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# Capel Sion, Pontfadog, Llangollen, Wrexham, LL20 7AS.

## September 2020 V 1.0



Historic Building Record Level 1

Project Code: A0277.1

Report no. 0265

Event PRN: 167695





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## September 2020 v1.0

Report no. 0265 / Event PRN:167695

Historic Building Record Level 1

**Aeon Archaeology**

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Project Code: A0277.1

Date: 24/09/2020

Client: Mr. Ronald Smith

info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk

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# Capel Sion, Pontfadog, Llangollen, Wrexham, LL20 7AS.

## September 2020 v1.0

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Project Code: A0277.1

Date: 24/09/2020

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## **1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

*Cafodd Aeon Archaeology ei gyflogi gan Mr Ronald Smith i gynnal cofnod adeiladu hanesyddol lefel 1 o adeilad segur Capel Sion a Pontfadog, Llangollen, Wrecsam LL20 7AS cyn a'i newid i llety newydd.*

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Ronald Smith to carry out a level 1 historic building record of the redundant Capel Sion building at Pontfadog, Llangollen, Wrexham LL20 7AS in advance of conversion and alteration to accommodation.

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Ronald Smith, hereafter the Client, to carry out a level 1 historic building record of the redundant Capel Sion building at Pontfadog, Llangollen, Wrexham LL20 7AS (centred on **NGR SJ 23438 38188**) in advance of conversion and alteration to accommodation. The Event Primary Reference Number (PRN) for this project is **PRN 167695**.

Full planning permission (**ref: P/2020/0334**) was secured by the Client from Wrexham County Borough Council on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 with the following pre-commencement condition concerning archaeology being applied to the planning consent:

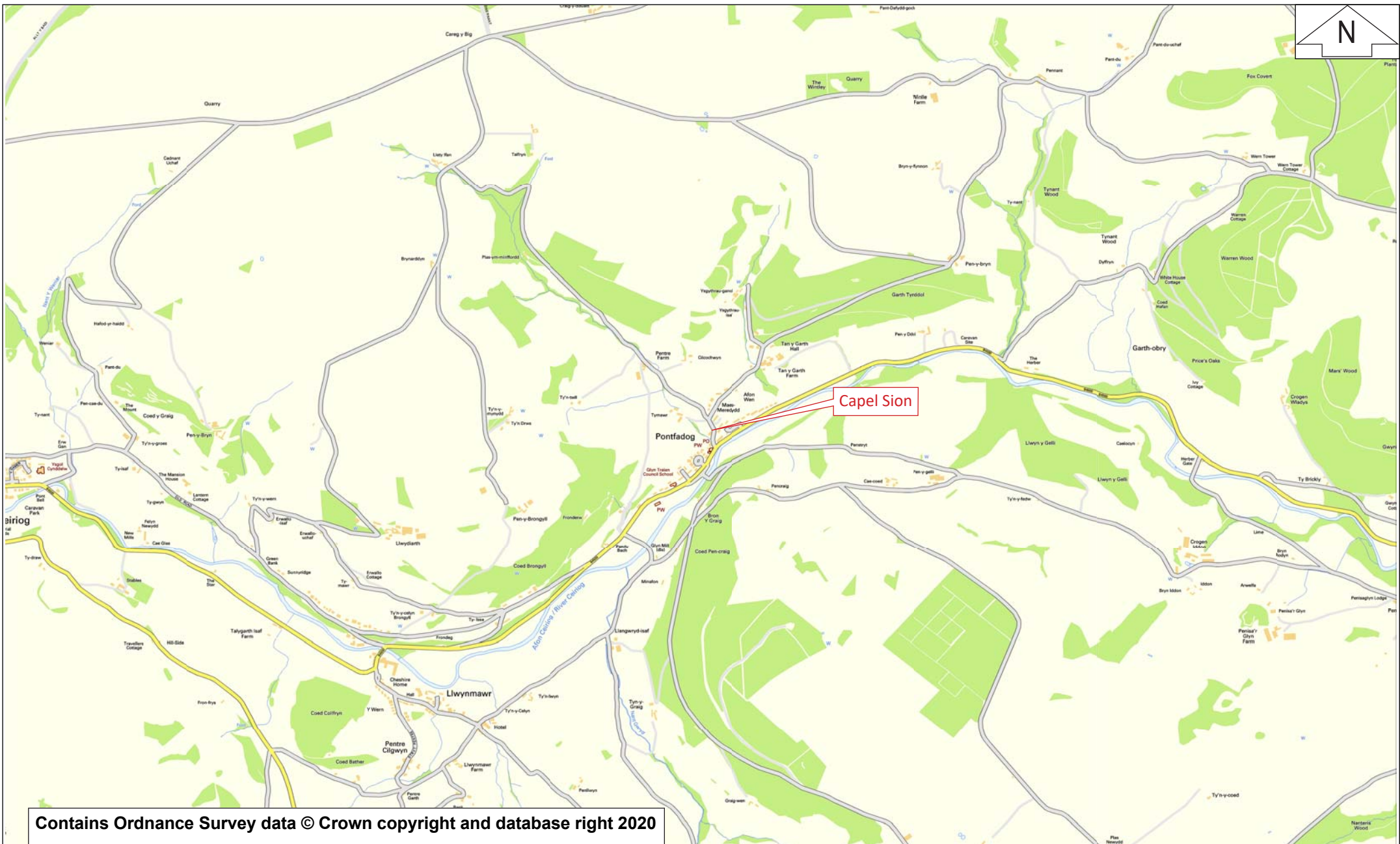
### *Condition 9*

*No works shall commence until an appropriate photographic survey, equivalent to an English Heritage Level 1 study, of the existing building/s has been carried out in accordance with details to be submitted to, and approved by, the Local Planning Authority. The resulting digital photographs should be forwarded on a CD to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR. Email: markwalters@cpat.otg.uk Tel: 01938 553670. After approval by the Local Planning Authority, a copy of the photographs should also be sent to the Historic Environment Record Officer, Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the regional Historic Environment Record.*

*REASON: To provide for a record of a building or buildings of local architectural or historic interest in accordance with Policy GDPI of the Wrexham Unitary Development Plan.*

This design and all subsequent mitigation will conform to the guidelines specified in Historic England's 'Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice' (2016) & Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).





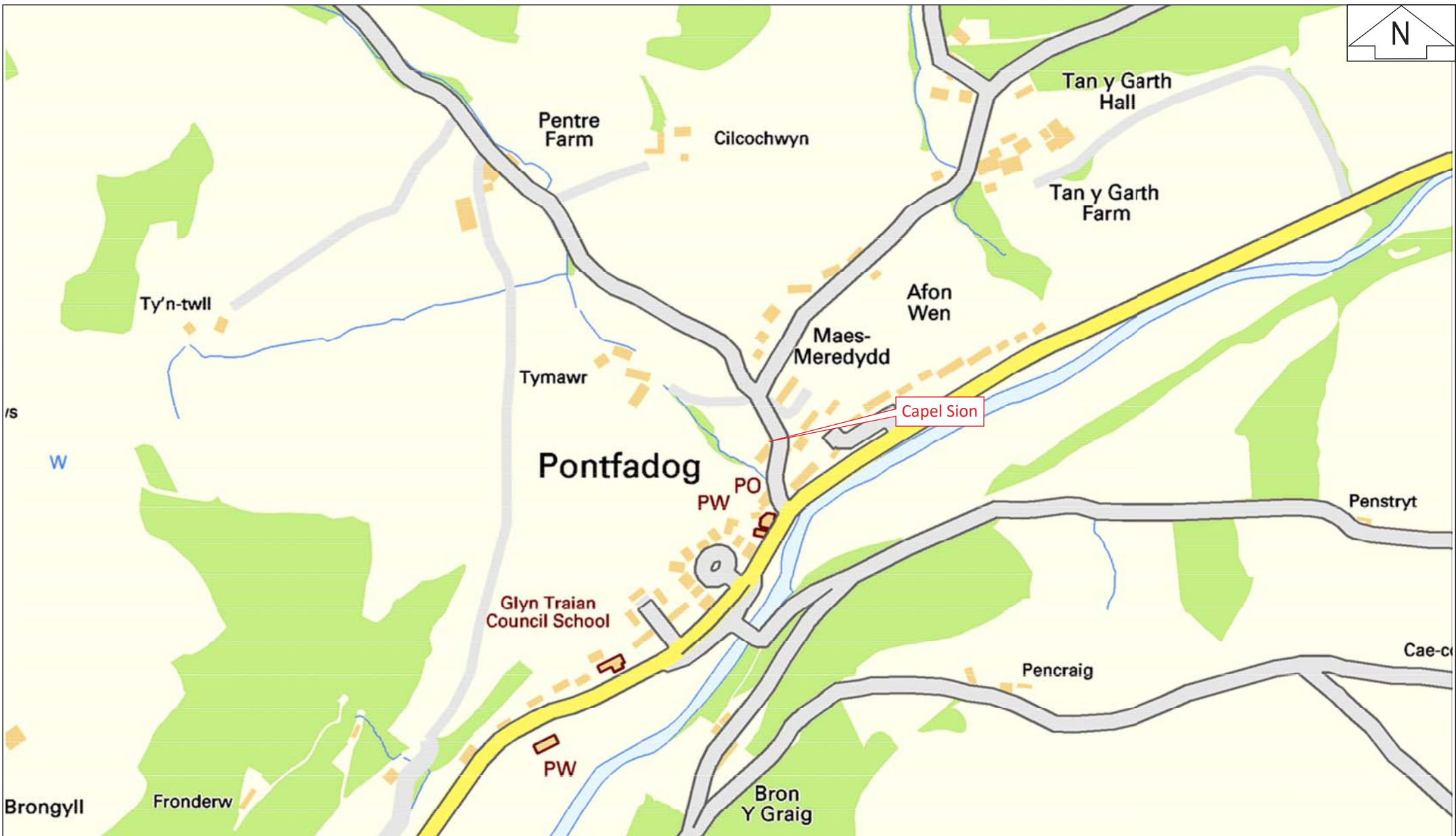
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**Figure 01:** Location of Capel Sion, Pontfadog, Llangollen, Wrexham LL20 7AS.  
Scale 1:20,000 at A4.



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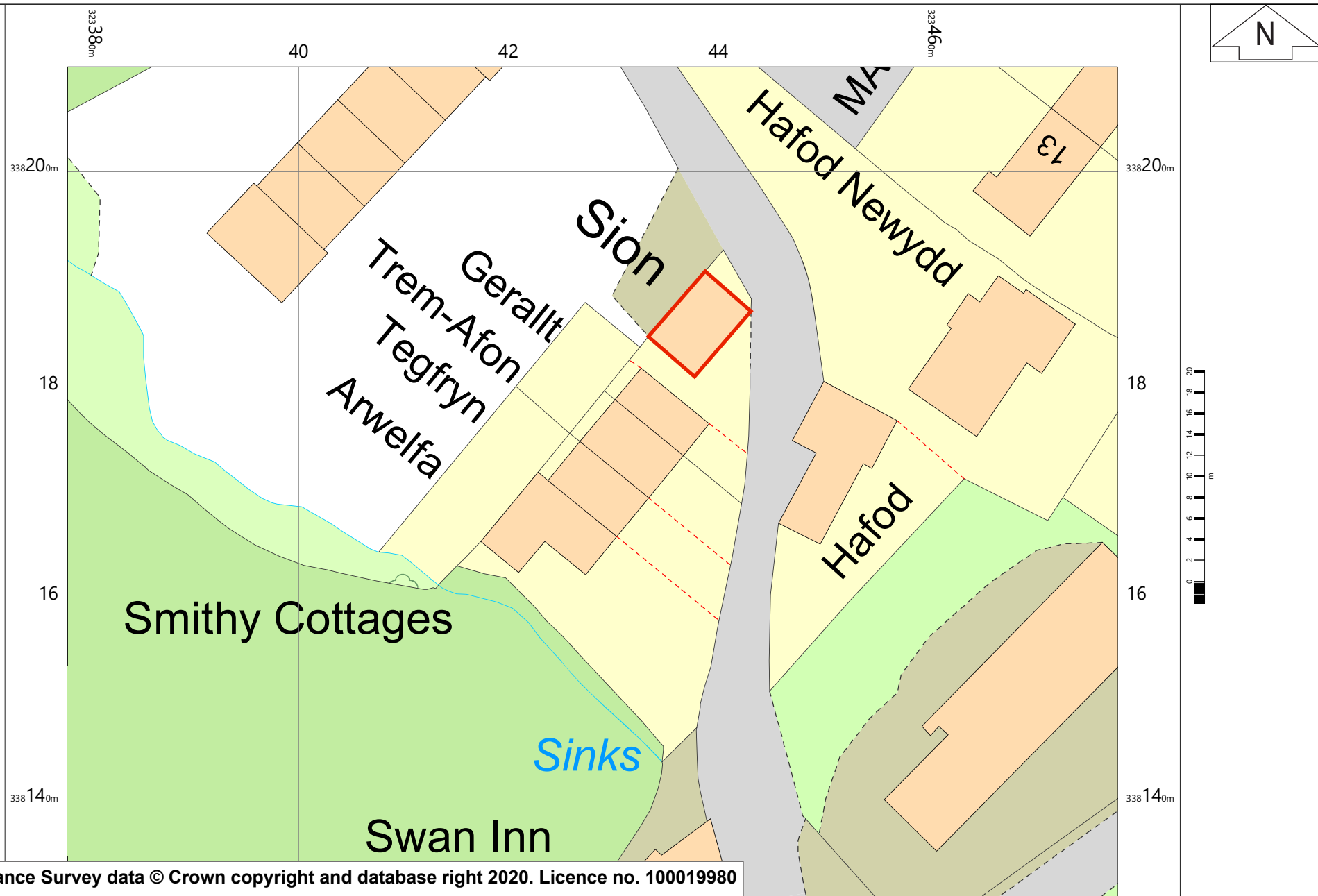


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**Figure 02:** Location of Capel Sion, Pontfadog, Llangollen, Wrexham LL20 7AS.  
Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

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**Figure 03:** Location of Capel Sion, Pontfadog, Llangollen, Wrexham LL20 7AS.  
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 REQUIREMENTS

### 4.1 Building Record

The requirements were for an archaeological building record of Capel Sion at Pontfadog, prior to conversion work, however should observations or desk-based research suggest the potential for significant features to be encountered during the building conversion, the archaeological contractor should make arrangements to undertake any appropriate supplementary recording work during the development. The CPAT Development Control Archaeologist had requested that the building record be roughly commensurate with the Historic England's '*Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*' (2016) **Level 1**.

Both the exterior and the interior was viewed and photographed. The location and orientation of photographs were located on existing plans of the property provided by the architect.

The detailed photographic record consisted of Historic England's '*Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*' (2016) elements:

- written account: 1-3
- drawings: 1
- photographs: 1,2,4

## **5.0 METHOD STATEMENT**

### **5.1 Level 1 Record**

#### **5.1.1 Written Account**

The written account included:

- The building's precise location as a National Grid Reference and address form;
- A note of any statutory designation and non-statutory designation;
- The date of the record, name(s) of the recorder(s) and archive location;

#### **5.1.2 Photographs**

The photographic record included:

- A general view or views of the building;
- The building's external appearance. Typically, a series of oblique views will show all external elevations of the building and give an impression of its size and shape;
- The overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas.

A Digital SLR (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution was used throughout.

#### **5.1.3 Drawings**

The drawn record included:

- A site plan showing the location and orientation of photographs. This will label all room spaces and indicate any architectural features of note.

### **5.2 Processing data, illustration, report and archiving**

Following completion of the record as outlined above, a report was produced incorporating the following:

- A site location plan
- A plan illustrating the location and direction of photographs
- A full bibliography of sources consulted
- Illustrations, including plans and photographs, will be incorporated within the report.



## **6.0 DIGITAL DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### **6.1 Type of study**

A level 1 historic building record of the former farmhouse of the redundant Capel Sion building at Pontfadog, Llangollen, Wrexham LL20 7AS (centred on NGR SJ 23438 38188) in advance of conversion and alteration to accommodation

### **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) (.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.

## **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](mailto: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 LEVEL 1 HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY

(figures 1-4; Plates 1-19)

The building of Capel Sion, Pontfadog is shown on the 1841 Map of the township of *Cilochwyn* in the County of Denbigh as the end of a range of rectangular buildings aligned northeast to southwest, although it is unclear whether this is Capel Sion as it is not marked as such. The accompanying title apportionment records the farm as being owned and tenanted by Samuel Jones, with the field plot called *Ty a Gardd homestead* and being utilised as pasture.

The Chapel recorded as part of this survey is shown on the first edition county series Ordnance Survey six-inch map of 1880 and appears as "*Methodist Chapel (Wesleyan)*". According to its appearance on the map it appears to have been constructed between 1841 and 1880. This correlates with the carved date visible on the roof truss that reads "1879". Furthermore, an inscription upon a slate located just below the eaves on the north eastern elevation reads;

*"SION*

*Canys dewisodd yr Arglwydd  
SION ac ai chwennychodd un  
Drigfa iddo ei hun.*

*Pslam.CXXXII. XII  
ADLILADWYD"*

This refers to *Psalm 132* within the *Book of Psalms*, the third section of the Hebrew Bible which was part of the scripture pertaining to the Old Testament. The Rev. William Morgan translated this and the rest of the Old and New Testaments into Welsh during the year 1588, he did so by referring to the original Hebrew versions of the text. This allowed native Welsh speakers to read the book in their own tongue at a similar time to those in England were able to do the same and is therefore considered to be a huge achievement in Welsh Literature and contributed to the survival of the Welsh language. Inscriptions such as the one found above are common among the religious buildings of Wales as they serve a dual purpose – to venerate the Christian faith of their parishioners and to celebrate the Welsh language. The text translates as *verse 13* within *Psalm 132* of the *Book of Psalms*;

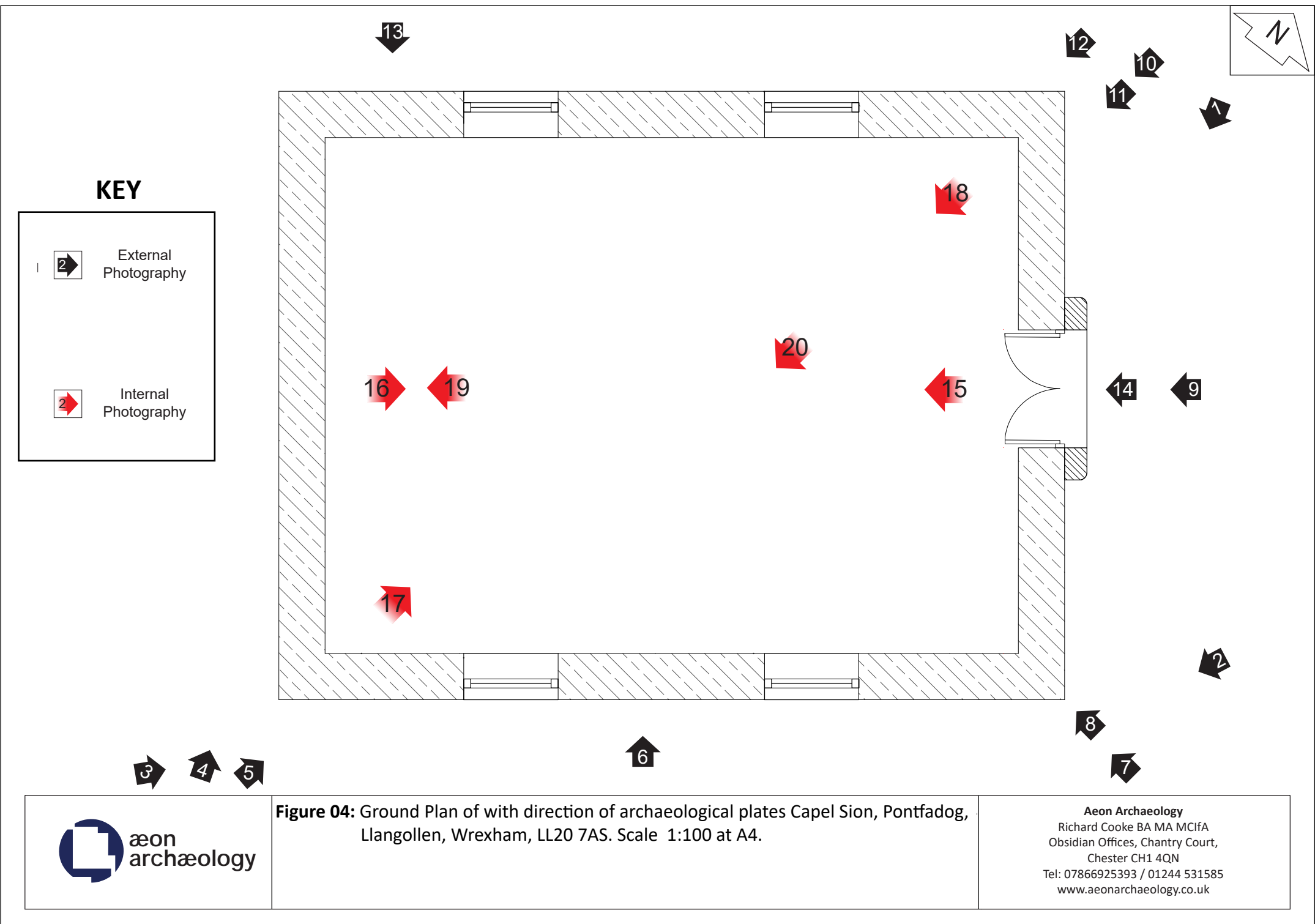
*"Zion*

*For the LORD  
has chosen Zion,  
he has desired it for his dwelling"*

Capel Sion, Pontfadog is located approximately 3.25km south/southwest of Glyn Ceiriog. The building is rectangular in plan orientated northeast-southwest with the principle elevation (entrance) to the northeast. The structure is constructed from stone rubble bonded by lime mortar although is now covered in pebble-dash. The building does not have any statutory or non-statutory designations.

The level 1 historic building record was undertaken by Josh Dean BA, archaeologist at Aeon Archaeology on the 24th September 2020. Upon approval from the Client and the CPAT Development Control Archaeologist the report will be archived with the CPAT Historic

Environment Record (HER); Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW); and a copy retained at Aeon Archaeology, Chester under project code A0277.1, report 0265.







**Plate 01:** Context shot of Capel Sion, Pontfadog, Llangollen - from the north - no scale



**Plate 02:** Context shot of Capel Sion, Pontfadog, Llangollen - from the northeast - no scale





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**Plate 20:** Carved date “1879” on roof truss within Capel Sion, Pontfadog, Llangollen - from the north - no scale

## **7.0 SOURCES**

### *Maps.*

Ordnance Survey Open Data maps SH NE97, NW97, SE97, SW97.

### *Secondary Sources*

Historic England: Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice (2016)

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014: Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures

