

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment



Wern Reserve
Llandrinio
Powys
SY21 9JX



Glandŵr Cymru
Canal & River Trust in Wales

June 2023

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

e: info@borderarchaeology.com **t:** 01568 610101 **w:** borderarchaeology.com

Administration

The Plaza, Owen Way, Leominster Enterprise Park, Leominster, HR6 0LA

Post-Ex Facility – Leominster

t: 01568 610101
e: postex@borderarchaeology.com

Post-Ex Facility – Milton Keynes

t: 01908 533233
e: postexmk@borderarchaeology.com

REGIONAL OFFICES

Milton Keynes

Unit 4, Twizel Close
Stonebridge
Milton Keynes
MK13 0DX

t: 01908 533233

Leeds

No 1 Leeds
26 Whitehall Road
Leeds
LS12 1BE

t: 0113 8187959

London

4-4a Bloomsbury Square
London
WC1A 2RP

t: 0203 301 5670

Newport

Merlin House
No1 Langstone Business Park
Newport
NP18 2HJ

t: 01633 415339

Bristol

First Floor,
Citibase Bristol Aztec West
Aztec Centre, Aztec West
Almondsbury
Bristol
BS32 4TD

t: 0117 9110767

Winchester

Basepoint Business Centre
Winnall Valley Road
Winchester
SO23 0LD

t: 01962 832777



COMPILATION

Evan Shingles MA BA

ARTWORK

Owain Connors MA PhD MCIfA

EDITING

Rachel Swallow BA MA PhD FSA

FINAL EDIT AND APPROVAL

Stephen Priestley MA MCIfA

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Cover: View looking northwest across the eastern end of the site

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1 Executive Summary

Border Archaeology has been instructed to carry out an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment regarding the proposed Wern Reserve at Coppice Lane, Llandrinio, Powys, SY21 9JX, the results of which are summarised as follows:

Prehistoric & Romano-British: The potential for encountering remains associated with the prehistoric and Romano-British past can be assessed as **Low** reflecting the fact that there have been no finds linked with these periods within the boundary of the site, and that there are currently only two interpretations of prehistoric and Romano-British activity within the 1km-radius search area. Any future finds would likely be of **Low** significance reflecting the minimal known levels of activity associated with these periods in the area.

Medieval: The potential for encountering medieval archaeology has been assessed as **Moderate**. This assessment is based upon the fact that the area was agricultural land within a pattern of dispersed settlement during the medieval period. Evidence of a former medieval open-field farming system is indicated by the presence of extensive areas of likely medieval-dated ridge and furrow earthworks adjacent to the proposed development site, as well as further evidence of curvilinear ridge and furrow and a trackway identified from cropmarks within the north part of the site itself. Medieval manorial settlement was dispersed in this area, with the land held and farmed by Strata Marcella Abbey; there is little evidence for a focus of medieval occupation in close proximity to the site. Any sub-surface features and deposits of medieval date within the site would likely be of agricultural origin and may be regarded as being of **Low to Medium** significance in archaeological terms.

Post-Medieval: The potential for encountering buried archaeological assets of a post-medieval date is assessed as **Moderate**. This assessment reflects the proximity of the site to the line of the Montgomery Canal and suggests the possibility that remains associated with the construction of the Canal and its later usage may be found (including evidence of quarrying for limestone). The earlier part of the post-medieval period is defined by continued agricultural activity, and there is therefore less potential for encountering assets associated with it. Archaeological evidence of post-medieval agricultural features or evidence of activity associated with the canal (such as quarries) would most likely be regarded as being of local significance and thus may be assessed as being of **Low to Medium** importance in archaeological terms.

Overall Conclusion: The archaeological potential of the site has been assessed in overall terms as **Moderate** with particular reference to encountering archaeological remains dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods. This assessment largely reflects the fact that the evidence of a medieval or early post-medieval field system and trackway has been identified within the boundaries of the site.

Moreover, the site lies adjacent to the line of the Montgomery Canal and may contain archaeological remains linked with its development. Archaeological assets which may exist within the site would probably be associated with the site's agricultural usage during the medieval or post-medieval periods, or to the development of the Montgomery Canal and may be assessed as being of **Low to Medium** significance in archaeological terms.

Due to the lack of intrusive archaeological investigations within the vicinity of the site, it is not possible to determine at what depth archaeological features are most likely to be encountered. However, it is likely that excavations to the proposed depths listed in the plans for the development (an approximate maximum depth of 2m) will mean disturbing any archaeological remains that are within the boundaries of the proposal site.

Recommendations: It is BA's considered opinion that, *prima facie*, the archaeological potential of the site does not present an impediment to the proposed development. Given the overall Moderate potential of the site in archaeological terms, it is recommended that an appropriate programme of archaeological work, the details of which to be agreed with the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, will be necessary to determine the extent, depth and significance of buried archaeological features and deposits across the site.

Crynodeb: Cyfarwyddwyd Border Archaeology i gynnal Asesiad Desg Archeolegol mewn perthynas â gwarchodfa arfaethedig y Wern yn Coppice Lane, Llandrinio, Powys, SY21 9JX, y mae ei ganlyniadau wedi'u crynhoi fel a ganlyn:

Cynhanesyddol a Brythonaidd-Rufeinig: Gellir asesu'r potensial ar gyfer dod ar draws gweddillion sy'n gysylltiedig â'r gorffennol cynhanesyddol a Brythonaidd-Rufeinig yn **Isel**, sy'n adlewyrchu'r ffaith nad oes unrhyw ddarganfyddiadau sy'n gysylltiedig â'r cyfnodau hyn wedi'u gwneud o fewn ffin y safle, ac mai dim ond dau ddehongliad o weithgarwch cynhanesyddol a Brythonaidd-Rufeinig sy'n bodoli ar hyn o bryd o fewn yr ardal chwilio â radiws o 1km. Byddai unrhyw ddarganfyddiadau yn y dyfodol yn debygol o fod o arwyddocâd **Isel**, sy'n adlewyrchu'r lefelau gweithgarwch hysbys isel sy'n gysylltiedig â'r cyfnodau hyn yn yr ardal.

Canoloesol: Mae'r potensial ar gyfer dod ar draws archeoleg ganoloesol wedi'i asesu'n **Gymedrol**. Mae'r asesiad hwn yn seiliedig ar y ffaith mai tir amaethyddol oedd yr ardal yn ystod y cyfnod canoloesol, o fewn patrwm anheddu gwasgaredig. Dynodir tystiolaeth o hen gyfundrefn ffermio faes-agored ganoloesol gan bresenoldeb ardaloedd helaeth o gloddwaith cefnen a rhych ger safle arfaethedig y datblygiad sydd, yn ôl y tebyg, o ddyddiad canoloesol, yn ogystal â thystiolaeth bellach o gefnen a rhych gromliniol a sarn a adnabuwyd drwy olion cnydau yn rhan ogleddol y safle ei hun. Roedd patrwm anheddu maenoraidd canoloesol gwasgaredig yn yr ardal hon, gyda'r tir yn nwylo – ac yn cael ei ffermio gan – Abaty Ystrad Marchell; prin yw'r dystiolaeth o ganolbwynt meddiannaeth ganoloesol yng nghyffiniau'r safle. Byddai unrhyw nodweddion a dyddodion tanddaearol o ddyddiad canoloesol ar y safle yn debygol o fod o darddiad amaethyddol, a gellid eu hystyried o arwyddocâd **Isel i Ganolig** mewn termau archeolegol.

Ôl-ganoloesol: Mae'r potensial ar gyfer dod ar draws asedau archeolegol claddedig o ddyddiad ôl-ganoloesol wedi'i asesu'n **Gymedrol**. Mae'r asesiad hwn yn adlewyrchu agosrwydd y safle at linell Camlas Trefaldwyn ac yn awgrymu'r posibilrwydd y gellid dod o hyd i weddillion sy'n gysylltiedig â'r gwaith o adeiladu'r Gamlas a'i defnydd diweddarach (gan gynnwys tystiolaeth o gloddio calchfaen). Diffinnir rhan gynharach y cyfnod ôl-ganoloesol gan weithgarwch amaethyddol parhaus, ac felly mae'r potensial ar gyfer dod ar draws asedau sy'n gysylltiedig â hi yn is. Byddai tystiolaeth archeolegol o nodweddion amaethyddol ôl-ganoloesol neu dystiolaeth o weithgarwch sy'n gysylltiedig â'r gamlas (fel chwareli) yn fwyaf tebygol o fod o arwyddocâd lleol ac felly gellid ei hasesu o bwysigrwydd **Isel i Ganolig** mewn termau archeolegol.

Casgliad Cyffredinol: Mae potensial archeolegol y safle wedi'i asesu'n gyffredinol yn **Gymedrol**, gyda chyfeiriad penodol at ddod ar draws gweddillion archeolegol sy'n dyddio o'r cyfnodau canoloesol ac ôl-ganoloesol. Mae'r asesiad hwn yn bennaf yn adlewyrchu'r ffaith bod tystiolaeth o gyfundrefn faes a sarn ganoloesol/dechrau'r cyfnod ôl-ganoloesol wedi'u darganfod o fewn ffiniau'r safle.

At hynny, mae'r safle'n gorwedd wrth ymyl llinell Camlas Trefaldwyn a gallai gynnwys gweddillion archeolegol sy'n gysylltiedig â'i datblygiad. Byddai asedau archeolegol a allai fodoli o fewn y safle yn ôl pob tebyg yn gysylltiedig â defnydd amaethyddol y safle yn ystod y cyfnodau canoloesol neu ôl-ganoloesol, neu ddatblygiad Camlas Trefaldwyn, a gellid eu hasesu o arwyddocâd **Isel i Ganolig** mewn termau archeolegol.

Oherwydd y diffyg ymchwiliadau archeolegol mewnwithiol yng nghyffiniau'r safle, nid yw'n bosibl pennu ar be ddyfnder y mae nodweddion archeolegol yn fwyaf tebygol o gael eu darganfod. Fodd bynnag, mae'n debygol y

bydd cloddio i'r dyfnderoedd arfaethedig a restrir yn y cynlluniau ar gyfer y datblygiad (dyfnder mwyaf o tua 2m) yn golygu tarfu ar unrhyw weddillion archeolegol sydd o fewn ffiniau safle'r cynnig.

Argymhellion: Ym marn BA, ar ôl ystyried popeth, *prima facie*, nid yw potensial archeolegol y safle'n rhwystr i'r datblygiad arfaethedig. O ystyried potensial Cymedrol cyffredinol y safle mewn termau archeolegol, argymhellir y bydd angen rhaglen briodol o waith archeolegol, y mae ei manylion i'w cytuno gydag Ymddiriedolaeth Archeolegol Clwyd-Powys, i bennu graddfa, dyfnder ac arwyddocâd nodweddion a dyddodion archeolegol sydd wedi'u claddu ar draws y safle.

2 Introduction

Border Archaeology (BA) was instructed by the Canal & River Trust to produce an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (ADBA) with regard to the proposed creation of a nature reserve (Wern Reserve) on land adjacent to the Montgomery Canal off Coppice Lane, Llandrinio Powys, SY21 9JX (*Fig. 1*).

This ADBA has been commissioned by the Canal & River Trust as part of the planning process for the proposed establishment of the nature reserve on land adjacent to the Montgomery Canal, forming part of a wider restoration project on the Canal.

The proposal involves the construction of a body of water within the site to the S of a bend in the canal, with the field within the NW portion of the proposed development site being used for the relocation of the soil. This spoil is to be landscaped to mirror the broadly sub-rectangular boundaries of the fields within the northern half of the site and as a consequence, will raise the ground level of the field in question.

This ADBA assesses the impact of the proposed development on buried heritage assets (archaeological remains) and forms an initial stage of investigation of the proposed development site and may be required in relation to the planning process, so that the local planning authority can formulate an appropriate response in the light of the impact upon any known or potential heritage assets, defined as parts of the historic environment considered significant because of their historic, evidential or aesthetic and/or communal interest.

3 Site Description

The proposed site covers an area of approximately 5.4ha and is situated off Coppice Lane, just W of the A483 and to the N of Welshpool (centered on NGR: SJ 25734 13068). The land is currently undeveloped pasture for livestock, with some areas of trees and established hedgerow. The proposed development site is bound to the N and in some part to the E by the Montgomery Canal, to its S by Coppice Lane and a farm track, and in other areas by established hedgerows and trees.

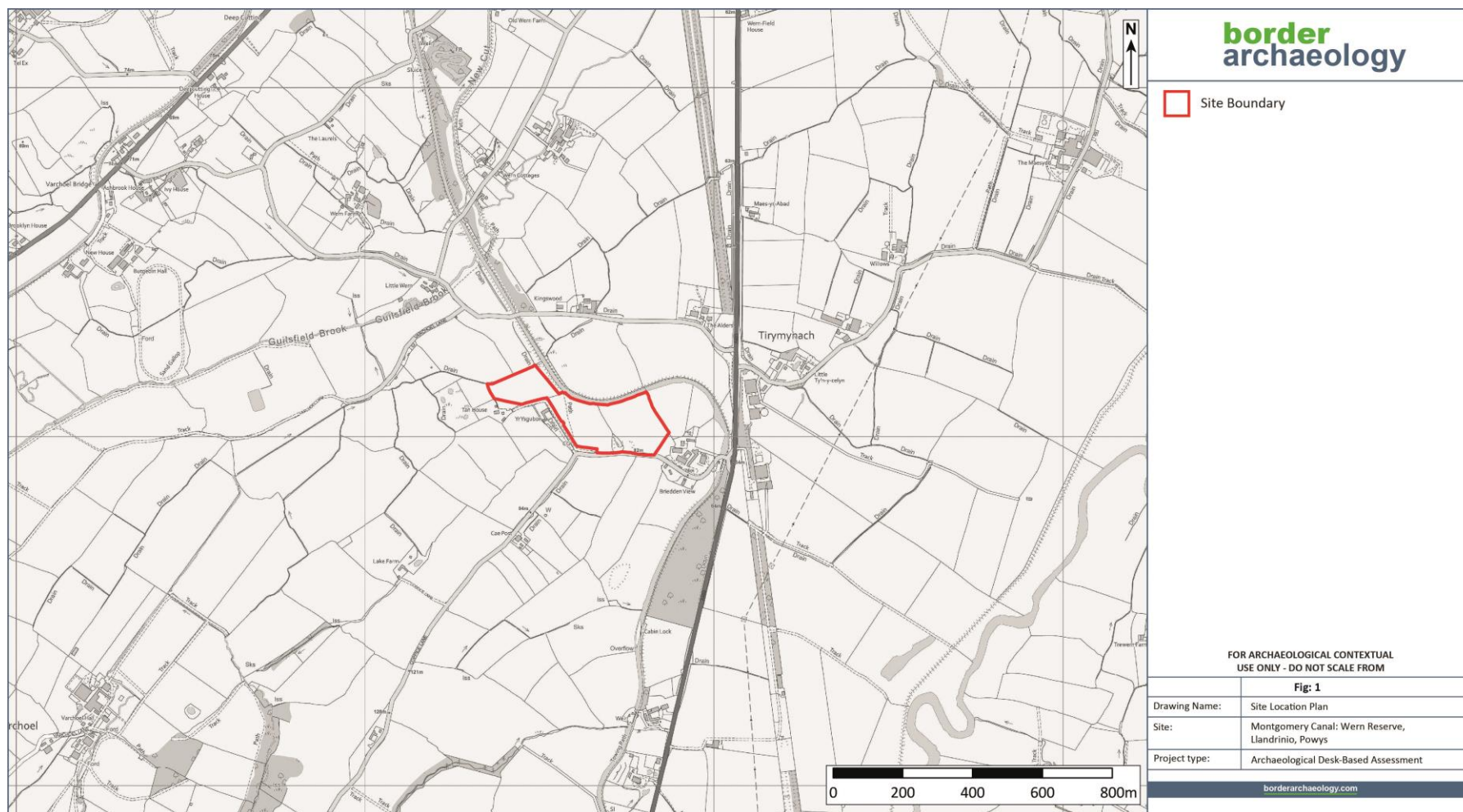
There is also a hedgerow dividing the E section of the site, though it is not continuous. Generally, the site slopes from S to N towards the canal, except in its NW part where it slopes W to E, again towards the canal. At the S border of the E end, a large depression exists that is lined with low trees. This depression takes the form of a rough horseshoe shape, and at the time of the visit, had a low level of water within it (the weather prior to the visit had been largely hot and dry). It was impossible to access the whole of the site during the visit due to livestock occupying the site, particularly the area to the W of the dividing hedgerow; however, photographs were taken and features identified which were visible on aerial photography and LiDAR coverage of the site.

The site is not located within a Conservation Area and does not contain any designated (protected) heritage assets, such as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs), listed buildings or registered parks and gardens.

3.1 Soils & Geology

The British Geological Survey records shows that the bedrock geology of the site is of the Nant-ysgollon Mudstone Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed between 433.4 and 427.4 million years ago during the Silurian period. There are two different superficial deposits on the site above the bedrock. Most of the site is covered by Devensian Till, a sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary Period. The very NW area of the site contains alluvium superficial deposits of gravel, sand, silt and clay formed between 11.8 thousand years ago and the present during the Quaternary period.

There are no borehole records within the bounds of the site and a record some 200m NE of the site (NGR: SJ 259 133) contained no detailed description of the sequence of deposits revealed.



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4 Methodology

4.1 Aims & Objectives

This ADBA seeks to identify any known or potential archaeological and built-heritage assets (both designated and undesignated) in the vicinity of the specific study area and to establish the importance of these archaeological and built heritage assets (including an assessment of their character, extent and quality) within a local, regional and national context.

4.2 Criteria for Assessment of Potential & Importance of Heritage Assets

- Potential

This assessment contains a record of the known and potential archaeological and built-heritage assets in the vicinity of the proposed development. The potential for encountering a particular resource in the vicinity of the site has been assessed according to the following scale:

Low – Very unlikely to be encountered;

Moderate – Possibility that features may be encountered in the vicinity of the site;

High – Remains highly likely to survive in the vicinity of the site.

- Importance (Value)

The criteria used to determine the importance of archaeological and built heritage assets in the vicinity of the proposed development (*Table 1*) has been informed by guidelines for assessing cultural heritage assets contained in *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Sustainability and Environment Appraisal LA 106: Cultural Heritage Assessment* (revised January 2020) and informed by relevant Historic England guidance regarding the assessment of archaeological assets, including: *The Setting of Heritage Assets Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 2nd Edition* (Historic England 2017), *Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets Historic England Advice Note 12* (Historic England 2019) and *Preserving Archaeological Remains* (Historic England 2016).

BA is also fully cognisant of national and local planning policy guidelines with respect to heritage assets, including the following:

- *Planning Policy Wales*, Chapter 6 ('The Historic Environment') (Llywodraeth Cymru/Welsh Government 2016).
 - Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017) which supplements *Planning Policy Wales*.
 - Powys Local Development Plan 2011-2026 (Adopted April 2018) (Powys County Council 2018).
-

This ADBA has also been informed by relevant local policy guidance on archaeological and historic environment assets contained in Powys Council's Adopted Local Development Plan (2011-2026) with particular reference to the supplementary planning guidance on Archaeology (adopted July 2021) and the Historic Environment (adopted July 2021).

Table 1: Factors for assessing the importance of archaeological and built heritage assets	
Very High	World Heritage Sites (including nominated sites). Assets of acknowledged international importance. Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged international research objectives.
High	Scheduled Monuments (including proposed sites). Undesignated assets of schedulable quality and importance. Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives.
Medium	Designated or undesignated assets that contribute to regional research objectives.
Low	Designated and undesignated assets of local importance. Assets compromised by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations. Assets of limited value, but with potential to contribute to local research objectives.
Negligible	Assets with very little or no surviving archaeological interest.
Unknown	The importance of the resource has not been ascertained.

4.3 Consultation of Archaeological Records

In order to understand the full archaeological and historical context of the site, information was collected on the known cultural heritage features within a 1km radius, the results of which are shown on a series of maps and accompanying gazetteers (Figs. 2-4; Tables 2-4). These maps show the location of known archaeological and built heritage features (including archaeological events and monuments) and previous archaeological interventions within the study area, which are listed in the gazetteer and referenced in the text.

The research carried out for this ADBA consists of the following elements:

- Clwyd-Powys Trust Historic Environment Record (HER) - the HER includes information from past investigations, find spots and documentary and cartographic sources.
- The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales - information on statutory designations including SAMs, registered parks and gardens and listed buildings along with identified Heritage at Risk.
- British Geological Survey (BGS) – solid and drift geology digital map; BGS geological borehole record data.
- The Powys Record Office and the National Archives – historic maps and published histories.
- Internet sources, including LPA local plan and information on conservation areas, archaeological priority areas and locally listed buildings.
- Photographs of the site and its setting were obtained to determine the presence of archaeological remains in the vicinity.

5 Archaeological Assessment

This section analyses the information available from historical sources and records of archaeological work carried out in the vicinity of the specific study area and discusses its implications regarding the nature and significance of the archaeological resource within the site and potential impact on archaeological features and deposits. These assessments relate to the CPAT HER which is presented in Section 6. This data consists of sites and monuments (*Figs. 2 & tables 2*), archaeological events (*fig. 3 & tables 3*), and Listed Buildings (*fig. 4 & tables 4*).

5.1 Previous Archaeological Investigations

There have been no previous archaeological investigations within the boundaries of the site itself. However, there have been four investigations within the 1km search radius. These are outlined below:

A fieldwalking survey was undertaken around 860m S of the site (NGR: SJ 2587 1208) in 1995 (HER: 70569) as part of a series of road improvements on the A483 around Pool Quay (Owen 1995). The report emphasises the importance of the Strata Marcella Abbey within the area in the medieval period and the influence it had on the surrounding area in terms of agriculture.

The report identified six previously unknown sites in the course of the fieldwalking which are outlined as follows: an old mill wheel and race was found at Crowther Hall (NGR: SJ 2580 1222) and was likely fed by the Montgomery Canal; the site of a malting building which housed drying kilns and a form of engine (NGR: SJ 25557 1154); a rectangular warehouse building (NGR: 2557 1132); the site of a former cider mill was discovered at NGR: 2507 1105; there were no structural remains, although eight fragments of the press remained; a building platform (NGR: SJ 2561 1154) possibly relating to Dyers Farm Cottage (HER: 8904), which is recorded in maps until 1904; a possible track was identified (centred NGR: SJ 2568 1173) that is not detailed in cartographic sources; and the site of a pond was also found (NGR: SJ 255 1139). Typical of the area, the investigation also found an area of ridge and furrow (NGR: SJ 2575 1164) and a lynchet (NGR: 2571 1187), both elements of a probable former medieval open field system.

In 1997, an ADBA and fieldwalking survey was carried out (centred NGR: SJ 2536 1351) at the New Cut Argae, a flood defence bank within the immediate proximity of the Montgomery Canal (Hawkinson and Jones, 1997). The fieldwalking was undertaken in an area 200m from the New Cut. The aim of the fieldwalking and ADBA was to determine the origin and development of the New Cut Argae and other associated features. The report found that the flood bank defences were likely to come from land enclosure associated with the 1788 Act of Parliament and the further awards of land in the area that took place in 1800-1. The report also states that the New Cut is most likely to have been a product of the moves to enclose common land; this is evidenced in the surveyor's drawings in 1788 and 1794, before being implemented by the building of the Montgomery Canal (1794-1797). The report points to the large amount of ridge and furrow in the area, and the subsequent late eighteenth-century move to enclose the land as an indication of former medieval arable land within the Guilsfield Parish.

Two further archaeological investigations occurred within the 1km search radius and both relate to specific buildings. A photographic survey was undertaken prior to development at the Grade II listed Crowther Hall (NGR:

SJ 2581 1222), a building with late 16th-/early 17th-century origins, which was later added to in the 19th century (HER: 12917). A standing building recording and ADBA was also undertaken at Tan House (NGR: SJ 2538 1307; HER 8424). The investigation also included a trial excavation, involving a 4.6 x 4.3m area stripped mechanically under close supervision. This revealed cobbled sections, areas of slabs and the remnants of a lime mortared wall. The ADBA found that the first mention of the house was in a 1618 plan contained within the Powis Castle collections (Jones 2006).

5.2 Prehistoric & Romano-British

There have been no archaeological finds associated with the prehistoric or Romano-British past within the bounds of the site, and nearby finds and evidence of these periods are minimal to date. Around 380m SW of the site, Garn Fawr (NGR: SJ 2517 1279) is recorded within the HER as being a placename that suggests that there had been a Bronze Age round barrow or a cairn here. However, there is no physical archaeological evidence of a barrow or cairn in the area. The Vrachael Lane Cropmarks II (NGR: SJ 2470 1320) were observed on aerial photographs in 1976-77, and are believed to relate to a late Iron Age or early Romano-British sub-rectangular enclosure (Jones 1979). However, no evidence of the enclosure has been observed since this initial observation. There are no other remains or other pieces of evidence associated with either the prehistoric or Romano-British periods.

Conclusion: The potential for evidence of prehistoric and Romano-British activity has been assessed as **Low**. This assessment reflects that no known prehistoric archaeology is recorded within the boundaries of the site, and that there are only two relatively insubstantial pieces of evidence existing within the wider 1km search area. Any finds made on site are likely to be of **Low** significance, because there is little evidence of activity associated with these periods in the wider context. However, any future finds would contribute to local knowledge of these periods.

5.3 Medieval

Two archaeological assets relating to the medieval past have been found within the boundaries of the site: a trackway (HER: 64652) runs along the W of the main body of the site and was identified via RAF aerial photographs from 1948, and a holloway, likely associated with another nearby holloway (HER: 38160), but with the junction between the two lost to the development of the canal.

Within the boundaries of the site (SE of the proposed development area), there is evidence ridge and furrow (HER: 38145) indicative of medieval open field farming; it was identified via 1948 aerial photography and can be seen clearly on LiDAR data covering the site of the proposed development (*Fig. 15*). Within the wider context of the site, there are numerous examples of ridge and furrow spread widely across the 1km search radius, including to the immediate N, E and SE of the site. This is reflective of the arable land use in the medieval period, and indeed into the earlier post-medieval period. The open field farming of the area is likely linked to Strata Marcella Abbey (NGR: SJ 25145 10405), a Cadw scheduled monument (Cadw listing: MG120), located around 2.6km SSW of the proposed development site.

The abbey was a major landowner in the area, with two farmsteads and areas of land held by the abbey within the vicinity of the site: Tir-y-mynach (NGR: SJ 246 156) and Ysgubor Fawr grange (NGR: SJ 253 117), now Dyer's Farm (HER: 190134), represented a 162ha area of pasture/farmland in the Gwern Valley (HER: 17917). The land of Strata Marcella Abbey's home manor at Tir-y-mynach spread across several parishes, with a high arable component: ploughland of 534ha was recorded in 1291. It is not clear whether all of the Ty-y-mynach estate lay within the manor.

Williams refers to the 'home' grange and also neighbouring granges at Ysgubor Fawr, Trefnant, Moydog and Stradelfedan, which all lay within the manor, though the last three were grouped as one unit under a single bailiff (Williams 2001; Silvester & Hankinson 2015, 41, 45). The abbey also held further lands at nearby Berriw and Buttington (Hughes 1998). The large amounts of ridge and furrow in the wider vicinity of the abbey indicate that the area was likely producing crops for the abbey. This is further evidenced in the fact that a possible mill/windmill site associated with Strata Marcella Abbey is located within the search radius (HER: 23116; 37532) around 550m SW of the proposed development site. The site of a possible mill (HER: 23116) is related to the evidence of an (extant) leat. The mill was likely constructed in the late 13th or early 14th century and is mentioned in a 1406 charter. During the medieval period, the mill was in the ownership of Strata Marcella Abbey and likely dealt with the produce of the open field farming that defines the area.

Strata Marcella Abbey was founded in 1170 by Owain Cyfeliog, Prince of Powys, as a Cistercian daughter house of the abbey in Whitland in Carmarthenshire. The abbey was unusual in that it retained its patronage from a Welsh prince and was entirely independent of English foundations for much of its existence. During the English King Edward I's Conquest of Wales between 1277 and 1283, the abbey suffered significantly and was much damaged and weakened. Consequently, the abbey passed out of Welsh influence and into that of English Marcher Lords. In 1332, local lord John de Cherleton accused the monks of undermining English rule in the area, resulting in the replacement of the Strata Marcella monks with monks from Buildwas Abbey in Shropshire. Despite the Welsh architecture and form of Strata Marcella Abbey, it bears the marks of English influence.

The extensive areas of ridge and furrow, for instance, including that on the proposed development site, point to a medieval open field system more readily identifiable in England than Wales. As regards finds, a small lead ampulla (HER: 120747) was found to the S of the site (NGR: 2512) though the grid reference is merely indicative as to its precise location. The ampulla was made for carrying holy water and had depictions of a cup, fish and flower on it and was likely used by someone visiting the abbey.

Conclusion: The potential for encountering remains associated with medieval activity has been assessed as **Moderate**. This assessment reflects the fact that evidence of curvilinear ridge and furrow and a trackway of possible medieval date have been identified within the site from aerial photographs, forming part of a larger field system associated with a manor held by the Cistercian Abbey of Strata Florida. Some evidence of these features was noted during the site visit and the possibility remains that further sub-surface remains of cultivation features and the trackway may be encountered within the proposal site.

Based on the available evidence, the site appears to have been remote from any significant focus of manorial settlement during the medieval period and thus evidence of occupation features and associated finds is unlikely.

Evidence of agricultural features and associated trackways, if encountered, would probably be regarded as being of **Low to Medium** significance in archaeological terms.

5.4 Post-medieval

The post-medieval history of the site can broadly be split into two sections: pre- and post-canal. Construction began in 1794, and by 1797, the section that was to become the Eastern (older) branch, including the section adjacent to the site, had been completed. In both of these periods the area remained dominated by agriculture; indeed, the canal was specifically built for the purpose of transporting agricultural lime to improve production.

In the first part of the period, open field farming predominated, as evidenced by the numerous examples of likely medieval-origin ridge and furrow, which still exists as earthworks within the proposed development site, and within the wider area. No longer dominated by Strata Marcella, which ceased its function in 1536 following the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the area came under the control of the Barons of Powys (later Marquesses, then Earls) and their estates. Aside from ridge and furrow, several examples of farm dwellings also began to appear during this period. Both Tan House (HER: 8424), of late 17th-/early 18th-century origins, and the Grade II-listed Crowther Hall (HER: 36483, Cadw listing: 16768), built c.1550, represent high status farmhouses. The proposed development site was agricultural land and continued as such into the post-medieval period.

Whilst remaining predominantly agricultural, the subsequent part of the area's history is dominated by the building of the canal, as well as the influence of the Earl of Powys, who is listed as owning all the fields that made up the site in the 1845 tithe map (*fig.11*). Beyond it bordering with the Montgomery Canal itself, the site itself contains two archaeological remnants of the construction of the canal. Wern Linear Earthwork I (HER: 38161) was identified in 1948 RAF aerial photography as a bank or scarp that mirrors the line of the canal and was likely built during the construction of the canal.

The earthwork was not visible during the site visit at the E side, as livestock present prohibited access to the full extent of the site. Within the boundaries of the site, there was a quarry (HER: 64551) which is identified on the OS 1st Edition 6-inch map (*fig. 12*). This feature was identifiable during the site visit (*plates 4-5*) as a large depression cut into the slope with a sheer face in its S side. Further features of the canal are distributed along its length within the search radius including several locks, bridges, weirs and other associated structures, including cottages for canal workers. Several of these are Grade II Listed (*Table 3 and fig. 4*) and stand as important survivals of later 18th- and 19th-century canal engineering.

As mentioned above, the initial phase of construction for the canal was between 1794 and 1797, of which the section adjacent to the site was part. Proposals for a canal in the area were first made in 1792 and involved the creation of a route from Llanymynech to Welshpool, connecting with the Ellesmere Canal in the N. These proposals were authorised by an Act of Parliament in 1794, with construction starting in the same year. John Dadford was engaged as the chief engineer, with his brother Thomas Jr. as assistant engineer. As mentioned, the canal was built to bring lime to the farms of the Upper Severn Valley and a large amount of this lime was quarried from a site near Llanymynech.

The historic maps show the development of the canal: the 1829 OS Surveyor's Meifod Map (*fig. 10*) shows a line of trees in the bend of the canal just to the E of the site at the bend of the canal. The map also shows the quarry feature N of Coppice Lane which is still visible on the site, suggesting that it may have been dug as part of the construction works of the Canal or to extract limestone which would have been transported to one of the nearby limekilns along the Canal for limeburning purposes. Tan House can be seen to the S of the upper portion/W of the main body of the site, and Bank Farm is also indicated to the immediate SW of the site.

The 1845 Guilsfield Parish tithe map (*fig. 11*) shows little change from the 1829 map, with the exception of the area of trees to the immediate E of the site being labelled as orchards owned by Edward Herbert, 2nd Earl of Powys. The field boundaries shown on the map correspond to those still extant today. The 1885 OS 6-inch map (*fig. 12*) shows little change from the 1845 tithe map, except the additional inclusion of a body of trees in the fields to the E. These are perhaps the osier beds mentioned in the tithe appointments of 1840 (HER: 36456). The footpath running NW-SE past Tan House seems to be the same as the possible medieval track observed in aerial photography (HER: 64652). This map also shows the line of the Oswestry to Newton Railway, then operated by Cambrian Railways, which was completed in 1861, and in this section follows the line of the A843 today. Pool Quay Station (HER: 64553) is also depicted on the map, NE of the bend in the canal. By 1885, Bank Farm has its lock (Cadw listing: 16737) labelled, and Tan House Bridge is also shown (Cadw listing: 15439). There is little change in 1903 OS 2nd Edition 6-inch map (*fig. 13*) save for the appearance a series of buildings to the SE of Tan House Farm, which still exist. No further major changes are depicted in the 1954 OS 1:10,000 map (*fig. 14*). Since the osier beds or stand of trees to the E of site have been removed, leaving open fields bounded by trees to the E where they meet the canal.

Conclusion: The potential for encountering remains associated with post-medieval activity has been assessed as **Moderate**. This assessment reflects the fact that the site is in the immediate vicinity of the Montgomery Canal and therefore may contain archaeological remains associated with its construction and later usage. The site may also contain remains linked with post-medieval agricultural activity that dominated this area. Any finds made within the bounds of the site would be of **Low** significance. They would likely be linked with either the canal or the agricultural past and thus may be regarded as being chiefly of local importance in archaeological terms.

6 Historic Environment Record Gazetteers & Maps

#	PRN	Name	Date	NGR
1	3996	Garn Fawr Placename	BA/Undated	SJ 2517 1279
2	5116	Varchoel Lane Cropmarks II	IA/RB	SJ 2470 1320
3	17917	Gwern Valley Pasture (Strata Marcella)	Medieval	SJ 2600 1400
4	23116	Possible Windmill Site I, Strata Marcella Abbey	Medieval	SJ 2530 1240
5	37532	Possible Windmill Site II, Strata Marcella Abbey	Medieval	SJ 2530 1260
6	38137	Little Wern Ridge & Furrow I	Medieval	SJ 2541 1324
7	38138	Wern Ridge & Furrow I	Medieval	SJ 2570 1316
8	38139	Wern Ridge & Furrow II	Medieval	SJ 2587 1324
9	38140	Wern Ridge & Furrow III	Medieval	SJ 2581 1357
10	38141	Wern Ridge & Furrow IV	Medieval	SJ 2577 1343
11	38142	Wern Ridge & Furrow V	Medieval	SJ 2597 1346
12	38143	Wern Ridge & Furrow VI	Medieval	SJ 2595 1339
13	38144	Wern Ridge & Furrow VII	Medieval	SJ 2615 1306
14	38145	Wern Ridge & Furrow VIII	Medieval	SJ 2578 1302
15	38146	Wern Ridge & Furrow IX	Medieval	SJ 2574 1277
16	38147	Wern Ridge & Furrow X	Medieval	SJ 2625 1293
17	38148	Wern Ridge & Furrow XI	Medieval	SJ 2644 1281
18	38149	Wern Ridge & Furrow XII	Medieval	SJ 2613 1365
19	38152	Wern Ridge & Furrow XV	Medieval	SJ 2636 1384
20	38153	Wern Ridge & Furrow XVI	Medieval	SJ 2598 1299
21	38154	Wern Ridge & Furrow XVII	Medieval	SJ 2530 1415
22	38155	Wern Ridge & Furrow XVIII	Medieval	SJ 2545 1416
23	38157	Little Wern Ridge & Furrow II	Medieval	SJ 2529 1322
24	38158	Little Wern Ridge & Furrow III	Medieval	SJ 2521 1329
25	38159	Wern Ridge and Furrow XX	Medieval	SJ 2603 1372
26	38160	Tan House Trackway I	Medieval	SJ 2572 1325
27	38166	Wern Linear Earthwork VI	Medieval	SJ 2580 1290
28	38184	Tirymynach Trackway	Medieval	SJ 2654 1292
29	3997	Moat Placename	Medieval	SJ 2630 1275
30	64652	Tan House Trackway II	Medieval	SJ 2560 1302
31	64699	Lower Maes y Rabbits, Guilsfield	Medieval	SJ 2569 1244
32	64724	Wern Ridge & Furrow	Medieval	SJ 2617 1283
33	79100	Homestead Ridge & Furrow	Medieval	SJ 2542 1348
34	79101	Little Wern Ridge & Furrow I	Medieval	SJ 2525 1350
35	79102	Little Wern Ridge & Furrow II	Medieval	SJ 2515 1354
36	79103	Little Wern Ridge & Furrow III	Medieval	SJ 2516 1365
37	79104	Little Wern Ridge & Furrow IV	Medieval	SJ 2513 1377
38	79106	Wern Cottage Ridge & Furrow II	Medieval	SJ 2507 1383

39	79107	Red Bridge Ridge & Furrow	Medieval	SJ 2523 1400
40	79108	Wern Holding Ridge & Furrow I	Medieval	SJ 2543 1390
41	120747	Findspot: Lead Ampulla	Medieval	SJ 2576 1282
42	128389	Crowther Hall Ridge & Furrow	Medieval	SJ 2604 1225
43	1707	Smithy, Pool Quay	Med./PM	SJ 2618 1373
44	23117	Pool Quay Tree Throw Pit I	Med./PM	SJ 2518 1215
45	23118	Pool Quay Tree Throw Pit II	Med./PM	SJ 2524 1217
46	23119	Pool Quay tree throw pit III	Med./PM	SJ 2528 1224
47	23120	Pool Quay Tree Throw Pit IV	Med./PM	SJ 2532 1225
48	4904	Wern Farm Earthworks	Med./PM	SJ 2492 1357
49	4905	Gilfach Oer Earthworks	Post-med.	SJ 2489 1277
50	13247	Gwaelod Ridge & Furrow	Post-med.	SJ 2544 1392
51	13248	Wern Ridge & Furrow XXI	Post-med.	SJ 2524 1400
52	13249	Wern Ridge & Furrow XXII	Post-med.	SJ 2508 1400
53	13250	Wern Ridge & Furrow XXIII	Post-med.	SJ 2516 1369
54	13251	Earthworks, Wern	Post-med.	SJ 2517 1364
55	13252	Wern Ridge & Furrow XXIV	Post-med.	SJ 2542 1348
56	13253	Wern Ridge & Furrow XXV	Post-med.	SJ 2513 1353
57	13254	Drainage Earthworks, Wern	Post-med.	SJ 2510 1354
58	19266	Pool Quay Boundary Marker II	Post-med.	SJ 2490 1310
59	19268	Pool Quay School	Post-med.	SJ 2584 2071
60	20404	House, Wern Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2498 1365
61	26917	Pelton Wheel, Crowther Hall	Post-med.	SJ 2580 1222
62	36339	Wern Canal Bridge	Post-med.	SJ 2527 1362
63	36340	Tanhouse Bridge	Post-med.	SJ 2543 1334
64	36342	Wern Outfall Weir	Post-med.	SJ 2516 1414
65	36344	Gauging Weir Structures at The Wern	Post-med.	SJ 2517 1405
66	36456	Bank, Bank Lock	Post-med.	SJ 2602 1291
67	36457	Montgomeryshire Canal Bridge 109	Post-med.	SJ 2602 1294
68	36458	Barn, Bank Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2594 1294
69	36479	Cabin Lock, Pool Quay	Post-med.	SJ 2579 1244
70	36480	Crowther Hall Lock, Pool Quay	Post-med.	SJ 2577 1219
71	36481	Lock Cottage, Crowther Hall Lock	Post-med.	SJ 2575 1220
72	36482	Bridge 110, Montgomeryshire Canal	Post-med.	SJ 2577 1221
73	36483	House, Crowther Hall Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2586 1222
74	37069	New Cut Flood Defences	Post-med.	SJ 2535 1351
75	37074	Wern Farm Ridge & Furrow I	Post-med.	SJ 2543 1410
76	37075	Wern Ridge & Furrow II	Post-med.	SJ 2530 1387
77	37076	Wern Ridge & Furrow I	Post-med.	SJ 2532 1373
78	38161	Wern Linear Earthwork I	Post-med.	SJ 2574 1309
79	38167	Wern Linear Earthwork VII	Post-med.	SJ 2580 1286

80	38182	Wern Linear Earthwork XXII	Post-med.	SJ 2595 1308
81	38183	Wern Linear Earthwork XXIII	Post-med.	SJ 2595 1323
82	64078	Lake Farm Buildings, Pool Quay, Coppice Lane	Post-med.	SJ 2510 1262
83	64079	Yard, Lake Farm, Pool Quay, Coppice Lane	Post-med.	SJ 2510 1261
84	64545	Site of Pond, Crowther Hall	Post-med.	SJ 2586 1219
85	64546	Milestone, Crowther Hall	Post-med.	SJ 2596 1252
86	64547	Tirymynach Brick & Tile Works	Post-med.	SJ 2592 1252
87	64549	Tirymynach Old Quarry	Post-med.	SJ 2573 1257
88	64550	Bank Old Quarry I	Post-med.	SJ 2585 1289
89	64551	Bank Old Quarry II	Post-med.	SJ 2572 1297
90	64553	Pool Quay Station	Post-med.	SJ 2604 1316
91	64554	Pool Quay Station Pond	Post-med.	SJ 2602 1319
92	64556	Little Wern Footbridge	Post-med.	SJ 2516 1360
93	64557	Gwern-fele Farm Sawpit	Post-med.	SJ 2502 1379
94	64559	Wern Farm Well I	Post-med.	SJ 2499 1367
95	64560	Wern Farm Well II	Post-med.	SJ 2501 1366
96	64561	Wern Quarry I	Post-med.	SJ 2514 1405
97	64562	Wern Quarry II	Post-med.	SJ 2517 1392
98	64697	Tanhouse Meadow, Guilsfield	Post-med.	SJ 2560 1324
99	64698	Bylet (Part of Osier Bed), Guilsfield	Post-med.	SJ 2603 1289
100	79105	Wern Cottage Ridge & Furrow I	Post-med.	SJ 2510 1395
101	79109	Wern Holding Ridge & Furrow II	Post-med.	SJ 2552 1412
102	79120	Gwern-fele Bridge	Post-med.	SJ 2531 1368
103	79121	New Cut Argae, Original S End	Post-med.	SJ 2530 1342
104	79122	Former Farmstead, Little Wern	Post-med.	SJ 2519 1341
105	79123	New Cut Aqueduct, Montgomeryshire Canal	Post-med.	SJ 2532 1352
106	79124	Homestead Drain Aqueduct, Montgomeryshire Canal	Post-med.	SJ 2526 1364
107	79125	Wern Embankment Construction Quarries, Montgomeryshire Canal	Post-med.	SJ 2520 1390
108	79126	Wern Mill Claypit Tramway	Post-med.	SJ 2522 1408
109	79127	Wern Mill Claypit	Post-med.	SJ 2522 1408
110	79128	Wern Corn Mill	Post-med.	SJ 2516 1412
111	79129	Brookfield House	Post-med.	SJ 2533 1378
112	79130	Homestead Cottages	Post-med.	SJ 2532 1368
113	79131	Wern Cottages	Post-med.	SJ 2537 1374
114	79140	Homestead Sluice Gate, New Cut	Post-med.	SJ 2533 1365
115	79141	Little Wern Sluice Gate, New Cut	Post-med.	SJ 2524 1343
116	79142	Site of Building, Little Wern	Post-med.	SJ 2522 1366
117	79143	Site of Building, Brookfield	Post-med.	SJ 2529 1372
118	79144	Wern Farm Building I	Post-med.	SJ 2540 1417
119	79145	Wern Farm Footbridge	Post-med.	SJ 2535 1419

120	79147	Site of Building, Wern Holding	Post-med.	SJ 2543 1387
121	79148	Section of Montgomeryshire Canal	Post-med.	SJ 2519 1390
122	79149	Wern Brick & Tile Works	Post-med.	SJ 2518 1413
123	79153	Wern Farm Building II	Post-med.	SJ 2537 1418
124	79154	Tail Race, Wern Corn Mill	Post-med.	SJ 2520 1400
125	79156	New Cut Argae, Armouring II	Post-med.	SJ 2536 1418
126	79157	New Cut Argae, Armouring III	Post-med.	SJ 2531 1365
127	81319	Crowther Hall Earthwork	Post-med.	SJ 2570 1220
128	8424	Tan House, Poole Quay	Post-med.	SJ 2537 1307
129	85714	Findspot: Cu Alloy Button	Post-med.	SJ 2471 1391
130	120716	Oswestry & Newtown Railway	Post-med.	SJ 2615 1237
131	129294	Cowshed, Pool Quay, Crowther Hall	Post-med.	SJ 2581 1222
132	183002	Farm Building, Wern Holding Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2554 1384
133	183003	Farm Building, Wern Holding Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2552 1381
134	183004	Farm Building, Wern Holding Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2555 1382
135	183027	Farm Building, Wern Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2497 1367
136	183028	Farm Building, Wern Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2497 1368
137	183029	Farm Building, Wern Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2496 1369
138	183030	Farm Building, Wern Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2497 1366
139	183262	Farm Building, Ty'n-y-celyn Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2618 1320
140	183263	Farm Building, Ty'n-y-celyn Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2625 1320
141	183264	Farm Building, Ty'n-y-celyn Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2623 1322
142	183265	Farm Building, Bank Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2592 1292
143	183266	Farm Building, Bank Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2593 1293
144	183267	Farm Building, Bank Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2592 1295
145	183268	Farm Building, Bank Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2595 1295
146	183269	Farm Building, Bank Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2594 1294
147	183270	Farm Building, Bank Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2596 1295
148	183271	Farm Building, Bank Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2595 1295
149	183272	Farm Building, Bank Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2596 1293
150	183273	Farm Building, Bank Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2593 1299
151	183274	Farm Building, Bank Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2591 1298
152	183275	Farm Building, Bank Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2592 1301
153	183276	Farm Building, Crowther Hall Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2583 1218
154	183277	Farm Building, Crowther Hall Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2580 1219
155	183278	Farm Building, Crowther Hall Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2581 1219
156	183279	Farm Building, Crowther Hall Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2582 1221
157	183280	Farm Building, Crowther Hall Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2584 1221
158	183281	Farm Building, Crowther Hall Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2583 1218
159	183282	Farm Building, Crowther Hall Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2583 1222
160	189868	Wern Holding Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2554 1382

161	189878	Wern Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2497 1367
162	189966	Ty'n-y-celyn Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2621 1321
163	189967	Bank Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2592 1296
164	189968	Crowther Hall Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2583 1220
165	214492	Sluice	Post-med.	SJ 2577 1219
166	214493	Weir	Post-med.	SJ 2577 1239
167	214494	Sluice	Post-med.	SJ 2579 1244
168	214497	Sluice	Post-med.	SJ 2602 1291
169	38162	Wern Linear Earthwork II	Undated	SJ 2622 1305
170	38163	Wern Linear Earthwork III	Undated	SJ 2579 1348
171	38164	Wern Linear Earthwork IV	Undated	SJ 2585 1350
172	38165	Wern Linear Earthwork V	Undated	SJ 2581 1344
173	38168	Wern Linear Earthwork VIII	Undated	SJ 2620 1288
174	38169	Wern Linear Earthwork IX	Undated	SJ 2628 1288
175	38170	Wern Linear Earthwork X	Undated	SJ 2614 1356
176	38173	Wern Linear Earthwork XIII	Undated	SJ 2597 1232
177	38174	Wern Linear Earthwork XIV	Undated	SJ 2609 1252
178	38175	Wern Linear Earthwork XV	Undated	SJ 2626 1246
179	38176	Wern Linear Earthwork XVI	Undated	SJ 2613 1219
180	38177	Wern Linear Earthwork XVII	Undated	SJ 2652 1237
181	38178	Wern Linear Earthwork XVIII	Undated	SJ 2676 1256
182	38181	Wern Linear Earthwork XXI	Undated	SJ 2550 1416
183	38197	Coppice Lane Earthwork	Undated	SJ 2505 1266
184	131108	Large Gully	Undated	SJ 2663 1243

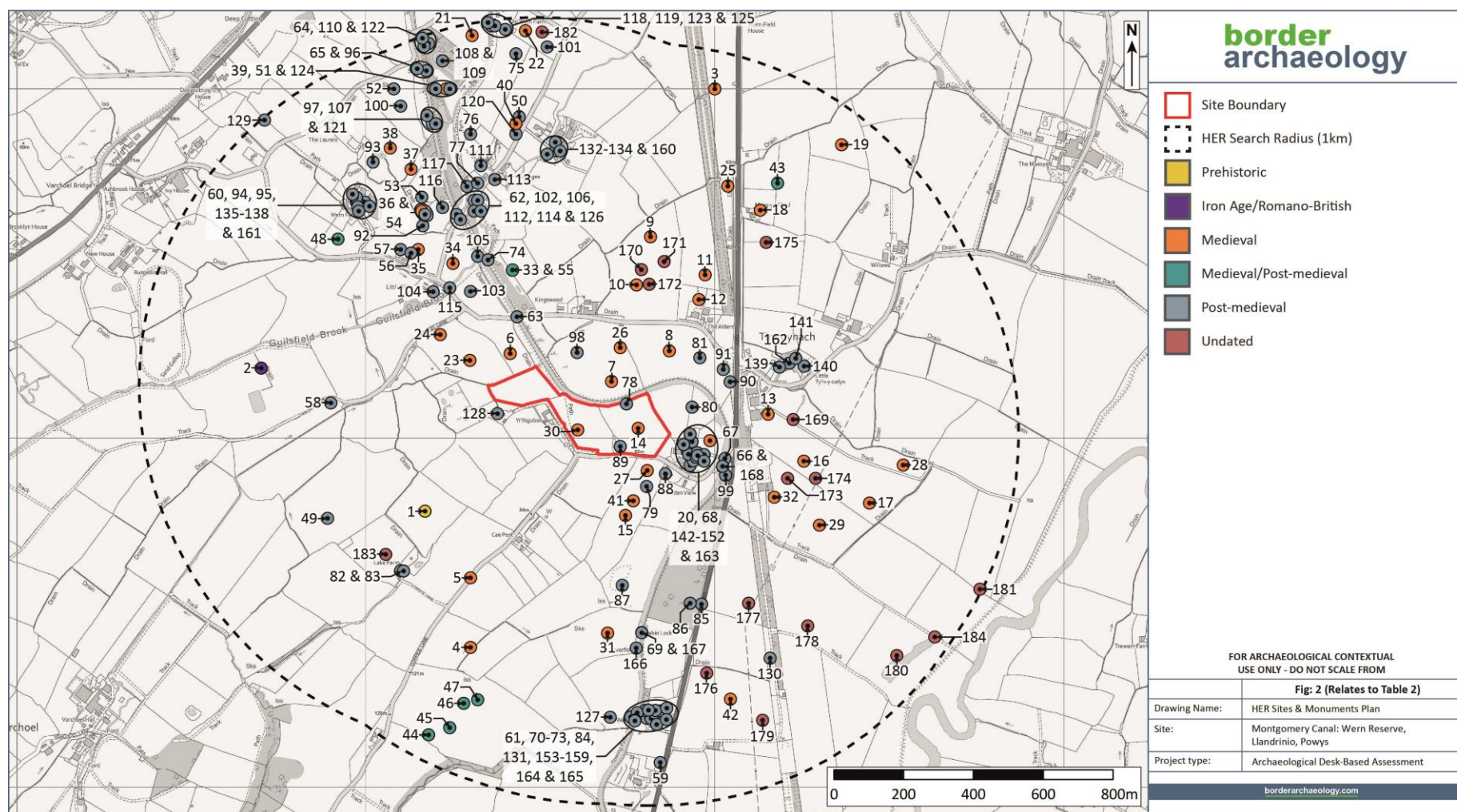
Table 2 (relates to fig. 2): Gazetteer of archaeological monuments recorded within a 1km radius of the Site based on consultation of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record (HER)

#	PRN	Name	Date	NGR
E1	70569	DBA: A483 Pool Quay Improvement	1995	SJ 2587 1208
E2	72313	DBA: New Cut Argae	1997	SJ 2536 1351
E3	129217	Survey: Crowther Hall	2005	SJ 2581 1222
E4	113097	SBR: Tan House	2006	SJ 2538 1307

Table 3 (relates to fig. 3): Gazetteer of Archaeological Events recorded within a 1km radius of the Site based on consultation of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record (HER)

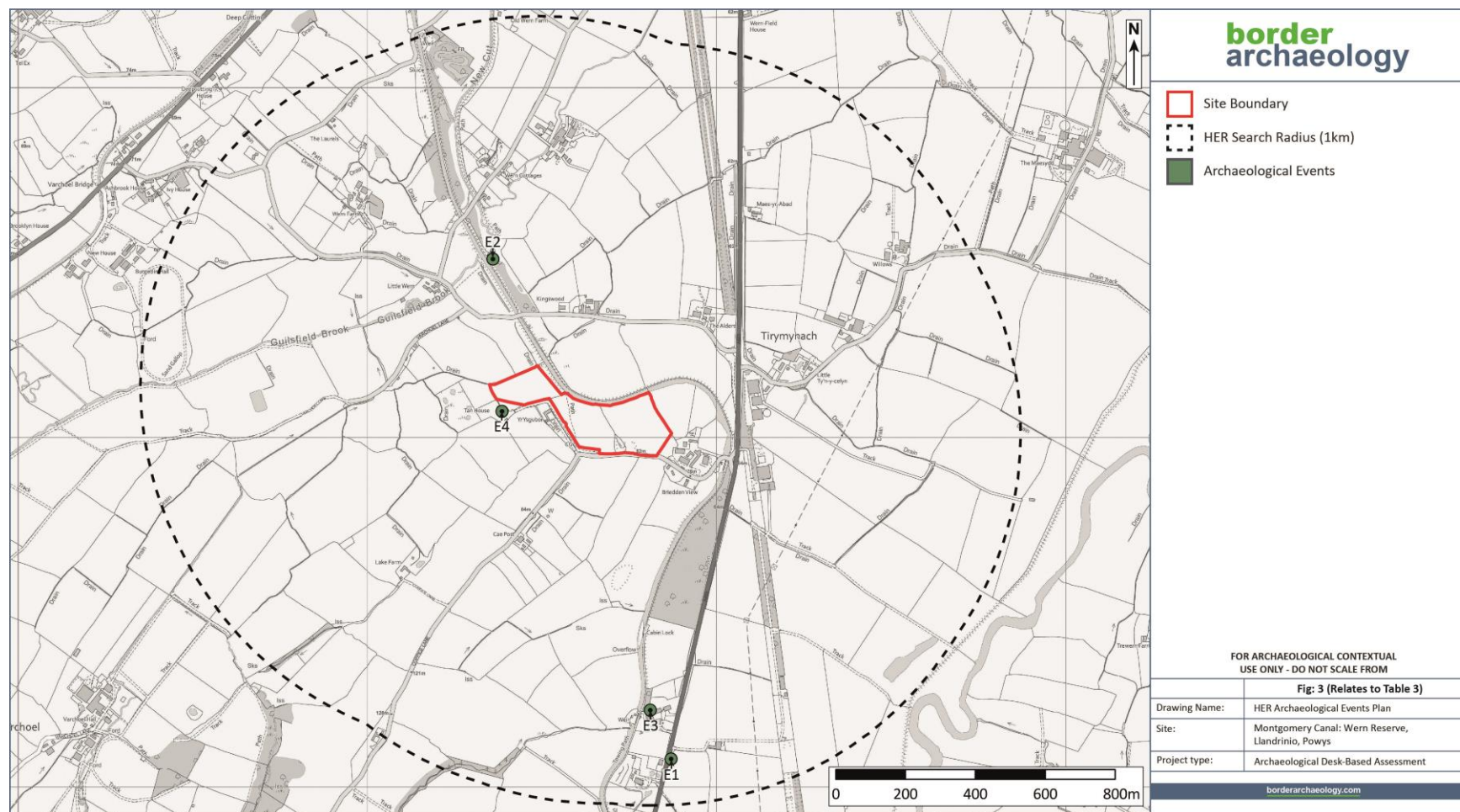
#	Ref.	Name	Grade	NGR
B1	15438	Wern Bridge	II	SJ 2552 1362
B2	15439	Tanhouse Bridge	II	SJ 2543 1334
B3	15441	Wern Outfall Weir, Wern Mill	II	SJ 2516 1414
B4	15443	Gauging Weir Structures at the Wern, Wern Mill	II	SJ 2517 1405
B5	16737	Bank Lock	II	SJ 2602 1291
B6	16739	Bridge 109 over the Montgomeryshire Canal	II	SJ 2602 1294
B7	16740	Barn with Horse Engine House at Bank Farm	II	SJ 2594 1294
B8	16764	Cabin Lock	II	SJ 2579 1244
B9	16765	Crowther Hall Lock	II	SJ 2577 1219
B10	16766	Lock Cottage at Crowther Hall Lock	II	SJ 2575 1220
B11	16767	Bridge 110 over the Montgomeryshire Canal	II	SJ 2577 1221
B12	16768	Crowther Hall	II	SJ 2586 1222
B13	16769	School House	II	SJ 2584 1207

Table 4 (relates to fig.4): Gazetteer of Listed Buildings recorded within a 1km radius of the Site, based on consultation of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust HER

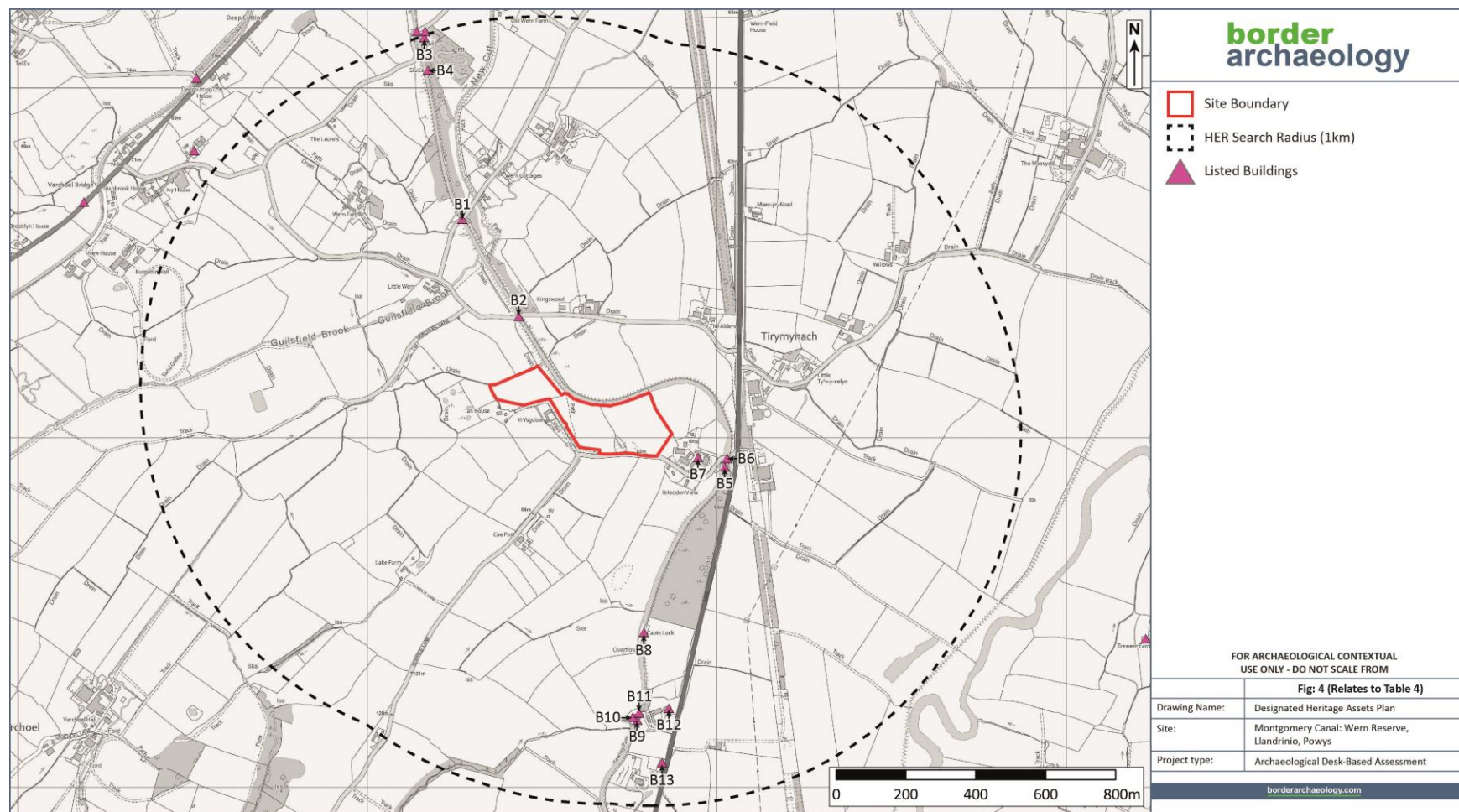


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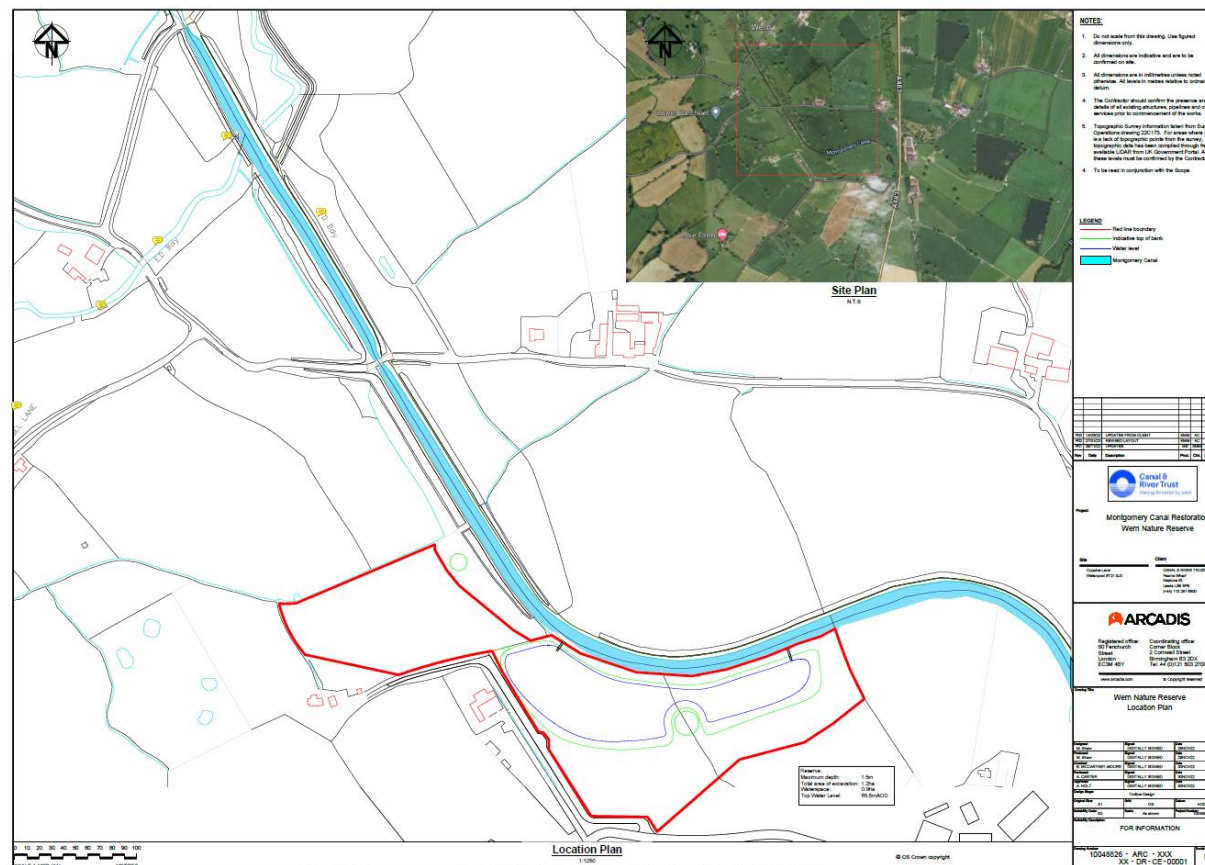
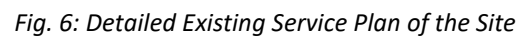


Fig 5: Detailed Location Plan of the Site



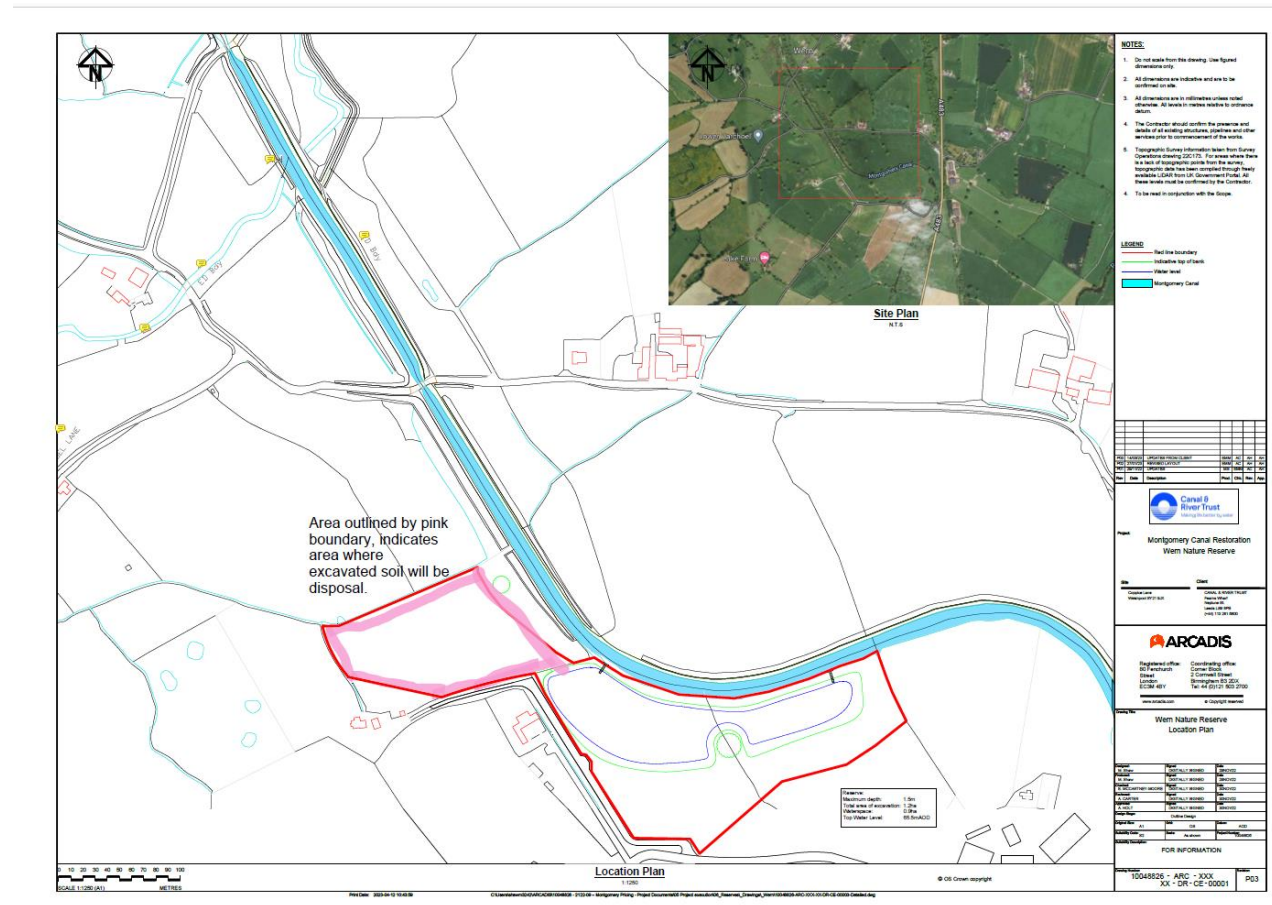


Fig. 7: Soil Relocation Plan

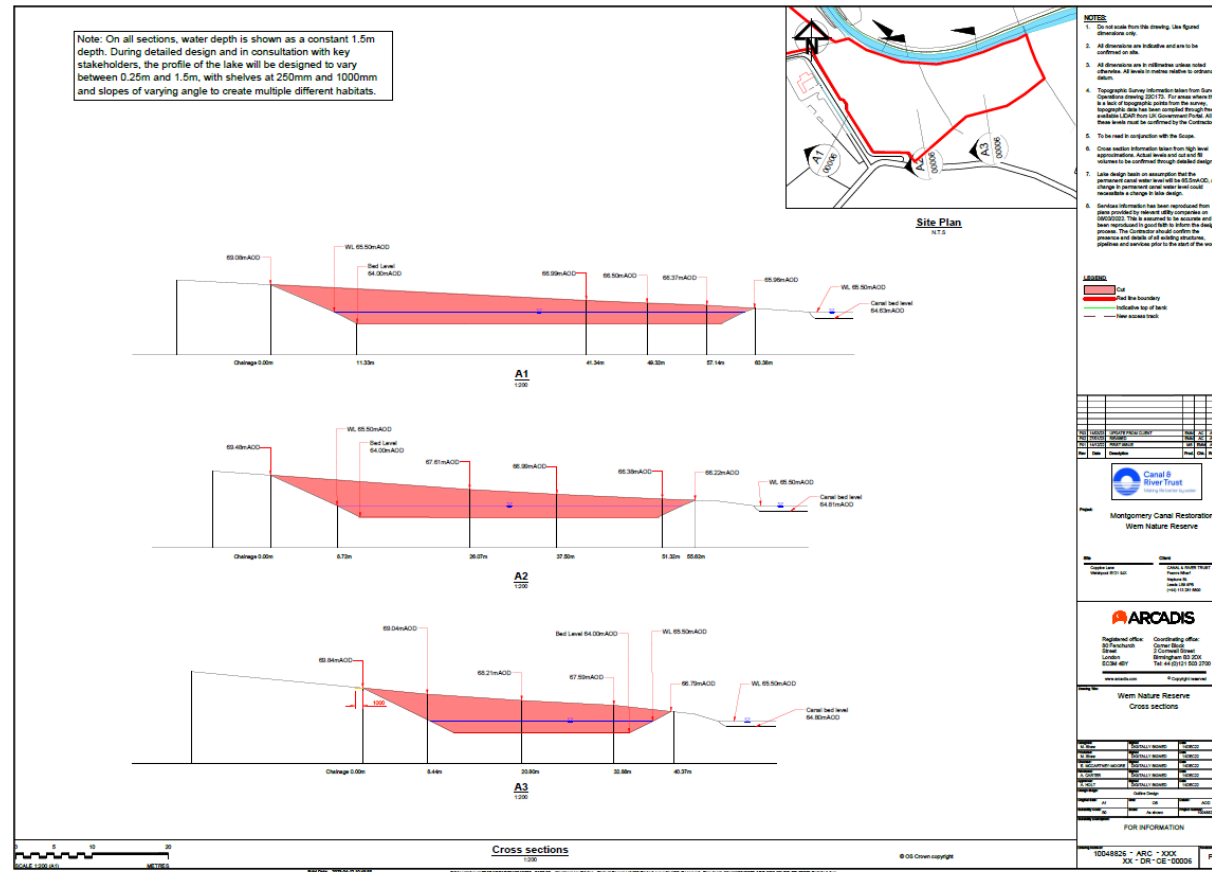


Fig. 8: Detailed cross-section of the proposed works

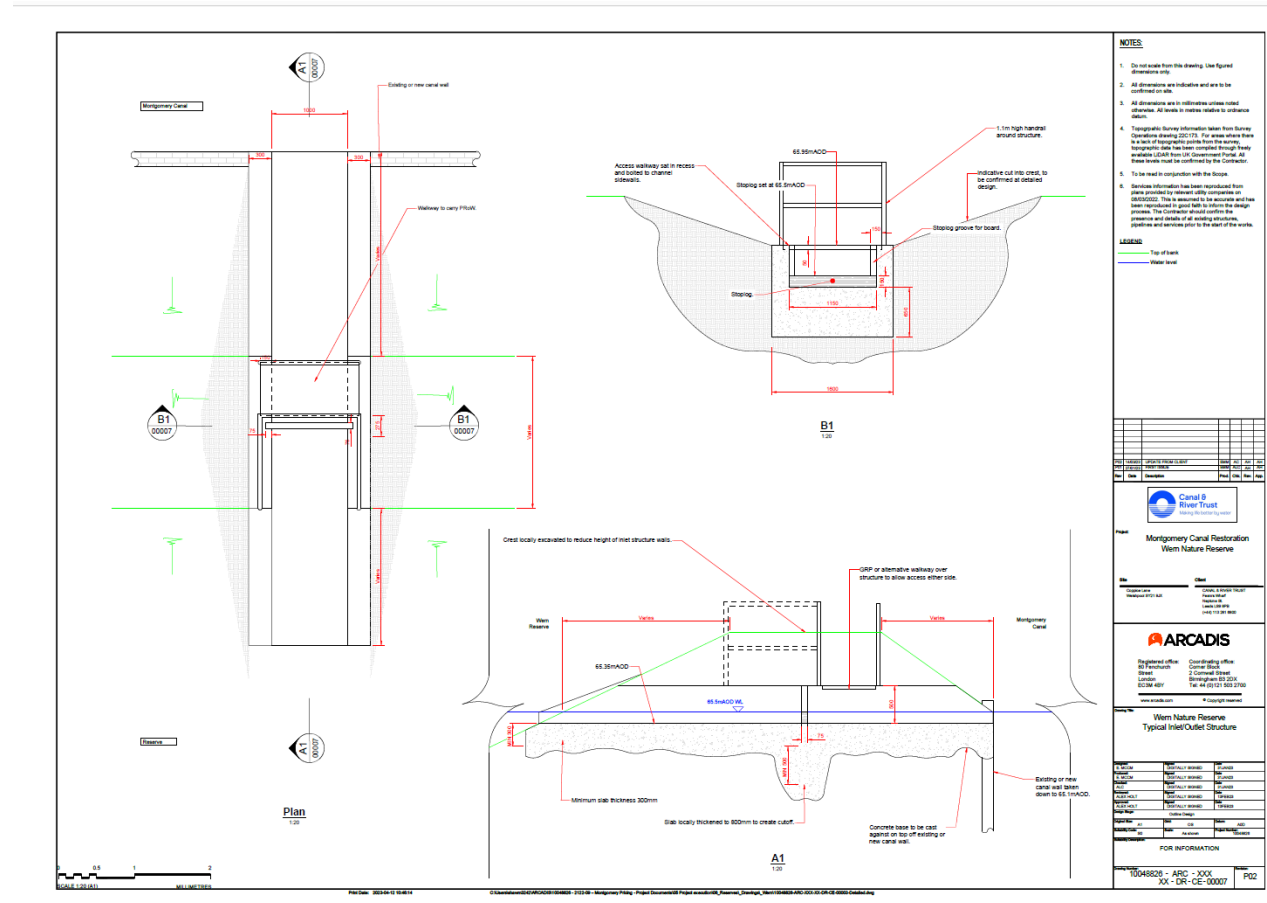


Fig. 9: Plan of the proposed inlets

7 Site Assessment

A site visit was undertaken and photographs obtained from key vantage points in order to ascertain the potential presence of archaeological remains in the vicinity. A site visit was undertaken in early June 2023 and revealed that the site lay within an area of pasture divided in places by mature hedgerows and trees. Due to livestock on site, only the very E part was accessible for detailed study.

Generally, the site slopes from S to N towards the canal, this changes from W to E along the NW portion of the site where the canal runs N-S. The site can be split in two different bodies: the main body is situated to the E and is bounded to the N and E by the Montgomery Canal. To the S, the boundary is formed by Coppice Lane, and in the W by a lane running to Tan House. The smaller NW portion of the site is bounded to the E by the canal, to the S by the track leading to Tan House, and in the N and W by mature hedgerows.

In terms of features identified, evidence of low slightly curvilinear features running roughly NW-SE was noted within the field adjoining the Canal to the S which may be identifiable with a block of ridge and furrow identified within the site from the aerial photographs and LiDAR imagery (*Plate 2*). The slightly curvilinear form of the ridge and furrow is suggestive of a medieval or early post-medieval date.

Within the southern portion of the site, almost adjoining Coppice Lane, was a heavily overgrown quarry feature (HER: 64551, *plates 4-5*) of probable late 18th/early 19th century date, which is first shown on historic maps dating back to 1829. The quarry may have been established in association with the construction of the nearby Montgomery Canal or it may have been used to quarry limestone which would have been transported to one of the many limekilns adjoining the Canal (possibly the cluster of kilns at Buttington).

The quarry consists of a depression in a rough horseshoe shape lined with trees at its S side. A near vertical drop exists to the S of the quarry feature below the trees and reduces in height as it extends N. At the N end of the quarry feature, it is roughly level with the rest of the ground, allowing for an entrance into it. At the time of the site visit, the feature had a small body of standing water in it; this was after an extended period of warm dry weather.

Elsewhere, the site contains several mature hedgerows and trees that delineate the field boundaries first shown in the 1845 tithe map (*fig. 11*).



Plate 1: View N of access from Coppice Lane looking towards the Montgomery Canal.



Plate 2: View NW with the bend of the canal shown in the distance.



Plate 3: View N at the N boundary of the site, with the canal shown.



Plate 4: View NNW taken from the N side of the old quarry.



Plate 5: Looking N towards the old quarry.



Plate 6: Looking N across the S portion of site with E hedge boundary shown to right of picture

8 Conclusions

8.1 Potential Impacts

The following description of the proposed development is based upon plans produced by Arcadis and provided by the Canal & River Trust in May 2023. The proposals mainly consist of the making of a large body of water dug to a maximum depth of 1.5m and covering an area of 1.2ha. The water will cover an area of 0.9ha and therefore will not fully fill the entire reserve. It will be located to the N of the main body of the site and mirror the curve of the canal with a U-shaped indentation in its S side. The excavated soil will be placed in the NW body of the site and therefore raise the ground in this area.

Two inlets from the canal itself will be to the E and W of the pond will provide water. The development of either will involve the digging of trenches and laying of concrete to create a suitable channel to convey the water. This will also involve the lowering of the canal wall in two places. Cuts will be made into the ground creating banks that slope downwards towards the inlets which will be topped with handrails and contain a walkway to cross.

The proposed reserve will reach a depth of 1.5m at its deepest extent, although this will not be the depth of entire reserve. As part of the development, a further 0.5m of excavations will need to be undertaken, resulting in a maximum depth of 2m being excavated. Due to the lack of intrusive archaeological investigations within the vicinity of the site, it is not possible to determine at what depth archaeological features are most likely to be encountered. However, it is likely that excavations to such a depth will mean disturbing any archaeological remains that are within the boundaries of the proposal site.

8.2 Overall Conclusions

The archaeological potential of the site has been assessed in overall terms as **Moderate**, with particular reference to encountering archaeological remains associated with medieval and post-medieval activity. This assessment reflects that for much of the site's history, the site has been agricultural land, owned by Strata Marcella Abbey during the medieval period and later by the Earls of Powis, with little evidence for settlement activity in the immediate vicinity.

There is little in the way of evidence of prehistoric and Romano-British activity; while evidence of medieval and early post-medieval activity chiefly consists of ridge and furrow and a trackway associated with an extensive medieval open field system. From the later 18th century onwards, the area witnessed the development of the Montgomery Canal, which in places forms the boundary of the site. As such, there is a heightened level of potential for encountering archaeological assets associated with the construction and later usage of the canal, including quarry features.

Recommendations: It is BA's considered opinion that, *prima facie*, the archaeological potential of the site does not present an impediment to the proposed development. Given the overall **Moderate** potential of the site in

archaeological terms, with particular reference to encountering medieval and post-medieval remains, it is recommended that an appropriate programme of archaeological work, the details of which to be agreed with the relevant planning archaeologist, will be necessary to determine the extent, depth and significance of buried archaeological features and deposits across the site.

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10.1 Cartography

(All maps were obtained from Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru/National Library of Wales unless otherwise stated):

1829: OS Surveyor's Drawing of Meifod (Reproduced courtesy of the British Library)

1845: Guilsfield Tithe Survey

1885: OS 1st Edition 6-Inch map

1903: OS 2nd Edition 6-inch map

1954: OS 1:10,000 map

A historical map of the Wern Valley, showing the site boundary highlighted in red. The map includes labels for 'Wern', 'Brookhouse', 'Bark', and 'Cilfach'. A scale bar at the bottom indicates distances from 0 to 800 meters. A north arrow is located in the top right corner.

*Fig. 11: Extract from the 1845 Tithe Survey of the Parish of Guilsfield
(Reproduced by courtesy of the National Archives)*

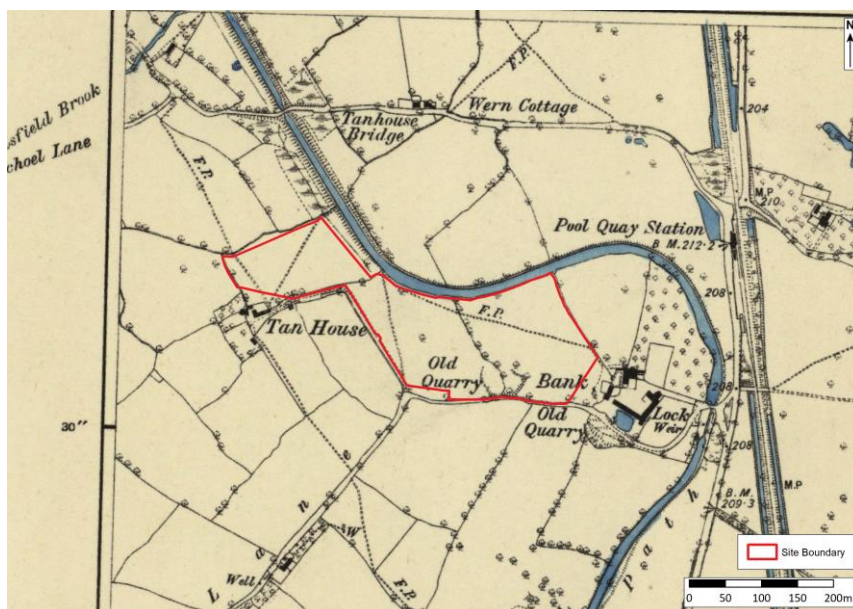


Fig. 12: Extract from the 1885 OS 1st Edition 6-Inch Survey of Montgomeryshire
(Reproduced by courtesy of the National Archives)

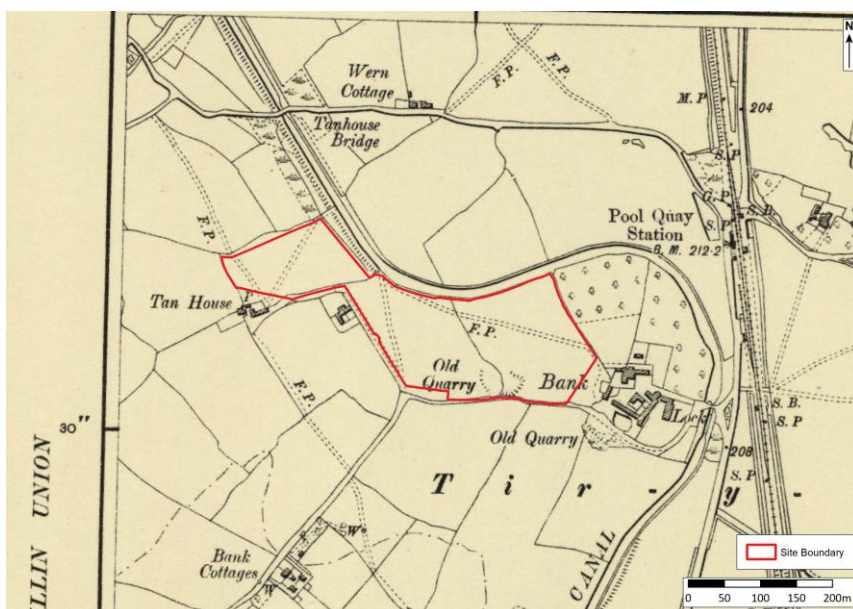


Fig. 13: Extract from the 1903 OS 2nd Edition 6-Inch Survey of Montgomeryshire
(Reproduced by courtesy of the National Archives)

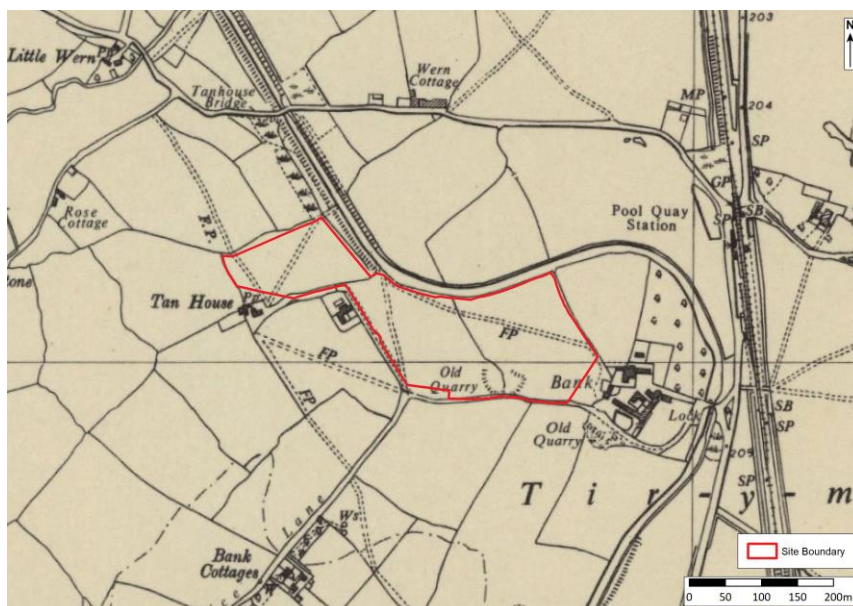


Fig. 14: Extract from the 1954 OS 1:10,000 National Survey
(Reproduced by courtesy of the National Archives)

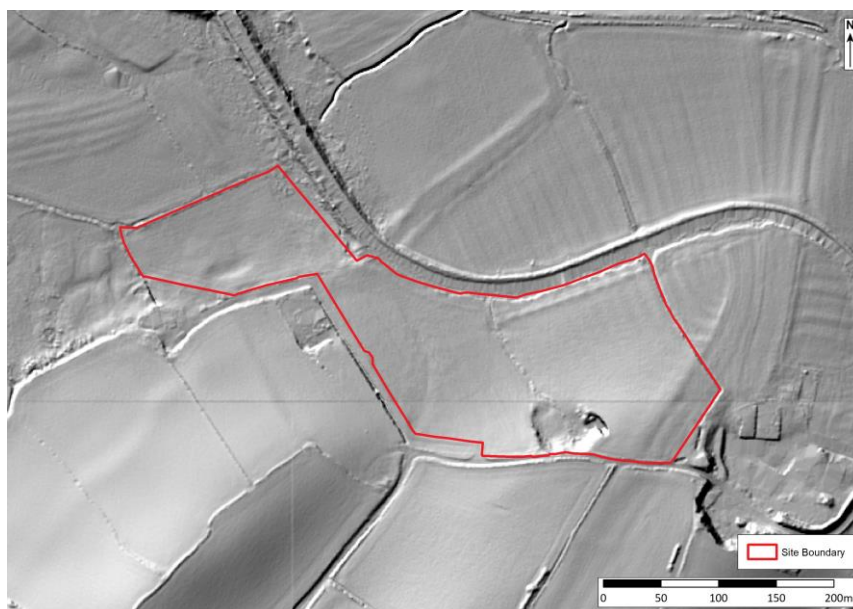


Fig. 15: Extract from 1m DTM LiDAR data covering the site
(Reproduced by courtesy of the Welsh Government)

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Artwork	Owain Connors MA PhD MCI fA		
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