



Wrexham Cable, Wrexham

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Novus Renewable Services Limited to prepare an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of a proposed cable route located on land south of Cefn Road, Wrexham, Wales centred on NGR SJ 36748 48266 - SJ 37744 48256.

The aims of this study were to assess the known and potential archaeological resource within the scheme and surrounding area, and to assess the likely impacts of the development proposals on this resource. This study has identified no overriding archaeological constraints which are likely to prohibit development.

Based on a review of Clywd-Powys Archaeological Trust Historic Environment data, historic mapping, aerial photography, the scheme's geological and topographical profile it is considered that the scheme lies within an area of archaeological potential. This is largely derived from the identified Bronze Age funerary activity identified by Wessex Archaeology during an evaluation of land directly adjacent to the Scheme, as well as the potential for agricultural activity from at least the medieval period to be present within the Scheme.

Any potential archaeological remains within the eastern end of the Scheme are likely to have been subject to some level of disturbance or truncation due to previous development. Potential remains within the western end of the Scheme are likely to be better preserved as there is no evidence for previous disturbance.

Any adverse impact to buried archaeological features as a result of the implementation of the development proposals would be permanent and irreversible in nature. This potential adverse effect could be reduced through the implementation of an appropriate scheme of archaeological mitigation.

The presence, location, and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the Site cannot currently be confirmed on the basis of the available information. As such it is possible that additional investigations may be required by the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority.

The need for, scale, scope and nature of any further archaeological works should be agreed through consultation within the statutory authorities.

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Novus Renewable Services Limited, and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Simon Murrells in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust for supplying the Historic Environment Record data.



Wrexham Cable Route, Wrexham

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Novus Renewable Services Limited (the client) to prepare an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of a proposed cable route located on land south of Cefn Road, Wrexham, Wales (hereafter 'the Scheme', **Figure 1**) centred on NGR SJ 36748 48266 - SJ 37744 48256.

1.1.2 The assessment considers the potential effects of the proposals on the significance of the archaeological resource only and does not consider potential effects on the significance of heritage assets due to a change in their setting.

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Scheme is c.1 km in length, west to east, following a field boundary south of Cefn Road, then south along Sesswick Way, before following a private road to a solar panel array immediately south of the river Clywedog. The Scheme navigates across a mix of agricultural fields and existing road carriageway.

1.2.2 The topography of the Scheme falls from 39 m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) in the west to 33 m aOD in the east.

1.2.3 The underlying bedrock geology along the Scheme consists of Salop Formation – Mudston, sandstone and conglomerate, and Kinnerton Sandstone Formation – Sandstone. The Scheme also has superficial deposits of River Terrace Deposits – Sand and Gravel, Till, Devensian – Diamicton, and Alluvium – Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel (British Geological Society, Geology of Britain Viewer).

1.3 Development proposals

1.3.1 The proposed development plans, at the time of writing, indicated that the Scheme would comprise the laying of a cable route between two solar panel arrays, across land south of Cefn Road, Wrexham.

1.4 Aims and purpose of the assessment

Introduction

1.4.1 The purpose of this assessment is to comply with the appropriate assessment planning guidance as outlined in Planning Policy Wales (PPW), Edition 11(2021), the requirement for Heritage Impact Assessment and provision for treatment of archaeological remains in Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment (TAN 24; 2017) and in line with the ClfA Guidance Standards and Guidance (2020). This assessment will also identify and reference any other relevant and/or appropriate documents such as existing heritage or archaeological site management plans that may be in operation in the locality.



- 1.4.2 This will allow the Local Planning Authority to make informed and proportionate decisions with regard to any planning application.

Aim

- 1.4.3 This report will determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment within a specified area. The desk-based assessment will be undertaken using appropriate methods and practices which satisfy the stated aims of the project, and which comply with the Code of Conduct and other relevant regulations of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- 1.4.4 This report will establish the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment or will identify the need for further evaluation to do so, and will enable reasoned proposals and decisions to be made to mitigate, offset or accept without further intervention that impact, as described in TAN 24. In particular, it will assist with Paragraphs 4.7 and 4.8:

4.7 Where archaeological remains are known to exist, or considered likely to exist, and a study has not already been undertaken by the applicant, the local planning authority should ask an applicant to undertake a desk-based assessment and, where appropriate, an archaeological evaluation. These should be done by a qualified and competent expert to the appropriate standard. The reports of these investigations will form part of the planning application. Applicants should show they have modified their development proposals to minimise any negative impact on the identified archaeological remains, and how they intend to mitigate any remaining negative impacts.

4.8 The need for a desk-based assessment, and field evaluation where appropriate, should be discussed with the local planning authority prior to submission of an application, and where required the results of these studies should be submitted as part of the planning application. Failure to provide sufficient archaeological information of the appropriate standard may be a valid reason for the local planning authority to refuse planning permission.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The methodology employed during this assessment was based upon relevant professional guidance, including the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* (CIfA 2014, revised 2020).

2.2 Study Area

- 2.2.1 A Study Area was established within a 1 km radius of the Scheme. The recorded historic environment resource within the Study Area was considered in order to provide a context for the discussion and interpretation of the known and potential resource within the Site.

2.3 Sources

- 2.3.1 Several publicly accessible sources of primary and synthesised information were consulted. These comprised:

- Datasets maintained by Cadw for designated sites located within Wales

- The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record (CPATHER), comprising a database of recorded archaeological sites, find spots, and archaeological events within the region
- National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW), which holds the national collection of information about the historic environment of Wales, and is maintained by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)
- aerial photography held online (<http://aerialphotos.wales.gov.uk/>, and <http://lle.wales.gov.uk/home>).
- LiDAR data held by the Welsh Government (<http://lle.wales.gov.uk/home>)
- LANDMAP, a GIS based landscape resource maintained by Natural Resources Wales (formerly the Countryside Council for Wales) and comprising a nationally consistent dataset pertaining to Historic Landscapes and environmental designations including AONBs
- national heritage datasets including Archaeological Data Service (ADS), the Portable Antiquities Scheme and Parks and Gardens UK
- historic manuscripts, surveyed maps, and Ordnance Survey maps held online
- relevant primary and secondary sources held online and Wessex Archaeology's own library. Both published and unpublished archaeological reports relating to excavations and observations in the vicinity of the Site will be studied; and
- Cof Cymru displays depictions and associated record descriptions of Designated Historic Assets in Wales.

2.3.2 Sources consulted during the preparation of this assessment are listed in the References section at the end of this report. Records obtained from the CPAT HER are listed in **Appendix 3** and illustrated in **Figures 1-3**.

2.4 Site visit

2.4.1 The Scheme was visited on 4th May 2023. Weather conditions were dry and clear. A fieldwork record comprising digital photography is held in the project archive. There was limited access to the eastern extent of the Site as it was secured behind a locked gate.

2.4.2 The aim of the visit was to assess the general aspect, character, condition and setting of the Scheme and to identify any prior impacts not evident from secondary sources. The Site visit also sought to ascertain if the Site contained any previously unidentified features of archaeological, architectural or historic interest.

2.5 Significance

Significance

2.5.1 The Welsh Government's Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales document (CADW May 2017) includes a section on Understanding Significance (**Section 4.2**).

2.5.2 The statement of significance includes a brief summary of the historic asset and a summary of its overall heritage value. It should make specific reference to those aspects of it



significance that will be most directly affected by your proposals and their contribution to the whole. Focusing on the heritage values of your historic asset will help you to analyse its significance:

- *evidential value: the extent to which the physical fabric tells how and when your historic asset was made, how it was used and how it has changed over time. There may be buried or obscured elements associated with your historic asset which may also be an important potential source of evidence.*
- *historical value: your historic asset may illustrate a particular past way of life or be associated with a specific person or event; there may be physical evidence for these connections which it could be important to retain.*
- *aesthetic value: the design, construction and craftsmanship of your historic asset. This can also include setting and views to and from the historic asset, which may have changed through time.*
- *communal value: your historic asset may have particular significance to people for its commemorative, symbolic, or spiritual value, or for the part it has played in local cultural or public life. This will be particularly important in the case of buildings in public use or sites where public access must be maintained or improved.*

2.5.3 Heritage values are further discussed in the Welsh Government's document Conservation principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales (CADW 2011).

2.6 Assumptions and limitations

2.6.1 Data used to compile this report consists of secondary information derived from a variety of sources, only some of which have been directly examined for the purposes of this Study. The assumption is made that this data, as well as that derived from other secondary sources, is reasonably accurate.

2.6.2 The records held by the CPAT HER are not a record of all surviving heritage assets, but a record of the discovery of a wide range of archaeological and historical components of the historic environment. The information held within it is not complete and does not preclude the subsequent discovery of further elements of the historic environment that are, at present, unknown.

2.7 Copyright

2.7.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

3 BASELINE RESOURCE

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the recorded historic environment within the Study Area, compiled from the sources summarised above and detailed in the references

section of this report. The aim is to identify the known and potential components of the historic environment (heritage assets) that could be affected by the proposed development.

3.2 Designated heritage assets

Scheme

3.2.1 There are no designated heritage assets along the Scheme.

Study Area

3.2.2 The designated heritage assets within the Study Area consist of three Grade II Listed Buildings:

- Bedwell Hall (18057), c. 930 m south of the Scheme
- Pum-Rhyd (18058), c. 145 m south of the Scheme
- Parkey Farmhouse (18062), c. 500 m south-east of the Scheme

3.2.3 Designated heritage assets located within the Study Area are depicted in **Figure 1**.

3.3 Previous studies

Scheme

3.3.1 There have been no intrusive archaeological investigations along the Scheme.

Study Area

3.3.2 There have been four intrusive investigations recorded within the CPAT HER undertaken within the Study Area, which comprise:

- Fivefords Industrial Estate Evaluation (166967), intrusive archaeological works associated with the development of the Water Treatment Works, c. 320 m to the west of the Scheme. These found the remains of the Five Fords Manor Farm complex, which was a post-medieval farmstead that was demolished in 1973.
- Wessex Archaeology gradiometer survey in 2021 and evaluation in 2022, undertaken on two parcels of land, one directly adjacent to the western end of the Scheme and the other adjacent to Cefn Road, c. 230 m north of the Scheme. The results of the evaluation identified archaeological features of probable prehistoric data, and environmental evidence recovered from the site supports the interpretation that the probable prehistoric features were part of a Bronze Age funerary landscape, with remains of plants and wood charcoal recovered from a number of the features that are comparable with other such funerary sites in Wales.

3.3.3 Where relevant, the results of these investigations are discussed in further detail in **Section 4.5**.

3.3.4 Previous archaeological investigations carried out within the Study Area are illustrated in **Figure 2**.

3.4 Archaeological and historical context

3.4.1 The following section summarises the archaeological and historical development of the Scheme and the Study Area, compiled from the sources listed above. The potential for the likelihood of as yet unrecorded archaeological remains within the Scheme is informed by

the consideration of the known heritage assets within the Study Area, in conjunction with the geology and topography of the area.

3.4.2 Records obtained from the NHLE, CPAT HER and other sources are listed in **Appendix 3** and illustrated in **Figures 1–3**.

Prehistoric (970,000 BC–AD 43) to Romano-British (AD 43–410)

3.4.3 There has been no settlement evidence identified within the Study Area prior to the early medieval period. However, the geological background of the Scheme has geoarchaeological potential for preserving early prehistoric remains. Analysis of the geoarchaeological potential within the Scheme is as follows

- River Terrace deposits have the broad potential to contain reworked Lower and early Middle Palaeolithic artefacts, as well as broadly contemporary late Middle and Upper Palaeolithic archaeology. They may also contain discrete organic material preserving a wide range of paleoenvironmental evidence (Howard et al. 2011)
- Where layers of peat are preserved in alluvium (which has been identified within the Site), these deposits are of high geoarchaeological significance with the potential to preserve a range of paleoenvironmental indicators useful for reconstructing past vegetation, environment and the impact of human communities on the landscape. Deposits of organic-rich alluvium (e.g. forming in slow moving, backswamps) are likewise of high geoarchaeological potential.
- Peat deposits may also be preserved in paleochannels (former river channels) which are key contexts for preservation of waterlogged archaeological and paleoenvironmental remains. There is increased likelihood of palaeochannel preservation along meandering river courses, particularly at the confluence of rivers. Historic aerial photography has indicated that there is potential for palaeochannels to exist within the northern part of the Site (**RCHMAW: 409142**).

3.4.4 The River Clywedog runs immediately north of the Scheme, which indicates that this landscape would have been an attractive settlement location to prehistoric populations for its accessibility to natural resources.

3.4.5 Geophysical survey and trench evaluation supports the heightened prehistoric geoarchaeological and archaeological potential within close proximity to the Scheme with two round barrow identified within the fields to the north of Cefn Road. The larger one to the east has a centrally located pit, which contained a potential cremation grave that was left *in situ*. The smaller one to the west is better defined and is located closer to the edge of the presumed area of burials. In addition, several semi-circular trends have been identified both to the north and south of the larger round barrow. This area is enclosed by a broad ditch.

3.4.6 Aside from a singular Romano-British coin findspot (54712) c. 800m to the north-west of the Site, there has been no further activity identified within this landscape. The nearest rural settlement has been identified to the west of Wrexham, approximately 5.4 km to the north-west of the Site, known as Plas Coch. It is likely that the Site would have been situated within the Romano-British agricultural hinterlands of the legionary fortress at Chester, as well as the industrial settlement based at Holt, approximately 6.6 km to the north-east of the Site. There are no major routeways that have been recorded to run within approximately 5 km of the Site (Allen et al. 2016)

Saxon (AD 410–1066) to Medieval (AD 1066–1500)

- 3.4.7 Eyton, Sutton Green and Farnham were all identified as settlements within the Domesday Book, Wrexham and Marchwiell were part of the Kingdom of Powys, which would have been on the western side of Offa's Dyke and therefore has always been within Wales. The inclusion of these settlements within the Domesday Survey indicates they were established prior to 1086, while additional detail in the survey entries indicates the landscape included deer parks and enclosures.
- 3.4.8 Extensive areas of ridge and furrow have been identified within CPAT HER on historic aerial photography, primarily within the southern area of the Study Area (82606 - 8, 82610 - 11, 82612, 82633, 82642 - 3, 82634 - 5, 82639, 82636, 82637, 82641) . Ridge and furrow field-systems are characteristic of the medieval agricultural system where peasant workers were given strips of land by knights and lords of the manors, in exchange for a percentage of their produce for sustenance. Desk-based research using LiDAR analysis and historic Google Earth imagery has not identified any evidence of ridge and furrow within the Site.

Post-medieval (AD 1500–1800) to Modern (AD 1900–present day)

- 3.4.9 The post-medieval period saw nationwide enclosure of the medieval open field system through parliamentary act or private agreement, the parishes of Wrexham and Marchwiell were enclosed by 1840 (Tithe map not reproduced). The enclosure of the landscape led to the construction of more farmstead buildings. These farmsteads were used to manage larger holdings across the landscape, rather than being located on the edges of settlements as was the case during the medieval period. Five Fords Farm was located directly west of the proposed Scheme (166967), constructed in the late 17th/early 18th century, it would have served during the early post-medieval period to help support the agricultural practices within the landscape.
- 3.4.10 The 1873 OS map (**Figure 4A**) shows that the Scheme was situated within a landscape characterised by irregular shaped agricultural fields. The route traverses across several of these fields, as well as passing directly north of two ponds, likely used for livestock, and follows along several hedgerows. The Scheme also crossed Bedwell Road, which while still present today has been diverted to make way for development.
- 3.4.11 The 1899 OS Map further identifies the Scheme crossing and following the route of several footpaths (**Figure 4B**). By the 1961 map the field boundaries and road carriageways have experienced little change however, at some time in the 1940s the North Wales Mineral Railway which ran south of the Study Area had a new branch constructed which passed through the route of the Scheme to the east of Bedwell Road (**Figure 4C**).
- 3.4.12 The railway line was removed during the later half of the 20th century, with Aerial Photography (AP) indicating that by the early 2000's the industrial developments along the eastern end of the scheme had been constructed, which included the establishment of Bedwell Link, a private road carriageway along which the eastern end of the Scheme runs. The construction of Sesswick Road was completed between 2011 and 2012, along which the Scheme follows for a short distance.

Undated

- 3.4.13 The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) identifies cropmarks on aerial photography that appears to look like a square enclosure (86009), as well as other linear features. These features are likely prehistoric in date. Although these have not been identified on LiDAR analysis or Google Earth historic



imagery, these obliques demonstrate that there is potential for as yet unidentified archaeological remains to the north of Cefn Road.

3.5 Potential Impact

3.5.1 While finalised installation plans were not available at the time of writing, the Scheme will comprise the excavation of a trench prior to the installation of the electric cable. Impacts to potential archaeological remains will be restricted to the footprint of the cable trench along with any easement needed.

3.6 Conditions for survival

3.6.1 The Scheme has remained as part of an agricultural landscape since at least the medieval period. It is likely the Scheme has been under plough through much of the past, which may have caused truncation to archaeological remains (if present) within the Scheme.

3.6.2 The majority of the route would have remained undeveloped from at least the 18th century. Development began in the east of the Scheme during the early 20th century with the construction of the Mineral Railway line, followed by the construction of Bedwell Link road carriageway in the early 21st century, and the establishment of Sesswick Road by 2012. The west of the Scheme has remained undeveloped throughout these periods.

3.6.3 The majority of disturbance is likely to be from general agricultural practices, which would have lesser impacts of any below ground archaeology. However, there is expected to be more localised disturbance within the footprint of the road carriageways and railway line, within the east of the Scheme, which would have a greater impact on any potential archaeological finds or features.

3.6.4 Potential remains within the western end of the Scheme are likely to be better preserved as there is no evidence for previous disturbance. .

3.6.5 Therefore, the conditions for survival of archaeological remains across the proposed Scheme are considered to be good.

3.7 Interest and significance

3.7.1 The significance of any buried archaeological remains is determined by their archaeological interest, defined as holding, or potentially holding, '...evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.'

3.7.2 The level of significance that archaeology holds is relative to its wider context, how abundant similar remains are, and how the information it contains can contribute to identified research objectives and our understanding of past-human activity.

3.7.3 Where information yielded from the excavation of archaeological remains could make a contribution to identified research objectives, both national and regional, these remains would be of the highest significance and could potentially meet the criteria in Footnote 68 in the NPPF, deeming them of equivalent significance to designated heritage assets.

3.7.4 Archaeological remains which do not contribute to any identified research objectives will generally be of less significance than those that do, however, that does not preclude their archaeological interest nor the value in '...expert investigation at some point.'



- 3.7.5 Some archaeological remains may not hold any significance at all if they are not worthy of expert investigation which includes remains are exceptionally truncated or damaged or if they are so extremely abundant that no further or greater information can be recovered.
- 3.7.6 The determination of the levels of significance of archaeological remains has been made through the assessment of the known and potential resource, the likely disturbance from previous activity and using professional judgement.
- 3.7.7 Based upon a review of the available information, the Scheme is situated in an area of archaeological interest. This is primarily derived from the prehistoric potential of the Site which has been informed through the presence of the Bronze Age cemetery identified during the archaeological evaluation to the north of the Scheme.
- 3.7.8 Furthermore, the geological backdrop for the Site is conducive to the preservation of paleoenvironmental and geoarchaeological information for the early prehistoric periods. If present, any such remains would hold archaeological interest due to their importance within the wider regional context and would hold a high level of significance.
- 3.7.9 There is no information to suggest activity from the Romano-British to Anglo-Saxon periods would be present within the Site and the likelihood of finding such remains is unlikely. Any remains from these periods, if encountered, would hold a high level of significance.
- 3.7.10 During the medieval and post-medieval periods, much of the land through which the Scheme is located will have continued to form part of the rural hinterland of the surrounding settlements. Other archaeological remains may also survive including any stray finds deposited through casual loss during activities such as ploughing, harvesting or herding livestock. Any remains relating to these activities will be of limited significance due to their wider regional context and the abundance of similar remains.

4 CONCLUSIONS

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 This study has identified no overriding archaeological constraints which are likely to prohibit development.
- 4.1.2 Based on a review of Clywd-Powys Archaeological Trust Historic Environment data, historic mapping, aerial photography, the scheme's geological and topographical profile it is considered that the scheme lies within an area of archaeological potential. This is largely derived from the identified Bronze Age funerary activity identified by Wessex Archaeology during an evaluation of land directly adjacent to the Scheme, as well as the potential for agricultural activity from at least the medieval period to be present within the Scheme.
- 4.1.3 Any potential archaeological remains within the eastern end of the Scheme are likely to have been subject to some level of disturbance or truncation due to previous development. Potential remains within the western end of the Scheme are likely to be better preserved as there is no evidence for previous disturbance.
- 4.1.4 Any adverse impact to buried archaeological features as a result of the implementation of the development proposals could be permanent and irreversible in nature. This potential adverse effect could be reduced through the implementation of an appropriate scheme of archaeological mitigation.



- 4.1.5 As such it is possible that additional investigations may be required by the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority.
- 4.1.6 The need for, scale, scope and nature of any further archaeological works should be agreed through consultation within the statutory authorities.



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Historic Environment Records

Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record (CPATHER)

Cartographic and documentary sources

1840 Marchwiel Tithe map

1873, 1879, 1881, 1899, 1912, 1914, 1938, 1954, 1961, 1964, 1974, 1979, 1985 and 1992 Ordnance Survey maps

Online resources

<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>

<http://opendomesday.org/>

<https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/cof-cymru/search-cadw-records/>

<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/index.html>



<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

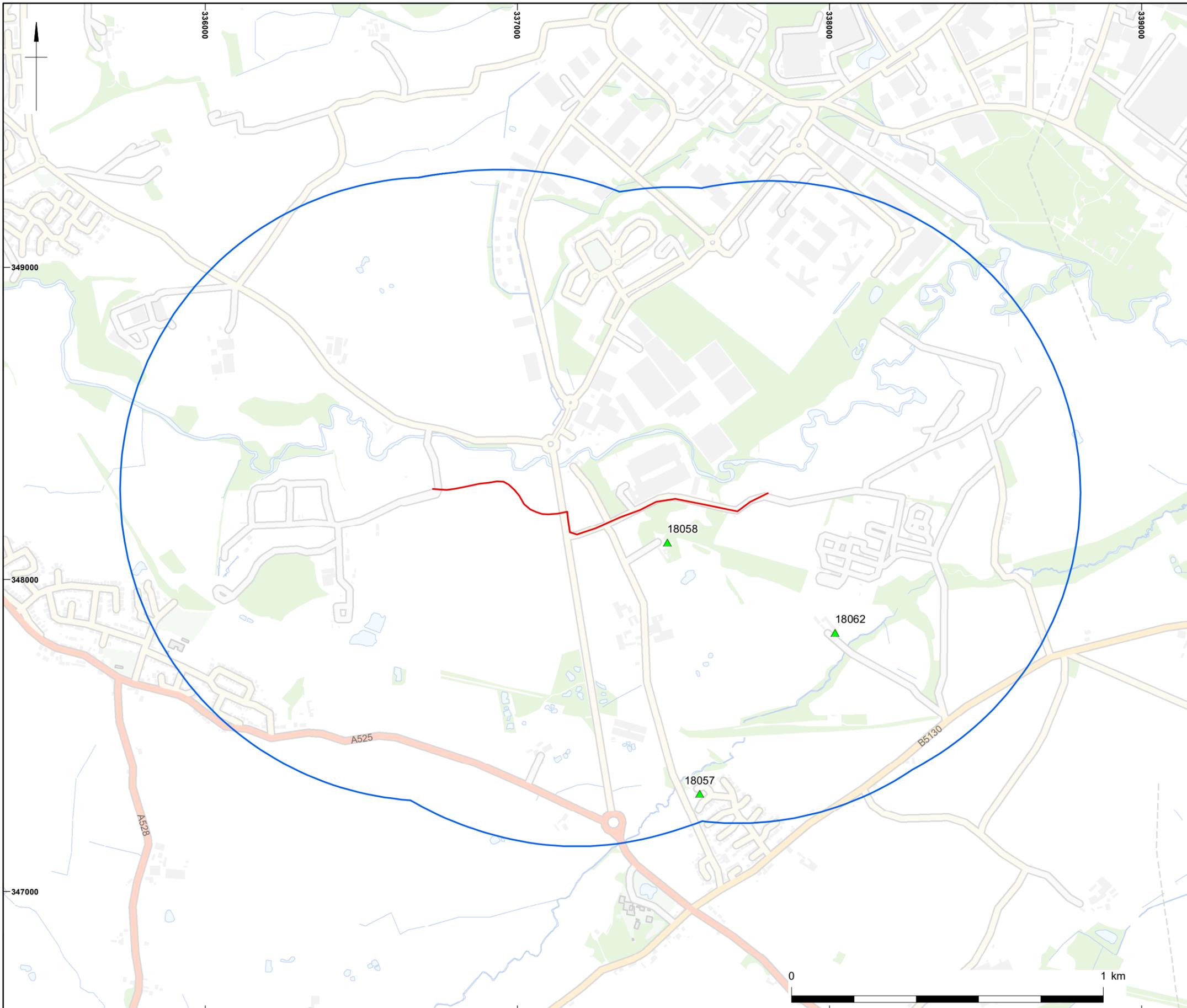
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/>

<https://places.library.wales/browse/>

<http://lle.gov.wales/Catalogue?lang=en&text=Lidar>

<https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/409142/images/?term=409142>



- Site
- Study Area
- Designated Heritage Assets**
- ▲ Grade II Listed Building

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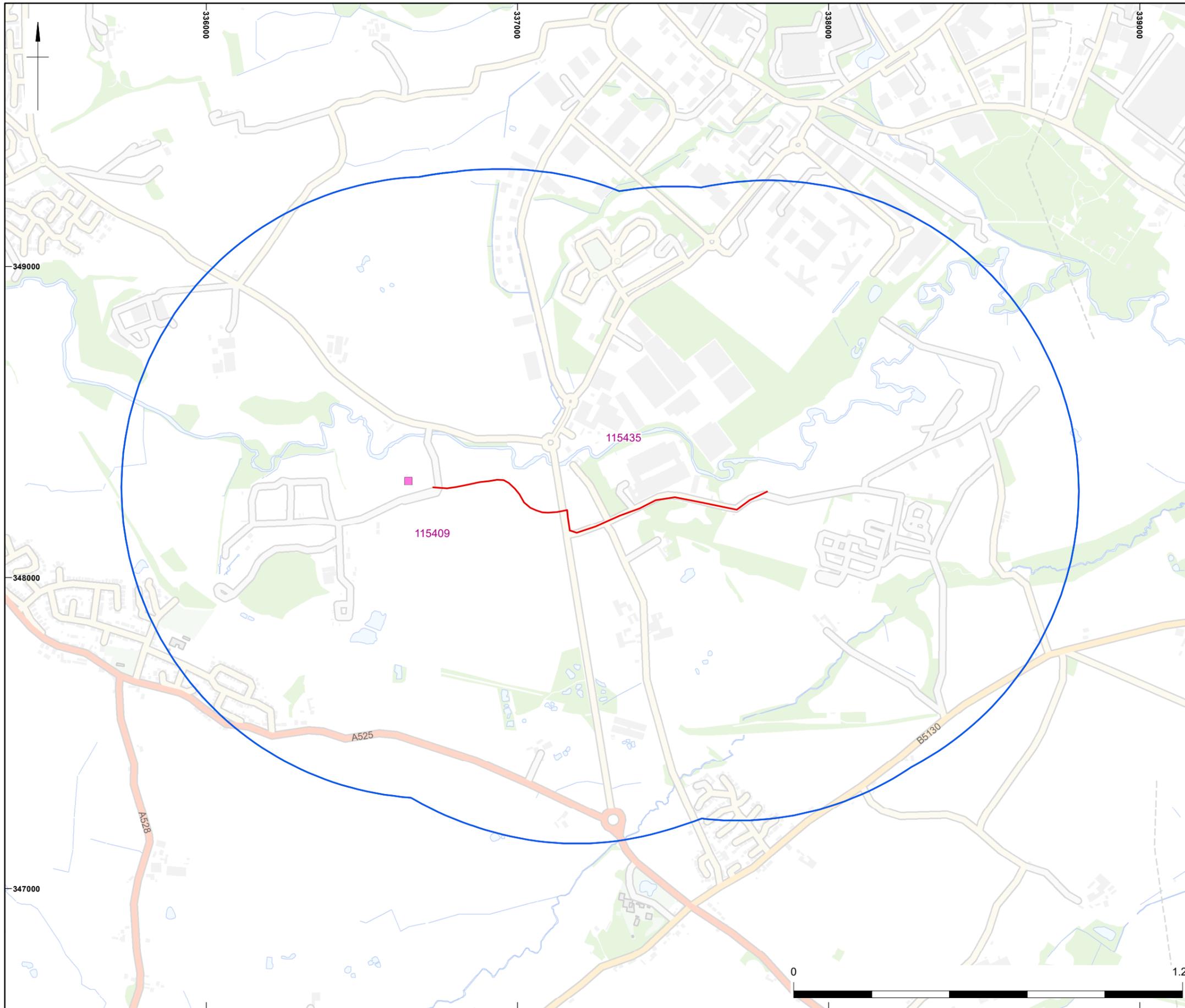
Date:	05/06/2023
Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:12,500
Illustrator:	i.christian
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Scheme, location and designated heritage assets within the Study Area

Figure 1



- Site
- Study Area
- Archaeological Investigation Events

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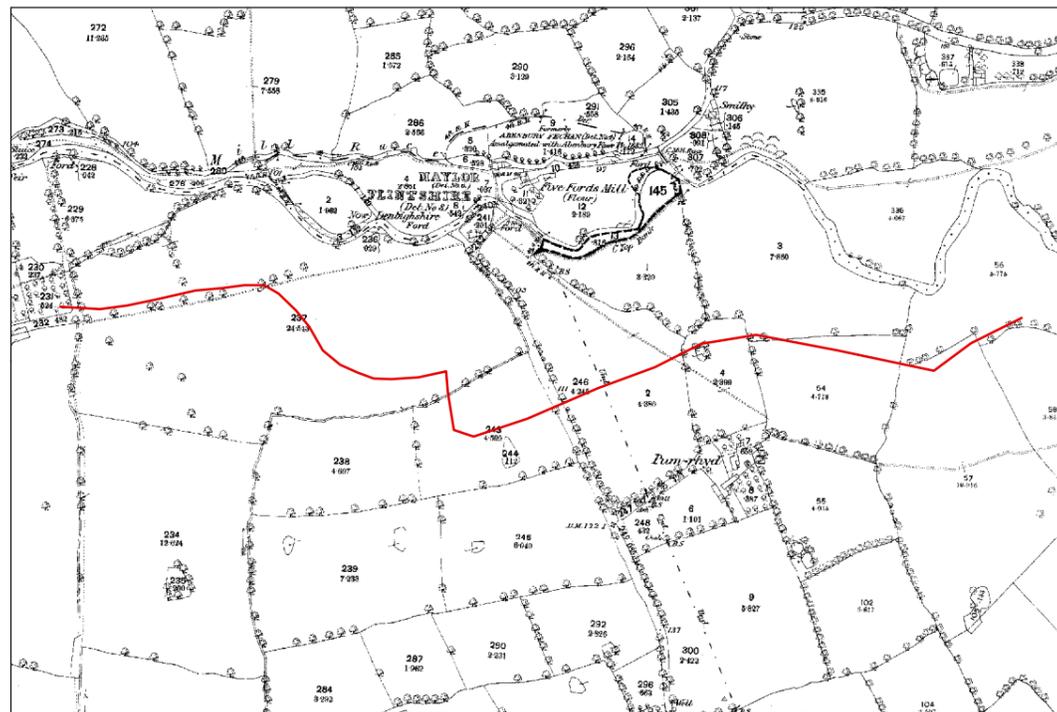
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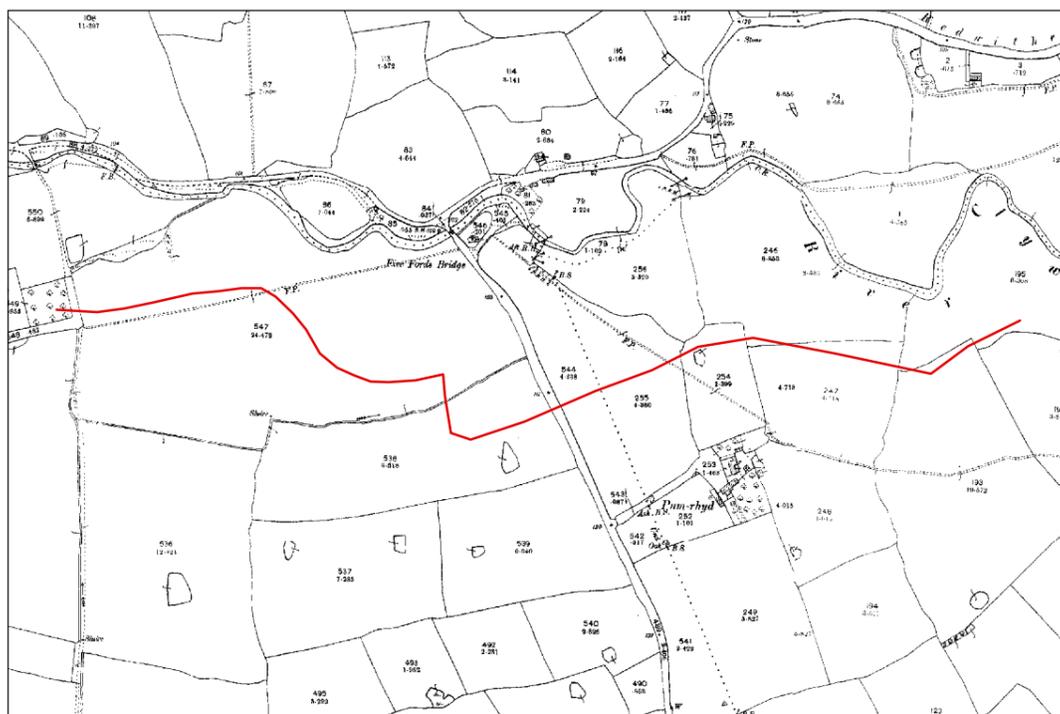
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Scheme, Study Area and Archaeological Investigation events

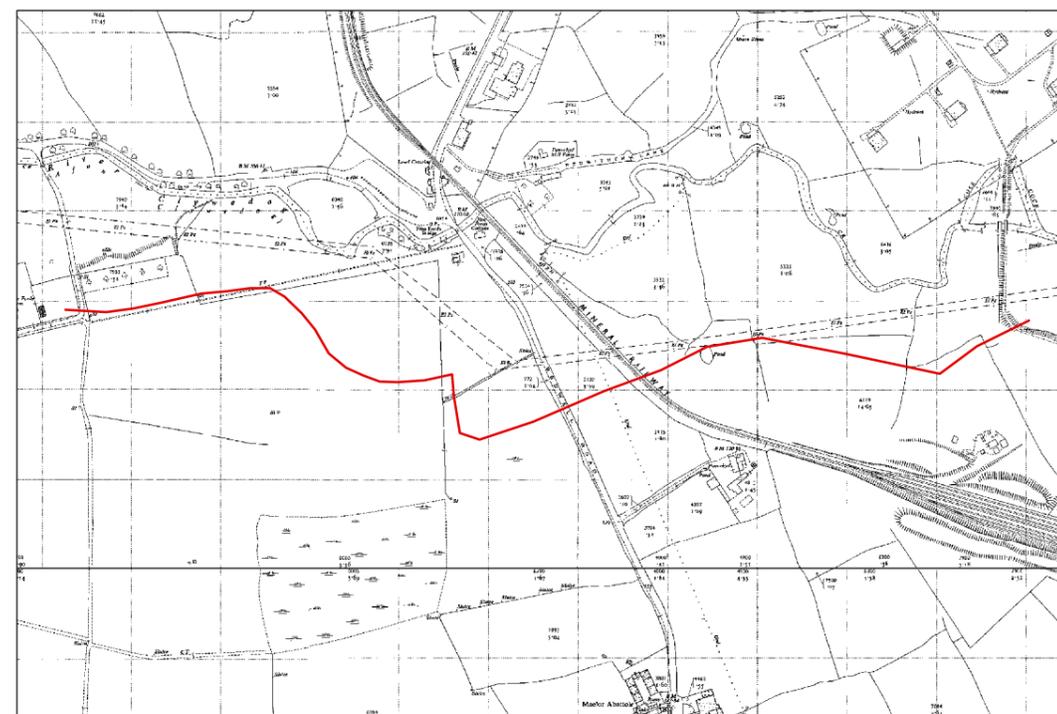
Figure 3



A) 1873 OS Mapping



B) 1899 OS Mapping



C) 1961 OS Mapping



— Site

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Plate 1) View of western end of the Scheme, looking east



Plate 2) View of western end of the Scheme, looking west



Plate 3) View along western section of the Scheme, looking east



Plate 4) View along western section of the Scheme, looking east



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Plate 5) View of eastern section of the Scheme, looking west



Plate 6) View of eastern end of the Scheme, looking east



Plate 7) View of eastern end of the Scheme, looking east



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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Terminology

Glossary

The terminology used in this assessment follows definitions contained within Annex 2 of NPPF:

Archaeological interest	There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially holds, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.
Conservation (for heritage policy)	The process of maintaining and managing change to a heritage asset in a way that sustains and, where appropriate, enhances its significance.
Designated heritage asset	A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated under the relevant legislation.
Heritage asset	A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. It includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).
Historic environment	All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora.
Historic environment record	Information services that seek to provide access to comprehensive and dynamic resources relating to the historic environment of a defined geographic area for public benefit and use.
Setting of a heritage asset	The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.
Significance (for heritage policy)	The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. The interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting. For World Heritage Sites, the cultural value described within each site's Statement of Outstanding Universal Value forms part of its significance.

Chronology

Where referred to in the text, the main archaeological periods are broadly defined by the following date ranges:

Prehistoric		Historic	
Palaeolithic	970,000–10,000 BC	Romano-British	AD 43–410
Mesolithic	10,000–4000 BC	Saxon	AD 410–1066
Neolithic	4000–2400 BC	Medieval	AD 1066–1500
Bronze Age	2400–700 BC	Post-medieval	AD 1500–1800
Iron Age	700 BC–AD 43	19th century	AD 1800–1899
		Modern	1900–present day



Appendix 2: Legislative and planning framework

There is national legislation and guidance relating to the protection of important archaeological sites or historic buildings within planning regulations as defined under the provisions of the *Town and Country Planning Act 1990*. In addition, local authorities are responsible for the protection of the historic environment within the planning system. This section summarises the main components of the national and local planning and legislative framework governing the treatment of the historic environment within the planning process.

Legislation

Legislation	
Title	Summary
<i>Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</i>	The main legislation pertaining to archaeological sites is the <i>Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</i> , which builds on previous Acts in confirming legal protection for nationally important archaeological remains through their addition to a centrally maintained 'schedule' (Scheduled Monuments). The consent of the Secretary of State (Department of Culture, Media and Sport), as advised by Historic England, is required for certain works within a scheduled area (Scheduled Monument Consent). For archaeological sites that are not covered by the Act, protection is afforded through the overall framework of national and local planning policy.
<i>Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990</i>	The <i>Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990</i> provides specific protection for buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest. Any decisions relating to Listed Buildings and their settings, and Conservation Areas must address the statutory considerations of the Act (in particular, Sections 16, 66 and 72), as well as satisfying relevant national and local planning policies. Section 66 of the Act states that: <i>'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.'</i> Section 69 enables Local Planning Authorities to designate conservation areas. Conservation areas are those <i>'areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'</i> . Section 72 requires that in the exercise of planning duties <i>'special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance'</i> of conservation areas. Under the provisions of the Act, Listed Building Consent is normally required for works of demolition, alteration or extension to a Listed Building that affect its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest.
<i>Hedgerows Regulations 1997 (as amended in 2002)</i>	Hedgerows that fulfil certain criteria are afforded protection under <i>The Hedgerows Regulations 1997 (as amended in 2002)</i> . The administration of the regulations is the responsibility of the Local Planning Authority (LPA).



Planning Policy Wales Edition 10	
Reference	Quote
6.1.5	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.
6.1.6	The Welsh Government's specific objectives for the historic environment seek to: protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Sites; conserve archaeological remains, both for their own sake and for their role in education, leisure and the economy; safeguard the character of historic buildings and manage change so that their special architectural and historic interest is preserved; preserve the special interest of sites on the register of historic parks and gardens; and protect areas on the register of historic landscapes in Wales. preserve or enhance the character or appearance of conservation areas, whilst the same time helping them remain vibrant and prosperous;
6.1.7	It is important that the planning system looks to protect, conserve and enhance the significance of historic assets. This will include consideration of the setting of an historic asset which might extend beyond its curtilage. Any change that impacts on an historic asset or its setting should be managed in a sensitive and sustainable way.
6.1.8	It is the responsibility of all those with an interest in the planning system, including planning authorities, applicants, developers and communities, to appropriately care for the historic environment in their area. The protection, conservation and enhancement of historic assets is most effective when it is considered at the earliest stage of plan preparation or when designing proposals new proposals.



Planning Policy Wales Edition 10	
Reference	Quote
6.1.9	Any decisions made through the planning system must fully consider the impact on the historic environment and on the significance and heritage values of individual historic assets and their contribution to the character of place.
6.1.20	The Welsh Government seeks to protect areas on the register of historic landscapes in Wales.
6.1.21	Planning authorities should protect those assets included on the register of historic landscapes in Wales. As above, the sharing and use of evidence and assessments undertaken for wider reasons, such as Green Infrastructure Assessments, should be used to identify and better understand historic landscapes and ensure their qualities are protected and enhanced. The register should be taken into account in decision making when considering the implications of developments which meet the criteria for Environmental Impact Assessment or, if on call in, in the opinion of the Welsh Ministers, the development is of a sufficient scale to have more than a local impact on the historic landscape. An assessment of development on a historic landscape may be required if it is proposed within a registered historic landscape or its setting and there is potential for conflict with development plan policy.
6.1.23	The planning system recognises the need to conserve archaeological remains. The conservation of archaeological remains and their settings is a material consideration in determining planning applications, whether those remains are a scheduled monument or not.
6.1.24	Where nationally important archaeological remains are likely to be affected by proposed development, there should be a presumption in favour of their physical protection in situ. It will only be in exceptional circumstances that planning permission will be granted if development would result in a direct adverse impact on a scheduled monument (or an archaeological site shown to be of national importance).
6.1.25	In cases involving less significant archaeological remains, planning authorities will need to weigh the relative importance of the archaeological remains and their settings against other factors, including the need for the proposed development.
6.1.26	Where archaeological remains are known to exist or there is a potential for them to survive, an application should be accompanied by sufficient information, through desk-based assessment and/or field evaluation, to allow a full understanding of the impact of the proposal on the significance of the remains. The needs of archaeology and development may be reconciled, and potential conflict very much reduced, through early discussion and assessment.
6.1.27	If the planning authority is minded to approve an application and where archaeological remains are affected by proposals that alter or destroy them, the planning authority must be satisfied that the developer has secured appropriate and satisfactory provision for their recording and investigation, followed by the analysis and publication of the results and the deposition of the resulting archive in an approved repository. On occasions, unforeseen archaeological remains may still be discovered during the course of a development. A written scheme of investigation



Planning Policy Wales Edition 10	
Reference	Quote
	should consider how to react to such circumstances or it can be covered through an appropriate condition for a watching brief. Where remains discovered are deemed to be of national importance, the Welsh Ministers have the power to schedule the site and, in such circumstances, scheduled monument consent must be required before works can continue.

Welsh Government 2017 Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment

Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment (4. Archaeological remains)	
Reference	Quote
4.1	Archaeological remains are a finite and non-renewable resource. In many cases they are highly fragile and vulnerable to damage and destruction. Produced by human activity over thousands of years, they are the only evidence of our prehistoric past and complement historic records from the last 2,000 years. Archaeological remains include evidence buried below the ground and the surviving fabric of historic buildings and other structures. Their significance, as evidence of the past development of our civilisation and as part of Wales' identity, is not necessarily related to their size, visibility or popularity.
4.2	The conservation of archaeological remains is a material consideration in determining a planning application. When considering development proposals that affect scheduled monuments or other nationally important archaeological remains, there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation in situ, i.e. a presumption against proposals which would involve significant alteration or cause damage, or would have a significant adverse impact causing harm within the setting of the remains (see Annex A). In cases involving less significant archaeological remains, local planning authorities will need to weigh the relative importance of the archaeological remains and their settings against other factors, including the need for the proposed development.



4.3	Where development might reveal, disturb or destroy archaeological remains, including palaeo-environmental evidence, it is important that the opportunities to record archaeological evidence are taken and that archaeological remains are not needlessly destroyed. The ability to record such evidence should not be a factor in deciding whether controlled removal should be permitted
4.4	The needs of archaeology and development may be reconciled and potential conflicts between development proposals and the preservation of significant archaeological remains can often be avoided through pre-application discussion. This should be between the applicant, the local planning authority, their archaeological advisors and, in cases where scheduled monuments may be affected, Cadw. In the case of those local authorities that do not have in-house archaeological advisors, they could draw upon the expertise and advice of the curatorial sections of the Welsh Archaeological Trusts.
4.5	Where there is a possibility that archaeological remains may be present, applicants are encouraged to make an enquiry with the body with responsibility for the relevant historic environment record and seek advice from the local planning authority's archaeological advisor at an early stage in considering their development proposal. This will help determine if the proposal might impact on known archaeological remains. Certain major developments require pre-application consultation with the local planning authority and, where specialist advice is required, the Welsh Ministers through Cadw.
4.6	In exceptional circumstances, where a local planning authority is aware of a threat to a known archaeological site as a result of the potential exercise of permitted development rights, they may wish to consider the use of their powers to withdraw those rights and require planning permission be obtained before the development can proceed.
4.7	Where archaeological remains are known to exist, or considered likely to exist, and a study has not already been undertaken by the applicant, the local planning authority should ask an applicant to undertake a desk-based archaeological assessment and, where appropriate, an archaeological evaluation. These should be done by a qualified and competent expert to the appropriate standard. ⁵⁶ The reports of these investigations will form part of the planning application. Applicants should show they have modified their development proposals to minimise any negative impact on the identified archaeological remains, and how they intend to mitigate any remaining negative impacts.



4.8	The need for a desk-based assessment, and field evaluation where appropriate, should be discussed with the local planning authority prior to submission of a application, and where required the results of these studies should be submitted as part of the planning application. Failure to provide sufficient archaeological information of the appropriate standard may be a valid reason for the local planning authority to refuse planning permission.
4.9	When considering planning applications that affect known or potential archaeological remains, the local planning authority should consult with their archaeological advisor about the impact, including the potential scale and harm, of the development on archaeological remains, and/or the adequacy of the mitigation of what has been proposed. These two factors are material considerations in determining the planning application. Where a planning application directly affects a scheduled monument and its setting then the local planning authority is required to consult the Welsh Ministers through Cadw.
4.10	The case for the preservation of archaeological remains that are not considered to meet the criteria for national importance (see Annex A.2), must be assessed on the individual merits of each case. The local planning authority must take into account relevant policies and material considerations and will need to weigh the significance of the remains against the benefits of and need for the proposed development. In cases where there are issues of more than local importance, applications may be called in for determination by the Welsh Ministers.
4.11	Measures can be taken to minimise the impact of a development proposal on identified archaeological remains and allow their preservation in situ. For example, those aspects of a proposal that might cause damage, such as drains and other services, may be relocated. Similarly, foundations may be redesigned so as not to penetrate archaeological layers, or augered piling may prove more acceptable than large-scale deep excavation. In considering these solutions, a local planning authority must consider both direct and indirect impacts, such as changes to the hydrology and soil chemistry of a site and be confident that the development can be removed at a future date without additional impacts upon the buried remains. In some cases, it may be possible to enable the partial preservation of archaeological remains. However, leaving 'islands' of preserved archaeology is not desirable. Careful design can also minimise the effect upon setting, through detailed siting of the development, considering external appearances, the use of screening or by mitigating the visual impact of the proposals by removal of existing unsightly elements.



4.12	Having considered all policies and other material considerations and the need for the development, the local planning authority may decide that the significance of the archaeological remains is not sufficient to justify their physical preservation. In these cases, the local planning authority must satisfy itself that the necessary and proportionate arrangements for the excavation and recording of these archaeological remains are secured, and the results of this archaeological work are properly analysed and published ⁶⁰ and that arrangements are made for the deposition of the resulting archive to the appropriate standards. This can be achieved by the local planning authority issuing a brief setting out the scope of the archaeological work that is required, which should be prepared in consultation with their archaeological advisor
4.13	Planning conditions will normally require the applicant to commission a qualified and competent expert to submit a written scheme of archaeological investigation (WSI) which describes the different stages of the work and demonstrates that it has been fully resourced and given adequate time. ⁶² In approving this WSI, the local planning authority will identify who will act as their archaeological advisor ⁶³ for the programme, how it will be monitored both during the excavation/ fieldwork and post-excavation/fieldwork stages, and how each stage will be certified as fulfilling the planning conditions. The WSI may have to be amended between the outline and full planning applications and will need to be kept under regular review during the discharge of the conditions
4.14	Any programme of archaeological excavation and recording should precede the start of work on the development, unless there are exceptional circumstances which prevent this from occurring. In certain circumstances, e.g. where the site is occupied, the work could be integrated into the initial phase of groundworks and demolitions following written agreement with the local planning authority and their archaeological advisors. The developer must give sufficient time for the archaeological contractor to complete the site work to the appropriate standard before allowing the main contractor free access to that part of the development. An archaeological watching brief may be agreed as part of the WSI or be the subject of a planning condition ⁶⁴ that would require such work to be carried out while the development is underway. ⁶⁵ The applicant's responsibilities are not finally discharged until the results are analysed and published and the archive has been deposited..
4.15	Failure to comply with archaeological planning conditions can be subject to enforcement in the same way as any other breach of planning control.



4.16	Developers should have a contingency to deal with unexpected archaeological discoveries and be able to call on archaeological advice when needed. Appropriate remedial measures will need to be agreed between the developer, the local planning authority and their archaeological advisors
4.17	Where unexpected archaeological discoveries are considered to be of national importance, the Welsh Ministers have the power to schedule the site (see Annex A). In the event of scheduling, the developer must seek separate scheduled monument consent before work can continue. It is also open to the local planning authority and the Welsh Ministers to revoke or modify a planning permission under these circumstances, in which case there is provision for the compensation of the developer for loss of value and expenditure incurred.



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