



Land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 1LT.

July 2023 V 1.0



Archaeological Watching Brief

Project Code: A0425.1

Report no. 0415

Event PRN: 213998



æon archaeology

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Archaeological Watching Brief

**Aeon Archaeology
Obsidian Offices
Chantry Court
Chester
CH1 4QN**

Written by: Josh Dean BA

Checked by: Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA



Project Code: A0425.1

Date: 18/07/2023

Client: Faye Prescott

info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk



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Figures

Figure 01: Location of land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 1LT Scale at 1:20,000 at A4. (SJ 12313 58383).

Figure 02: Location of land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 1LT Scale at 1:5,000 at A4. (SJ 12313 58383).

Figure 03: Location of land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 1LT Scale at 1:1,250 at A4. (SJ 12313 58383).

Figure 04: Location of photographic plates taken at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 1LT Scale at 1:300 at A4. (SJ 12313 58383).

Plates

Plate 01: Pre excavation shot of site, on land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire - from the east - 1.00m scale

Plate 02: Section of area nearest neighbouring property to the south, on land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire - from the north - 1.00m scale

Plate 03: Section revealed during demolition of garage, showing infill material, on land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire - from the north - 1.00m scale

Plate 04: Oblique shot showing banked infill material, on land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire - from the northwest - 1.00m scale

Plate 05: Pre excavation shot of trench, on land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire - from the west - 1.00m scale

Plate 06: Post excavation shot of trench, on land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire - from the east - 1.00m scale

Plate 07: Post excavation shot of trench, on land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire - from the west - 1.00m scale

Plate 08: Section of trench, on land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire - from the north - 1.00m scale

Plate 09: Section of trench, on land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire - from the south - 0.50m scale



Contents

1.0	NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY	3
2.0	INTRODUCTION	4
3.0	POLICY CONTEXT	6
4.0	HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	8
5.0	PROJECT AIMS.....	11
6.0	METHODOLOGY – ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION.....	13
6.2	Watching brief report.....	14
6.2.1	Post-excavation Assessment	14
7.0	DIGITAL DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN	15
7.1	Type of study	15
7.2	Type of study	15
7.3	Format and scale of the data	15
7.4	Methodologies for data collection / generation.....	15
7.5	Data quality and standards	16
7.6	Managing, storing and curating data	16
7.7	Metadata standards and data documentation.....	16
7.8	Data preservation strategy and standards.....	16
7.9	Suitability for sharing	16
7.10	Discovery by potential users of the research data.....	16
7.11	Governance of access.....	16
7.12	The study team’s exclusive use of the data.....	17
7.13	Restrictions or delays to sharing, with planned actions to limit such restrictions.....	17
7.14	Regulation of responsibilities of users	17
7.15	Responsibilities	17
7.16	Organisational policies on data sharing and data security	17
8.0	QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS	18
8.1	The Documentary Archive.....	18
8.2	Environmental Samples	18

8.3 Artefacts	18
9.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF.....	19
9.1 Overview.....	19
9.2 The Trench excavation.....	19
10.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	20
11.0 SOURCES.....	21
12.0 APPENDIX I: Written Scheme of Investigation	22

1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Comisiynwyd Aeon Archaeology gan Faye Prescott i gynnal Briff Gwyllo Archeolegol fel rhan o'r gwaith sylfaenol sy'n gysylltiedig â dymchwel adeilad garej a chodi un annedd, gyda mynediad a gwaith cysylltiedig (Ailgyflwyno) ar dir yn Crannog, Prior Street, Rhuthun. , Sir Ddinbych LL15 1LT.

Gwnaed y gwaith hwn oherwydd credwyd bod gan yr ardal botensial i gynhyrchu olion archeolegol, gan fod yr annedd newydd yn mynd i gael ei hadeiladu o fewn yr hyn a ystyrir yn graidd hanesyddol canoloesol tref Rhuthun. Fodd bynnag, yn ystod y gwaith hwn darganfuwyd bod yr ardal wedi'i llenwi'n sylweddol â deunydd dymchwel o fannau eraill, a thrwy hynny guddio wyneb tir hanesyddol. Yn ogystal, mae'r cleient wedi penderfynu mynd ar drywydd sylfeini pentwr er mwyn sefydlogi'r adeilad newydd, ac felly efallai na fydd dyddodion archeolegol pellach i'w gweld.

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Faye Prescott to maintain an Archaeological Watching Brief as part of groundworks associated with the *demolition of detached garage and extensions and erection of one dwelling, formation of joint access and associated works (Resubmission)* on land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 1LT.

These works were carried out due to the area having the potential to produce archaeological remains, as the proposed new dwelling is to be constructed within what is considered to be the medieval historic core of Ruthin. However, during these works it was found that the area had been significantly built up from the historic land surface by the wholesale importation of demolition infill. In addition, the client has decided to pursue pile foundations in order to stabilise the new building, and so further archaeological deposits may not be observed.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Faye Prescott, hereafter ‘the Client’, to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the *demolition of detached garage and extensions and erection of one dwelling, formation of joint access and associated works (Resubmission)* on land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 1LT, hereafter ‘the Site’, (centred on **NGR SJ 12313 58383**) (figures 01-03).

Full planning permission (**ref: 02/2021/0383**) was secured by the Client from Denbighshire County Council, hereafter ‘the Council’, on the 3rd August 2022 with the following condition concerning archaeology being applied to the permission:

Condition 14

The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeological contractor is present during the undertaking of the ground works in the development area, so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs and shall be submitted for approval by the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (The Offices, Coed y Dinas, Welshpool, SY21 8RP, Email: mark.walters@cpat.org.uk Tel: 01938 553670). A copy of the final resulting report shall be submitted for approval in writing by the Local Planning Authority. 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 and to the NMR, RCAHMW.

REASON: To secure preservation by record of any archaeological remains which may be revealed during ground excavations for the consented development.

A written scheme of investigation (WSI) accompanies this report (*see appendix I*), and it details the aims and objectives of the project and the methods by which they will be met in order to meet the spirit and intent of the archaeological condition of permission 02/2021/0383.

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

The Development Management Archaeologist (DMA) at the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT), in their role as archaeological advisor to the Council, made the following consultee comments as part of the planning application:

Thank you for the consultation on the above resubmitted planning application at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin to demolish the detached garage and extensions, erect one dwelling, form a joint access and associated works.

As stated in our earlier advice of February 2020 for planning application (02/2020/0035), information retained within the Regional Historic Environment Record indicates that this application falls in an area of potential archaeological sensitivity.

The proposed new dwelling lies within the medieval historic core of Ruthin and to the side and rear of a street frontage which may have been occupied by prior medieval structures and their associated

deposits. The new foundations are likely to encounter medieval and post medieval subsurface archaeology where existing services and foundations have not already destroyed it.

Accordingly, we would recommend that an archaeologist is contracted to be present throughout the duration of top soiling, foundation trench cutting, and service trench excavation works in order that an adequate record of any archaeological features revealed by these works can be made. This advice is in accordance with the guidance set out in TAN 24 (May 2017) and Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11, Feb 2021).

The archaeologist should be part of a recognised professional archaeological organisation working to the Standard and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists relating to an Archaeological Watching Brief. The archaeologist should be working in accordance with an approved written scheme of investigation (WSI).

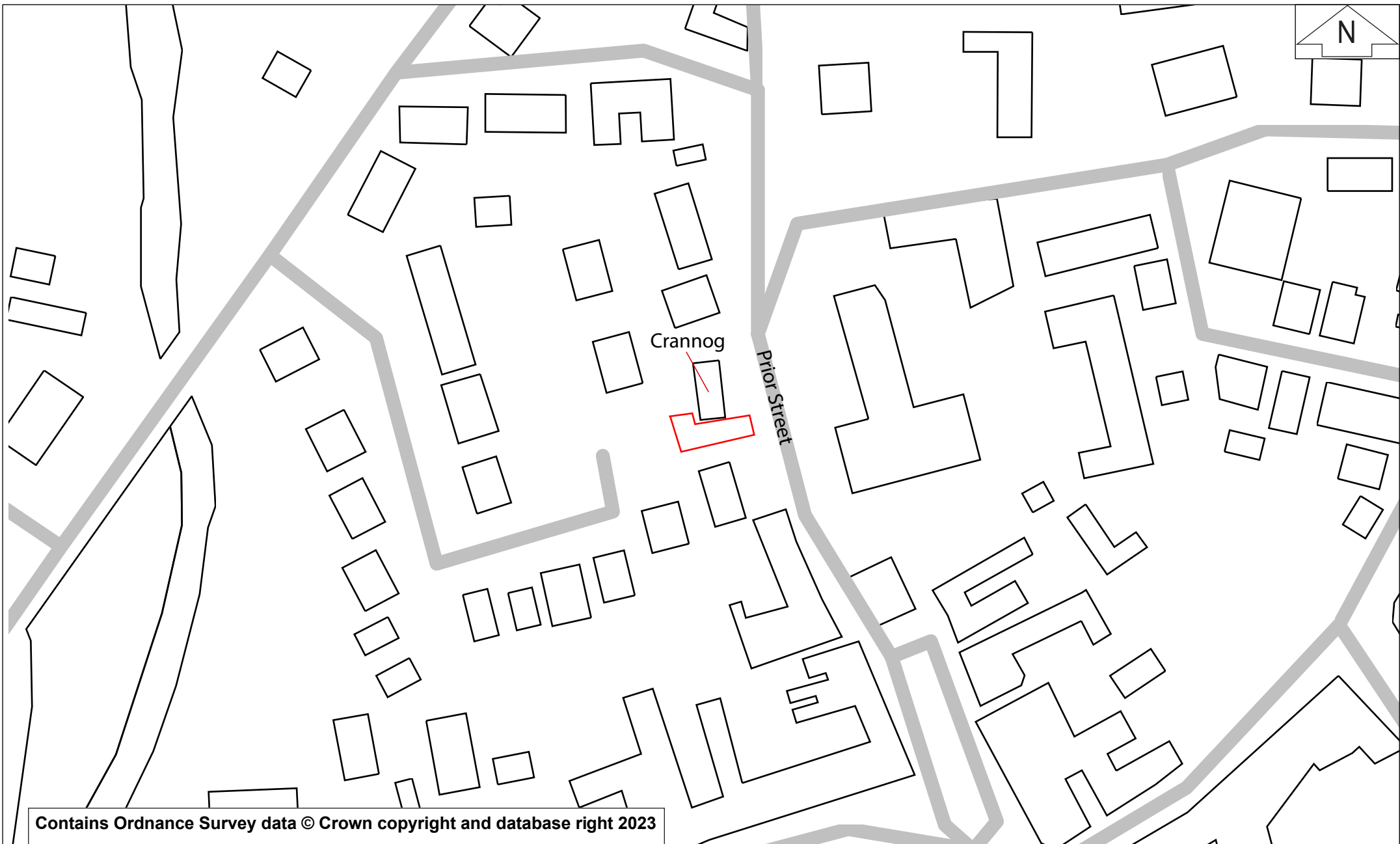


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Figure 01: Location of Land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 1LT.
Scale 1:20,000 at A4 (SJ 12313 58383).

Aeon Archaeology
Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
Obsidian Offices, Chantry Court, Chester CH1 4QN
Tel: 07866925393
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk



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Figure 03: Location of Land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 1LT.
Scale 1:1,250 at A4 (SJ 12313 58383).



Aeon Archaeology
Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
Obsidian Offices, Chantry Court, Chester CH1 4QN
Tel: 07866925393
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk

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 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 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Before the Edwardian Conquest in the second half of the 13th century, Ruthin is believed to have served as a '*maerdref*,' an administrative centre for the *commote* of Dyffryn Clwyd. It is speculated that a Welsh settlement of considerable size might have developed in the area now known as Well Street, formerly referred to as 'Welsh Street', (Jack, 1991) Another intriguing aspect of Ruthin's early history is the suggestion of a Welsh stronghold called '*the Red Fort*,' purportedly located beneath or close to the later-built castle. While there is no solid evidence to back these claims, neither can they be entirely dismissed, leaving the possibility open for further exploration and research (Knight, 2000)

Maurice Beresford, once pointed out that the boundaries of the borough at Ruthin indicate that it was carved out of the larger parish of Llanrhydd. This observation is crucial in understanding the town's early history, as it implies that there might not have been an early church in Ruthin at that time (Beresford, 1967).

In the mid-13th century, Dyffryn Clwyd was a disputed territory between the English Crown and the Welsh Princes. However, Edward I gained control over the area in 1277, leading to the immediate construction of Ruthin Castle. Although the town was briefly returned to David, brother of Llywelyn ap Gruffudd, it eventually fell under the rule of Reginald de Grey after a failed Welsh uprising in 1282. De Grey continued the castle's construction and initiated the development of the town, likely incorporating the existing Welsh settlement (Cathcart-King, 1983).

A pivotal moment in Ruthin's history occurred when it received a charter granting privileges to the newly established borough in 1282 or shortly thereafter. Professor Ian Jack described this event as reflective of the town's prosperity under Welsh rule and the peaceful transition into a marcher borough, where an authentic Anglo-Welsh community was formed (Jack, 1991).

The founding of St. Peter's church dates to 1282, or around that time when it was initially established as a chapel. Subsequently, in 1310, it was rebuilt as a collegiate church with seven priests. Together with the castle and the market place, the church became one of the three central points of the town. By 1324, Ruthin had 70 burgesses who controlled 100 burgages, with about a third of them being Welsh and concentrated mainly in the Well Street area. This growth led to the establishment of a weekly market and thrice-yearly fairs centred around the market place, which was formally established in 1295-1296 (Mullin, 1978).

The town endured turbulent times in the 15th century when it was sacked by Glyndŵr in 1400 and again, possibly, in 1402. Because of these attacks, the town fortifications were strengthened, with a murage grant recorded in 1407. The defensive measures included the construction of a ditch around the town, mentioned in at least one 15th-century record. Despite these challenges, Ruthin recovered swiftly and became a prominent centre for cloth manufacturing in the late medieval era, leading to the formation of a guild of fullers and weavers around 1447. Later, in the late 15th century, shoemakers established a second craft-guild in the town (Edwards, 1954).

As the town prospered, its built-up area expanded westwards, extending across the Clwyd River towards Llanfwrog. By 1496, Ruthin had 90 burgesses holding 209 burgages, suggesting the emergence of an urban aristocracy—an occurrence not uncommon in developing medieval boroughs. In 1508, King Henry VII acquired the lordship of Ruthin and granted a charter to the borough, confirming its market rights and other privileges (Jack, 1991).

However, the 16th century witnessed a decline in Ruthin's prominence as Shrewsbury rose as a competing cloth centre. Although John Leland, who travelled the country in the 1530s, found little interest in Ruthin, by the end of the century, William Camden considered it the "greatest market town in all the Vale," boasting a thriving population and well-built structures (Youngs & Clark, 1981).

Ruthin faced tumultuous times during the English Civil War when it was besieged by Parliamentary forces in 1644 and again in 1646. After its fall, the castle was razed. In 1536, Ruthin functioned as one of Denbighshire's county towns, hosting Quarter Sessions and Great Sessions courts, and in 1775, the county gaol was constructed there. The town's growth was likely gradual rather than rapid (Brackett, 2002).

By 1801, Sir Richard Colt Hoare described Ruthin as a town built on a hill and its slopes, predominantly made of brick, with many porticos and penthouses providing an ancient and somewhat picturesque appearance. In 1785, the New Town Hall, a handsome and spacious building, was erected. While the castle's remains were considerable, they no longer held the picturesque charm they once did (Farr, 1978).

The town's historical evolution is evident in various maps from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The Market Place was the heart of medieval Ruthin and featured the Old Hall as the market hall. In 1823, a total of 23 inns were depicted on the map, reflecting the town's lively social and commercial activities (Edwards, 1954).

The 13th-century Ruthin Castle underwent considerable demolition during the Civil War, but portions of the curtain wall and its towers survived on the north-west and north-east sides. In the 19th century, the castle site was repurposed as a hotel, with additional building phases in 1826 and 1849-52. Adjacent to the castle, Castle Park, possibly with medieval origins, and Victorian-era gardens now occupy the site (Knight, 2000).

While the original town defences have vanished from the surface, scholars have attempted to reconstruct their probable routes based on existing property boundaries and historical records. For example, the Water Gate (Porth-y-dwr), which led to a bridge across the Clwyd, was reportedly demolished around 1800, and an earlier tower built by the de Grey family also met a similar fate (Brackett, 2002).

St. Peter's church, situated north of the market square, has undergone substantial alterations since its initial construction between 1310 and 1315. However, fragments of the early 14th-century walling still remain. Notably, the medieval chancel was demolished in 1663, leading to a permanent reduction in the church's size. Furthermore, significant reconstruction of the south nave occurred in the 18th and 19th centuries. Despite these changes, the church houses an array of impressive wall monuments, some dating back to 1601, as well as a few mutilated medieval effigies and noteworthy woodwork from the late medieval and early post-medieval periods (Beresford, 1967).

The street layout in Ruthin is primarily rectilinear, although the town's natural topography has influenced its development, resulting in a less planned appearance compared to similar towns in Wales. Traces of burgage plots can still be identified near Clwyd Street and Castle Street, which were more evident on 19th-century maps. Dog Lane, though bearing a medieval name, did not seem significant in terms of housing until at least 1826. Record Street and Well Street were previously known as Castle Lane and Welsh Street, respectively. The term "Pen Barras" commonly refers to the lower part of Well

Street, particularly the boundary between the parishes of Ruthin and Llanrhudd. The name "Bars," from which "Barras" is derived, is mentioned in a conveyance from 1486. Market Street was established in the mid-19th century. Housing likely extended westward across the River Clwyd, with mentions of New Street (previously Borthyn) and Mwrog Street in a register from 1324 (Phillips, 2010).

St. Peter's Square served as the medieval town centre and regular marketplace starting in. A timber-framed courthouse (formally NatWest Bank) was constructed in the square, with timbers dating back to 1421, symbolizing the lordship's recovery after Owain Glyndŵr's revolt. The building underwent restoration in 1926 and features a former gibbet beam and surviving prison cells (Hubbard 1994).

Located on the west side of the market square is a rough, flat block of limestone known as Maen Huail. According to local legend, it was the site where *Huail*, brother of *Gildas*, was beheaded by King Arthur and is documented in Edward Lhuyd's *Parochialia*. Nantclwyd House, a large two-story timber-framed building, has undergone significant development in the 17th century (Hubbard 1994).

The earliest house in Ruthin, constructed with timbers felled in the winter of 1434-1435, features an inner garden that defines a former double burgage plot. The high stone wall surrounding the garden likely dates from the late 15th century and incorporates a late 17th or early 18th-century gazebo. The outer garden walls are thought to be 15th-century or possibly earlier, contemporary with Ruthin Castle, originally serving as the castle's kitchen garden before being rented to the owner of Nantclwyd House in 1572 (Hubbard 1994).

The castle mill, dating from the late 13th century, is a rare surviving example in Wales. Although it has been extensively modified, it retains its original grey stone construction with red sandstone used for quoins and window dressings. The east gable of the mill also features a cross. No. 65 Clwyd Street, associated with the mill in the past, was converted into a residential property in 1586. Its core structure dates to the 15th century and has undergone subsequent additions and extensions. The interior of No. 67, originally part of No. 65, contains a medieval arched doorway likely connected to storage rooms (Hubbard 1994).

Archaeological evaluations in Ruthin have uncovered evidence of medieval and post-medieval activities. Smithing associated with 14th-15th century pottery was discovered in Record Street in 2005 (Ridgway, 2010) Watching briefs conducted in 2004 behind Clwyd Street revealed possible medieval buildings, while pottery from the 15th or 16th century and residues from a potential tanning workshop were found around the Town Hall (Rees, 1998).

Further away from the historic core, medieval pottery was recovered in the grounds of Ysgol Brynhyfryd in 2002, indicating medieval occupation in the vicinity. In 2006, the remnants of a possible timber building were uncovered, but its precise date remains uncertain due to post-medieval deposits (Ridgway, 2010). Additionally, traces of a possible field system were discovered, characterized by a different alignment from modern boundaries.

5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The archaeological watching brief was to be maintained:

1. During ground reduction and the excavation of foundation / service trenches.

The Cifa maintains a standard for archaeological watching brief which states that:

An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant by-laws of Cifa. An archaeological watching brief is defined by the Cifa as ‘a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons’ (Cifa 2020). The watching brief will take place within a specified area within the Site where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.

The Cifa further identifies the purpose of a watching brief ‘as allowing, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works’ (ibid). It is also important to note that a watching brief provides an opportunity, if needed, for a signal to be made to all interested parties, before the destruction of the archaeological materials, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

A watching brief is, therefore, not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

The aims of the watching brief were:

- To allow, within the resources available, the opportunity to gain information about and record the presence/absence, nature and date of archaeological remains on the Site affected by excavations and groundworks, the presence and nature of which could not be established with sufficient confidence in advance of works which may disturb them.
- To provide the facility to signal to the relevant authorities, before irreversible impact to remains that an archaeological and/or historic find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are inadequate to support their treatment to an adequate and satisfactory standard.

The specific objectives of the watching brief were:

- To observe and recover any artefacts of archaeological significance.
- To record the location, dimensions and nature of any deposits, features, structures or artefacts of archaeological significance.

- To recover samples of any deposits considered to have potential for analysis for palaeoenvironmental data should the opportunity arise.

6.0 METHODOLOGY – ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

6.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

The methodology for the watching brief has been prepared with reference to the CIfA's document The Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (2020) and will be kept under constant review during the project, in order to see how far it is meeting the terms of the aims and objectives, and in order to adopt any new questions which may arise.

Curatorial monitoring of the archaeological work on behalf of the Council will be carried out by the DMA at CPAT. To facilitate the curatorial monitoring, the officer shall be provided with a minimum of two weeks' notice of the start of the archaeological work.

A suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist(s) from Aeon Archaeology will be commissioned for the maintenance of the watching brief. On arrival on site, the archaeologist(s) will report to the site manager and conform to the arrangements for notification of entering and leaving site. The archaeologist(s) will keep a record of the date, time and duration of all attendances at site, the names and numbers of archaeologists deployed and any actions taken. The archaeologist will be provided with a Health & Safety Induction by the construction contractor and wear a safety helmet, safety footwear and high visibility jacket/vest at all times.

If deposits and or artefacts are exposed during excavations for the development which require recording and recovery, it may be necessary to delay works whilst the proper investigation and recording takes place. Watching brief recording can often be undertaken without delay to groundworks, depending upon the specific circumstances and flexibility of all the staff on site.

Within the constraints of the terms of the watching brief work, the archaeologist will not cause unreasonable disruption to the maintenance of the work schedules of other contractors on site. In the event of archaeological discoveries the treatment of which (either arising from the volume/quantity of material and/or the complexity/importance of the material) is beyond the resources deployed the Client will be notified and a site meeting/telephone consultation arranged with the DMA at CPAT. The aim of the meeting will be to confirm that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard and identify measures which would be sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard prior to destruction of the material in question.

Any archaeological deposits, features and structures identified which can be investigated and recorded under the terms of the watching brief will be excavated manually in a controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project – subject to the limitations on site access.

It may not be necessary to excavate the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits but the inter-relationships between archaeological deposits, features and structures will be investigated sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project and the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits will be investigated where practicable.

The method of recording will follow the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and the stratigraphy will be recorded in written descriptions even where no archaeological deposits have been

identified. The archaeologist will record archaeological deposits using proforma recording forms and locate them on a large-scale site plan related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum references.

The groundworks excavations shall be undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The drawn record will comprise plans at scale 1:20 and sections at scale 1:10; proprietary electronic hardware and software to prepare site drawings may be used as appropriate.

The photographic record will be maintained throughout using a digital SLR camera (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution (72 dpi) and all archaeological features will be recorded photographically with photographs taken in RAW format and later converted to TIFF format for long-term storage and JPEG format for presentation and inclusion in the archive. The standards for the digital archive will adhere to those set out in 'Guidelines for Digital Archaeological Archives' (RCAHMW, 2015).

6.2 Watching brief report

6.2.1 Post-excavation Assessment

A report on the results of the watching brief, in accordance with the recommendations in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide (English Heritage 2006; 2015), and in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (2020) will be required to be produced upon conclusion of the archaeological fieldwork. The report will be completed within a maximum of two months of completion of work on site and may include examination and quantification leading to the identification of function, form, date, method of manufacture, material/fabric type, source, parallels, attributes and condition of artefacts; of the exploitation of wild or domesticated resources; the reconstruction of environments; and the nature of human populations.

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

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

7.0 DIGITAL DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

7.1 Type of study

Archaeological Watching Brief as part of groundworks associated with the demolition of detached garage and extensions and erection of one dwelling, formation of joint access and associated works (Resubmission) on land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 1LT (NGR SJ 12313 58383).

7.2 Type of data

File name	File Contents	Linked File(s)	Number of files
A452.1 Crannog, Prior St. WB 1.0.PDF	PDF report		1
A452.1 _001 - A0469_1_020.JPG	JPEG site images	A452.1 _Metadata	20
A452.1 _001 - A0469_1_020.TIF	TIF site images	A452.1 _Metadata	20
A0469.1 _Metadata.XLSX	Excel file of photographic metadata	A452.1 _001 - A452.1_020 (JPEG and TIF)	1

All data generated during this project has been selected for archive

7.3 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*). Written descriptions taken in digital *.txt* format and sent via email to ensure a digital backup copy at time of record.

Annotated plans scanned as *.PDF* files. As part of the recording work the following data was created:

- 25 digital photographs (TIF file)
- 1 photographic metadata file (*.accdb* file)
- 1 PDF report (PDF file)
- 1 Photographic Register (scanned as PDF file)
- 1 Day sheet Record (scanned as PDF file)

7.4 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

7.5 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.

7.6 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.

7.7 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.

7.8 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 Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales RCAHMW 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.

7.9 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.

7.10 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).

7.11 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.

7.12 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.

7.13 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.

7.14 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.

7.15 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.

7.16 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

8.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS

8.1 The Documentary Archive

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

Context Sheets	0
Archaeological Drawings	0
Digital photographs	20
Watching Brief Day Sheets	1

8.2 Environmental Samples

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

8.3 Artefacts

No archaeological artefacts were recovered during the archaeological watching brief and therefore no report was prepared.

9.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

9.1 Overview

(see Figures 04: Plates 01-09)

The archaeological watching brief was maintained by Josh Dean BA archaeological contractor at Aeon Archaeology on the 17th of July 2023. The weather conditions were overcast and windy. The trench was excavated on an area of lawn nearest the existing dwelling to the north.

9.2 The Trench excavation

In the area where the former garage stood, and revealed following its demolition, were the remains of a low brick wall to the north, which had formally revetted part of a large amount of demolition, infill material (see below) observed on the site. Furthermore, the north facing section created by the demolition of the garage, near the neighbouring property, revealed a stone revetment wall, which abutted to the north of the demolition, infill material.

At this location, the material consisted of broken red brick, mortar, loose stone, and slate, and which measured >0.18m in depth and which sat upon >0.24m of dark, brown-grey sand-with broken red brick inclusions.

The former garage had been cited upon a platform of this material, which was 1.25 m in depth and comprised of a loose, mid/light, grey-brown, sand – silt, with red brick, tile, plaster, terram, mortar, and wood inclusions. This material represented a likely importation of a large amount of demolition infill, which likely took the form of many separate tipping events. The stone revetment wall observed to the south, likely formed part of a terrace, over which this brick and stone demolition had been tipped.

However, it is believed that this event pre-dated the construction of Crannog which is believed to date to in the 1940s (pers. comm). This is because when the trench to the north was excavated (*measuring 7.00m in length by 0.50m in width by 0.65m in depth*), it cut through >0.65m of the same demolition, material observed in the garage platform. This consisted of a loose, mid grey-brown, sand-silt with red brick, broken blue, shale stone, wood, ceramic tile, and mortar inclusions. This demonstrated that the level of the demolition infill probably lay below the level of the house foundation.

Therefore, in summation, this area appears to be characterised by a series of revetment walls, constructed either from stone or brick. These then have created a terrace within the hillside, which has subsequently been backfilled with demolition infill. Furthermore, some of the material observed (blue shale stone) is not local to the town of Ruthin, but rather, has been observed by the archaeologist further to the northwest in the Mynydd Hiraethog (*Pentrefoelas*) or Snowdonia (*Penmachno*). Perhaps insinuating that at least some of this infill material originated in those regions.



Crannog

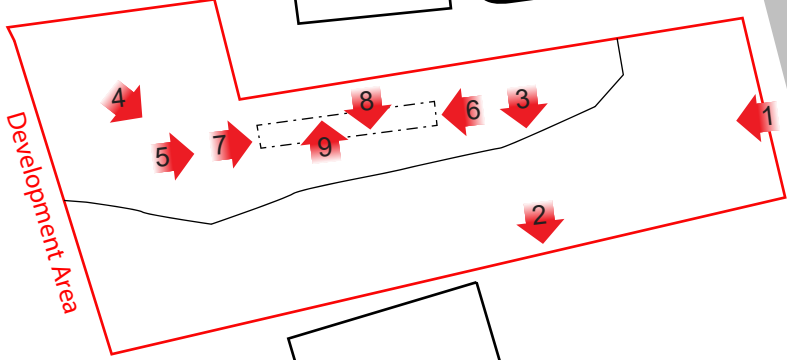
Prior Street

St. Peter's
Church

Key



Direction of
Photograph



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2023



Figure 04: Location of photographic plates taken at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 1LT. Scale 1:300 at A4 (SJ 12313 58383).

Aeon Archaeology
Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
Obsidian Offices, Chantry Court, Chester CH1 4QN
Tel: 07866925393
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk



Plate 01: Pre excavation shot of site, on land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire - from the east - 1.00m scale



Plate 02: Section of area nearest neighbouring property to the south, on land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire - from the north - 1.00m scale



Plate 08: Section of trench, on land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire - from the north - 1.00m scale



Plate 04: Oblique shot showing banked infill material, on land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire - from the northwest - 1.00m scale



Plate 05: Pre excavation shot of trench, on land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire - from the west - 1.00m scale



Plate 06: Post excavation shot of trench, on land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire - from the east - 1.00m scale



Plate 07: Post excavation shot of trench, on land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire - from the west - 1.00m scale



Plate 08: Section of trench, on land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire - from the north - 1.00m scale



Plate 09: Section of trench, on land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire - from the south - 0.50m scale

10.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The archaeological watching brief concentrated on observing the groundworks associated with the *demolition of detached garage and extensions and erection of one dwelling, formation of joint access and associated works (Resubmission)* on land at Crannog, Prior Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire.

These works were carried out due to the area having the potential to produce archaeological remains, as the proposed new dwelling may have had the potential to reveal sub-surface archaeological deposits which could have provided evidence of earlier prior medieval or post-medieval structures and their associated deposits associated with historic core of Ruthin.

However, following the watching brief it appears that this area is characterised as a terrace revetted by walls of stone and brick. This terrace may predate the mid-20th century house of Crannog; this terrace was subsequently backfilled with large amounts of demolition infill, presumably from the south (upslope of the site). Furthermore, some of the material observed (blue shale stone) is not local to the town of Ruthin, but rather, has been observed by the archaeologist further to the northwest in the Mynydd Hiraethog (*Pentrefoelas*) or Snowdonia (*Penmachno*). Perhaps insinuating that at least some of this infill material originated in those regions.

In addition, following this discovery the Client has decided to pursue a course of pile foundations, in order to properly stabilise the new building, and so further any opportunity for observing archaeological will not be feasible.

During this phase of archaeological watching brief at Crannog, Prior St., Ruthin, no archaeological remains suggestive of an earlier phase of development or settlement were encountered at the site. Therefore, it is considered that these works have now met the spirit and intent of the archaeological condition of permission *02/2021/0383*, and it is the recommendation of this report that the archaeological portion of permission, might now be considered as fulfilled and that suitable mitigation has been carried out.

11.0 SOURCES.

Maps.

Ordnance Survey Open Data maps SJ NW15, NE15, SE15 and SW15.

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12.0 APPENDIX I: Written Scheme of Investigation