



Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham LL13 9JG.

September 2023 V 1.0



Archaeological Watching Brief

Project Code: A0446.1

Report no. 0426

Event PRN: 213983



æon archaeology

**Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt,
Wrexham LL13 9JG.**

September 2023 v1.0

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Archaeological Watching Brief

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Project Code: A0446.1

Date: 19/09/2023

Client: Victoria Jones

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Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham LL13 9JG.

September 2023 v1.0

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1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

*Comisiynwyd Aeon Archaeology gan Victoria Jones, i gynnal brîff gwylio archaeolegol yn ystod y gwaith daear sy'n gysylltiedig â chodi estyniad llawr cyntaf ac unllawr y tu ôl i Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham LL13 9JG, (yn canolbwyntio ar **NGR SJ 41148 54221**).*

Gwnaethpwyd y gwaith ar y safle oherwydd bod y safle o fewn hen ardal ogleddol "canol y dref ganoloesol" yn Holt a bod ganddo'r potensial i ddatgelu olion archeolegol o'r amser hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, ar ôl y brîff gwylio ni ddarganfuwyd unrhyw bethau na nodweddion archaeolegol o'r Canoloesoedd. Ond, daethpwyd o hyd i ffos denau a dau dwll postyn, a dyddiwyd y rhain i'r 19eg/20fed ganrif oherwydd darnau ceramig a ddarganfuwyd ynddynt.

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Victoria Jones, to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the *erection of a first floor and single storey extension* to the rear of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham LL13 9JG, (centred on **NGR SJ 41148 54221**).

The works were carried out at the site as the plot lies within the northern extent of the medieval historic core at Holt and had the potential to reveal archaeological remains from that time. However, following the watching brief no archaeological finds or features relating to that period were encountered. Although a narrow ditch and two small post holes were revealed, and these were dated to 19th/20th century due to the composition of the ceramic material which was found within the material within them.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Victoria Jones, to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the *erection of a first floor and single storey extension* to the rear of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham LL13 9JG, hereafter ‘the Site’, (centred on **NGR SJ 41148 54221**) (figures 01-03).

Full planning permission (**ref: 2021/0087**) was secured by the Client from Wrexham County Borough Council, hereafter ‘the Council’, on the 24th March 2021 with the following conditions concerning archaeology being applied to the permission:

Condition 4

No part of the development / works shall commence until details of an on-site watching brief, prepared and to be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist, for the duration of the construction works has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The archaeological watching brief must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs.

Condition 5

The works shall be carried out in strict accordance with the watching brief approved in connection with condition no. ZL03 and a copy of the resulting report should be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR Email: markwalters@cpat.org.uk Tel: 01938 553670), within 2 months of completion of the fieldwork.

REASON: The site contains archaeological remains which it is essential should be protected from damage in accordance with Policies GDP1 and EC11 of the Wrexham Unitary Development Plan.

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:

The plot lies within the northern extent of the medieval historic core at Holt and within a long linear plot identified as a former medieval burgage plot. While the main buildings in the medieval period would have been on the frontage with extensions to the rear, the rest of the plot can include evidence of refuse pits, latrines, former wells, outbuildings, light industrial activity and artefacts relating to former activity within the plot. Rear plots in Holt have frequently revealed medieval and post medieval pit features and traces of outbuildings in previous watching briefs.

We would therefore recommend that an archaeologist is contracted to be present throughout the ground reduction work for the new foundations in order that an adequate record of any archaeological features revealed by these works can be made.

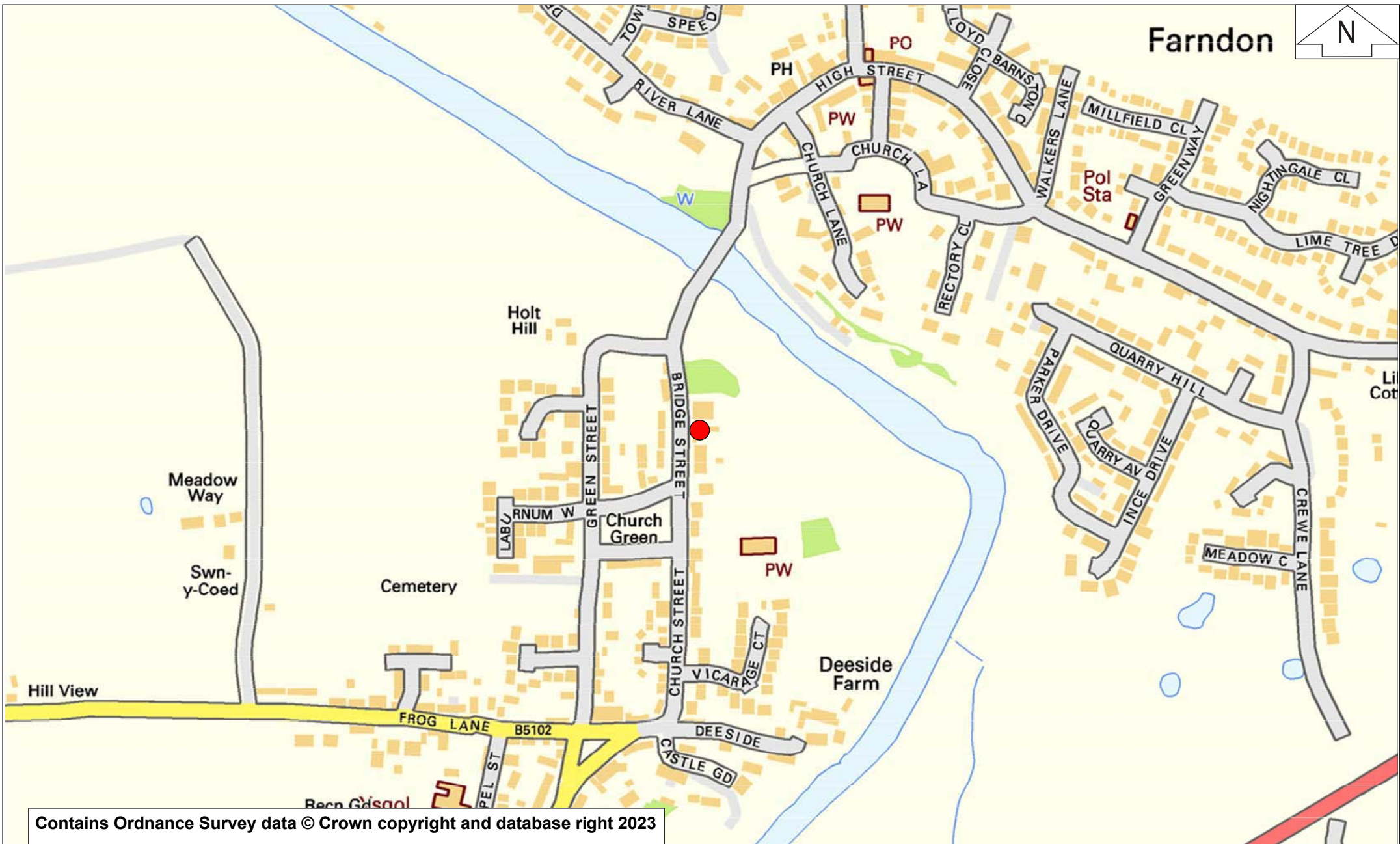


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Figure 01: Location of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham LL13 9JG (SJ 41148 54221). Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

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Figure 02: Location of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham LL13 9JG (SJ 41148 54221). Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

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Figure 03: Location of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham LL13 9JG (SJ 41148 54221). 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 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 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Holt, is a historic town on the banks of the River Dee in Wales. It is located on the border of England which is accessed via the *Scheduled Monument of Holt Bridge* which was likely constructed in its present iteration sometime in the 15th/16th century. The town holds a diverse and compelling history (Holt Local History Society, 2013). This historical summary presents some of the key aspects of Holt and its past, from its suspected Prehistoric origins, Roman associations, Medieval castle and borough through to its eventual decline.

Suspected Bronze Age features are located to the northwest of Holt, and although unconfirmed these do hint at a prehistoric landscape with the finds and features found at Borrás Quarry being only a short distance to the west. Roman structures, have also been discovered along the riverbanks, with Holt being the site of a Roman works depot that produced tiles and pottery, primarily for nearby Chester (Belford, 2021).

The town's name, Holt, can be traced back to "*Holte*" in 1326, with variations like "*le Holt*" in 1347 (Belford, 2021). The name, rooted in Old English, means 'wood.' Another name, "*Lyons*", possibly brought from France, was associated with Holt. The town's history is intertwined with the construction of a castle by *John de Warenne, Earl of Surrey*, in the late 13th century (Swallow, 2022). The castle, which is strategically situated on the Dee River, played a central role in the town's development.

By 1315, Holt had a thriving community, with over 200 burgages and 152 burgesses, making it one of Wales' most populous towns (CPAT 2013). Its population was predominantly English, hailing from regions like Cheshire and the south and east of England. The town's economy flourished with trade, farming, and coal mining, as evidenced by the grant of coal rights in 1412. A weekly market and an annual fair added to its economic significance (Belford 2021, CPAT 2013).

Holt, unfortunately experienced a decline, especially during the mid-15th century. It struggled to compete with neighbouring Wrexham, just 8 kilometres away to the southwest. Hostilities between English and Welsh residents might also have contributed to this decline (CPAT 2013). By the 1530s, Holt's once-vibrant weekly market began to diminish, and by 1620, the town had only 65 freeholders and burgesses (CPAT 2013, Holt Local History Society, 2013).

Notable historical structures in Holt include: *St. Chad's Church*, with origins in the late 13th century, and *Holt Hill, Smithfield House, Holt Hall, and Walnut Cottage*, which are buildings which date back to the 17th and 18th centuries. Holt's layout reflected a well-structured design, with a triangular market place at one end and the river bridge, the castle, and another market place at the other (Swallow, 2022).

Holt's archaeological significance is underscored by recent excavations, uncovering valuable remnants like road metalling, boundary ditches, clay floors, and hearths from medieval and post-medieval periods (Belford, 2021). The archaeological survey conducted by the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT, 2013) has contributed significantly to understanding Holt's historical landscape.

The bridge connecting *Holt to Farndon* (mentioned earlier), which may have originally existed on or near this site as early as 1368, is said to have replaced a ferry across the River Dee. The current bridge, (15th/16th century), is said to have once featured some defensive elements, including a tower

with a drawbridge. A quay once existed on the riverside to the west of the bridge, facilitating trade with Chester via the river.

Holt's history also includes now lost structures like the town hall, that was present since at least 1545, and a '*Welsh*' court-house within the castle precinct. The town's agricultural legacy is evidenced by the presence of open strips, which persisted into the 19th century west and southwest of the town.

In summary, Holt's history encompasses Roman heritage, medieval development, economic prosperity, and eventual decline. Its architectural heritage and archaeological significance offer a window into the past of this historic Anglo-Welsh community.

5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The archaeological watching brief was to be maintained:

1. during the groundworks associated with the *erection of a first floor and single storey extension* to the rear of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham LL13 9JG, (centred on **NGR SJ 41148 54221**).

2.

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 were:

- 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 were:

- 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.

6.0 METHODOLOGY – ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

6.1 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).

The archive produced will be held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0446.1**.

6.2 Watching brief report

6.2.1 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.

7.0 DIGITAL DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

7.1 Type of study

An archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the *erection of a first floor and single storey extension* to the rear of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham LL13 9JG (centred on **NGR SJ 41148 54221**).

7.2 Types of data

Digital Photographs (.JPEG, .TIF):	11
Digital Photographic Metadata (.xlsx):	1
Watching Brief Day Sheets (.PDF)	1

All data generated during this project has been selected for archive.

7.3 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.

7.4 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

7.5 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.

7.6 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 *Acronis Cyber Protect* with additional copies made to external physical hard drive.

7.7 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.

7.8 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 the original and digital scanned archive to the RCAHMW; and retention of copies of all digital files at Aeon Archaeology on physical external hard drive and uploaded to The Cloud.

7.9 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.

7.10 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 RCAHMW website. Requests can also be made for data through the regional HER's and directly to Aeon Archaeology (info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk).

7.11 Governance of access

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

7.12 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.

7.13 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.

7.14 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.

7.15 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.

7.16 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

8.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS

8.1 The Documentary Archive

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

Digital photographs	11
Watching Brief Day Sheets	1

8.2 Environmental Samples

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

8.3 Artefacts

No archaeological artefacts were recovered during the archaeological watching brief and therefore no report was prepared.

9.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

9.1 Overview

(see Figure 04: Plates 01-11)

The archaeological watching brief was maintained by Josh Dean BA archaeological contractor at Aeon Archaeology on the 18th of September 2023. The weather conditions were wet and windy with periods of overcast cloud, punctuated with occasional bright sunshine. These works were in order to facilitate the *erection of a first floor and single storey extension* to the rear of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham. The excavation of these trenches were conducted by a groundworks team using hand tools due to difficult access to the site.

As alluded to by the DMA at CPAT the plot lies within the northern extent of the medieval historic core at Holt and within a long linear plot identified as a former medieval burgage plot. Rear plots in Holt have frequently revealed medieval and post medieval pit features and traces of outbuildings in previous watching briefs.

9.2 Description of the site

The area lies to the rear of the property known as Rose Avon, and is accessed via Bridge Street, through the property gateway and up a steeply sloping access pathway. This then passes through a brick segmented arched doorway, into an external passageway which traverses from east to west along the south of the house. This area occupies a sandstone ridge which stands above the River Dee to the south of the historically important crossing point of Holt Bridge.

As previously mentioned by the DMA, this area would have been considered the northern margin of the settlement, “...(and could have)... *included evidence of refuse pits, latrines, former wells, outbuildings, light industrial activity and artefacts relating to former activity within the plot*”.

9.3 Trench A

Trench A was excavated running from east to west, and measured 3.50m in length by 0.60m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.28m. This cut through 0.05m of sandy, friable concrete which had been used to fix down a former patio. Below this was a 0.23m deep deposit of soft dark black brown, sand-silt which had slate, red brick, and 18th/19th century ceramic fragments (refined earthenware, ironstone ware) as inclusions. This lay directly above the hard red sandstone geology (*Chester Formation – Sandstone, Sedimentary bedrock formed between 250 and 247.1 million years ago during the Triassic period.*) In addition, there was a linear cut into the sandstone on the southern side of the trench, this was aligned east to west and apparently once carried a salt-glaze drain pipe from a former out door privy, this had been removed historically and was backfilled with the dark black brown, sand-silt material.

9.3 Trench B

Trench B was excavated running from north to south, and measured 4.88m in length by 0.60m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.25m. This cut through 0.05m of sandy, friable concrete which had been used to fix down a former patio. Below this was a 0.03m deep deposit of soft dark black brown, sand-silt which had slate and red brick inclusions. Below this was 0.17m of pulverised sandstone which directly above the hard red sandstone geology.

9.3 Trench C

Trench C was excavated running from east to west, and measured 3.50m in length by 0.60m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.28m. This cut through the same 0.05m of sandy, friable

concrete which had been used to fix down the former patio. Below this was a 0.20m deep deposit of imported sub-rounded pebble chippings which had been placed upon a sheet of blue visqueen. This was overlying a 0.03m deposit of soft dark black brown, sand-silt which had slate, red brick, and 18th/19th century ceramic fragments (lead glazed black ware) as inclusions. This lay directly above the hard red sandstone geology. In addition, there were two small post holes were found to have been cut into the sandstone geology, these were infilled with the same dark black brown, sand-silt material and modern glass fragments. It is thought that these two post holes may relate to late 19th/early 20th century partitioning within the garden and this is quite likely following an inspection of historic mapping (OS Map 3rd edition 1899), which shows that there was something located in this area of the garden, perhaps a vegetable bed or chicken run.

Bridge Street

Holly House

Key



Direction of Photograph

N

Rose Avon

Trench C

Trench B

Trench A

Dee Villa



Figure 04: Location of photographic plates at , Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham LL13 9JG (SJ 41148 54221). Scale 1:100 @ A4.

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Plate 01: Pre excavation shot of site, on land to rear of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham - from the south - 1.00m scale



Plate 02: Pre excavation shot of site, on land to rear of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham - from the east - 1.00m scale



Plate 03: Pre excavation shot of site, on land to rear of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham - from the northeast



Plate 04: Trench A in Plan, on land to rear of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham - from the east - 0.50m scale



Plate 05: Trench A in section, on land to rear of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham - from the north - 0.50m scale



Plate 06: Trench B in Plan, on land to rear of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham - from the south - 0.50m scale



Plate 07: Trench B in section, on land to rear of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham - from the west - 0.50m scale



Plate 08: Trench C in Plan, on land to rear of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham - from the east - 0.50m scale



Plate 09: Trench C in section, on land to rear of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham - from the south - 0.50m scale



Plate 10: Post excavation shot of site, on land to rear of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham - from the northeast - 1.00m scale



Plate 11: Post excavation shot of site, on land to rear of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham - from the southeast - 1.00m scale

10.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned to conduct an archaeological watching brief in conjunction with the groundworks associated with the construction of a *first-floor and single-storey extension* to the rear of *Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham LL13 9JG*. This project was initiated following the receipt of full planning permission (ref: 2021/0087) from the Wrexham County Borough Council, which included specific conditions related to archaeological assessment and monitoring.

The site's historical significance is underscored by its location within the northern extent of Holt's medieval historic core, which encompassed what was believed to be a former medieval burgage plot. Historical records, predating the emergence of the place-name, attest to the presence of both a borough and a castle, firmly establishing Holt's historical importance in the region.

The comments provided by the DMA at CPAT highlighted the potential for discovering various archaeological features within the site. These could have taken the form of: “*refuse pits, latrines, former wells, outbuildings, evidence of light industrial activity, and artefacts reflecting historical activities on the plot.*” Past archaeological watching briefs in some of Holt's rear garden plots have consistently revealed medieval and post-medieval pit features and traces of outbuildings, further affirming the site's archaeological potential.

During the archaeological watching brief, hand excavation revealed a narrow ditch and two small post holes. However, analysis of the ceramic material found within these features led to their being dated to the 19th/20th century. Thus, they were determined to be associated with more recent activities rather than the medieval period, or even the post medieval period up to the 19th century. In addition, the historic mapping for the area suggested a partition within the garden of some sort, perhaps for a vegetable patch or chicken run, which may have required upright posts to support fencing for example.

Following the DMA's recommendations, archaeological monitoring was conducted at the site throughout the ground reduction work, associated with the construction of new foundations. While no preliminary archaeological features or artefacts from the medieval period were uncovered during this phase of archaeological monitoring, it is essential to emphasize that this absence does not diminish the site's archaeological value. The vigilance exercised during these works ensures that any future discoveries are appropriately documented and preserved.

In conclusion, the phase of archaeological watching brief at Rose Avon on Bridge Street, aligns with the prescribed standards for archaeological monitoring as specified by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*. This assessment has not only met the conditions set forth by the planning permission, but has also ensured that a useful baseline has been created for any future archaeological work that might take place in the area. Therefore, it is considered that these works have now met the spirit and intent of the archaeological condition of permission **2021/0087**, and it is the recommendation of this report that the condition associated with archaeology, might now be considered as fulfilled and that suitable mitigation has been carried out.

11.0 SOURCES

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**Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt,
Wrexham LL13 9JG
(2021/0087)**

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

September 2023 v1.0

aeon archaeology



Project Code: A0446.1
Planning Ref: 2021/0087
Event PRN: Tbc



Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham LL13 9JG (2021/0087)

September 2023 v1.0

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been commissioned by Victoria 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 first floor and single storey extension* to the rear of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham LL13 9JG hereafter ‘the Site’, (centred on **NGR SJ 41148 54221**) (figures 01-03).

Full planning permission (**ref: 2021/0087**) was secured by the Client from Wrexham County Borough Council, hereafter ‘the Council’, on the 24th March 2021 with the following conditions concerning archaeology being applied to the permission:

Condition 4

No part of the development / works shall commence until details of an on-site watching brief, prepared and to be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist, for the duration of the construction works has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The archaeological watching brief must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs.

Condition 5

The works shall be carried out in strict accordance with the watching brief approved in connection with condition no. ZL03 and a copy of the resulting report should be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (41 Broad Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7RR Email: markwalters@cpat.org.uk Tel: 01938 553670), within 2 months of completion of the fieldwork.

REASON: The site contains archaeological remains which it is essential should be protected from damage in accordance with Policies GDP1 and EC11 of the Wrexham Unitary Development Plan.

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 conditions of permission 2021/0087.

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:

The plot lies within the northern extent of the medieval historic core at Holt and within a long linear plot identified as a former medieval burgage plot. While the main buildings in the medieval period would have been on the frontage with extensions to the rear, the rest of the plot can include evidence of refuse pits, latrines, former wells, outbuildings, light industrial activity and artefacts relating to former activity within the plot. Rear plots in Holt have frequently revealed medieval and post medieval pit features and traces of outbuildings in previous watching briefs.

We would therefore recommend that an archaeologist is contracted to be present throughout the ground reduction work for the new foundations in order that an adequate record of any archaeological features revealed by these works can be made.

It is a requirement that this WSI is approved in writing by the DMA at CPAT and the Planning Officer prior to commencement of works on Site.



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Figure 01: Location of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham LL13 9JG (SJ 41148 54221). Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

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Figure 02: Location of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham LL13 9JG (SJ 41148 54221). Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

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Figure 03: Location of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham LL13 9JG (SJ 41148 54221). 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 all intrusive groundworks

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 to the rear of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham LL13 9JG (NGR SJ 41148 54221).

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 *Acronis Cyber Protect* 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 the original paper / digital archive to the RCAHMW; 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 5.8) 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 RCAHMW website. Requests can also be made for data through the regional HER's and directly to Aeon Archaeology (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 (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

See appendix I. All artefacts and ecofacts will be retrieved for identification and recording and will be treated in accordance with ClfA 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 Aeon Archaeology – Rose Avon, Holt – WSI 1.0

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. A digital copy of the final report will be sent to the regional HER, the CPAT Development Control Archaeologist and to the National Monument Record of the Royal Commission

on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) along with the original paper/digital archive.

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)* (2022 v2.0) 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 07/09/24

Professional Indemnity Insurance

Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 07/09/24

APPENDIX I

Aeon Archaeology Artefact Selection Strategy	
Project:	to the rear of Rose Avon, Bridge Street, Holt, Wrexham LL13 9JG
Location:	SJ 41148 54221
Client:	Victoria Jones
Curator:	CPAT
Receiving Institution:	Wrexham Museum Service
Landowner:	Victoria Jones

Stone		
Period	Retain	Dispose
<i>Prehistoric</i>	Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy for specific knapping debitage, encompassing all collections, whether stratified or not, that enhance our understanding of prehistory or lithic technology.	Unstratified artefacts
<i>Roman</i>	Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy for stratified assemblages.	Selected elements of common unstratified material.
<i>Early medieval</i>	All stratified and unstratified.	None
<i>Medieval</i>	Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy for stratified assemblages.	Selected elements of common unstratified material.
<i>Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial</i>	Only rare or unusual examples.	Majority.
<i>Modern</i>	Only rare or unusual examples.	Majority.
Ceramic		
<i>Prehistoric</i>	All stratified and unstratified.	None.
<i>Roman</i>	Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy for stratified assemblages.	Selected elements of common unstratified material.
<i>Early medieval</i>	All stratified and unstratified.	None
<i>Medieval</i>	Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy for stratified assemblages.	Selected elements of common unstratified material.
<i>Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial</i>	Only rare or unusual examples.	Majority.
<i>Modern</i>	Only rare or unusual examples.	Majority.

Construction Material (CBM)	Building	
<i>Prehistoric</i>	Not usually retained. Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy.	Majority.
<i>Roman</i>	Not usually retained. Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy.	Majority.
<i>Early medieval</i>	Not usually retained. Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy.	Majority.
<i>Medieval</i>	Not usually retained. Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy.	Majority.
<i>Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial</i>	Usually not retained.	Majority.
<i>Modern</i>	Usually not retained.	Majority.
Metal		
<i>Prehistoric</i>	All.	None.
<i>Roman</i>	All.	None.
<i>Early medieval</i>	All.	None.
<i>Medieval</i>	All.	None.
<i>Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial</i>	Only rare or unusual examples.	Majority.
<i>Modern</i>	Not normally retained.	All.
Glass		
<i>Prehistoric</i>	All.	None.
<i>Roman</i>	All.	None.
<i>Early medieval</i>	All.	None.
<i>Medieval</i>	All.	None.
<i>Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial</i>	Only rare or unusual examples.	Majority.
<i>Modern</i>	Not normally retained.	All.
Bone, antler and ivory		
<i>Prehistoric</i>	All.	None.
<i>Roman</i>	All.	None.
<i>Early medieval</i>	All.	None.
<i>Medieval</i>	All.	None.
<i>Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial</i>	Only rare or unusual examples.	Majority.
<i>Modern</i>	Not normally retained.	All.

Wood		
<i>Prehistoric</i>	All.	None.
<i>Roman</i>	All.	None.
<i>Early medieval</i>	All.	None.
<i>Medieval</i>	All.	None.
<i>Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial</i>	Only rare or unusual examples.	Majority.
<i>Modern</i>	Not normally retained.	All.

