

Archaeology Wales

Tretower Drainage Upgrade, Tretower, Powys

Archaeological Watching Brief



By
Dan Moore & Jerry Bond

Report No. 1828

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SUMMARY

From April to July 2019 Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the proposed construction of a drainage system linked to the A479 at Tretower, South Powys, NP8 1RW.

The archaeological watching brief evidenced remains dating to post-medieval and modern chronologies in the form of culverts and other drainage systems. The work also revealed a stone structure which has been tentatively dated to the 16th century as documented in cartographic sources.

This watching brief was undertaken to the standards set in the ClfA's Standards and Guidance: for an archaeological watching brief (2014) and current Health and Safety legislation.

CRYNODEB

Rhwng mis Ebrill a mis Gorffennaf 2019 cynhaliodd Archeoleg Cymru Cyf. (AW) brîff gwyllo archeolegol yn ystod gwaith tir a oedd yn gysylltiedig â'r gwaith arfaethedig o adeiladu system ddraenio sydd wedi'i gysylltu â'r A479 yn Nhretŵr, De Powys, NP8 1RW.

Fe wnaeth y brîff gwyllo arddangos olion ôl-ganoloesol a fodern ar ffurf cylfatiau a systemau draenio eraill. Datgelodd y gwaith hefyd strwythur carreg sydd wedi'i ddyddio'n betrus i'r 16eg ganrif, fel y dogfennwyd o fewn ffynonellau cartograffeg.

Ymgwymerwyd â'r brîff gwyllo hwn yn unol â'r safonau a osodwyd o fewn Standards and Guidance: for an archaeological watching brief (ClfA, 2014) a deddfwriaeth Iechyd a Diogelwch cyfredol.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Archaeology Wales (AW) was commissioned by Adam Parry on behalf of Powys County Council, Local Environment Services to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the proposed construction of a drainage system linked to the A479 at Tretower, South Powys, NP8 1RW (between SO 18682 21334 and SO 18927 21042) (Figure 1-2).
- 1.2. The archaeological watching brief evidenced remains dating to post-medieval and modern chronologies in the form of culverts and other drainage systems. The work also revealed a stone structure which has been tentatively dated to the 16th century as documented in cartographic sources.
- 1.3. All work was undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). An approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by AW in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (ClfA 2014) and was designed to provide an approved methodology of archaeological work to be implemented during the construction works.

2. Site description and archaeological background

Location, topography and geology

- 2.1. Tretower lies in the community of Llanfihangel Cwmdru with Bwlch and Cathedine, 4.5km NW of Crickhowell. Tretower lies on the A479 road. The proposed development is associated with the construction of drainage associated with the A479 road between SO 18682 21334 and SO18927 21042 (Figure 1-2).
- 2.2. The underlying geology is defined by the St Maughan's Formation, and it is composed of argillaceous rocks and sandstone formed during the Devonian period (BGS 2018). The British Geological Survey has no records of the superficial soils characteristic of the development area.

Archaeological and Historical Background (Figure 3)

Prehistoric and Roman activity

- 2.3. Prehistoric remains in the area are limited to a standing stone – The Cwmdu Stone- located about half a mile N of Tretower. Furthermore, the hillfort of Myarth Camp (SAM BR 116) is located 1.4km SW from Tretower.
- 2.4. Roman activity is attested in the area by two carved stones found near Tretower Court (HER 662), and by the predicted line of a Roman Road (HER1113). The latter appears to cross the A479 on an E/W axis and would have joined Caerleon to Y Gaer. It is likely that the remains of this road are exposed during the works associated with the drainage update.

Medieval Activity

- 2.5. The village of Tretower first emerged in the 11th century when Picard, follower of Bernard de Neumarche, granted land in the valley of Rhiangoll. The Picard family built an earth and timber castle enclosed by a ditch and a palisade (SAM BR014). This led to the development of a medieval settlement with an arrangement of streets following the traditional NE/SW axis. Nowadays the medieval settlement -Tretower Shrunken Settlement (SAM BR238) – is still visible to the north of the castle in the form of visible earthworks, crop and soil marks. In the 14th century the Bluets abandoned the mote and went to live in the Late Medieval house known as the Court (SAM BR117), located immediately E from the motte.
- 2.6. Tretower castle (SAM BR014), the Court (SAM BR117), and the medieval settlement lie immediately S of the area subjected to development. While the scheduled area of the castle and court are located c. 200m away from the drainage improvement area, the scheduled area belonging to the medieval settlement lies adjacent to the A479 road.

Post-medieval and modern activity

- 2.7. Evidence dating to the 17th century is documented with a number of standing structures. Tretower Court Inn (HER 40641) (adjacent to the A479), appears to have

been originated as a house in the early 17th century, as well as the Vine Tree Cottages (HER 20798).

- 2.8. While the vast majority of the recorded heritage assets are located S of the development, the HER documents a number of assets of medieval and post-medieval date to the N of the A479 road, including a farmstead and an associated trackway linked to Pen-Y-Pentre (e.g. HER48233; HER68839), a post-medieval quarry (HER22203), and the remains of medieval ridge and furrow (HER26648) (see Silvester and Dorling 1993).

3. Aims and Objectives

- 3.1. The aims of an archaeological watching brief, as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) are:

- To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works;
- To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, 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;
- To establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

4. Methodology

Fieldwork details

- 4.1. The work was undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs* (2014).

- 4.2. The watching brief was undertaken using a tracked 360 degree excavated equipped with a flat-bladed bucket and was monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist until the development levels were reached.
- 4.3. The site archaeologist undertaking the watching brief was afforded the required access by the main contractor in order to observe and where necessary to record any archaeological remains revealed. Groundwork was not undertaken without the presence of the site archaeologist. The site archaeologist recorded finds and less significant archaeological deposits and features without significant delay to the work program.
- 4.4. Where significant or complex archaeological deposits or features were encountered, the areas were fenced off and highlighted to all contractors employed on the site. Machines or contractors did not enter the area until archaeological recording was completed.

5. Watching brief results

- 5.1. The watching brief commenced work on 8th April 2019. All groundworks were monitored under the supervision of Dan Moore, Jerry Bond, James Evans and Cassandra Davis. The project was managed by Dr Irene Garcia Rovira (MCIfA).
- 5.2. The groundworks comprised the excavation of a single continuous trench (Trench 1) that began in the fields SE of Tretower and to the S of the A479 road. The trench, in the form of a 45° open V-ditch, extended NE for approximately 130m from the River Rhiangoll to the NE corner of Field 3. It then turned NW for approximately 200m, parallel with the A479, in Fields 3, 2 and 1 (Figure 4).
- 5.3. The excavation of the V-ditch involved the enlargement of a pre-existing drainage channel, including the reduction of invert levels. In Field 3 only the south and west sides of the ditch were excavated, forming a trench that measured 2m in width (max) and 1m (max) in depth from ground level. In Fields 2 and 1 both the north and south sides of the ditch were excavated, forming a trench that measured 3.70m (max) in width and 2.70m (max) in depth from ground level.

- 5.4. From Field 1 the trench, now with vertical sides, extended into the road (an access point was created by removing part of the stone wall). At the opposite, north side of the road the trench was enlarged to form a square shape in plan (for the purposes of installing Manhole 1). This measured 2m in length (NE-SW alignment), 3.9m in width (NW-SE alignment) and 2.9m in depth. From this, the trench continued into the village along the north side of the road with a width of 1m and depth of c. 2m.
- 5.5. Trench 1 was enlarged to create several further manholes, all of which had the same approximate dimensions as Manhole 1. Manhole 2 was located to the immediate southeast of Rock Cottage and incorporated an existing culvert. Manhole 3 was located at the SW corner of Lilac Cottage at the junction between the A479 and an unnamed lane that extended to the NE (see below).
- 5.6. Trench 1b branched off of Trench 1 (from Manhole 3) to extend along the east side the unnamed lane (see above). The trench measured 0.80m (max) in width and 1m in depth (max).
- 5.7. Trench 3 began SW of the private drive of Tretower House and continued NW along the A479. It started when Trench 1, which continued NW to join the starting point of Trench 3, reached Rose Cottage. The trench measured 1m in width and 2m in depth (becoming shallower as it continued NW). The trench was enlarged to create Manhole 4 (same dimensions as Manhole 1) which was located between the private drive of Tretower House and The Olde Inn.
- 5.8. An additional trench (Trench 2) was excavated across the farmer's track at the NW corner of Field 3, and 1m south east of Trench 1, for the purposes of laying a temporary pipeline. The trench was on a NW-SE alignment and measured 3.70m in length, 1m in width and 0.60m in depth.

Trench 1 (Fields 1, 2 and 3)

- 5.9. In Field 3, the basal deposit (002) was characterized as a mid-orange brown clayey silt subsoil. Deposit (002) measured in excess of 70m in length, 130m in width and 0.80m in depth. This was overlaid by deposit (001), a topsoil characterized as a friable mid to dark orange brown silty loam.
- 5.10. Deposit (001) was cut by [030], a linear cut with steep sides and a flat shaped base. The cut was for a concrete drainage pipe (028) that linked the V-ditch in Fields 2 and

- 3 (below farmer's trackway). The cut was located immediately N of Trench 2 on a NW-SE alignment and measured in excess of 2m in length and was 4m in width and 1m in depth. The cut contained concrete fill (029) which measured 0.11m in depth. This may have acted as a bed for concrete drainage pipe (028), which was above, and had a diameter of 0.8m. This was overlaid by fill (027), an aggregate that comprised loose mid-red grey sub-angular stones with an average diameter of 0.15m. Fill (027) measured 0.4m in depth and was cut by linear [026].
- 5.11. Cut [026] was the same as cut [006] and was for the farmer's trackway (Plate 1). It had moderately steep sides and a flat shaped base. It measured in excess of 3m in length and was 3m in width and 0.5m in depth. Cut [026] contained fill (025), an aggregate composed of a hard, compacted light yellow grey sand with chippings 0.01m in diameter. Fill (025) measured 0.3m in depth. This was overlaid by fill (024), an aggregate characterized as a firm orange and mid to dark black brown silty clay with chippings 0.01m in diameter. Fill (024) measured 0.1m in depth. This was overlaid by fill (023), a grey concrete that formed the track surface that was the same as (003) and measured 0.08m in depth. It should be noted, however, that distinguishing between which fills related to the concrete drainage pipe and the trackway was not particularly clear.
- 5.12. In Field 2, the basal deposit (010) was characterized as a firm mid-orange brown clayey silt with fragmented bedrock (Plate 2). Deposit (010) measured in excess of 130m in length, 1.5m in width and 1.3m in depth. This was overlaid by deposit (009) which was characterized as a firm dirty mid-orange brown clayey silt subsoil. Deposit (009) measured in excess of 130m in length, 1.5m in width and was 1.2m in depth. Deposit (009) was overlaid by deposit (008), which was characterized as a firm mid-orange brown clayey silt with a moderately high frequency of sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions approximately 0.1m -0.2m in diameter (Plate 3). Deposit (008) was visible in the south facing section only and continued beyond the limit of excavation toward the stone wall parallel with the road. It measured in excess of 130m in length and ranged from 0.1m to 1m in depth with a denser concentration of stones, one upon another, towards the eastern and central area of Field 2. It is possible that the stones relate to the construction of the wall, however, the limited nature of a watching brief during groundworks often leaves questions unanswered as to the precise nature of any remains encountered. Deposit (008) was overlaid by deposit (007), a topsoil characterized as a friable mid to dark orange brown silty loam. Deposit (007) measured in excess of 130m in length, 3.7m in width and was 0.2m in depth.

Trench 2 (Field 3)

- 5.13. In Trench 2, deposit (001) was cut by linear [006]. This was for a NE-SW aligned trackway linking the A479 with farmer's buildings to the south. Cut [006] had moderately steep sides while the shape of base was not ascertained due to the limit

of excavation. Cut [006] measured 3.5m in length, in excess of 1m in length and 0.6m in depth. This was filled by fill (005), a loose light orange brown sandy clay with a high frequency of sub-angular stone inclusions. Fill (005) had a depth in excess of 0.4m. This was overlaid by fill (004), an aggregate that comprised grey angular and sub-angular stones with a depth of 0.1m. Fill (004) was overlaid by fill (003), a grey concrete that formed the trackway surface and measured 0.1m in depth.

- 5.14. No other archaeological features were encountered within the three fields and in particular no sign of the Roman Road was noted, which was expected to run across the site near to the boundary between Field 1 and Field 3.

Trench 1 (A479 Road)

- 5.15. Deposit (009) was cut by linear [014], located on the southern side of the road where the trench extended from Field 1. Cut [014] was for metal waterpipe (013) and on a NW-SE alignment. The cut had moderately steep sides and a concave shaped base. It measured in excess of 1.5m in length and was 0.5m in width and 0.95m in depth. Metal waterpipe (013) measured 0.15m in diameter and was located 0.8m from ground level. The pipe was overlaid by fill (012), a firm mid to dark orange brown clayey silt that measured 0.95m in depth. Fill (012) was overlaid by deposit (011), a topsoil characterized as a friable mid to dark clay silty loam. This formed the southern roadside kerb of the A479 and measured 0.5m in width and 0.2m in depth.
- 5.16. In the SW facing section of Manhole 1, deposit (009) was cut by linear [021]. Cut [021] was for metal waterpipe (020) and parallel with the road on a NW-SE alignment. The cut had steep sides and a concave shaped base. It measured in excess of 3m in length and was 0.5m in width and 0.95m in depth. Metal pipe (020) measured 0.15m in diameter and was located 0.8m from ground level. The pipe was overlaid by fill (019), a firm mid-orange brown clayey silt that measured 0.95m in depth. Fill (019) was overlaid by deposit (022), a topsoil characterized as a friable mid to dark clay silt overlaid by grass. This formed the northern roadside kerb of the A479 and measured 0.5m in width and 0.2m in depth.
- 5.17. Visible in both sides of the N-S aligned part of the trench (between the southern kerb and Manhole 1) and in the NE facing section of the trench deposit (010) was overlaid by deposit (017). This was composed of a mid-orange brown clayey silt with a high concentration of angular and sub-angular stone inclusions of varying size. It was tentatively interpreted as the same as deposit (101), belonging to a possible earlier road surface (Plates 4-5). Deposit (017) was encountered at a depth of c.1m and measured in excess of 20m in length, 5.7m in width and had a depth of 0.30m. Deposit (017) was overlaid by deposit (018), a mid-orange brown clayey silt that was interpreted as the same as deposit (009). It measured in excess of 20m in length, 1m in width and had a depth of 0.35m. Deposit (018) contained 26 modern glazed and

- unglazed pottery sherds, 3 fragments of glass, a small metal button, a flat metal nail, 2 cow bone fragments and 11 sheep bone fragments, including a humeral fragment.
- 5.18. Deposit (018) was overlaid by deposit (016), an aggregate associated with the laying of the A479 and composed of loose mid-brown and grey sub-angular stones. Deposit (016) was overlaid by deposit (015), the asphalt road surface of the A479. It measured 5.7m in width and 0.15m in depth.
 - 5.19. Located SE of cut [040] and visible in the SW facing section only was linear cut [032]. This cut deposit (016). It was on a NW-SE alignment and measured c. 20m in length, in excess of 1m in width and had a depth of 0.30m. The cut contained fill (031), a concrete gravel mix that was interpreted as a restabilising levelling deposit or within a cut for a pipe beyond the limit of excavation.
 - 5.20. In the west facing section of the Manhole 2, deposit (009) was cut by [040], an NW-SE aligned linear cut (parallel with road). This had steep sides and concave base and was interpreted as the same as [021]. The cut measured in excess of 3m in length and was 0.3m in width and 1m in depth. The cut contained fill (038) which comprised a black rubber waterpipe (0.05m diameter) attached to (and which replaced) a metal water pipe (0.10m diameter). This was interpreted as the same as fill (020). Fill (038) was overlaid by fill (039), which was characterized as a firm mid-orange brown clayey silt that measured 1m in depth and interpreted as the same as fill (019).
 - 5.21. In Manhole 2, deposit (018) was cut by [034], a roughly N-S aligned linear located opposite Rock Cottage. The cut measured in excess of 3m in length and was 1.5m in width and 1.25m in depth with steep sides and flat shaped base. The cut was filled by several structural elements to form a drainage culvert (Plate 6). Wall (033) was visible in the SE facing section of the manhole (in line with the trench as it extended NW) only. This was located 0.75m from ground level and comprised worked, sub-rectangular and moderately rough faced stones. Individual stones measured 0.3m in length, 0.16m in width and 0.08m in depth (on average). Wall (033), which had a minimum of four courses with no bonding, measured in excess of 1m in length and was 0.5m in depth. Fill (033) was abutted at its north end by concrete drainage pipe (035). This measured 2m in length and 1m in diameter with a 0.05m diameter blue waterpipe within. Drainage pipe (035) was encased at its north end between fill (036). This comprised two walls of breeze blocks set on a concave shaped cement base. Each wall had four courses with cement bonding. The walls extended beyond the limit of excavation to the north of the manhole but could be seen to be in excess of 2m in length. Each wall measured 1m in depth. Fill (036) was then capped by fill (037), a concrete lintel. This extended beyond the limit of excavation to the north but could be seen to be in excess of 2m in length. The lintel measured 1.30m in width and 0.12m in depth.
 - 5.22. To the immediate NW of cut [034], and cutting deposit (018), was a stone lined box culvert. This comprised cut [043], a NW-SE aligned linear that measured in excess of 1m in length and had a width of 0.70m and depth of 1m (Plate 7). The cut was filled

- by (041), a stone culvert constructed from two walls of five courses of worked, sub-rectangular and moderately smooth faced stones with flat stones for the base and capping. Individual stones for the walls measured roughly 0.30m in length, 0.10m in width and 0.08m in depth. The stones were bonded with mortar. Fill (041) was overlaid by fill (042), a backfill characterized as a firm mid-red brown clayey silt with moderately high frequency of sub-angular stone inclusions 0.07m in diameter.
- 5.23. Located 5m to the NW of Manhole 2, deposit (018) was cut by [046]. This was a NE-SW aligned linear cut with steep sides and concave shaped base that measured in excess of 1.5m in length and had a width of 0.5m and depth of 1m. The cut contained black rubber pipe (045) which had a 0.05m diameter and was 0.9m from ground level. The pipe was overlaid by fill (044), a firm mid-orange brown clayey silt that had a depth of 1m.
- 5.24. Deposit (018) was also cut by [048], a NE-SW aligned linear located c.6m NW of cut [046]. The cut had steep sides and flat shaped base and measured in excess of 1m in length and was 1m in width and 1m in depth. The cut contained fill (047), which comprised a ceramic sewage pipe (c. 0.2m in diameter) encased in grey stone chippings and dust (0.5m in depth) and capped by concrete (0.5m in depth). Located c. 7m NW of cut [048], and visible in the NE facing section only was deposit (050). This was above (010) and was characterized as a firm mid- brown orange clayey silt that measured 2.7m in length and 0.03m in depth. Deposit (050) was overlaid by deposit (049). This was a firm black clayey silt that measured 2.7m in length and 0.07m in depth and was encountered at a depth of c. 0.70m from ground level (Plate 8). Deposit (049) was overlaid by deposit (051), a mid-orange brown clayey silt. The deposit was interpreted as the same as deposit (018) but given a separate deposit number because of cut [048].
- 5.25. Located c.2m from deposit (049) and cutting deposit (018) was linear cut [054]. The cut measured in excess of 1m in length and had a width of 0.40m and depth of 0.90m. The cut contained brown ceramic pipe (053) which had a diameter of 0.3m and was encountered at a depth of 0.60m from ground level. Pipe (053) was overlaid by fill (052), a firm mid-orange brown clayey silt with sub-angular stone inclusions.
- 5.26. Located c. 1m to the NW of cut [054] and above deposit (010) was deposit (055). The deposit was characterized as a firm dark orange brown humic silty clay with lime mortar inclusions and interpreted as an occupation layer. It measured c.10m in length, in excess of 1m in width and a depth of 0.45m. The deposit was encountered at a depth of 0.50m from ground level and contained a single sherd of post-medieval, internal glazed, pottery. Deposit (055) was overlaid by deposit (056), a dark black brown humic silt. The deposit was visible in the NE facing section only and measured 2m in length and 0.05m in depth. Deposit (056) was overlaid by deposit (057) which comprised a firm red brown silt with mortar (possibly lime) fragments. The deposit measured in excess of 1m in width and 0.15m in depth and was encountered at a depth of 0.35m from ground level.

- 5.27. Deposit (016) was cut by NE- SW aligned linear [058], which measured in excess of 1m in length and had a width of 0.50m and depth of 0.70m. The cut contained grey ceramic pipe (060) (diameter of 0.10m) encased in cement overlaid by deposit (059), a mid to dark orange brown silt.
- 5.28. Located directly opposite the outdoor tap set against the property wall of the Lilac Cottage, deposit (010) was cut by [071], a possible posthole that was sub-circular in plan (Plate 9; Figure 6). It was located immediately below stone wall (069) (see below) and measured 0.3m in diameter and 0.12m in depth with steep sides and a concave shaped base. The cut contained single fill (072) which was characterized as a relatively compact dark pink grey silty clay with infrequent charcoal fleck inclusions.
- 5.29. Fill (072) was cut by [070], an L-shaped cut for stone wall (069) that was located c.1.8m and 2.30m south of the property boundary wall of Lilac Cottage (at the road junction leading to Tretower Court) (Plate 10; Figure 5-6). Stone wall (069) comprised an NNE-SSW aligned wall and a WNW- ESE wall aligned wall with an internal right-angled corner set nearest to the NE facing section of the trench. The NNE-SSW aligned wall measured in excess of 1m in length (the wall extended into the NE and SW facing sections of the trench) and was 0.9m in width and 0.9m in depth. The WNW-ESE wall measured 2.1m in length (the ESE end of the wall was cut by [077] for modern drainpipe (076) (Plate 11) c. 0.9m in width (it was possible to measure the width of the NNE-SSW aligned wall despite it extending beyond the limit of excavation because the section partially collapsed) an 0.9m in depth. It was encountered at a depth of 0.6m from ground level.
- 5.30. The base of the wall was constructed from foundation stones, visible in the NNE and ESE facing section of the wall (Plates 12-13). The sub-angular stones measured roughly 0.5m in length, 0.4m in width and 0.4m in depth to form a single course of tightly fitted stones. The foundation stones were overlaid by flat, irregular sub-angular stones of varying size between 0.1m- 0.5m in length, 0.1m- 0.4m in width and 0.05- 0.12 m in depth. The stones were worked, with the NNE and ESE faces (internal) and WNW face (external) of the wall being moderately flat. The wall formed roughly six and seven courses of tightly fitted stones with no bonding material. To the SE side of wall (069) and within cut [070] was fill (065). This was characterized as a firm red brown silt with a high frequency of sub-angular stone inclusions that was interpreted as backfill relating to the laying of the foundation stones. Fill (068), which was located within the lower and middle courses of wall (069), was characterized as a firm mid-brown red clay. Fill (067), within the upper courses, comprised a friable dark grey brown silty clay.
- 5.31. Below the three courses of the WNW facing section of the wall was fill (073). This was a layer of stones interpreted as a floor surface that may have incorporated naturally laid stone given their size (Plates 14-15). The stones ranged from large flat stones that measured 0.8m in length, 0.7m in width and 0.25m in depth to small stones 0.1m in length, 0.1m in width and 0.05m in depth. The overall dimensions of the floor

- measured in excess of 3m in length (the floor was cut at its WNW end by cut [079] for modern drainpipe (078) and 1m in width. Group number (061) was given for stone structure (069) with associated cut [070] and fills (065) (068) (067) (073). The wall and floor were interpreted as part of a late medieval/post-medieval building and is in approximately the same location as a building depicted on a map dated 1587.
- 5.32. Within the L-shape of stone wall (069), fill (073) was overlaid by deposit (062), a sub-angular stone deposit that was tentatively interpreted as part of a collapsed wall belonging to wall (069). It measured 3m in length, 1m in width and 0.25m in depth. Deposit (062) was overlaid by deposit (064) which was a mid-red brown silty clay with a moderately high frequency of lime mortar and plaster inclusions. The deposit was tentatively interpreted as a demolition deposit associated with stone structure (069). Deposit (064) was visible to the NW and SE of wall (061). Deposit (064) contained 2 post-medieval brown glazed pottery sherds, a piece of metal slag (573g), and several animal bone fragments including 1 burnt chicken bone. To the SW it terminated at cut [079] and to the NW continued past cut [077]. It measured c.10m in length, in excess of 1m in width and was 0.35m in depth. 2 unstratified post-medieval brown glazed sherds and 1 unstratified Staffordshire Slipware sherd were recorded approximately 1m from wall (069).
- 5.33. Deposit (064) was overlaid by deposit (063), a compact pink grey aggregate composed of sub-angular stones that was interpreted as belonging to the modern road. The deposit measured 5m in length, in excess of 1m in width and was 0.15m in depth. Deposit (063) was overlaid by deposit (074), a compact grey brown aggregate that measured 5m in length, in excess of 1m in width and was 0.13m in depth. Deposit (074) was overlaid by deposit (066) which comprised a black asphalt and grey sub-angular stones. This was interpreted as the same as deposit (016). Deposit (066) measured in excess of 1m in width and was 0.05m in depth and was overlaid by road surface (015).
- 5.34. Deposit (066) was cut by linear cut [077]. The cut was on a NE-SW alignment and measured in excess of 1m in length and was 0.3m in width and 0.8m in depth. Within the cut was black plastic drainage pipe (076) and fill (075). The pipe was located c. 0.6m from ground level and had a diameter of c.0.10m and fill (075) comprised an aggregate of small chippings.
- 5.35. Deposit (066) was cut by linear [079]. This was on a N-S alignment and measured in excess of 1m in length and was 0.8m in width and 0.7m in depth. The cut was filled by (078), a concrete drainage pipe encased in concrete with a backfill of black asphalt and grey chippings. The pipe had a c.0.4m diameter and was located 0.5m from ground level.
- 5.36. Deposit (066) was cut by linear [082]. This was for orange brown plastic pipe (081) and was on the same NW-SE alignment as the A479. The pipe was visible in the SW facing section of the trench, immediately opposite Penisha Pentre (the house NW of Lilac Cottage). The cut measured in excess of 1m in length and was c. 0.40m in width

- and 0.60m in depth. The pipe had a diameter of 0.30m and encountered at a depth of c.0.30m from ground level. Backfill (080) comprised an aggregate of grey stone chippings and dust. The pipe was interpreted as the same as (111) in Trench 3.
- 5.37. Deposit (066) was cut by linear [085]. This was for fill (084), a blue plastic pipe on a NE-SW alignment. The pipe was located c. 3m to the NW of plastic pipe (081) and was encountered at a depth of c. 0.50m from ground level. The cut measured in excess of 1m in length and was 0.50m in width and 0.60m in depth. The pipe had a diameter of 0.10m and backfill (083) comprised an aggregate of grey stone chippings and dust. Fill (083) was cut by linear cut [087], a cut for black plastic pipe (086) that was on a N-S alignment (Figure 7-8). The pipe was encountered at a depth of 0.40m from ground level. The cut measured 2m in length and was 0.50m in width and 0.30m in depth. The pipe had a diameter of 10m and the backfill comprised an aggregate of grey stone chippings and dust.
- 5.38. A V-shaped box culvert [088] was encountered near to Tower Terrace and Rose Cottage (Plates 16-17). It ran diagonally across the road aligned NNW/SSE for more than 2m, it appeared to run towards an old metal grate part of the existing storm/surface water drain which was then connected to a subsurface pipe which exited through the adjacent stone wall and into the "green". It was lined (089) with flat local stone and covered with the same, the latter were of an average size of 0.3m x 0.3m and were 0.04m thick, the sides were set at an angle of 40 degrees and were 0.3m long, x 0.2m to 0.25 m wide and of 0.004m thickness. The cut of the culvert was filled with (091), a loose fill of small and medium rounded stones/river cobbles and were likely to have derived from the trackway surface through which the culvert was cut. It was 0.5m wide and 0.2m thick. The fill of the culvert, (090) was a moderately firm dark grey silty clay, > than 1.1m in length, 0.3m at its widest and 0.15m thick. No finds were recovered from it (Figure 8).
- 5.39. A further large box culvert [093] was encountered adjacent to Tower Terrace, it was aligned NNE/SSW and ran across the width of the road where it appeared to terminate against the stone wall parallel to the road (Plates 18- 19). The culvert was > than 1.1m in length, its NE end was blocked by pipe (081) which was an orange brown, corrugated plastic pipe, capped with concrete. The cut for the box culvert was 1.3m wide, roughly U- shaped and was filled with the stone lining, (094) of local flat stones of an average size of 0.3m length, 0.2m width and a thickness of 0.06- 0.08m (Figure 7). The lining on the sides were built very much in the style of the local drystone walls, loose laid one upon one another to form the sides rather than edge set stones as was encountered in culvert [088]. Covering the drain was a number of large flat slabs, with two being visible, (095), these being of an average size of 0.55m long x 0.5m wide and 0.12m thickness.
- 5.40. Overlying the covering slabs, the cut was backfilled with a deposit (096) a very compact deposit of redeposited subsoil and medium sized stones, both rounded and flat, it was a mottled dark red brown and red brown in colour and was 0.45m thick,

1.3m wide and was greater than 1.1m in length. The culvert was filled with (097) a soft and loose, dark grey brown, fine clay silt of 0.1m thickness, 0.29m wide (the width of the chamber within the culvert) and was greater than 1.1m in length. It could be seen continuing along the base of the culvert where it continued to the SW under the road and outside of the excavated area. A considerable number of finds were recovered from this deposit, including a single copper alloy coin (a halfpenny of George V or VI), many sherds of pottery, -mostly table wares such as Blue & White willow pattern china and sherds of a Teapot- shards of cut glass, clay pipe bowls and some metal objects. Provisional on site dating suggested a date from the late 19th century into the 2nd quarter of the 20th century.

Trench 3 (A479 Road)

- 5.41. The basal layer was deposit (102) and was identified as the same as deposit (010). This was overlaid deposit (092) which was a weathered natural subsoil of dirty red-brown silty clay, with occasional small and medium rounded stones. This was overlaid by deposit (101), a layer of unworked sub-angular stones that was tentatively interpreted as an earlier road surface and the same as deposit (017) (Plate 20). The deposit was noted at the starting point of Trench 3 and petered out by Foxglove Cottage. It measured in excess of 1m in width and was 0.11m in depth. It was tentatively interpreted as the same deposit (017).
- 5.42. Deposit (101) was overlaid by deposit (100), a firm mid-orange brown clayey silt with moderately frequent quantities of sub-angular stones interpreted as redeposited subsoil. It measured in excess of 1m in width and 0.11m in depth.
- 5.43. Deposit (100) was cut by linear [104]. This contained fill (103), a blue plastic water pipe on a NE-SW alignment. The pipe was located to the NW of Manhole 4 and was encountered at a depth of c.1m from ground level. The cut measured in excess of 1m in length with a width of 0.40m and depth of 1m. The diameter of the pipe was 0.03m and the backfill comprised an aggregate of stone chippings and mid-red brown clayey silt. To the immediately NW of plastic pipe (103), and running parallel with it, was linear cut [106]. This measured in excess of 1m in length with a width of 0.40m in width and depth of 1m. Cut [106] contained fill (105), which comprised a black plastic pipe with a diameter of 0.05m and a backfill composed of an aggregate of stone chippings and mid red brown clay silt. The pipe was encountered at a depth of c.1m from ground level.
- 5.44. In the SW facing section of Manhole 4 deposit (100) was cut by linear [112]. This contained fill (111), an orange plastic pipe than ran parallel with the A479 on a NW-SE alignment. The cut measured in excess of 1m in length with a width of c.0.40m and a

depth of 0.60m. The pipe had a diameter of 0.30m and the backfill comprised an aggregate of grey stone chippings and dust. The pipe was encountered at a depth of 0.30m from ground level and was interpreted as the same as (081).

- 5.45. Deposits (103) (105) (111) were overlaid by deposit (099), an aggregate that comprised mid black grey sub-angular stones of varying size that measured in excess of 1m in width and was 0.20m in depth. Deposit (099) was overlaid by deposit (098), the asphalt road surface of the A479.

Trench 1b (Lane)

- 5.46. The basal layer was deposit (110), a mid-orange brown clayey silt that was interpreted as subsoil. It extended further than the length and width of the trench and in excess of 0.70m in depth.
- 5.47. Deposit (110) was cut by several modern services. Linear cut [114] was for metal water pipe (113). The cut extended from the SE facing section of the trench on a roughly N-S alignment. It measured in excess of 5m in length and was 0.30m in width and 0.30m in depth. The metal pipe had a diameter of 0.03m and the backfill was composed of mid-red brown clayey silt.
- 5.48. Metal water pipe (115) within linear cut [116] was encountered at the west side of Lilac Cottage. The pipe extended on a NW-SE alignment from the NW facing section of the trench then turned at a right angle to the SE, to run parallel with metal water pipe (113). The cut measured in excess of 0.20m in length on its NW-SE alignment and 3m in length on its NE-SW alignment and had a width of 0.30m and depth of 0.30m. The diameter of the pipe was 0.03m and the backfill was composed of a mid-red brown clayey silt. To the immediate south of cut [116], linear cut [118] was for ceramic drainage pipe (117). The cut was on a NW-SE alignment and measured in excess of 0.60m in length and had a width of 0.40m and depth of 0.40m. The diameter of the pipe was 0.10m and the backfill composed of a mid-red brown clayey silt.
- 5.49. At the NE end of the trench three flat stones, one on top of the other, were encountered at a depth of 0.10m from ground level. The stones were on a NW-SE alignment and all measured roughly 0.50m in length, 0.30m in width and 0.12m in depth. It is possible the stones were part of a small wall. However, no similarly flat stones were visible in the sections and instead contained loose sub-angular stones of varying sizes.
- 5.50. Fills (113) (115) (117) were overlaid by deposit (109), which was characterized as a mid-brown orange sandy clay. Deposit (109) measured intermittently the length of the trench, in excess of 0.80m in width and had a depth of 0.04m. This was overlaid

by deposit (107), a topsoil characterized as a mid-orange brown silt belonging to the kerb of deposit (108) which was the asphalt road surface belonging to the lane.

6. The finds

Context	Type	Description	Weight	Number
Unstratified	Pottery	2 Post-medieval brown glazed sherds. 1 Staffordshire slipware sherd	41g	3
018	Pottery	Modern sherds, including white glazed handle fragment	390g	26
018	Metal	1 small button. 1 flat nail	17g	2
018	Bone	11 sheep bone fragments, including humeral fragment. 2 cow fragments	293g	13
018	Glass	2 green glass bottle fragments. 1 clear glass fragment	97g	3
055	Pottery	Post-medieval internal glazed sherd	11g	1
064	Pottery	Post-medieval brown glazed sherds	77g	2
064	Bone	3 cow fragments. 1 burnt chicken bone fragment. 1 unidentified animal bone fragment	118g	5
064	Metal	1 fragment of metal slag	573g	1
064	Mortar	Lime mortar fragments	41g	4
097	Pottery	Assortment of modern pottery sherds	906g	29
097	Clay Pipes	5 bowls. 2 broken stems	67g	7
097	Coin	1 copper alloy coin. George V or VI	7g	1
097	Glass	Assortment of green and clear glass shards and bottle rims	691g	18
097	Bone	Small fragments of unidentified animal bones	3g	6
097	Cu	Assortment of copper fragments	31g	9
097	Fe	Assortment of iron fragments, including circular lid	21g	3

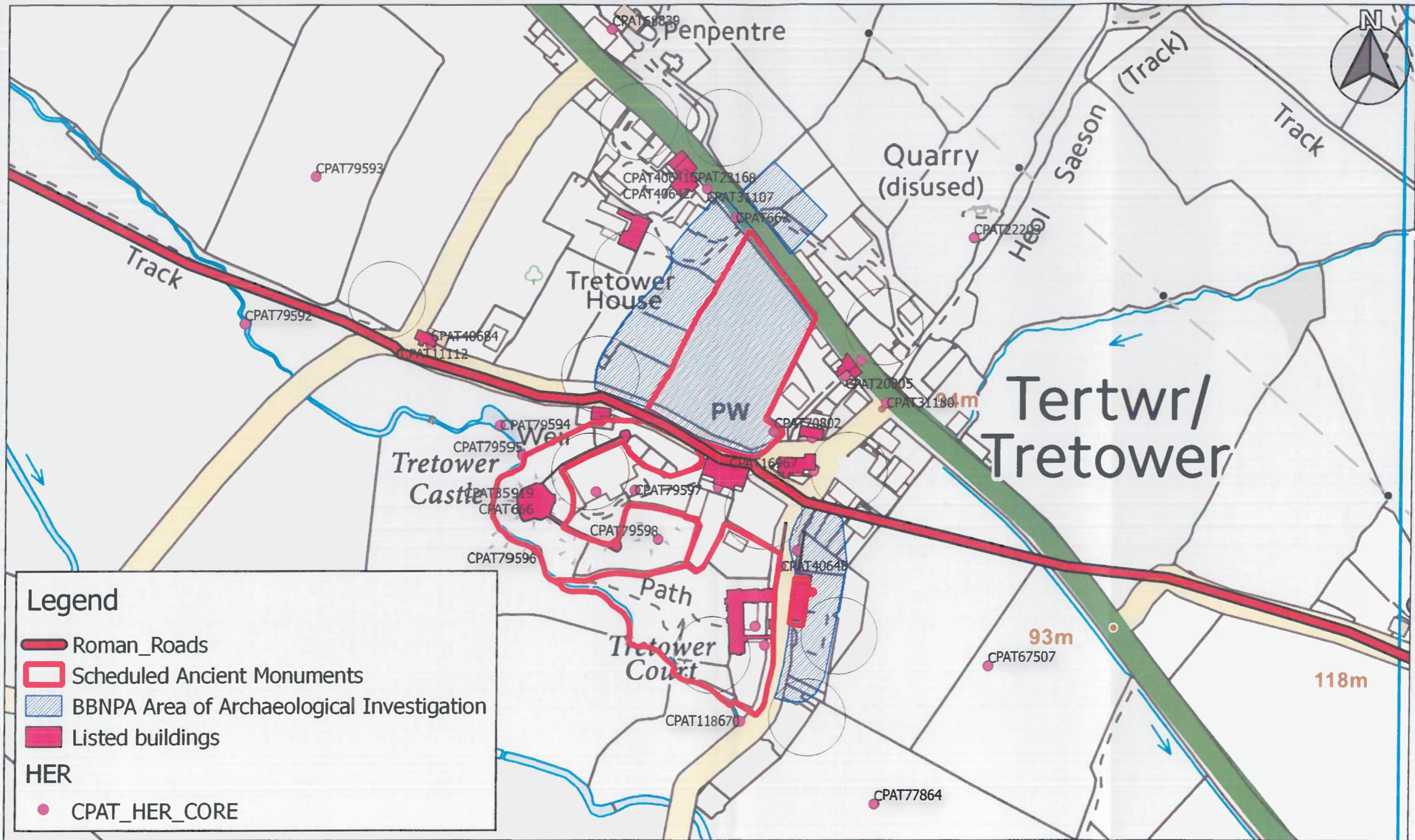
7. Interpretations and conclusion

7.1. The watching brief largely uncovered remains dating to post-medieval and modern chronologies, with the exception of stone structure found beneath the main road near to the Smithy. A building is shown on the 16th century village plan might represent this structure, though the vagaries of such old plans do not often allow an

- exact correlation to be made between buried remains and any structures shown upon them. Stoney deposits (017) and (101) may represent the remains of an earlier road way on the same alignment as the A479. Unfortunately, no dating evidence was recovered from either deposit.
- 7.2. The farmers fields to the south of the A479 Road produced no evidence for remains of any age, with the possibly exception being the puzzling stoney deposit (008) noted most clearly in Field 2. Other than that, the only other remains were those from the farm track and its bridge across the earlier V-ditch, which was obviously of a fairly recent origin and almost certainly is contemporary with the cutting of the said ditch.
 - 7.3. Within the area of the site underneath the road, a number of modern drainage and service features were encountered, almost all being of 20th century date, apart from the 3 box culverts (041)(089)(094) which might have their origins in a slightly earlier period but continued in use into the first half of the 20th century.

8. Bibliography

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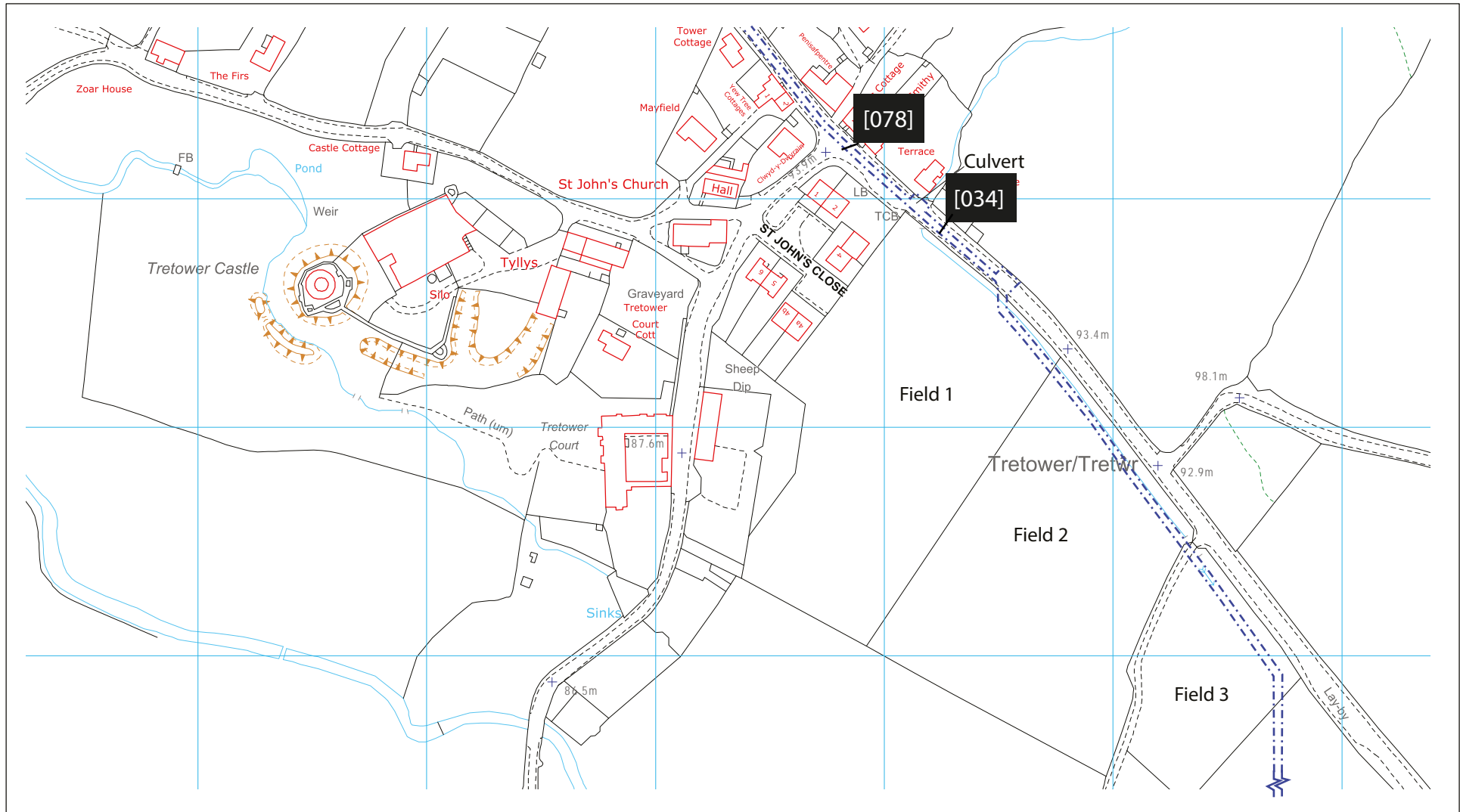
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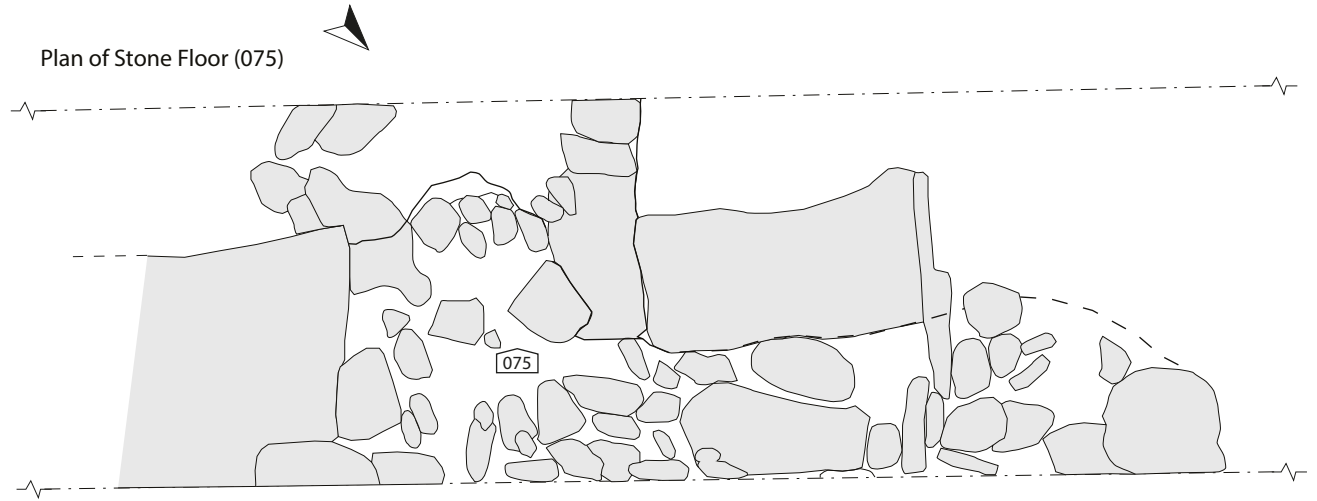
----- Area monitored by Watching Brief

Figure 4
Areas covered by the
Watching Brief.

Section of Stone Wall (069)



Plan of Stone Floor (075)



Plan of Stone Wall (069)

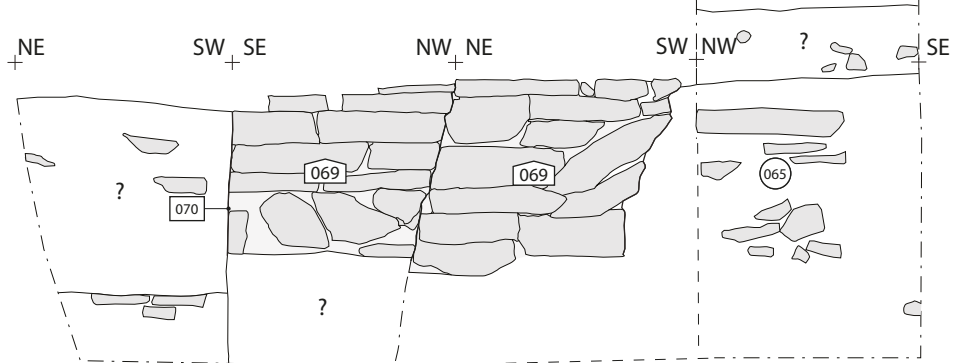


Figure 5. Plans and section of stone wall (069).

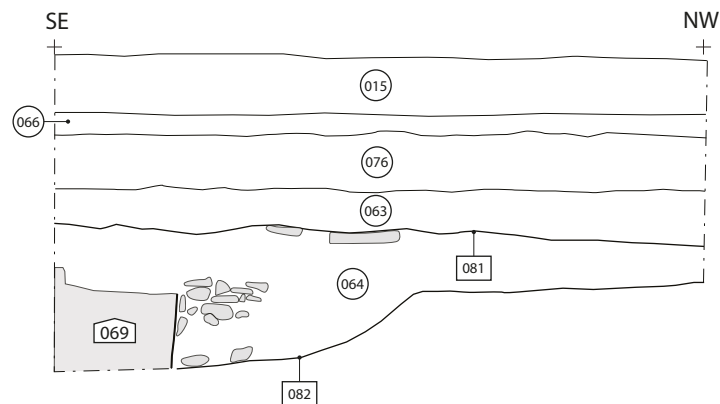


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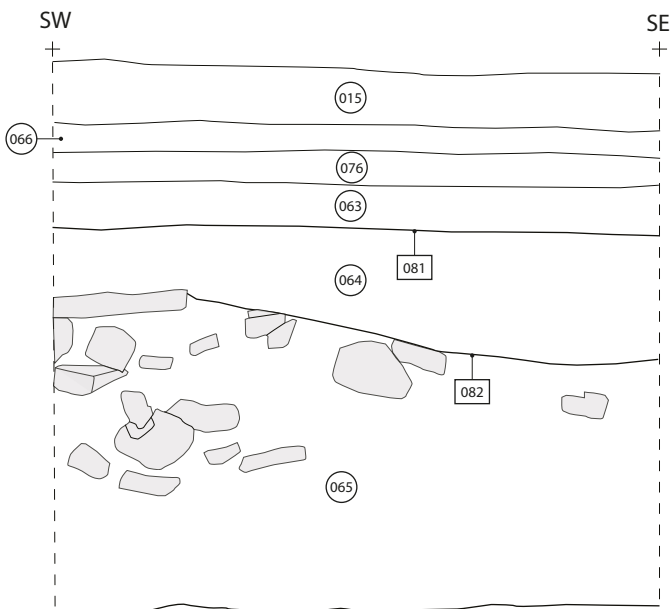
Section of Stone Wall (069)



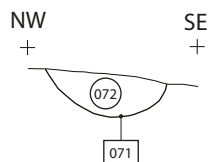
Section of Stone Wall (069)



Section of Stone Wall (069)



Section of possible Posthole [071]



Plan of Stone Floor Surface (075)

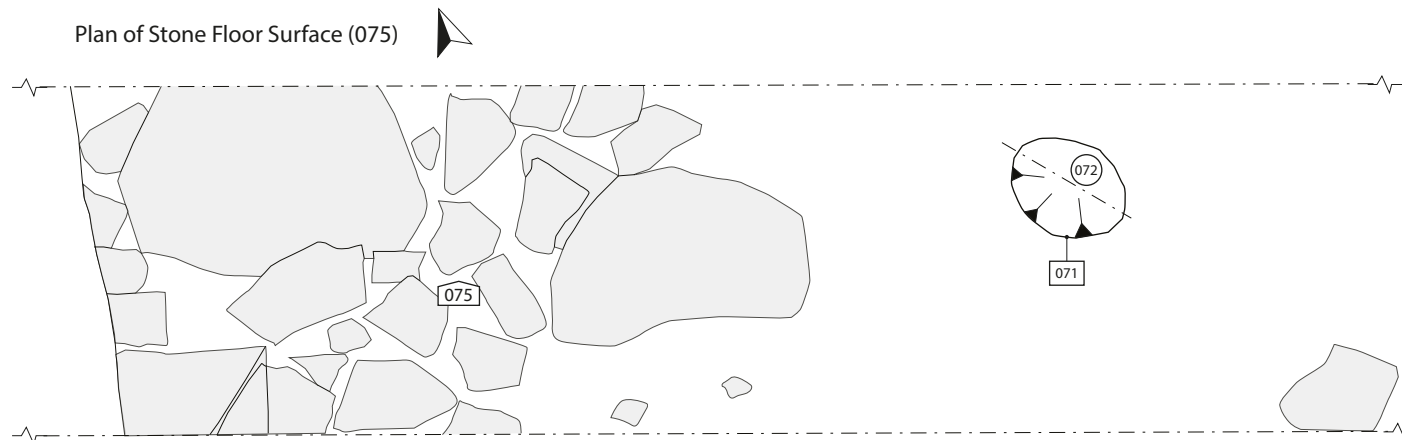
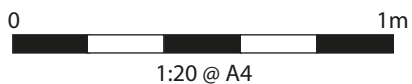
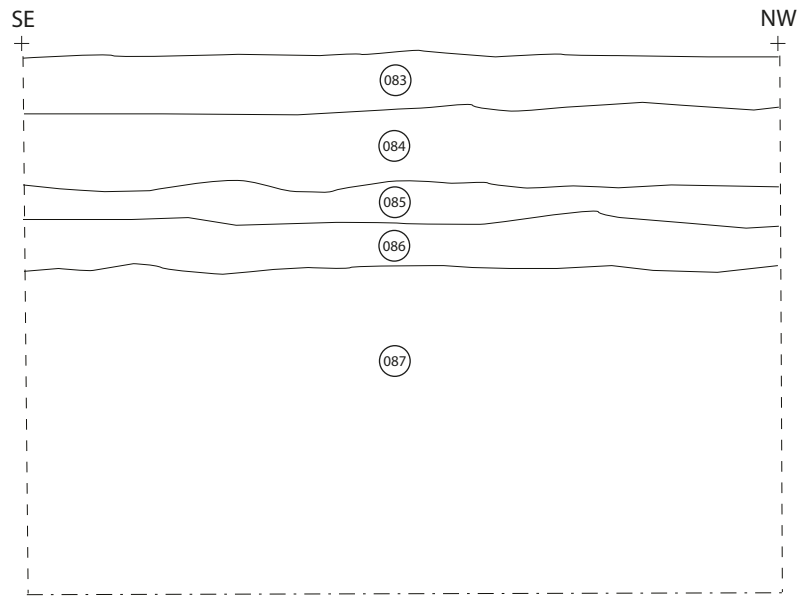


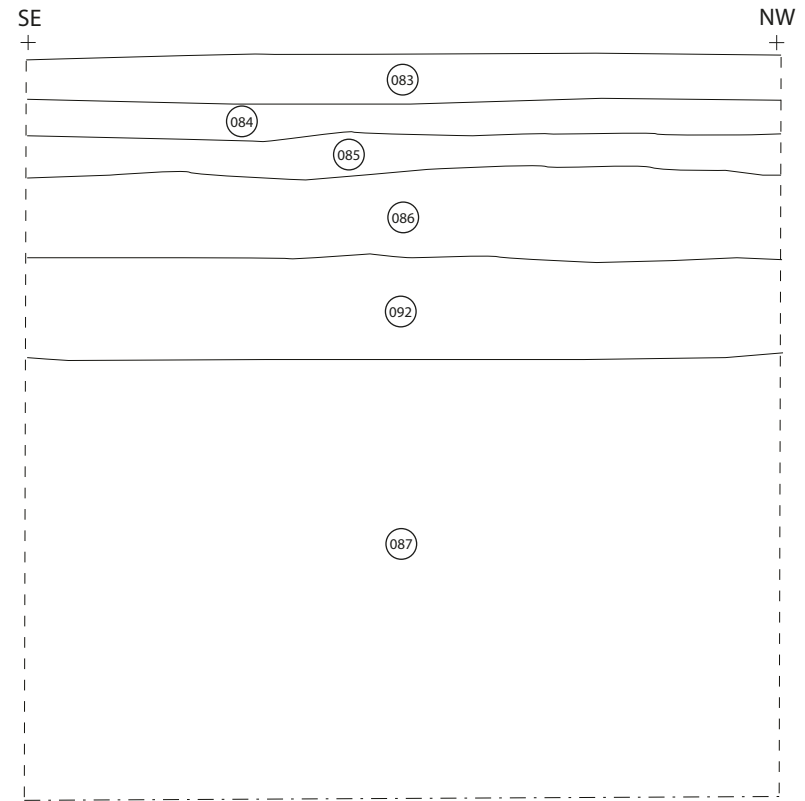
Figure 6. Plans and sections (069) and posthole [071].



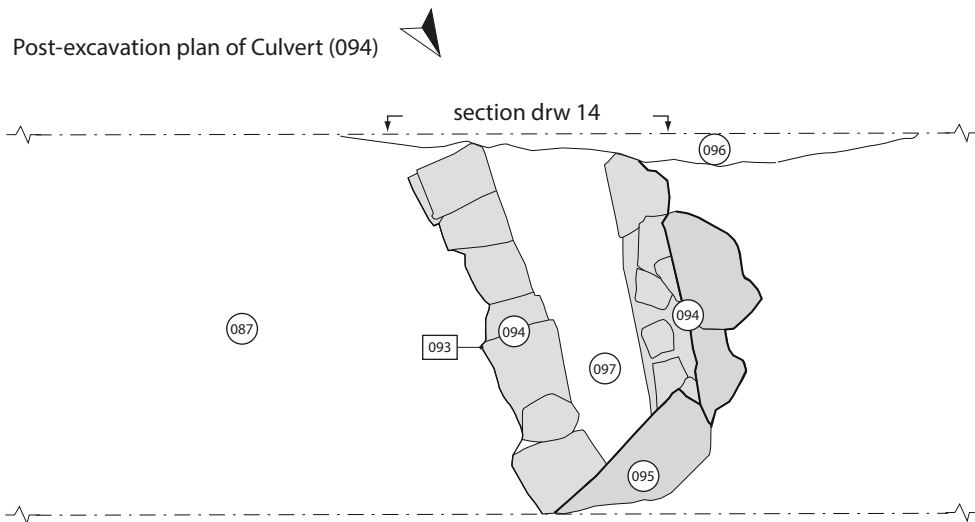
Section showing possible Road Surface (086)



Section showing possible Road Surface (086)



Post-excavation plan of Culvert (094)



Section of Culvert (094)

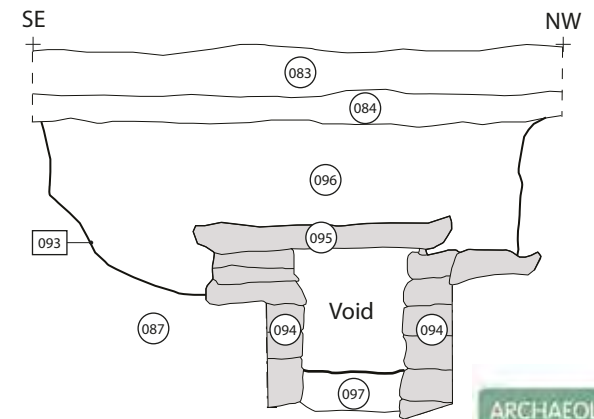
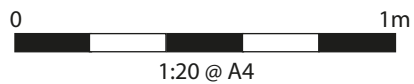
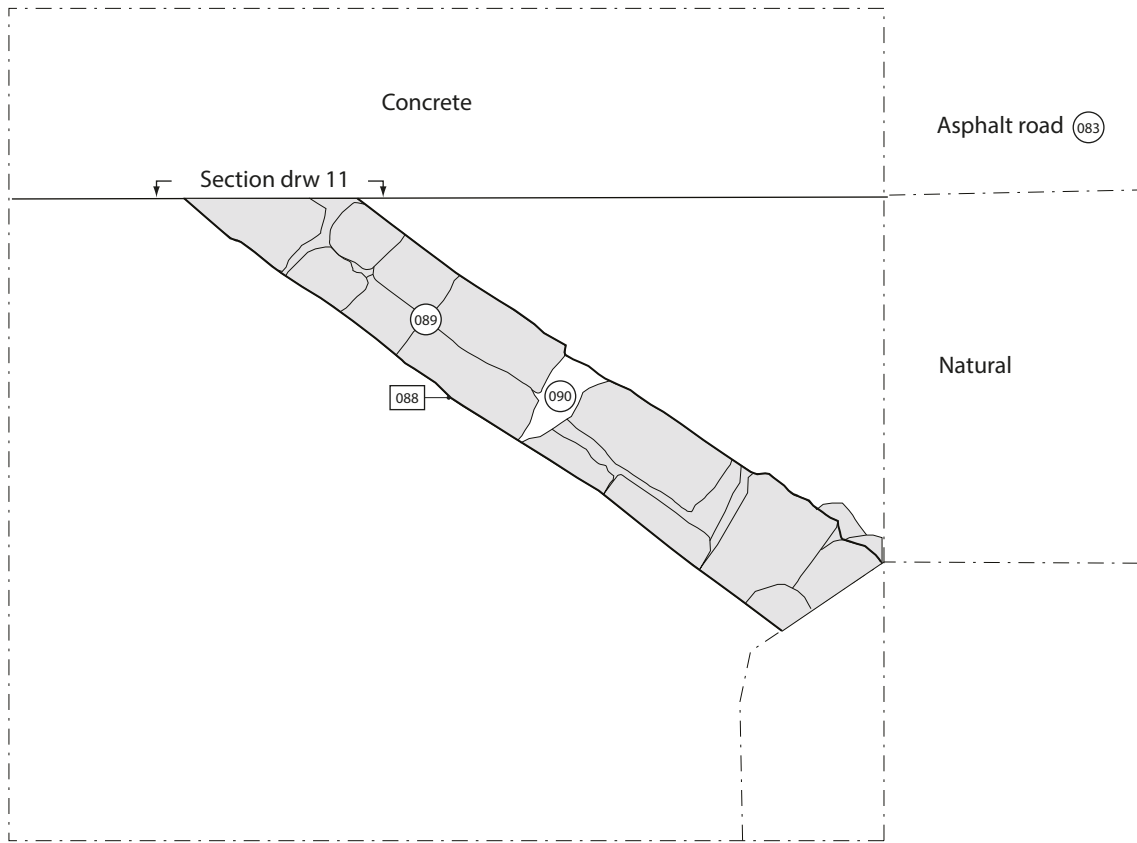


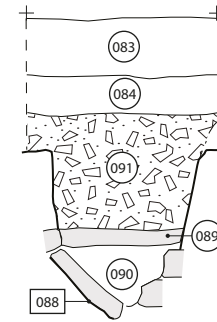
Figure 7. Section of road surface (086) and plan/section of culvert (094).



Post-excavation plan of Culvert (089)



Section of Culvert (089)



Pre-excavation plan of Culvert (094) and possible Floor Surface (086)

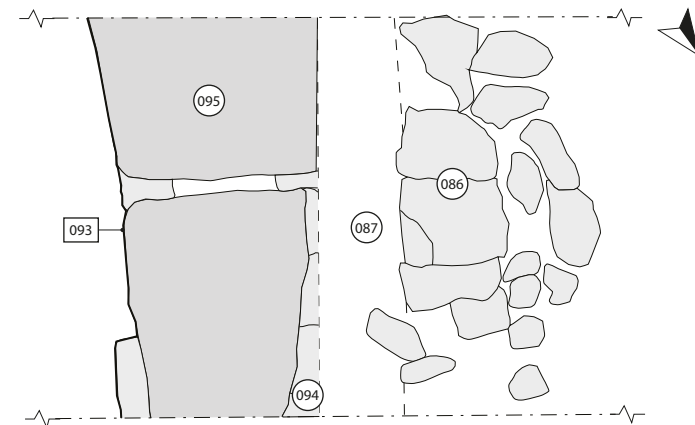


Figure 8. Plan and section of culvert (089) and plan of surface (086).





Plate 1. Trench 1, [006] SW facing section.



Plate 2. Trench 1, working shot, looking NW.



Plate 3. Trench 1, (008) in plan.



Plate 4. Trench 1, possible earlier surface (008), W facing section.



Plate 5. Trench 1, possible earlier road surface (010), NE facing section.



Plate 6. Structure (033), looking SE.

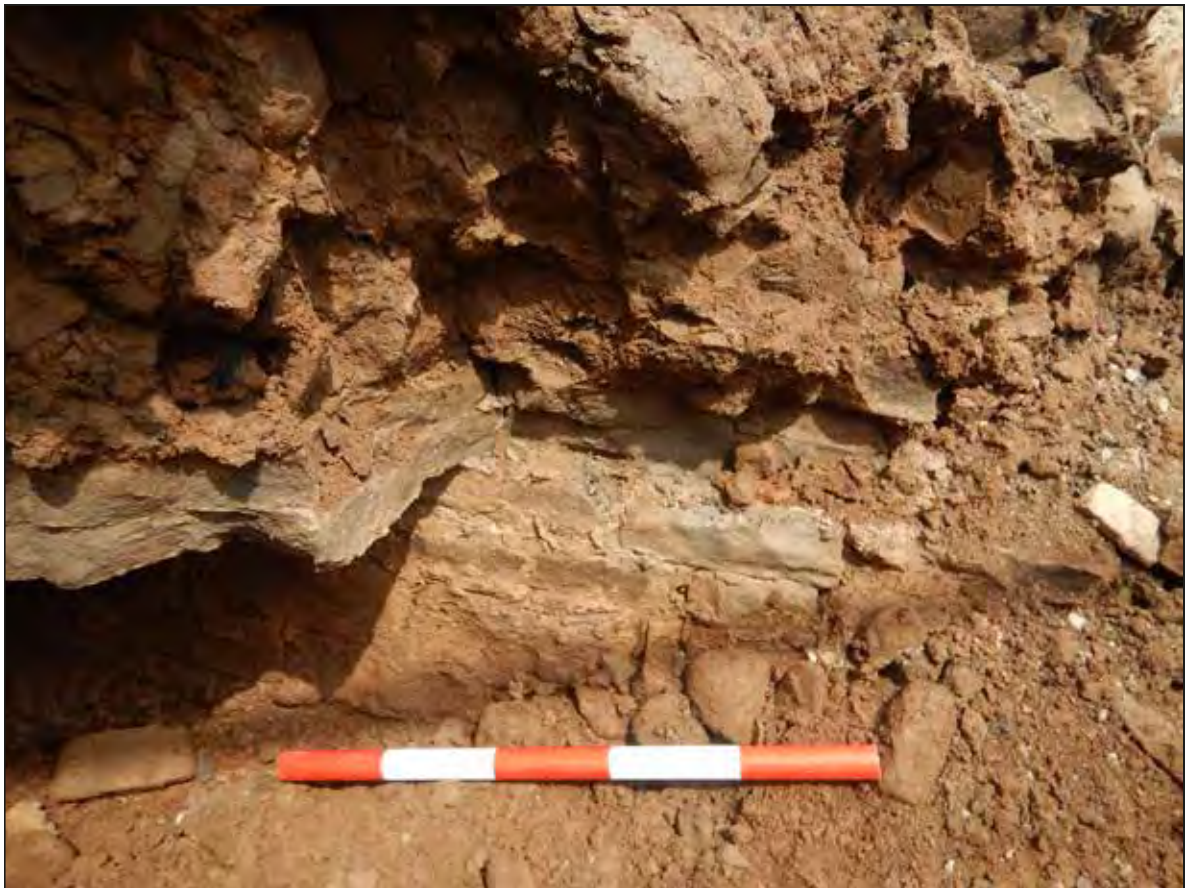


Plate 7. SW facing section of [043].



Plate 8. NE facing section of (049).



Plate 9. SW facing section of [071].

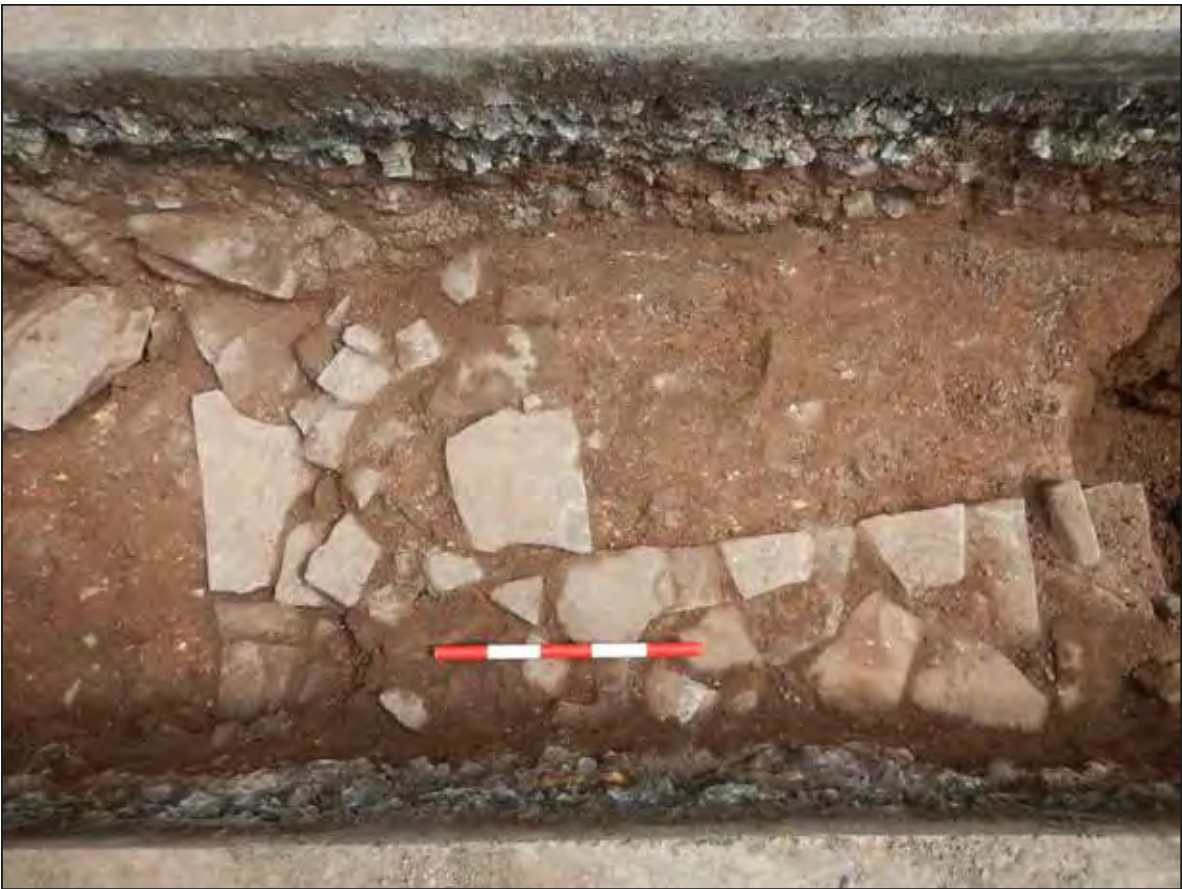


Plate 10. Stone wall (069) in plan.



Plate 11. View of wall truncated by existing pipe, looking SE.



Plate 12. Detail of wall masonry, looking ESE.



Plate 15. Fill (073) associated with structure, in plan.



Plate 16. [088] in plan.



Plate 17. [088], looking NNE.



Plate 18. [093] in plan.



Plate 19. [093] WNW facing section.



Plate 20. (017) in plan.



Plate 13. Wall structure after excavation, in plan.



Plate 14. (073) in plan.

Context Register

Context	Type	Description	Relationship
001	Deposit	Firm mid/dark orange brown clayey silt (topsoil)	Above (002)
002	Deposit	Firm mid-orange brown clayey silt (subsoil)	Below (001)
003	Fill	Concrete farm road surface. Same as (023)	Above (004)
004	Fill	Aggregate of grey angular /sub-angular stones in [006]	Above (005)
005	Fill	Loose light orange brown sandy clay with stones in [006]	Below (004)
006	Cut	NE/SW linear cut of farm road. Same as [026]	Cuts (001)
007	Deposit	Firm mid /dark orange brown clayey silt (topsoil)	Above (008)
008	Deposit	Firm mid-orange brown clayey silt with sub-angular/ rounded stones	Below (007)
009	Deposit	Firm dirty mid-orange brown clayey silt. Same as (018) (051)	Above (010)
010	Deposit	Firm mid-orange brown clayey silt with bedrock (natural)	Below (009)
011	Deposit	Firm mid /dark orange brown clayey silt (topsoil of kerb)	Above (012)
012	Fill	Firm mid/dark orange brown clayey silt in [014]	Below (011)
013	Fill	Metal waterpipe in [014]	Below (012)
014	Cut	NW/SE linear cut	Cuts (009)
015	Deposit	Asphalt road surface	Above (016)
016	Deposit	Aggregate of grey sub-angular stones	Below (015)
017	Deposit	Firm mid/dark brown clay silt with high frequency of stones	Below (018)
018	Deposit	Firm mid orange brown clayey silt. Same as (009) (051)	Above (017)
019	Fill	Firm mid-orange brown clayey silt in [021]. Same as (039)	Above (020)
020	Fill	Metal pipe in [021]. Same as (038)	Below ((019)
021	Cut	NW/SE linear cut. Same as [040]	Cuts (009)
022	Deposit	Firm mid/dark orange brown clayey silt (topsoil of kerb)	Above (019)
023	Fill	Concrete farm road surface. Same as (003)	Above (024)
024	Fill	Aggregate of stone chippings and dark black brown silty clay	Below(023)
025	Fill	Aggregate of hard light-yellow grey sand and stone chippings	Below (024)
026	Cut	NE/SW linear cut of farm road filled by (023) (024) (025)	Cuts (027)
027	Fill	Aggregate of loose red grey sub-angular stones	Above (028)
028	Fill	Concrete drainage pipe in [030]	Above (029)
029	Fill	Concrete levelling layer in [030]	Below (028)
030	Cut	NW/SE linear cut	Cuts (001)
031	Fill	Concrete/gravel mix in [032]	Below (015)
032	Cut	Linear cut for road stabilization	Cuts (016)
033	Fill	Stone wall of culvert in [034]	Below (035)
034	Cut	N/S linear cut	Cuts (018)
035	Fill	Concrete drainage pipe in [034]	Below (036)
036	Fill	Breeze block walls in [034]	Below (037)
037	Fill	Concrete capping stones in [034]	Above (036)
038	Fill	Rubber/metal pipe in [040]. Same as (020). Same as (020)	Below (039)
039	Fill	Firm mid-orange brown clayey silt in [040]. Same as (019)	Above (038)
040	Cut	NW-SE linear cut. Same as [021]	Cuts (009)

041	Fill	Stone lining of box culvert in [043]	Below (042)
042	Fill	Firm mid-red brown clayey silt in [043]	Above (041)
043	Cut	NW/SE linear cut	Cuts (018)
044	Fill	Firm orange brown clayey silt in [046]	Above (045)
045	Fill	Black rubber waterpipe in [046]	Below (044)
046	Cut	NE/SW linear cut	Cuts (018)
047	Fill	Ceramic pipe and concrete capping in [048]	Below (015)
048	Cut	NE/SW linear cut	Cuts (018)
049	Deposit	Black gritty clayey silt layer	Above (050)
050	Deposit	Firm mid-brown orange clayey silt	Above (010)
051	Deposit	Mid-orange brown clayey silt. Same as (018) (009)	Above (049)
052	Fill	Firm mid-orange brown in [054]	Above (053)
053	Fill	Ceramic pipe and concrete capping in [048]	Below (052)
054	Cut	NE/SW linear cut	Cuts (018)
055	Deposit	Firm dark orange brown humic silty clay	Above (010)
056	Deposit	Firm dark black brown humic silt	Above (055)
057	Deposit	Firm red brown silt with mortar (possibly lime) fragments	Above (056)
058	Cut	NE/SW linear cut. Filled by (059) (060)	Cuts (016)
059	Fill	Mid/dark orange brown silt	Above (060)
060	Fill	Ceramic pipe encased in cement	Below (059)
061	Group	Group number for wall (069) with (065)(067)(068)[070] (073)	N/A
062	Deposit	Sub-angular stone layer from possible collapsed wall (069)	Below (064)
063	Deposit	Compact pink grey sub-angular stone aggregate	Above (064)
064	Deposit	Mid-red brown silty clay with lime mortar and plaster fragments	Above (062)
065	Fill	Firm red brown silt in [070]	Above (069)
066	Deposit	Black asphalt and grey sub-angular stones. Same as (016)	Above (074)
067	Fill	Friable dark grey brown silty clay within wall (069)	Above (068)
068	Fill	Firm mid-brown red clay within wall (069)	Below (067)
069	Structure	Stone wall within [070]	Below (065)
070	Cut	NE/SW and NW/SE linear cut of stone wall	Cuts (072)
071	Cut	Sub-circular cut. Possible post hole	Cuts (010)
072	Fill	Compact dark pink grey silty clay in [071]	Cut by [070]
073	Fill	Flat stone slabs. Possible floor surface in [070]	Above [070]
074	Deposit	Compact grey brown aggregate	Below (066)
075	Fill	Aggregate of small grey stone chippings in [077]	Above (076)
076	Fill	Black pipe in [077]	Below (075)
077	Cut	NE/SW linear cut	Cuts (066)
078	Fill	Concrete pipe encased in concrete in [079]	Below (015)
079	Cut	N/S linear cut	Cuts (066)
080	Fill	Grey stone chippings and dust in [082]	Above (081)
081	Fill	Orange pipe in [082]. Same (111)	Below (015)
082	Cut	NW/SE linear cut	Cuts (066)
083	Fill	Grey stone chippings and dust in [085]	Above (084)
084	Fill	Blue plastic pipe in [085]	Below (083)

085	Cut	NE/SE linear cut	Cuts (066)
086	Fill	Black plastic pipe with grey stone chippings and dust in [087]	Below (015)
087	Cut	N/S linear cut	Cuts (083)
088	Cut	NNW/SSE linear cut for box culvert	Cuts (102)
089	Structure	Stone lined box culvert in [088]	Below (091)
090	Fill	Firm dark grey silty clay in [088]	Above (091)
091	Fill	Loose small/medium rounded stones in [088]	Above (089)
092	Deposit	Firm dirty mid-red brown silty clay	Below (101)
093	Cut	NNE/SSW linear cut	Cuts (102)
094	Fill	Stone lined box culvert in [093]	Below (095)
095	Fill	Flat stone capping of culvert in [093]	Below (096)
096	Fill	Compact mottled dark red brown clayey silt in [093]	Below (097)
097	Fill	Loose dark grey brown clayey silt in [093]	Above (096)
098	Deposit	Asphalt road surface	Above (099)
099	Deposit	Aggregate with mid-black grey sub-angular stones	Below (098)
100	Deposit	Firm mid-orange brown clayey silt	Above (101)
101	Deposit	Firm mid-orange brown clayey silt (redeposited subsoil)	Below (100)
102	Deposit	Firm mid-orange brown clayey silt (natural)	Below (092)
103	Fill	Blue plastic pipe with stone chippings in [104]	Below (099)
104	Cut	NE/SW linear cut	Cuts (100)
105	Fill	Black pipe and grey stone chippings in [106]	Below (099)
106	Cut	NE/SW linear cut	Cuts (100)
107	Deposit	Mid-orange brown clayey silt (topsoil)	Above (107)
108	Deposit	Asphalt road surface	Below (108)
109	Deposit	Mid-brown orange sandy clay	Below (107)
110	Deposit	Mid-orange brown clayey silt (subsoil)	Cut by [114] [116] [118]
111	Fill	Orange pipe and grey stone chippings in [112]. Same as (081)	Below (099)
112	Cut	NW/SE linear cut	Cuts (100)
113	Fill	Metal pipe and mid-red brown clayey silt in [114]	Below (109)
114	Cut	NE/SW linear cut	Cuts (110)
115	Fill	Metal pipe and mid-red brown clayey silt in [116]	Below (109)
116	Cut	NW/SE and NE/SW linear cut	Cuts (110)
117	Fill	Ceramic pipe and mid-red brown clay in [018]	Below (109)
118	Cut	NW/SE linear cut	Cuts (110)

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT TRETOWER, SOUTH POWYS

**Prepared for: Adam Parry
Powys County Council, Local & Environmental Services**

Project No: 2616

16.05.18



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Figure 1. Site location

Figure 2. Detailed plan of the site, showing areas affected by groundworks

Figure 3. Plan showing designated and non-designated assets adjacent to the development area (©BBNPA).

Summary

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details a programme of archaeological mitigation to be undertaken by Archaeology Wales at the request of Adam Parry.

The archaeological mitigation will consist of a watching brief and will be undertaken during ground works associated with the proposed construction of a drainage linked to the highway boundary of the A479, Tretower, South Powys, NP8 1RE (between SO 18682 21334 and SO1892721042).

A cluster of heritage assets are found to the S of the road, linked to Tretower Castle (SAM BR014). A medieval settlement – Tretower Shrunken Settlement (SAM BR238) – is located immediately N of the castle, evidenced by visible earthworks and crop and soil marks. Furthermore, Roman evidence is recorded in the form of a Roman centurial stone (HER662), and by the predicted line of a Roman Road (HER1113). The latter might be revealed during groundworks.

All work will be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

1. Introduction and planning background

This WSI details the methodology for a watching brief to be undertaken in association with the proposed during the construction of the drainage system linked to the A479 at Tretower, South Powys, NP8 1RW (between SO 18682 21334 and SO18927 21042) (Figure 1 and 2).

A cluster of heritage assets are found to the S of the road, linked to Tretower Castle (SAM BR014). A medieval settlement – Tretower Shrunken Settlement (SAM BR238) – is located immediately N of the castle, evidenced by visible earthworks and crop and soil marks. Furthermore, Roman evidence is recorded in the form of a Roman centurial stone (HER662), and by the predicted line of a Roman Road (HER1113). The latter might be revealed during groundworks.

This WSI has been prepared by Dr Irene Garcia Rovira, Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of Adam Parry.

The methodology set out in this WSI has been agreed with BBNPA.

BBNPA has recommended that a watching brief of the development area is undertaken during ground works to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. While no major impacts to archaeology are foreseen within the road corridor, due to changes on the road alignment, it is possible that the works encounter the remains of former road surfacing, and of earlier settlement evidence. Areas of previously undisturbed ground may reveal archaeological remains previously undocumented. The archaeological watching brief

is therefore required to ensure that any remains of archaeological significance are excavated, recorded and reported during the course of the works.

The purpose of the archaeological mitigation is to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information regarding the nature of archaeological remains on the site of the development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy (revised edition 9, 2016), Section 6.5 and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017). The work is to ensure that all buried artefacts and deposits are fully investigated and recorded if they are disturbed or revealed as a result of activities associated with the development.

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

2. Site Description

Tretower lies in the community of Llanfihangel Cwmdu with Bwlch and Cathedine, 4.5km NW of Crickhowell. Tretower lies on the A479 road. The proposed development is associated with the construction of drainage associated with the A479 road between SO 18682 21334 and SO18927 21042 (Figure 1 and 2).

The underlying geology is defined by the St Maughan's Formation, and it is composed of argillaceous rocks and sandstone formed during the Devonian Period (BGS 2018). The British Geological Survey has no records of the superficial soils characteristic of the development area.

3. Archaeological background (Figure 3)

Prehistoric and Roman activity

Prehistoric remains in the area are limited to a standing stone – The Cwmdu Stone – located about half a mile N of Tretower. Furthermore, the hillfort of Myarth Camp (SAM BR 116) is located 1.4km SW from Tretower.

Roman activity is attested in the area by two carved stones found near Tretower Court (HER 662), and by the predicted line of a Roman Road (HER1113). The latter appears to cross the A479 on an E/W axis, and would have joined Caerleon to Y Gaer. It is likely that the remains of this road are exposed during the works associated with the drainage update. Furthermore, previously undocumented remains may be revealed through soil stripping areas located in previously undisturbed ground. These may be key to the development of further understandings of the area during prehistoric and Roman times.

Medieval Activity

The village of Tretower first emerged in the 11th century when Picard, follower of Bernard de Neumarche, granted land in the valley of Rhiangoll. The Picard family built an earth and timber castle enclosed by a ditch and a palisade (SAM BR014). This led to the development of a medieval settlement with an arrangement of streets following the traditional NE/SW axis. Nowadays the medieval settlement - Tretower Shrunken Settlement (SAM BR238) – is still visible to the north of the castle in the form of visible earthworks, crop and soil marks. In the 14th century the Bluets abandoned the mote and went to live in the Late Medieval house known as the Court (SAM BR117), located immediately E from the motte.

Tretower castle (SAM BR014), the Court (SAM BR117), and the medieval settlement lie immediately S of the area subjected to development. While the scheduled area of the castle and court are located c. 200m away from the drainage improvement area, the scheduled area belonging to the medieval settlement lies adjacent to the A479 road.

Post-medieval and modern activity

Evidence dating to the 17th century is documented with a number of standing structures. Tretower Court Inn (HER 40641) (adjacent to the A479), appears to have been originated as a house in the early 17th century, as well as the Vine Tree Cottages (HER 20798).

While the vast majority of the recorded heritage assets are located S of the development, the HER documents a number of assets of medieval and post-medieval date to the N of the A479 road, including a farmstead and an associated trackway linked to Pen-Y-Pentre (e.g. HER48233; HER68839), a post-medieval quarry (HER22203), and the remains of medieval ridge and furrow (HER26648) (see Silverster and Dorling 1993).

4. Objectives

This WSI sets out a program of works to ensure that the watching brief will meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (2014)*.

The objective of the watching brief will be:

- to allow a rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features that are uncovered during the proposed groundworks within the application area. While no major impacts to archaeology are foreseen within the road corridor, due to changes on the road alignment, it is possible that the works encounter the remains of former road surfacing, and of earlier settlement evidence. Areas of previously undisturbed ground may reveal archaeological remains previously undocumented. The archaeological watching brief is therefore required to ensure that any remains of archaeological significance are excavated, recorded and reported during the course of the works.

- to provide the opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief are not sufficient to support the treatment to a satisfactory or proper standard.

A written report will be compiled following the fieldwork. Sufficient desk-top research will be undertaken to ensure that the results of this work are properly understood, interpreted and reported.

The report will include a comprehensive assessment of the historic context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within regional, national and, if relevant, international research frameworks.

4.1. Site Specific Research Aims

It is important to recognize that whilst primarily designed to mitigate impacts, developer-led archaeology is also regarded as research activity with an academic basis, the aim of which is to add to the sum of human knowledge. Curators recognize the desirability of incorporating agreed research priorities as a means of enhancing the credibility of the development control process, ensuring cost-effectiveness and legitimately maximizing intellectual return.

This mitigation may contribute to the following aims:

- Further understanding of the character and alignment of the Roman Road.
- Give further insights into the history of development of Tretower, particularly of its Medieval origins.
- Reveal archaeological evidence (e.g. prehistoric evidence) that can contribute to the definition of the history of the area predating the 11th century.

5. Timetable of works

5.1. Fieldwork

The programme of mitigation will be undertaken prior to the during ground works associated with the proposed development. The work is proposed to start in June 2018. Archaeology Wales will update BBNPA with the exact date.

5.2. Report delivery

The report will be submitted to Adam Parry and to BBNPA within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional HER.

6. Fieldwork

6.1. Detail

The work will be undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs* (2014).

An archaeological watching brief will be undertaken during all intrusive ground works associated with the development, including the works associated with the drainage replacement, and the reduction of the invert levels of the open ditch from the new drainage system to the River Rhiangoll (see Figure 2).

The watching brief will be undertaken using a tracked 360 degree excavated equipped with a flat-bladed bucket, and will be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist until the natural substrate has been reached.

The site archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will be afforded the required access by the main contractor in order to observe and where necessary to record any archaeological remains revealed. Groundwork will not be undertaken without the presence of the site archaeologist. The site archaeologist will record finds and less significant archaeological deposits and features without significant delay to the work program.

Where significant or complex archaeological deposits or features are encountered there will be a requirement for those areas to be fenced off and highlighted to all contractors employed on the site. Machines or contractors shall not enter this area until archaeological recording has been completed. If significant archaeological features are revealed during the work a meeting between Adam Parry, BBNPA and AW will be called at the earliest convenience.

To comply with professional guidelines, a contingency for a maximum of three days' uninterrupted access to each such area and for a team of up to two further archaeologists to be employed should be provided. Contingency costs will be agreed in advance before any extension to the programme commences and will follow a site meeting between Archaeology Wales, Adam Parry and BBNPA.

6.2. Recording

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc) using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

All features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries.

Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 12MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

The archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will have access to the AW metal detector and be trained in its use.

6.3. Finds

The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological (2014)* will form the basis of finds collection, processing and recording.

All manner of finds regardless of category and date will be retained.

Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under *The Treasure Act 1996* will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (normally Phil Parkes at Cardiff University).

6.4. Environmental sampling strategy

Deposits with a significant potential for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental material will be sampled, by means of the most appropriate method (bulk, column etc). Where sampling will provide a significant contribution to the understanding of the site AW will draw up a site-specific sampling strategy alongside a specialist environmental archaeologist. All environmental sampling and recording will follow English Heritage's *Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology* (2nd Edition 2011).

6.5. Human remains

In the event that human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established and the coroner informed. All human remains will be left *in situ* and protected during backfilling. Where preservation *in situ* is not possible the human remains will be fully recorded and removed under conditions that comply with all current legislation and include acquisition of licenses and provision for reburial following all analytical work. Human remains will be excavated in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains: Technical Paper Number 13* (1993).

A meeting with BBNPA, Adam Parry and AW will be called if the human remains uncovered are of such complexity or significance that the contingency arrangement (6.1 above) would not be of sufficient scope.

6.6. Specialist advisers

In the event of certain finds, features or sites being discovered, AW will seek specialist opinion and advice. A list of specialists is given in the table below although this list is not exhaustive.

Artefact type	Specialist
Flint	Kate Pitt (Archaeology Wales)
Animal bone	Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall (APS)
Clay pipe	Hilary Major (Freelance)
Glass	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst (University of York)/Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy (University of Leicester)/ Quita Mold (Freelance)
Metal work and metallurgical residues	Dr Tim Young (GeoArch)
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson (Bradford University)
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby (Freelance)
Roman Pottery	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)/ Peter Webster (Freelance)
Post Roman pottery	Stephen Clarke (Monmouthshire Archaeology)
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot (Freelance)
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling (University of Wales – Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers (Freelance)

6.6.1. Specialist reports

Specialist finds and palaeoenvironmental reports will be written by AW specialists, or sub-contracted to external specialists when required.

7. Monitoring

BBNPA will be contacted approximately five days prior to the commencement of archaeological site works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

Any changes to the WSI that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to BBNPA for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.

Representatives of BBNPA will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the field evaluation. No area will be back-filled, until BBNPA has had the opportunity to inspect it, unless permission has been given in advance. BBNPA will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

8. Post-fieldwork programme

8.1. Archive assessment

8.1.1. Site archive

An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2006) upon completion of the project.

The site archive (including artefacts and samples) will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and deposited with an appropriate receiving organisation, in compliance with ClFA Guidelines (*Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, 2014), and *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales* (2017). The legal landowners consent will be gained for deposition of finds.

8.1.2. Analysis

Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of analysis and reporting will be undertaken. This will result in the following inclusions in the final report:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the watching brief, all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings (if features are encountered) with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- Written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate.

- An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development
- A discussion of the local, regional and national context of the remains by means of reviewing published reports, unpublished reports, historical maps, documents from local archives and the regional HER as appropriate.
- A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples finds and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.

8.2. Reports and archive deposition

8.2.1. Report to client

Copies of all reports associated with the watching brief, together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, including photographs and illustrations, will be submitted to Adam Parry and BBNPA upon completion.

8.2.2. Additional reports

After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of all reports will be deposited with the relevant county Historical Environment Record, the National Monuments Record and, if appropriate, Cadw.

8.2.3. Summary reports for publication

Short archaeological reports will be submitted for publication in relevant journals; as a minimum, a report will be submitted to the annual publication of the regional CBA group or equivalent journal.

8.2.4. Notification of important remains

Where it is considered that remains have been revealed that may satisfy the criteria for statutory protection, AW will submit preliminary notification of the remains to Cadw.

8.2.5. Archive deposition

The final archive (site and research) will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution, usually the relevant Local Authority museums service. Arrangements will be made with the receiving institution before work starts.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, copies of all reports and the final archive will be deposited no later than six months after completion of the work.

Copies of all reports, the digital archive and an archive index will be deposited with the *National Monuments Record*, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth.

Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER. A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to BBNPA.

8.2.6. Finds deposition

The finds, including artefacts and ecofacts, excepting those which may be subject to the Treasure Act, will be deposited with the same institution, subject to the agreement of the legal land owners.

9. Staff

The project will be managed by Dr Irene Garcia Rovira (AW Project Manager) and the fieldwork undertaken by Dan Moore (Archaeology Wales). Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of BBNPA and Adam Parry.

Additional Considerations

10. Health and Safety

10.1. Risk assessment

Prior to the commencement of work AW will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. A copy will be sent to the client (or their agent as necessary) for their information. All members of AW staff will adhere to the content of this document.

10.2. Other guidelines

AW will adhere to best practice with regard to Health and Safety in Archaeology as set out in the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (2002)*.

11. Community Engagement and Outreach

Wherever possible, AW will ensure suitable measures are in place to inform the local community and any interested parties of the results of the site investigation work. This may occur during the site investigation work or following completion of the work. The form of any potential outreach activities may include lectures and talks to local groups, interested parties and persons, information boards, flyers and other forms of communication (social media and websites), and press releases to local and national media.

The form of any outreach will respect client confidentiality or contractual agreements. As a rule, outreach will be proportional to the size of the project.

Where outreach activities have a cost implication these will need to be negotiated in advance and in accordance with the nature of the desired response and learning outcomes.

12. Insurance

AW is fully insured for this type of work, and holds Insurance with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hiscox Insurance Company Limited through Towergate Insurance. Full details of these and other relevant policies can be supplied on request.

13. Quality Control

13.1. Professional standards

AW works to the standards and guidance provided by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*. AW fully recognise and endorse the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct*, *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* and the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs* currently in force. All employees of AW, whether corporate members of the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists* or not, are expected to adhere to these Codes and Standards during their employment.

13.2. Project tracking

The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

14. Arbitration

Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision in accordance with the Rules of the *Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' Arbitration Scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists* applying at the date of the agreement.

15. References

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standards and guidance for the collection, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014. Standards and guidance for excavation.

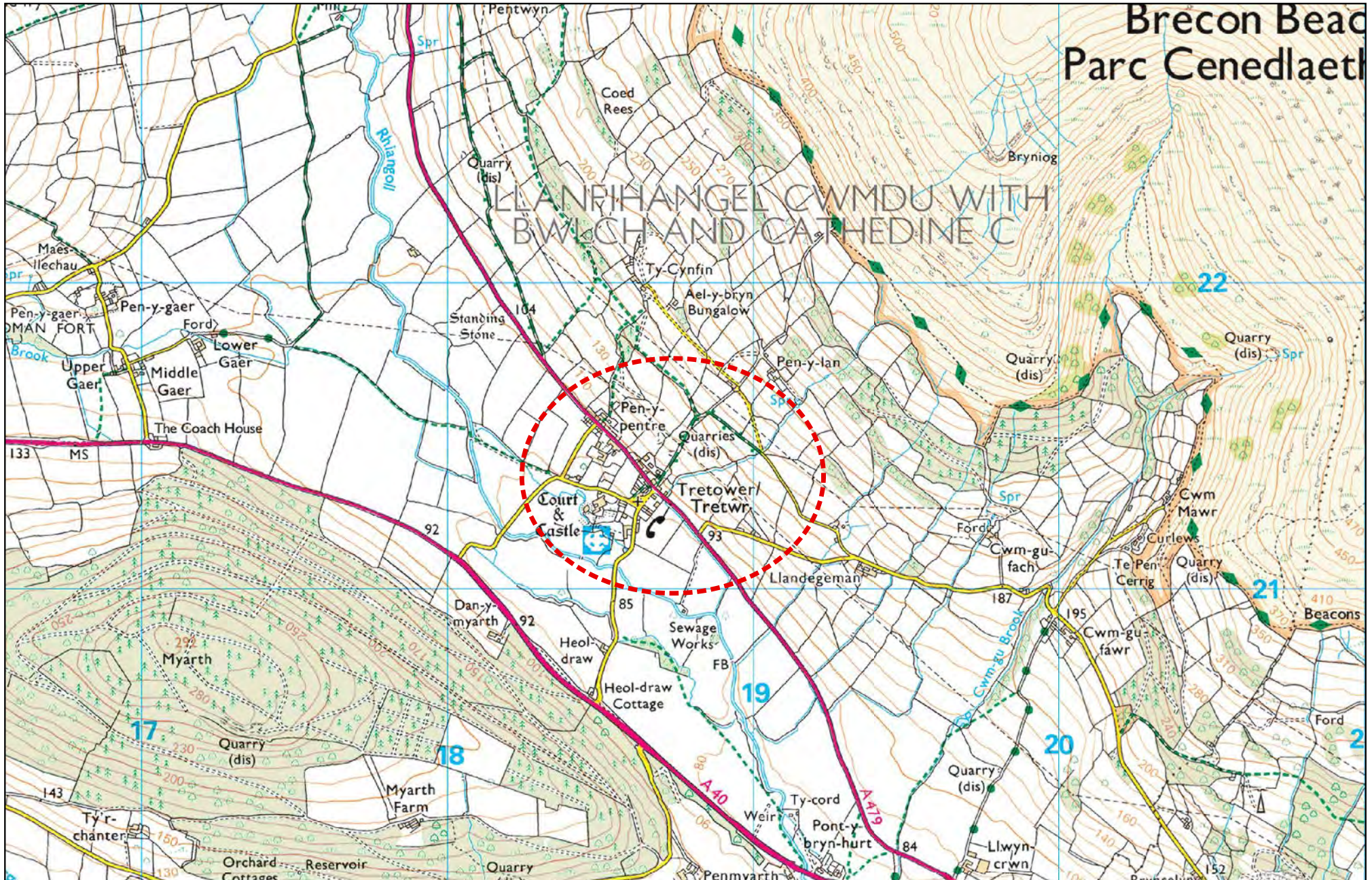
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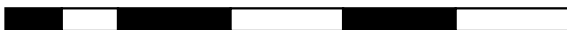
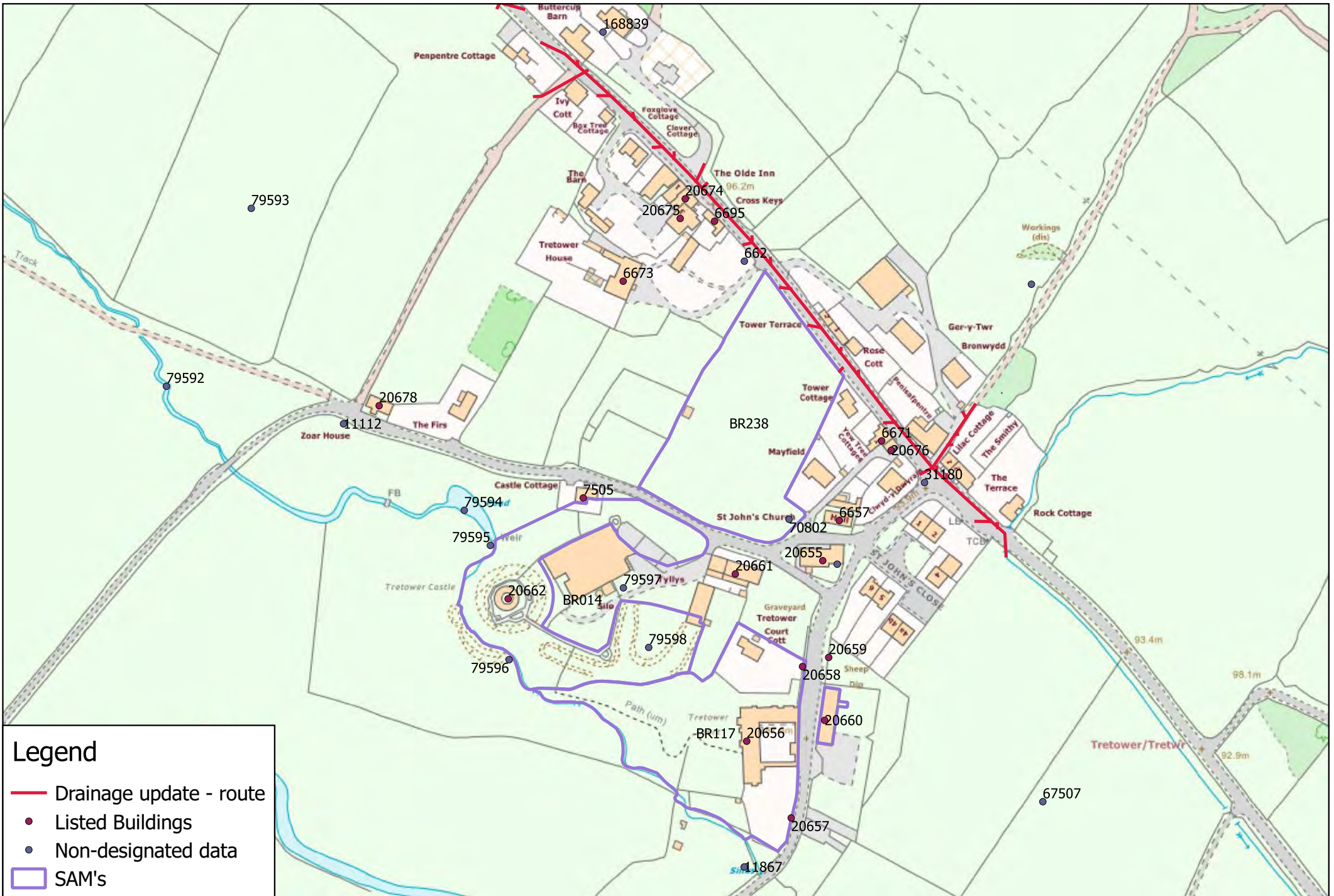


Figure 1. Site Location.



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