

CPAT Report No. 1639

Erddig Hall Visitor Car Park, Wrexham




Archaeological Watching Brief



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CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Client name: The National Trust
 CPAT Project No: 2342
 Project Name: Erddig Car Park
 Grid Reference: SJ 32841 48154
 County/LPA: Wrexham
 Planning Application: P/2018/0750
 CPAT Report No: 1339
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Summary

A watching brief was conducted by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust to monitor groundworks associated with the refurbishment of the visitor car park at Erddig Hall, Wrexham, which included the installation of new drains and the replacement of grass parking bays with a more durable surface.

Within the car park itself the watching brief revealed the top of a brick culvert likely to be contemporary with the walled garden. The excavation of a trench connecting the new drains with an existing manhole in the park land to the south-east revealed a concentration of building material thought likely to be derived from a former building nearby.

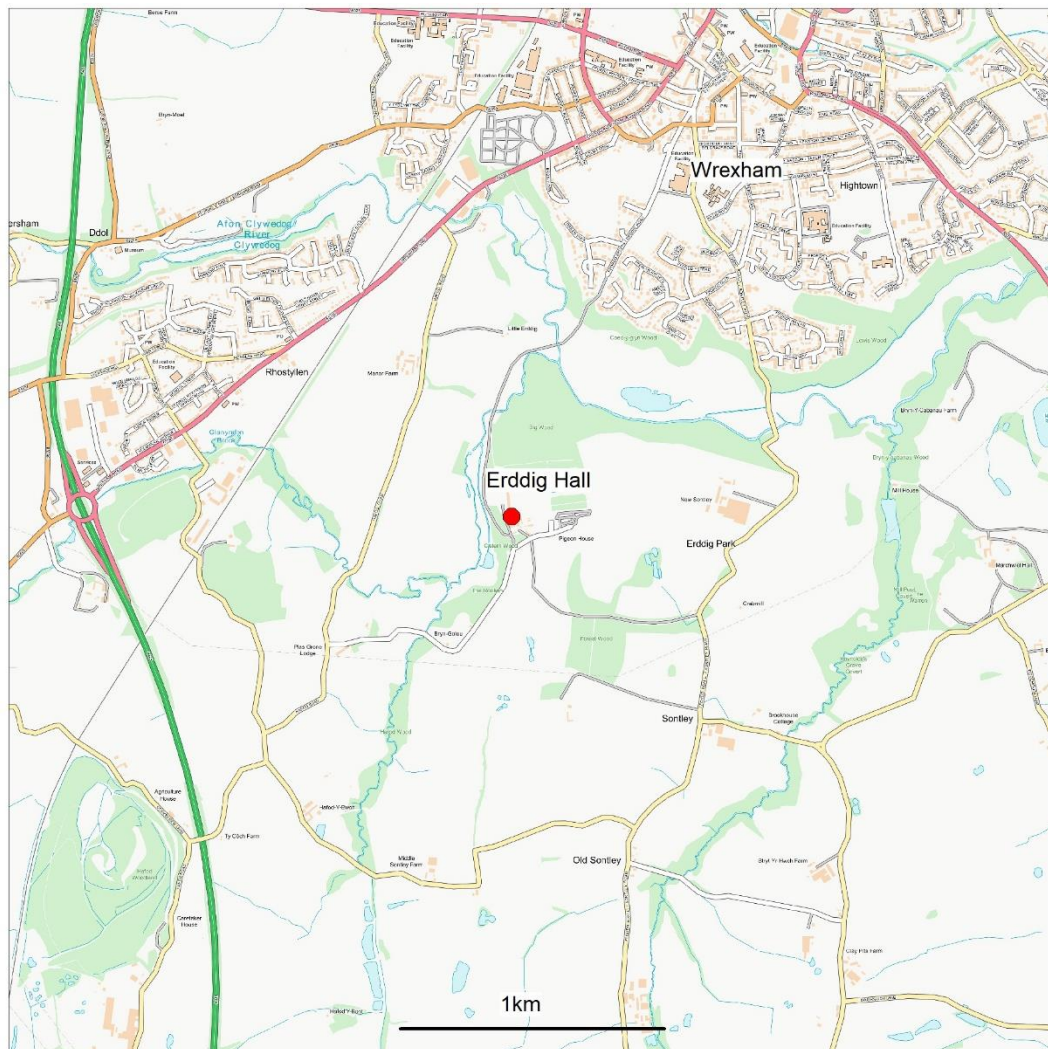
Crynodeb

Bu Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys yn cynnal briff gwyllo i fonitro gwaith paratoi tir yn gysylltiedig ag ailwampio maes parcio ymwelwyr yn Neuadd Erddig, Wrecsam, a oedd yn cynnwys gosod draeniau newydd a gosod arwyneb mwy cadarn yn lle'r glaswellt yn y baeau parcio.

O fewn y maes parcio ei hun, datgelodd y briff gwyllo ben ceuffos o frics sy'n debygol o ddyddio o'r un cyfnod â'r ardd furiog. Pan gloddiwyd rych i gysylltu'r draeniau newydd â thwll archwilio a oedd eisoes yn bodoli yn y parcdir i'r de-ddwyrain, datgelwyd crynhoad o ddeunydd adeiladu y tybiwyd ei fod yn debygol o fod wedi dod o gyn adeilad gerllaw.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) were invited by the National Trust to undertake a watching brief during the refurbishment of the visitor car park at Erddig Hall, Wrexham (SJ 32841 48154). The works include the replacement of grass parking bays with a more durable surface and improvements to drainage to deal with surface water issues.
- 1.2. The works lie within a Grade 1 Registered Park and Garden (PGW (C) 62, Cadw 1995). The scheduled monument known as Erddig Mound and Bailey Castle (DE017) lies 400m to the north of the car park, while Wat's Dyke: Section extending from Erddig Park to Middle Sontley (DE152) lies in two sections 350m to the north-west and 400 m to the south-west of the car park. Many of the nearby garden features and estate buildings are Grade II Listed Buildings, with Erddig Hall being a Grade I Listed Building.



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Fig. 1 Location of Erddig Hall

- 1.3. Non designated assets within the immediate vicinity of the car park include ridge and furrow earthworks and old field boundaries in the parkland to the south (National Trust Historic Buildings Sites and Monuments Record).
- 1.4. An archaeological appraisal of the project area determined that the orchard car park works are unlikely to disturb archaeological deposits of high significance. An archaeological watching brief is recommended of the ground work associated with drainage, to be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist to record any archaeological deposits encountered and a brief was prepared by the National Trust Archaeologist detailing the methodology to be adopted.
- 1.5. Planning permission (P/2018/0750) was granted in January 2019, with the inclusion of the following condition:
 4. The developer shall ensure a suitably qualified archaeological contractor is present during the undertaking of any ground works in the development area so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs. The Local Planning Authority will be informed in writing, at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the development, of the name of the said archaeological contractor. A copy of the resulting report should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR. After approval by the Local Planning Authority, a copy of the report and resulting archive should also be sent to the Historic Environment Record Officer, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the regional Historic Environment Record
- 1.6. Reason: To secure preservation by record of any archaeological remains which may be revealed during ground excavations for the consented development.

2 Historical Background

- 2.1. The following section is taken from the project brief, produced by the National Trust.
- 2.2. The earliest man made feature recorded within the Erddig Parkland is Wat's Dyke. This linear boundary feature, consisting of a bank with a ditch on the western side, is generally considered to date to the 8th Century and to be defensive in nature. Wat's Dyke runs, almost continuously, for 65km between Basingwerk, on the Flintshire coast of the Dee Estuary and Maesbrook to the south of Oswestry. It lies between 1km and 5km to the east of Offa's Dyke, a comparable and better known monument of a similar date. Located as they are on the border between Wales and England these dykes bear witness to just one stage of a continuing struggle.
- 2.3. To the north of Erddig house, overlooking the confluence of the Black Brook and the Clywedog is a motte and bailey castle. It is suggested that the castle may have been constructed by Hugh d'Avranches in the late 11th century. Hugh d'Avranches was Earl of Chester from 1071 with jurisdiction under the Norman King to gain control in the Welsh borders. The castle is referred to in document dated 1161 as the Castellan of Wristleham (Wrexham) and was known later as Castell y Glyn. By the 16th century it is described as the ruin of a great castle, sometimes the chief house of the prince of

-
- Bromfeld, suggesting that it may have been partly rebuilt in stone and continued in use for some time.
- 2.4. Erddig Estate has its origins within at least three separate major land holdings, the Norman 'commotes' of Yale, Wrexham and Marford, each of which had its own castle in the twelfth century. The location of the castle highlights the importance of Erddig during the medieval period.
 - 2.5. These landholdings became the Lordship of Bromfield and Yale in the 13th Century and were granted to John de Warenne, Earl of Surrey, by Edward 1 following the final defeat of the Welsh in 1282. The land on which the castle stood became known as Park Glyn and was one of five major parks within the Lordship of Bromfield and Yale. The park provided sport and deer for the lords table and the enclosed woodland within it was cropped for timber and used for charcoal production.
 - 2.6. In the 14th century, the Lordship was seized by the Black Prince and added to the already extensive estates of the Earl of Arundel in Shropshire. Following the execution for treason of the Earl of Arundel in 1397 his estates were confiscated by the Crown and for a short time became part of Richard II's newly created principality of Chester.
 - 2.7. In 1399, following the deposition of the King, the lands were returned to Thomas Fitzalan, 10th Earl of Arundel. Throughout the 15th century the estate passed several times between the Crown and other landholders. The evidence of ridge and furrow earthworks underlying the designed Parkland layout indicates that the use of the land in the past was much more focused on arable farming.
 - 2.8. The present house at Erddig was built in 1684–87 by Joshua Eddisbury. Details given in agreements made with craftsmen suggest that the old house was being demolished as the new one was being built and materials from it re-used at the new one and elsewhere. It also implies that the new house was being built on a different site to the old one. Eddisbury was also laying out gardens adjacent to the house.
 - 2.9. The estate passed to John Meller in 1714, and it is he who began the laying out and extension of the gardens as we see them today. A drawing by Thomas Badeslade dating to 1740 shows kitchen gardens within the south extent of what is today the formal garden. Between 1767 and 1789 the park was landscaped by William Eames for Philip York.
 - 2.10. It is not clear when the kitchen gardens and orchard were moved further to the south, perhaps in the mid 1800's when Simon York III was developing the garden. By the late 1800's the orchard is established and shown on Ordnance Survey Mapping.

3 Watching Brief

- 3.1. The watching brief was conducted between 15 January and 6 February 2019 in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014). The scheme involved two phases of work within the car park, together with the installation of a new drain across parkland to the south-east (Figs 8-9).
- 3.2. The drainage works within the car park consisted of various sections of trench, each around 0.35m wide and 0.85m to 1.00m deep. In the north-eastern section (Fig. 8, A) the stratigraphic sequence consisted of 0.25m of topsoil sealing a layer of light brown silty clay, which contained fragments of ceramic building material, but no datable artefacts. The natural subsoil was not attained in this area.



Fig. 2 Drainage trench in the north-east part of the car park. Photo CPAT 4596-0003

- 3.3. In the centre of the car park (Fig. 8, B) the topsoil sealed a layer of dark grey brown clay, 0.10m to 0.30m thick, which contained fragments of ceramic building material, but no datable artefacts, overlying the natural subsoil. In the south-eastern corner of the car park the stratigraphy was slightly different, comprising the same upper two layers as noted above, sealing a 0.30m-thick layer of light brown silty clay, similar to that in the north-eastern part of the site. In addition, a deposit of gleyed light grey silt, 0.15m thick, was observed in the base of the excavation. Of particular note was a concentration of broken, hand-made bricks/tiles which may be part of a drain or culvert (Fig. 4; see below).
- 3.4. Subsequent stripping of around 0.3m of material within the area of the parking bays revealed the top of a brick culvert running west to east, close to the northern wall (Fig. 5). At the western end the culvert was 0.5m wide, increasing to 1.1m at a point opposite a buttress in the adjacent wall. It is possible that this continued to the south-

east corner of the carpark where a concentration of brick was noted (see above). The bricks appeared similar to those used in the wall and the culvert is likely to be contemporary. The culvert was not investigated further and was subsequently reburied as part of the resurfacing works.



Fig. 3 Drainage trench in the central part of the car park Photo CPAT 4596-0011



Fig. 4 Concentration of brick in the south-east corner of the car park. Photo CPAT 4596-0004



Fig. 5 The top of the brick culvert. Photo CPAT 4596-0016

- 3.5. From the south-eastern corner of the car park a new drain was cut across the park land to link into an existing man hole (Fig. 9). This was cut using a 0.50m-wide toothed bucket, excavating a trench up to 0.70m deep, work progressing in sections owing to the 'cut and fill' approach.



Fig. 6 The excavation of the new drainage connection across the park land. Photo CPAT 4596-0009

- 3.6. In the north-western half of the trench the stratigraphy comprised around 0.20m of topsoil, overlying a former ploughsoil, typically up to 0.1m thick, lying directly on the natural subsoil, an orange silty clay. The topography was such that the south-eastern section also contained a layer of very dark, peaty silt, 0.10m to 0.15m thick, below the former ploughsoil, the subsoil here consisting of gleyed grey silty clay at a depth of around 0.45m. The upper layers contained 19th-century building materials, most notably around the break of slope, which may be derived from a former building in the area.



Fig. 7 The north-western section of the new drainage trench in park land. Photo CPAT 4596-0007

4 Conclusions

- 4.1. The watching brief monitored groundworks associated with the refurbishment of the visitor car park at Erddig Hall, Wrexham, including the installation of new drains and the replacement of grass parking bays with a more durable surface.
- 4.2. Within the car park itself the watching brief revealed the top of a brick culvert likely to be contemporary with the walled garden, but produced no other evidence for archaeologically significant features, deposits or artefacts.
- 4.3. The watching brief also monitored the excavation of a trench connecting the new drains with an existing manhole in the park land to the south-east. This revealed little of archaeological note, other than a concentration of building material along a natural break of slope, thought likely to be derived from a former building nearby, whilst also noting the presence of a dark, peaty material below former ploughsoils towards the south-eastern end of the trench.

5 Archive deposition Statement

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

Archive summary

CPAT Event PRN: 140280

20 digital photographs, CPAT film no 4596

Appendix 1: CPAT WSI 2003

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) have been invited by the National Trust to undertake a watching brief during the refurbishment of the visitor car park at Erddig Hall, Wrexham (planning application P/2018/0750; SJ 32841 48154). The works include the replacement of grass parking bays with a more durable surface and improvements to drainage to deal with surface water issues.
- 1.2. The works proposed lie within a Grade 1 Registered Park and Garden (PGW (C) 62, Cadw 1995). Scheduled Monument DE017 Erddig Mound and Bailey Castle lies 400m to the north of the car park. Scheduled monument DE152 Wat's Dyke: Section extending from Erddig Park to Middle Sontley lies in two sections 350m to the North West and 400 m to the south west of the car park. Many of the nearby garden features and estate buildings are Grade II Listed Buildings, with Erddig Hall being a Grade I Listed Building.
- 1.3. Non designated assets within the immediate vicinity of the car park include ridge and furrow earthworks and old field boundaries in the parkland to the south (National Trust Historic Buildings Sites and Monuments Record).
- 1.4. An archaeological appraisal of the project area determined that the orchard car park works are unlikely to disturb archaeological deposits of high significance. An archaeological watching brief is recommended of the ground work associated with drainage, to be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist to record any archaeological deposits encountered and a brief was prepared by the National Trust Archaeologist detailing the methodology to be adopted.

2 Methodology

- 2.1. An intensive archaeological watching brief will be conducted, with suitable archaeological investigation and recording, monitoring groundworks associated with the construction of the new drains, together with other groundworks likely to impact on potential buried archaeological deposits.
- 2.2. The watching brief will be conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014). The excavation of any archaeological features or deposits will be undertaken by hand using the conventional techniques for archaeological excavation:
 - The presence or absence of archaeological features encountered during the ground works will be noted.
 - Where features of archaeological interest are identified during the ground works they will be systematically investigated by hand with sufficient work being undertaken to determine their date, character and function, using the conventional techniques for archaeological excavation and in accordance with CIfA Standard and Guidance.

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- All features will be located as accurately as possible on an overall plan of the development at an appropriate scale, showing boundaries depicted on Ordnance Survey mapping.
 - Contexts will be recorded on individual record forms, using a continuous numbering system, and be drawn and photographed as appropriate.
 - Plans will be drawn on permatrace to a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate.
 - All photography will be taken using a digital SLR camera with a minimum resolution of 12 mega pixels, including a metric scale in each view, with views logged in a photographic register.
 - In the event of human burials being discovered the Ministry of Justice will be informed. The remains will initially be left *in situ*, and if removal is required, a MoJ licences will be applied for under the Burial Act 1857.
 - In the event of finding any artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasures Act 1996, the appropriate procedures under this legislation will be followed.
- 2.3. All artefacts and environmental samples will be treated in a manner appropriate to their composition and a sampling strategy will be developed as appropriate:
- All stratified finds will be collected by context, or where appropriate, individually recorded in three dimensions. Unstratified finds will only be collected where they contribute significantly to the project objectives or are of particular intrinsic interest.
 - All finds and samples will be collected, processed, sorted, quantified, recorded, labelled, packed, stored, marked, assessed, analysed and conserved in a manner appropriate to their composition and in line with appropriate guidance.
 - arrangements to assess and study any artefacts, assemblages and environment samples.
 - Any artefacts recovered during the watching brief will be deposited with an appropriate museum, subject to the permission of the owner.
- 2.4. Following the on-site work an illustrated report will be prepared containing conventional sections to include:
- Non-technical summary
 - Introduction
 - Site location
 - Topography and Geology
 - Archaeological Background
 - Watching brief
 - Conclusions
 - References
 - Appropriate appendices on archives and finds
- 2.5. The report summary will be provided in English and Welsh, in accordance with the *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) V1* (July 2018).

- 2.6. The digital report will be submitted to the National Trust, Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist at Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust. On approval the final report will be submitted in high resolution PDF format to the Historic Environment Record Officer, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust for inclusion within the Historic Environment Record.

Site archive

- 2.7. The overall archive will conform to guidelines described in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Historic England 2006, the CifA (2014) *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* and *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales* (NPAAW, 2017) and *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) V1* (July 2018).
- 2.8. The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record (NMR), RCAHMW, including a copy of the final report. This archive will include all written, drawn, survey and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. NMR Digital archives will follow the standard required by the RCAHMW (RCAHMW 2015). A copy of the digital archive only will also be lodged with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust.

3 Resources and programming

- 3.1. The watching brief will be undertaken by a skilled archaeologist under the overall supervision of Nigel Jones, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA). CPAT is also a CifA Registered Organisation (RAO No 6) and as such agrees to abide by their *Code of Conduct* (2014) and the *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (2014).
- 3.2. All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist(s) who conducted the site work. Copies of the report will be deposited with the client and the regional Historic Environment Record within one month of the completion of on-site works. If appropriate, a short report will be published in *Archaeology in Wales*.
- 3.3. Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 3.4. The Development Control Archaeologist at Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust will be informed of the works programme to facilitate monitoring, should this be required.
- 3.5. CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance, as well as Professional Indemnity insurance.

N W Jones

4 December 2018

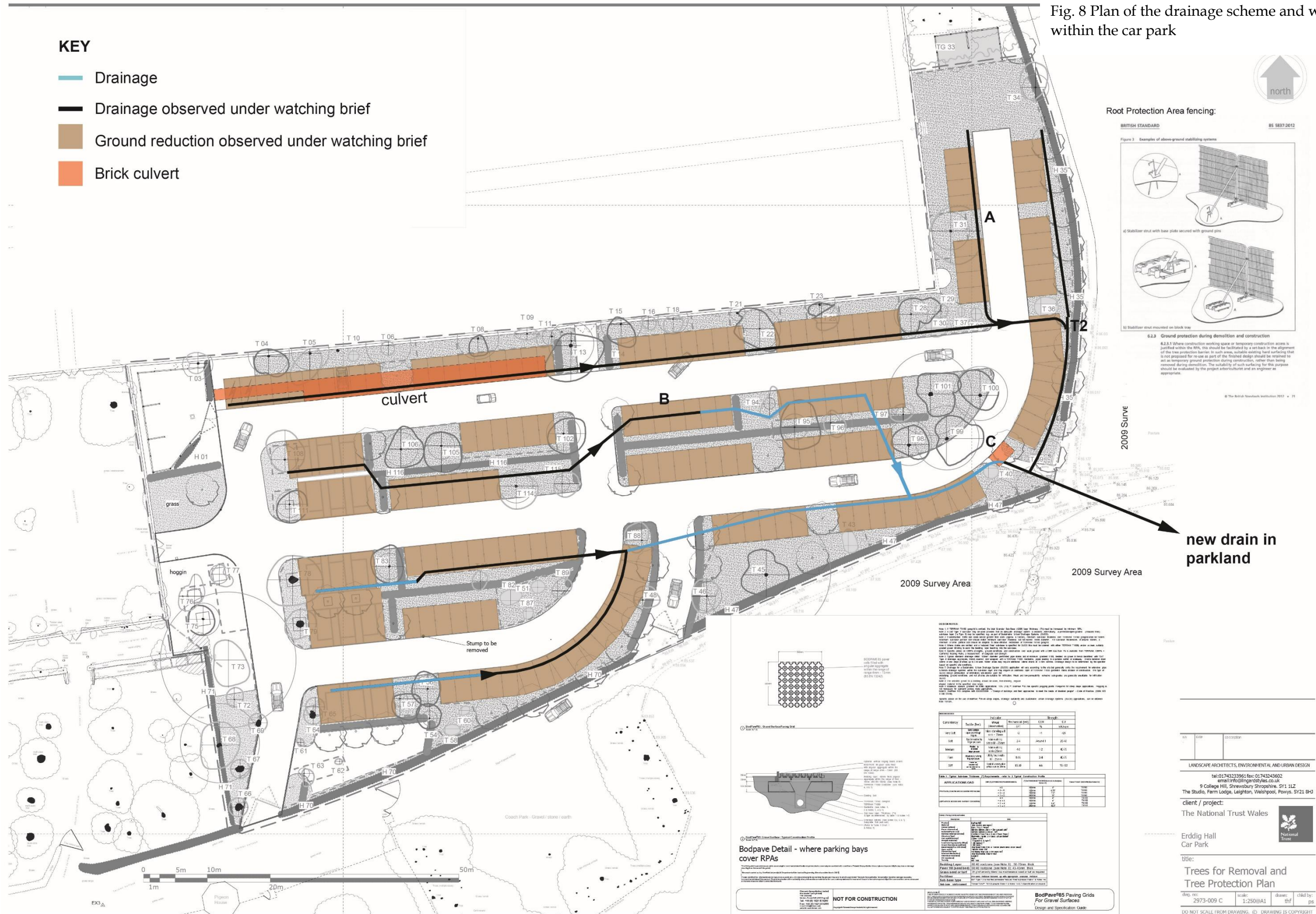


Fig. 8 Plan of the drainage scheme and watching brief within the car park

Fig. 9 Plan showing the approx. line of the new drain through the park

