



**Proposed Single Dwelling,
Former Bowling Green,
Rear of The Bungalow, Castle Street,
Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 1HH
(02/2019/1056) April 2020 V 1.0**



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Archaeological Evaluation
Archaeological Event PRN: 164312
Project Code: A0248.1
Report no. 0241



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Report no. 0241

Archaeological Evaluation

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

Written by: Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA

Checked by: Josh Dean BA ACifA



Project Code: A0248.1

Date: 03/04/2020

Client: Mr John Nicholson

info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk



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Proposed Single Dwelling, Former Bowling Green, Rear of The Bungalow, Castle Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 1HH (02/2019/1056) April 2020 v1.0

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Project Code: A0248.1

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1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Comisiynwyd Aeon Archaeology gan Mr. John Nicholson i gynnal arfarniad archeolegol fel rhan o'r gwaith arfaethedig o adeiladu annedd newydd yn yr hen lawnt folio a lys thenis, y tu ôl i'r Bungalow, Castle Street, Rhuthun, Sir Ddinbych.

Roedd y gwerthusiad yn cynnwys cloddio dwy ffos ar draws yr ôl troed datblygu arfaethedig. Roedd hyn yn dangos bod y Safle wedi'i derasio / rhychaf o'r blaen i greu wyneb gwastad ar gyfer yr hen Lawnt Fowlio. Er gwaethaf hyn, dadorchuddiwyd olion y rhigol neu'r ffliw llinellol, nad ydynt yn hysbys, o fewn ffos 2 yn rhan ddeheuol y Safle.

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Mr John Nicholson to carry out an archaeological evaluation as part of the proposed construction of a new dwelling at the former Bowling Green and tennis court, to the rear of The Bungalow, Castle Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire.

The evaluation involved the excavation of two trenches across the proposed development footprint. This showed that the Site had been previously terraced / benched to create a flat surface for the former Bowling Green. Despite this the remains of a linear gulley or perhaps flue, of unknown age, was uncovered within trench 2 at the southern part of the Site.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Mr John Nicholson, hereafter the Client, to carry out an archaeological evaluation as part of the proposed construction of a new dwelling at the former Bowling Green and tennis court, to the rear of The Bungalow, Castle Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire (NGR SJ 12278 58183) (figure 01 and 02).

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 2nd April 2020 in advance of full planning determination (ref: 02/2019/1056). The requirement for pre-determination evaluation was recommended by the Development Management Archaeologist (DMA) (Mr Mark Walters) at the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) in his consultee comments dated 7th January 2020:

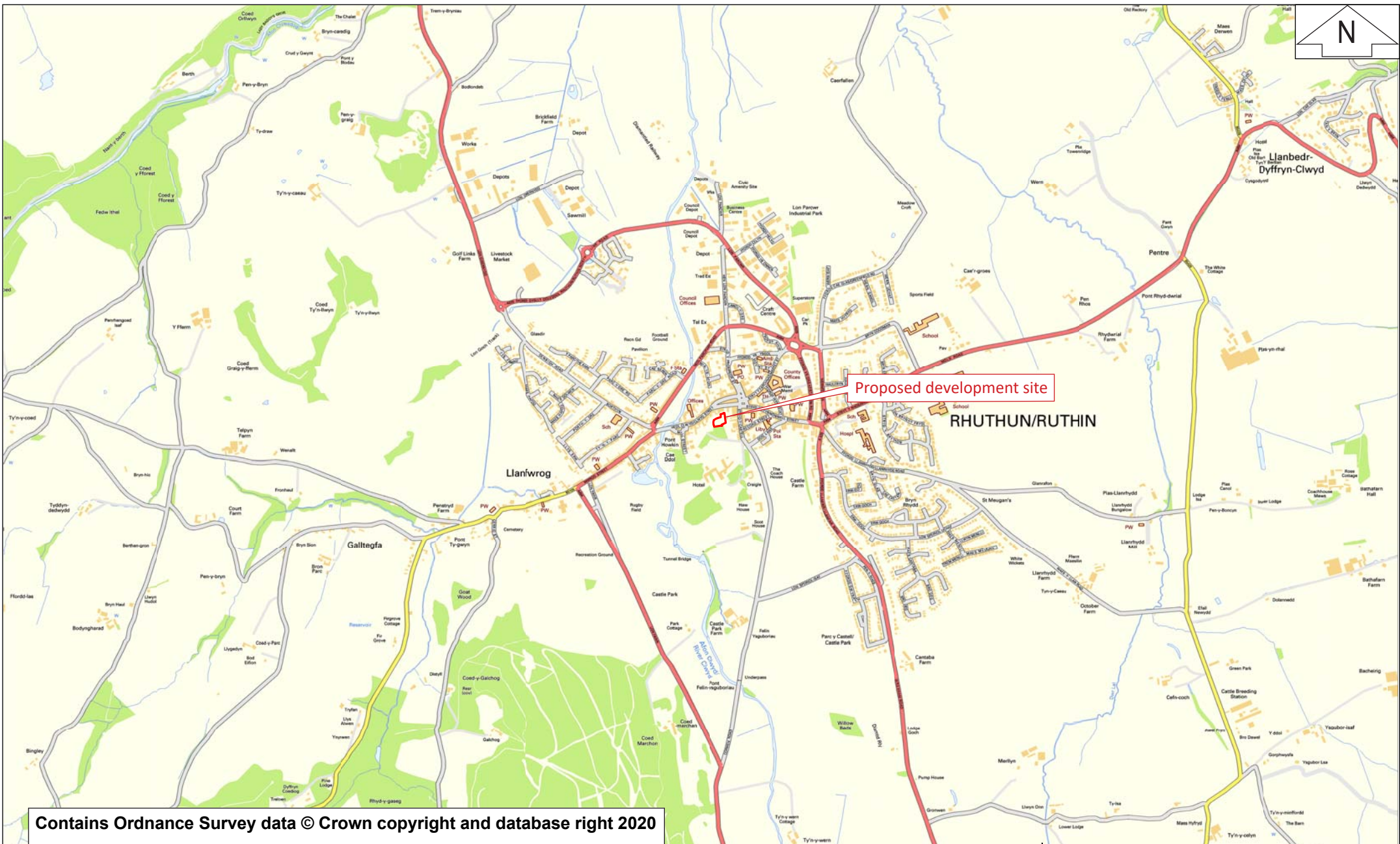
Information retained within the Regional Historic Environment Record indicates that this application falls in an area of potentially high archaeological sensitivity. The plot lies within the medieval historic core of Ruthin on a prominent rise to the rear of the street frontage plots which were occupied by medieval dwellings and their rear burgage plots off Clwyd Street and Castle Street. There appears to have been a bowling green here since at least 1900, perhaps preceded by an earlier example, or a formal garden, on the first edition OS mapping. To what extent the creation of the bowling green has reduced original ground levels here is unknown. The plot has the potential to include both medieval and much earlier archaeology with Roman occupation recorded in a number of areas across the town.

The proposed development will disturb any such remains surviving here, but from present knowledge it is impossible to estimate how damaging this might be, and thus to frame an appropriate archaeological response. The planning authority appears to have insufficient information about this archaeological resource, or the applicant's intended treatment of it, to make a balanced decision. As archaeology is a material consideration here I would advise that this application is not determined until this resource has been properly evaluated.

The application is for full planning permission for a 4 bedroomed family self-build dwelling. The layout of the site is designed to allow ample turning space for vehicles entering and leaving the site in a forward gear. Access to the dwelling would be via an upgraded private driveway and no separate access would be intended.

A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by Aeon Archaeology in February 2020 which outlined the aims, objectives of the proposed work and the applied methodology in order to meet the spirit and intent of the pre-application recommendation.

The work adhered to the guidelines specified in Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).

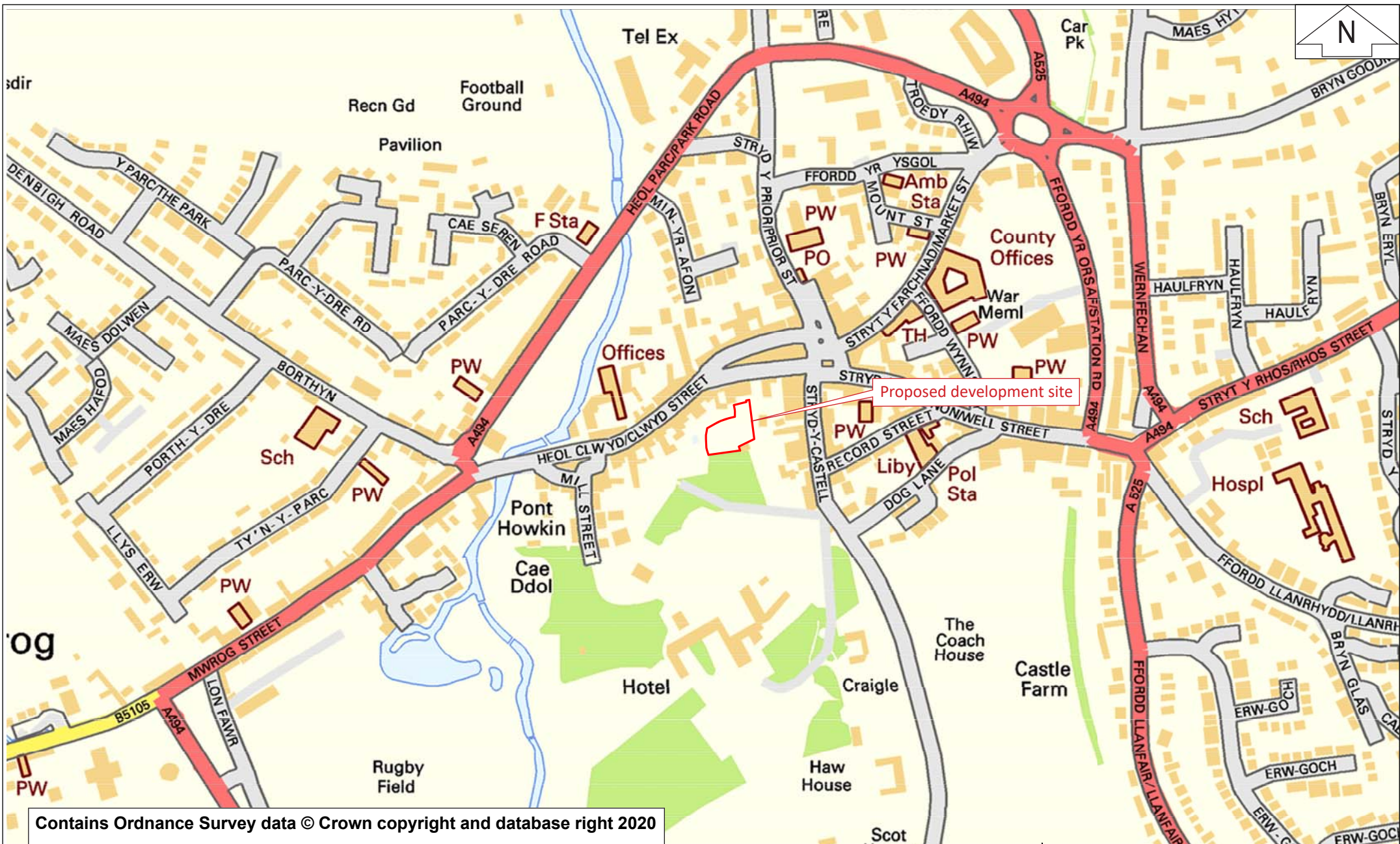


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Figure 01: Location of proposed development site at the former bowling green and tennis courts, Castle Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 1HH.
Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

Aeon Archaeology
Richard Cooke BA MA MCIFA
25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk

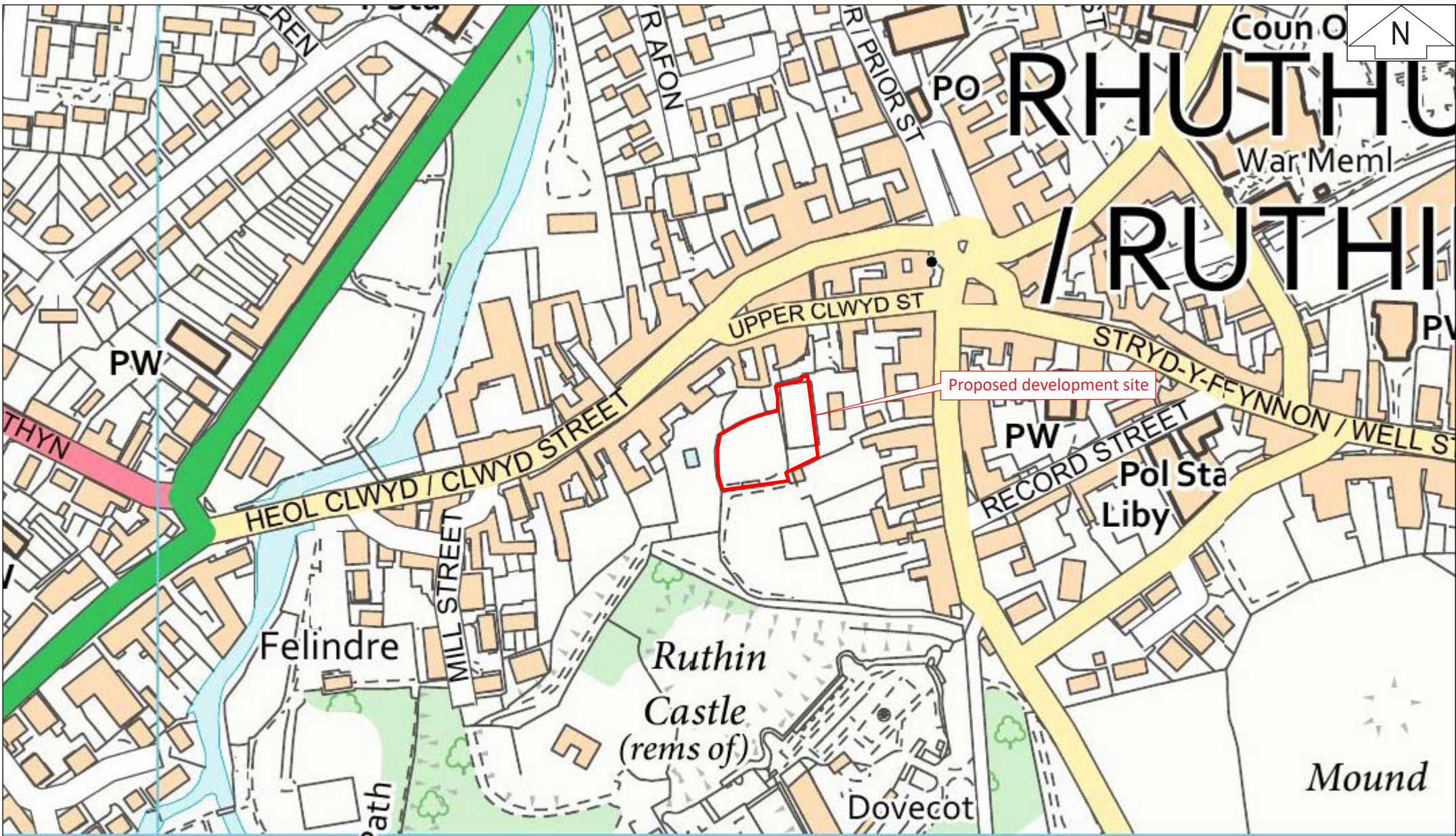


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Figure 02: Location of proposed development site at the former bowling green and tennis courts, Castle Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 1HH.
Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

Aeon Archaeology
Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk



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Figure 03: Location of proposed development site at the former bowling green and tennis courts, Castle Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 1HH.
Scale 1:2,500 at A4.

Aeon Archaeology
Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk



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Figure 04: Location of evaluation trenches at the former bowling green and tennis courts, Castle Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 1HH.
Scale 1:500 at A4.

Aeon Archaeology
Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
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www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk

3.0 POLICY CONTEXT

At an international level there are two principal agreements concerning the protection of the cultural heritage and archaeological resource – the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, commonly known as the Valetta Convention. The latter was agreed by the Member States of the Council of Europe in 1992, and 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

Before evaluation commenced an agreed programme of excavation timing, siting, duration, surface reinstatement and health and safety protection measures were agreed with the Client and the DMA at CPAT. The above named were also invited to attend a site meeting at the commencement of archaeological works to review the programme, submitted method statement and arrangements that have been established for archaeological mitigation.

The size, location and orientation of the evaluation areas were agreed in advance so as to best target areas that may contain archaeological features within the proposed development footprint (figure 04):

- Test Trench 1: measuring 20m by 2m and located at the northern part of the Site;
- Test Trench 2: measuring 15m by 2m and located at the central part of the Site;
- Test Trench 3: measuring 15m by 2m and located at the southern part of the Site.

After discussions with the Client it became apparent that no ground disturbance was intended within the location of trench 1, with this area to be turned into a rear lawn. As such further discussions were held with the DMA at CPAT who agreed that trench 1 was outside of the remit of the aims and objectives of the evaluation and this trench was therefore not excavated.

The broad aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains within the proposed development area, the integrity of which may be threatened by development at the site.
- To establish the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion to sub-surface deposits and, where the data allows, assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits of archaeological significance.
- To enable the Client to establish a schedule for archaeological risks.
- To allow the DMA at CAPAS to make an informed decision on the need for and scope of further evaluative and/or mitigatory archaeological works at the site.

The detailed objectives of the archaeological excavation are:

- Insofar as possible within methodological constraints, to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between the structures/remains identified, and any relationships between these and the archaeological and historic elements of the wider landscape.
- Where the data allows, identify the research implications of the site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work in North Wales.

5.0 METHODOLOGY – ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

5.1 Evaluation

If archaeological deposits are identified they were to be manually cleaned, excavated and recorded to determine extent, function, date and relationship to adjacent features.

Contingency provision was to be made for the following:

- Additional excavation of up to 100% of any given feature should the excavated sample prove to be insufficient to provide information on the character and date of the feature.
- Expansion of excavation trench limits, to clarify the extent of features equivalent to an additional 20% of the core trench area.

The archaeological works were surveyed with respect to the nearest Ordnance Survey datum point and with reference to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The excavation area, deposits, features and structures within them were to be accurately located on a site plan prepared at most appropriate and largest scale.

A written record of the trench content and all identified features was completed via Aeon Archaeology pro-formas.

Any subsurface remains were to be recorded photographically, with detailed notations, measured drawings, and a measured survey. The photographic record was maintained using a digital SLR camera (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution (72dpi) 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. Photographic identification boards were also used.

The excavation area was opened with a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The excavation area and spoil heaps were routinely investigated through the use of a metal detector and any finds/artefacts collected and processed as below.

All excavations were backfilled with the material excavated and upon departure Aeon Archaeology will leave the site in a safe and tidy condition. Aeon Archaeology were not requested to re-lay turf/lawn surface.

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 evaluation will be stored at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0205.1** with the originals being lodged with the RCAHMW.

6.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS

6.1 The Documentary Archive

The following documentary records were created during the archaeological evaluation:

Trench Sheets	3
Context Sheets	2
Digital photographs	18
Scale Drawings	2 on 1 sheet

6.2 Environmental Samples

No environmental samples were taken as part of the archaeological evaluation.

6.3 Artefacts

The only archaeological feature uncovered (gully [201]) did not produce any artefacts from its fill (202).

The only artefacts recovered were unstratified and included three sherds of blue and white transfer printed ware, and sixteen sherds of lead glazed blackware – mostly from a single broken vessel.

Blue and White Transfer Printed ware

Most early uses were on expensive porcelain wares, in contrast to the 19th century, when it was much more used on earthenwares. Initially, all pieces were overglaze printed.

The advent of printed underglaze designs on earthenware made production of the complex landscapes and geometric borders like those found on Chinese porcelain more cost-efficient for potteries to produce and more affordable for the consumer. The most enduring Chinese-style pattern was "Blue Willow," first introduced around 1790 by Josiah Spode and made by numerous potters into the present day. These motifs dominated printed designs from the introduction of underglaze printing in Staffordshire in the 1780s until 1814, with peak production between 1790 and 1814. These examples are much later probably late 19th century (Coysh and Henrywood 1982).

Lead Glazed Blackware

Mid-17th to 19th centuries. Black lead glazed wares made from mixed red and yellow clays were being produced in Wales and England, particularly Northwest England, by the mid-17th century, and continued to be made into the 19th century (Cresswell & Davey 1989). The ubiquitous lead glazed blackware sherds found on the site are all most likely associated with the ceramic works at Buckley in North Wales which has been related with the production of pottery from the medieval period to the mid-twentieth century. The most productive time was in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. The blackware sherds in this context are probably examples from the late 18th – early 19th century.

7.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

7.1 Overview

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA, archaeological contractor and consultant at Aeon Archaeology on the 2nd April 2020. The weather conditions were ideal for the watching brief, being both bright and clear.

Trench 1

After discussions with the Client it became apparent that no ground disturbance was intended within the location of trench 1, with this area to be turned into a rear lawn. As such further discussions were held with the DMA at CPAT who agreed that trench 1 was outside of the remit of the aims and objectives of the evaluation and this trench was therefore not excavated.

Trench 2 (plates 1-6) (figs 5 and 6)

SJ 12293 / 58176 to SJ 12278 / 58173

Trench 2 measured 15m in length by 2m in width, orientated east to west and was excavated to a depth of between 0.2m and 0.6m. It was excavated through a dark black-grey silt-clay topsoil directly on to a light red-orange silt-sand natural glacial substrata at the eastern end, which changed to a light yellow-grey clay at the centre of the trench, and a light orange-brown clay-sand at the western end.

The topsoil averaged 0.2m in depth with no underlying subsoil horizon, showing that the area had previously been terraced / benched in order to create the former bowling green. At the western end of the trench the topsoil depth increased to 0.6m as the natural downward slope of the Site was encountered. This suggested that while the eastern end of the Site had been terraced it is likely that the western end of the Site (outside of the development footprint) had been built-up with redeposited material.

Towards the centre of the trench a shallow north-northeast to south-southwest aligned linear gully [201] was encountered. This feature had steep, mildly concaved sides with a flat / undulating base and was cut directly into the natural yellow-grey clay. It measured >3.2m in length by 0.45m in width by 0.32m in depth towards the centre, but shallowed to only 0.05m depth before continuing into the southern limit of excavation. Trench 2 was extended 1.6m by 2.0m to the north to help characterise the gully feature and it was found that it terminated just to the north of the original trench 2 limits.

The gully was filled with a soft, mid grey-brown silt-clay (202) with occasional small angular pebble inclusions and very infrequent charcoal flecks. The fill did not produce any artefacts however a red discolouration to the walls of the gully, demarcated by the natural clay, may suggest that it had been affected by heat.



Plate 01: Trench 2, from the east. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 02: Trench 2, from the west. Scale 1.0m.

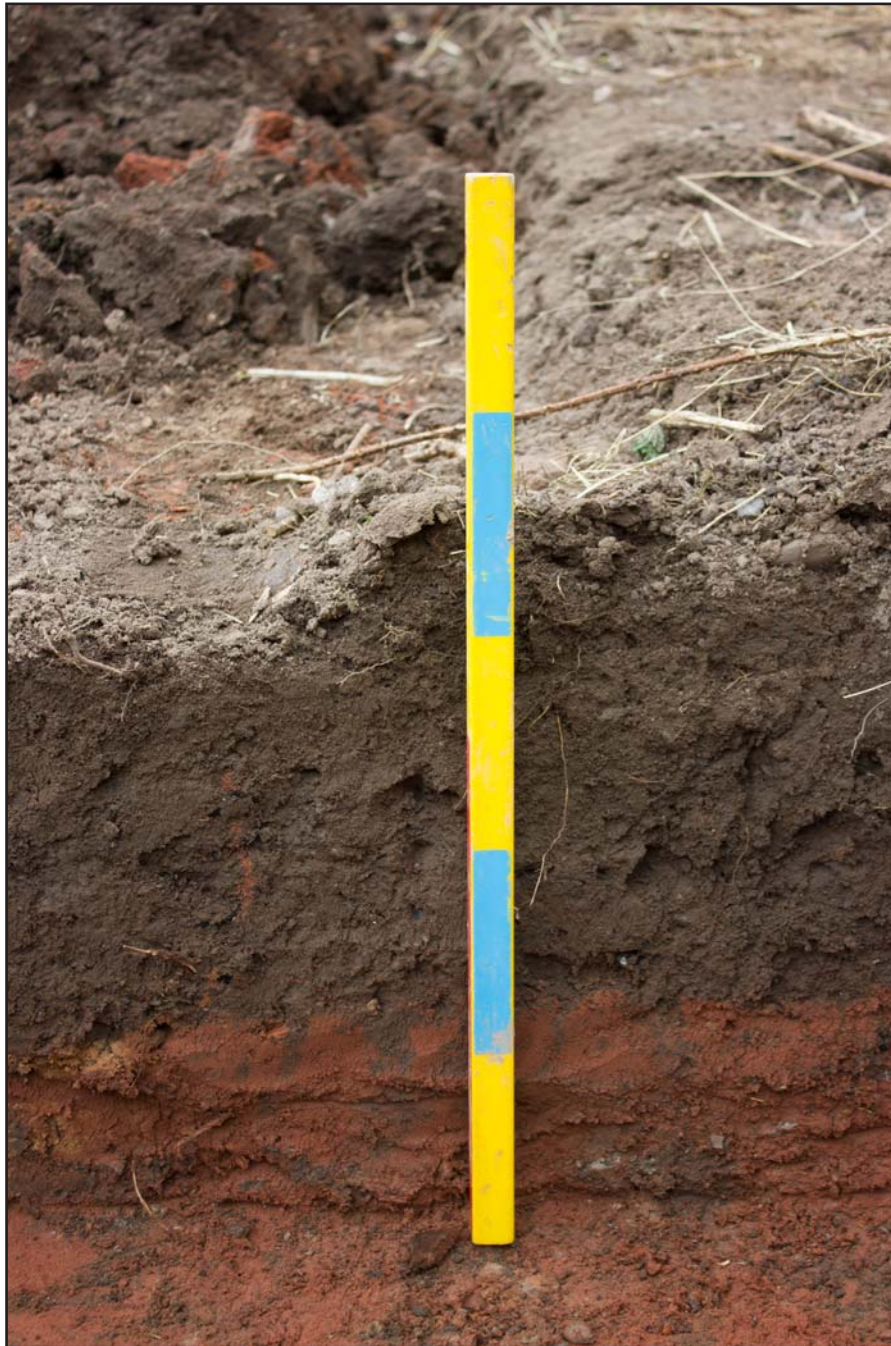


Plate 03: Trench 2 generic trench section, from the south. Scale 0.5m.



Plate 04: Gully [201] trench 2, from the north-northeast. Scale 0.5m.



Plate 05: Gully [201] trench 2, from the south-southwest. Scale 0.5m.



Plate 06: North-northeast facing section of gully [201] trench 2, from the north-northeast. Scale 0.5m.

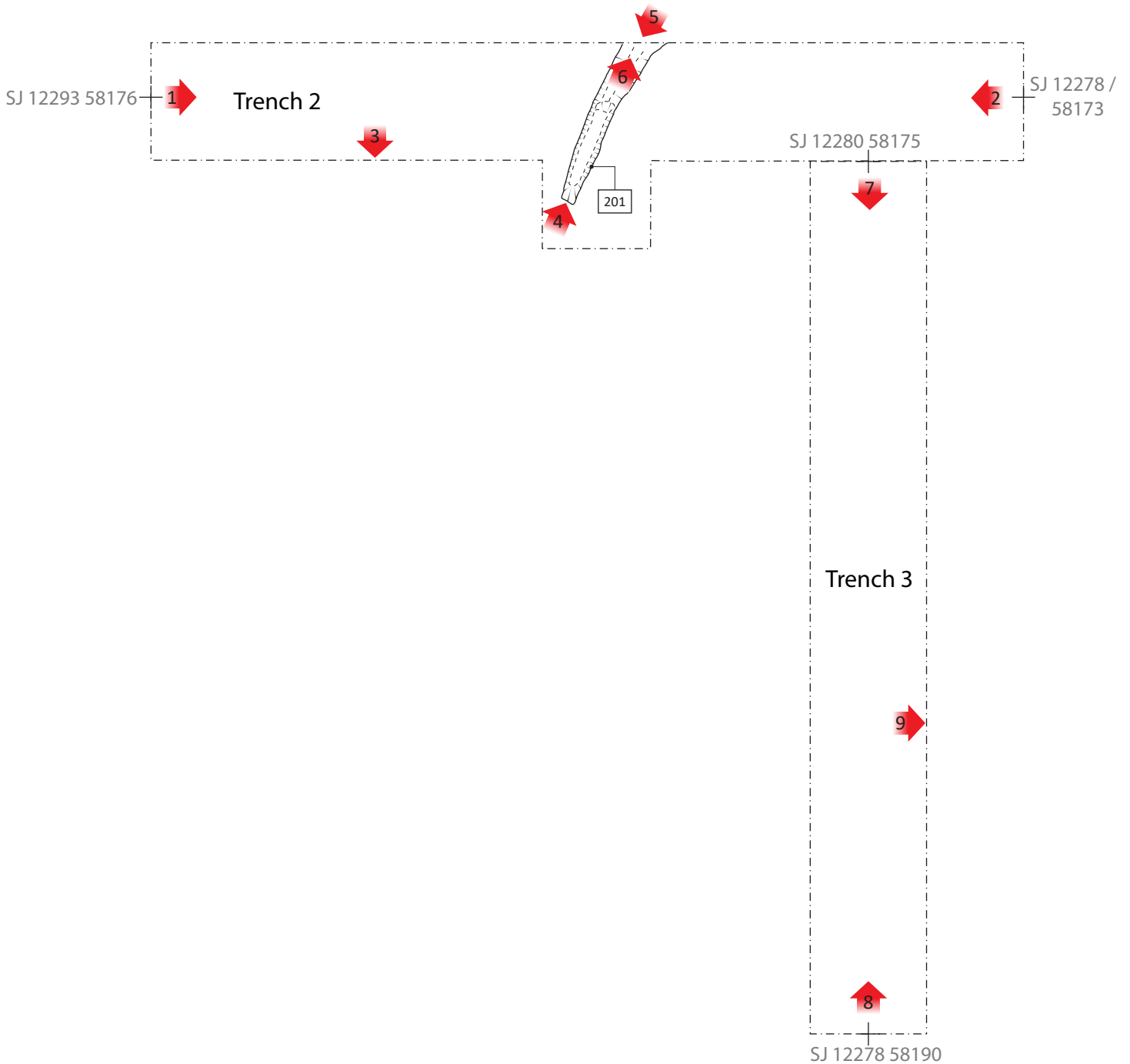


Figure 05: Plan of trenches 2 and 3 showing gulley [202] and location of photographic plates. Scale 1:100 at A4.

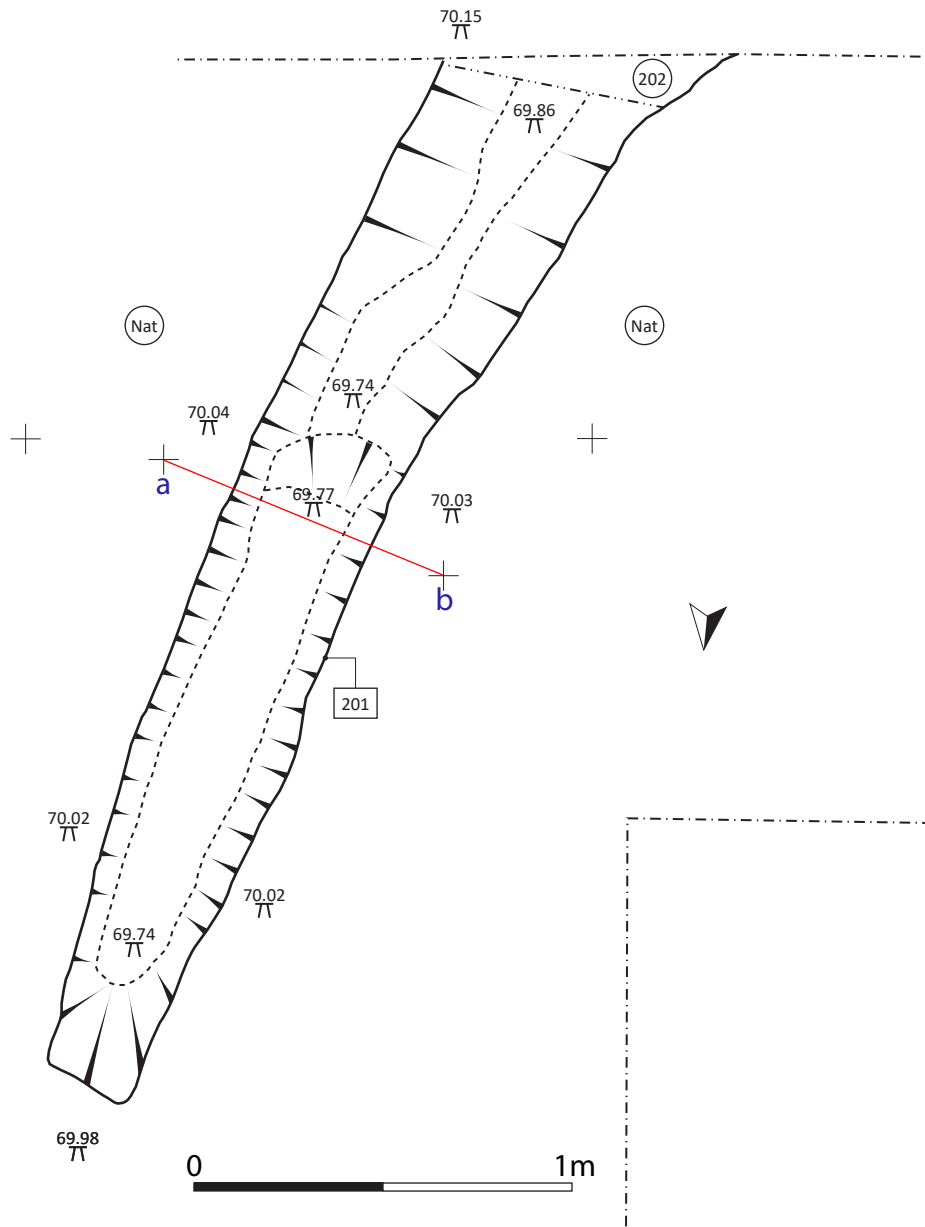
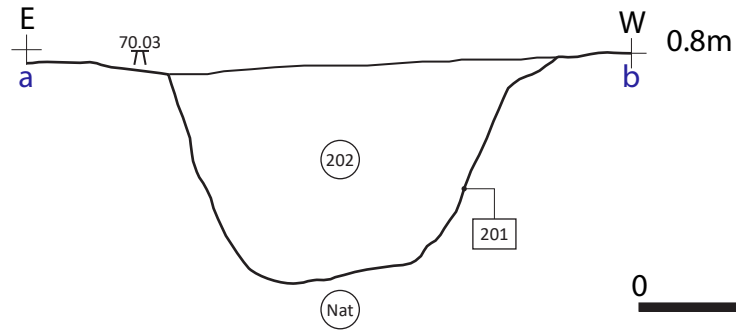


Figure 06: North-northeast facing section of gully [202], scale 1:10 at A4.
Plan of gully [202], scale 1:20 at A4. Trench 2.

Trench 3 (plates 7-9) (fig 5)

SJ 12280 58175 to SJ 12278 58190

Trench 3 measured 15m in length by 2m in width, orientated north to south and was excavated to a depth of 0.4m. It was excavated through a dark black-grey silt-clay topsoil directly on to a light grey-brown gravelly-clay natural glacial substrata.

There were no archaeological features encountered and the shallow topsoil suggests that the Site had been previously terraced / benched in order to create a flat surface for the former bowling green.



Plate 07: Trench 3, from the south. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 08: Trench 3, from the north. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 09: Trench 3 generic trench section, from the east. Scale 0.5m.

8.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The archaeological evaluation at the former Bowling Green to the rear of The Bungalow, Castle Street, Ruthin showed that the Site had been previously terraced / benched into the natural slope in order to create a flat surface for the green. It is unlikely that the Site was stripped in its entirety, however the shallow topsoil depth and lack of subsoil deposits shows that the area had been formerly truncated.

Despite this, a gulley feature was uncovered within trench 2. This feature had almost certainly been vertically truncated by the terracing but its lowest depths had survived intact. It is not clear what the purpose or age of this feature might be as it did not produce any artefacts, however a red discolouration to the surrounding natural clay may suggest that it had been subjected to heat. This could suggest that the gulley is the tail-end of a flue, perhaps for a kiln, which was located outside of the proposed development footprint to the south.

There were no other archaeological features uncovered however post-medieval *Blue and White Transfer Printed ware* and *Lead Glazed Blackware* ceramic sherds were recovered unstratified from the topsoil horizon.

The discovery of the linear gulley within trench 2 has shown that despite vertical truncation of the Site there still exists a potential for archaeological remains to be preserved. If these remains are present however, they are unlikely to be extensive in nature otherwise they would have been encountered within the archaeological evaluation trenches.

9.0 SOURCES

British Geological Survey website. www.bgs.ac.uk.

British Ordnance survey maps; SJ07NE, SJ07NW, SJ07SE and SJ07SW.

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APPENDIX I: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



**Proposed Single Dwelling,
Former Bowling Green & Tennis Court,
Rear of The Bungalow,
Castle Street, Ruthin,
Denbighshire LL15 1HH (02/2019/1056).**

**Written Scheme of Investigation
for Archaeological Evaluation.**

February 2020 v1.0





aeon archaeology

Proposed Single Dwelling, Former Bowling Green & Tennis Court, Rear of The Bungalow, Castle Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 1HH (02/2019/1056).

February 2020 v1.0

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Project Code: A0248.1

Date: 25/02/2020

Client: John Nicholson

info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been commissioned by Mr John Nicholson, hereafter the Client, to provide a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for carrying out an archaeological evaluation as part of the proposed construction of a new dwelling at the former bowling green and tennis court, to the rear of The Bungalow, Castle Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire (NGR SJ 12278 58183) (figure 01 and 02).

The archaeological evaluation is being undertaken in advance of full planning determination (ref: **02/2019/1056**) with the requirement for pre-determination evaluation being recommended by the Development Management Archaeologist (DMA) (Mr Mark Walters) at the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) in his consultee comments dated 7th January 2020:

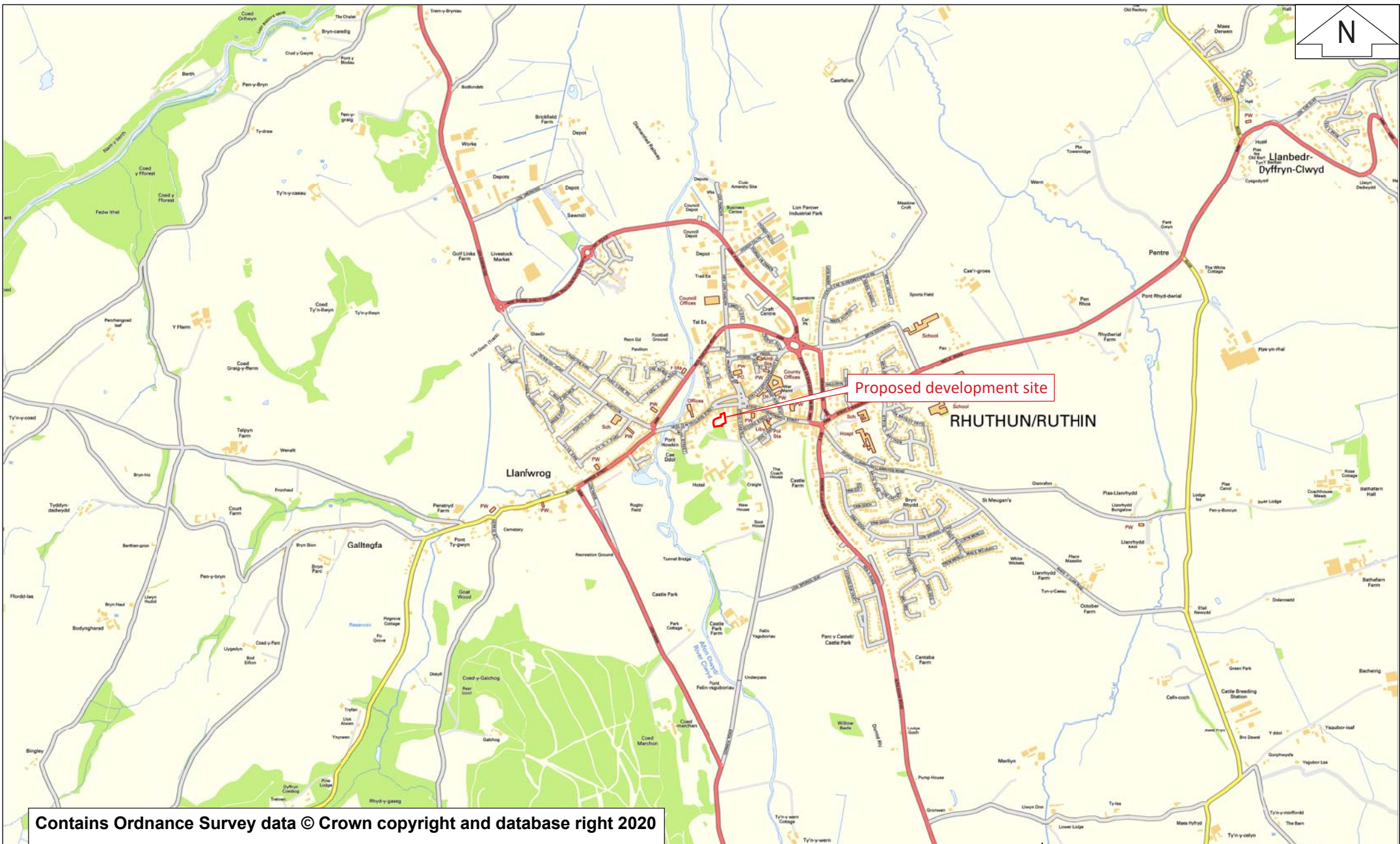
Information retained within the Regional Historic Environment Record indicates that this application falls in an area of potentially high archaeological sensitivity. The plot lies within the medieval historic core of Ruthin on a prominent rise to the rear of the street frontage plots which were occupied by medieval dwellings and their rear burgage plots off Clwyd Street and Castle Street. There appears to have been a bowling green here since at least 1900, perhaps preceded by an earlier example, or a formal garden, on the first edition OS mapping. To what extent the creation of the bowling green has reduced original ground levels here is unknown. The plot has the potential to include both medieval and much earlier archaeology with Roman occupation recorded in a number of areas across the town.

The proposed development will disturb any such remains surviving here, but from present knowledge it is impossible to estimate how damaging this might be, and thus to frame an appropriate archaeological response. The planning authority appears to have insufficient information about this archaeological resource, or the applicant's intended treatment of it, to make a balanced decision. As archaeology is a material consideration here I would advise that this application is not determined until this resource has been properly evaluated.

The application is for full planning permission for a 4 bedroomed family self-build dwelling. The layout of the site is designed to allow ample turning space for vehicles entering and leaving the site in a forward gear. Access to the dwelling would be via an upgraded private driveway and no separate access would be intended.

Relevant UK legislation on heritage includes the Welsh Government's Planning Policy Wales Technical Advice Note 24 (TAN24), and the Historic Environment Act (Wales) 2016.

The work will adhere to the guidelines specified in Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014); and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).

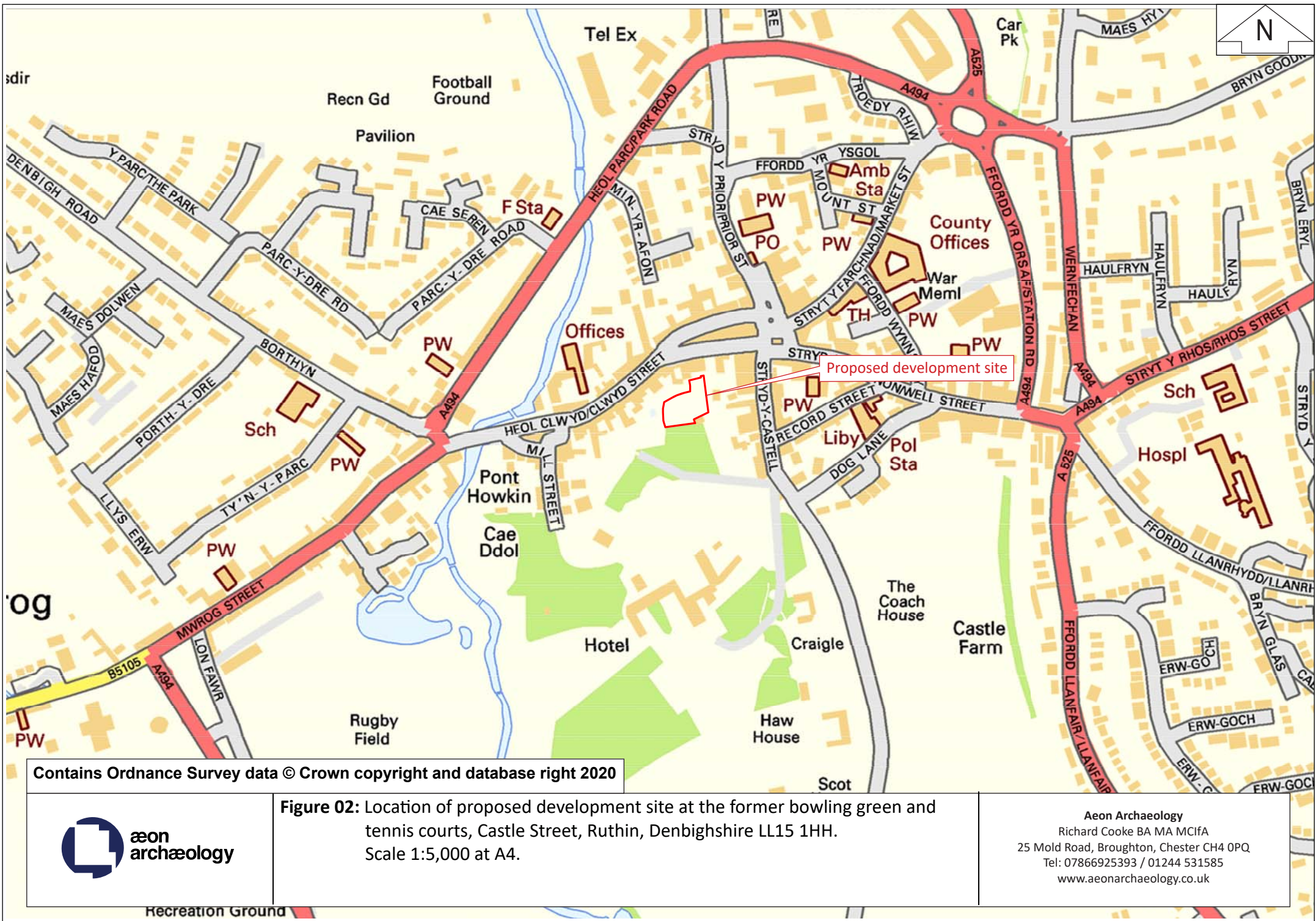


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Figure 01: Location of proposed development site at the former bowling green and tennis courts, Castle Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 1HH.
Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

Aeon Archaeology
Richard Cooke BA MA MCIFA
25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk

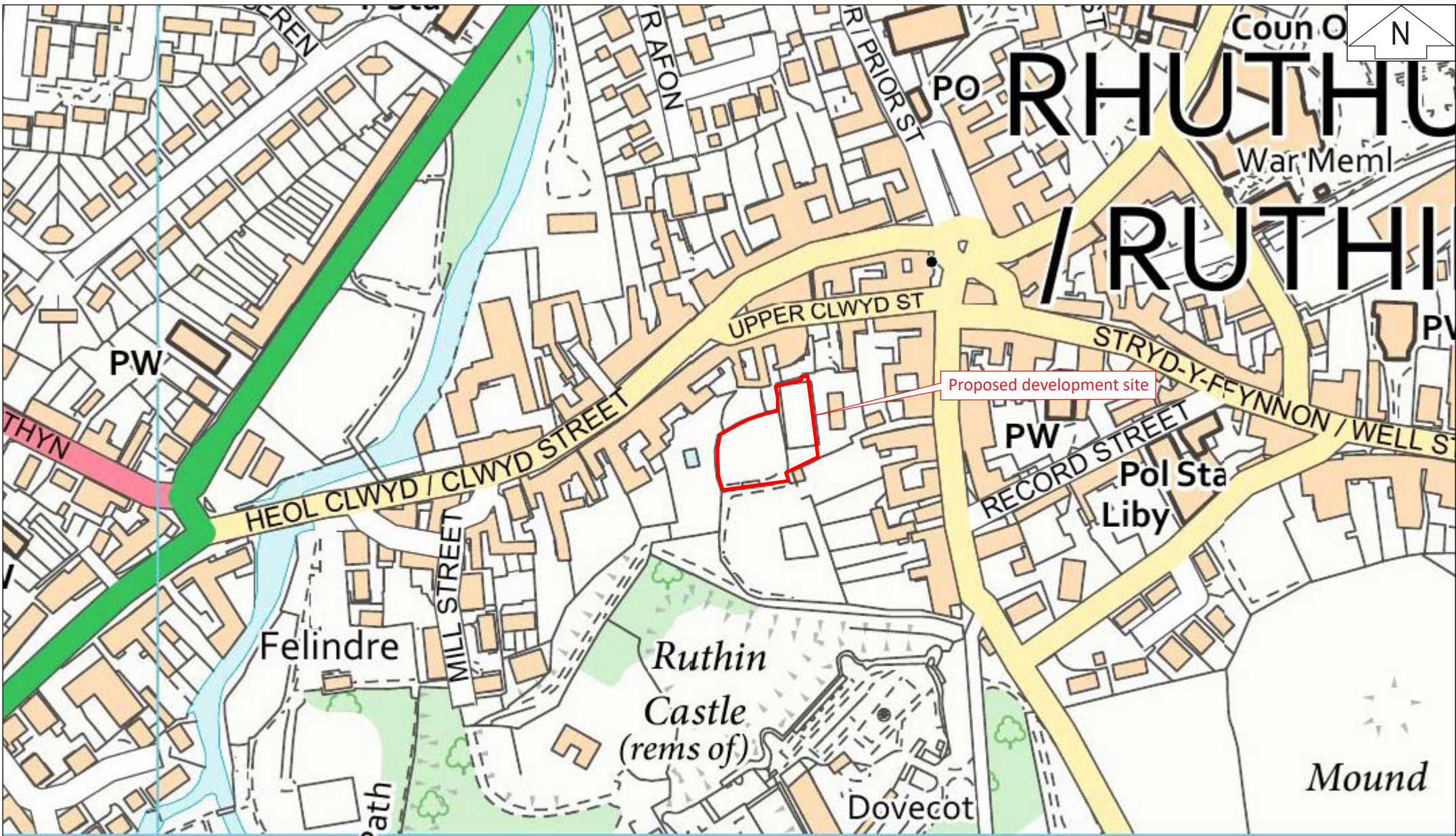


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Figure 02: Location of proposed development site at the former bowling green and tennis courts, Castle Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 1HH.
Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

Aeon Archaeology
Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk



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Figure 03: Location of proposed development site at the former bowling green and tennis courts, Castle Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 1HH.
Scale 1:2,500 at A4.

Aeon Archaeology
Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk



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Figure 04: Location of proposed evaluation trenches at the former bowling green and tennis courts, Castle Street, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 1HH.
Scale 1:500 at A4.

Aeon Archaeology
Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA
25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk

2.0 POLICY CONTEXT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Paragraph 6.1.5 concerns planning applications:

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

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

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

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AIMS

Before evaluation commences an agreed programme of excavation timing, siting, duration, surface reinstatement and health and safety protection measures will be agreed with the Client and the DMA at CPAT. The above named shall also be invited to attend a site meeting within the first five working days of commencement of archaeological works to review the programme, submitted method statement and arrangements that have been established for archaeological mitigation.

The size, location and orientation of the evaluation areas will be agreed in advance so as to best target areas that may contain archaeological features within the proposed development footprint – however the intention is to excavate 3 x test trenches of the following dimensions (figure 04):

- Test Trench 1: measuring 20m by 2m and located at the northern part of the Site;
- Test Trench 2: measuring 15m by 2m and located at the central part of the Site;
- Test Trench 3: measuring 15m by 2m and located at the southern part of the Site.

The broad aims of the archaeological evaluation are:

- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains within the proposed development area, the integrity of which may be threatened by development at the site.
- To establish the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion to sub-surface deposits and, where the data allows, assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits of archaeological significance.
- To enable the Client to establish a schedule for archaeological risks.
- To allow the DMA at CAPAS to make an informed decision on the need for and scope of further evaluative and/or mitigatory archaeological works at the site.

The detailed objectives of the archaeological excavation are:

- Insofar as possible within methodological constraints, to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between the structures/remains identified, and any relationships between these and the archaeological and historic elements of the wider landscape.
- Where the data allows, identify the research implications of the site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work in North Wales.

4.0 METHOD STATEMENT – ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

If archaeological deposits are identified they will be manually cleaned, excavated and recorded to determine extent, function, date and relationship to adjacent features.

Contingency provision will be made for the following:

- Additional excavation of up to 100% of any given feature should the excavated sample prove to be insufficient to provide information on the character and date of the feature.
- Expansion of excavation trench limits, to clarify the extent of features equivalent to an additional 20% of the core trench area.

The archaeological works will be surveyed with respect to the nearest Ordnance Survey datum point and with reference to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The excavation area, deposits, features and structures within them will be accurately located on a site plan prepared at most appropriate and largest scale.

A written record of the trench content and all identified features will be completed via Aeon Archaeology pro-formas.

Any subsurface remains will be recorded photographically, with detailed notations, measured drawings, and a measured survey. The photographic record will be maintained using a digital SLR camera (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution (72dpi) 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. Photographic identification boards will also be used.

The excavation area will be opened with a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The excavation area and spoil heaps will be routinely investigated through the use of a metal detector and any finds/artefacts collected and processed as outlined in section 9.0.

All excavations, where required, will be backfilled with the material excavated and upon departure Aeon Archaeology will leave the site in a safe and tidy condition. Aeon Archaeology has not been requested to re-lay turf/lawn surface.

5.0 EVALUATION REPORT

5.1 Post-excavation Assessment

A report on the results of the evaluation, 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* (2014) 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 CPAT DMA upon the conclusion of the fieldwork project and preliminary report.

5.2 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 CPAT DMA and to the Client for comment and approval prior to production of the final report.

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 CPAT DMA 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 liner 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 CPAT DMA 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 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 CPAT DMA. 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
- Military artefacts: Maj (Retd) Andy Hawkins

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 CPAT DMA 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 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).

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 CPAT DMA 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 – Insignia Underwriting Policy 347002

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): £250,000

The current period expires 07/09/20

Professional Indemnity Insurance – Insignia Underwriting Policy 347002

Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 07/09/20

