



**4 Oaklands Avenue, Wrexham
LL13 9EW (2023/0652)**

February 2024 v1.0



Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

Project Code: A0462.1

Report no. 0452

Event PRN: 218129



æon archaeology

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Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

Aeon Archaeology

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Project Code: A0462.1

Date: 08/02/2024

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**4 Oaklands Avenue, Wrexham
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Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

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1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

*Comisiynwyd Aeon Archaeology gan Stephen Powell, i gynnal cyfnod o fonitro a chofnodi archeolegol yn ystod y gwaith daear sy'n gysylltiedig â chodi estyniad unllawr blaen a chefn a newidiadau i'r ffasâd presennol yn 4 Oaklands Avenue, Wrexham, LL13 9EW, (wedi'i ganoli ar **NGR SJ 34975 51545**).*

Yn ystod y gwaith hwn daethpwyd o hyd i lwybr bach o frics coch, a allai fod wedi'i orffen unwaith ag arwyneb llechi. Mae'n debygol fod hyn yn cyd-fynd ag ardal a welwyd ar fapiau hanesyddol, a leolir i'r de-ddwyrain o hen adeilad Oak Lodge, yn fwy penodol ardal o fewn cyn ffin y stad, sydd wedi'i lleoli rhwng adeilad mawr "siâp L" ac adeilad hirsgwar ar all fod yn gysylltiedig â hen ardd furiog.

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Stephen Powell, to carry out a phase of archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks associated with the *erection of a front and rear single storey extension and alterations to the existing facade* at 4 Oaklands Avenue, Wrexham, LL13 9EW, (centred on **NGR SJ 34975 51545**).

During these works a single portion of suspected red brick pathway, which may have once been finished with a slate surface was uncovered. It is likely that this correlates with an area observed on historic mapping, located to the southeast of the historically named building of Oak Lodge, and more specifically within a zone of its former land holdings, placed between a large "L-shaped" range of buildings and a rectangular building which may be associated with a former walled garden.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Stephen Powell, hereafter ‘the Client’, to carry out a phase of archaeological monitoring and recording (formerly archaeological watching brief) during the groundworks associated with the erection of a front and rear single storey extension and alterations to the existing facade at 4 Oaklands Avenue, Wrexham, LL13 9EW, hereafter ‘the Site’, (centred on *NGR SJ 34975 51545*), (figures 01-03).

Full planning permission (ref: 2023/0652) was secured by the Client from Wrexham County Borough Council, hereafter ‘the Council’, on the 21st December 2023 with the following condition concerning archaeology being applied to the permission:

Condition 4

No part of the development / works shall commence until details of an on-site archaeological monitoring and recording, prepared and to be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist, for the duration of the construction works has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The archaeological monitoring and recording must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for archaeological monitoring and recordings.

REASONS: The site may contain archaeological remains which should be recorded if they are damaged in accordance with Policies GDP1 and EC11 of the Wrexham Unitary Development Plan.

This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the aims and objectives of the project and the methods by which they will be met in order to meet the spirit and intent of the archaeological condition of permission 2023/0652.

The Development Management Archaeologist (DMA) at the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) made the following comments regarding the proposed development in their role as archaeological advisors to the Council:

Information held within the Regional Historic Environment Record indicates that the proposed extensions are located, at least partially, on the site of a building shown on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey mapping of the area. This building is part of a range of buildings originally associated with ‘Broad Oak’, a dwelling still standing to the North of the site, which may include floors, foundations and other artefacts related to the property. In this case we recommend groundworks, service trenching and levelling for the new extension are completed with a qualified archaeologist present due to the potential for sub-surface archaeology.

The work will adhere to the guidelines specified in *The Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023).



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Figure 01: Location of proposed development site at 4 Oaklands Avenue, Wrexham LL13 9EW (SJ 34975 51545). Scale 1:20,000 at A4.



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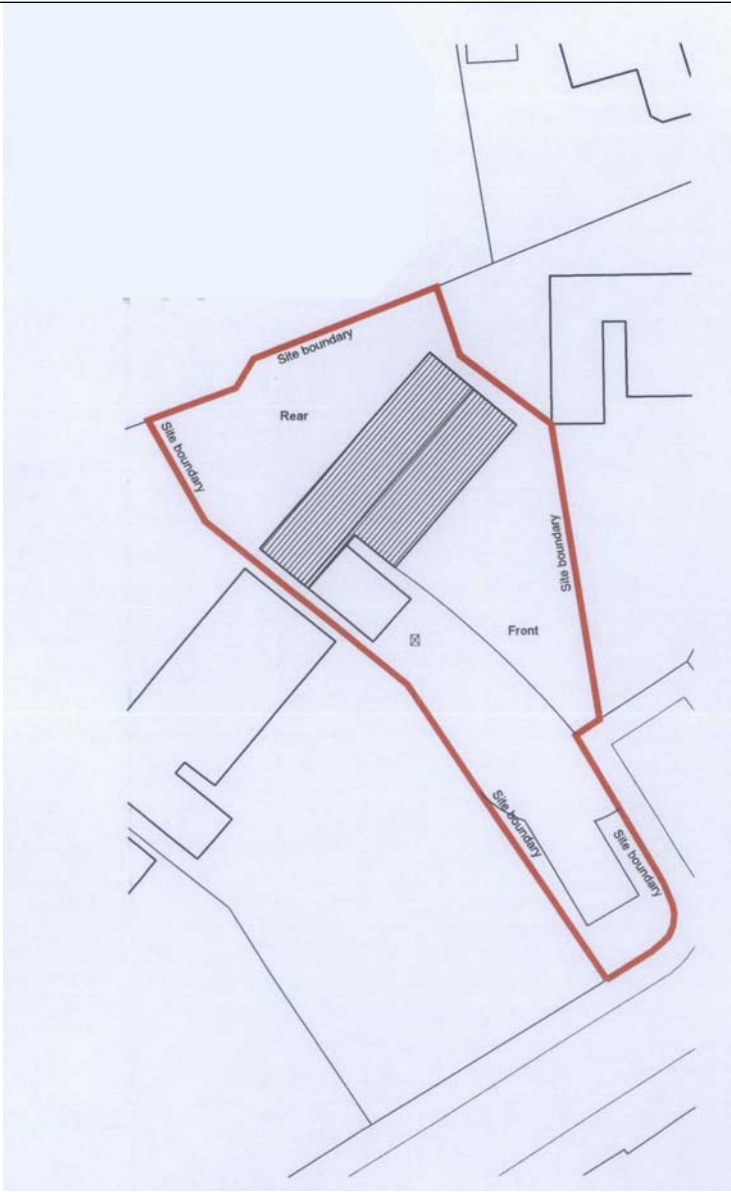


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Figure 02: Location of proposed development site at 4 Oaklands Avenue, Wrexham LL13 9EW (SJ 34975 51545). Scale 1:5,000 at A4.



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Figure 03: Location of proposed development site at 4 Oaklands Avenue, Wrexham LL13 9EW (SJ 34975 51545). 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 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

As stated in the *Introduction (section 2.0)* of this document DMA at the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) made the following consultee comments as part of the planning application and in their role as archaeological advisor to the Council:

“(the) building (is) shown on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey mapping of the area. This building is part of a range of buildings originally associated with ‘Broad Oak’, a dwelling still standing to the North of the site”

General

Rhosnesni, (formerly *Rhosnesney*) is an area and electoral ward situated within the community of Acton in Wrexham, Wrexham County Borough. The settlement's origins trace back to the toll gate located on Holt Road, marked by the presence of a cottage (*The Lodge PRN 32691*) that still stands today. In the late 19th century, Rhosnesni experienced expansion with the addition of estate houses developed for the Acton Park estate. However, with the dissolution of the Acton estate in the 20th century, much of the local land was acquired by private developers, leading to Rhosnesni evolving into an urban area.

Rhosnesni’s Victorian development

The development of Victorian suburban areas of many British towns marked a significant shift in housing patterns, as is evidenced in Rhosnesni, Wrexham. In this example of the suburb of Rhosnesni, this was undoubtedly influenced by the influence of the Acton Estate. It has been suggested that ambitious middle-class families of the mid Victorian period (1855-1880) sought to emulate the country house ideal of aristocrats, leading to the proliferation of detached or semi-detached villas in suburban areas. These villas not only provided more space and privacy compared to urban dwellings but also allowed residents to enjoy a semblance of rural living while still being within commuting distance of urban centres (Slater 1978) like Wrexham.

In the case of Rhosnesni, the development of its Victorian suburban villas, such as *Oak Lodge* and *Broad Oak* may have been influenced by the Acton Estate's expansion in the late 19th century. As the Acton Park estate grew, estate houses were built in surrounding areas, including Rhosnesni, to accommodate workers and residents associated with the estate. This expansion likely contributed to the transformation of Rhosnesni from a rural settlement to an area with an urban air, as more housing was needed to support the growing population associated with the estate.

The architectural styles and features of Victorian suburban villas, such as decorative brickwork, wrought iron embellishments, and decorative stone quoins, are some of the elements which may have been included within the housing fabric of Rhosnesni. These elements have been observed in the design of estate houses and other residential buildings constructed during this period. Additionally, the shift away from stucco as a facing material in favour of more durable and "honest" materials like high-quality bricks (Historic England 2017), (such as those produced by Denis Ruabon) may have influenced the construction practices in Rhosnesni and other areas within the Acton Estate.

Overall, the development of the Victorian suburb at Rhosnesni played a role in shaping the residential character of the settlement, and more generally reflected the aspirations of the former Acton Estate. By providing desirable housing options for the middle class and influencing architectural trends, these villas contributed to the evolution of suburban areas and their integration into the broader urban fabric (Historic England 2017, Slater 1978).

Acton Hall Estate

The land in the area of Acton Park was initially granted to Valle Crucis Abbey at Llangollen by one of the lords of Powys. However, following the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536 by King Henry VIII of England, the land of Acton Park came under the crown's control. By 1620, the ownership of Acton Park transferred to Jeffrey ap Hugh, who later passed it on to his son, John Jeffreys, a judge on the North Wales circuit. John Jeffreys commissioned the construction of the original house at Acton Park, which encompassed a vast area of 300 acres (Pierce 2023).

In 1645, Acton Hall witnessed the birth of John's son, George Jeffreys, who would gain notoriety as Judge George Jeffreys, famously known as 'Hanging Judge Jeffreys'. The last Jeffreys to reside at Acton Hall was Sir Griffith Jeffreys, who reconstructed the family home between 1687 and 1695. His wife, Dame Dorothy, established a charity in her will that contributed to the founding of several schools in Wrexham (Dodd 1989).

Subsequent to the Jeffreys era, Acton Hall passed through various owners, including Philip Egerton and Ellis Yonge, before being acquired by Sir Foster Cunliffe in 1785. Sir Foster initiated repairs and expansions to the property, adding a new wing and creating a landscaped park with gardens and a lake enclosed within a boundary wall. In 1820, he constructed a new entrance for the house, known as the Four Dogs Gateway, designed by Thomas Harrison (Dodd 1989, Pierce 2023).

The property underwent little improvement in later generations until it was purchased by Sir Bernard Oppenheimer in 1917. During his ownership, the Denbighshire Hussars were stationed there, and a diamond cutting training school was established in the grounds. However, after Sir Bernard's death in 1921, the workshop closed down. Following subsequent ownership changes, Nine Acre Field and additional acres were acquired by the Borough Council for housing development, while the remainder of the estate was designated for ex-soldiers' smallholdings.

During World War II, Acton Park was requisitioned by the War Office, accommodating various regiments, including the Lancashire Fusiliers and the Gurkhas. After the war, the estate fell into disrepair, and efforts to preserve Acton Hall as a museum failed. The demolition of the house commenced in August 1954, leaving only remnants such as the Four Dogs gateway (Pierce 2023).

5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The Archaeological monitoring and recording was maintained:

1. During initial topsoiling, ground preparation and foundation excavation works

The CIfA maintains a standard for *Archaeological monitoring and recording* which states that:

A phase of archaeological monitoring and recording 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. Archaeological monitoring and recording is defined by the CIfA as ‘a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons’ (CIfA 2023). This 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 *phase of archaeological monitoring and recording* ‘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 *phase of archaeological monitoring and recording* 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 phase of archaeological monitoring and recording 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 *phase of archaeological monitoring and recording* 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 *phase of archaeological monitoring and recording* 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 MONITORING AND RECORDING

6.1 Archaeological monitoring and recording

The methodology for the *archaeological monitoring and recording* has been prepared with reference to the CIfA's document *The Standards and Guidance for Archaeological monitoring and recording* (2023) 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 *phase of archaeological monitoring and recording*. 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. *Archaeological monitoring and 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 *phase of archaeological monitoring and recording* 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 *phase of archaeological monitoring and recording* will be excavated manually in a controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project – subject to the limitations on site access. It may not be necessary to excavate the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits but the inter-relationships between archaeological deposits, features and structures will be investigated sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project and the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits will be investigated where practicable.

The method of recording will follow the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and the stratigraphy will be recorded in written descriptions even where no archaeological deposits have been identified. The archaeologist will record archaeological deposits using proformae recording forms and locate them on a large-scale site plan related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum references.

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

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

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

6.2 Archaeological monitoring and recording report

6.2.1 Post-excavation Assessment

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

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

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

6.3 Archive and Dissemination

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 RCAHMW within six months of the completion of the project.

A draft copy of the report will be produced within six weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and will include an updated Data Management Plan (DMP) and an archive content list with updated archive Selection Strategy. A copy of the report will be sent to the Client and the DMA at CPAT for comment prior to finalisation of the report and dissemination. Digital copies of the report and archive will be sent to the regional HER and the DMA at CPAT, with the original paper and digital archive being deposited with 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.

The project report and archive will adhere to the Welsh Trusts' and Cadw's Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) (2018 updated 2022) including the translation of a non-technical summary into the medium of Welsh.

7.0 DIGITAL DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

7.1 Type of study

An archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the *erection of a detached dwelling and alterations to existing vehicular access* at Y Fron, Mwrog Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire, LL15 1LG, (centred on **NGR SJ 11472 57851**),

7.2 Types of data

File name	File Contents	Linked File(s)	Number
A0462.1 Oaklands Avenue, Wrexham AMR report 1.0.PDF	PDF report		1
A0462_1_001 - A0462_1_044.JPG	JPEG site images	A0462.1_Metadata	44
A0462_1_001 - A0462_1_044.TIF	TIF site images	A0462.1_Metadata	44
A0462.1_Metadata.XLSX	Excel file of photographic metadata	A0462_1_001 - A0462_1_044 (JPG and TIF)	1
A0462.1 Watching Brief Day Sheets.PDF	Scanned copies of watching brief day sheets		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*).

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

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 was controlled and documented through the use of standardised procedure as outlined in the WSI. This included 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 was organised into Aeon Archaeology proforma project file systems and backed up to The Cloud using *Acronis Cyber Protect* with additional copies made to external physical hard drive.

7.7 Metadata standards and data documentation

Digital metadata was created using Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) of all photographic plates.

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) (via HEDDOS), the RCAHMW and retention of copies of all digital files at Aeon Archaeology on physical external hard drive and uploaded to Acronis Cyber Protect.

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 RCAHMW website. 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 (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 2022
- Aeon Archaeology Quality Assurance Policy 2022
- Aeon Archaeology Conflict of Interest Policy 2022
- Aeon Archaeology Outreach Policy 2022
- Aeon Archaeology Digital Management Plan 2022

8.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS

8.1 The Documentary Archive

The following documentary records were created during the Archaeological monitoring and recording:

Digital photographs	44
Watching Brief Day Sheets	1

8.2 Environmental Samples

No environmental samples were taken during the Archaeological monitoring and recording as no suitable deposits were encountered.

8.3 Artefacts

No archaeological artefacts were recovered during the Archaeological monitoring and recording and therefore no report was prepared.

9.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

9.1 Overview

(see Figures 04-05: Plates 01-20)

The phase of archaeological monitoring and recording was maintained by Josh, Dean BA, archaeological contractor at Aeon Archaeology on the 5th– 6th February 2024, the weather, conditions, overcast, and rainy.

9.2 Description of the Archaeological monitoring and recording

The phase of archaeological monitoring and recording, was conducted during the excavation of two sets of foundation trenches at *no.4 Oaklands Avenue, Wrexham, Rhosnesney*. This included the front single-story extension (which included alterations to the existing facade) and foundations for a rear single-story extension.

The front extension

This excavation was conducted as a hand excavation and consisted of three trenches (southwest, southeast, and northeast), and these were 0.70m in width. These trenches, cut through 0.05m of concrete hardstanding. This lay above 0.35m of soft, mid grey-brown, clay-silt, topsoil, overburden, with red-brick, slate, mortar, and plastic inclusions. This lay above >0.48m of firm, mid yellow/orange-brown, sand-clay, natural. In the north eastern trench, multiple services and service cuts were revealed, including water, gas, electric and waste.

The rear excavation

This excavation was conducted using a 1.50 tonne, 360° excavator and consisted of three trenches (southwest, northwest and northeast), and these were 0.70m in width. These trenches cut through 0.05m of concrete slab paving, which lay above 0.22m of dark black-brown, sand-silt, generic imported garden topsoil, this had slate, red-brick, and mortar inclusions, as well as heavy bioturbation. This lay above >0.82m of firm, mid yellow/orange-brown, sand-clay natural.

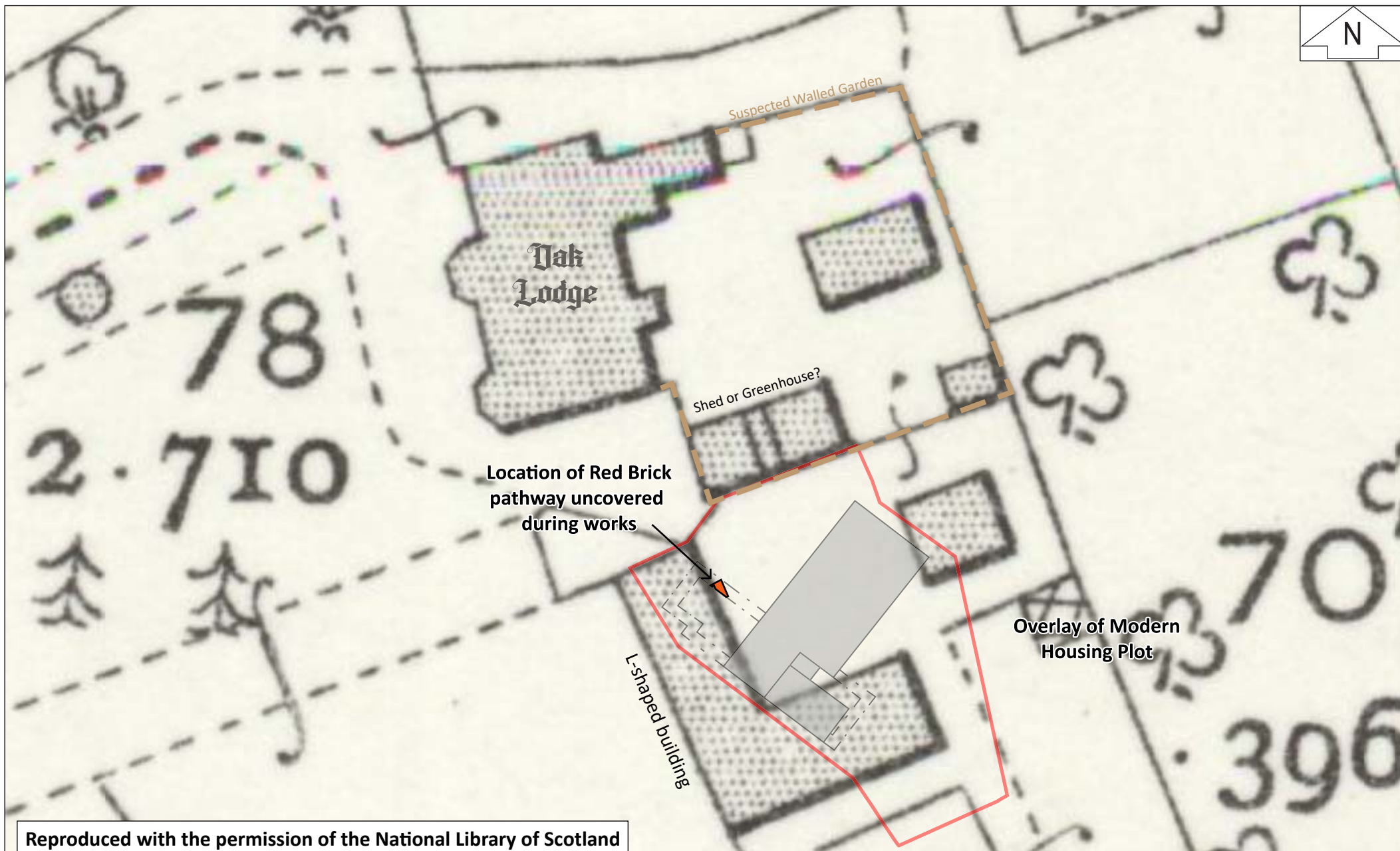
In the north, eastern trench, an '*L-shaped*' arrangement of bricks (*24cm x 11cm x 6.5cm*), were uncovered. These were aligned northwest to southeast, and covered an area measuring 1.13m in length by greater than 0.65m in width. The top surface of the bricks had signs of mortar bonding, with elements of slate still attached. This is assumed to be a presumed former pathway between two buildings (interpreted from evaluation of historic mapping, see figure 05). The surface had been constructed directly upon yellow/orange, sand-clay natural and was overlain by generic black garden soil, presumably imported when the garden of the modern building was created.



Figure 04: Plan of site showing location of extension trenches, red brick surface and photographic plates taken on site. 4 Oaklands Avenue, Wrexham LL13 9EW (SJ 34975 51545). Scale 1:100 at A4.



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Figure 05: Location of modern housing plot overlain onto 3rd edition, Ordnance Survey Map, 25 inch (1912). Showing location of red brick surface. No scale.

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Plate 01: Pre excavation shot of front extension, at no 4. Oaklands Avenue, Rhosnesney, Wrexham - from the southeast - 1.00m scale



Plate 02: Pre excavation shot of front extension, at no 4. Oaklands Avenue, Rhosnesney, Wrexham - from the northeast - 1.00m scale



Plate 03: Post excavation shot of SW trench (front extension), at no 4. Oaklands Avenue, Rhosnesney, Wrexham - from the northeast - 1.00m scale



Plate 04: Section of SW trench (front extension), at no 4. Oaklands Avenue, Rhosnesney, Wrexham - from the southeast - 1.00m scale



Plate 05: Post excavation shot of NE trench (front extension), at no 4.
Oaklands Avenue, Rhosnesney, Wrexham - from the southeast - 1.00m scale



Plate 06: Section of NE trench (front extension), at no 4. Oaklands Avenue, Rhosnesney, Wrexham - from the northeast - 1.00m scale



Plate 07: Section of SW trench (front extension), at no 4. Oaklands Avenue, Rhosnesney, Wrexham - from the northeast - 1.00m scale



Plate 08: Pre excavation shot of rear extension, at no 4. Oaklands Avenue, Rhosnesney, Wrexham - from the northeast - 1.00m scale



Plate 09: Pre excavation shot of rear extension, at no 4. Oaklands Avenue, Rhosnesney, Wrexham - from the northwest - 1.00m scale



Plate 10: Post excavation shot of south western trench, south (rear extension), at no 4. Oaklands Avenue, Rhosnesney, Wrexham - from the northwest - 1.00m scale



Plate 11: Section of south western trench (rear extension), at no 4, Oaklands Avenue, Rhosnesney, Wrexham - from the northeast - 1.00m scale



Plate 12: Post excavation shot of south western trench, north (rear extension), at no 4. Oaklands Avenue, Rhosnesney, Wrexham - from the southeast - 1.00m scale



Plate 13: Post excavation shot of north western trench (rear extension), at no 4. Oaklands Avenue, Rhosnesney, Wrexham - from the northeast - 1.00m scale



Plate 14: Section of north western trench (rear extension), at no 4. Oaklands Avenue, Rhosnesney, Wrexham - from the southeast - 1.00m scale



Plate 15: Area of redbrick pathway within north eastern trench (rear extension), at no 4. Oaklands Avenue, Rhosnesney, Wrexham - from the northwest - 0.50m scale



Plate 16: Area of redbrick pathway within north eastern trench (rear extension), at no 4. Oaklands Avenue, Rhosnesney, Wrexham - from the southeast - 0.50m scale



Plate 17: Section above of redbrick pathway, at no 4. Oaklands Avenue, Rhosnesney, Wrexham - from the southwest - 0.10m scale



Plate 18: Section below redbrick pathway, at no 4. Oaklands Avenue, Rhosnesney, Wrexham - from the northwest - 0.50m scale



Plate 19: Post excavation shot of north eastern trench (rear extension), at no 4. Oaklands Avenue, Rhosnesney, Wrexham - from the northwest - 1.00m scale



Plate 20: Section of north eastern trench (rear extension), at no 4. Oaklands Avenue, Rhosnesney, Wrexham - from the northeast - 1.00m scale

10.0 CONCLUSION

The archaeological monitoring and recording undertaken at *no. 4 Oaklands Avenue in Rhosnesni, Wrexham*, has provided valuable insights into the historical use of the area and has contributed in part to our understanding of the past. The careful monitoring and recording of these works has discovered evidence associated within the historic boundary of *Oak Lodge* and this has been documented, shedding some light on the use of materials and morphology of the former large suburban Victorian Villa.

At no. 4 Oaklands Avenue, the excavation of foundation trenches for both front and rear extensions revealed layers of stratigraphy which enabled the identification of the chronology of the build-up of deposits. The rear extension excavation exposed a mix of imported garden topsoil and natural subsoil, with a single notable feature: the 'L-shaped' arrangement of bricks which likely suggests the presence of a former pathway which either extended between buildings or fringed the 'L-shaped range.'

In conclusion, the phase of archaeological monitoring and recording aligns with the prescribed standards for archaeological monitoring as specified by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*. Following this period of archaeological work and the evidence it uncovered, it is recommended that the condition associated with archaeology, as stipulated in the planning permission (*ref: 2023/0652*), may now be considered fulfilled. The thorough documentation and mitigation measures carried out during the excavation process has ensured that a comprehensive record of the site's archaeological features has been created. Moving forward, these findings will serve as a valuable resource for future research and preservation efforts, contributing to the ongoing protection and appreciation of Rhosnesni's cultural heritage.

11.0 SOURCES

Maps.

Ordnance Survey Open Data maps SJ NW35, NE35, SE35 and SW35.

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æon archaeology

**4 Oaklands Avenue, Wrexham
LL13 9EW
(2023/0652)**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological
Monitoring and Recording**

January 2024 v2.0



Project Code: A0462.1
Planning Ref: 2023/0652
Event PRN: 218129



æon archaeology

**4 Oaklands Avenue, Wrexham
LL13 9EW
(2023/0652)**

January 2024 v2.0

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been commissioned by Stephen Powell, hereafter ‘the Client’, to provide a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for carrying out a phase of archaeological monitoring and recording (formerly archaeological monitoring and recording) during the groundworks associated with the *erection of a front and rear single storey extension and alterations to the existing facade* at 4 Oaklands Avenue, Wrexham, LL13 9EW, hereafter ‘the Site’, (centred on NGR SJ 34975 51545) (figures 01-03).

Full planning permission (**ref: 2023/0652**) was secured by the Client from Wrexham County Borough Council, hereafter ‘the Council’, on the 21st December 2023 with the following condition concerning archaeology being applied to the permission:

Condition 4

No part of the development / works shall commence until details of an on-site archaeological monitoring and recording, prepared and to be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist, for the duration of the construction works has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The archaeological archaeological monitoring and recording must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for archaeological archaeological monitoring and recordings.

REASONS: The site may contain archaeological remains which should be recorded if they are damaged in accordance with Policies GDP1 and EC11 of the Wrexham Unitary Development Plan.

This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the aims and objectives of the project and the methods by which they will be met in order to meet the spirit and intent of the archaeological condition of permission 2023/0652.

The Development Management Archaeologist (DMA) at the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) made the following comments regarding the proposed development in their role as archaeological advisors to the Council:

Information held within the Regional Historic Environment Record indicates that the proposed extensions are located, at least partially, on the site of a building shown on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey mapping of the area. This building is part of a range of buildings originally associated with ‘Broad Oak’, a dwelling still standing to the North of the site, which may include floors, foundations and other artefacts related to the property. In this case we recommend groundworks, service trenching and levelling for the new extension are completed with a qualified archaeologist present due to the potential for sub-surface archaeology.

The work will adhere to the guidelines specified in *The Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023).



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Figure 01: Location of proposed development site at 4 Oaklands Avenue, Wrexham LL13 9EW (SJ 34975 51545). Scale 1:20,000 at A4.



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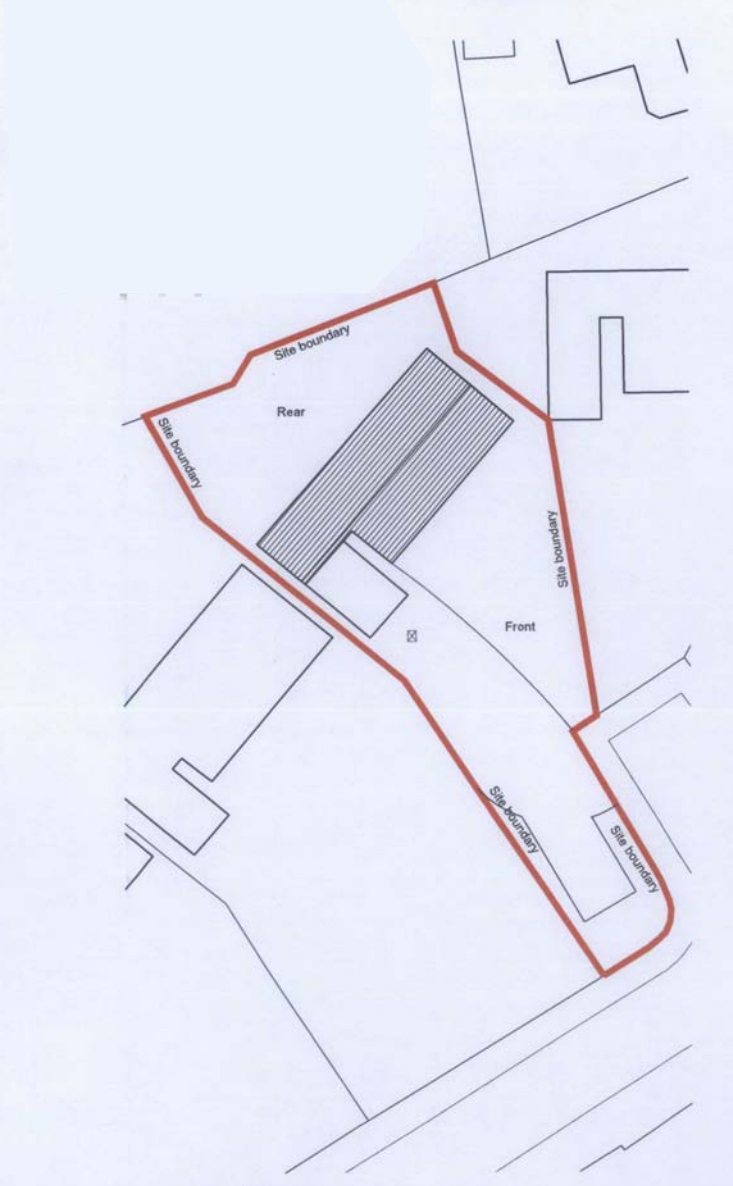


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Figure 02: Location of proposed development site at 4 Oaklands Avenue, Wrexham LL13 9EW (SJ 34975 51545). Scale 1:5,000 at A4.



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Figure 03: Location of proposed development site at 4 Oaklands Avenue, Wrexham LL13 9EW (SJ 34975 51545). 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 MONITORING AND RECORDING - ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS

The archaeological monitoring and recording shall be maintained:

1. During all intrusive groundworks including top soiling, service trenching and levelling for the new extension.

The CifA maintains a standard which states that archaeological monitoring and recording:

Will record and report on the archaeological resource within a specified area, using methods that are described in a project design that is fit for purpose. The programme of work undertaken will be carried out by suitably competent persons in accordance with that project design and the CifA Code of conduct and give due regard to the guidance for archaeological monitoring and recording. All archaeological monitoring and recording will result in a report, published accounts where appropriate, and a stable, ordered, accessible archive (2023).

Archaeological monitoring and recording is defined by the CifA as ‘a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons’ (CifA 2023). The archaeological monitoring and recording 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 archaeological monitoring and recording ‘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 archaeological monitoring and recording 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 archaeological monitoring and recording itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

Archaeological monitoring and recording 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 archaeological monitoring and recording are:

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

The specific objectives of the archaeological monitoring and recording are:

- To observe and recover any artefacts of archaeological significance.

- To record the location, dimensions and nature of any deposits, features, structures or artefacts of archaeological significance.
- To recover samples of any deposits considered to have potential for analysis for palaeoenvironmental data should the opportunity arise.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

The methodology for the archaeological monitoring and recording has been prepared with reference to the CIfA's document *The Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (2023)* and *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 archaeological monitoring and recording. 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. Archaeological monitoring and 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 archaeological monitoring and recording 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 archaeological monitoring and recording 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 archaeological monitoring and recording will be excavated manually in a controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project – subject to the limitations on site access.

It may not be necessary to excavate the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits but the inter-relationships between archaeological deposits, features and structures will be

investigated sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project and the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits will be investigated where practicable.

The method of recording will follow the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and the stratigraphy will be recorded in written descriptions even where no archaeological deposits have been identified. The archaeologist will record archaeological deposits using proformae recording forms and locate them on a large-scale site plan related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum references.

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

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

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

4.2 Archaeological Monitoring and Recording report

4.2.1 Post-excavation Assessment

A report on the results of the archaeological monitoring and recording, 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 for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* (2023) and *The Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2020) will be required to be produced upon conclusion of the archaeological fieldwork. The report will be completed within a maximum of two months of completion of work on site and may include examination and quantification leading to the identification of function, form, date, method of manufacture, material/fabric type, source, parallels, attributes and condition of artefacts; of the exploitation of wild or domesticated resources; the reconstruction of environments; and the nature of human populations.

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

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

4.2.2 Post-excavation Report

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

- A non-technical summary.
- A table of contents.
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the site.
- A statement of the project aims.
- An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same to include a statement on preservation bias and the means of data collection and sampling strategies.
- A factual summary of the history, development and use of the site.
- A statement setting out the nature, quantity and condition of the material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) including commentary on any bias observed due to collection and sampling strategies and commentary on long-term storage requirements.
- A statement setting out the nature and quantity of the documentary archive (notes, photographs, drawings, digital data).
- A general site plan indicating the position and size of the areas subject to archaeological monitoring and recording 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.
- An updated Data Management Plan (DMP), an archive Selection Strategy, and an archive content list will be included.

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

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

5.0 DIGITAL DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

5.1 Type of study

Archaeological monitoring and recording at 4 Oaklands Avenue, Wrexham, LL13 9EW (centred on NGR SJ 34975 51545).

5.2 Types of data

Photographs, photograph register, scaled drawings.

5.3 Format and scale of the data

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

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

5.4 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

5.5 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.

5.6 Managing, storing and curating data.

All digital data will be organised into Aeon Archaeology proformae project file systems and backed up to the cloud using *Acronis Cyber Protect* with additional copies made to external physical hard drive.

5.7 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, archaeological monitoring and recording day sheets, trench sheets, and basic record sheets and then scanned to create digital .PDF copies.

5.8 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), the RCAHMW and retention of copies of all digital files at Aeon Archaeology on physical external hard drive and uploaded to Acronis Cyber Protect.

5.9 Suitability for sharing

All digital data will be placed within the public realm (through the channels in 5.8) 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.

5.10 Discovery by potential users of the research data

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

5.11 Governance of access

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

5.12 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.

5.13 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.

5.14 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.

5.15 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.

5.16 Organisational policies on data sharing and data security

The following Aeon Archaeology policies are relevant:

- Aeon Archaeology Archive Deposition Policy 2022
- Aeon Archaeology Quality Assurance Policy 2022
- Aeon Archaeology Conflict of Interest Policy 2022
- Aeon Archaeology Outreach Policy 2022
- Aeon Archaeology Digital Management Plan 2022

6.0 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS DESIGNS (FAWDs)

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

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

9.0 ARTEFACTS

All artefacts and ecofacts will be retrieved for identification and recording and will be treated in accordance with CIfA 2020 Guidelines for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020).

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

The recovery policy for archaeological finds will be kept under review throughout the archaeological works. Any changes in recovery priorities will be under guidance from an appropriate specialist and

agreed with the DMA at CPAT. There will be a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

All finds will be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. Their location and height will be plotted; finds numbers attributed, bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. Where specialist advice is required provision will be made to do so at the earliest possible convenience.

After processing, artefacts which are suitable will be cleaned and conserved in-house. Artefacts requiring specialist cleaning and conservation will be sent to the relevant specialist. All artefacts will then be sent to a specialist for analysis, the results of which will then be assessed to ascertain the potential of the finds assemblage to meet the research aims of the project. The value of the finds will also be assessed in terms of the wider educational and academic contributions.

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation of waterlogged material:

- Organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)
- Non-organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation and analysis of artefacts:

- Bone: Nora Bermingham
- Glass: Hilary Cool, Barbican Research Associates.
- Metal artefacts: Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services, Cardiff.
- Slag, burnt clay, hammerscale: Dr. Tim Young, Geoarch, Cardiff.
- Stone artefacts: George Smith, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Bangor.
- Wood artefacts: Jane Foley, Foley Conservation, Builth Wells.
- Leather: Quita Mould, Barbican Research Associates.
- Environmental Material: Dr Mike Allen, Allen Environmental Archaeology.
- Numismatics: Peter Guest, Barbican Research Associates.
- Ceramics: Leigh Dodd

If well preserved materials are found it may be necessary to employ additional staff. Furthermore, it may be necessary to suspend work within a specific region of the site, or across the whole site, while conservation and excavation/recording takes place. Aeon Archaeology accepts no responsibility for any costs incurred from delays as a result of unexpected archaeological finds.

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 weeks of the completion of the fieldwork and will include an updated Data Management Plan (DMP), an archive Selection Strategy, and an archive content list. A copy of the report will be sent to the Client and the DMA at CPAT for comment prior to finalisation of the report and dissemination. Digital copies of the report and archive will be sent to the regional HER and the DMA at CPAT, with the original paper archive being deposited with 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.

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

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 DMA at CPAT 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

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

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

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

The current period expires 07/09/24

Professional Indemnity Insurance

Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 07/09/24

APPENDIX I - ARTEFACT SELECTION STRATEGY

Aeon Archaeology Artefact Selection Strategy	
Project:	4 Oaklands Avenue, Wrexham, LL13 9EW
Location:	SJ 34975 51545
Client:	Stephen Powell
Curator:	DMA at CPAT
Receiving Institution:	Wrexham Borough County Museum and Archives
Landowner:	Stephen Powell

Stone		
Period	Retain	Dispose
<i>Prehistoric</i>	Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy for specific knapping debitage, encompassing all collections, whether stratified or not, that enhance our understanding of prehistory or lithic technology.	Unstratified artefacts
<i>Roman</i>	Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy for stratified assemblages.	Selected elements of common unstratified material.
<i>Early medieval</i>	All stratified and unstratified.	None
<i>Medieval</i>	Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy for stratified assemblages.	Selected elements of common unstratified material.
<i>Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial</i>	Only rare or unusual examples.	Majority.
<i>Modern</i>	Only rare or unusual examples.	Majority.
Ceramic		
<i>Prehistoric</i>	All stratified and unstratified.	None.
<i>Roman</i>	Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy for stratified assemblages.	Selected elements of common unstratified material.
<i>Early medieval</i>	All stratified and unstratified.	None

<i>Medieval</i>	Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy for stratified assemblages.	Selected elements of common unstratified material.
<i>Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial</i>	Only rare or unusual examples.	Majority.
<i>Modern</i>	Only rare or unusual examples.	Majority.
Construction Building Material (CBM)		
<i>Prehistoric</i>	Not usually retained. Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy.	Majority.
<i>Roman</i>	Not usually retained. Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy.	Majority.
<i>Early medieval</i>	Not usually retained. Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy.	Majority.
<i>Medieval</i>	Not usually retained. Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy.	Majority.
<i>Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial</i>	Usually not retained.	Majority.
<i>Modern</i>	Usually not retained.	Majority.
Metal		
<i>Prehistoric</i>	All.	None.
<i>Roman</i>	All.	None.
<i>Early medieval</i>	All.	None.
<i>Medieval</i>	All.	None.
<i>Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial</i>	Only rare or unusual examples.	Majority.
<i>Modern</i>	Not normally retained.	All.
Glass		
<i>Prehistoric</i>	All.	None.
<i>Roman</i>	All.	None.
<i>Early medieval</i>	All.	None.
<i>Medieval</i>	All.	None.
<i>Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial</i>	Only rare or unusual examples.	Majority.
<i>Modern</i>	Not normally retained.	All.

Bone, antler and ivory		
<i>Prehistoric</i>	All.	None.
<i>Roman</i>	All.	None.
<i>Early medieval</i>	All.	None.
<i>Medieval</i>	All.	None.
<i>Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial</i>	Only rare or unusual examples.	Majority.
<i>Modern</i>	Not normally retained.	All.
Wood		
<i>Prehistoric</i>	All.	None.
<i>Roman</i>	All.	None.
<i>Early medieval</i>	All.	None.
<i>Medieval</i>	All.	None.
<i>Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial</i>	Only rare or unusual examples.	Majority.
<i>Modern</i>	Not normally retained.	All.

