

CPAT Report No. 1837




Alltami Road, Buckley

Archaeological Investigation



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS
CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Client name: Nigel Bingham
 CPAT Project No: 2585
 Project Name: Alltami Road, Buckley
 Grid Reference: SJ2760264798
 County/LPA: Flintshire County Council
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 with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

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Summary

In October 2021, the Field Services Team of Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust were instructed to undertake archaeological investigation at a development in Buckley, Flintshire. The groundworks were the initial stage in stripping of a plot of land for the purpose of constructing new housing. This land included the site of an agricultural building associated with a nearby former dairy and the historical Buckley Common. The investigation was designed to identify any remains of the structure that might have been present, and to record archaeologically any features that identified the purpose and age of the building. Results from the site work not only found the footings for a brick structure, but also identified the footprint of the building as being smaller than initially projected and its domestic occupation as being early 20th century.

Crynodeb

Fis Hydref 2021, derbyniodd Tîm Gwasanaethau Maes Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys gyfarwyddiadau i gynnal ymchwiliad archaeolegol mewn datblygiad ym Mwcle, Sir y Fflint. Roedd y gwaith paratoi tir yn rhan o'r cam cyntaf o stripio llain o dir er mwyn adeiladu tai newydd. Roedd y tir hwn yn cynnwys safle adeilad amaethyddol a oedd yn gysylltiedig â chyn laethdy gerllaw a Chomin hanesyddol Bwcle. Diben yr ymchwiliad oedd nodi unrhyw weddillion y strwythur a allai fod yn bresennol a chofnodi unrhyw nodweddion a oedd yn nodi pwrpas ac oedran yr adeilad o safbwynt archaeolegol. O ganlyniad i'r gwaith ar y safle, daethpwyd o hyd i'r sylfeini ar gyfer strwythur o frics, yn ogystal â nodi bod ôl troed yr adeilad yn llai nag oedd wedi'i ragamcanu'n wreiddiol a'i fod wedi bod yn anheddiad domestig ar ddechrau'r 20fed ganrif.

1 Introduction

1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) were instructed by Nigel Bingham to design a programme of archaeological investigation work prior to the construction of a new dwelling on a plot at Alltami Road, Buckley (NGR: SJ 27606 64814) (Figures 1 & 2). Planning approval for the development (Ref: 062536) was granted by Flintshire Council on 13th July 2021, subject to a number of conditions. A programme of archaeological investigation was directly specified by condition 7 of the planning permission.

1.2. Condition 7 of the planning permission and the reason for the condition are as follows:

"The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeological contractor is present during the undertaking of the ground works for services, landscaping and access in the area to the south of the proposed new dwelling, so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs. A copy of the resulting report should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Assistant, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (The Offices, Coed y Dinas, Welshpool, SY21 8RP Email: sophie.watson@cpat.org.uk Tel: 01938 553670). After approval by the Local Planning Authority, a copy of the report and resulting archive should also be sent to the Historic Environment Record Officer, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the regional Historic Environment Record and to the NMR, RCAHMW."

"REASON: To secure preservation by record of any archaeological remains which may be revealed during ground excavations within the development plot. In accordance with policy HE7 of the Flintshire Unitary Development Plan"

1.3. After inspection of historical mapping records, it was apparent that the development plot was the former site of a building of unknown purpose. After discussion with Mark Walters (in his capacity as archaeological advisor on planning matters to Flintshire council) the Written Scheme of Investigation included objectives setting out *"to determine the function, nature and date of the building, should there be any surviving remains which assist in the process."* This was to be achieved through trial trenching over the location of the building, rather than a watching brief during groundworks for the new building (See Appendix 1).

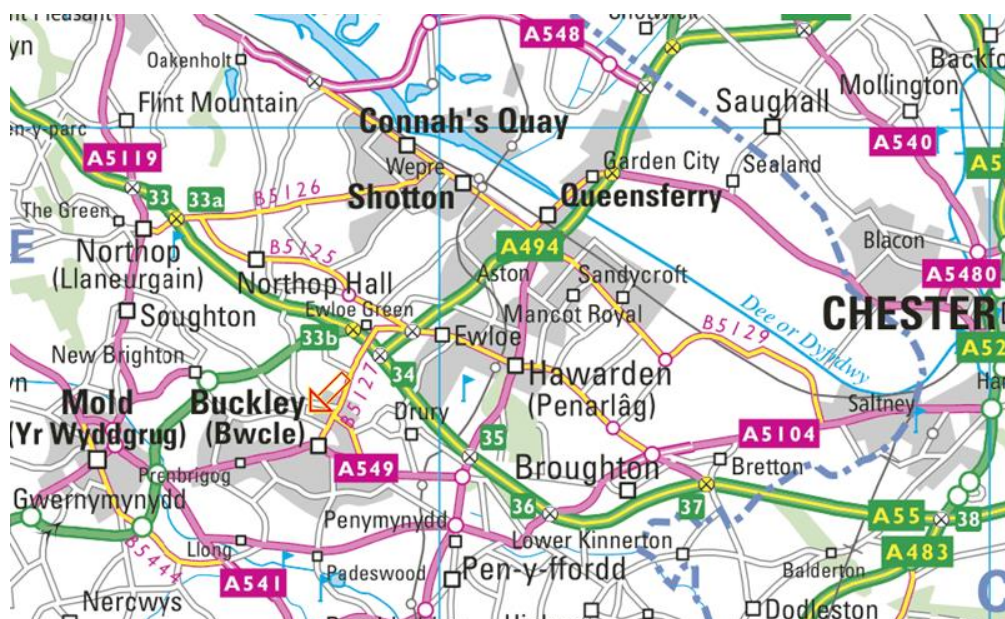


Figure 1 Location of development plot on Alltami Road, Buckley (General)

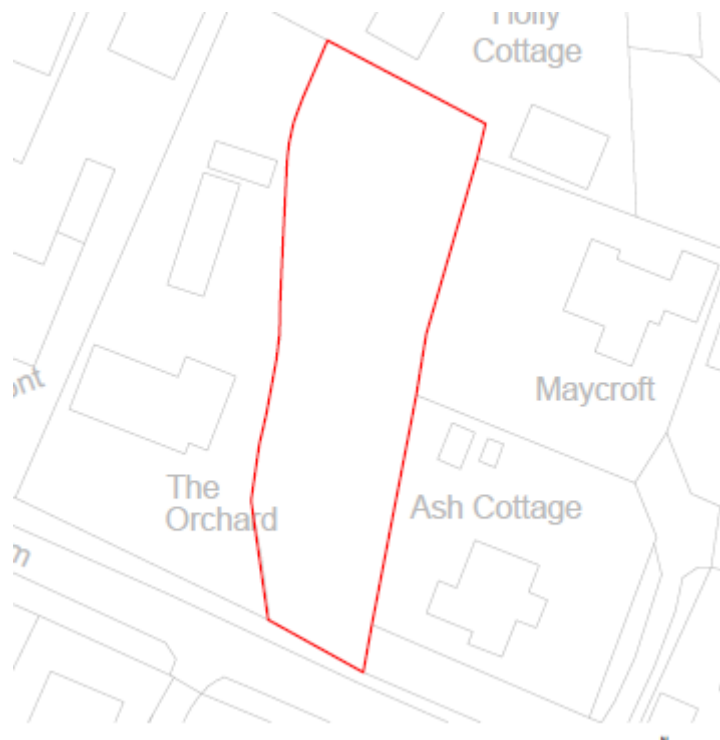
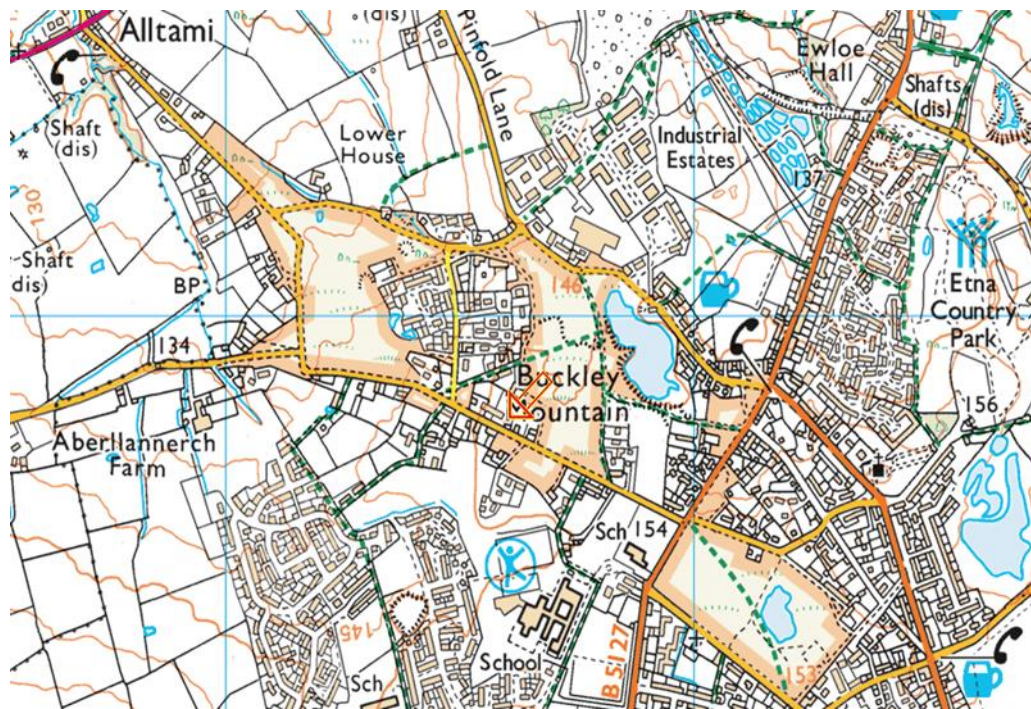


Figure 2 Location of development pot on Alltami Road, Buckley (Detail)

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2 Historical Background

- 2.1. Buckley has had signs of human activity since at least the Bronze Age. Several Bronze Age artefacts have been identified nearby to the modern settlement and within its surrounding agricultural land; Bronze Age palstaves as well as deposits associated with identifiably Bronze Age flint tools have been found. A possible enclosure from this period exists south of Buckley at Plas Isaf farm, which had been reengineered into a ha-ha in the post-medieval period. The Iron Age is less clearly represented within Buckley, but immediately to the south and north of the town there are hillforts at Wepre and Erw'r Gaer.
- 2.2. There is significant evidence of Roman activity in the area around Buckley, as seen in the numerous finds in the form of coins and domestic ware. There is also a possible Roman fort at Bryn Tygg to the east of the modern town. There is a Roman road near to this fort, which may have connected it to Roman settlements to the east, and the Fortress at Deva, or what is now Chester.
- 2.3. The early medieval monumental earthwork of Wat's Dyke runs near to Buckley, running straight through the nearby town of Mynydd Isa in a generally north-south direction. This massive engineering project is believed to date to the 9th century, although it is uncertain whether the dyke's construction belongs solely to one period. Although there is no clear evidence of a settlement at Buckley in this period, it would place the town within a complex political, economical and cultural frontier; the dyke may represent the interface between Mercian and Welsh kingdoms.
- 2.4. Buckley became firmly established as a settlement by the medieval period, as ceramic productions began. In the 15th Century, wares produced from Buckley's boulder clay start to appear in the archaeological record of North Wales. The town grew to become an important producer of ceramics, as well as an important colliery town. By the close of the 18th Century, Buckley was a hotbed of industry, exporting brick, ceramics, and coal via the River Dee.
- 2.5. During the 20th Century, Buckley's industrial economy began to subside. The First and Second World Wars saw a gradual decline in local industry as efforts were refocused, and eventually the town lost all of the brickworks as well as the end of coal mining by the late 20th Century.
- 2.6. Specific to the site, a structure might have been present in the development plot since the production of the 1841 tithe map (figure 3). The accompanying apportionment for the 1841 tithe map describes the structure present on the plot as a "house and garden". However, the approximate placement of the structure, when compared with the surrounding boundaries and opposite parcels of land, may be to the west of the current plot. The later Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1871 shows a structure present within the current development plot, but does not identify a building to the immediate west, supporting the possibility that the plot at 2585 on the tithe map could be the same structure identified on the 1871 OS map. The structure identified by the circle in figure 4 agrees with the location of the building that was identified during the watching brief.



Figure 3 Tithe map (produced 1841) showing "house and garden" at 2585 (red circle), at the approximate location of the modern development plot.



Figure 4 1871 OS map showing the probable building (red circle) identified within the development plot.

3 Archaeological Investigation

- 3.1. The evaluation was conducted on the 25th October 2021 in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) (2014) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation*. The excavation was mainly undertaken by a mechanical excavator, with additional appropriate hand digging for closer archaeological recording. The development plot in a pre-excavation state can be seen in Figure 5.



Figure 5 Site of development plot before stripping. Viewed from south. CPAT Photo 4957-0001

- 3.2. The mechanical stripping of the topsoil identified brickwork and modern waste material. The south-eastern part of the development plot had been used as a work yard into the 21st Century (usage stopped circa 10-20 years before this excavation). The topsoil reached a maximum depth of 0.3m and consisted of a dark greyish brown loamy silt, with minor gravel inclusions less than 0.1m across (see figure 6).



Figure 6 Topsoil stripping, with brick material and waste. Viewed from north west. CPAT Photo 4957-0005

- 3.3. As the area at the northern extent of the projected structure was stripped, it became apparent that the projected size of the structure was an overestimate (see Drawing 1 and Appendix 1, Fig. 3), and the footprint on which the projection was based included a yard surface rather than a roofed structure. As the turf was stripped, a brick and tile path/yard was exposed (figure 7). The fabric consisted of bricks and tiles, likely repurposed as several high temperature kiln bricks and crudely resized tiles were present. A "Metalline" brick within the fabric of the surface (see figure 8) suggests a date within the late 19th Century or later, as the Metalline trademark was first registered in 1885. The surface was spread over a small area, running directly north circa 3.5m from the remains of the building, and never reaching a width over 0.9m, although the outer limits of the surface was not a designed edge and may have been removed in previous years. The surface was dry brick/repurposed ceramic rubble lying directly on the natural dark greyish brown loamy silt subsoil, which itself was rich in fragmentary ceramic building material (CBM) inclusions.



Figure 7 Remnants of brick surface possibly forming a yard/path. Viewed from north. CPAT Photo 4957-0010

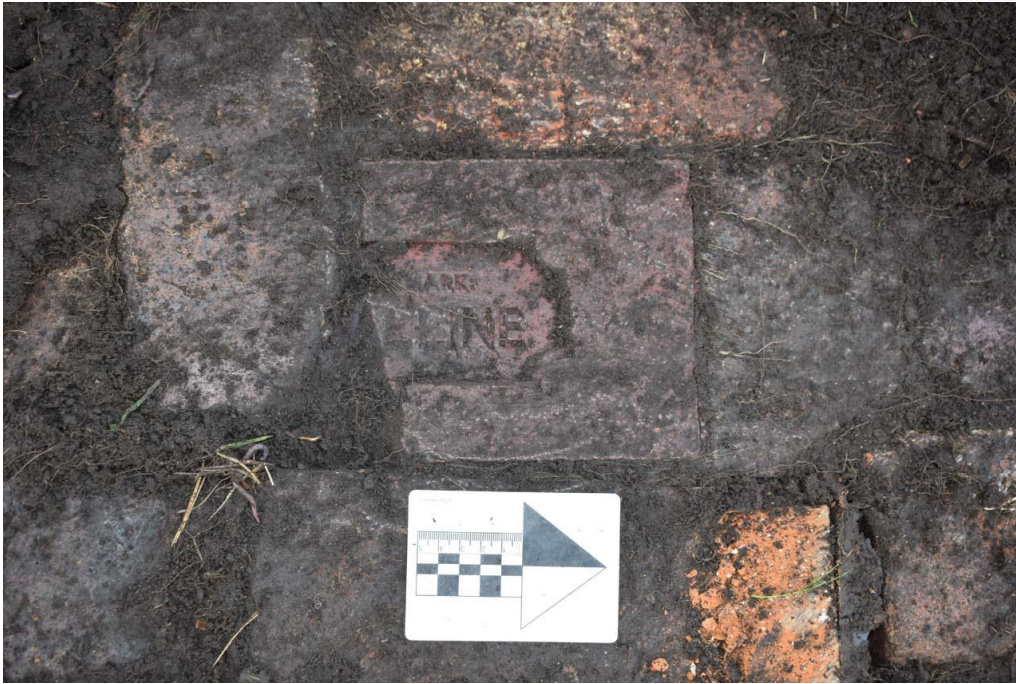


Figure 8 Repurposed "Metalline" brick forming the path/yard. CPAT Photo 4957-0009

- 3.4. As the stripping continued, the extent of the building became clear, consisting of a primary room 4.8m west – east and 4.4m north-south, with an additional room in the form of a *lean-to*¹ construction to the south 4.6m west – east, and 4.2m north-south (Drawing 1). According to local anecdotal history provided by the neighbour, the southern lean-to was used as a washroom. Evidence of coal storage was visible in the soil within the lean-to (figure 9). The lean-to had brickwork that was not keyed into the primary room brickwork, implying it was a later extension to the primary room.

¹ Defined as an extension in which the roof uses the original building's wall as a structural wall onto which to lean



Figure 9 Lean-to room with coal-rich deposit in south-west corner of room. Viewed from west. CPAT photo 4957-0014

- 3.5. The building's primary room (to which the lean-to room was attached) was investigated archaeologically by excavating a 1 metre slot through its interior and immediate exterior. The slot followed the western wall of the building, and extended a metre to the northern exterior of the building (see Drawing 1 and figure 10). The excavation identified a former floor surface constructed from a linoleum floor placed directly onto a light brownish yellow compacted clay natural base soil (see figure 11). The base soil had been cut by a drain that continued under the brick of the western wall, approximately 1m from the north-west corner of the primary room (figure 13). There was a deposit of dry bricks laid in the south-west corner of the room, possibly to form steps for egress.



Figure 10 Slot oriented north-south through the primary room. Viewed from north. CPAT photo 4957-0020



Figure 11 Remains of linoleum surface. CPAT photo 4957-0019



Figure 12 Sondage. CPAT photo 4957-0025



Figure 13 Drain. CPAT photo 4957-0025

- 3.6. Finds from the soil directly above the linoleum surface were early 20th Century ceramic ware and domestic waste. White china ceramic material and glass dating from the 20th century were found in this deposit, as well as animal bones that had been mechanically cut with a saw. The soil floor surface was tested via a sondage to determine whether archaeological deposits might have continued beneath. The sondage found the light brownish yellow compact clay base soil, with no evidence of a surface beneath the linoleum floor. This would indicate that an earlier floor surface was removed, as the original 19th Century use of the building (as suggested by its presence on the 1841 tithe map) would generate distinct evidence in the archaeological resource, but there was no evidence of material dating to a period earlier than the 20th Century.
- 3.7. The presence of dry bricks forming a step and the placement of the linoleum floor directly onto an earthen surface indicates that the room was crudely repurposed. Oral history provided by the former occupants of the nearby dairy indicate that the early to mid 20th Century occupant of the building moved into this structure after it had seen use as an agricultural building. The floor surface being lower than the surrounding outdoor tiled surface, the basic but functional drainage installation, as well as the dry bricks and linoleum placed to make a floor surface, may indicate an effort of clearing an agricultural floor surface for repurposing into a dwelling. The 1841 tithe map's description of the structure, which is likely to be this building, as a "house and garden" indicates that the structure could have originally been a domestic building.
- 3.8. To the east of the remains of the structure (see figure 14), the plot had been used by the immediate eastern neighbour as a yard until 10 to 20 years previous. As the dark greyish brown loamy silt subsoil was removed from this area, 21st Century waste, such as automotive parts and construction equipment, was present throughout the soil. This continued until the natural base soil, which was approximately 0.4m below the surface. The base soil in this area was unchanged from how it appeared under the structure; a light brownish yellow compact clay base soil. Some stratigraphically disturbed remains of guttering and drainage were present in the subsoil, but were out of their original context. The ubiquitous presence of

waste in this area suggests that the original surface of the yard was deeper than the present surface, and soil had been respread over this area to re-establish the turf. This may have been done during an earlier phase of waste removal.



Figure 14 Area of modern interference east of the structure. Viewed from west. CPAT photo 4957-0013

- 3.9. Nearby to the building, there were the remains of a toilet outhouse and a probable coal bunker. The coal bunker was built from dry brick of which only a single course remained (Drawing 1 and figure 15). The toilet block was at the periphery of the development area, and most of the remaining structure went beyond the limit of excavation, so it was not investigated.



Figure 15 Small dry-brick structure, probable coal bunker. Viewed from north. CPAT photo 4957-0018

4 Conclusions

- 4.1. The structural remains of a building were identified in the development plot, but were smaller than the projected size of the building based on 19th/20th century mapping (Figure 16). The scale of the historic OS map at 1:10,560 and comparison of the boundaries on this to the modern maps, has meant that the historic building is approximately correct, but a discrepancy can be seen between Drawing 1 and Figure 16, as the property boundaries have changed between the first edition and the most recent mapping.

In contrast to what the historic mapping suggested, the structural remains found by archaeological investigation was limited to a single room with a lean-to extension to the south. The building was too badly damaged to identify architectural features that could have provided evidence of the original date of its construction, however, the archaeological evidence suggested the building had become strictly domestic in the 20th Century, with no identifiable trace of earlier occupation. The interior of the primary room of the structure suggested that the building had undergone a crude renovation to facilitate occupation at some point in the early 20th Century. Previous to this change of use, there may have been a phase in which the building was used for agricultural purposes, which was reported to the excavator in statements given by long-time residents from neighbouring houses.

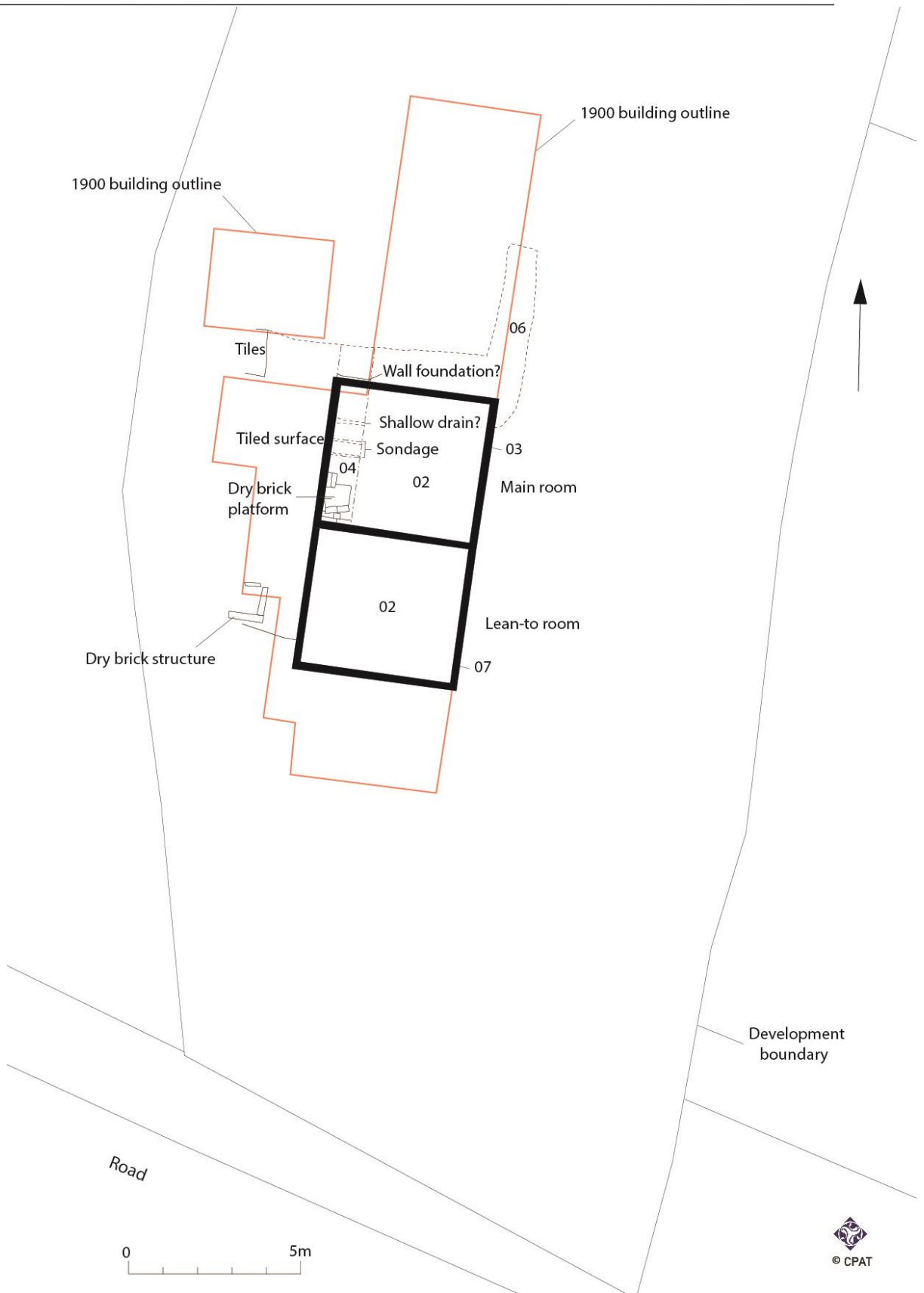


Figure 16 Plan of excavated features plotted against outline of historic building

5 Sources

Cartographic sources

- 1841 Tithe apportionment for Hawarden Parish
- 1871 Ordnance Survey 1:10560 1st edition Flintshire, Sheet XIV

6 Archive deposition Statement

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

Archive summary

CPAT Event PRN: 140391

30 digital photographs, CPAT film no 4957

2 drawings, 1 trench sheet

Appendix 1: CPAT WSI 2585

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) have been instructed by Nigel Bingham to design a programme of archaeological investigation work prior to the construction of a new dwelling on a plot at Alltami Road, Buckley (NGR: SJ 27606 64814). Planning approval for the development (No 062536) was granted by Flintshire Council on 13th July 2021, subject to a number of conditions.



Fig. 1: Location maps, development site arrowed



Fig. 2: Detailed location

1.2. Condition 7 of the grant of planning permission for the development is attached below:

The developer shall ensure that a suitably qualified archaeological contractor is present during the undertaking of the ground works for services, landscaping and access in the area to the south of the proposed new dwelling, so that an archaeological watching brief can be conducted. The archaeological watching brief must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs. A copy of the resulting report should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Assistant, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (The Offices, Coed y Dinas, Welshpool, SY21 8RP Email: sophie.watson@cpat.org.uk Tel: 01938 553670). After approval by the Local Planning Authority, a copy of the report and resulting archive should also be sent to the Historic Environment Record Officer, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the regional Historic Environment Record and to the NMR, RCAHMW.

REASON: To secure preservation by record of any archaeological remains which may be revealed during ground excavations within the development plot. In accordance with policy HE7 of the Flintshire Unitary Development Plan

1.3. It had originally been intended that the archaeological works would comprise a watching brief during ground disturbance works associated with the development but during consultation it was revealed that there had been a building within the plot in the late 19th century when the large scale Ordnance Survey mapping was produced. As a result of subsequent discussions with Mark Walters of CPAT, who provides planning advice on archaeological matters to Flintshire Council, it was agreed that the ground occupied by the 19th-century building and its immediate surrounds would be stripped to formation level under archaeological supervision, with any structural remains that were revealed being investigated prior to the commencement of construction work.



Figure 3: 19th-century building overlaid on the development plan

- 1.4. This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been designed to detail the archaeological work that will be required to investigate the building and has been approved by Mark Walters in his role as the archaeological advisor on planning matters to Flintshire Council.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1. The main aim of the investigation is to identify whether there are any surviving archaeological remains of the building mapped in the late 19th century.
- 2.2. The objectives are to determine the function, nature and date of the building, should there be any surviving remains which assist in the process.

3 METHODOLOGY

Fieldwork investigation and recording

- 3.1. The work will be conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation* (2014 updated 2020). The idea is to examine the area of the 19th-century building down to the formation level of the development.
- 3.2. A mechanical excavator will be used to remove topsoil and any other overburden down to archaeological horizons, the formation level of the development, or the natural geology (whichever is identified first).
- 3.3. If the trench exposes archaeological deposits, excavation would continue manually. The trench would be cleaned, planned and excavated according to normal archaeological and stratigraphic practice.
- 3.4. Archaeological features and deposits will be recorded and sampled as appropriate according to their nature. Discussions with Mark Walters may be required to determine the strategy to be adopted, dependent on what is revealed in the trench.
- 3.5. The excavation of any archaeological features or deposits will be undertaken by hand using the conventional techniques for archaeological excavation:
 - The presence or absence of archaeological features encountered during the ground works will be noted.
 - Where features of archaeological interest are identified during the ground works they will be investigated by hand with sufficient work being undertaken to determine their date, character and function, if that is possible, using the conventional techniques for archaeological excavation and in accordance with CIfA Standard and Guidance.
 - All features will be located as accurately as possible on an overall plan of the work at an appropriate scale, showing boundaries depicted on Ordnance Survey mapping.
 - Contexts will be recorded on individual record forms, using a continuous numbering system, and be drawn and photographed as appropriate.
 - Plans will be drawn on permatrace to a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate.
 - All photography will be taken using a digital SLR camera with a minimum resolution of 12 mega pixels, including a metric scale in each view, with views logged in a photographic register.
 - In the event of finding any artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasures Act 1996, the appropriate procedures under this legislation will be followed.
- 3.6. All artefacts and environmental samples will be treated in a manner appropriate to their composition and a sampling strategy will be developed as appropriate:
 - All stratified finds will be collected by context, or where appropriate, individually recorded in three dimensions. Unstratified finds will only be collected where they contribute significantly to the project objectives or are of particular intrinsic interest.
 - All finds and samples will be collected, processed, sorted, quantified, recorded, labelled, packed, stored, marked, assessed, analysed and conserved in a manner appropriate to their composition and in line with appropriate guidance.

-
- Arrangements will be made to assess and study any artefacts, assemblages and environment samples, if required.
 - Any artefacts recovered during the works will be deposited with Flintshire Museums Service, subject to their accessions policy and with permission from the landowner.

Selection Strategy

- 3.7. Unstratified finds will only be collected where they contribute significantly to the project objectives or are of particular intrinsic interest. All artefacts will be retained from stratigraphically secure contexts of 18th-century date or earlier. In the case of later or disturbed contexts, all 18th-century or earlier material will be retained, together with a sample of later finds to assist with dating and phasing, unless later deposits/artefacts are deemed to be of high archaeological value.
- 3.8. CPAT has a retention policy for artefacts which prioritises as follows:

High priority for retention

- Rare finds from stratified and unstratified contexts
- Prehistoric and early medieval assemblages
- Key stratigraphic dating assemblages crucial to the structural development of the site
- Assemblages which are not well represented in museum collections

High priority for disposal

- Unstratified material unless intrinsically dateable and unusual/rare
- Artefacts from residual/intrusive contexts unless of key stratigraphic importance to the site
- Assemblages already well represented in museum collections
- Unprocessed environmental/soil samples

Post-excavation assessment and reporting

- 3.9. Following the on-site work an illustrated report will be prepared combining both the extension excavation. A draft version of the report will allow Mark Walters to assess and approve its findings. A final version of the report will be lodged in an appropriate archive, with a copy to the Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record. Conventional sections would include:

- Non-technical summary
- Introduction
- Site location
- Historical Background
- Excavation
- Conclusions
- References
- Appropriate appendices on archives and finds

- 3.10. The site archive will be prepared to specifications in English Heritage's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) system and the CIfA *Standard and*

Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives (2014).

- 3.11. The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record (NMR), RCAHMW, including a copy of the final report. This archive will include all written, drawn, survey and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. NMR Digital archives will follow the standard required by the RCAHMW (RCAHMW 2015). A copy of the digital archive only will also be lodged with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and the stipulations of the 'Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) V1, July 2018', will therefore be adhered to. It should be noted that this includes an undertaking for the report summary to be provided in Welsh and English.

Data management

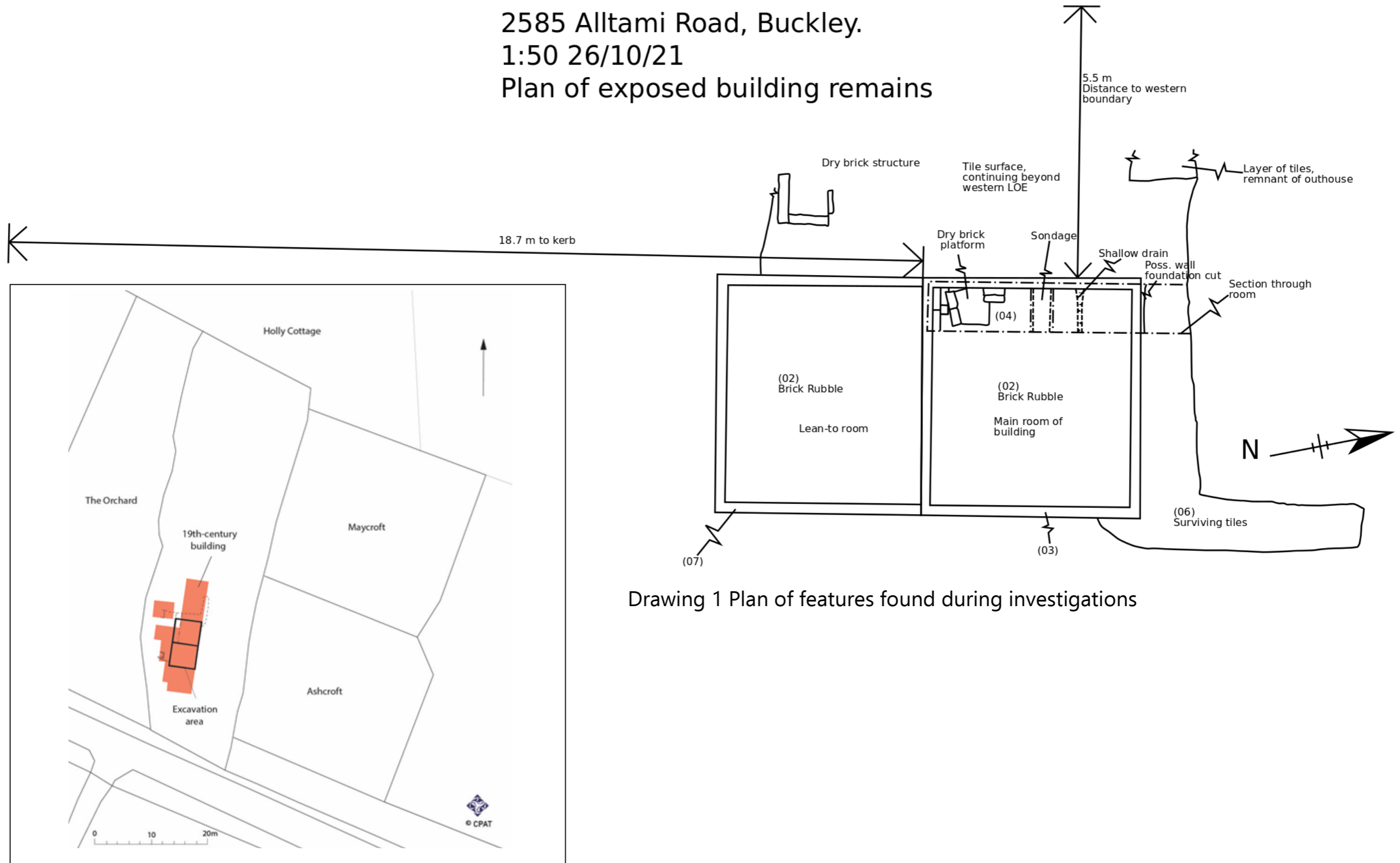
- 3.12. The project will be conducted in accordance with CPAT's data management policy. All paper records will be collated, catalogued and labelled with the unique project code. All digital data will follow strict file naming, to include the unique project code, and be sorted into a standard series of sub-folders. The digital data will be catalogued, including a list of file types and relevant software.

4 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

- 4.1. The evaluation will be undertaken by a team of skilled archaeologists under the overall supervision of Tim Malim, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). CPAT is also a CIfA Registered Organisation (RO No 6) and as such agrees to abide by their *Code of Conduct* (2014) and the *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (2014).
- 4.2. All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist(s) who conducted the site work. If appropriate, a short report will be published in *Archaeology in Wales*.
- 4.3. Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 4.4. CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance, as well as Professional Indemnity insurance.

Richard Hankinson, 13th October 2021

2585 Alltami Road, Buckley. 1:50 26/10/21 Plan of exposed building remains



Drawing 1 Plan of features found during investigations