



# Proposed Rear Extension, Dovedale, Wrexham Road, Hope, Flintshire, LL12 9NB.

June 2020 V 1.0



Archaeological Evaluation

Project Code: A0256.1

Report no. 0247

Event PRN: 164341



æon archaeology

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## **April 2020 v1.0**

Report no. 0247 / Event PRN: 164341

Archaeological Evaluation

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Project Code: A0256.1  
Date: 02/06/2020  
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## April 2020 v1.01.0

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## 1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

*Comisiynwyd Aeon Archaeology gan Mr Stuart Alcock i gynnal gwerthusiad archeolegol fel rhan o'r gwaith arfaethedig o adeiladu estyniad newydd yng nghefn Dovedale, Wrexham Road, Hope, Sir y Fflint.*

*Roedd y gwerthusiad yn cynnwys cloddio ffos a oedd yn mesur 8m o hyd a 1.5m o led ar draws lleoliad ôl troed yr estyniad arfaethedig. Datgelodd y gwerthusiad ffos gwrthglawdd Canoloesol Cynnar Clawdd Wat. No artefacts were found in the ditch but the evaluation enabled a vertical section to be recorded across the monument at this point. Ni ddarganfuwyd unrhyw arteffactau yn y ffos ond roedd y gwerthusiad yn galluogi cofnodi darn fertigol ar draws yr heneb ar y pwynt hwn. At hynny, gwnaed argymhellion y dylid cynnal briff gwyllo archeolegol wrth gloddio ffos sylfaen ddwyreiniol yr estyniad arfaethedig, a fydd wedi'i leoli dros lwybr y clawdd yn y lleoliad hwn.*

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Stuart Alcock to carry out an archaeological evaluation as part of the proposed construction of a new rear extension at Dovedale, Wrexham Road, Hope, Flintshire.

The evaluation involved the excavation of a single trench measuring 8m in length by 1.5m in width across the location of the proposed extension footprint. The evaluation revealed the ditch of the Early Medieval earthwork of Wat's Dyke. No artefacts were recovered from the ditch but the evaluation enabled a vertical section to be recorded across the monument at this point. Furthermore, recommendations have been made for an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during the excavation of the eastern foundation trench of the proposed extension, which will be sited over the route of the dyke at this location.

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Stuart Alcock, hereafter the Client, to carry out an archaeological evaluation as part of the proposed construction of a new rear extension at Dovedale, Wrexham Road, Hope, Flintshire LL12 9NB, hereafter the Site (NGR SJ 30971 58588) (figure 01 and 02).

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. Full planning permission was secured by the Client on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018 (**Application Ref: 059170**) with the following condition concerning archaeology being applied to the consent:

### Condition 3.

*No development shall take place within the application area until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local Planning Authority. The approved scheme shall be submitted in full thereafter.*

*The archaeological programme of work will be undertaken and completed in accordance with the relevant Standards and Guidance laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. A copy of the resulting report should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR Email: mark.walters@cpat.org.uk Tel: 01938 553670. After approval by the Local Planning Authority, a copy of the report and resulting archive should also be sent to the Historic Environment Record Officer, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the regional Historic Environment Record.*

*REASON: To secure preservation by record of all archaeological remains which will be impacted by the development and so accord with policy HE6 of the Adopted Flintshire Unitary Development Plan.*

The Development Management Archaeologist (DMA) at the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) recommended that a planning condition be imposed upon the proposed development as it is located in an area of high archaeological potential related to the former alignment of Wats Dyke. The trench is designed to cut across the north-south predicted alignment of Wat's Dyke in this plot so that the archaeology can be revealed within a vertical profile and recorded. The true alignment of the dyke within the plot is not known and is a best guess based on known alignments further north and south in the village where earthworks survive at the surface. The Wats Dyke alignment may extend further into the footprint of the extension or it may lie entirely east of it, but the only way to confirm this is with an exploratory trench along the line of the foundation trench.

A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by Aeon Archaeology in May 2020 (A0256.1 Dovedale, Hope Eval WSI 1.0) which outlined the aims and objectives of the proposed work, as well as the applied methodology in order to meet the spirit and intent of the pre-commencement condition.

The work adhered to the guidelines specified in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).





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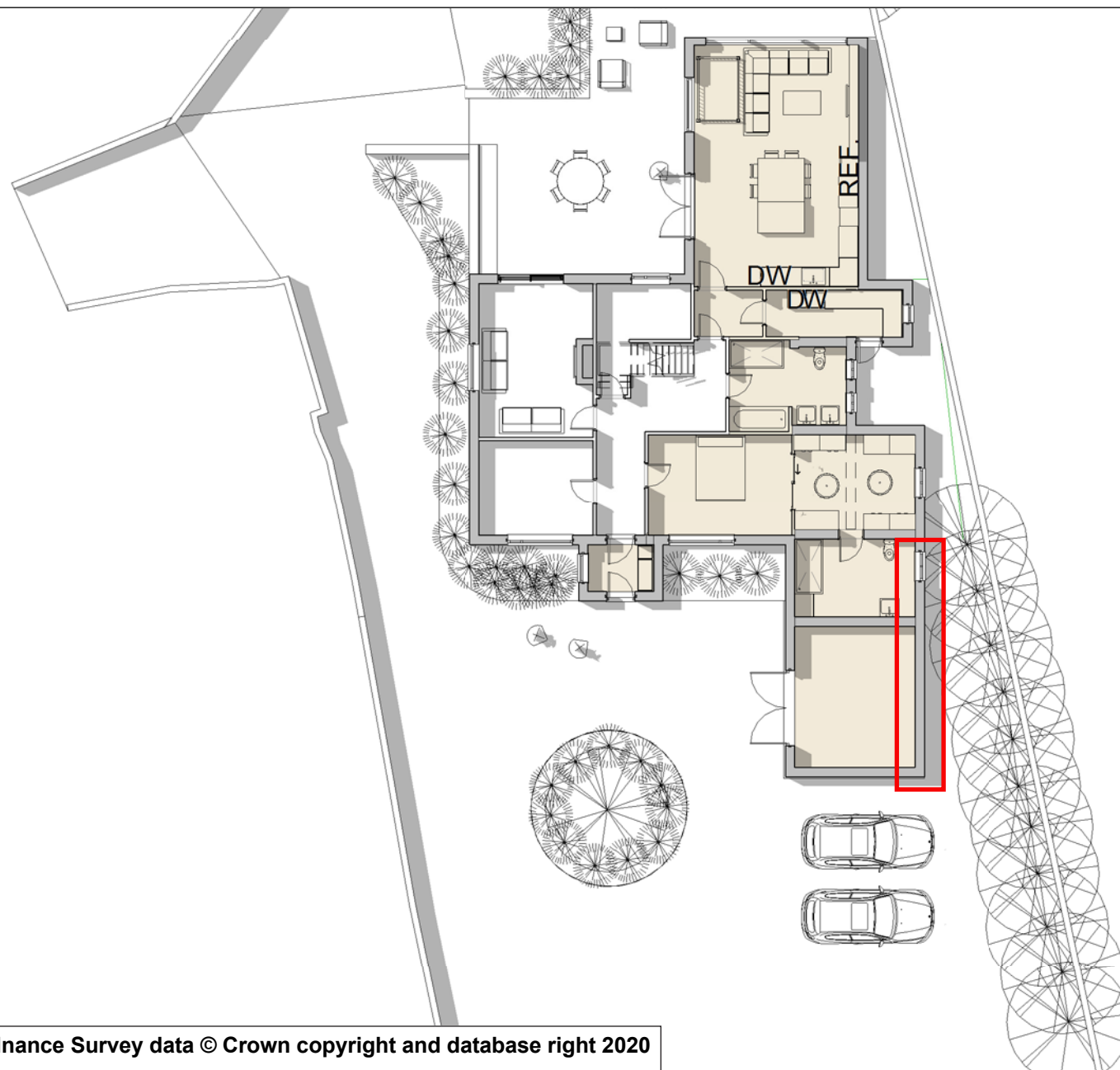
**Figure 01:** Location of proposed development site at Dovedale, Wrexham Road, Hope, Flintshire, LL12 9NB. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

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**Figure 02:** Location of proposed development site at Dovedale, Wrexham Road, Hope, Flintshire, LL12 9NB showing Scheduled areas of Wat's Dyke.  
Scale 1:5,000 at A4.



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**Figure 03:** Location of proposed evaluation trench. Scale 1:200 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 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

#### **4.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The development site lies to the north and south of Scheduled sections of Wat's Dyke. To the north the Dyke survives as a low but distinct bank approximately 1.3m high and 2.5m wide, which follows the line of a ridge. The eastern side of the dyke at this point does not survive, having been removed presumably at the time of the construction of the roadway which is shown on the Tithe Map of 1851, and which is now the A550. At the proposed development site location however the dyke is not currently visible and its course through the landscape is postulated via the known route to the north and south.

Wat's Dyke is a discontinuous linear earthwork which extends from Holywell in the north to Maesbury in Shropshire in the south, a distance of approximately 70 miles. Its historic origin has been contentious and it has been previously suggested that it was a post-Roman earthwork preceding Offa's Dyke, with both earthworks representing the westernmost extent of the territory of Mercia at different times (Fox 1955). However a focused archaeological excavation by Giffords in 2006 (Malim and Hayes) of Wat's Dyke at Gobowen provided the opportunity to date the earthen bank and ditch infills via Optically-Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) and C14 dating. The OSL dates provided a range of between 792-852AD for the primary and secondary fill episodes.

A limited excavation was carried out by CPAT in 1989 on a section of Wat's Dyke and its associated ditch some 150m to the north of the proposed development site, during the course of the construction of an access roadway and the excavation of sewer pipe-trench associated with the development of the housing estate by Bellway Homes Ltd (Jones & Brassil 1990). At that point, the dyke survived to a maximum height of only 0.8m. It was seen to consist of a basal layer of large stones above which was an eroded earthen bank. The ditch, which was on the western side of the Dyke, had been dug into boulder clay and its layers of fill consisted of gleyed clays with strong orange and yellow mottles above which was a stony layer which was interpreted as basal material supporting part of a well constructed but undated road surface above it.



## 5.0 PROJECT AIMS

Before evaluation commenced an agreed programme of excavation timing, siting, duration, surface reinstatement and health and safety protection measures were agreed with the Client and the DMA at CPAT.

The size, location and orientation of the evaluation area was agreed in advance so as to best target areas that may contain archaeological features within the proposed development footprint (figure 03):

- Test Trench 1: measuring 8m by 1.5m and located over the footprint of the proposed extension.

The broad aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains within the proposed development area, the integrity of which may be threatened by development at the site.
- To establish the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion to sub-surface deposits and, where the data allows, assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits of archaeological significance.
- To enable the Client to establish a schedule for archaeological risks.
- To allow the DMA at CAPAS to make an informed decision on the need for and scope of further evaluative and/or mitigatory archaeological works at the site.

The detailed objectives of the archaeological excavation are:

- Insofar as possible within methodological constraints, to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between the structures/remains identified, and any relationships between these and the archaeological and historic elements of the wider landscape.
- Where the data allows, identify the research implications of the site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work in North Wales.

## **6.0 METHODOLOGY – ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

### **6.1 Evaluation**

If archaeological deposits are identified they were to be manually cleaned, excavated and recorded to determine extent, function, date and relationship to adjacent features.

Contingency provision was to be made for the following:

- Additional excavation of up to 100% of any given feature should the excavated sample prove to be insufficient to provide information on the character and date of the feature.
- Expansion of excavation trench limits, to clarify the extent of features equivalent to an additional 20% of the core trench area.

The archaeological works were surveyed with respect to the nearest Ordnance Survey datum point and with reference to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The excavation area, deposits, features and structures within them were to be accurately located on a site plan prepared at most appropriate and largest scale.

A written record of the trench content and all identified features was completed via Aeon Archaeology pro-formas.

Any subsurface remains were to be recorded photographically, with detailed notations, measured drawings, and a measured survey. The photographic record was maintained using a digital SLR camera (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution (72dpi) 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. Photographic identification boards were also used.

The excavation area was opened with a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The excavation area and spoil heaps were routinely investigated through the use of a metal detector and any finds/artefacts collected and processed as below.

All excavations were backfilled with the material excavated and upon departure Aeon Archaeology will leave the site in a safe and tidy condition. Aeon Archaeology were not requested to re-lay turf/lawn surface.

### **6.2 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.

### **6.3 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.

### **6.4 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.

### **6.5 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 evaluation will be stored at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0256.1** with the originals being lodged with the RCAHMW.

## **7.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS**

### **7.1 The Documentary Archive**

The following documentary records were created during the archaeological evaluation:

Trench Sheets	1
Context Sheets	10
Digital photographs	26
Scale Drawings	2 on 1 sheet

### **7.2 Environmental Samples**

No environmental samples were taken as part of the archaeological evaluation.

### **7.3 Artefacts**

No artefacts were recovered during the archaeological evaluation.

## 8.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### 8.1 Overview

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA and Josh Dean BA, archaeological contractors and consultants at Aeon Archaeology on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. The weather conditions were ideal for the evaluation, being both bright and clear.

#### Trench 1 (plates 1-9) (figs 5 and 6)

SJ 30984.77 / 58598.11 - SJ 30992.57 / 58599.86 – SJ 30992.90 / 58598.41 – SJ 30985.10 / 58596.64

Trench 1 measured 8m in length by 1.5m in width, orientated east-northeast to west-southwest and was excavated to an average depth of 0.35m (95.61m OD). It was excavated through a 0.14m deep firm white-grey gravely substrate (109), which constituted the current surface hardstanding, and through a 0.12m deep quite soft dark grey-brown silt-clay topsoil (108) with frequent charcoal flecks, occasional roots, and occasional red brick fragments. This lay above a very firm light yellow-brown natural clay substrata (110) with frequent small sub-angular and sub-rounded pebble and cobble inclusions.

The shallow depth of topsoil horizon (108) and the inclusion of charcoal flecks and red brick fragments indicated that the area had been previously stripped on to the natural substrata (110), most likely either during the construction of Dovedale or the A550 road to the east.

At the eastern end of the trench and centred on NGR SJ 30992.33 / 58599.06 a large linear ditch [101] was uncovered, orientated north-south and cut into the natural glacial substrata (110). This ditch measured >1.5m in length by >2.8m in width by 1.58m in depth (94.07m OD) and continued into the northern, eastern and southern limits of excavation. The exposed western side had a sharp upper break of slope with a steep and smooth side at c.45 degrees. The lower break of slope was also fairly sharp with a flat to mildly concaved base.

The ditch [101] had six fills (102), (103), (104), (105), (106) and (107), the last of which was sealed by topsoil deposit (108).

The primary fill (102) measured >0.84m in width by 0.16m in depth and consisted of a very firm dark blue-grey, with orange mottling, silt-clay with abundant small sub-angular cobbles, occasional large sub-angular cobbles, and broken sandstone fragment inclusions. This fill most likely accumulated via natural silting while the ditch was in use, with the blue-grey and orange mottling colour indicative of anaerobic conditions and iron-panning caused by waterlogging. The high stone content however could be indicative of a deliberate attempt at drainage.

The secondary fill (103) measured >0.68m by 0.36m in depth and consisted of a firm dark orange-brown sandy silt-clay with infrequent small sub-angular cobble inclusions. This fill most likely accumulated through an initial backfilling or possibly slumping event once the ditch had gone out of use.

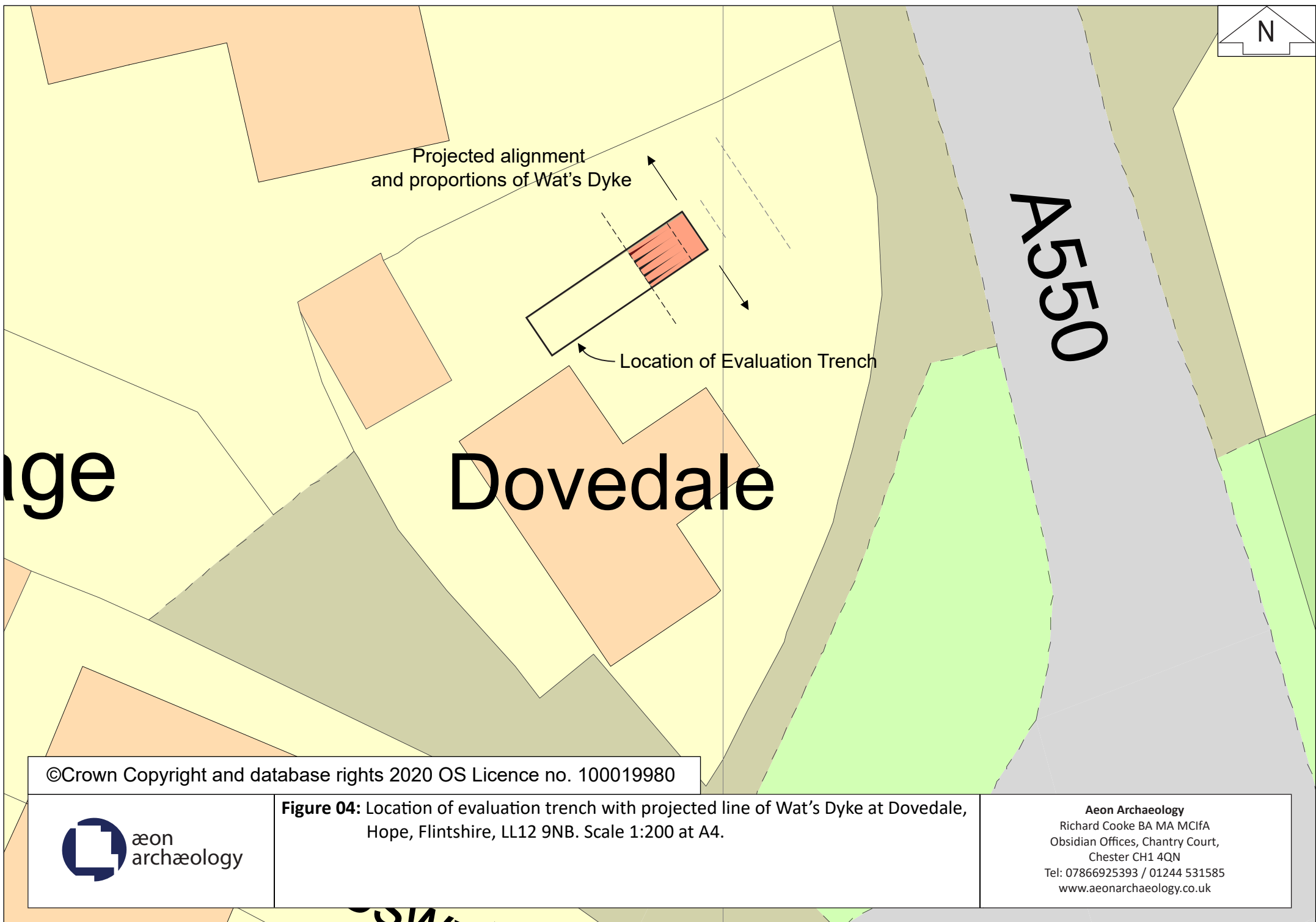
The tertiary fill (104) measured 1.6m in width by 0.4m in depth and consisted of a quite firm mid yellow-brown sand-clay. This fill was encountered clinging to the western side of the ditch cut and most likely indicates a slumping event of material from the west into the partially infilled ditch.



Quaternary fill (105) measured >2.0m in width by 0.4m in depth and consisted of a quite soft mid orange-brown sand-clay. This fill may have accumulated naturally over time and would have resulted in the ditch being half infilled and only visible on the surface as a much shallower earthwork to its original form.

Fill (106) measured >1.36m in width by 0.48m in depth and consisted of a firm mid orange-brown sand-clay with infrequent small sub-rounded pebbles, frequent root activity, and occasional charcoal fleck inclusions. The clay content of this fill may indicate an initial phase of slumping from an associated mound into the partially infilled ditch.

Fill (107) measured >3.0m in width by 0.32m in depth and consisted of a quite soft dark orange-brown sand-clay with very infrequent large sub-rounded and sub-angular pebbles. The clay content of this fill may indicate a secondary phase of slumping from an associated mound into the partially infilled ditch. Fill (107) was sealed by topsoil deposit (108).



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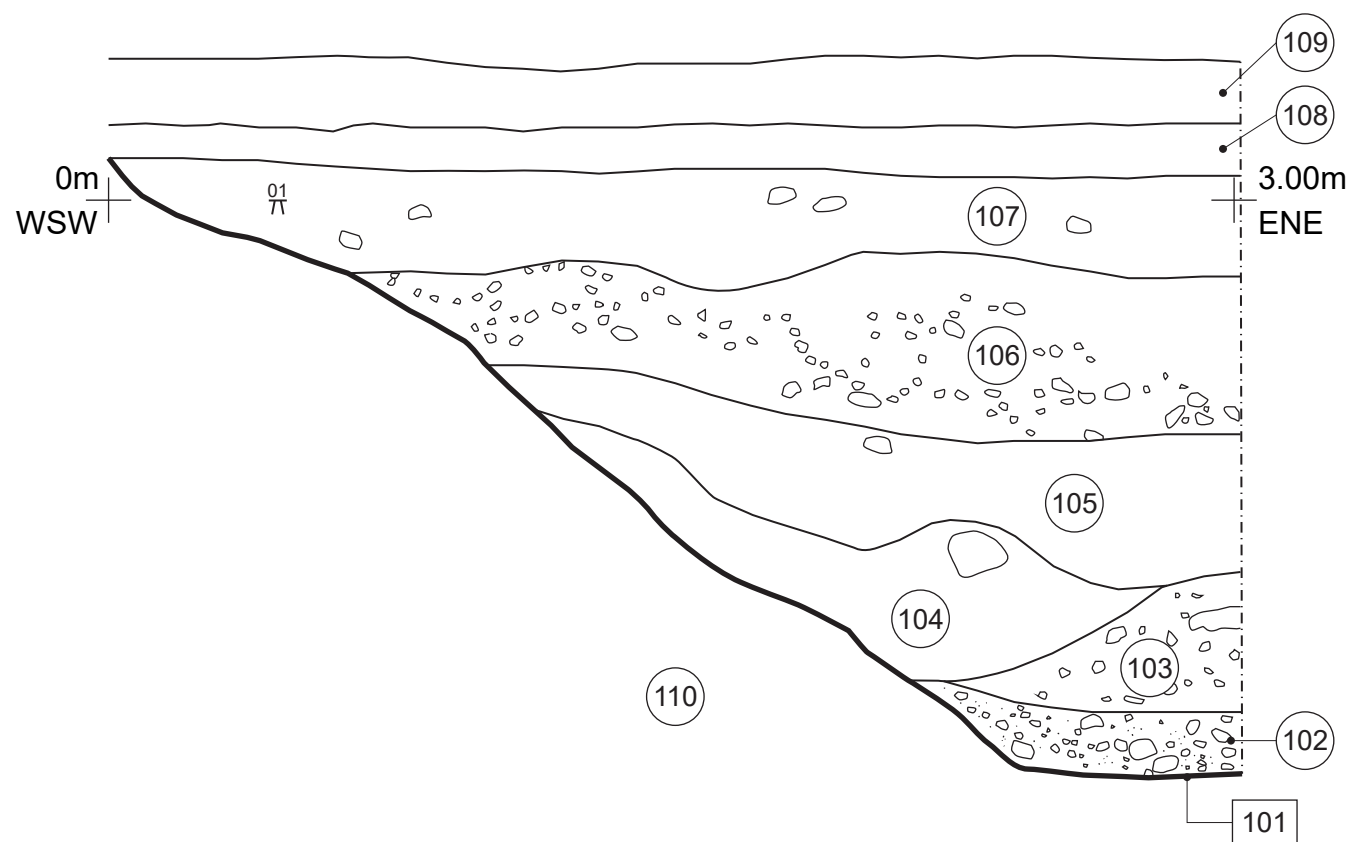


**Figure 04:** Location of evaluation trench with projected line of Wat's Dyke at Dovedale, Hope, Flintshire, LL12 9NB. Scale 1:200 at A4.

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NB. Located on Figure 06



**Levels OD(m)**

TBM	=	95.13m
BS	=	2.27m
IH	=	97.40m
01	=	95.61m

1:20

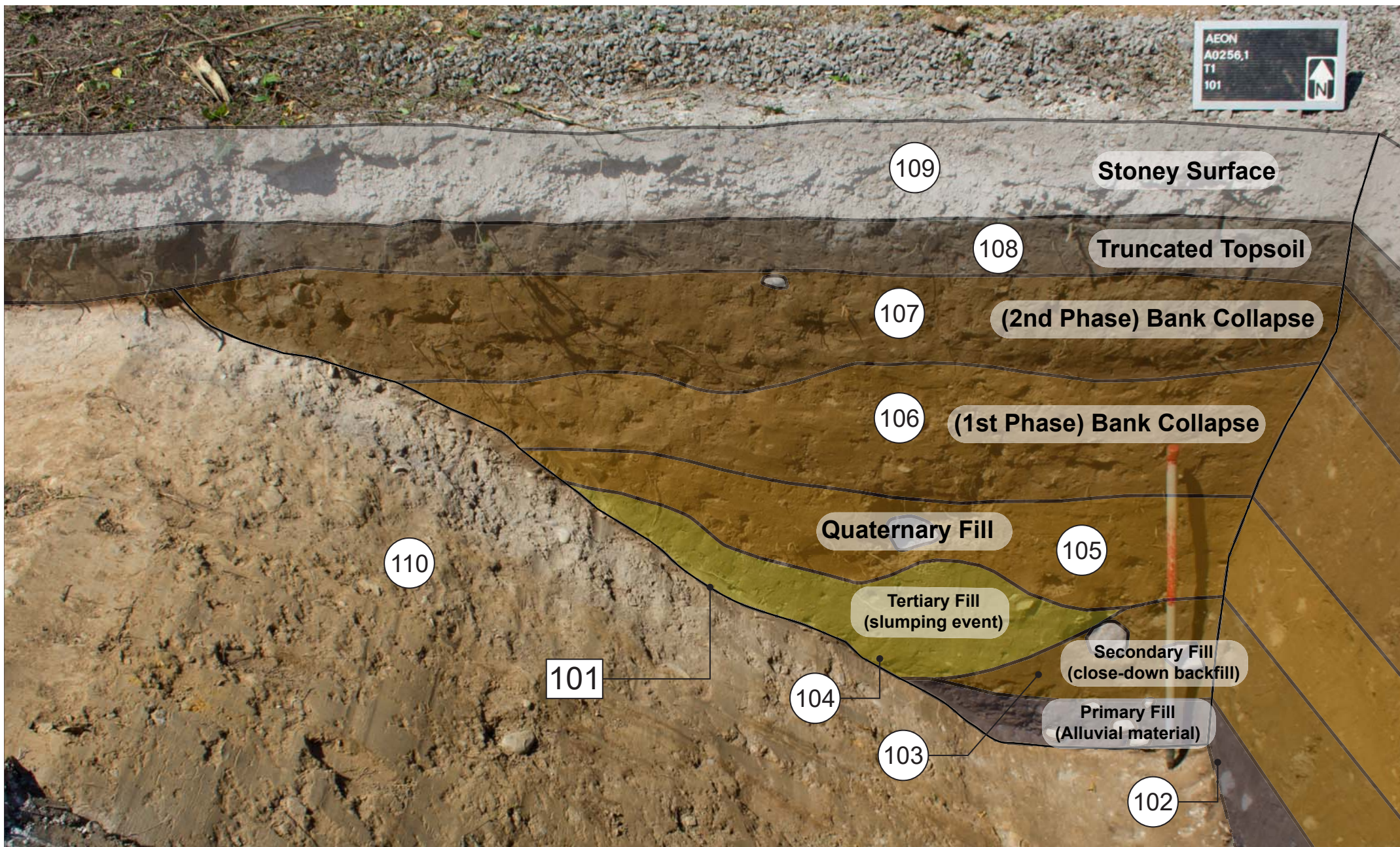


**Figure 05:** South facing section of Wat's Dyke [101] at Dovedale, Hope, Flintshire, LL12 9NB. Scale 1:20 at A4.

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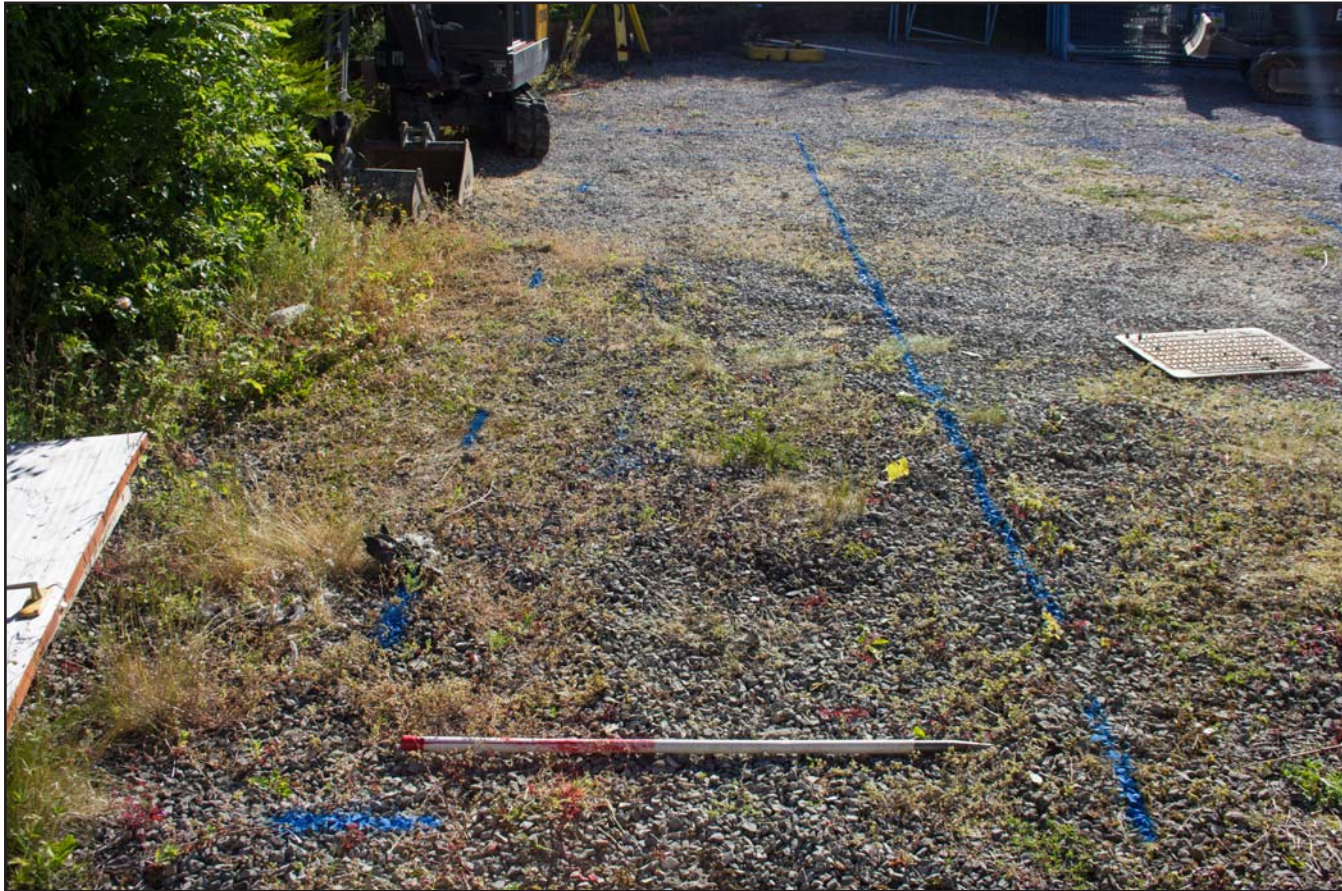
**Figure 07:** Representative section of evaluation trench with Wat's Dyke [101] at Dovedale, Hope, Flintshire, LL12 9NB.





**Plate 01:** Pre excavation shot of evaluation trench at Dovedale, Hope, Flintshire - from the east - scale 1.00m





**Plate 02:** Pre excavation shot of evaluation trench at Dovedale, Hope, Flintshire - from the west - scale 1.00m





**Plate 03:** Post excavation shot of evaluation trench at Dovedale, Hope, Flintshire - from the west - scale 1.00m





**Plate 04:** Post excavation shot of evaluation trench at Dovedale, Hope, Flintshire - from the west - scale 1.00m





**Plate 05:** South facing section of Wat's dyke [101] at Dovedale, Hope, Flintshire - from the south - scale 2.00m





**Plate 06:** Oblique shot of Wat's dyke [101] at Dovedale, Hope, Flintshire - from the southwest - scale 1.00m





**Plate 07:** Oblique shot of Wat's dyke [101] at Dovedale, Hope, Flintshire - from the southeast - scale 1.00m





**Plate 08:** Plan shot of Wat's dyke [101] at Dovedale, Hope, Flintshire - from the west - scale 1.00m





**Plate 09:** Generic section of evaluation trench at Dovedale, Hope, Flintshire - from the south - scale 1.00m

## 9.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The archaeological evaluation to the rear of Dovedale, Hope revealed a substantial linear ditch, orientated north-south and situated at the eastern end of the archaeological evaluation trench. This ditch continued into the eastern limit of excavation but was exposed to 3.0m in width by 1.58m in depth. The base of the ditch was encountered and it is likely that approximately half of the ditch was revealed in profile, indicating that its width could be as much as 5.0m or 6.0m across at surface level.

The archaeological condition was applied to the planning consent due to the high potential for uncovering remains of the postulated route of the Early Medieval Wat's Dyke, and it is almost certain that the linear ditch uncovered is that of this monument.

To both the north and south of the Site Wat's Dyke has been Scheduled by Cadw (SAM F171) (SAM F1118), however its route between the A550 heading west into Hope and north of Bryn Estyn was not attested. It was however assumed that its route must lie either within the proposed development footprint or possibly further to the east or west. The archaeological evaluation has however confirmed its route within this part of the village.

The exposed section across the dyke showed that it had not been deliberately infilled but rather had infilled naturally over time, with as many as six separate fills and slumping events into the ditch once it had gone out of use. The initial / primary fill suggests some waterlogging in the dyke, which would be expected given the underlying clay substrata, and possibly the use of some pebbles and cobbles within the base – perhaps to aid drainage.

The archaeological evaluation trench did not extend far enough eastward to reveal the eastern edge of the dyke or to confirm the presence or absence of an opposing earthen bank. However, the trench stratigraphy did show that the Site had been previously stripped for the construction of either Dovedale or the A550 road, and it therefore seems likely that this event would have removed any surviving remains of the bank at this point.

The location of the dyke at the north-eastern corner of the proposed location of the house extension meant that in order to cast foundations on to the natural substrata the dyke required excavating to its base. Indeed, the location of the dyke at this point suggests that it will continue on a north-south alignment directly beneath the easternmost north-south aligned elevation of the proposed extension. As such it will be required that the dyke be excavated to its base, circa 1.92m BGL (94.07m OD), along the length of the extension eastern wall foundation. It is therefore recommended that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during the excavation of this foundation trench so that the route of the dyke can be recorded within its limits.



## 10.0 SOURCES

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

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



**æon archaeology**

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**Proposed Rear Extension,  
Dovedale, Wrexham Road, Hope,  
Flintshire LL12 9NB.**

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)  
for Archaeological Evaluation.**

**May 2020 V 2.0**



Project Code: A0256.1  
Planning Ref. 059170

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æon archaeology

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# Proposed Rear Extension, Dovedale, Hope, Flintshire LL12 9NB.

## May 2020 v2.0

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Project Code: A0256.1  
Date: 07/05/2020  
Client: Mr Stuart Alcock  
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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been commissioned by Mr Stuart Alcock, hereafter the Client, to provide a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for carrying out an archaeological evaluation as part of the proposed construction of a new rear extension at Dovedale, Wrexham Road, Hope, Flintshire LL12 9NB (NGR SJ 30971 58588) (figure 01 and 02).

Full planning permission was secured by the Client on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018 (**Application Ref: 059170**) with the following condition concerning archaeology being applied to the consent:

### Condition 3.

*No development shall take place within the application area until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local Planning Authority. The approved scheme shall be submitted in full thereafter.*

*The archaeological programme of work will be undertaken and completed in accordance with the relevant Standards and Guidance laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. A copy of the resulting report should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR Email: mark.walters@cpat.org.uk Tel: 01938 553670. After approval by the Local Planning Authority, a copy of the report and resulting archive should also be sent to the Historic Environment Record Officer, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the regional Historic Environment Record.*

*REASON: To secure preservation by record of all archaeological remains which will be impacted by the development and so accord with policy HE6 of the Adopted Flintshire Unitary Development Plan.*

Relevant UK legislation on heritage includes the Welsh Government's Planning Policy Wales Technical Advice Note 24 (TAN24), and the Historic Environment Act (Wales) 2016.

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

The Development Management Archaeologist (DMA) at the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) recommended that a planning condition be imposed upon the proposed development as it is located in an area of high archaeological potential related to the former alignment of Wats Dyke. The trench is designed to cut across the north-south predicted alignment of Wat's Dyke in this plot so that the archaeology can be revealed within a vertical profile and recorded. The true alignment of the dyke within the plot is not known and is a best guess based on known alignments further north and south in the village where earthworks survive at the surface. The Wats Dyke alignment may extend further into the footprint of the extension or it may lie entirely east of it, but the only way to confirm this is with an exploratory trench along the line of the foundation trench.

The scheduled ancient monument of Wat's Dyke is considered to represent a boundary of early medieval origin, separating the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms to the east from the British (Welsh) to the west. Because of its condition the surviving section has been scheduled by CADW: Welsh Historic Monuments as a monument of national importance (SAM F171) (SAM F1118).



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**Figure 01:** Location of proposed development site at Dovedale, Wrexham Road, Hope, Flintshire, LL12 9NB. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

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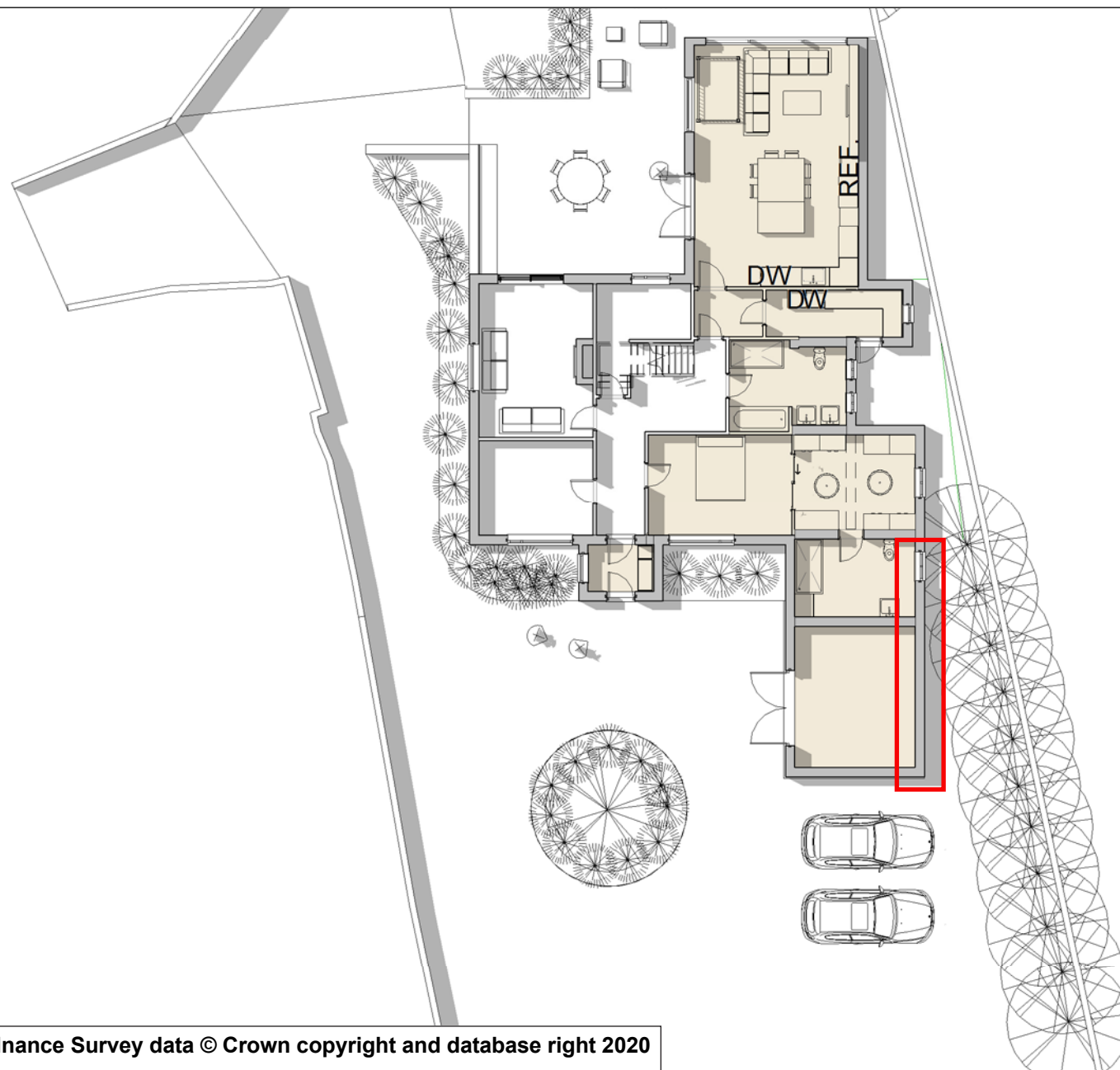




**Figure 02:** Location of proposed development site at Dovedale, Wrexham Road, Hope, Flintshire, LL12 9NB. Scale 1:5,000 at A4.



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**Figure 03:** Location of proposed evaluation trench. Scale 1:200 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 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AIMS

Before evaluation commences an agreed programme of excavation timing, siting, duration, surface reinstatement and health and safety protection measures will be agreed with the Client and the Development Management Archaeologist (DMA) at the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT).

The size, location and orientation of the evaluation areas will be agreed in advance so as to best target areas that may contain archaeological features within the proposed development footprint – however the intention is to excavate 1 x test trenches of the following dimension (figure 03):

- Test Trench 1: measuring 8m by 1.5m and located over the footprint of the proposed extension.

The broad aims of the archaeological evaluation are:

- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains within the proposed development area, the integrity of which may be threatened by development at the site.
- To establish the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion to sub-surface deposits and, where the data allows, assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits of archaeological significance.
- To enable the Client to establish a schedule for archaeological risks.
- To allow the DMA at CPAT to make an informed decision on the need for and scope of further evaluative and/or mitigatory archaeological works at the site.

The detailed objectives of the archaeological excavation are:

- Insofar as possible within methodological constraints, to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between the structures/remains identified, and any relationships between these and the archaeological and historic elements of the wider landscape.
- Where the data allows, identify the research implications of the site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work in North Wales.

#### **4.0 METHOD STATEMENT – ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

If archaeological deposits are identified they will be manually cleaned, excavated and recorded to determine extent, function, date and relationship to adjacent features.

Contingency provision will be made for the following:

- Additional excavation of up to 100% of any given feature should the excavated sample prove to be insufficient to provide information on the character and date of the feature.
- Expansion of excavation trench limits, to clarify the extent of features equivalent to an additional 20% of the core trench area.

The archaeological works will be surveyed with respect to the nearest Ordnance Survey datum point and with reference to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The excavation area, deposits, features and structures within them will be accurately located on a site plan prepared at most appropriate and largest scale.

A written record of the trench content and all identified features will be completed via Aeon Archaeology pro-formas.

Any subsurface remains will be recorded photographically, with detailed notations, measured drawings, and a measured survey. The photographic record will be maintained using a digital SLR camera (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution (72dpi) 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. Photographic identification boards will also be used.

The excavation area will be opened with a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The excavation area and spoil heaps will be routinely investigated through the use of a metal detector and any finds/artefacts collected and processed as outlined in section 9.0.

All excavations, where required, will be backfilled with the material excavated and upon departure Aeon Archaeology will leave the site in a safe and tidy condition. Aeon Archaeology has not been requested to re-lay turf/lawn surface.

## **5.0 EVALUATION REPORT**

### **5.1 Post-excavation Assessment**

A report on the results of the evaluation, 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 evaluation* (2014) will be required to be produced upon conclusion of the archaeological fieldwork. The report will be completed within a maximum of two months of completion of work on site and may include examination and quantification leading to the identification of function, form, date, method of manufacture, material/fabric type, source, parallels, attributes and condition of artefacts; of the exploitation of wild or domesticated resources; the reconstruction of environments; and the nature of human populations.

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

The scope of post-excavation assessment will subject to a specification for approval by the CPAT DMA upon the conclusion of the fieldwork project and preliminary report.

### **5.2 Post-excavation Report**

Following completion of the stages outlined above, a report will be produced that will include:

- A non-technical summary.
- A table of contents.
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the site.
- A statement of the project aims.
- An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same to include a statement on preservation bias and the means of data collection and sampling strategies.
- A factual summary of the history, development and use of the site.
- A statement setting out the nature, quantity and condition of the material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) including commentary on any bias observed due to collection and sampling strategies and commentary on long-term storage requirements.
- A statement setting out the nature and quantity of the documentary archive (notes, photographs, drawings, digital data).
- A general site plan indicating the position and size of the areas subject to watching brief and the locations of archaeological deposits identified and recorded during the works.
- Plans and sections at appropriate scales, augmented with appropriate photographs. All plans and sections will be related to the Ordnance Survey datum levels and to the National Grid.
- Other maps, plans, drawings, stratigraphic matrices and photographs as appropriate.
- Summary assessment reports on the artefact, bio-archaeological, dating and other assessments/analyses.
- A discussion of the location, extent, date, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits and finds identified during the project.
- A discussion of any research implications arising from the archaeological work.

- Notes on consultations with conservators and the nominated archive repository related to the immediate and long-term conservation and storage requirements for the data held in the site archive and recommendations of retention/discard of artefacts and ecofacts.
- A bibliography of sources consulted.
- Appendices to the report will include artefact catalogues, reports on assessments/analyses and an index to the project archive and a statement on its location/proposed repository.
- In addition the post-excavation report will summarise and draw together the findings of all of the phases of work.

Illustrations will include plans of the location of the study area and archaeological sites. Historical maps, when appropriate and if copyright permissions allow, will be included. Photographs of relevant sites and of the study area where appropriate will be included.

A draft copy of the report will be sent to the CPAT DMA and to the Client for comment and approval prior to production of the final report.

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

The discovery of substantial archaeological remains and/or features during the archaeological works may result in the requirement for an extended programme of archaeological mitigation. This may require the submission of revised quotes to the client as well as a new specification which will be required to be approved by the CPAT DMA prior to implementation.

## **7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES**

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

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

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

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

- 50% of each discrete feature (e.g. pits and postholes)
- 25% of the exposed areas of each linear feature and all terminals/intersections
- 50% of structural features (e.g. beamslots, ring-ditches)
- 50%-100% of domestic/industrial working features (e.g. hearths and ovens)



## 8.0 HUMAN REMAINS

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

## 9.0 ARTEFACTS

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

All artefacts are the property of the landowner but it is recommended that finds are deposited with the rest of the project archive within an appropriate museum. Furthermore, the client agrees to granting access to all artefacts recovered by Aeon Archaeology for analysis, study and publication as necessary. All finds would be treated according to advice provided within *First Aid for Finds* (Rescue 1999). Aeon Archaeology staff will undertake initial identification, but any additional advice would be sought from a wide range of consultants.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds will be kept under review throughout the archaeological works. Any changes in recovery priorities will be under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the CPAT DMA. 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
- Military artefacts: Maj (Retd) Andy Hawkins

## 10.0 UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES: TREASURE TROVE

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

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

The following types of finds are not treasure:

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

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

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

## 11.0 ARCHIVING

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

A draft copy of the report will be produced within six months of the completion of the fieldwork and sent to the Client and the CPAT DMA for comment prior to finalisation of the report and dissemination. Bound copies of the report and an archive CD will be sent to the regional HER, the CPAT archaeologist and to National Monument Record, of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) for long term archiving. Furthermore, a summary of the project will be sent to *Archaeology in Wales* for publication. Copies of all digital files (inc. photos, report as PDF and Word, spreadsheets, databases, survey data etc) to be presented to each of above on optical disc (ie DVD).

The archive will conform to the Guidance for the *Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)* (2018 v1.0).

## **12.0 PERSONNEL**

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

## **13.0 MONITORING AND LIAISON**

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

## **14.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

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

## **15.0 INSURANCE**

Liability Insurance – Insignia Underwriting Policy 347002

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

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

Legal Defence Costs (Health and Safety at Work Act): £250,000

The current period expires 07/09/20

Professional Indemnity Insurance – Insignia Underwriting Policy 347002

Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 07/09/20

