

CPAT Report No. 1736




Proposed Footpath Diversion on the Erddig Estate, Wrexham

Desk-based Assessment



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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	II
CRYNODEB.....	II
1 INTRODUCTION	3
2 SCOPE AND GUIDANCE	3
3 METHODOLOGY	5
4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	5
5 FIELD SURVEY	9
6 BASELINE ASSESSMENT	10
7 ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL.....	13
8 SOURCES	13
9 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION STATEMENT	14
APPENDIX 1: UNDESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS WITHIN 500M	15

Summary

A desk-based assessment has been conducted by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, on behalf of the National Trust, in connection with proposals for the diversion of a public footpath on the Erddig Estate, near Wrexham.

The assessment has identified a single heritage asset within the study area, the site of a sewage treatment works, and the archaeological potential of the area as a whole is considered to be low.

Crynodeb

Bu Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys yn cynnal asesiad wrth ddesg, ar ran yr Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol, mewn cysylltiad â chynigion i ddargyfeirio llwybr troed cyhoeddus ar Ystâd Erddig, ger Wrecsam.

Mae'r asesiad wedi nodi un ased treftadaeth o fewn ardal yr astudiaeth, sef safle gwaith trin carthion, ac ystyrir mai isel yw potensial archaeolegol yr ardal ar y cyfan.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust was invited by the National Trust to undertake a desk-based assessment in connection with proposals for a footpath diversion on the Erddig Estate, near Wrexham.
- 1.2. The study area occupies around 5ha, mostly of woodland bounded, lying to either side of a small stream. The north-western end is bounded by the Shrewsbury to Chester railway and the south-eastern end by Hafod Road (Fig. 1; SJ 3183 4819).



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Fig. 1 Location of the study area

2 Scope and Guidance

- 2.1. The cultural heritage is a broad concept that embraces archaeological remains, the built heritage and historic landscapes. Cultural heritage is deemed to include the full range of man-made features that have been imposed on the landscape from the Palaeolithic, more than two hundred and fifty thousand years ago, to the 20th century. Some of these features will be visible as upstanding remains on the ground; others will be buried and only become apparent

-
- during ground disturbance. Some will have an archaeological interest and importance; others will be more historical in their origin. Collectively these features are known as heritage assets.
- 2.2. At a national level it is Cadw, the historic environment service within Welsh Government, which holds the remit for the cultural heritage resource. Another national body, Natural Resources Wales, has a particular interest in historic landscapes.
 - 2.3. At a regional level, the cultural heritage resource is monitored by the regional Welsh Archaeological Trusts, and in this instance the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust acts as archaeological adviser to Wrexham County Borough Council.
 - 2.4. The legislative framework for the historic environment in Wales was revised by the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The 2016 Act amended the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. It extended the definition of scheduled monuments and enhanced their protection, as well as making changes to the process of scheduled monument consent. Changes were also made to the protection of listed buildings. The 2016 Act also provided for a statutory register of historic landscapes, a statutory list of place names, and imposed a statutory duty on Welsh Ministers to compile and maintain Historic Environment Records (HERs).
 - 2.5. National policy within Wales is set out in Planning Policy Wales (10th edition, 2018) (PPW). Issues relating to the historic environment are set out in Chapter 6, Distinctive and Natural Places. This notes that the 'protection, conservation and enhancement of historic assets is most effective when it is considered at the earliest stage' of a project; hence the need for a reasonable and proportionate impact assessment to ensure that any proposed development is sustainable and to prevent unnecessary harm to historic assets.
 - 2.6. PPW is supported by Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment (TAN 24). It is designed to assist local authorities with developing their local plans and for determination of planning applications or listed building consent in relation to historic assets. PPW is also supported by associated Cadw best practice guidance on the historic environment.
 - 2.7. The assessment follows guidance produced by Cadw, on behalf of the Welsh Government, for managing historic assets: Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales (2017); The Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (2017); and Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales (2011). The assessment of potential impacts to the Registered Historic Landscape will utilise the Guide to Good Practice on Using the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in the Planning and Development Process (2nd edition, 2007), produced jointly by Cadw and CCW.
 - 2.8. The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB), revised in 2019, provides a suitable, general framework for assessing the cultural heritage:
 - *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges: Volume 11: Section 2 General Principles of Environmental Assessment: Part 4: LA 104 Environmental assessment and monitoring*
 - *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume 11 Section 3 Environmental Assessment Techniques: Part 2, LA 106 Cultural heritage assessment.*

3 Methodology

- 3.1. The assessment has been conducted in accordance with the following standard and guidance documents produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA): *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* (2017); and *Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment* (2014). CIfA is the leading professional body representing archaeologists working in the UK and overseas.
- 3.2. The assessment was conducted in April 2020 and comprised desk-based research only owing to restrictions imposed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. It was not possible to access Denbighshire Archives, the National Library of Wales or the National Monument Record, or undertake a fieldwalked survey of the study area. At this stage the study was therefore limited to the following:
 - the regional Historic Environment Record (HER), maintained by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust
 - information regarding scheduled monuments, listed buildings, registered historic landscapes and registered parks and gardens, based on a dataset provided by Cadw, dated February 2020
 - On-line historic map sources
- 3.3. The fieldwalked survey will be completed at a later date and this report revised accordingly.

4 Historical Background

- 4.1. This section provides a brief summary of the archaeology and history of the study area and its immediate surrounds, to enable the findings of the assessment to be placed in a wider context.
- 4.2. There is no substantive evidence for activity in the area during the earlier periods of human history and the earliest archaeological evidence is not until the post-Roman era. The substantial linear earthwork of Wat's Dyke follows a meandering north/south course through Erddig Park. Wat's Dyke is thought to have been constructed as a territorial boundary, possibly dating to the 8th century or early 9th century AD, and extended for 64km between Basingwerk in Flintshire and Maesbury in Shropshire and originally consisted of a rampart bank and a wide western ditch. At Erddig the dyke follows the edge of the plateau, overlooking the Black Brook valley to the west, before crossing the Clywedog valley. The upstanding earthworks are scheduled (De152 and 173). The grounds of Erddig Park also contain the earthwork remains of a medieval motte and bailey castle, which is also scheduled (De017).
- 4.3. The original house at Erddig was designed for Joshua Edisbury and finished in 1687. The property was sold to John Mellor in the early-18th century and passed to his nephew, Philip Yorke. It remained in the hands of the Yorke family until they gave it to the National Trust in 1973.
- 4.4. Erddig is a substantial, plain, brick house situated on the western edge of a bluff between the Black Brook valley to the west and the Clywedog valley to the north. The central nine bays of the house were built in 1684-87 by Joshua Edisbury. In the 1720s John Meller, a London lawyer who had bought Erddig in 1716, added five-bay two-storey brick extensions to the north and south, and the east front has remained more or less unaltered since.

- 4.5. In 1733, on the death of John Meller, Erddig passed to his nephew Simon Yorke, and remained in the Yorke family, by direct descent, until 1973, when it was given by the last Philip Yorke to the National Trust. After 1733 the main period of alteration was the 1770s, when Philip Yorke made alterations to both house and park.
- 4.6. The park and gardens are registered grade I and occupy two valleys, the Black Brook to the west of the house, and the Clywedog river to the north. The house lies on the western edge of the higher ground, and from its west front there are fine views out over the park in the Black Brook valley. The ground drops steeply down to the valleys to the west and north of the house but rises more gently on their far sides. The park falls into four main areas: the plateau, the woodland north of the garden, the Black Brook valley, and the Clywedog valley. There are two main entrances to the park, both with lodges. The first lies to the south-west of the house, off the Hafod road, and the second is situated to the south-east of the house off the Sontley road.
- 4.7. The parkland is depicted on the Ordnance Survey Surveyors' Drawing of 1819 (Fig. 2), which also shows the stream running through the study area, although it provides no evidence for any heritage assets within the area.



Fig. 2 Extract from the 1819 Ordnance Survey Surveyors' Drawing, showing the study area in red

- 4.8. The 1843 tithe survey for Erddig Township (Fig. 3) provides a little more detail, showing the individual fields to either side of the stream, details of which are as follows:

South-west of the stream:

213 Werglodd ffynnon, pasture, owned by the Poor of Ruabon and occupied by Elizabeth Moor

- 19 Meadow, pasture, owned by John Barton esq. and occupied by Charles Jackson
20 as 19, hay

North-east of the stream:

- 333 . . . bychan, hay, owned by Simon Yorke Esq. And occupied by Richard Johnson
31a Rough pasture owned by John Barton esq. and occupied by Charles Jackson
21 Pasture, as 31a



Fig. 3 Extract from the 1843 Tithe Survey for Erddig Township, Gresford Parish, showing the study area in red

- 4.9. Hafod-y-bwch bridge, a grade II listed structure (no. 16564) dating from the late 18th or early 19th century, lies adjacent to the southernmost corner of the study area. The single-span bridge was probably built by the Erddig Estate and was constructed from well-coursed blocks of dressed stone with a segmental arch and a string course below the parapet.
- 4.10. The Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map of 1872 (Fig. 4) shows the Shrewsbury and Chester Railway, which forms the north-western end of the study area. The North Wales Mineral Railway, connecting Chester via Wrexham to Ruabon, was constructed from 1844 to take advantage of mineral rights, merging with the Shrewsbury, Oswestry and Chester Junction Railway to form the Shrewsbury and Chester Railway in 1846. The 2nd edition map of 1899

shows little change, although by the time of the 3rd edition in 1912 (Fig. 5) a small sewage works had been constructed by Wrexham Rural District Council adjacent to the railway.

- 4.11. Bersham Colliery lies to the west of the study area, on the north-west side of the railway. It was originally known as Glan-yr-Afon Colliery, operated by the Bersham Coal Company, and the first shaft was sunk in 1864 on the site of a brickworks immediately adjacent to the Shrewsbury to Chester railway line. However, the workings did not reach the main coal seams and the site was left abandoned until 1871 when the pit was deepened by new owners, the Barnes family of Liverpool, coal production restarting in 1874 with two shafts. By 1896 the colliery employed 711 men and by 1908 this had risen to 848 men, and 878 by 1918. Between the 1920s and 1940s the colliery changed ownership several times between the Broughton and Plas Power Coal Co. Ltd and the Bersham Colliery Company Ltd, until it was nationalised in 1947.
- 4.12. The colliery was subsequently modernised and by 1954 had a new block housing pithead baths, canteen and offices designed to cater for up to 1,100 men. These structures are grade II listed, while the winding engine house is also listed grade II and the headframe grade II*. The colliery reached its peak in 1958, with 1011 workers recorded at the site. The underground workings were extensive and although a large pillar of solid coal was left untouched beneath Erddig Hall this did not prevent subsidence and by 1973 the house was structurally unsound.

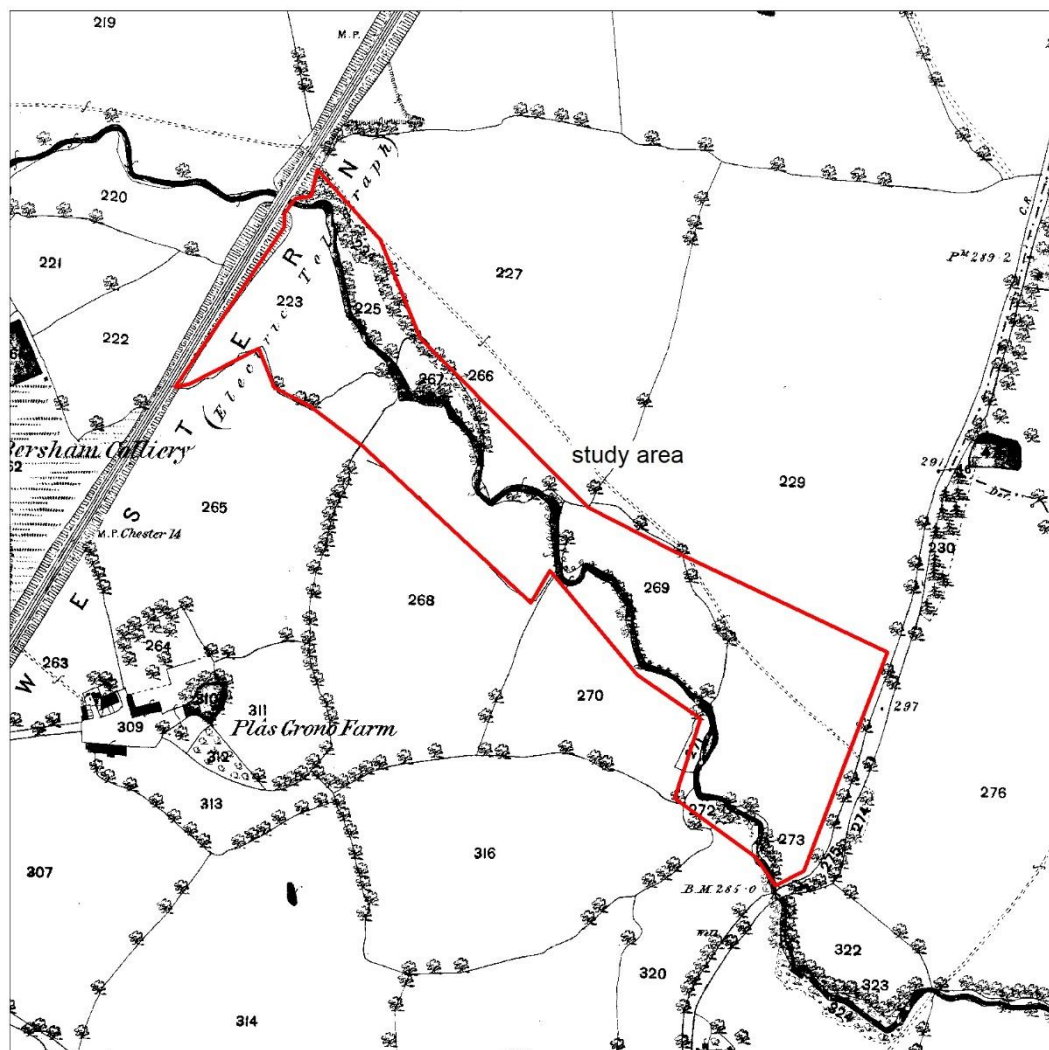


Fig. 4 Extract from the 1872 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map

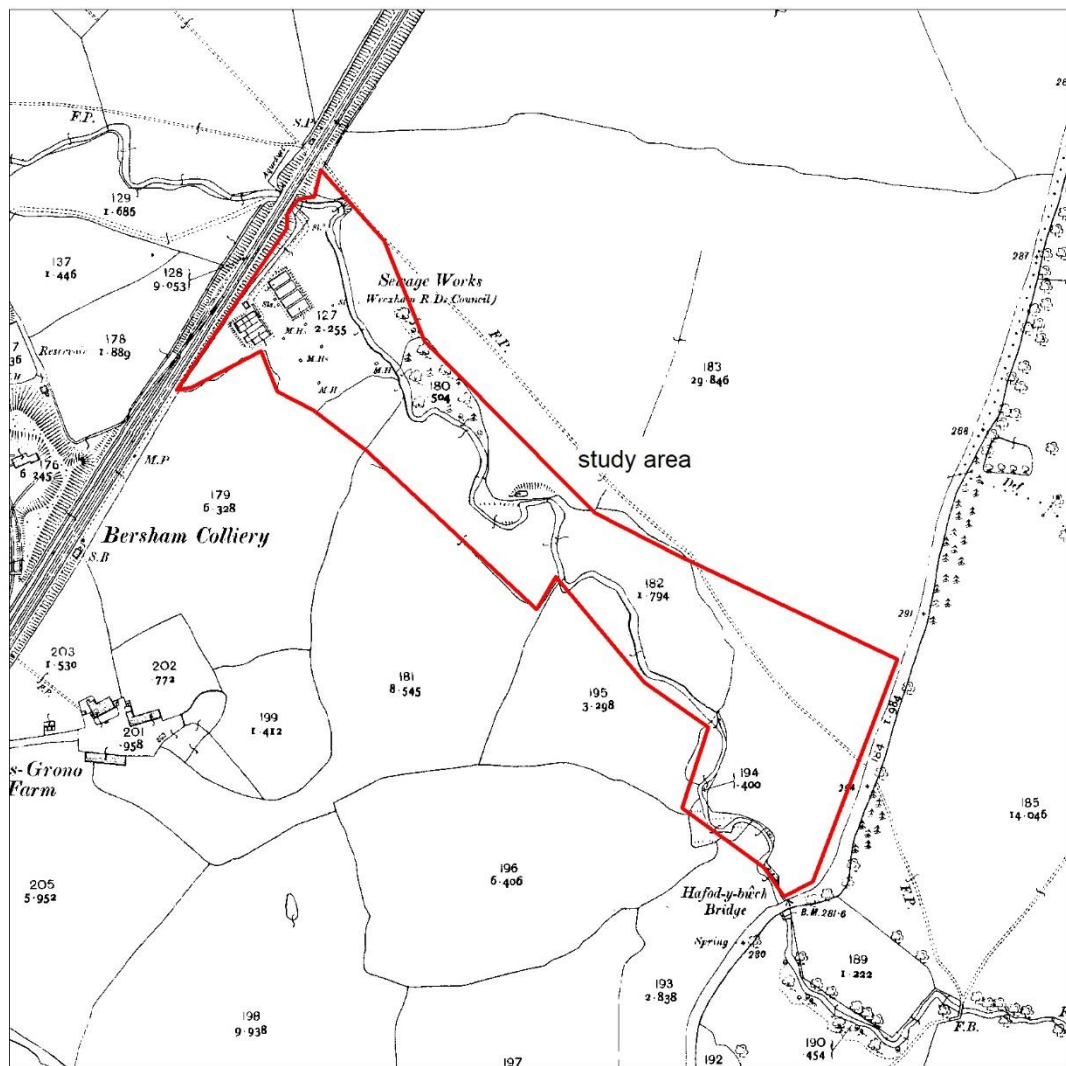


Fig. 5 Extract from the 1912 Ordnance Survey 3rd edition 25" map

5 Field Survey

- 5.1. This has not been undertaken due to temporary restrictions placed on movement during the Coronavirus/Covid-19 situation. It will be completed when those restrictions have been lifted.

6 Baseline Assessment

6.1. The baseline assessment has considered all known heritage assets within the development area, together with designated and registered assets which lie within 500m, which are summarised in Table 1 and their locations depicted in Fig. 6.

Table 1: Designated heritage assets within 500m of the study area.

Designation	Within the development site	Within 500m
World Heritage Sites	0	0
Scheduled Monuments	0	1
Listed Buildings	0	6
Registered Historic Parks and Gardens	0	1
Registered Battlefields	0	0
Conservation Areas	0	1

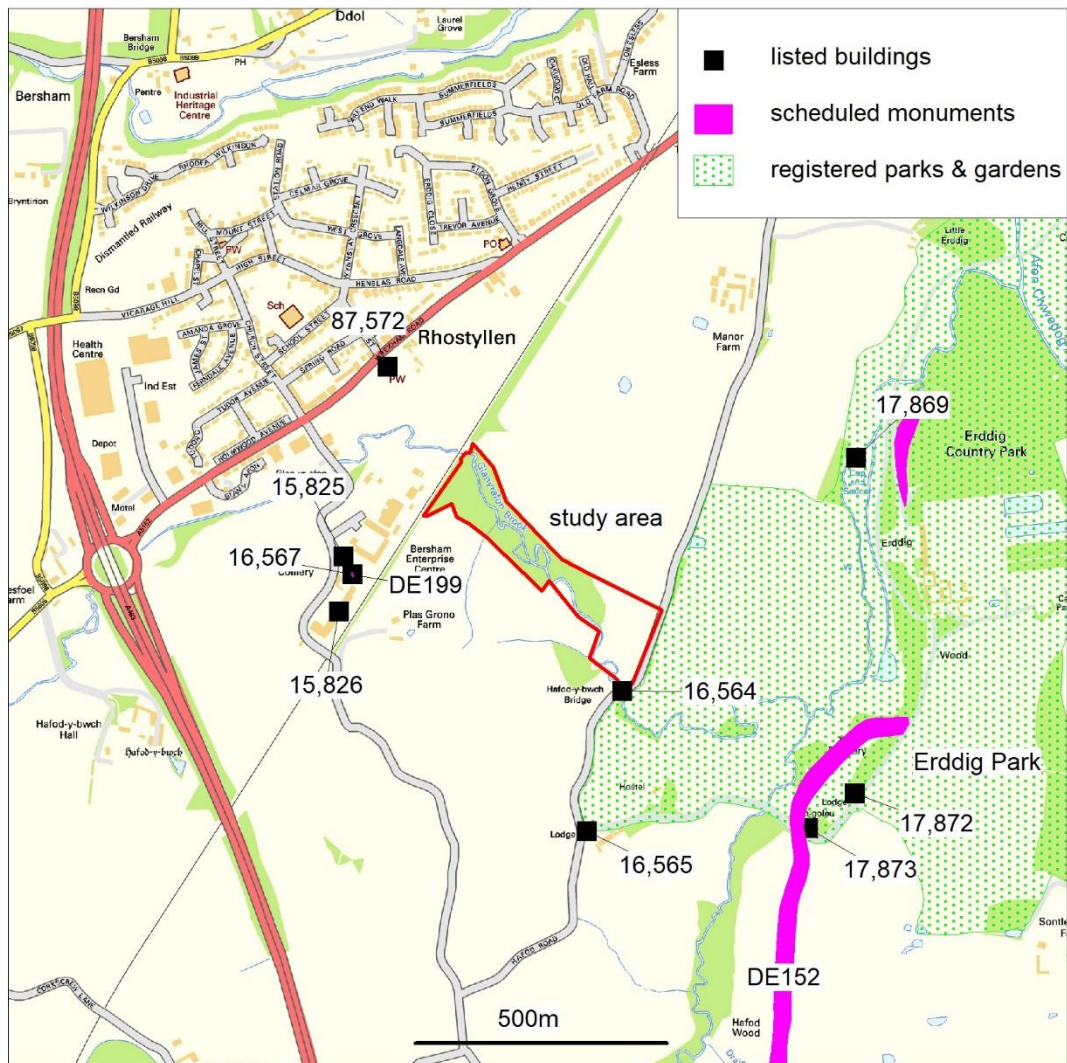


Fig. 6 Designated and registered heritage assets within 500m of the study area

Scheduled Monuments

- 6.2. Scheduled Monuments are designated features of national importance. They are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Areas of Archaeological Importance Act, 1979, and their settings are also protected. There are two Scheduled Monuments within 500m of the study area (Table 2; Fig. 6).

Table 2: Listed buildings within 500m of the study area

Scheduling no.	Name	Distance and direction
DE152	Wat's Dyke: Section extending from Erddig Park to Middle Sontley	180m SW
DE199	Bersham Colliery No. 2 Headframe	400m SE

Listed Buildings

- 6.3. These are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. All listed buildings are nationally important, but are graded in order of significance as Grade I, II* or II. Local planning authorities must have special regard to the desirability of preserving the setting of a listed building regardless of its grade, and it also requires planning proposals to meet the test of determining the extent to which a development affects views to and from a listed building. There are nine Listed Buildings within 500m, which are listed in Table 3.

Table 3: Listed buildings within 500m of the study area

Record no	Name	Grade	Distance and direction
15825	Bersham Colliery Winding Engine House	II	190m W
15826	Former Bersham Colliery Baths, Canteen and Offices	II	260m SW
16564	Hafod-y-bwch Bridge	II	10m S
16565	Plas Grono Lodge	II	290m S
16567	Bersham Colliery No 2 Headframe	II*	180m SW
17869	Cup and Saucer	II*	490m NE
17872	The Lodge	II	490m SE
17873	Bryn Goleu	II	450m SE
87572	Church of The Holy Trinity	II	230m SE

Registered Parks and Gardens

- 6.4. The National Heritage Act 1983 provided for the creation of a statutory Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England. The Register is managed by Historic England. Parks and gardens are graded using the same categories as listed buildings (i.e. I, II*, II).
- 6.5. The only such asset within 500m of the study area is the grade I registered park and garden at Erddig (C62), approximately 460m to the south-east.

Conservation Areas

- 6.6. These are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. This Act requires local planning authorities to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the setting of a conservation area, and it also requires planning proposals to meet the test of determining the extent to which a development affects views to and from such an area.
- 6.7. There are no Conservation Areas within 500m of the study area.

Undesignated Assets within 500m of the study area

- 6.8. A total of 60 undesignated assets were identified within 500m of the study area, only one of which, the site of a sewage treatment works (PRN 125771) is located within the area itself. Their distribution is shown in Fig. 7, with tabulated data provided in Appendix 1.



Fig. 7 Undesignated heritage assets within 500m of the study area

7 Assessment of Potential

- 7.1. The desk-based assessment has identified a single heritage asset within the study area, the site of an early 20th-century sewage treatment works (PRN 125771; Fig. 8), which is considered to be of negligible value, based on the guidance provided by DMRB (2019, Table 3.2N).
- 7.2. On the basis of current evidence the archaeological potential of the area is considered to be low. However, a thorough field survey of the area remains to be completed before the potential impacts of the proposed footpath diversion can be assessed fully.

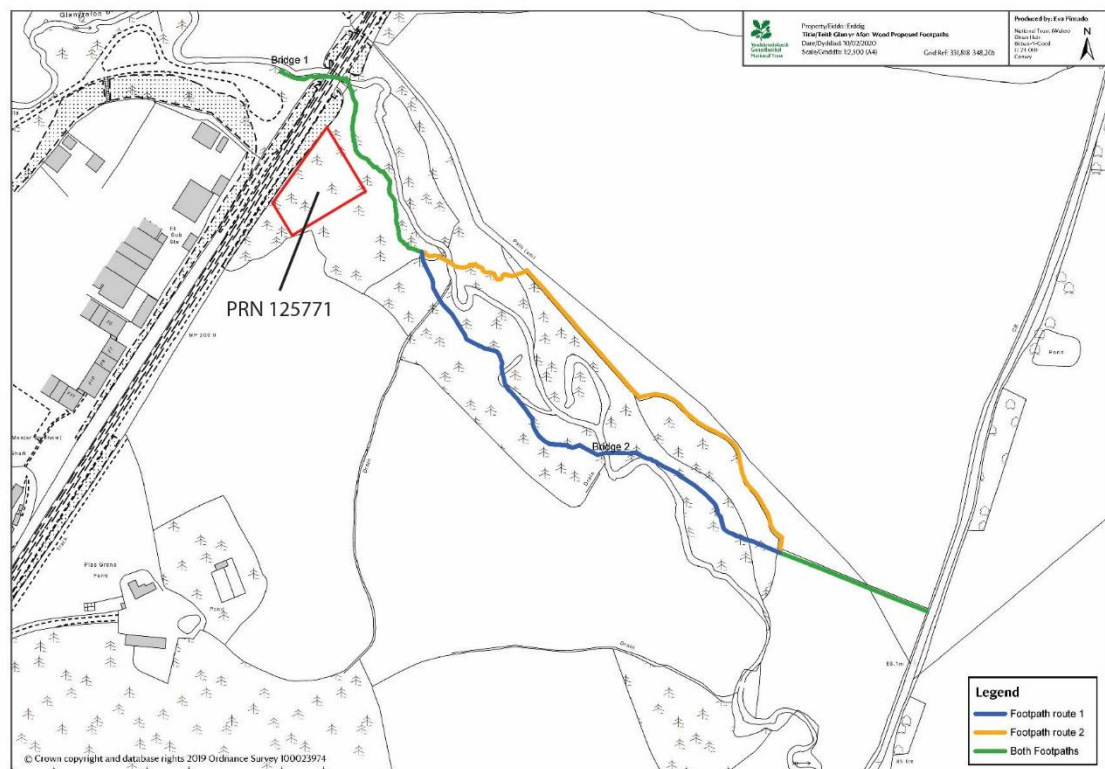


Fig. 8 Plan of proposed footpaths showing the site of the sewage treatment works (PRN 125771)

8 Sources

Cartographic sources

- 1819 Ordnance Survey Surveyors' Drawing No 316
- 1843 Tithe survey for Erddig Township in the parish of Gresford, Denbigh
- 1872 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1st edition Denbighshire 28.15
- 1899 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 2nd edition Denbighshire 28.15
- 1912 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 3rd edition Denbighshire 28.15

9 Archive deposition Statement

- 9.1. The project archive has been prepared according to the CPAT Archive Policy and in line with the CIfA *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives guidance* (2014). The archive is entirely digital and will be deposited jointly with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and the National Monuments Record (RCAHMW).

Appendix 1: Undesignated heritage assets within 500m

PRN	Name	Period	Type	NGR
104350	Croes Foel smithy	Post medieval	Blacksmiths workshop	SJ31434827
104377	Erddig Milestone	Post medieval	Milestone	SJ323492
146532	Esless Hall	Post medieval	Farm building	SJ3190449248
146533	Esless Hall	Post medieval	Farm building	SJ3196049198
146535	Esless Hall	Post medieval	Farm building	SJ3190449252
146536	Esless Hall	Post medieval	Farm building	SJ3191049249
146537	Esless Hall	Post medieval	Farm building	SJ3195749209
146538	Esless Hall	Post medieval	Farm building	SJ3197849202
146539	Esless Hall	Post medieval	Farm building	SJ3196449173
146540	Esless Hall	Post medieval	Farm building	SJ3199349190
146541	Esless Hall	Post medieval	Farm building	SJ3199249185
146542	Esless Hall	Post medieval	Farm building	SJ3199249183
146543	Esless Hall	Post medieval	Farm building	SJ3199249181
146544	Esless Hall	Post medieval	Farm building	SJ3198949173
146545	Esless Hall	Post medieval	Farm building	SJ3197549160
146546	Esless Hall	Post medieval	Farm building	SJ3199449203
26238	Esless Hall	Post medieval	Estate	SJ31974917
104349	Esless Mills	Post medieval	Paper mill; corn mill	SJ32104931
104344	Hafod Road boundary stone I	Post medieval	Boundary stone	SJ32244858
104345	Hafod Road boundary stone II	Post medieval	Boundary stone	SJ32174863
147387	Manor Farm	Post medieval	Farm building	SJ3222048740
147388	Manor Farm	Post medieval	Farm building	SJ3223548729
147389	Manor Farm	Post medieval	Farm building	SJ3223548723
147390	Manor Farm	Post medieval	Farm building	SJ3223448718
147391	Manor Farm	Post medieval	Farm building	SJ3223348714
147392	Manor Farm	Post medieval	Farm building	SJ3223148702
147393	Manor Farm	Post medieval	Farm building	SJ3221248697
147394	Manor Farm	Post medieval	Farm building	SJ3225048726

104379	Manor Farm boundary stone I	Post medieval	Boundary stone	SJ32154861
104380	Manor Farm boundary stone II	Post medieval	Boundary stone	SJ32224858
148017	Plas Grono Farm	Post medieval	Farm building	SJ3154748043
148018	Plas Grono Farm	Post medieval	Farm building	SJ3154548077
164953	Rhostyllen, milestone, DEN_WROW02	Post medieval	Milestone	SJ312483
132621	Rhostyllen, Plas Grono Road, Bersham Bank Colliery Tip	Post medieval	Colliery	SJ3100848233
145067	Rhostyllen, Rhostyllen Memorial Gardens, war memorial	Modern	War memorial	SJ3140148701
104348	Turkey Mills	Post medieval	Mill	SJ31624918
125771	Wrexham Rural District Council, sewage works	Modern	Sewage works	SJ3166348339

NPRN	Name	Period	Type	NGR
91683	Bersham Colliery: Offices	Modern	Office	SJ31414807
91685	Bersham Colliery: Workshops	Modern	Workshop	SJ3138648067
91686	Bersham Colliery: Electricity Sub Station	Post medieval	Electricity sub station	SJ31364803
91687	Bersham Colliery: Spoil Tip	Post medieval	Spoil tip	SJ31264816
85024	Bersham Colliery, Wrexham	Post medieval	Coal mine	SJ314482
91682	Bersham Colliery: Canteen	Modern	Restaurant	SJ31454811
91684	Bersham Colliery: Lamp Room	Modern	Lamphouse	SJ31464813
85030	Bersham Colliery: No.2 Shaft Headframe	Post medieval	Winding gear	SJ31454822

266424	Laurel Grove, Garden, Wrexham	Post medieval	Country house garden	SJ3157149244
91688	Bersham Colliery: Glan-Yr- Afon Offices	Modern	Office	SJ31434841
91689	Bersham Colliery: Glan-Yr- Afon Pithead Baths	Modern	Bath house	SJ31414843
97283	Tabernacle Chapel (1) (Calvinistic Methodist), Mount Street, Rhostyllen	Post medieval	Chapel	SJ31234886
7603	Salem Independent Chapel, School Street, Rhostyllen; Capel Coffa Williams o'r Wern	Post medieval	Chapel	SJ31474871
7604	Ainon Welsh Baptist Chapel, School Street, Rhostyllen	Post medieval	Chapel	SJ31324859
7605	Tabernacle English Presbyterian Chapel, Hill Street, Rhostyllen	Post medieval	Chapel	SJ31204882
87016	Ruabon Road	Post medieval	Tunnel	SJ32034897
87017	Ruabon Road	Post medieval	Tunnel	SJ32064903
266427	Esless Hall, Gardens, Wrexham	Post medieval	Country house garden	SJ3192049229
35536	Vicarage, Rhostyllen	Post medieval	Vicarage	SJ3105248725
411177	Rhostyllen Council School; Rhostyllen County Secondary School	Modern	School	SJ31354868
411176	Bersham Board School; Rhostyllen Infants County Primary School, Rhostyllen	Post medieval	School	SJ31304863
97284	Salem (1) Welsh Independent Chapel, Chapel Street, Rhostyllen	Post medieval	Chapel	SJ3114148797
7599	Rhostyllen Primitive Methodist Chapel, Chapel Street, Rhostyllen	Post medieval	Chapel	SJ31164875