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**Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan,  
Denbighshire, LL18 5AW**

**October 2022 V 1.0**



Archaeological Watching Brief

Project Code: A0382.1

Report no. 0375

Event PRN: 213995



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Report no. 0375 / Event PRN: 213995

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Project Code: A0382.1

Date: 21/10/2022

Client: Joanna Jones

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# Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire, LL18 5AW

## October 2022 v1.0

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## 1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

*Comisiynwyd Aeon Archaeology gan Joanna Jones i gynnal brîff gwyllo archaeolegol yn ystod y gwaith daear yn gysylltiedig â chodi estyniad cefn deulawr i Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Sir Ddinbych LL18 5AW, (yn canolbwyntio ar **NGR SJ 02454 78074**).*

*Canfu canlyniadau'r briff gwyllo fod darn tenau o bridd, o bosibl, wedi gweld gweithgaredd o'r cyfnod canoloesol, ac roedd hyn ym mhen gogleddol y datblygiad. Cadarnhawyd hyn ar ôl i nifer o ddarganfyddiadau cerameg canoloesol o'r 14eg ganrif gael eu hadfer. Ymhellach, mae'n bosibl bod y rhan hon o'r safle yn rhan o arwyneb canoloesol creiriol cain, a welwyd gynt yn ystod cloddiad i'r gogledd-ddwyrain ar Princes Road ym 1972, gan ddangos y potensial i fwy o ffabrig canoloesol wedi'i gadw yn yr ardal.*

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Joanna Jones to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the erection of a two-storey rear extension to Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire LL18 5AW, (centred on **NGR SJ 02454 78074**).

The results of the watching brief found that a narrow band of soil, which possibly demonstrated activity from the medieval period, and this persisted at the northern end of the development. This was confirmed following the recovery of a number of 14<sup>th</sup> century medieval ceramic finds. Furthermore, this area of the site may be the last vestiges of a relict medieval surface, formerly observed during an excavation to the northeast on Princes Road in 1972, demonstrating the potential for more preserved medieval fabric to be found in the vicinity.



## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been commissioned by Joanna Jones, hereafter ‘the Client’, to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the erection of a two-storey rear extension to Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire LL18 5AW, hereafter ‘the Site’, (centred on **NGR SJ 02454 78074**) (figures 01-03).

Full planning permission (ref: **44/2022/0308**) was secured by the Client from Denbighshire County Council, hereafter ‘the Council’, on the 16th May 2022 with the following condition concerning archaeology being applied to the permission:

### *Condition 3*

*All groundworks shall be undertaken in the presence of a qualified archaeological contractor so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists. A copy of the watching brief report and resultant archive shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR tel: 01938 553670 within two months of the fieldwork being completed*

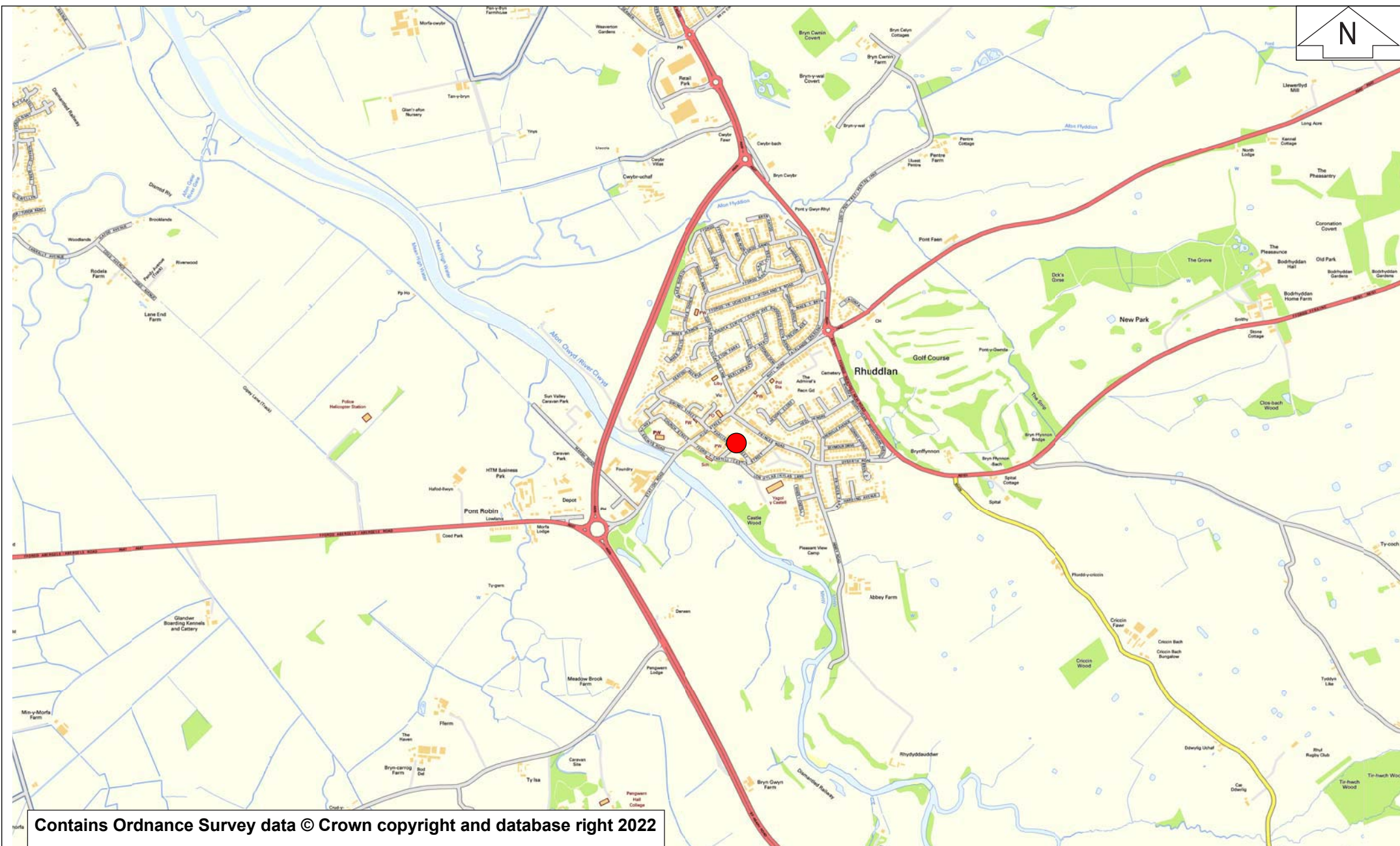
*REASON: In the interest of preservation of archaeological remains.*

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

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

*Information held within the regional Historic Environment Record indicates that this plot lies firmly within the predicted medieval historic core of Rhuddlan and the town layout devised under Edward I with former town defences just to the north. The rear plots in Rhuddlan typically preserve evidence of property boundary ditches, refuse pits, former garden layouts, outbuildings and artefacts of all periods. These plots can also contain archaeology dating back to the Mesolithic period and include stone tools and shell middens. The new foundations for the extension may encounter any of the features described above and appropriate archaeological monitoring is therefore required.*

*We would recommend that an archaeologist is contracted to be present throughout the duration of ground reduction and new foundation excavations for the extension and new parking area so that an adequate record of any archaeological features revealed by these works can be made. This advice is in accordance with the guidance set out in TAN 24 (May 2017) and Planning Policy Wales (Feb 2021).*

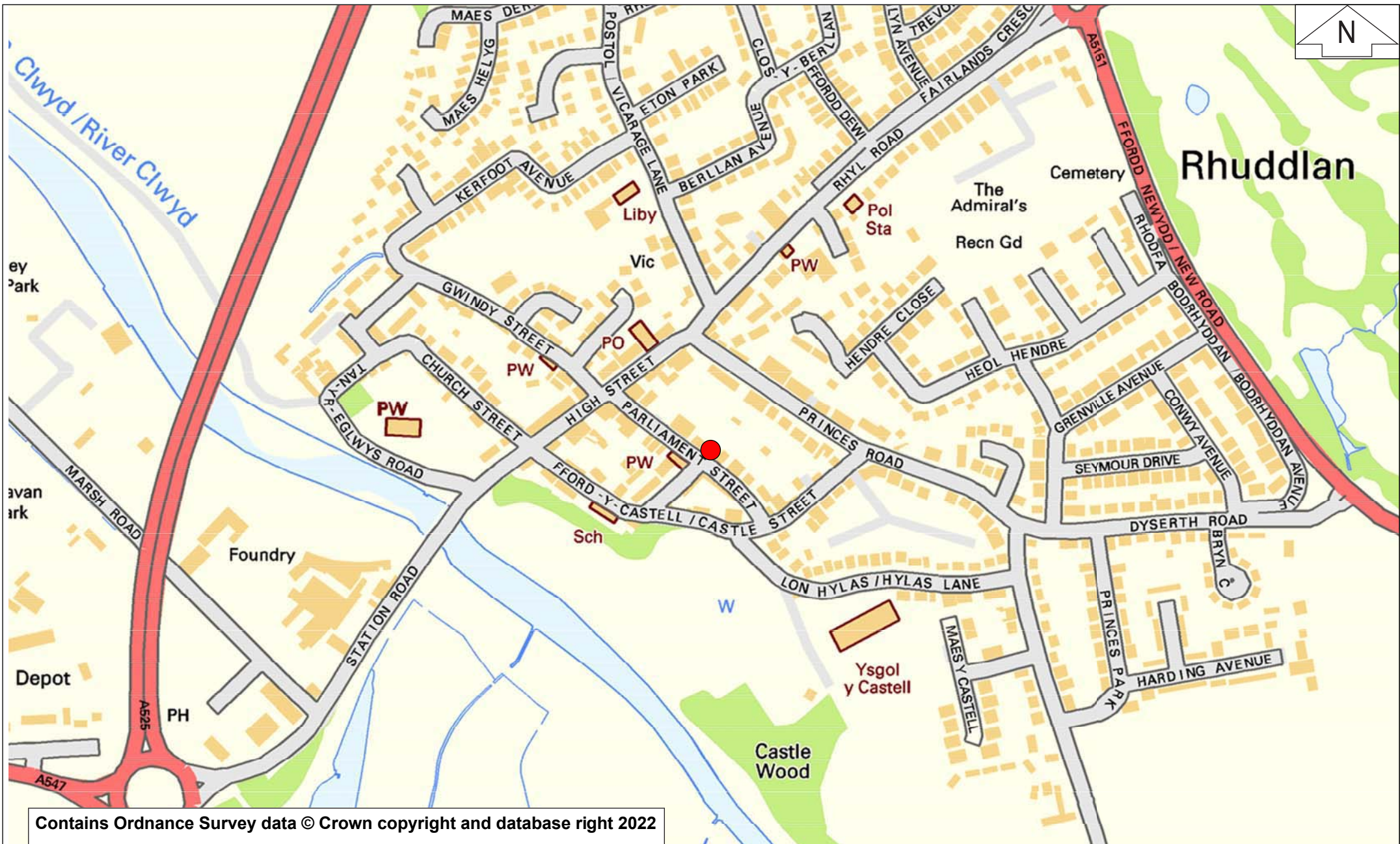


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**Figure 01:** Location of Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire, LL18 5AW.  
Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

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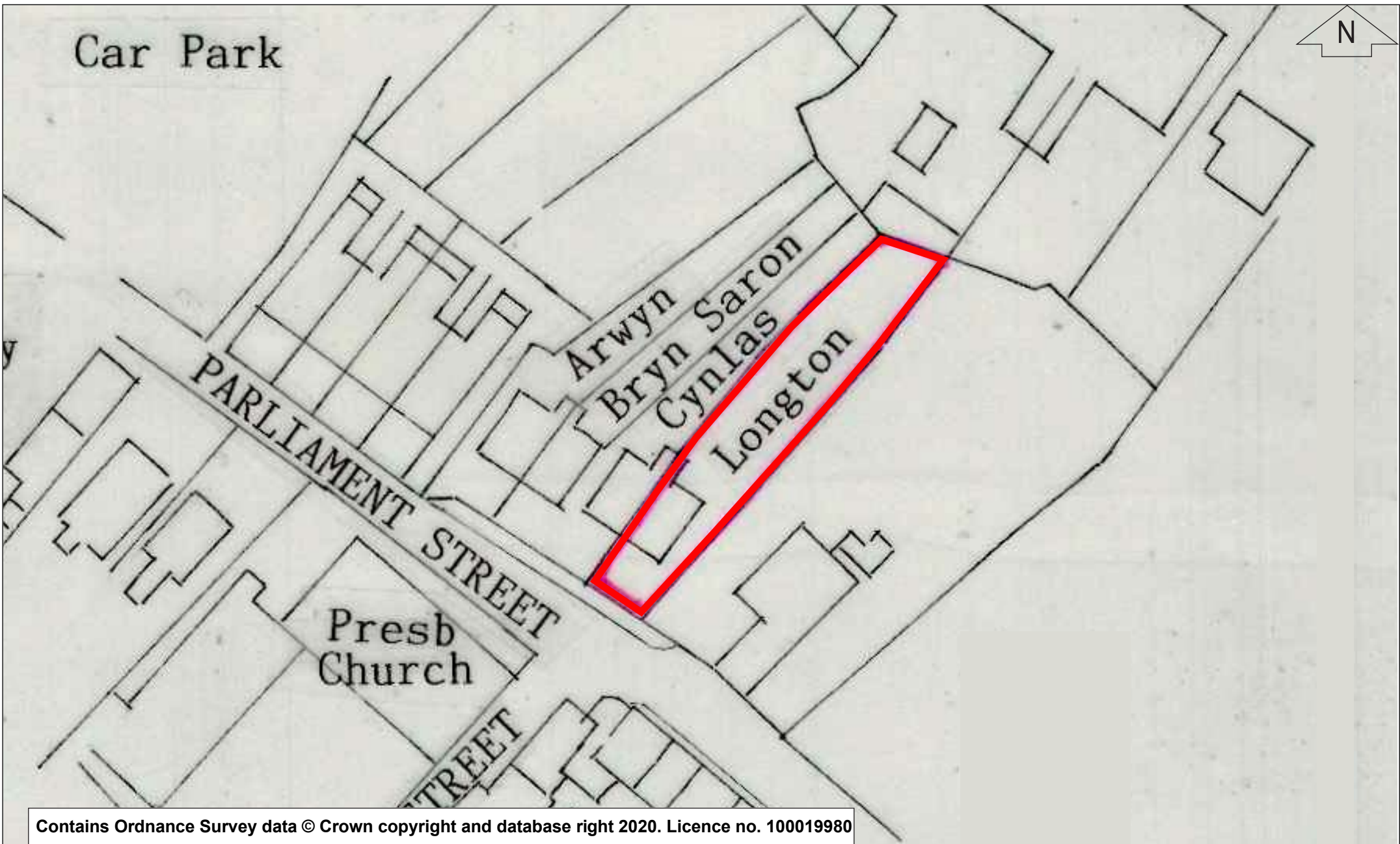


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**Figure 02:** Location of Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire, LL18 5AW.  
Scale 1:5,000 at A4.



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**Figure 03:** Location of Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire, LL18 5AW.  
Scale 1:500 at A4.

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### 3.0 POLICY CONTEXT

At an international level there are two principal agreements concerning the protection of the cultural heritage and archaeological resource – the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, commonly known as the Valetta Convention. The latter was agreed by the Member States of the Council of Europe in 1992, and also became law in 1992. It has been ratified by the UK, and responsibility for its implementation rests with Department for Culture Media and Sport.

The management and protection of the historic environment in Wales is set out within the following legislation:

- The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (As amended)
- The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- The Town and Country Planning Act 1990
- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
- The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 (As amended)

The Historic Environment (Wales) Act is the most recent legislation for the management of the Historic Environment and amends two pieces of UK legislation — the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The new Act has three main aims:

- to give more effective protection to listed buildings and scheduled monuments;
- to improve the sustainable management of the historic environment; and
- to introduce greater transparency and accountability into decisions taken on the historic environment.

With respect to the cultural heritage of the built environment the Planning (Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings) Act 1990 applies. The Act sets out the legislative framework within which works and development affecting listed buildings and conservation areas must be considered. This states that:-

“In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses” (s66(1))

Other known sites of cultural heritage/archaeological significance can be entered onto county-based Historic Environment Records under the Town and Country Planning 1995.

Planning Policy Wales sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. Chapter 6 covers the historic environment and emphasises that the positive management of change in the historic environment is based on a full understanding of the nature and significance of historic assets and the recognition of the benefits that they can deliver in a vibrant culture and economy.

Various principles and policies related to cultural heritage and archaeology are set out in the Planning Policy Wales which guide local planning authorities with respect to the wider historic environment.

The following paragraphs from Planning Policy Wales are particularly relevant and are quoted in full:

Paragraph 6.1.5 concerns planning applications:

*The planning system must take into account the Welsh Government's objectives to protect, conserve, promote and enhance the historic environment as a resource for the general well-being of present and future generations. The historic environment is a finite, non-renewable and shared resource and a vital and integral part of the historical and cultural identity of Wales. It contributes to economic vitality and culture, civic pride, local distinctiveness and the quality of Welsh life. The historic environment can only be maintained as a resource for future generations if the individual historic assets are protected and conserved. Cadw's published Conservation Principles highlights the need to base decisions on an understanding of the impact a proposal may have on the significance of an historic asset.*

Planning Policy Wales is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TAN). Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment contains detailed guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment during development plan, preparation and decision making on planning and listed building consent applications. TAN 24 replaces the following Welsh Office Circulars:

- 60/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology
- 61/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas
- 1/98 Planning and the Historic Environment: Directions by the Secretary of State for Wales

#### 4.0 PROJECT AIMS

The aim of the watching brief works was to characterise the known, or potential archaeological remains uncovered during groundworks associated with the initial topsoiling and excavation of foundation trenches in advance of the erection of a new two-storey extension and store to the rear of Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire LL18 5AW. The broad aims of the archaeological watching brief were to:

- 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 detailed objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to:

- 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.

The management of this project has followed the procedures laid out in the standard professional guidance *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006; rev 2015), and in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Archaeological Watching Brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014). Five stages are specified:

Phase 1: project planning

Phase 2: fieldwork

Phase 3: assessment of potential for analysis and revised project design

Phase 4: analysis and report preparation

Phase 5: dissemination

The current document reports on the phase 4 analysis and states the means to be used to disseminate the results. In this instance it was not necessary to prepare a revised project design as alluded to in Phase 3; as there was a paucity of evidence recovered in Phase 2 in terms of archaeological features and therefore did not warrant any alteration to the initial project design.

The site is to be set in its landscape context so that its full character and importance can be understood. All the information is to be presented in a report that will be held by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Monument Record of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) for long term archiving

so that it can be accessible to the public and future researchers. This phase of work also includes archiving the material and documentary records from the project.



## **5.0 METHODOLOGY – ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

### **5.1 Watching Brief**

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

*An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant by-laws of CIfA.*

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the CIfA as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons (CIfA 2014a). The watching brief will take place within a specified area within the Site where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.

The CIfA further identifies the purpose of a watching brief as allowing, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.

It is also important to note that a watching brief provides an opportunity, if needed, for a signal to be made to all interested parties, before the destruction of the archaeological materials, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

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

All excavations were undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. A photographic record was maintained throughout, using a digital SLR camera (Canon 6000D) set to maximum resolution and any subsurface remains were to be recorded photographically, with detailed notations and measured drawings being undertaken if required.

In the event of archaeological discovery features were to be excavated by hand and fully recorded using Aeon Archaeology pro-formas, digital photographs, and plan and section drawings taken at a suitable scale (usually 1:20 for plan drawings and 1:10 for section drawings).

The archive produced is held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0382.1**.

### **5.2 Data Collection from Site Records**

A database of the site photographs was produced to enable active long-term curation of the photographs and easy searching. The site records were checked and cross-referenced and photographs were cross-referenced to contexts. These records were used to write the site narrative and the field drawings and survey data were used to produce an outline plan of the site.

All paper field records were scanned to provide a backup digital copy. The photographs were organised and precisely cross-referenced to the digital photographic record so that the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) Historic Environment Record (HER) can curate them in their active digital storage facility.

### **5.3 Artefact Methodology**

All artefacts were to be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. They would be bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. After processing, all artefacts would be cleaned and examined in-house at Aeon Archaeology. If required artefacts would be sent to a relevant specialist for conservation and analysis.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds was kept under review throughout the archaeological watching brief. Any changes in recovery priorities would be made under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Client and the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) Development Control Archaeologist. There was a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

### **5.4 Environmental Samples Methodology**

The sampling strategy and requirement for bulk soil samples was related to the perceived character, interpretational importance and chronological significance of the strata under investigation. This ensured that only significant features would be sampled. The aim of the sampling strategy was to recover carbonised macroscopic plant remains, small artefacts particularly knapping debris and evidence for metalworking.

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

### **5.5 Report and dissemination**

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project was prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions were labelled, and cross-referenced, and will be lodged within a suitable repository to be agreed with the archaeological curator within six months of the completion of the project.

A draft copy of the report has been sent to the client and upon written approval from them paper and digital copies of the report will be sent to the regional HER, the CPAT Development Control Archaeologist, and will be logged with the RCAHMW. Copies of all notes, plans, and photographs arising from the watching brief will be stored at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0328.1** with the originals being lodged in a suitable repository to be agreed with the archaeological curator.

## 6.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The CPAT DCA (Mr Mark Walters) made the following consultee comments regarding the planning application:

*Information held within the regional Historic Environment Record indicates that this plot lies firmly within the predicted medieval historic core of Rhuddlan and the town layout devised under Edward I with former town defences just to the north. The rear plots in Rhuddlan typically preserve evidence of property boundary ditches, refuse pits, former garden layouts, outbuildings and artefacts of all periods. These plots can also contain archaeology dating back to the Mesolithic period and include stone tools and shell middens. The new foundations for the extension may encounter any of the features described above and appropriate archaeological monitoring is therefore required.*

Below is a quick reference guide of dating used within the British Isles in order to demonstrate the range of specific Epochs/Eras. Due to a discussion of the Medieval Era to follow the calendar marking system used here is *BC/AD*, typically used to label or number years in the Julian and Gregorian calendars. The use of *Current Era/Before Current Era (CE/BCE)* can be used interchangeably with *BC/AD* and are considered religiously neutral terms. Another dating system used in archaeology, geology and other scientific disciplines is *Before Present (BP)* which relates to dates before 1<sup>st</sup> January 1950 – this is to specify when events occurred relative to the origin of practical radiocarbon dating in the 1950s.

### **British Epochs/Eras**

*(All dates are approximate and subject to debate and change)*

#### **Prehistoric (BC – Before Christ)**

*Palaeolithic, (968,000 to 9335 BC)*

*Mesolithic, (9335–4600 BC)*

*Neolithic, (4600 – 2500 BC)*

*Bronze Age, (2500–800 BC)*

*Iron Age, (800 BC – 43 AD)*

#### **Historic (AD – Anno Domini)**

*Romans, (43–c. 410 AD)*

*Early Medieval, (c. 410–1066 AD)*

*Medieval, (1066–1485 AD)*

*Tudors, (1485–1603 AD)*

*Stuarts, (1603–1714 AD)*

*Georgians, (1714–1837 AD)*

*Victorians, (1837–1901 AD)*

### **The Mesolithic Period & Rhuddlan**

According to the Mesolithic Research and Conservation Framework (Milner et al. 2013) the British Mesolithic period is currently recognised as spanning the period 11,600 to 6000 cal BP (9600 - 4000 cal BC) and it is this phase in human history which directly follows the Palaeolithic epoch. The Mesolithic era roughly covers the first half of the Holocene (the current Geological epoch) and is now recognised by several cultural and environmental events including rapid climate change at the beginning of the period, significant changes in lithic (stone tools) technology and, in the 7th millennium cal BC -

a severe cold event, a tsunami and eventually the breaching of the landscape (*Doggerland*) which formerly joined Britain to the rest of Europe (Blinkhorn & Milner 2013).

Rhuddlan has returned the greatest number/density of Mesolithic sites in Denbighshire and incidentally North Wales. The current town is situated on the brow of a hill overlooking the River Clwyd where Edward I's stone-built castle dominates the landscape. However, it would seem that the site has seen continuous activity since the early prehistoric period following the Younger Dryas (*12,900 to 11,700 cal BP or 10,900 to 9700 cal BC*), which is a term used to describe what was a return to glacial conditions following a temporary climactic warming event near the end of the last Ice Age. The site at Rhuddlan has been given two distinct phase designations by CPAT; the *Rhuddlan Mesolithic Site (PRN 57767)* and the later *Rhuddlan Bronze Age Settlement (PRN 38845)*. During the late 1960's and early 1970's there were a series of archaeological excavations conducted at Rhuddlan by Henrietta Quinell and Marion R. Blockley with lithic analysis by Peter Berridge. The work comprised of five seasons of excavation, mostly on the fluvio-glacial sand ridge above the river Clwyd which revealed a complex sequence of multi-period activity dating from the Mesolithic onward. According to the work conducted by Quinell & Blockley the Mesolithic occupation is believed to have dated from approximately 9000 cal BP (7th millennium BC) and produced rich evidence of a chert working industry, some possible structural features, and a series of incised decorated pebbles which have only been found on three other sites across the whole of Britain (Milner et al. 2016).

### **Medieval Rhuddlan**

(The following is largely reproduced from *Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust- Historic Settlement Survey – Denbighshire – 2014* – see **Section 10.0 Sources** for full reference).

After the Norman Conquest, a motte and bailey castle was built in about the year 1073 AD, probably on top of a former *llys* (Welsh court) at *Twt Hill*, by *Robert of Rhuddlan*, the deputy of Hugh of Chester. A small borough (town) was founded by the castle and was referred to in Domesday Book. It revealed that there were eight burgesses (freemen) there as well as the mint. A church is mentioned, and it seems highly likely that this was the structure found in *Henrietta Quinell's excavations* on *Ysgol-y-Castell* playing fields (*PRN 101950*) rather than on the site of the present church. Her excavations revealed that the Norman borough was located immediately to the southeast of Rhuddlan Castle, and that its defences enclosed an area of 7ha which incorporated the earlier *Twt Hill* motte and bailey (*PRN 102026*).

To what degree Rhuddlan prospered under its Norman lords is unknown, but in 1140 during the English civil war known as *the Anarchy*, the town fell under Welsh control and apart from a brief English resurgence in 1211-3 generally remained in Welsh hands until 1241. A further period of Welsh control under *Llywelyn ap Gruffudd* began in 1256 and continued until Edward I's campaign in 1277.

In that year it is likely that the town ditch was excavated to enclose 30 hectares (*ha*) that included the earlier Norman borough and the Dominican friary (now *Abbey Farm PRN 102025*), butting up against what was to become Edward's stone castle, also begun in 1277. Plans to canalise the lower reaches of the Clwyd River were drawn up and the work was probably completed by the end of 1280, facilitating access to the sea and providing waterfront access for the castle. The first mention of the new borough at Rhuddlan came in the early part of 1278 – planned on a grid system of streets, it lay to the northwest of the new castle (*Edwardian*) and had its own defences, though these appear to have remained incomplete during the earlier 1280s and may perhaps have been completed by the burgesses rather than the king. The king's plan to move the see of St Asaph to Rhuddlan came to nothing, but a new church was subsequently built within the borough.

More than a century separated the town's establishment from its destruction, in 1403, during the Glyndŵr rebellion, although the castle itself remained in English hands. The town was back under English control in 1406-7. Rhuddlan appeared to go into decline or at least did not grow to the same degree as other urban centres. From the 16th century the main harbour developed downstream from the bridge, initially extending for around 100m on either bank, but later focusing on the wharfage along the eastern bank.

## 7.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS

### 7.1 The Documentary Archive

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

Watching brief day sheets	2
Context Sheets	7
Digital photographs	22

### 7.2 Environmental Samples

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

### 7.3 Artefacts

#### **The Finds Assemblage from Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire.**

*By Leigh Dodd*

#### **Introduction**

A small assemblage of pottery, along with a single sherd of glass and a fragment of sandstone, was recovered from two contexts. Recovery of the assemblage was through hand collection.

Although the overall condition of the assemblage is generally good, few of the pottery vessels were represented by more than a single sherd. This implies high fragmentation and widespread distribution of the vessels following initial deposition.

The assemblage is summarised and quantified according to object and context in the table below (Table 1). The following sections of this report summarise in detail the objects recovered.

Finds	Medieval pottery		Post-medieval/later pottery		Glass		Stone	
	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)	No.	Wt (g)
(102)	5	47	3	21			1	579
(103)			10	578	1	20		
Total	5	47	13	599	1	20	1	579

Table 1: Quantification of finds assemblage by object type, count and weight according to context.

#### **Medieval pottery**

The medieval pottery recovered from context (102) consisted of four small sherds in hard, white or off-white fabrics, derived from iron-free clay, and a single sherd in an orange-red fabric.

Two of the white-bodied sherds may have derived from jars/cooking pots – one sherd having some carbon on the exterior surface implying use over a heat source – with the other two sherds possibly deriving from jugs. One of the potential jug sherds has patches of purple-brown glaze on the exterior, the other a coating of greenish-grey glaze. White fabrics, such as these, are very common over a large

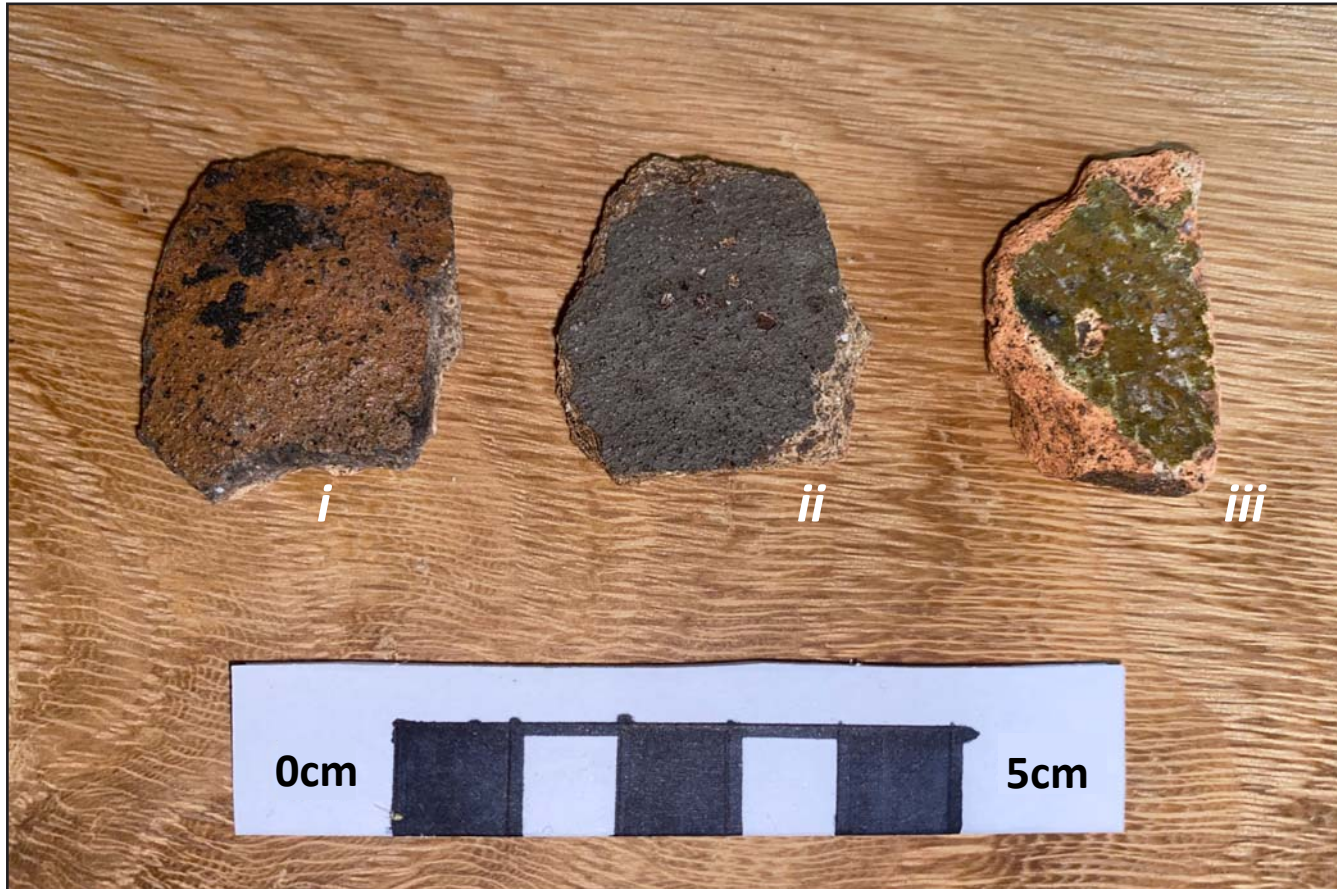


**Plate A:** Hard, white or off-white fabric with puple-brown glaze (jug?) - possibly from medieval kilns at Ewloe C.14th century

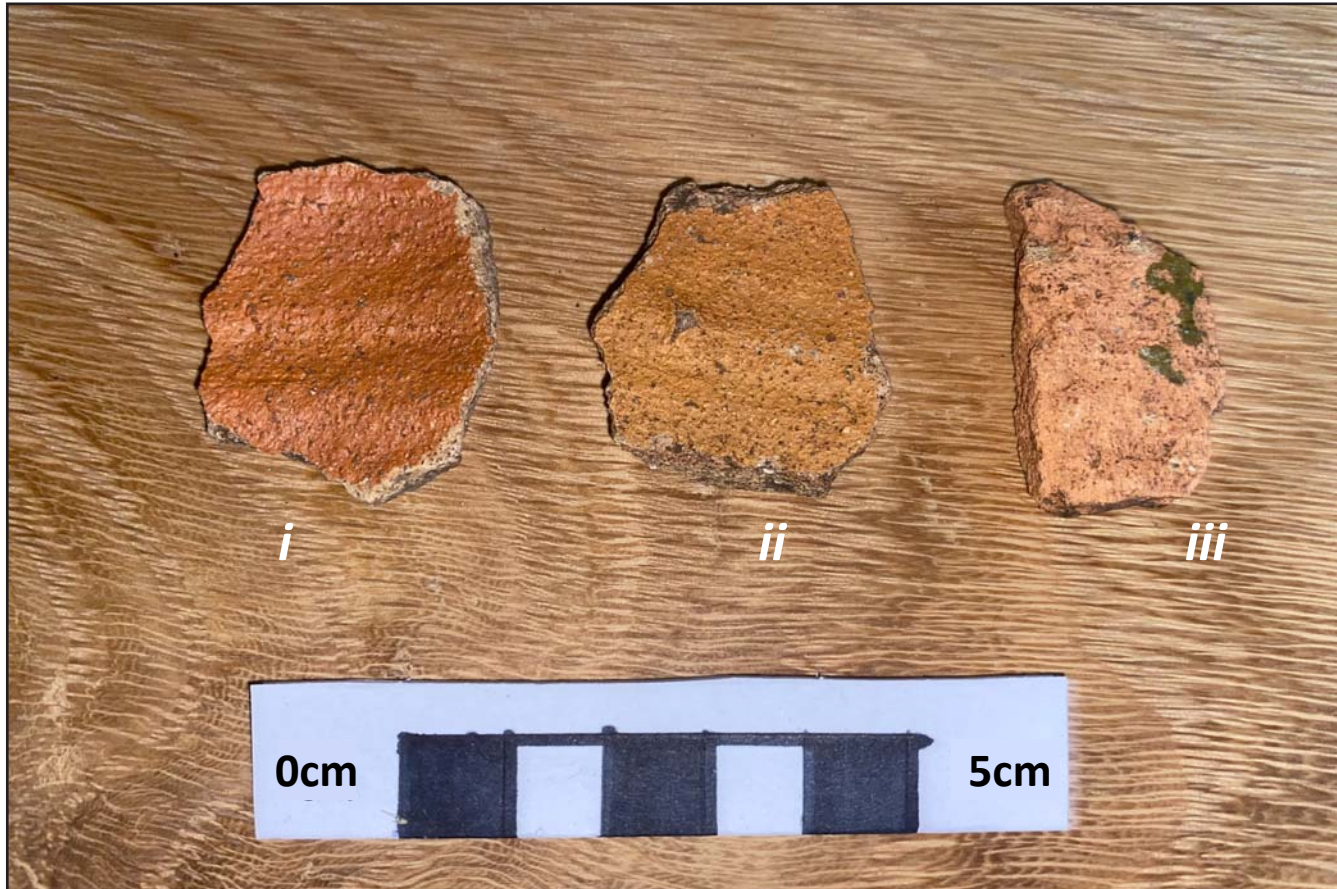


**Plate B:** Hard, white or off-white fabric (cooking pot/jar?) - possibly from medieval kilns at Ewloe C.14th century





**Plate C:** Outer faces of (i) Hard, white or off-white fabric with carbon on the exterior surface implying use over a heat source.  
(ii) Hard, white or off-white fabric greenish-grey glaze  
(iii) orange-red sherd has the patchy remains of an olive-green glaze - all possibly from medieval kilns at Ewloe C.14th century



**Plate D:** Inner faces of Outer faces of (i) Hard, white or off-white fabric with oxidised inner face.  
(ii) Hard, white or off-white fabric greenish-grey glaze with oxidised inner face  
(iii) orange-red sherd with the patchy olive-green glaze on the internal face - all possibly from medieval kilns at Ewloe C.14th century



**Plate E:** Rim sherd to a club-rimmed jar with patchy green-brown glaze - C.18th century - probably from the kilns at Buckley, Flints.



**Plate F:** Body sherds from round-bodied cups or similar vessels, (right) decorated externally with wavy lines of white slip, coated with brown glaze - C.18th century - probably from the kilns at Buckley, Flints.

area of the West Midlands and the Welsh borders, including Ewloe, Flintshire (approximately 20 miles from Rhuddlan) during the 14th century.

The orange-red sherd has the patchy remains of an olive-green glaze on both internal and external surface. This sherd probably derived from an open vessel such as a jar. This vessel may have been produced at the Ewloe, Flintshire kilns too.

Unfortunately, none of the medieval sherds exhibit any closely diagnostic characteristics (such as rim forms, handles, bases etc.) by which to compare with other published material from excavations at Rhuddlan (see Owen 1994: 192), including the limited products of the kiln there (Miles 1977: 100–101).

### **Post-medieval and later pottery**

Context (102) produced three sherds of post-medieval pottery, all in red fabrics. Two of these sherds probably derived from round-bodied cups or similar vessels, one of which was decorated externally with wavy lines of white slip, coated with brown glaze. These vessels are likely to have been produced at the Buckley Potteries, Flintshire during the 18th century (see Watson 2019: 61, fig. 31 for examples). The third sherd is from the rim to a club-rimmed jar with patchy green-brown glaze. Probably of similar date to the cups, this vessel may too have been produced at Buckley during the 18th century.

Context (103) produced a sherd from a blackware jar and a sherd from a press-moulded slipware dish. Both of these vessels could span the 18th to early 19th centuries and may have been produced at the Buckley Potteries or perhaps potteries in Staffordshire or Merseyside.

Later pottery from context (103) consisted of a sherd from the rim of a buff-bodied yellow-glazed bowl, a sherd from the rim from a blue transfer-printed white earthenware dish with design associated with the ubiquitous Willow pattern, and two sherds from the rim of a large, white earthenware oval serving platter decorated with green underglaze floral design. This latter vessel was printed on the underside of the rim with the globe mark for potters Burgess & Leigh, Burslem, Staffordshire, along with the name of the pattern Clematis and the associated registration number 211732; this would place the registration of this pattern between January 1893 and January 1894. The printed globe mark was used by Burgess & Leigh during the period 1906–12 (<http://www.thepotteries.org/mark/b/burgess.html>) and included the earlier pattern registration number beneath. Also recovered were four sherds from a single white earthenware pharmaceutical jar. This vessel was produced for Boots chemist to contain Confection of Senna as printed in green across the jar. The jar would have been supplied complete with a pottery lid.

### **Glass**

A single fragment from the body of a cylindrical beverage bottle, in green glass, was recovered from context (103). This sherd is broadly contemporary with the 19th-century/early 20th-century date of the pottery recovered from this context.

### **Stone**

A fragment of red sandstone, with maximum dimensions of 150mm x 138mm and a thickness of 23mm, was recovered from context (102). This fragment appears to have been subjected to a heat source and is blackened somewhat. This may suggest that this stone was perhaps utilised in a hearth, oven or similar structural, or industrial, context.

**Discussion**

Overall, the ceramic assemblage consisted largely of pottery of both medieval and later date. The association of the medieval sherds with later, post-medieval, material in context (102) implies that these earlier finds are residual. The presence, however, of this medieval material indicates activity within or close to the site around the 14th century.

The later pottery finds indicate domestic occupation during the 19th century and early 20th century. The assemblage from (103) representing waste material of a general domestic nature.

No further work on the finds assemblage is deemed necessary and it is recommended that the assemblage is not retained.

## **8.0 DIGITAL DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### **8.1 Type of study**

An archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the erection of a two-storey rear extension to Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire LL18 5AW.

### **8.2 Types of data**

Photographs, digital text, annotated plans.

### **8.3 Format and scale of the data**

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

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

Annotated plans scanned as *.PDF* files.

- 146 digital photographs (TIF file)
- 1 photographic metadata file (.accdb file)
- 1 annotated floor plan (scanned as a PDF file)
- External and internal building descriptions (.txt file)

### **8.4 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*

### **8.5 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.

### **8.6 Managing, storing and curating data.**

All digital data will be organised into Aeon Archaeology proforma project file systems and backed up to the cloud using *Digital River's Crashplan* with additional copies made to external physical hard drive.

### **8.7 Metadata standards and data documentation**

Digital metadata created using Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) or Access (.accdb) of all photographic plates. Paper metadata created from Aeon Archaeology proformas for contexts, artefacts, environmental samples, watching brief day sheets, trench sheets, and basic record sheets and then scanned to create digital .PDF copies.

### **8.8 Data preservation strategy and standards**

Long term data storage will be through the submission of digital (.PDF) reports to the regional Historic Environment Record (HER); submission of digital (.PDF) reports and a project completion form to the Oasis database; submission of the scanned (.PDF) archive, photographic plates (.TIF), and metadata (.xlsx) (.accdb) to the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMA); and retention of copies of all digital files at Aeon Archaeology on physical external hard drive and uploaded to the cloud.

### **8.9 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.

### **8.10 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 RCAHMA website. Requests can also be made for data through the regional HER's and directly to Aeon Archaeology ([info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk)).

### **8.11 Governance of access**

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

### **8.12 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.



### **8.13 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.

### **8.14 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.

### **8.15 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.

### **8.16 Organisational policies on data sharing and data security**

The following Aeon Archaeology policies are relevant:

- Aeon Archaeology Archive Deposition Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Quality Assurance Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Conflict of Interest Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Outreach Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Digital Management Plan 2020

## **9.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

### **Overview**

The archaeological watching brief was maintained by Josh Dean BA, archaeological contractor at Aeon Archaeology. This site was attended on the 27<sup>th</sup> September & 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 and the weather conditions were variable between heavy rain and wind to periods of bright sunshine – the ground was heavily water-logged following a week or so of heavy rain.

### **The Extension**

The watching brief was maintained during the excavation of a foundation trench for the erection of a two-storey extension to the rear of Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire. This foundation trench was excavated in three parts, labelled here as Trench A, Trench B and Trench C. A number of ceramic finds were recovered and these have discussed in depth in **Section 7.3** of this report.

### **Trench A**

Trench A was aligned northeast to southwest and measured 5.30m in length by 0.60m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.12m. This trench (A) cut through a 0.25m deep deposit of friable, light brown-grey, sand-silt, demolition (104) which had abundant sub angular sandstone cobbles, blue slate fragments, lime mortar and frequent examples of post-medieval ceramic 19th-20th century.

Below this was a 0.46m deep deposit of very soft, dark grey-black, clay-silt, imported topsoil (103) which produced occasional sub-rounded pebbles and frequent examples of post medieval ceramic and glass dating 17th - 19th centuries.

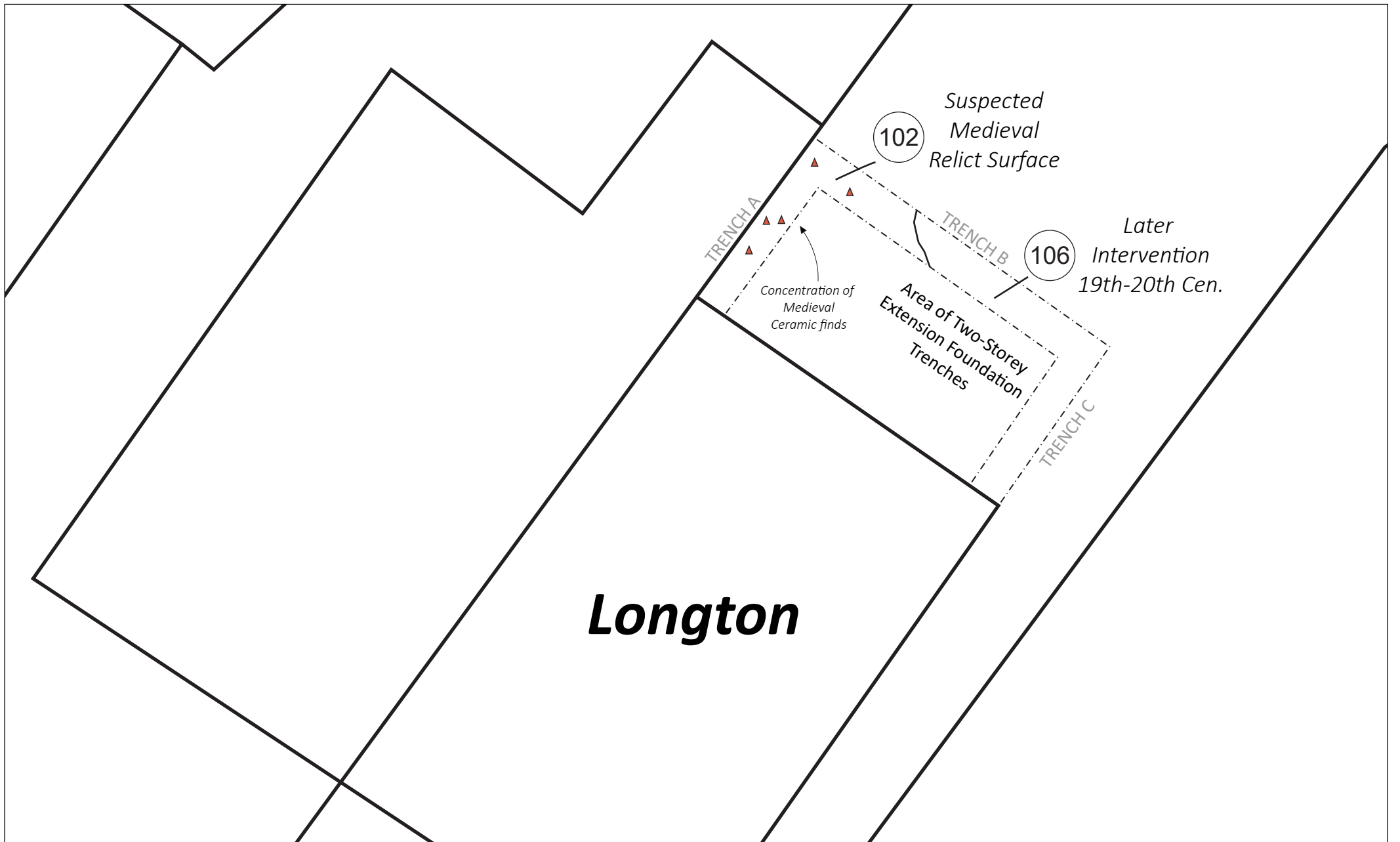
This lay above a 0.25m deep of quite soft, mid grey-brown, silt-clay which represents a suspected, vertically truncated, medieval ground surface (102A) with, very occasional (0-2%) sub-rounded pebble inclusions, occasional fragments of animal bone, medieval and post-medieval ceramic fragments and rare examples of sub-angular cobbles. The post-medieval ceramic finds may represent intrusive finds which were pushed into the surface from above. Furthermore, there was a possible interface layer (102B) with the natural below which formed a horizon and probably consisted of the lower 0.08m of the deposit (102A). This lay above a >0.12m deep deposit of light orange-brown, clay-sand, natural (101).

### **Trench B**

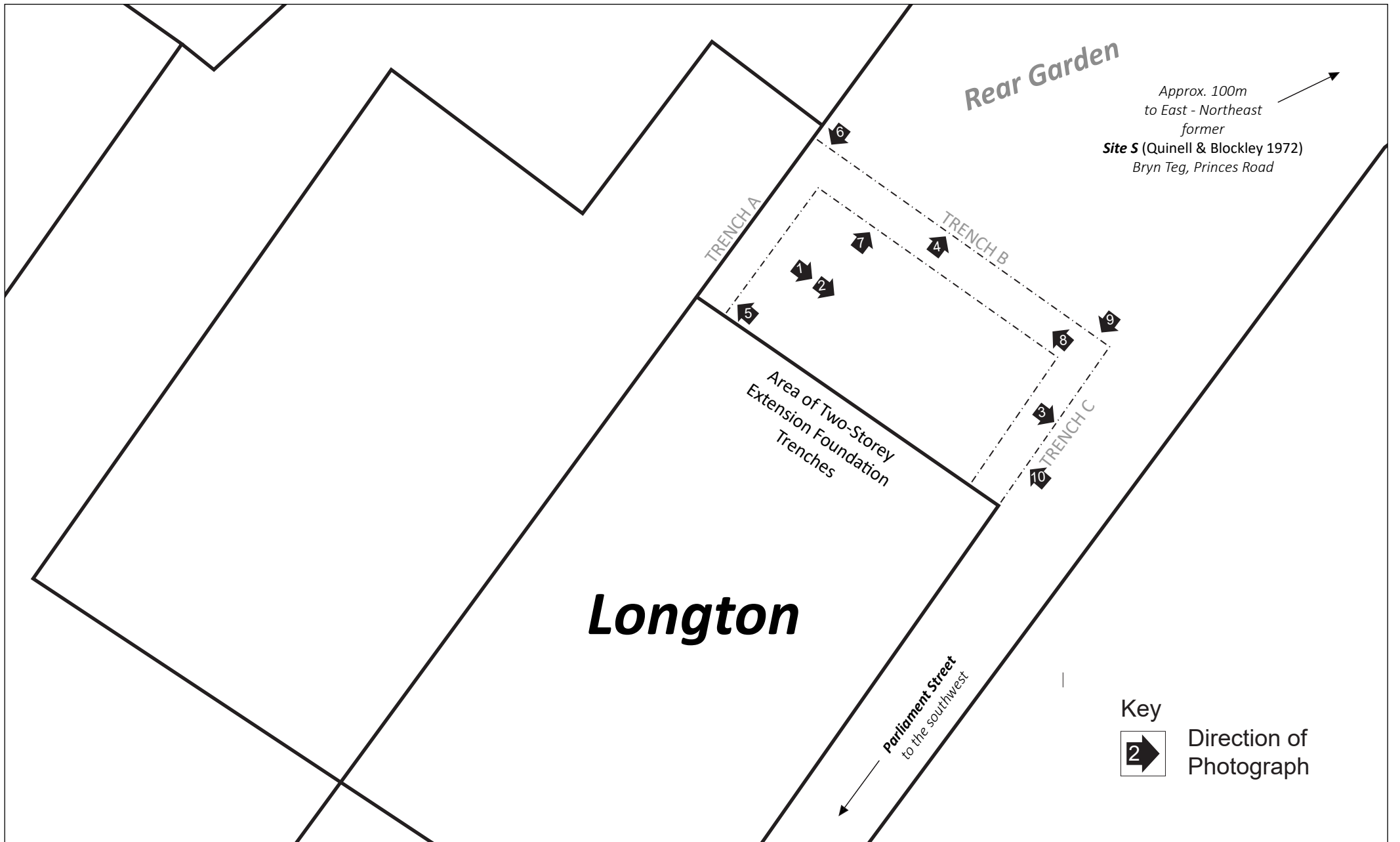
Trench B was aligned northwest to southeast and measured 10.20m in length by 0.60m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.20m. This trench (B) also cut through a 0.25m deep deposit of friable, light brown-grey, sand-silt, demolition (104) which had abundant sub angular sandstone cobbles, blue slate fragments, lime mortar and frequent examples of post-medieval ceramic 19th-20th century.

Below this was a 0.46m deep deposit of very soft, dark grey-black, clay-silt, imported topsoil (103) which produced occasional sub-rounded pebbles and frequent examples of post medieval ceramic and glass dating 17th - 19th centuries.

This lay above a 0.25m deep of quite soft, mid grey-brown, silt-clay which represents a suspected, vertically truncated, medieval ground surface (102A) with, very occasional (0-2%) sub-rounded pebble inclusions, occasional fragments of animal bone, medieval and post-medieval ceramic fragments and



**Figure 04:** Location of extension trenches and medieval find spots, at Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire LL18 5AW. Scale 1:100 @ A4.



**Figure 05:** Location of photographic plates of trenches, at Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire LL18 5AW. Scale 1:100 @ A4.



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**Plate 01:** Pre excavation shot of site area to rear of Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire - from the southeast - 1.00m scale



**Plate 02:** Post ground reduction for extension footprint to rear of Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire - from the southeast - 1.00m scale



**Plate 03:** Northwest facing section of ground reduction at Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire - from the northwest - 0.50m scale



**Plate 04:** Southwest facing section of ground reduction at Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire - from the southwest - 0.50m scale





**Plate 05:** Trench A, Post excavation shot to rear of Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire - from the northeast - 1.00m scale

**Footing of Former Outbuilding**

104

**Demolition Deposit**

103

**Mixed soils/  
Garden Buildup  
16th-19th Cen.**

102A

**Suspected Relict  
Medieval Surface**

102B

**Earlier Horizon  
Layer?**

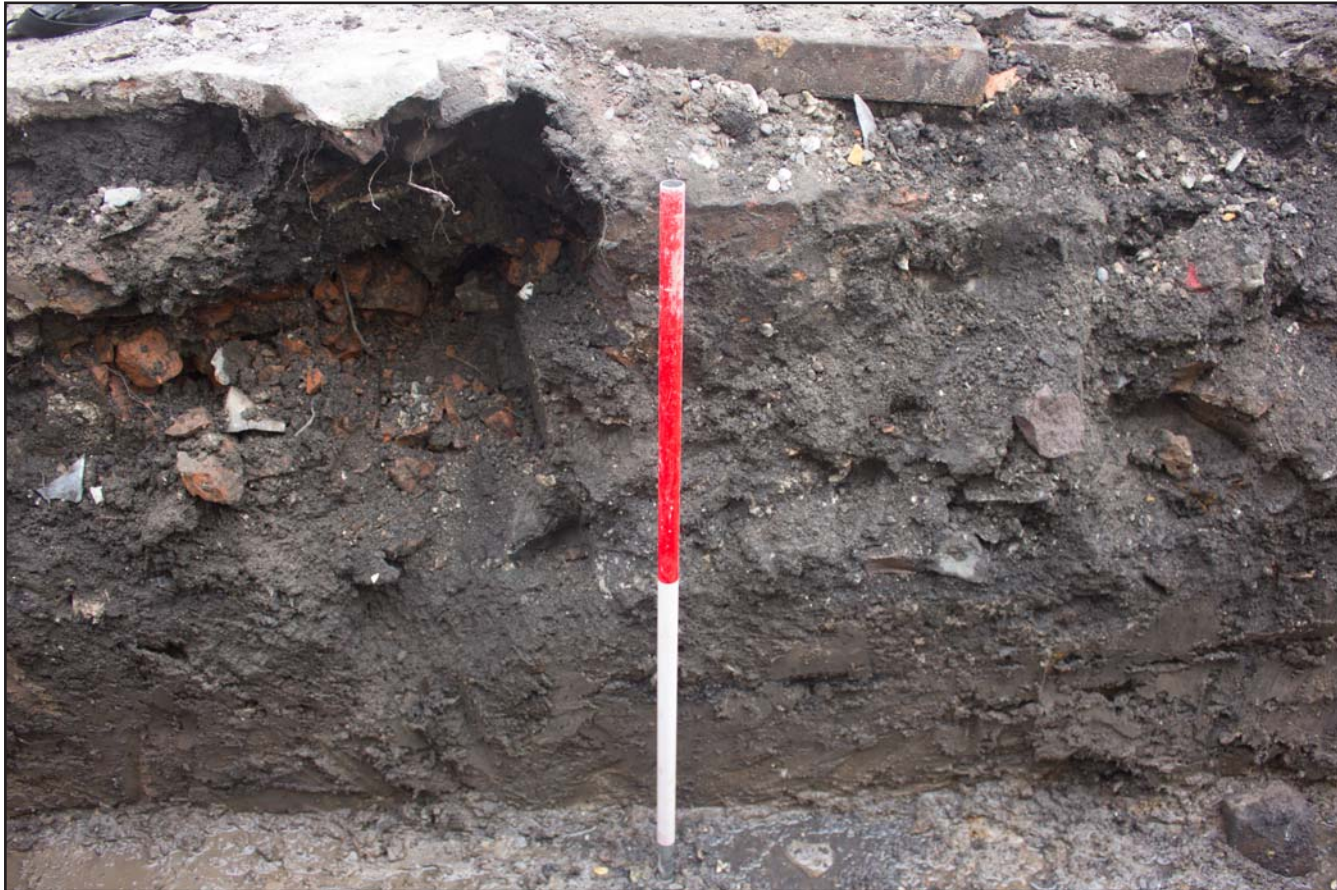
101

**Buff/Orange Brown  
Clay Natural**

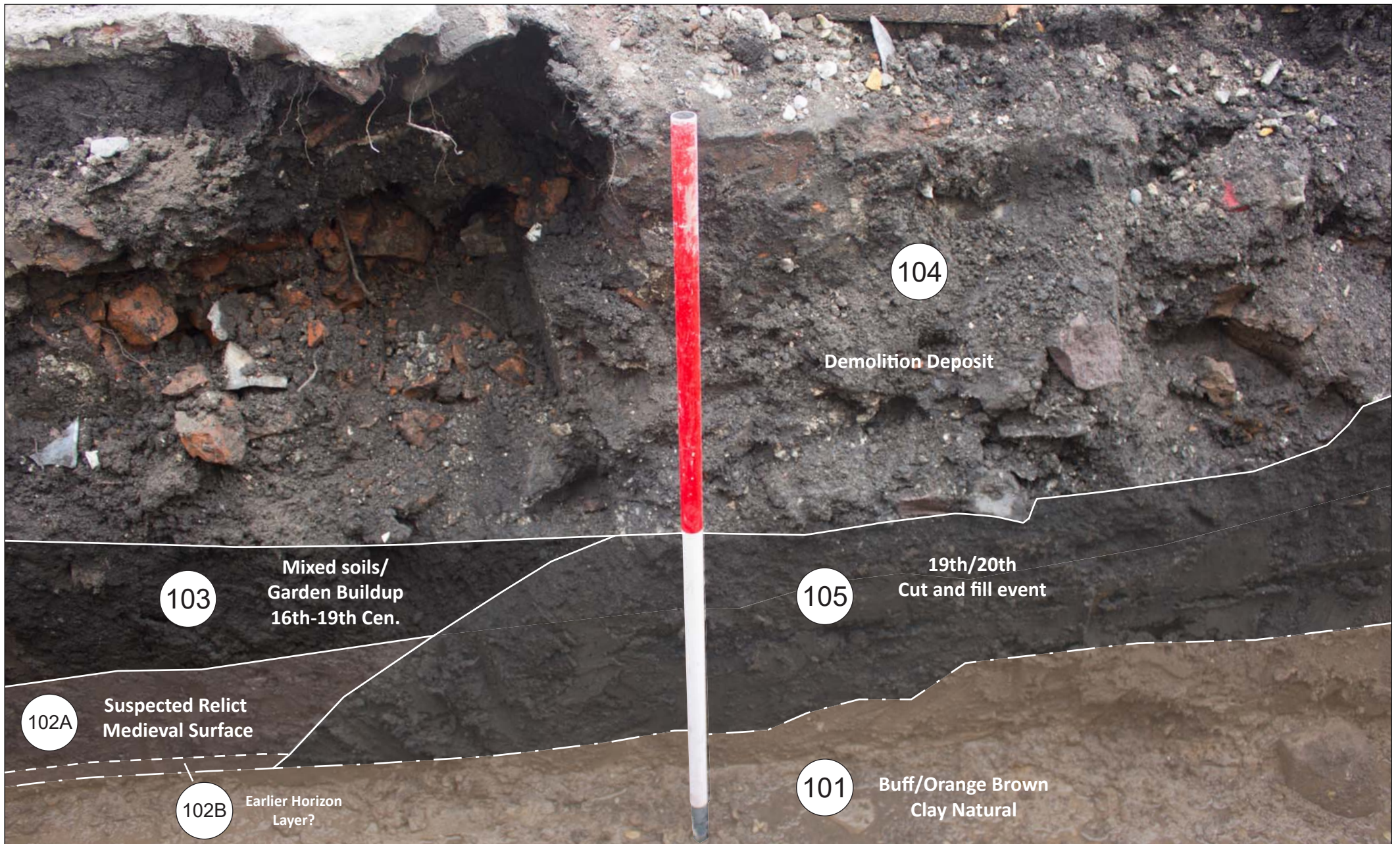
**Figure 06:** Annotated diagram showing southeast facing section of Trench A at Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire. Scale 1.00m.



**Plate 06:** Southeast facing section of Trench A at Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire - from the southeast - 1.00m scale



**Plate 07:** Trench B, Post excavation shot to rear of Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire - from the southeast  
- 1.00m scale



**Figure 07:** Annotated diagram showing southwest facing section of Trench B at Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire. Scale 1.00m.



**Plate 08:** Southwest facing section of Trench B at Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire - from the southwest - 1.00m scale



**Plate 09:** Trench C, Post excavation shot to rear of Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire - from the northeast - 1.00m scale



**Plate 10:** Southeast facing section of Trench C at Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire - from the southeast  
- 1.00m scale



rare examples of sub-angular cobbles. The post-medieval ceramic finds may represent intrusive finds which were pushed into the surface from above. The interface layer (102B) was still in situ. However, both of these deposits had been truncated to the southeast by a firm, 0.28m deep deposit of light brown-grey, silt-clay with frequent sub-rounded pebble inclusions and post medieval ceramic fragments. This lay above a >0.18m deep deposit of light orange-brown, clay-sand, natural (101).

### **Trench C**

Trench C was aligned northeast to southwest (same as trench A) and measured 5.30m in length by 0.60m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.10m. This trench (C) cut through a 0.25m deep deposit of friable, light brown-grey, sand-silt, demolition (104) which had abundant sub angular sandstone cobbles, blue slate fragments, lime mortar and frequent examples of post-medieval ceramic 19th-20th century.

Below this was a 0.46m deep deposit of very soft, dark grey-black, clay-silt, imported topsoil (103) which produced occasional sub-rounded pebbles and frequent examples of post medieval ceramic and glass dating 17th - 19th centuries.

This lay above a firm, 0.28m deep deposit of light brown-grey, silt-clay with frequent sub-rounded pebble inclusions and post medieval ceramic fragments. This lay above a >0.18m deep deposit of light orange-brown, clay-sand, natural (101).

## 10.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the erection of a new two-storey extension the rear and east of Longton, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire revealed no in-situ archaeological features but did produce a number of medieval ceramic artefacts which may have been extant within a heavily disturbed relict surface dating to 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Following a reading of the *Excavations at Rhuddlan, Clwyd 1969-73 Mesolithic to Medieval* a report by Quinell & Blockley (1994), the closest excavation to the site at Longton, and which formed part of those extensive and excellent excavations was *Site S – Bryn Teg, Princes Road*. The development area, within the rear garden of Longton, Parliament Street is located some 100m west-southwest of *Site S – Bryn Teg*. Princes Road was thought to have followed the projected route of the northeast side of the Edwardian Town defences: with the theory following that the road followed the ditch with a corresponding bank lying to the southwest. The excavation found no evidence for this and noted that the natural soils comprised of wind-blown, light-yellow sands.

With relevance to the watching brief conducted at Longton, it was found that in 1972, during the excavations at Bryn Teg, that on top of these yellow sands, lithic material associated with the Mesolithic period was found to persist near the top of a former slope. Then, located stratigraphically above this level was a suspected prehistoric/early medieval layer (*Deposit S31*, Quinell & Blockley, 1994). Therefore, the horizon deposit (102B) observed at Longton may be the continuation of this suspected prehistoric/early medieval deposit (S31) observed at Bryn Teg, although much thinner and heavily mixed with the natural soils below. Furthermore, the comparatively darker, mid grey- brown, silt-clay (102A) seen at Parliament Street above the horizon (102), which produced few pebbles and a number of medieval ceramic sherds: may be a continuation of the soil observed at Princes Road, namely the upper, darker horizon material (*Deposit S25*, Quinell & Blockley, 1994) which also produced fewer pebbles and also a medieval sherd P94. (This was a single sherd of medieval ceramic, a sandy ware, rim sherd of a suspected jug, with a hard rough-grey fabric with buff surfaces – possibly burnt or reduced).

The stratigraphy observed in the foundation trenches showed that the area had been variously affected by the truncation of soils from at least the medieval period. The shallow remnants of the suspected relict medieval surface appear to have been truncated by the importation of a dark soil in Trench A – presumably for a garden that was implemented sometime in the post-medieval period. Furthermore, within Trench B the soil was completely removed to the south and west by a large cut and fill event. As noted by the specialist artefact report the association of the medieval sherds with later, post-medieval, material in context (102) implies that these earlier finds are residual.

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



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**Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan,  
Denbighshire, LL18 5AW  
(44/2022/0308)**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

**August 2022 v1.0**

**aeon archaeology**



Project Code: A0382.1  
Planning Ref: 44/2022/0308  
Event PRN: Tbc

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# Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire, LL18 5AW (44/2022/0308)

## August 2022 v1.0

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been commissioned by Joanna Jones, hereafter ‘the Client’, to provide a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for carrying out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the erection of a two storey rear extension to Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire LL18 5AW, hereafter ‘the Site’, (centred on **NGR SJ 02454 78074**) (figures 01-03).

Full planning permission (**ref: 44/2022/0308**) was secured by the Client from Denbighshire County Council, hereafter ‘the Council’, on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 with the following condition concerning archaeology being applied to the permission:

### *Condition 3*

*All groundworks shall be undertaken in the presence of a qualified archaeological contractor so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to the standards laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists. A copy of the watching brief report and resultant archive shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR tel: 01938 553670 within two months of the fieldwork being completed*

*REASON: In the interest of preservation of archaeological remains.*

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 **44/2022/0308**.

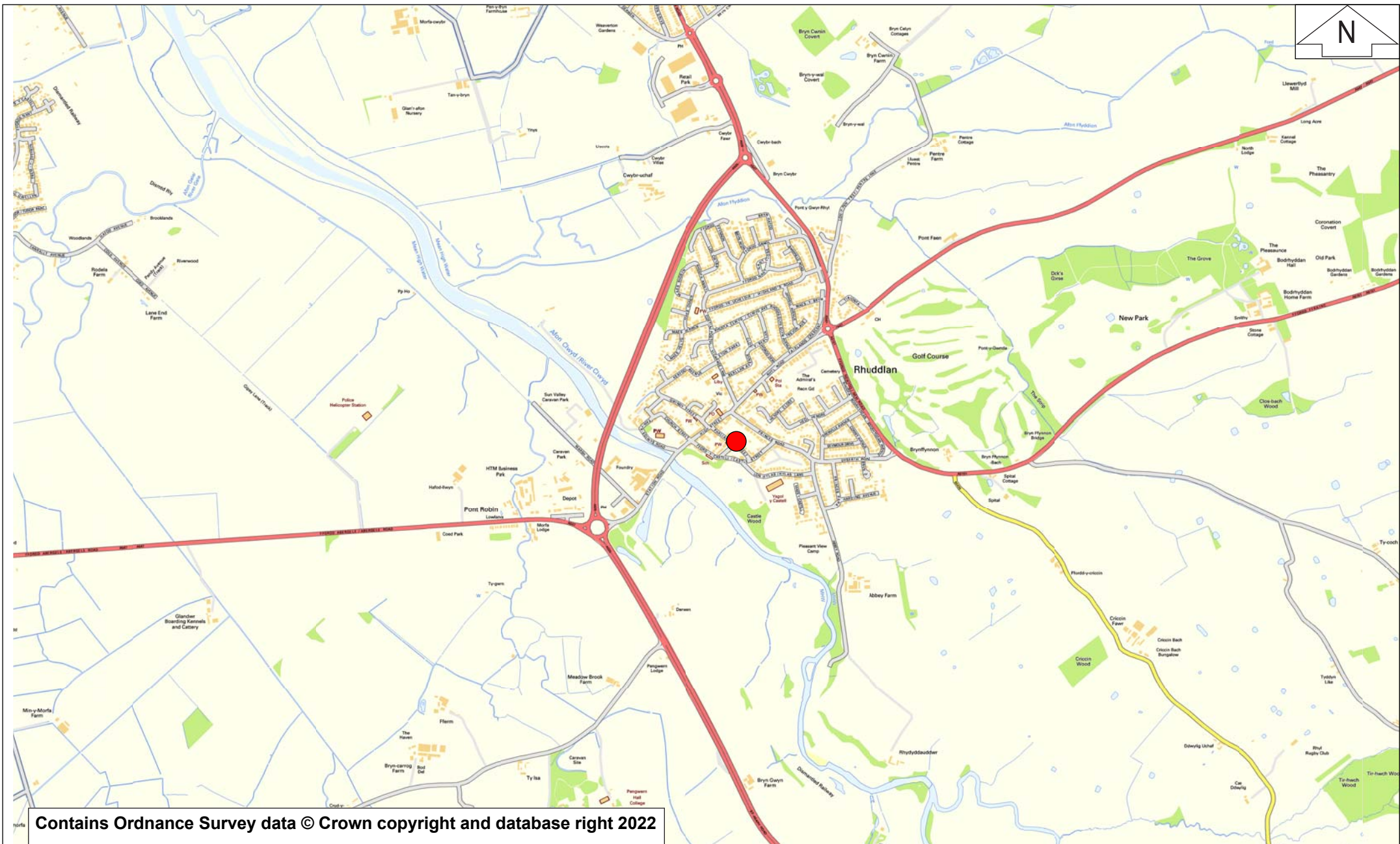
The work will adhere to the guidelines specified in *The Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020).

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

*Information held within the regional Historic Environment Record indicates that this plot lies firmly within the predicted medieval historic core of Rhuddlan and the town layout devised under Edward I with former town defences just to the north. The rear plots in Rhuddlan typically preserve evidence of property boundary ditches, refuse pits, former garden layouts, outbuildings and artefacts of all periods. These plots can also contain archaeology dating back to the Mesolithic period and include stone tools and shell middens. The new foundations for the extension may encounter any of the features described above and appropriate archaeological monitoring is therefore required.*

*We would recommend that an archaeologist is contracted to be present throughout the duration of ground reduction and new foundation excavations for the extension and new parking area so that an adequate record of any archaeological features revealed by these works can be made. This advice is in accordance with the guidance set out in TAN 24 (May 2017) and Planning Policy Wales (Feb 2021).*





**Figure 01:** Location of Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire, LL18 5AW.  
Scale 1:20,000 at A4.



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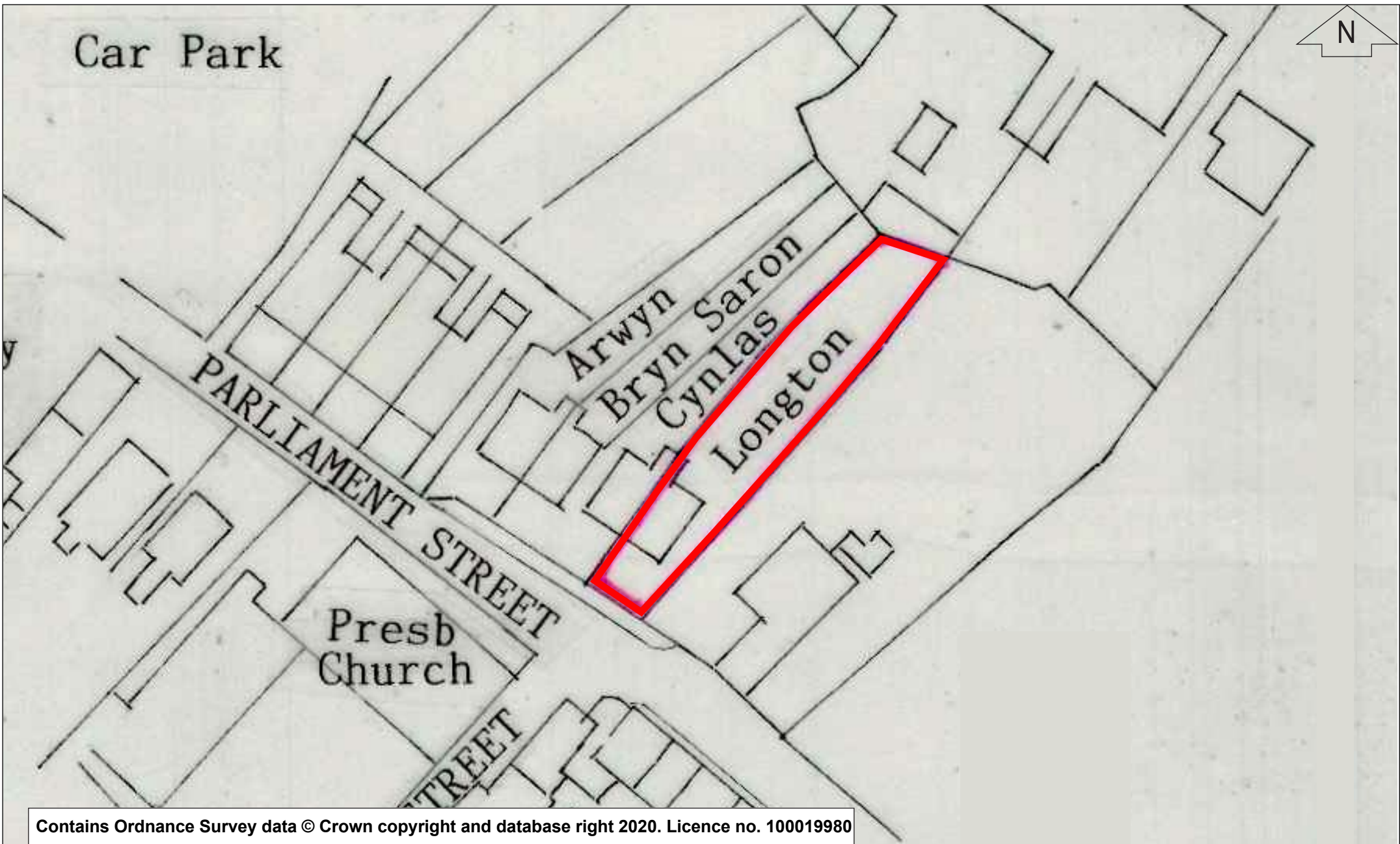


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**Figure 02:** Location of Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire, LL18 5AW.  
Scale 1:5,000 at A4.



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**Figure 03:** Location of Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire, LL18 5AW.  
Scale 1:500 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 WATCHING BRIEF - ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS

The archaeological watching brief shall be maintained:

1. During top soiling, foundation trench cutting, and service trench excavation works.

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

*An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant by-laws of CIfA.*

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the CIfA as ‘a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons’ (CIfA 2020). The watching brief will take place within a specified area within the Site where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.

The CIfA further identifies the purpose of a watching brief ‘as allowing, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works’ (ibid).

It is also important to note that a watching brief provides an opportunity, if needed, for a signal to be made to all interested parties, before the destruction of the archaeological materials, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

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

The aims of the watching brief 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 watching brief itself are inadequate to support their treatment to an adequate and satisfactory standard.

The specific objectives of the watching brief 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 Watching Brief

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The method of recording will follow the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and the stratigraphy will be recorded in written descriptions even where no archaeological deposits have been identified. The archaeologist will record archaeological deposits using 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 Watching brief report**

### **4.2.1 Post-excavation Assessment**

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

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

The scope of post-excavation assessment will 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 watching brief and the locations of archaeological deposits identified and recorded during the works.
- Plans and sections at appropriate scales, augmented with appropriate photographs. All plans and sections will be related to the Ordnance Survey datum levels and to the National Grid.
- Other maps, plans, drawings, stratigraphic matrices and photographs as appropriate.
- Summary assessment reports on the artefact, bio-archaeological, dating and other assessments/analyses.
- A discussion of the location, extent, date, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits and finds identified during the project.
- A discussion of any research implications arising from the archaeological work.
- Notes on consultations with conservators and the nominated archive repository related to the immediate and long-term conservation and storage requirements for the data held in the site archive and recommendations of retention/discard of artefacts and ecofacts.
- A bibliography of sources consulted.
- Appendices to the report will include artefact catalogues, reports on assessments/analyses and an index to the project archive and a statement on its location/proposed repository.
- In addition the post-excavation report will summarise and draw together the findings of all of the phases of work.

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

A draft copy of the report will be sent to the 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**

An archaeological watching brief during during the groundworks associated with the erection of a two storey rear extension to Longton, Parliament Street, Rhuddlan, Denbighshire LL18 5AW (centred on NGR SJ 02454 78074).

### **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 *Digital River's Crashplan* 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, watching brief 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); submission of digital (.PDF) reports and a project completion form to the Oasis database; submission of the scanned (.PDF) archive, photographic plates (.TIF), and metadata (.xlsx) (.acddb) to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS); and retention of copies of all digital files at Aeon Archaeology on physical external hard drive and uploaded to the cloud.

### **5.9 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.

### **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 ADS and RCAHMW websites. Requests can also be made for data through the regional HER's and directly to Aeon Archaeology ([info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk](mailto: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 (ADS, 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 works may result in the requirement for an extended programme of archaeological mitigation. This may require the submission of revised quotes to the client as well as a new specification which will be required to be approved by the 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 2008 Guidelines for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).

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

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

agreed with the 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 months of the completion of the fieldwork and sent to the Client and the DMA at CPAT for comment prior to finalisation of the report and dissemination. Bound copies of the report and an archive CD will be sent to the regional HER, the CPAT Development Control Archaeologist and to National Monument Record, of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) for long term archiving.

Furthermore, a summary of the project will be sent to *Archaeology in Wales* for publication. Copies of all digital files (inc. photos, report as PDF and Word, spreadsheets, databases, survey data etc) to be presented to each of above on optical disc (ie DVD).

The 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 07/09/22

Professional Indemnity Insurance

Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 07/09/22



