor. The staircase goes around the core in sections of four steps with spacious landings between each flight. Large oak beams can also be seen supporting ground and first floor ceilings, boxed in in certain rooms, and there are some coving and skirting details to the living room and two rooms to the first floor.

7.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS

7.1 The Documentary Archive

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

Watching brief day sheets	1
Context Sheets	0
Digital photographs	46

7.2 Environmental Samples

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

7.3 Artefacts

This section will summarise the finds recovered from the works undertaken at Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold. The ceramic evidence recovered from the site was limited to a small representative assemblage associated with two contexts and the examples found within the two rooms at the hall

The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight, and maximum number of vessels (MNV), according to ware names commonly in use by archaeological ceramic specialists across the North West and West Midlands regions. Codes shown thus: (STRSB) relate to the identification system used for medieval and post-medieval ceramics used by The Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA).

The evaluation trenching produced a total of 4 sherds of post-medieval pottery, two fragments of ceramic pipe stem, a ceramic pipe bowl, 8 sherds of brown glass, a humerus of a juvenile ovid and a half an oyster shell. The ceramic finds had a combined weight of 156g, representing 3 individual vessels and three ceramic pipes. The pottery spans the period from the late 18th century through to the late 19th/early 20th century. The pottery was in good condition overall although fragmented, with all sherds representing single individual vessels. The pottery is in a stable condition and requires no long-term storage requirements.

Ceramic Wares and Forms

From the Pantry at Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa.

Metropolitan Slipware (METS) - 1630-1700

Two sherds of Metropolitan Slipware (METS) representing two MNV were found in the uppermost fill of the floor below the flagstones in the Pantry. Most likely from a site in Harlow, Essex, where the industry was in operation from the 13th to 18th centuries but it is the wares of the 17th-18th century that are best known, in particular Metropolitan slipware. This highly decorated ware is found on excavations as far away as North America (Davey & Walker 2009).

In the last decades of the 17th century a popular fashion in pottery was slipware. Dotted and slip-trailed decoration, where a slip of liquid clay was applied as piping, required a special dexterity to do well and was probably at its very best in 17th century England when it was particularly favoured during the reign of Charles II (Barker 2007).

Midlands Yellow Ware (MY) - 1550 -1700

Two sherds of Metropolitan Slipware (METS) representing two MNV were found in the uppermost fill of the floor below the flagstones in the Pantry. These were probably associated with yellow-glazed ceramics made with a white body clay. Most commonly found in the Midlands area, especially places like Coventry, but have been found as far west as the Welsh Borders. However, the actual place of manufacture is currently not known. This fabric was produced in a large variety of pots, usually tablewares such as bowls, dishes and plates and were made between 1500 and 1700 (Pearce 1992).

Yellow ware similarly to Cistercian ware was fired in Midlands Purple Ware vessels, it used to be thought of as a mid-introduction into the sixteenth century but is now considered to introduced in the late fifteenth century (Liddle 1977).

Staffordshire-type mottled brown-glazed ware (STMO) - 1650-1870

A single sherd of *Staffordshire-type mottled brown-glazed ware (STMO)* representing a single vessel was found in the uppermost fill of the floor below the flagstones in the Pantry. If the body of the vessel tends toward lighter buff/biscuit colouring it may be reminiscent of the lighter clays observed in South Staffordshire and Shropshire. A general approach to dating may allude to the development of coarser bodied vessels in the seventeenth century - typified by items such as butter pots. Whereas finer brown bodied vessels such as teapots are evidential of much refined local clays used in the mid-18th century. In north Staffordshire (Burslem), local clay varied between brown, orange and yellow but not pale or white (Weatherill 1971). However, many kitchen and storage wares have a very broad date range, and change little through time, making them of little use for dating.

Other Finds in Pantry

Eight sherds from a brown glass bottle; near opaque glass, with a thick body with evident bubbles in glass (possibly 18th-19th century) which could be from a single wine bottle. A Humerus bone from an Ovid, possible a Juvenile with small, vertical butchery marks along length of bone. An Oyster shell probably from *Ostrea edulis* or the *Native or European Oyster*. Two pipe stems from clay pipes with 2mm bores possibly dating to 1700's although this is notoriously difficult without the pipe bowl.

From the Entrance Hall at Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa.

Refined white ware with underglaze transfer-printed decoration (TPW) - 1780 -1900

Bone China (BONE) – 1794 – 1900

A single sherd of *Refined white ware with underglaze transfer-printed decoration (TPW)* representing a single vessel was found in the uppermost fill of the floor below the flagstones in the Entrance Hall. Most early uses were on expensive porcelain wares, in contrast to the 19th century, when it was much more used on earthenwares. Initially, all pieces were overglaze printed.

The advent of printed underglaze designs on earthenware made production of the complex landscapes and geometric borders like those found on Chinese porcelain more cost-efficient for potteries to produce and more affordable for the consumer. The most enduring Chinese-style pattern was "Blue Willow," first introduced around 1790 by Josiah Spode and made by numerous potters into the present day and

has become associated with bone china. These motifs dominated printed designs from the introduction of underglaze printing in Staffordshire in the 1780s until 1814, with peak production between 1790 and 1814 (Coysh and Henrywood 1982).

The Clay Pipe Bowl

A single Clay Pipe Bowl representing a single pipe was found in the uppermost fill of the floor below the flagstones in the Entrance Hall. This pipe bowl was undecorated with a smooth white body and the bowl had a heel spur. The internal diameter of the pipe bowl was 12mm and the bore of the stem was 2mm. Given these characteristics it is likely that the pipe relates to the type that was being made between 1640 and 1740 with the finish on the pipe placing it nearer the latter part of that date range.

The evolution of Clay Pipes

Clay tobacco pipes were made in England shortly after the introduction of tobacco from North America, in about 1558. The earliest written description of smoking was in 1573 and probably described a pipe derived from native North American types.

By 1580 the pipe bowl had become barrel-shaped with a flat heel and around ¼” (6mm) inside diameter. The bowl and rim were inclined at an obtuse angle to the stem. Stems were 4 – 6” (100 – 150mm) in length with a hole of approximately 8/64” (3mm) bore down their length.

By 1640 the bowl inside diameter had increased to about 3/8” (9.5mm) as tobacco prices continued to fall, although stem lengths remained basically the same. After this date the bowl grew larger and the stem increased to 10 – 14” (250 – 350mm). A pointed spur replaced the flat heel and this design became the standard for the next 60 years. Milled or plain rings round the rim and occasionally a maker’s mark appeared, although generally 17th C pipes were plain.

By 1700 the bowl had become more elongated with an inside diameter of about ½” (13mm) and the stem had a bore of from 3/32” – 1/8” (2.4 – 3mm).

Shortly after 1700, pipes changed in quality, being more accurately made, with a smoother finish and with thinner walls and slender stems. The top of the rim was now trimmed parallel to the stem.

Early 18th century pipes often had flat-bottomed (pedestal) spurs or no spurs at all. By the mid-18th C very long pipes were introduced – called alderman or straws – which were 18 – 24” (450 – 600mm) long and with a bore diameter averaging 3/32” (2.4mm). They were made for leisure smoking.

After 1850 the “yard of clay”, or churchwarden, pipes up to 36” (900mm) in length first appeared. The working man, however, still preferred a short stem pipe (called cuttys or nose warmers and shown in Photo 8) that could be gripped between the teeth while they carried on working (CAFG 2012).

8.0 DIGITAL DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

8.1 Type of study

An archaeological watching brief during the lifting of the existing floor as part of improvements to the grade II Listed Building (ref: 303) of Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6SQ (centred on NGR SJ 25423 64434).

8.2 Types of data

Photographs, measured plans, context sheets, context register, photographic register, trench sheets.

8.3 Format and scale of the data

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

8.4 Methodologies for data collection / generation

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

3.3.1 Project specifications, research designs or similar documents should include a project specific Selection Strategy and a Data Management Plan.

3.3.3 Project designs or schedules of works etc should outline the methodology used in recording all information, in order to demonstrate that all aspects of archive creation will ensure consistency; for instance in terminologies and the application of codes in digital data sets, highlighting relevant data standards where appropriate

8.5 Data quality and standards

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

8.6 Managing, storing and curating data.

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

8.7 Metadata standards and data documentation

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

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

8.8 Data preservation strategy and standards

Long term data storage will be through the submission of digital (.PDF) reports to the regional Historic Environment Record (HER); submission of digital (.PDF) reports and a project completion form to the Oasis database; submission of the scanned (.PDF) archive, photographic plates (.TIF), and metadata (.xlsx) (.accdb) to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS); and retention of copies of all digital files at Aeon Archaeology on physical external hard drive and uploaded to the cloud.

8.9 Suitability for sharing

All digital data will be placed within the public realm (through the channels in 6.8) except for where project confidentiality restricts the sharing of data. All data sets will be selected / discriminated by the Senior Archaeologist at Aeon Archaeology and written permission will be sought from all project specific Clients prior to the sharing of data.

8.10 Discovery by potential users of the research data

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

8.11 Governance of access

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

8.12 The study team's exclusive use of the data

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

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

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

8.14 Regulation of responsibilities of users

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

8.15 Responsibilities

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

8.16 Organisational policies on data sharing and data security

The following Aeon Archaeology policies are relevant:

- Aeon Archaeology Archive Deposition Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Quality Assurance Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Conflict of Interest Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Outreach Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Digital Management Plan 2020

9.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

9.1 Overview

The archaeological watching brief was maintained by Josh Dean BA, archaeological contractor for Aeon Archaeology. The site was attended on the 07th December 2021 and the weather conditions were overcast with episodes of sunshine. The flagstone floor of the Entrance Hall was still in situ when the archaeologist arrived. Following a brief induction the archaeologist photographed the floor from multiple directions with the inclusion of a 1.00m scale. The excavation of material within the Pantry was conducted by hand using mattocks and shovels, whilst the excavation in the Entrance Hall was conducted using a tracked 1 tonne mechanical excavation and tracked dumper.

9.2 The Pantry (Figure 04 – Plates 01 - 04)

The Pantry is a roughly rectangular room located within Argoed Hall. This room is aligned north to south and measures 2.48m long by 2.28m wide. The room itself is accessed via a door in its southern elevation which opens onto a small corridor located to the north of the entrance hall. This was a former pantry with wooden shelving attached to the eastern and southern elevations, furthermore a small, low brick-built larder shelf, made from red bricks and surmounted by two large pieces of slate occupied a space central to the northern elevation.

Within this room were a series of sandstone flags which remained around the room's perimeter. These were removed to reveal a coarse, dark black-grey, ash-silt, backfill material. This material was 0.36m in depth at its northern end but tapered in depth to the south where it was only 0.09m in depth nearest the entrance. This deposit produced a number of post-medieval ceramic sherds, fragments of ceramic pipe stem, an oyster shell, fragments of a broken brown glass wine bottle and a (animal bone)

Beneath this deposit at the southern end and tapering on a slope downwards to the north was a 0.08m deposit of firm, mid yellow-brown, silt-sand material. This lay directly above a soft, mid yellow-grey, clay natural which was >0.19m in depth; the natural appeared closest to the surface at the south and sloped away further to the north.

Following the removal of the material to the required depth the foundations of the elevations were revealed. The northern elevation, which was the external elevation was constructed from stone rubble bonded by lime mortar. The eastern elevation which was the same as the western elevation of the Entrance Hall was of red-brick bonded by lime mortar. The southern elevation which was also the northern elevation of the corridor appeared to have no foundation but had a single stone footing nearest the doorway. The western elevation which was the same as eastern elevation of the sitting room also had no foundation but which had a single stone foundation near the doorway.

9.3 The Entrance Hall (Figure 04 – Plates 05 - 21)

The Entrance Hall is a roughly room located within Argoed Hall. This room is aligned north to south and measures 8.49m long by 5.13m wide. The room itself is accessed via a door in its southern elevation which opens onto a small porch located to the east of the entrance hall. This is a large double height room of four bays. The room has several doorways providing access to other parts of the house. A single doorway on the southern elevation provides access to the drawing room whilst a double doorway to the right of it provides access to the stairwell. A single doorway in the western elevation provides access to

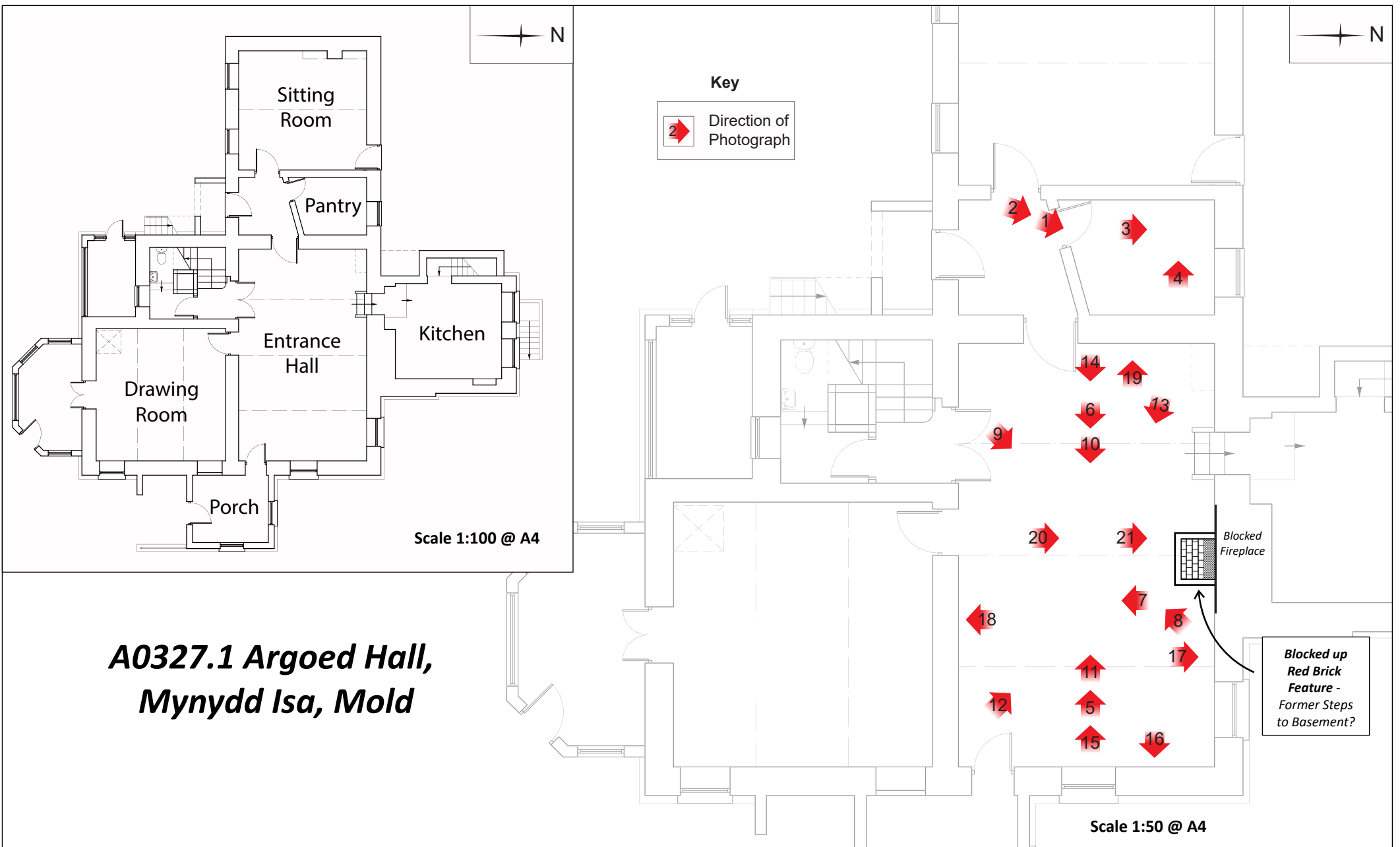


Figure 04: Location of archaeological photographic plates taken within Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 6SQ.



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Plate 01: Pre excavation shot of Pantry, Argored Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire - from the southwest - scale 1.00m



Plate 02: Post excavation shot of Pantry, Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire - from the southwest - scale 1.00m



Plate 03: Northern elevation of Pantry, Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire - from the south - scale 1.00m

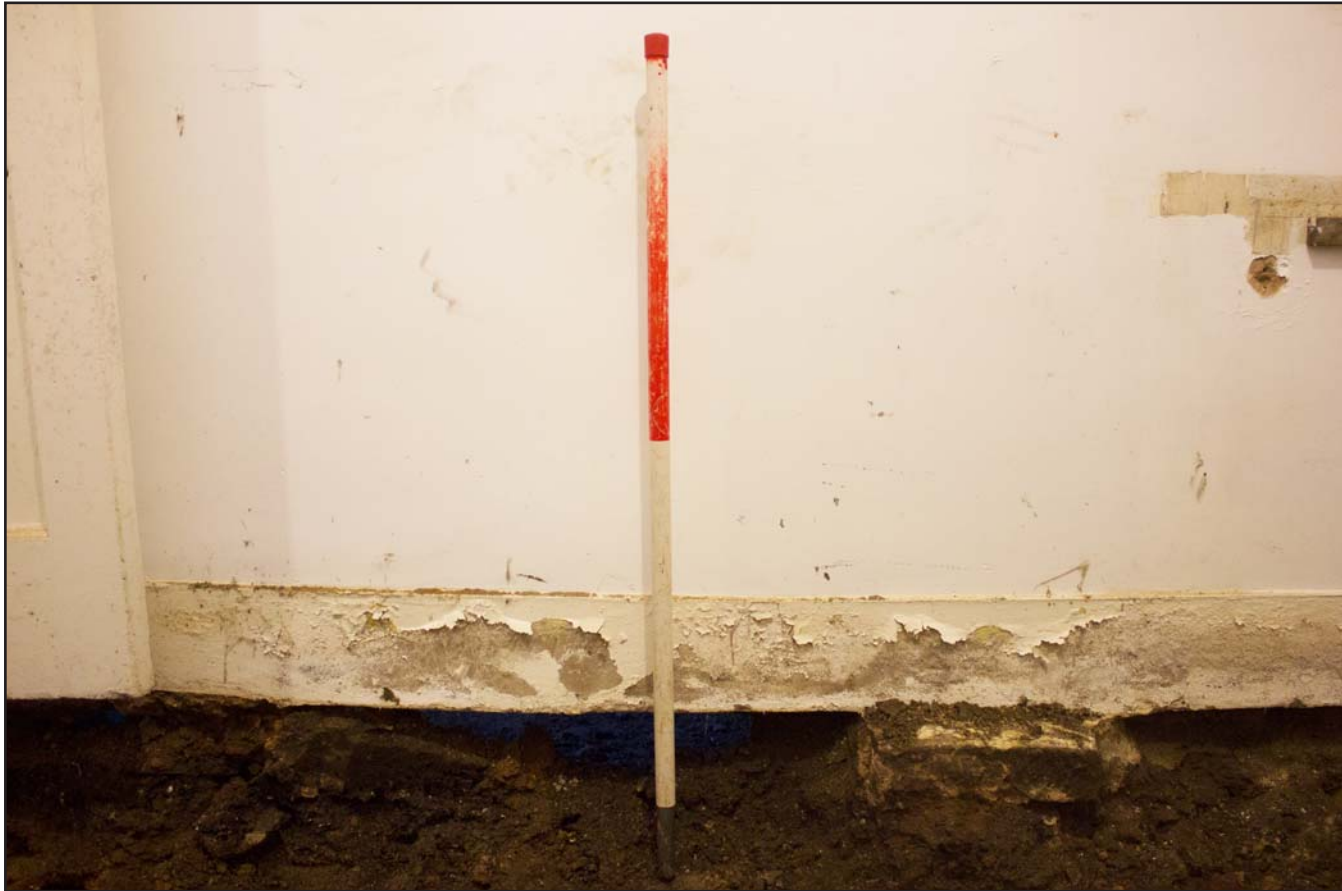


Plate 04: Western elevation of Pantry, Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire - from the east - scale 1.00m



Plate 05: Pre removal of Flagstones in Entrance Hall, Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire - from the east - scale 1.00m



Plate 06: Pre removal of Flagstones in Entrance Hall, Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire - from the west - scale 1.00m



Plate 07: Pre removal of Flagstones in Entrance Hall, Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire - from the north - scale 1.00m



Plate 08: Pre removal of Flagstones in Entrance Hall, Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire - from the northeast - scale 1.00m



Plate 09: Pre removal of Flagstones in Entrance Hall, Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire - from the southwest - scale 1.00m



Plate 10: Post removal of Flagstones in Entrance Hall, Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire - from the west - scale 1.00m



Plate 11: Post removal of Flagstones in Entrance Hall, Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire - from the east - scale 1.00m



Plate 12: Working shot of ground level within the Entrance Hall, Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire - from the southeast - no scale



Plate 13: Working shot of ground level within the Entrance Hall, Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire - from the northwest - no scale



Plate 14: Post excavation shot of Entrance Hall, Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire - from the west - scale 1.00m



Plate 15: Post excavation shot of Entrance Hall, Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire - from the east - scale 1.00m



Plate 16: Eastern elevation in Entrance Hall, Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire - from the west - scale 1.00m

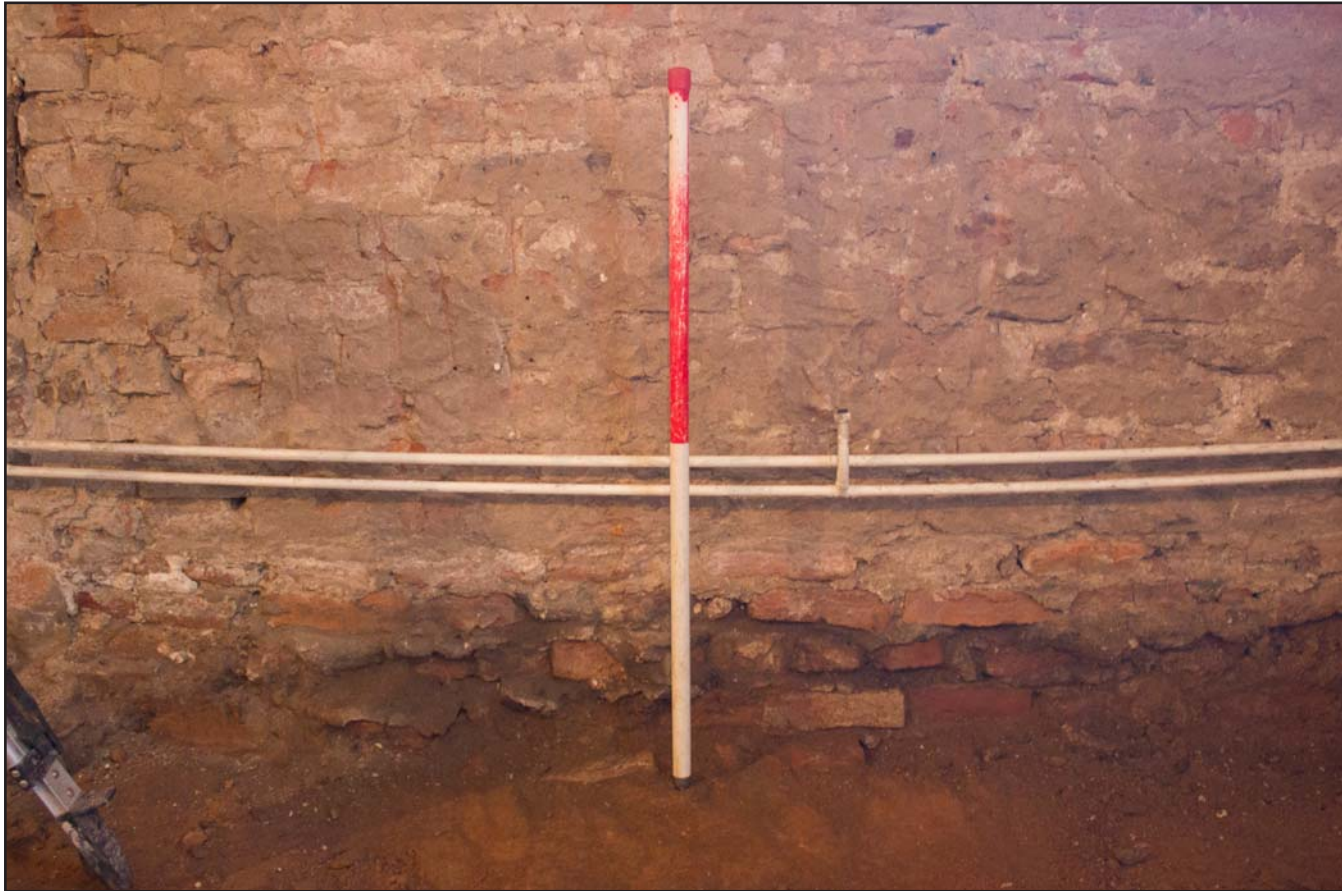


Plate 17: Northern elevation in Entrance Hall, Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire - from the south - scale 1.00m



Plate 18: Southern elevation in Entrance Hall, Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire - from the north - scale 1.00m



Plate 19: Western elevation in Entrance Hall, Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire - from the east - scale 1.00m



Plate 20: Former fireplace, Northern elevation in Entrance Hall, Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire - from the south - scale 1.00m



Plate 21: Blocked up access to Basement, to south of fireplace located on the northern elevation, Entrance Hall, Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire - from the south - scale 1.00m

the corridor which opens onto the pantry and the sitting room. A flight of steps and a single doorway on the left-hand side of the northern elevation provide access to the kitchen. Furthermore on the northern elevation to the right of the kitchen doorway is a large blocked up fireplace with a radiating brick voussoir visible above.

This room had a former surface of sandstone flagstones which had previously been covered with clay quarry tiles. These flagstones were removed by hand to reveal 0.12m deep deposit of coarse, dark black-grey, ash-silt, backfill material which produced a single ceramic pipe bowl. This material overlay 0.08m of a light, mid orange-brown, clay sand with frequent charcoal flecks. This lay above a tapering levelling which appeared to respect a slope which ran from east to west; 0.07m deep in the east and >0.16m deep in the west – this was a firm-yet friable, dark black-brown, clay-sand-silt with frequent broken red brick and slate inclusions. Below this was a >0.22m deep deposit of firm, mid yellow-grey, clay natural.

Below the dark, clay-silt-sand backfill material and located to the immediate south of the fireplace in the northern elevation and cut into the natural was a red-brick feature. This feature presented as a rectangular in plan, aligned north to south and measuring 1.15m long by 0.90m wide. The perimeter of the feature was constructed from a single course of red-bricks bonded by Portland cement. The internal area of the brick feature had four visible courses of red brick bonded by lime mortar with the northern portion (nearest the fire) backfilled with rubble and mortar. It is possible that this feature predates the fireplace given its stratigraphic relationship which places it below a fragment of dressed sandstone hearth. This feature is also located above the basement level and may have historically provided access to this level either via a set of steps or via a chute which was since bricked up.

10.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Aeon Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during the lifting of the existing floor as part of improvements to the grade II Listed Building (ref: 303) of Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire. The reason for the watching brief was to ascertain whether any archaeological fabric associated with earlier phases of the historic Hall persisted below the former flagstone floor within the Entrance Hall.

The Pantry appeared to have been largely backfilled in a single phase with material being deposited from the south. The narrow band of stony, light yellow-brown material appears to have been cast onto a slope of soft, natural clay which falls to the north – this material appears to have been a consolidation material for the slope and may have aided workers as they backfilled the room with the darker ash-silt levelling material, upon which the sandstone flags were then placed. The external wall was of a stone rubble construction whereas the internal walls (southern and western) were ‘floating’ and only supported by foundation stones in the corners suggesting that they were added following the construction of the Entrance Hall wall. Furthermore the backfill material produced a number of artefacts; ceramic fragments (late 17th to mid-18th century), clay pipe stems, brown glass sherds, a lamb’s bone and an oyster shell.

During the works within the Entrance Hall three phases of backfilling and levelling were identified which occurred prior to the laying of the dressed sandstone flags. Surprisingly little material culture was recovered from the deposits with only a single ceramic pipe bowl (19th century) and a chicken humerus yielded across the whole floor.

Below the primary backfill material within the entrance hall and located to the immediate south of the fireplace in the northern elevation was a red-brick feature. It appears as if the feature predates the fireplace as it occurs to be below a fragment of the dressed sandstone hearth of the former inglenook. This feature is also located above the basement level and may have historically provided access to this level either via a set of steps or via a chute which was since bricked up.

The archaeological watching brief can be seen as having addressed the archaeological condition in that no archaeological features were present at the site. Considering the results of the archaeological watching brief it is therefore the recommendation of this report that the condition be discharged.

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



aeon archaeology

**Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold,
Flintshire CH7 6SQ (062365)**

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

October 2021 v1.0



Project Code: A0327.1
Planning Ref: 062365



Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6SQ (062365)

October 2021 v1.0

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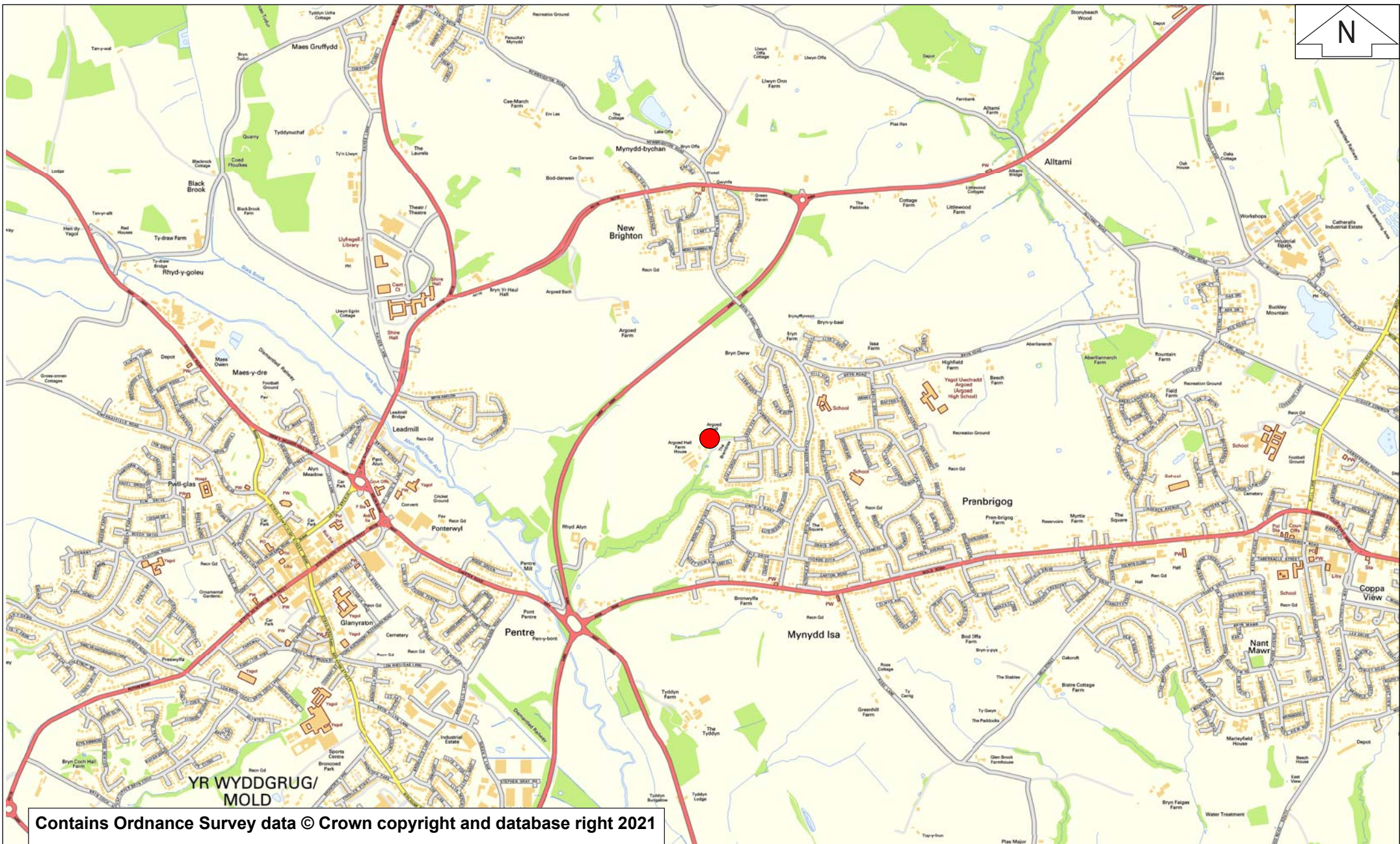
1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been commissioned by Mr. Thomas Bletcher, hereafter ‘the Client’, to provide a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for carrying out an archaeological watching brief during the lifting of the existing floor as part of improvements to the grade II Listed Building (ref: 303) of Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6SQ (centred on **NGR SJ 25423 64434**) (figures 01-03).

Listed Building Consent (LBC) is currently pending (as of 4th October 2021) however it is assumed that an archaeological watching brief will be made a condition of the consent (**ref: 062365**).

This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the aims and objectives of the project and the methods by which they will be met in order to meet the spirit and intent of the archaeological condition (pending) of LBC 062365.

The work will adhere to the guidelines specified in *The Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020).



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Figure 01: Location of Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6SQ.
Scale 1:20,000 at A4.



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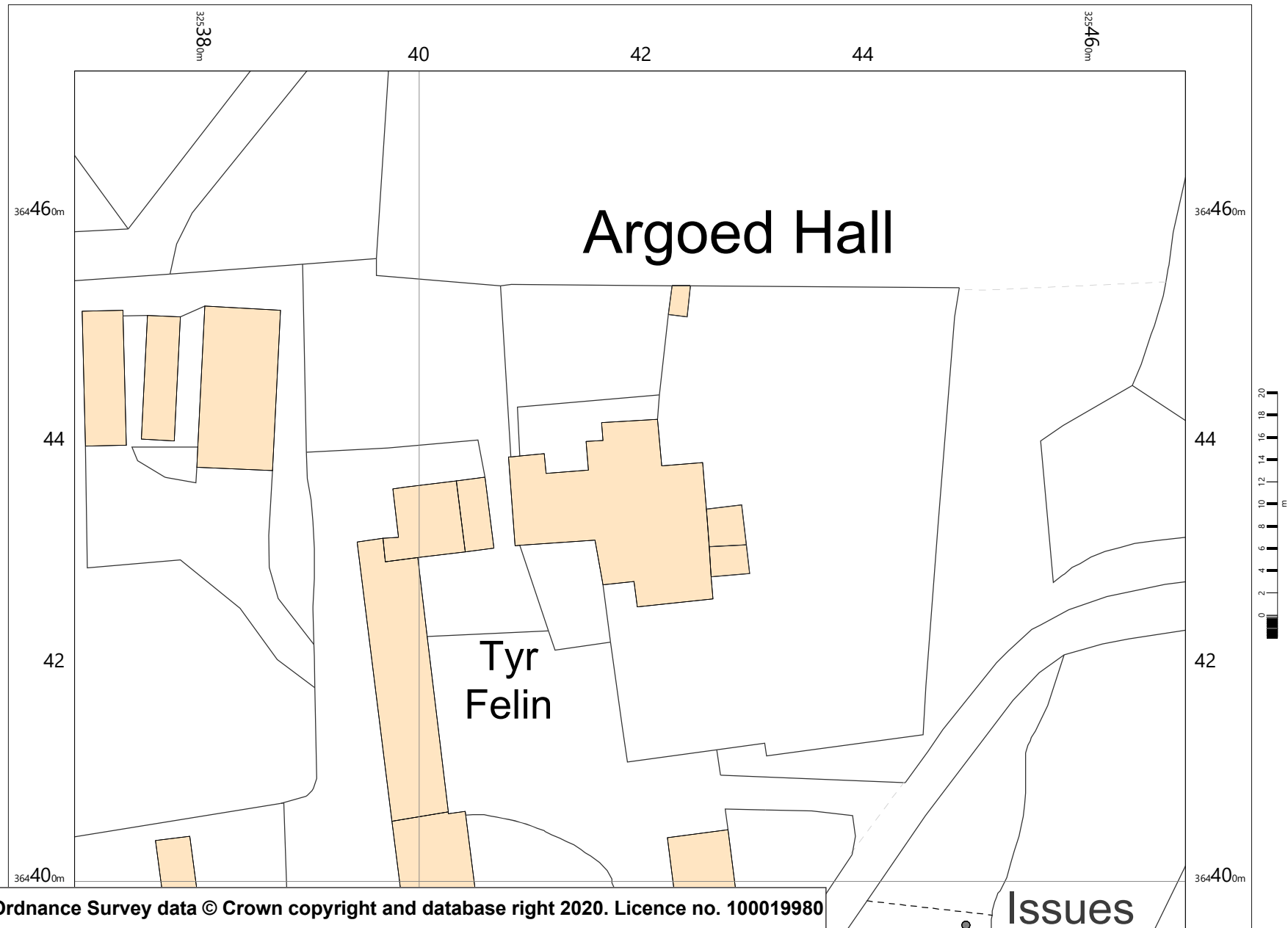


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Figure 02: Location of Arggoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6SQ.
Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

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Figure 03: Location of Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6SQ.
Scale 1:500 at A4.

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2.0 POLICY CONTEXT

At an international level there are two principal agreements concerning the protection of the cultural heritage and archaeological resource – the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, 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 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 6.1.5 concerns planning applications:

The planning system must take into account the Welsh Government's objectives to protect, conserve, promote and enhance the historic environment as a resource for the general well-being of present and future generations. The historic environment is a finite, non-renewable and shared resource and a vital and integral part of the historical and cultural identity of Wales. It contributes to economic vitality and culture, civic pride, local distinctiveness and the quality of Welsh life. The historic environment can only be maintained as a resource for future generations if the individual historic assets are protected and conserved. Cadw's published Conservation Principles highlights the need to base decisions on an understanding of the impact a proposal may have on the significance of an historic asset.

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 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The following information is sourced from the Heritage Impact Assessment produced by Paterson Macaulay & Owens Chartered Architects (5019).

Argoed Hall is a Grade II Listed property, set in a small garden of approximately 0.15ha, located along Argoed Hall Lane, Mynydd Isa and is bordered by stock fencing and stone/brickwork walling.

The three-storey private family dwelling comprises pebbledash external walls with slate roofs and yellow brick chimneys. As recorded in the Listing Document, the mid-17th century property and has been subject to extensive partial rebuilding and alteration, with a majority of these works believed to have been carried out in the late C19/early C20. These alterations include works to the windows and the addition of a brick veranda. Only three of the original stone mullioned windows remain, with the remaining units being wooden or metal framed.

Internally, the property has three fully accessible floors above ground level, with a stone staircase leading to a cellar beneath the existing kitchen. Access to this space is also afforded by an external stone stair, enclosed in a low-level brickwork wall. The two-storey wing of the property, located to the west side of the building, comprises one large room to the first floor with exposed timber roof structure.

This space is accessed by 4no. steps from the bathroom. Internal features of note include some original large oak beams, supporting first and ground floor ceilings and the staircase. Described as in Jacobean style, a wide timber stair with landings at each flight is formed around a square core made from four large oak newels, reaching from the ground floor to the second floor.

Originally the manor house of a large estate owned by the Earl of Derby, and subsequently passed through various families, the property was purchased by Flintshire County Council in 1934 and sold again as a freehold in 1968.

As previously mentioned, it is obvious that the property has undergone extensive partial rebuilding and alterations over time, including its separation from a section of its previously contiguous farm buildings by the demolition of one bay, between the house and the section of the original building that is now referred to as Ty'r Felin. So, whilst early descriptions of Argoed Hall record it as having 11 bays, it now only has 7.

Most of the windows to the property are single glazed and wooden framed, likely dating from late Victorian or Edwardian times, with stone lintels and cills. Very few fenestration units to the property are metal. To the south western elevation of the Hall, stands a flat roofed brick verandah, a later addition to the property, also with metal framed windows. This elevation, considered to be the 'main elevation' of the property, also shows the existing two storey granary section. This structure, not wholly in keeping with the main building in style or scale, has also been subject to some alterations over time, including the installation of a C20 metal stair access to the first floor and photovoltaic panels to the roof.

A large external bread oven attached to the rear of the property can also be seen in old photographs. This has since disappeared, most likely as part of the renovations carried out by the person who originally purchased the house from the council.

Other features to the elevations, of no particular historic or architectural merit, include the yellow brick chimneys, all in a relatively good condition, decorative barge boards and finials and attached timber framed glasshouse (to be restored).

The ground floor comprises porch, vestibule, entrance hall, pantry, sitting room, drawing room, verandah, ground floor WC and stair. The existing kitchen is located above a cellar, on a suspended timber floor.

The first floor comprises 3no. bedrooms, bathroom and access to the second floor of the 'granary' (above the ground floor sitting room).

The second floor has two large bedrooms and access to the roof space is possible from here.

Notable internal features to the Hall include a C17 stair, sometimes described as being Jacobean style, formed around a square core made of four large oak newels, reaching from the ground to the second floor. The staircase goes around the core in sections of four steps with spacious landings between each flight. Large oak beams can also be seen supporting ground and first floor ceilings, boxed in in certain rooms, and there are some coving and skirting details to the living room and two rooms to the first floor.

4.0 WATCHING BRIEF - ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS

The archaeological watching brief shall be maintained:

1. During the lifting of stone flags in the entrance hall, drawing room and snug, and during any required excavation in these areas.

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 2020). 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’ (ibid).

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 *The Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2020) and will be kept under constant review during the project, in order to see how far it is meeting the terms of the aims and objectives, and in order to adopt any new questions which may arise.

Curatorial monitoring of the archaeological work on behalf of the Council will be carried out by the DMA at CPAT. 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 DMA at CPAT. 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 **A0326.1**.

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* (2020) will be required to be produced upon conclusion of the archaeological fieldwork. The report will be completed within a maximum of two months of completion of work on site and may include examination and quantification leading to the identification of function, form, date, method of manufacture, material/fabric type, source, parallels, attributes and condition of artefacts; of the exploitation of wild or domesticated resources; the reconstruction of environments; and the nature of human populations.

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

The scope of post-excavation assessment will subject to a specification for approval by the DMA at CPAT, 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 DMA at CPAT and to the client for comment and approval prior to production of the final report.

6.0 DIGITAL DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

6.1 Type of study

A watching brief during the lifting of the existing floor as part of improvements to the grade II Listed Building (ref: 303) of Argoed Hall, Mynydd Isa, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6SQ (centred on **NGR SJ 25423 64434**).

6.2 Types of data

Photographs, photograph register, scaled drawings.

6.3 Format and scale of the data

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

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

6.4 Methodologies for data collection / generation

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

3.3.1 Project specifications, research designs or similar documents should include a project specific Selection Strategy and a Data Management Plan.

3.3.3 Project designs or schedules of works etc should outline the methodology used in recording all information, in order to demonstrate that all aspects of archive creation will ensure consistency; for instance in terminologies and the application of codes in digital data sets, highlighting relevant data standards where appropriate

6.5 Data quality and standards

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

6.6 Managing, storing and curating data.

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

6.7 Metadata standards and data documentation

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

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

6.8 Data preservation strategy and standards

Long term data storage will be through the submission of digital (.PDF) reports to the regional Historic Environment Record (HER); submission of digital (.PDF) reports and a project completion form to the Oasis database; submission of the scanned (.PDF) archive, photographic plates (.TIF), and metadata (.xlsx) (.acddb) to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS); and retention of copies of all digital files at Aeon Archaeology on physical external hard drive and uploaded to the cloud.

6.9 Suitability for sharing

All digital data will be placed within the public realm (through the channels in 6.8) except for where project confidentiality restricts the sharing of data. All data sets will be selected / discriminated by the Senior Archaeologist at Aeon Archaeology and written permission will be sought from all project specific Clients prior to the sharing of data.

6.10 Discovery by potential users of the research data

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

6.11 Governance of access

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

6.12 The study team's exclusive use of the data

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

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

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

6.14 Regulation of responsibilities of users

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

6.15 Responsibilities

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

6.16 Organisational policies on data sharing and data security

The following Aeon Archaeology policies are relevant:

- Aeon Archaeology Archive Deposition Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Quality Assurance Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Conflict of Interest Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Outreach Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Digital Management Plan 2020

7.0 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 DMA at CPAT prior to implementation.

8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

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

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

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

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

- 50% of each discrete feature (e.g. pits and postholes)
- 25% of the exposed areas of each 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)

9.0 HUMAN REMAINS

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

10.0 ARTEFACTS

All artefacts and ecofacts will be retrieved for identification and recording and will be treated in accordance with CIfA 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 DMA at CPAT. 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.

11.0 UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES: TREASURE TROVE

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

- *Objects other than coins* any object other than a coin provided that it contains at least 10% gold or silver and is at least 300 years old when found.
- *Coins* all coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found (if the coins contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least 10. Any object or coin is part of the same find as another object or coin, if it is found in the same place as, or had previously been left together with, the other object. Finds may have become scattered since they were originally deposited in the ground. Single coin finds of gold or silver are not classed as treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act.
- *Associated objects* any object whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or that had previously been together with, another object that is treasure.
- *Objects that would have been treasure trove* any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. These objects have to be made substantially of gold or silver, they have to be buried with the intention of recovery and their owner or his heirs cannot be traced.

The following types of finds are not treasure:

- Objects whose owners can be traced.
- Unworked natural objects, including human and animal remains, even if they are found in association with treasure.
- Objects from the foreshore which are not wreck.

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

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

12.0 ARCHIVING

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

A draft copy of the report will be produced within six months of the completion of the fieldwork and sent to the Client and the DMA at CPAT 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 Development Control 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).

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

13.0 PERSONNEL

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

14.0 MONITORING AND LIAISON

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

15.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

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

16.0 INSURANCE

Liability Insurance

Employers' Liability: Limit of Indemnity £10m in any one occurrence

Public Liability: Limit of Indemnity £2m in any one occurrence

Legal Defence Costs (Health and Safety at Work Act): £100,000

The current period expires 07/09/22

Professional Indemnity Insurance

Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 07/09/22

