

Archaeology Wales

**51, Maryport Street,
Usk, Gwent**

Archaeological Evaluation, Watching Brief and Limited Excavation



By
Dr Iestyn Jones

Report No. 1228



Archaeology Wales Limited,
Rhos Helyg, Cwm Belan,
Llanidloes, Powys SY18 6QF
Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371
E-mail: admin@arch-wales.co.uk

Archaeology Wales

**51, Maryport Street,
Usk**

Archaeological Evaluation
Interim Report

Prepared For: Mrs C Lewis

Edited by: Mark Houlston
Signed: *Mark Houlston*
Position: Managing Director
Date: 28/7/14

Authorised by: Mark Houlston
Signed:
Position: Managing Director
Date:

By

Dr Iestyn Jones

Report No. 1228

July 2014



Archaeology Wales Limited,
Rhos Helyg, Cwm Belan,
Llanidloes, Powys SY18 6QF
Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371
E-mail: admin@arch-wales.co.uk

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Summary

51, Mary Port Street is located within the boundaries of Burrium Roman Fort, an Ancient Scheduled Monument in Usk. Following a conditional approval by Monmouthshire County Council of a planning request to construct a single storey extension at the rear of 51, Maryport St, Usk, an application was made for Scheduled Monument Consent to carry out the work. In April 2014 Archaeology Wales was commissioned to carry out an archaeological evaluation to determine the presence and depth of possible archaeological deposits or features within the area of the development. This evaluation, carried out in May 2014, identified the depth of upper archaeological deposits some 0.40m below ground level and during the excavation uncovered a floor surface and artefacts associated with a possible Roman roadside industrial building. Following Scheduled Monument Consent further work was conducted in July 2014 under a Watching Brief including the lowering the central island left during the evaluation and the excavation and connection of a new drain into an existing drain at the southern end of trench 2. No further significant archaeological deposits were disturbed and the upper horizons were subsequently covered with geotextile and sand.

1. Introduction

In April 2014 Archaeology Wales was commissioned by Mrs Carol Lewis (the Client) to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the rear of 51, Maryport Street, Usk (NGR: SO 37911 00349; fig. 1) The client had gained conditional planning permission for constructing a single storey rear extension from Monmouthshire County Council (Planning Reference: DC/2013/00956) but awaited Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent as the site was within the boundary of Usk Roman Site, a protected Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM: MM155; fig. 2). Permission for an archaeological evaluation would be granted under Section 3 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 in order to determine the outcome of the monument consent application dated 17th of January 2014.

The aim of the evaluation was to identify the uppermost archaeological levels within the footprint of the proposed extension. The work was carried out by Ian Davies and Chris Hambleton for Archaeology Wales between the 7th and 9th May, 2014 (AW Project Number: 2236). Further work was conducted under a Watching Brief by Dr Iestyn Jones. The Watching Brief oversaw the lowering of the central island left during the evaluation to the top of the upper archaeological horizon and the excavation and connection of a new drain into an existing drain at the southern end of trench 2.

This report describes the evaluation findings (phase 1) and the resulting Watching Brief (phase 2).

2. Site Description

Location, Topography, Geology

Usk is located approximately 13km north-east of Newport, Gwent and approximately 16km south-east of Abergavenny. Maryport Street represents the southern section of the north to south road running through Usk and 51 Mary Port Street (16m AOD) lies on level ground on the eastern side of the road approximately 412m east of the river Usk and 590m south of the central square in Usk. The site lies in an area of free draining grasslands located on old floodplain soils comprising alluvium overlying Silurian Raglan interbedded Mudstone and Siltstone (BGS 2014; Soilscapes 2014).

3. Historical Background

The first phase pre-Flavian Roman fortress of Burrium was established at Usk during the middle of the first century AD. This large fortress, probably built by *Legio XX*, covered an area of 19.5 hectares between the medieval Priory and land south of the modern prison. It is likely to have been the base for a legion of five thousand soldiers, including a five hundred strong cavalry unit. The importance of this fortress is emphasized by Arnold and Davies's assertion that it was 'key to the reduction of the Silures', the warlike native tribal confederation of south-east Wales (Arnold and Davies 2000, 10). Following the transfer of *Legio XX* to Wroxeter, some twenty years later, the fortress had been considerably reduced to approximately 1.0 hectare whilst a civil settlement, possibly for military veterans, was established in the second century.

3.1 Previous archaeological work

In addition to the urned cremation burials discovered during the construction of 51 Maryport Street in 1985 (see below) a number of Roman features have been identified in adjacent fields to the property (Fig. 3). The Roman road linking Caerleon with Usk has been identified in areas to the south east of the site. During work on a sewage pumping main GGAT discovered sections of the 10m wide Roman fortress approach road (PRN 05596.0g and 05484.0g) at NGR SO 37970027 and SO 37990025 and features suggesting an oven (PRN 05602) and industrial activity (PRN 0584.0g), whilst a second 5m wide road (PRN 05597.0g) was located at right angles to the approach road at NGR SO 38040021. A single cremation burial contained within a redware flagon of late first or early second century date was located near the main roadside at NGR SO 37970025 (PRN 05599g).

Approximately 60m to the south west (NGR: SO 37930028) of 51, Maryport Street an assessment by GGAT discovered the remains of two post-holes and post pads set on the edge of an area of cobbling suggesting the presence of open-fronted timber buildings (PRN 05600g). Two hearths were also identified approximately 30m to the south-east of the timber buildings (PRN 05601g) suggesting considerable activity adjacent to the Roman road as one approached the fortress.

During the Summer of 1984 D Zienkiewicz carried out salvage works on behalf of GGAT following groundworks associated with the building of 51, Maryport Street (Millbrook House) (Maynard, 1993, 6; Marvell et al 1998, 64-5). Two urn cremation burials, pottery and a bone pin were recovered (PRN 4426). The burials were interpreted as evidence of occupation post-dating the fortress and located just inside the earlier fortress defences (Maynard 1993, 6). The 1993 report includes a plot of a geophysical survey (see Maynard 1993, fig. 1) that appears to show the main fortress road running immediately east of the rear of 51, Maryport Street. The burials therefore fit a pattern that sees them aligned along former roads of the fortress.

4. Phase 1: Evaluation

4.1 Objectives and Strategy

The archaeological evaluation's main objective was to assess the nature, date, quality, quantity, distribution and level of any depth and character of archaeological horizons or features within the footprint of the proposed single storey extension. If significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered following recording work would cease on the uppermost archaeological horizon. A further aim was to examine if any deposits would be encountered up to a depth of 200mm below the depth required for the proposed foundation and service trenches. This was in order to preserve the legally protected archaeological remains within the scheduled area (MM155).

The agreed strategy as listed in sections 27 and 28 of Cadw's Schedule 1, Class 7 Advice was to use a supervised mechanical excavator in order to remove turf, topsoil and modern deposits. Any further archaeological evaluation would be conducted using hand tools.

A maximum of three trenches would be excavated within the footprint of the building. Trench 1, a C shaped trench would initially be excavated to determine the extent of ground disturbances adjacent to the house. If archaeological features or deposits were encountered a further L shaped (Trench 2) and linear trench located to the east of the proposed building (Trench 3) would be excavated (Fig. 4).

4.2 Evaluation Results

Trench 1 (figs 5, 6, 8, 9).

Trench 1 was located within the footprint of the proposed development as indicated on the developers plan. The trench was C shaped and with its longest axis located 3m east-northeast of the house's eastern wall. The long axis was 4.8m long, 0.8m wide and oriented north-northwest. Two further parts of the trench extended westwards from the northern and southern terminal of the long axis towards the house wall. These sections were 2.4m long and 0.8m wide (see fig. 5 and 6).

The machine initially began to excavate the south-western section and the 0.24m deep topsoil including the turf level was found to be a friable dark yellow-grey sandy silt with stones, pebbles and organic material (context 100). Modern ceramic sherds and glass fragments were also found within this deposit.

Underlying this deposit a 0.3 to 0.4m deep friable mid-yellow grey sandy silt was encountered (context 101). Although some charcoal flecks were observed within this deposit it was initially unclear if this deposit was an archaeological horizon, flood deposit or subsoil as no associated artefacts were encountered in the south-western section of trench 1. Further excavation of the deposit within the northern area encountered Iron slag, small brick fragments and domestic Roman pottery sherds. This confirmed the possibility that it was the uppermost archaeological horizon and the remainder was left in situ.

In the south-west corner of Trench 1 this deposit was found to overlie irregularly sized stone slabs laid out on a slight slope as if forming a rough floor surface (context 102). The possible stone slab floor surface continued into the southern section 0.60m below ground surface and ended in a discernable east to west aligned rough edge in the middle of the south-western section of trench 1 (see fig. 6). It is likely that further remains of the floor remains under deposits to the southwest, although drainage works associated with the 1980s house build may have disturbed the structure. Later Roman Black-burnished ware and Iron furnace slag was recovered in association with this floor suggesting that it may be part of a second to fourth-century industrial building. Following recording this surface was covered with geotextile. The slab floor (102) lay on a light yellowish, mottled sandy silt (103) with some stone. It is possible that this was a natural floodplain deposit but the context was left in situ and not excavated.

Trench 2 and 3 (figs. 7, 10)

Following consultation with Cadw trench 2 and 3, aligned parallel with trench 1 was opened by hand in order to preserve the integrity of the remainder of archaeological deposits. It became clear that the topsoil (100) was heavily disturbed as it contained modern debris from the 1980s house construction. It was also possible to see modern drainage pipe backfill deposits cut through the upper most archaeological horizon (101) visible in trench 1. Further consultation with Cadw resulted in a resumption of machine excavation down to this horizon (Fig. 7). Two rounded stones (maximum 0.2m diameter) were found at the northern junction of trench 1 and 2. These appeared to be sitting proud and embedded in the uppermost archaeological horizon although one was displaced during excavation. A small sherd of possible brick fragment or ceramic sherd was observed embedded in the surface of this horizon. This was left in situ. In the southern area of Trench 2 the archaeological horizons had been disturbed by back-fill associated with a modern drainage and sewer pipe (105). With the exception of a modern down-pipe drain visible at the northern end of trench 3 nothing else was observed within this area.

5. Phase 2: Watching Brief

5.1 Objectives and Strategy

Following the production of an interim report (Jones 2014) and discussions with the project architect and Cadw, further conditional Scheduled Monument Consent was granted for a Watching Brief and limited excavation to complete preparations for the rear extension (Harris 2014; Jones 2014; Mees 2014). This work included lowering the central island within the footprint of the building (Fig. 13) and the

excavation and connection of a new drainpipe into an existing drain at the southern end of trench 2. The machine was to be carried out using a toothless bucket under a Watching Brief. Any limited excavation to reveal an existing pipe would be undertaken by hand.

5.2. Watching Brief Results (figs. 14, 15)

The dimensions of the unexcavated island created within the footprint of the extension during the phase 1 evaluation was 3.2m by 1.70m (Fig. 13). This was lowered to the same level as that within trench 2 carefully using a small mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket (Fig. 14). One piece of iron slag was discovered within this deposit and but no features were disturbed or revealed.

In order to lower the area and reveal pipes between the house and the evaluation trenches further excavation was undertaken on the western side of trench 2. This included the demolition of the modern concrete slab pathway on the eastern end of the house and the excavation of modern deposits around the extant drainage pipes. The deposits around the drainpipes had initially been disturbed during the construction of the house and contained building waste material including polythene and polystyrene. Two modern plastic pipes were revealed at depths of 0.27m and 0.40m below ground level (Fig. 14). The upper pipe was sitting on a bed of stone chippings and modern brick fragments. The lower pipe appeared to sitting on top of the upper archaeological horizon. The proximity of the pipes meant that this was undertaken by hand excavation. No archaeological artefacts or features were revealed or disturbed during this process.

The concrete slab pathway on the eastern side of the house was removed by machine to the same depth as that already present within the foot print of the extension. The deposit under the concrete, which varied in depth along its length, consisted of modern building rubble, stone chippings acting as a stabilizing infill and lying on top of the disturbed horizon present within the remainder of the area. During this process a further six drainage pipes were located leading from the house and under the former concrete path. No archaeological deposits or features were located or disturbed during this process. It was decided that no further excavation would be needed around the lower pipe in the southern area of trench 2 and the modern pipe was redirected nearer to the house wall (Fig. 14). This precluded the need for further disturbance in this area.

The completed revealed footprint of the building at a uniform depth of 0.45m below ground level was 5.2m east to west by 5.2m north to south. The southern corridor containing the numerous pipes was 4.4m north to south by 1.7m east to west. The entire excavated surface was covered in geotextile and 0.10m of sand for protection beneath the extension's concrete foundation (Fig.15)

6. Finds Summary (figs. 11 and 12)

(Roman finds verified by Dr Peter Webster)

Trench 1:

Context 100 (topsoil)

Various assortment of modern nineteenth and twentieth-century material, including ceramic sherds, metal fragments and building waste material (to be verified).

Context 101 (upper archaeological horizon)

4 sherds of possible late first century or early second century Roman flagon with external white slip and interior reddish fabric, all 2.5mm thick (i. 35mm by 35mm; ii. 40mm by 35mm –max; iii. 22mm by 12mm; iv. 20mm by 15mm) (see Manning 1993, 317).

2 fragments of abraded brick (45mm by 15mm; 30mm by 20mm).

1 abraded rim sherd of second century South Wales Grey ware (25mm by max. 22mm) (Manning 1993, 233 ff.).

2 small pieces of iron slag (<25mm).

Context 102 (stone slab floor)

11 pieces of Iron furnace slag (the largest measuring 75mm by 55mm)

1 possible small sherd of Black-burnished ware (25mm by 18mm; 10mm thick)

1 sherd of third to fourth-century Black-burnished ware (max 45mm by 35mm and 3mm thick)

2 small fragments of brick (<15mm)

1 fragment of possible burnt brick

1 abraded fragment of brick (max 25mm by 25mm)

7. Discussion and Conclusions

The most significant archaeological feature encountered was the edge of a possible stone floor or path surface discovered at a depth of 0.6 to 0.8m below current ground surface. The edge of this feature, running east to west, appears to be located west of and at a right angle to the main fortress (north to south) road. The material associated with this surface indicated industrial iron making and domestic activity that post-dated the phase 1 pre-Flavian fortress (second to fourth century) and therefore in keeping with previous discoveries from this site (see above). It was not within the remit of this evaluation to excavate and describe the underlying deposit but it superficially resembled natural. The overlying context was approximately 0.3m deep and located 0.35 to 0.40 m below current ground level. It was provisionally interpreted as a possible flood deposit and contained some charcoal and second century domestic and industrial artefacts. This deposit constitutes the upper archaeological horizon and was left in-situ throughout most of Trench 1 and all of Trench 2 and 3. It was possible, however, to observe within Trench 2 and 3 that this deposit had been disturbed by building activity near the main house.

In conclusion this evaluation discovered undisturbed archaeological horizons survive in some areas 0.35 to 0.40m below the current ground surface although this depth varied. Structural Roman features such as the rough slab surface appear to be a depth of approximately 0.6m below ground surface. It was also possible to identify during the watching brief that the upper deposits overlying the structural remains have been partly disturbed by drainage features near the house walls. It is possible that further structural features may be present in southern and eastern areas below these deposits.

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The following sources were consulted during the preparation of this report:

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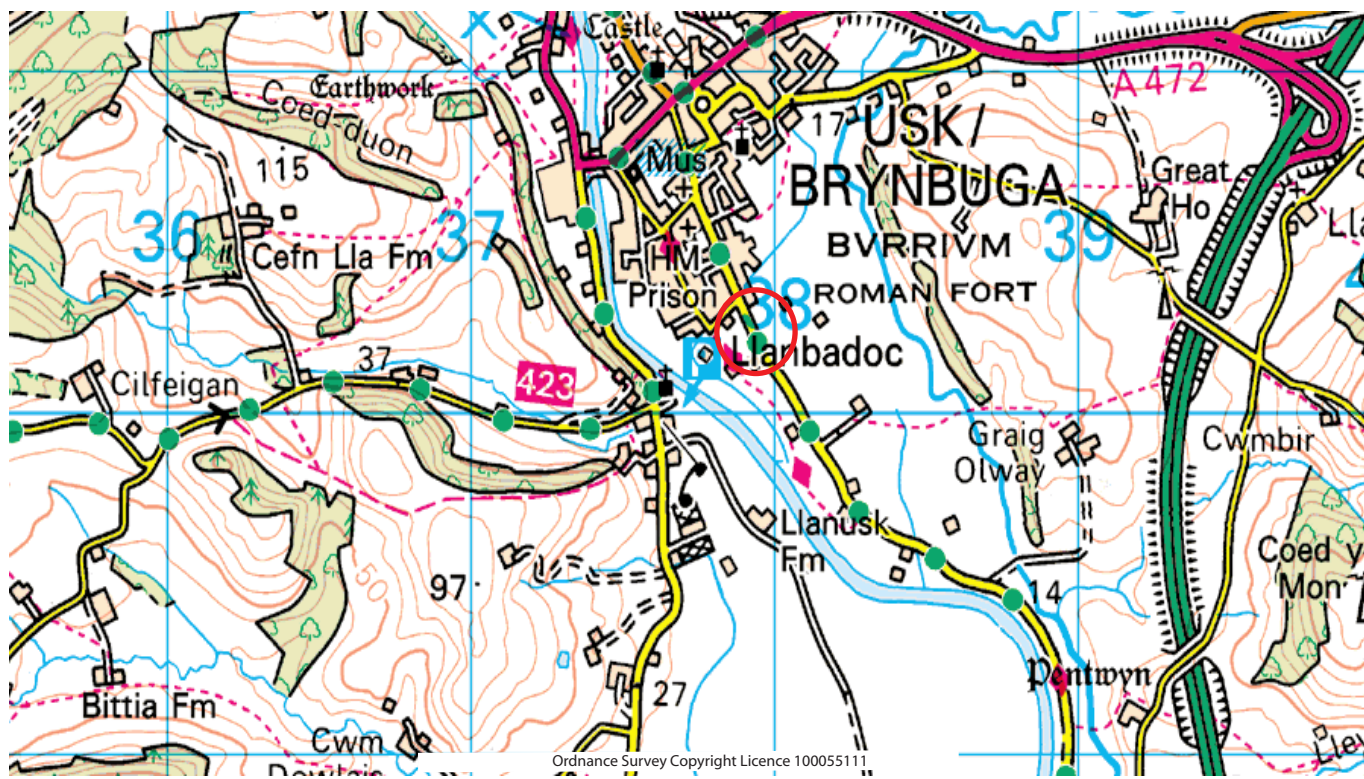
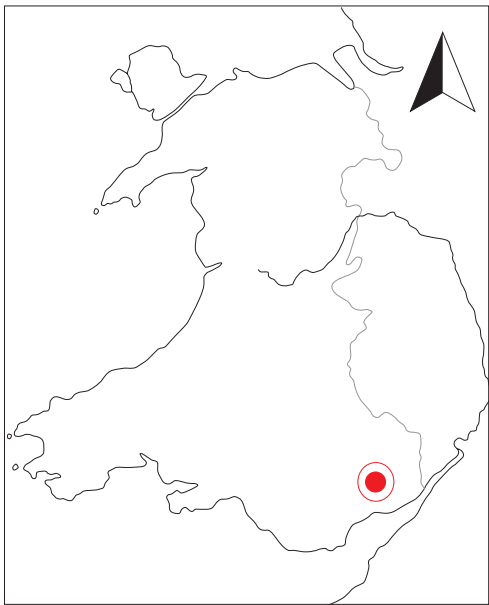
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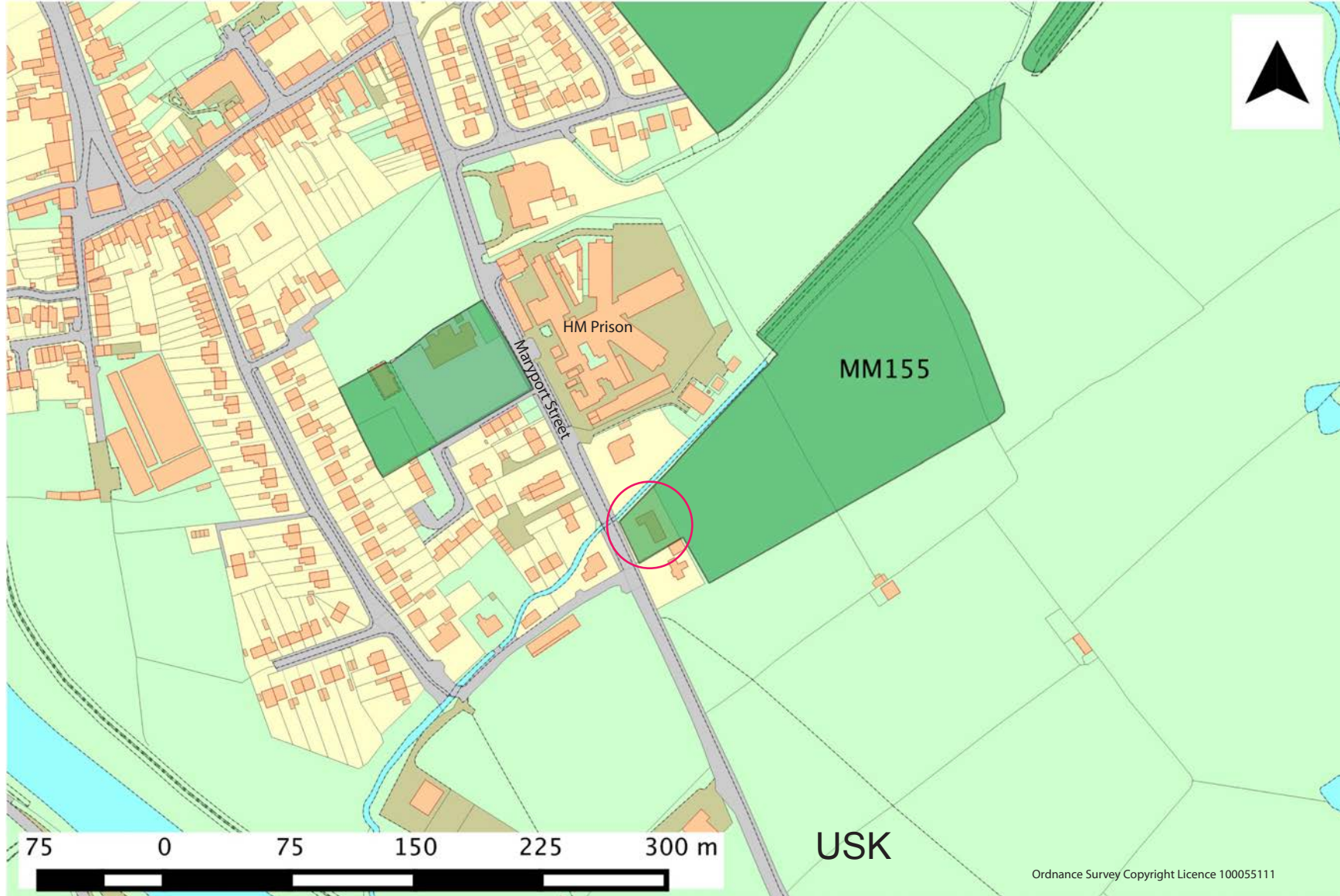
Mees, L. 2014. Application for Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent, proposed works at: Usk Roman Site (MM155). Annex A: Advice of Cadw's Regional Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Appended to Letter on Behalf of Welsh Government (13/06/2014)

Soilscapes viewer: <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes2/> (accessed 17/05/14)



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Fig. 1
Location of
site



Legend

- Boundary of SAM area MM155
- Site location


Fig.2
51 Maryport Street, Usk and scheduled area




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Legend

+ 0559g
PRNs referred to in the text


Fortress ditch section as indicated in geophysical survey


Projected line of Roman road


51, Maryport St excavation

Fig. 3
Map showing previous archaeological work

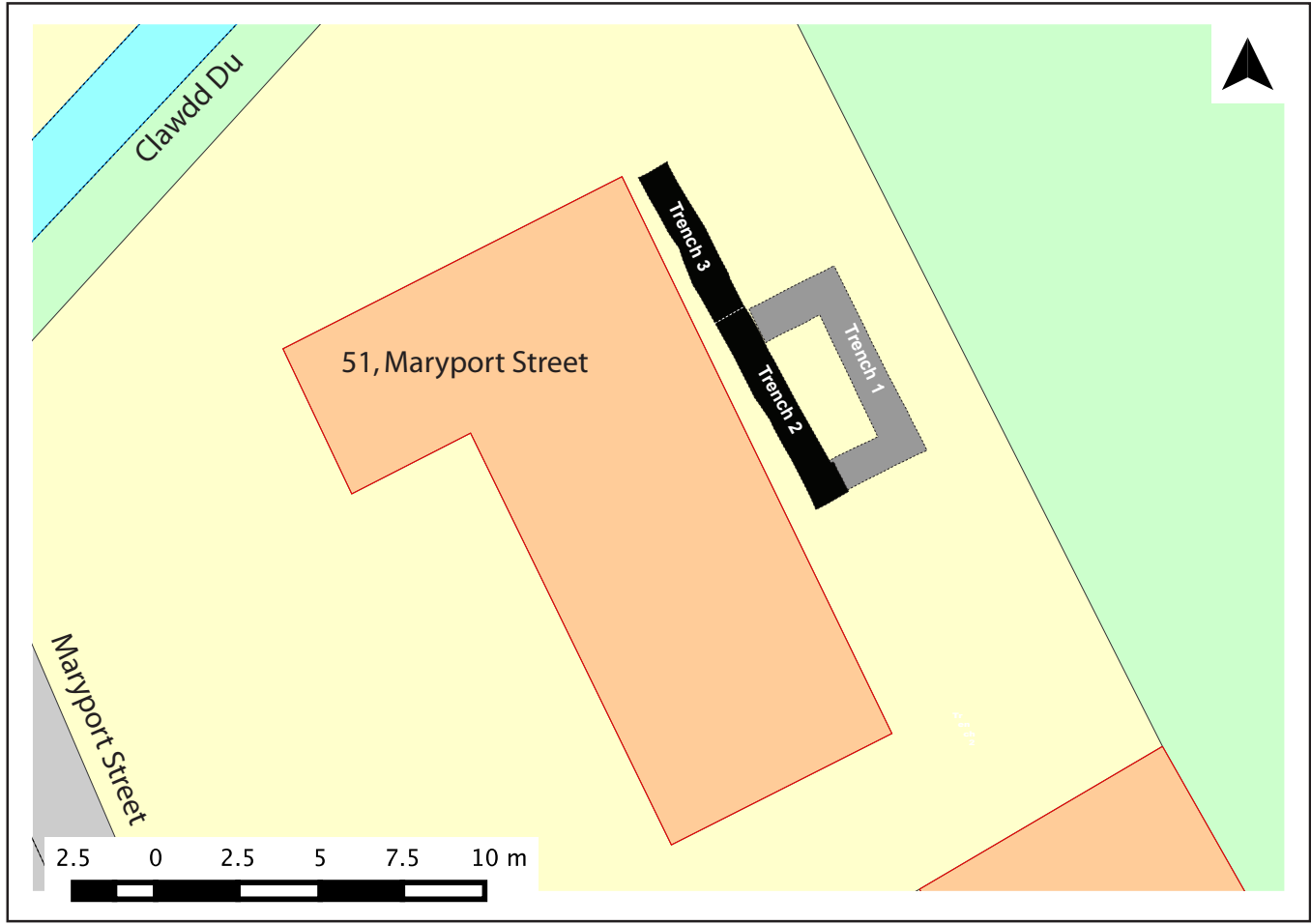
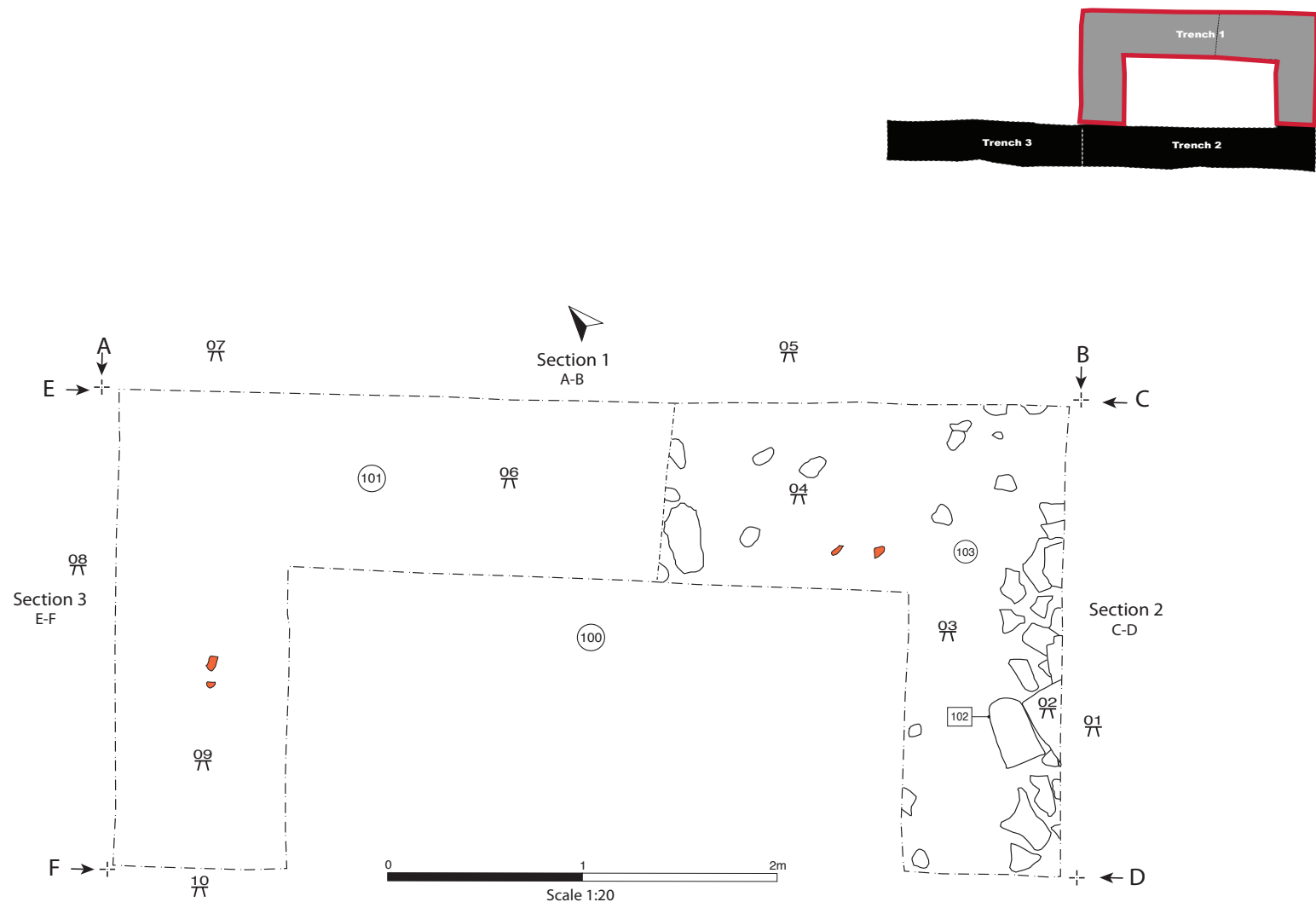


Fig. 4
Trench
location plan

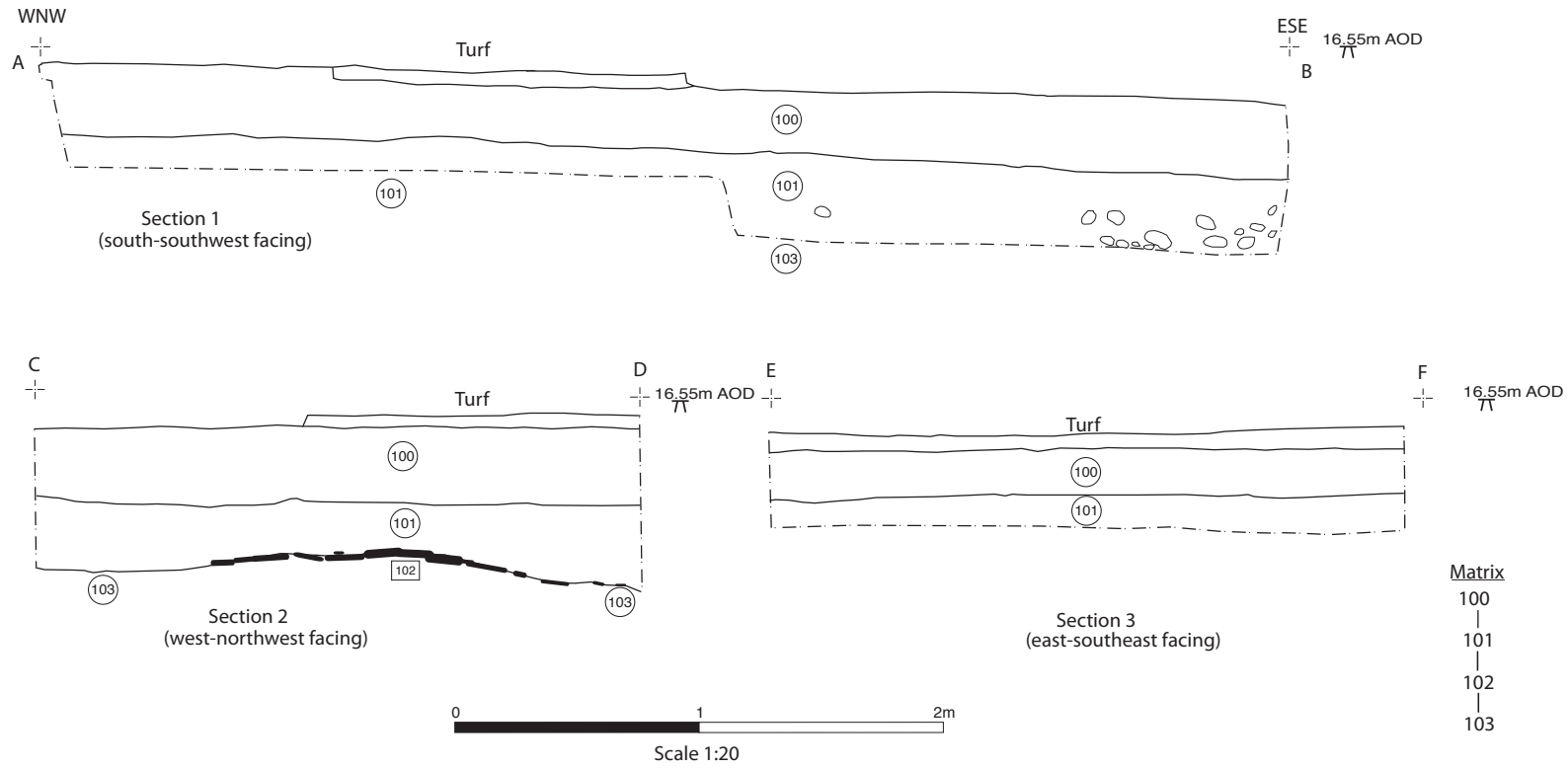


Level Identification Number

16.51m	16.38m	16.08m
15.87m	16.06m	16.49m
15.78m	16.51m	
15.82m	16.49m	Pottery sherds

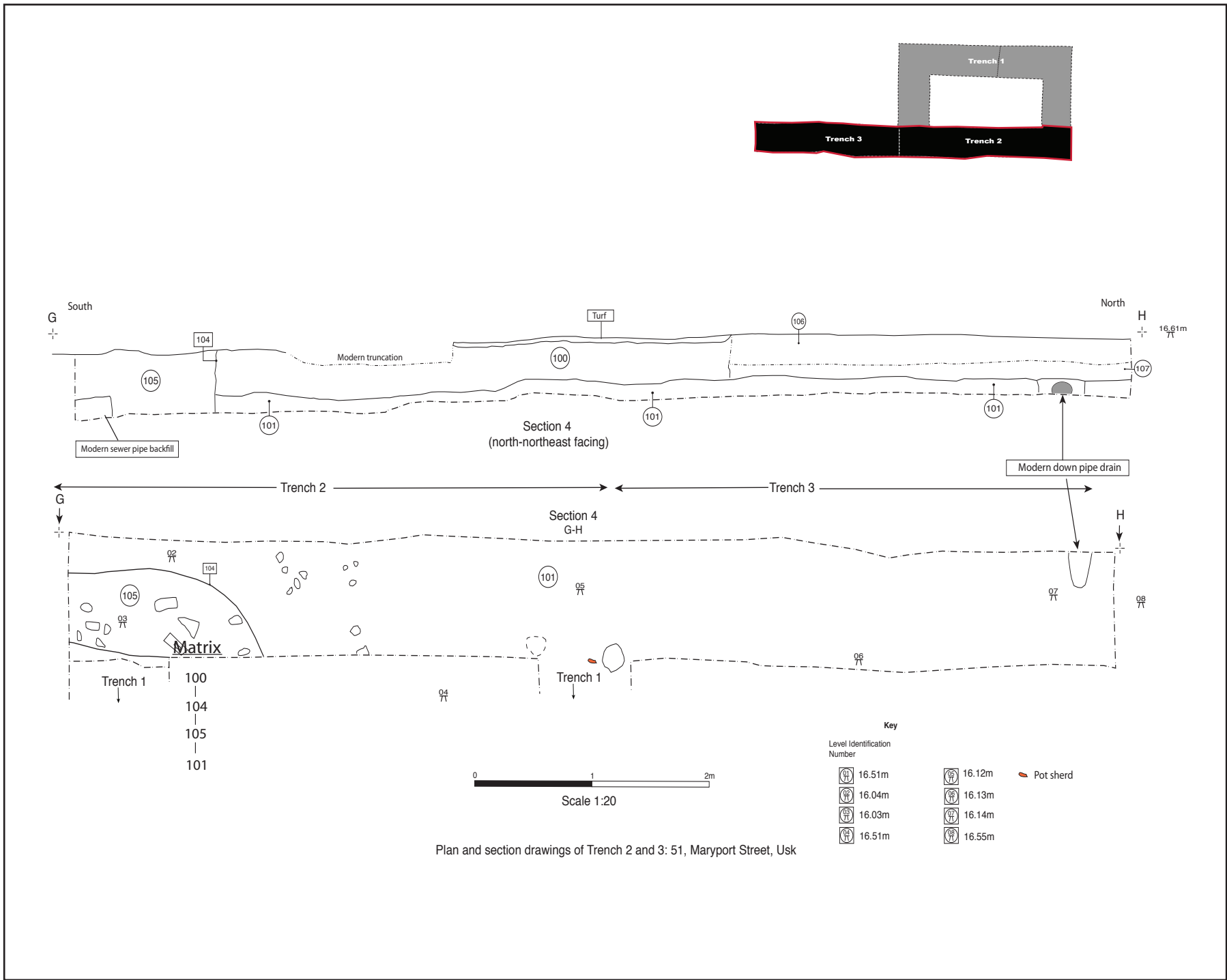
Plan of Trench 1 : 51, Maryport Street, Usk

Fig. 5
Plan of Trench 1



Section drawings, Trench 1:51, Maryport Street, Usk

Fig. 6
Trench 1 section
drawings



Plan and section drawings of Trench 2 and 3: 51, Maryport Street, Usk

Fig. 7
Plan and section drawings for Trench 2 and 3



Trench 1: Probable Roman stone surface (102)
(looking north-east)



Trench 1: Probable Roman stone surface (102)
(looking south-west)

Fig.8
Trench 1, stone
surface



Trench 1: west-southwest facing section



Trench 1: looking north-northwest



Trench 2 and 3: Looking north-northwest



Trench 2 and 3: Looking south-southeast

Fig. 10

Trench 2 and 3
images



A



B

Fig. 11 Sherds of Roman flagon (A - interior surface; B- exterior surface)



Iron Slag from Roman floor surface



Black-burnished ware sherd and fragment of possible brick from Roman floor surface



Remaining Island prior to Watching Brief (looking east)



Remaining Island prior to Watching Brief (looking north)

Fig. 13

Images prior to
Watching Brief



Fully excavated foundation trench and removed concrete path with redirected pipe. Roman surface under black geotextile middle left (looking south- east)



Fully excavated southern foundation trench under former concrete path with pipe work (looking south)

Fig. 15

Watching Brief images



Geotextile over foundation trench (looking east)



Sand cover over geotextile within foundation trench (looking south-east)

Fig. 15

Watching Brief
images

Archaeology *Wales*

APPENDIX I:

Written Scheme of Investigation 1

Evaluation

Archaeology Wales

SPECIFICATION

for an

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

at

51 Maryport Street, Usk

Prepared for:

Clive Bevan
Buckle Chamberlain Partnership Ltd

14th April 2014
Revised 2nd May 2014

Archaeology Wales Limited
Rhos Helyg, Cwm Belan, Llanidloes,
Powys, SY18 6QF
Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371
Web: www.arch-wales.co.uk

Summary

This Specification details the proposal for an Archaeological Field Evaluation at 51 Maryport Street, Usk, which lies within scheduled area MM155, Usk Roman Site. The Field Evaluation is to be undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of a rear extension to the property (Monmouthshire County Council planning application number DC/2013/00956). It has been prepared by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) for Buckle Chamberlain Partnership Ltd. on behalf of the applicant, Mrs Carol Lewis. The Field Evaluation will take place in accordance with the conditions attached to the Class 7 Consent issued by Cadw in respect of Mrs Lewis' application for scheduled monument consent.

The initial excavation of a trench, consisting of three sections measuring 3.5m, 5.0m and 1.5m is proposed. The 3.5m length will be cut as close as possible to the existing building so that the extent of existing ground disturbances in that area can be assessed. If archaeology survives, a further 'L' shaped trench will be cut, measuring 9.0m by 1.0m.

1. Introduction

The application area is located adjacent to 51 Maryport Street, Usk, within the scheduled area of Usk Roman site (MM155) (Figure 1).

A proposal to convert the assessment area from agricultural use to part of the domestic curtilage of the adjacent property has been submitted to Monmouthshire County Council (Planning Application Number DC/2013/00956).

Cadw have requested that a field evaluation take place within the area encompassed by the proposed change of use.

The site is located at 51 Maryport Street, Usk, NP15 1AF. Class 7 Consent for work on the scheduled area (MM155) has been granted by Cadw subject to a number of conditions (letter to Mrs Lewis from Mrs Denise Harris dated 4 April 2014).

This Specification has been prepared by Mark Houlston (MIfA) for Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of Clive Bevan of Buckle Chamberlain Partnership Ltd. It provides information on the methodology which will be employed by AW during the field evaluation.

The methodology set out in this Specification is to be agreed with Cadw prior to the start of any work on site.

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

2. The proposed development

The proposed works are to be located on the north side of the house, within the garden of the property, which is in the scheduled area. The applicant proposes to create a new foundation, projecting 5.175m NE of the existing NE elevation of the house, and measuring 4.715m in width. The SE corner of the garden room extension will be connected to the rear of the existing garage using a glazed linking

passage with its own foundation. The proposals include new drains and four mini access points, which will link into the existing foul drain.

Physical Impact: there is potential for the proposed works to cause disturbance to well-preserved and legally protected Roman archaeological remains within a monument of national importance. While parts of the SW half of the proposed garden room extension adjacent to the existing house have been disturbed by previous activity relating to the construction of the house and associated path and services, the extent of the disturbance and the depth and character of any underlying archaeology is unknown. The NE half of the proposed garden room extension appears to have been far less disturbed, although the northern corner may have been clipped by excavations by Welsh Water in advance of laying a water main in c. 1955.

3. Cadw Recommendations

A site meeting between Cadw's Senior Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Jonathan Berry, and the applicant and her architect was held on Wednesday 26 March 2014, after which the following recommendations were made. Archaeology Wales will work with Buckle Chamberlain Partnership Ltd and the applicant to ensure that these and all other requirements of the Class 7 consent are met:

'Class 7 consent be granted, subject to the following conditions:

1. That the applicant's architect provides detailed information concerning the dimensions of the proposed ground disturbance for the foundation and service trenches. Detailed plans and cross-section drawings should be submitted to Cadw to clearly demonstrate the extent of all proposed ground disturbance.
2. That prior to the works commencing Cadw will approve in writing the appointment of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeological contractor who must be a corporate member of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) to undertake an archaeological evaluation;
3. That prior to the works commencing Cadw will approve a written project design from the approved archaeologist, which will be presented in accordance with the IfA standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation;
4. That prior to the works commencing a minuted pre-works meeting shall be held with the applicant, his/her archaeological contractor, and Cadw's representative, Louise Mees (01443 336077) to finalise the details of the excavations. Minutes of the meeting shall be taken by the applicant and distributed within one week of the meeting having taken place;
5. That Cadw shall be given at least one weeks notice, in writing or by e-mail, of the date of the commencement of works or of any subsequent adjustment to this date, to allow Cadw's representatives to monitor on site activity;
6. That access to the site shall be afforded to representatives of Cadw;
7. That it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that relevant health and safety and risk assessments have been undertaken prior to works relating to this

SMC being undertaken to ensure that work is conducted in a safe manner and are completed by competent persons;

8. That all personnel working on site shall be aware of the scheduled status of the site, the constraints that this imposes and the conditions of this consent;

9. That the work to be undertaken shall follow and not exceed that applied for in the scheduled monument consent application sent to Cadw on 12 March 2014 and that any modification to the proposed work or the written project design shall require the written approval of Cadw, before it is undertaken;

10. That the excavation work will only take place when the approved archaeologist is present;

11. That any mechanical excavation of the trenches shall be limited to the removal of turf, topsoil and modern deposits that overlie the uppermost archaeological levels. The use of a mechanical excavator must be supervised by the approved archaeologist at all times. The archaeologist will indicate when the use of the mechanical excavator should cease;

12. That the applicant's archaeologist will undertake the archaeological evaluation using hand tools. The archaeologist will investigate whether there is intact archaeological evidence to a level 200mm below the levels required by the foundation and service trench designs. In the event that significant archaeological remains are encountered above the required levels, all excavation works on site shall cease, the archaeologist shall clean relevant sections / plans for inspection and Cadw's Inspector (Louise Mees, 01443 336077) shall be asked to inspect the works and provide advice accordingly;

13. That provision is made for archaeological recording to be undertaken where structures, deposits, finds or environmental samples are revealed in plan or in section and that the recording (including methodology, publication and archive strategies) shall follow that laid out in the relevant Standard and Guidance notes issued by the IfA;

14. That the applicant will make resource provision for the detailed recording, analysis, conservation, publication and archiving of any features of archaeological significance which are identified during the course of the work;

15. That the site must be left in a stable and tidy condition on completion of the works;

16. That Cadw shall be informed in writing immediately upon the completion of the works; and

17. That within three months of the completion of archaeological works on site the applicant shall submit a draft copy (preferably in PDF format) of the final evaluation report to Cadw for written comment and approval. The report must meet the relevant IfA standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation, and include photographs (before, during and after), together with specialist and finds reports as appropriate. The report shall describe the findings from the archaeological work on site and relate them where possible to previous investigations of the scheduled monument. Following Cadw's approval of the draft report, the applicant shall submit a copy of the final report in PDF digital

format and one paper copy to Cadw, the regional Historic Environment Record maintained by Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, Heathfield House, Heathfield, Swansea SA1 6EL and the National Monuments Record Wales held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Plas Crug, Aberystwyth SY23 1NJ.'

5. Aims & Objectives

The aims of the field evaluation are to assess the nature, date, quality, quantity, distribution and level of preservation of any archaeological remains present within the assessment area.

In particular, the work will 'investigate whether there is intact archaeological evidence to a level 200mm below the levels required by the foundation and service trench designs'. (Condition 12, Class 7 Consent, Cadw 26/03/2014).

In the event that significant archaeological remains are encountered above the required levels, all excavation on site will cease, the archaeologist will clean relevant sections, and a site meeting will be arranged with Cadw to inspect the discoveries.

The findings of the field evaluation may be used to inform planning/engineering decisions pertaining to the assessment area.

6. Evaluation Methodology

The evaluation trenches will be excavated sequentially in three Phases. Cadw's Inspector will inspect each trench and provide verbal consent for progress to the next phase. Excavation will cease and no further evaluation trenches will be investigated if, in Cadw's opinion, the evaluation objectives have been met.

Preliminary

The location of potential live services will be determined by examining plans obtained from the architect and manual scanning using an appropriate cable detection device.

Phase 1 (hatched in blue on the attached plan)

A trench consisting of three sections measuring 3.5m, 5.0m and 1.5m will be excavated. The 3.5m length will be cut as close as possible to the extant building so that the extent of existing ground disturbances in this area can be assessed.

Where possible, the trench will be positioned along the lines of proposed wall foundation trenches.

Phase 2 – provisional (hatched in red on the attached plan & within the footprint of the building)

If archaeology survives in the area located closest to the building (shaded yellow on the attached plan), in particular in the section crossed by the lines of the proposed surface water and foul water trenches, a further 'L' shaped trench, measuring 4.0m by 1.0m, will be cut within the footprint of the proposed building.

Where possible, the trench will be positioned along the lines of proposed wall foundation and service trenches.

Phase 3 – provisional (hatched in red on the attached plan & to the east of the footprint of the building)

If archaeology survives in the area located closest to the building (shaded yellow on the attached plan), in particular in the area of the Phase 2 trench, a further trench, measuring 4.0m, will be cut to the east of the footprint of the proposed building.

Where possible, the trench will be positioned along the line of the proposed service trenches.

Evaluation

Initially, the trenches will be excavated using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching blade approximately 1.0m wide. All modern overburden and non-archaeological subsoils will be removed down to the level of the first recognisable archaeological horizon or to a level 200mm below the levels required by the foundation and service trench designs.

Thereafter, the sides and bases of the trenches, and any exposed archaeological deposits, will be cleaned manually. No archaeological deposits will be excavated unless authorised by Cadw.

Contingency Arrangements

In the event of significant archaeological features being discovered, all activities in the surrounding area of the site will be temporarily suspended. This will allow a period of consultation with the client, Cadw and Monmouthshire County Council and, if required, the opinions of specialists to be sought.

Following such consultation, recommendations will be presented to the client and Cadw.

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 and related to the developer's site plan. The location of all features will also be recorded using a Topcon GTS725 total station.

Photographs will be taken in digital format, using a 14MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format. Should significant remains be identified that require excavation, photographs will also be taken in black and white and colour slide (35mm film).

Artefacts

Archaeological artefacts recovered during the course of the field evaluation will be cleaned and labelled using an accession number, which will be obtained from the local museum. A single number sequence will be allocated to all finds. The artefacts will be stored appropriately until they are deposited with a suitable local museum.

All finds of gold and silver will be removed to a safe place, and Cadw and the local coroner will be informed, following the guidelines of the Treasure Act 1996.

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

Human Remains

In the event of burials or cremations being found, all work will be halted in the area of the burials and their extent and nature established. The client, Cadw and the Ministry of Justice will be informed and a methodology of excavation agreed which will adhere to Ministry of Justice Guidelines.

Environmental and Technological Samples

Archaeological contexts will be sampled as required for environmental remains, industrial waste and small-sized artefacts when significant deposits are located. Technological samples will be taken where necessary when significant deposits are located.

Specialists

In the event of certain finds/features etc. being discovered, the site archaeologist may have to seek specialist opinion for assistance. Such specialists will be accessed either internally within AW itself or from an external source. A list of specialists is given in the table below.

Type	Name	Tel No.
Flint	Amelia Pannett	02920 899509
Animal bone	Jen Kitch	07739 093712
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall	01305 259751
Clay pipe	Hilary Major	01376 329316
Glass	Andy Richmond	01234 888800
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst	01759 368483
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy	01652 658261
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson	Bradford University
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby	01453 882851
Post Roman pottery	Mr Stephen Clarke	
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot	01388 772167
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling	University of Wales (Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham	01992 552256
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers	01443 233466

7. Post-Fieldwork Programme

Conservation

After agreement with the landowner arrangements will be made for the long term conservation and storage of all artefacts in an appropriate local or county museum.

Archive

The site archive will be prepared in accordance with *Management of Research*

Projects in the Historic Environment (English Heritage 2006). It will comprise all the data recovered during the fieldwork and shall be quantified, ordered and indexed and will be internally consistent. The archive will be deposited with the finds in a suitable local museum.

Reporting

The results of the archaeological work will be submitted in an illustrated and bound report, which will include the following material:

- Non-technical summary
- Plan showing the trench locations, all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings 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
- Statement of local, regional and national context of the remains
- 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.

Monitoring

Any changes to the specification that the contractor may wish to make after approval will be communicated to Cadw for approval on behalf of the client.

Representatives of Cadw will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the field evaluation. Cadw will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during any potential post-excavation.

Archive Format & Deposition

The full site archive will be deposited within one month of the completion of the client report.

The paper/drawing/digital archive will be deposited at the offices of RCAHMW. The finds will be deposited with the appropriate local museum. AW will agree the location and timing of the deposition of the archive before the contract commences.

The archive will include all site notes, finds, documents, drawings, photographs, digital data and a copy of the final report and any prior draft versions. All of these items will be clearly quantified in tabular form in an 'archive deposition statement' located at the rear of the clients report, and their ultimate location and proposed date of deposition stated.

8. Resources and Timetable

Standards

The field evaluation will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice.

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidelines of the IFA.

Staff

The project will be managed by Iestyn Jones and supervised by Ian Davies.

Equipment

The project will use existing AW equipment.

Timetable of Archaeological Works

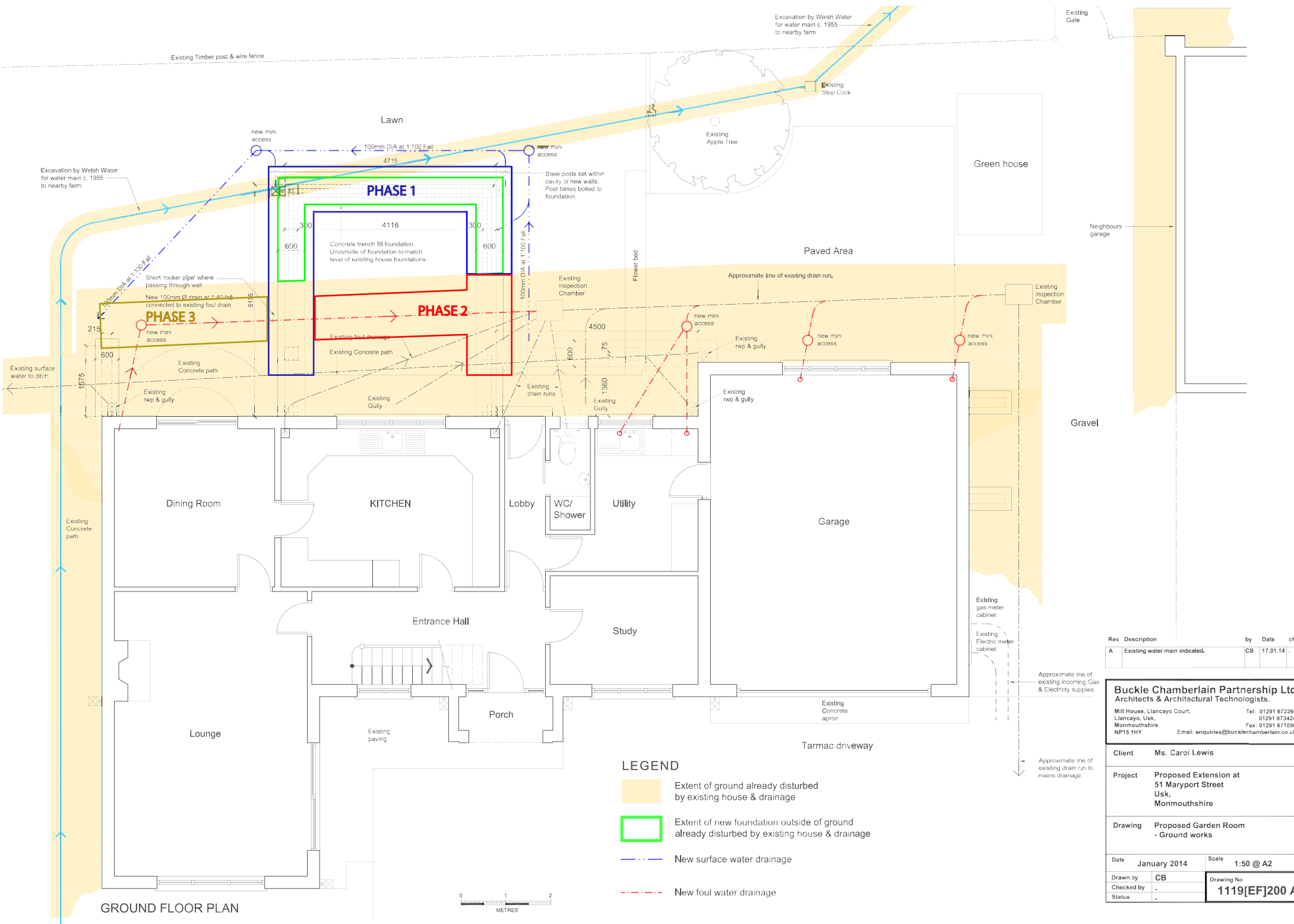
No start date has yet been agreed though works will be undertaken at the convenience of the client.

Insurance

AW is an affiliated member of the CBA, and holds Insurance through the CBA insurance service.

Health and Safety

All members of staff will adhere to the requirements of the *Health & Safety at Work Act, 1974*, and the Health and Safety Policy Statement of AW.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

LEGEND

- Extent of ground already disturbed by existing house & drainage
- Extent of new foundation outside of ground already disturbed by existing house & drainage
- New surface water drainage
- New foul water drainage

Rev	Description	by	Date	chkd
A	Existing water main indicated.	CB	17.01.14	

Buckle Chamberlain Partnership Ltd.
 Architects & Architectural Technologists.
 Mill House, Llanccayo Court,
 Llanccayo, Usk,
 Monmouthshire
 NP15 1HY
 Tel: 01291 672264
 01291 673424
 Fax: 01291 671050
 Email: enquiries@bucktechamberlain.co.uk

Client Ms. Carol Lewis

Project Proposed Extension at 51 Maryport Street Usk, Monmouthshire

Drawing Proposed Garden Room - Ground works

Date January 2014 **Scale** 1:50 @ A2

Drawn by CB **Drawing No** 1119[EF]200 A
Checked by .
Status .

Archaeology

Wales

APPENDIX I:

Written Scheme of Investigation 2

Watching Brief and Limited Excavation

Archaeology Wales

SPECIFICATION

FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AND LIMITED ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

AT

51, Maryport Street, Usk, Gwent

Prepared for:

Mrs C Lewis,
51 Maryport St,
Usk
NP15 1AF

27th June 2014

Archaeology Wales Limited
Rhos Helyg, Cwm Belan, Llanidloes,
Powys, SY18 6QF
Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371
Email: chris@arch-wales.co.uk

NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This Specification details the proposal for an archaeological Watching Brief and limited archaeological excavation during groundworks associated with the construction of a new extension to the north of 51 Maryport Street. 51 Maryport Street lies within scheduled area MM155, Usk Roman Site. The Watching Brief and limited archaeological excavation is to be undertaken, following an Evaluation carried out by Archaeology Wales, in May 2014, in advance of the proposed construction of a rear extension to the property (Monmouthshire County Council planning application number DC/2013/00956). It has been prepared by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) for the applicant, Mrs Carol Lewis. The Watching Brief and limited archaeological excavation will take place in accordance with the conditions attached to the Class 7 Consent issued by Cadw in respect of Mrs Lewis' application for scheduled monument consent. This specification has been prepared by Dr Iestyn Jones, Project Officer, Archaeology Wales.

1. Introduction and archaeological background

In April 2014 Archaeology Wales was commissioned by Mrs Carol Lewis (the Client) to carry out an archaeological evaluation at the rear of 51, Maryport Street, Usk (NGR: SO 37911 00349; fig. 1) The client had gained conditional planning permission for constructing a single storey rear extension from Monmouthshire County Council (Planning Reference: DC/2013/00956) but awaited Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent as the site was within the boundary of Usk Roman Site, a protected Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM: MM155; fig. 2). Permission for an archaeological evaluation was granted under Section 3 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 in order to determine the outcome of the monument consent application dated 17th of January 2014.

The archaeological evaluation's main objectives were to assess the nature, date, quality, quantity, distribution and level of any archaeological horizons or features within the footprint of the proposed single storey extension. If significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered, following recording, work would cease at the uppermost archaeological horizon.

This evaluation, carried out in May 2014 by Archaeology Wales, identified the depth of upper archaeological deposits some 0.40m below ground level and during the excavation uncovered a floor surface and artefacts associated with a possible Roman roadside industrial building (Jones 2014). Once identified, these deposits and features were recorded and protected.

Following Scheduled Monument Consent (Harris 2014; Mees 2014) further work to be conducted under a Watching Brief and limited archaeological excavation is to include the lowering of the central island left during the evaluation to the top of the upper archaeological horizon, as left in situ in trench 2 and 3, and the excavation and connection of a new drain into an existing drain at the southern end of trench 2 (see figs. 3 and 4).

This Specification has been prepared by Dr Iestyn Jones, Project Officer, Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW). It provides information on the methodology which will be employed by AW during the archaeological watching brief and limited archaeological excavation at the site.

The methodology set out in this Specification has been agreed with Louise Mees, Cadw's Regional Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Archaeology (South-East Wales). Cadw has specified as a condition of SMC that a watching brief and limited archaeological excavation is carried out during additional groundworks due to be carried out on the site.

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

2 Site specific objectives

The aims of a 'watching brief', as defined by the IfA (2008; revised 2011) are:

- To allow a rapid investigation and recording of any archaeological features that are uncovered during the proposed groundworks within the application area.
- To provide the opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties 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.

3 Watching Brief and Limited Archaeological Excavation Methodology

General

The archaeological watching brief and limited archaeological excavation will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice.

All work will be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist approved in advance by Cadw and will follow the IfA Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (2008; revised 2011).

Detailed

The mechanical excavation of the turf and topsoil will be undertaken by a machine using a toothless bucket. This will be supervised and watched by the site archaeologist. The mechanical excavation will cease at the top of the upper archaeological horizon as identified in the Evaluation (Jones 2014) and left in situ in trenches 2 and 3 and the northern half of trench 1.

Following removal of topsoil, by machine excavator, any existing drain section below this deposit and any deposits underlying it will be carefully hand excavated by the on-site archaeologist. This is to minimise the physical impact on the monument.

If archaeological features, finds or deposits are uncovered, work will be stopped in the area of the exposed feature in order that the supervising archaeologist can clean and

identify the extent and nature of the feature and for excavation and recording to take place. Cadw will be informed of this process.

All archaeological deposits that are identified will be mapped, cleaned, recorded and fully excavated. The developer will provide a safe working area and sufficient time to record and excavate all features to the satisfaction of AW and Cadw.

Contingency Arrangements

In the event of significant archaeological features being discovered all activities in this area of the site can be temporarily suspended. The site archaeologist will clean relevant sections/plans for inspection by Cadw who will provide advice before further action is taken.

Following such consultation, recommendations will be presented to the Developer and Cadw.

The methodology and timescale of additional archaeological work to investigate such features will be presented and included in the Developers Programme.

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 and related to the developer's site plan.

Photographs will be taken in digital format, using a 14MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format. Should significant remains be identified that require excavation, photographs will also be taken in black and white and colour slide (35mm film).

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

Artefacts

Archaeological artefacts recovered during the course of the watching brief and limited archaeological excavation will be cleaned and labelled using an accession number, which will be obtained from the local museum. A single number sequence will be allocated to all finds. The artefacts will be stored appropriately until they are deposited with a suitable local museum.

All finds of gold and silver will be removed to a safe place and the Environment Agency, Cadw and the local coroner informed, within the guidelines of the Treasure Act 1996.

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

Human remains

In the event of burials or cremations being found all work will be halted in the area of the burials and their extent and nature established. The client, Cadw and the Ministry of Justice will be informed and a methodology of excavation agreed which will adhere to Ministry of Justice Guidelines and undertaken following the receipt of a M.O.J. exhumation licence.

Environmental and technological samples

Environmental samples will be taken where necessary when significant deposits are located. Technological samples will be taken where necessary when significant deposits are located.

Specialists

In the event of certain finds/features etc. being discovered, the site archaeologist may have to seek specialist opinion for assistance. Such specialists will be accessed either internally within AW itself or from an external source. A list of external specialists is given in the table below.

Type	Name	Tel No.
Flint	Dr Amelia Pannett	02920 899509
Animal bone	Jen Kitch	07739 093712
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall	01305 259751
Clay pipe	Hilary Major	01376 329316
Glass	Andy Richmond	01234 888800
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst	01759 368483
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy	01652 658261
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson	Bradford University
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby	01453 882851
Post Roman pottery	Mr Stephen Clarke	
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot	01388 772167
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling	University of Wales (Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham	01992 552256
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers	01443 233466

4 Post-Fieldwork Programme

Conservation

After agreement with the landowner arrangements will be made for the long term conservation and storage of all artefacts in an appropriate local or county museum.

Archive

The site archive will be prepared in accordance with MORPHE, (English Heritage 2006). It will comprise all the data recovered during the fieldwork and shall be quantified, ordered and indexed and will be internally consistent. The archive will be deposited with the finds in a suitable local museum.

Reporting

The results of the watching brief will be submitted in an illustrated and bound report, which will include the following material:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the watching brief, all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings 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
- Statement of local, regional and national context of the remains
- 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.

Monitoring

Any changes to the specification that the contractor may wish to make after approval will be communicated to Cadw for approval.

Representatives of Cadw will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the watching brief. Cadw will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during any potential post-excavation.

Archive Format & Deposition

The full site archive will be deposited within one month of the completion of the client report.

The paper/drawing/digital archive will be deposited at the NMR with the finds will be deposited with the appropriate local museum. AW will agree the location and timing of the deposition of the archive before the contract commences.

The archive will include all site notes, finds, documents, drawings, photographs, digital data and a copy of the final report and any prior draft versions. All of these items will be clearly quantified in tabular form in an 'archive deposition statement' located at the rear of the clients report, and their ultimate location and proposed date of deposition stated.

5 Resources and timetable

Standards

The watching brief will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice.

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidelines of the IFA.

Staff

The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified AW staff approved in advance by Cadw.

Equipment

The project will use existing AW equipment.

Timetable of archaeological works

The watching brief and limited archaeological excavation will be undertaken at the convenience of the client. No start date has yet been set.

Insurance

AW is an affiliated member of the CBA, and holds Insurance through the CBA insurance service.

Health and safety

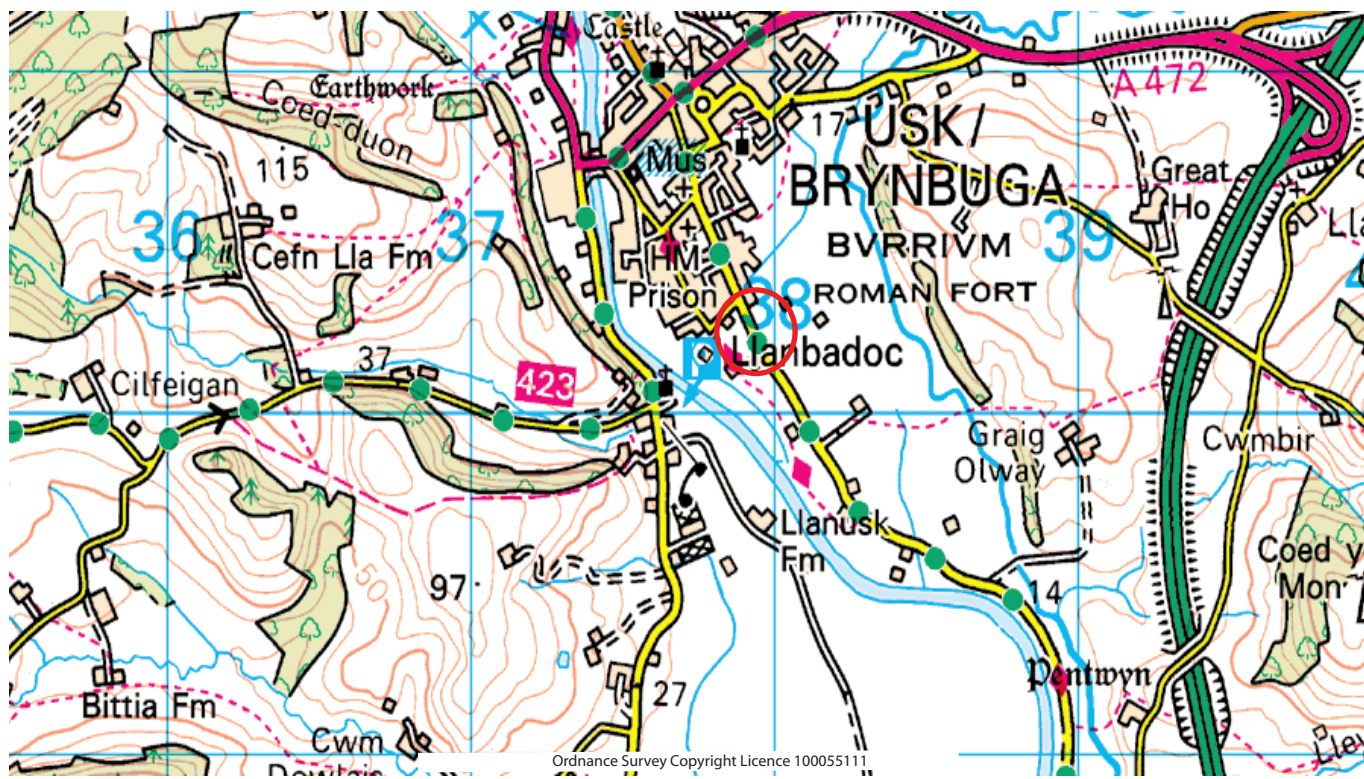
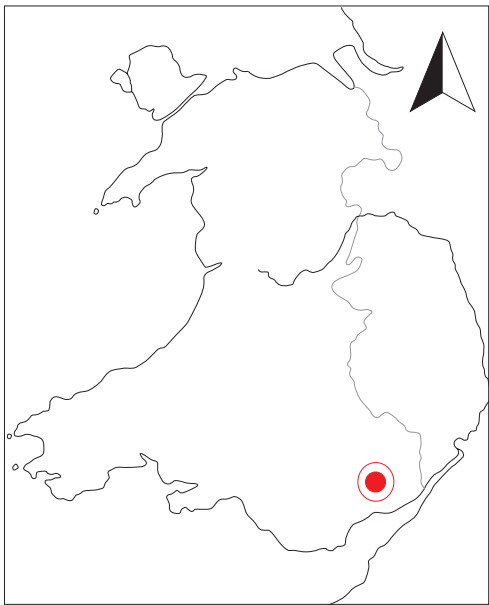
All members of staff will adhere to the requirements of the *Health & Safety at Work Act*, 1974, and the Health and Safety Policy Statement of AW.

Bibliography

Harris, D. 2014. Ancient Mounuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 Section 2 and Schedule 1 Application for Scheduled Monument Consent Proposed Works at: Usk Roman Site (MM155) (17/05/2014)

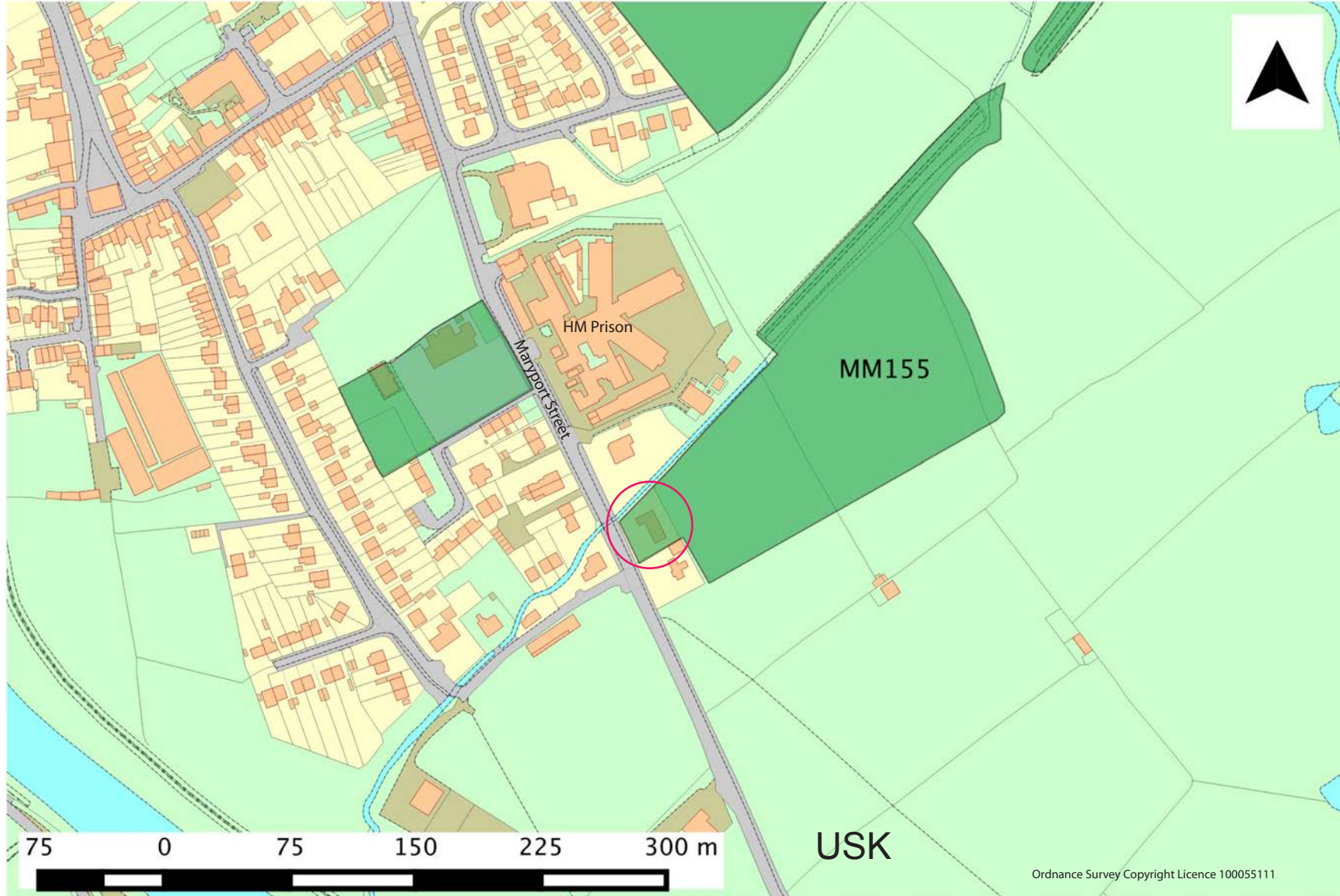
Jones, I. 2014. 51, Maryport Street, Usk: Archaeological Evaluation Interim Report. Archaeology Wales Report No. 1228.

Mees, L. 2014. Application for Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent, proposed works at: Usk Roman Site (MM155). Annex A: Advice of Cadw's Regional Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Appended to Letter on Behalf of Welsh Government (13/06/2014)



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Fig. 1
Location of
site



Legend

- Boundary of SAM area MM155
- Site location

Fig.2
51 Maryport Street, Usk and scheduled area

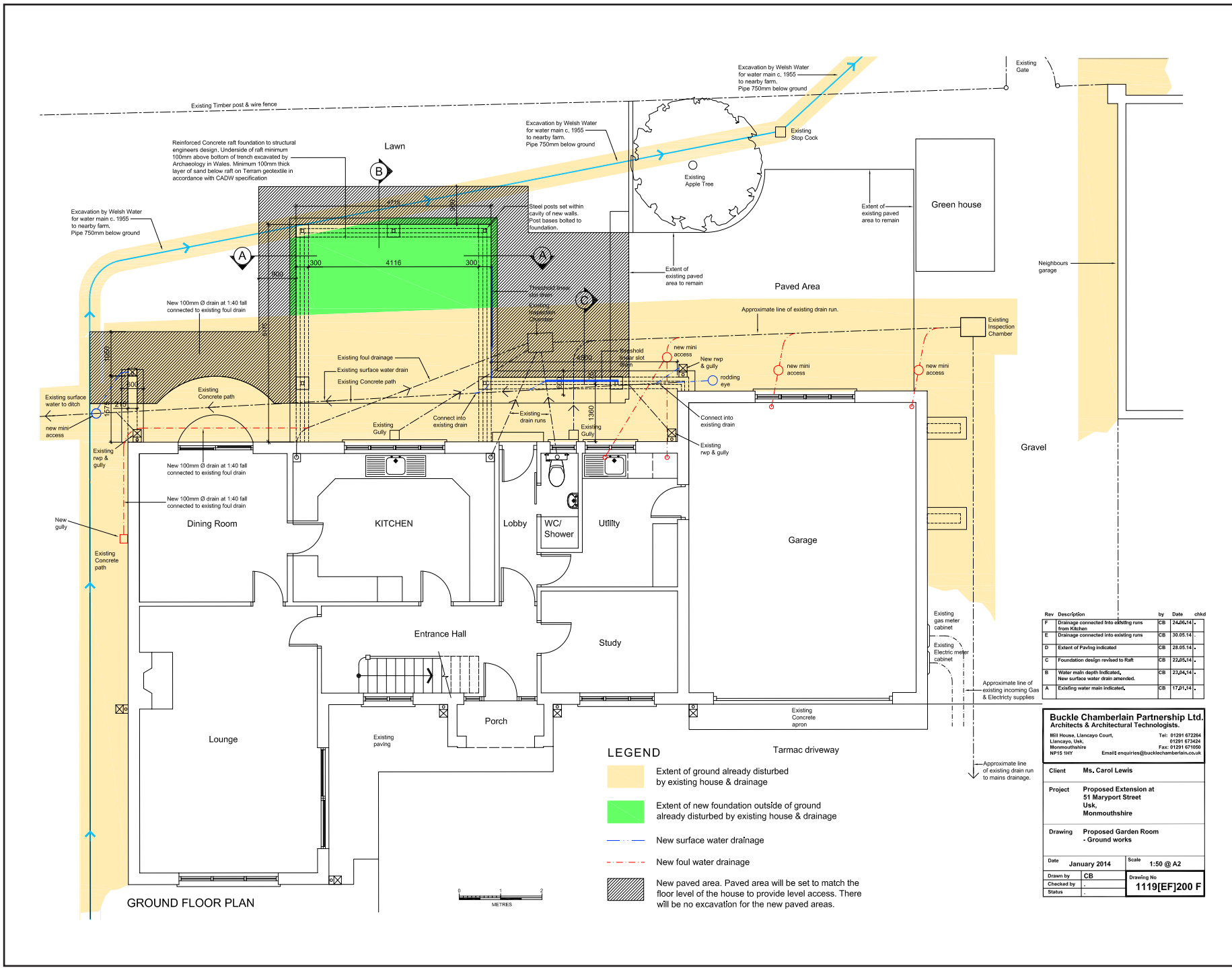


Fig. 3
Architects plan

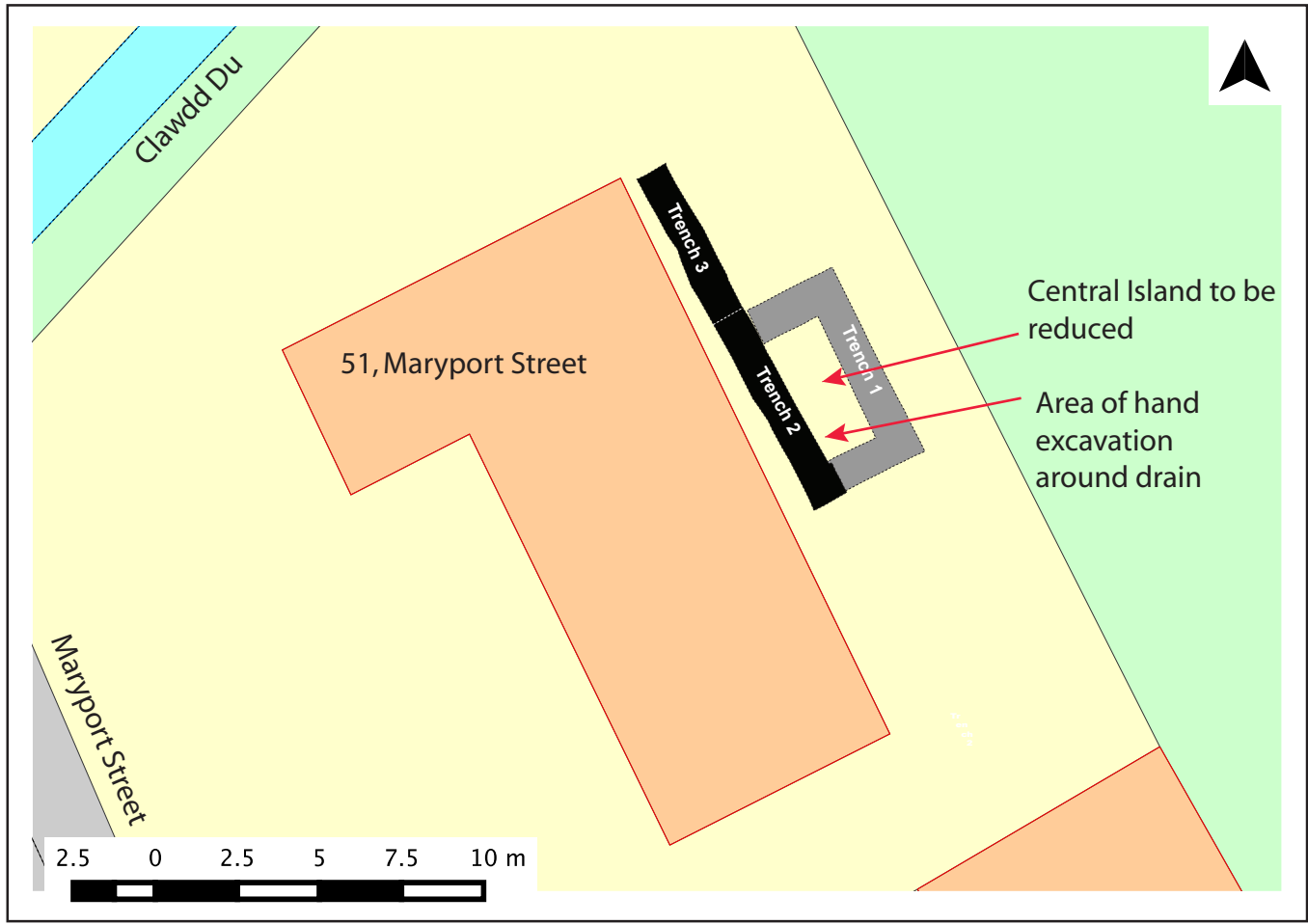


Fig. 4
Watching Brief
focus areas

Archaeology Wales



Archaeology Wales Limited

Rhos Helyg, Cwm Belan, Llanidloes, Powys SY18 6QF

Tel: +44 (0) 1686 440371

Email: admin@arch-wales.co.uk

Company Directors: Mark Houlston MIFA & Jill Houlston
Company Registered No. 7440770 (England & Wales).
Registered office: Morgan Griffiths LLP, Cross Chambers,
9 High Street, Newtown, Powys, SY16 2NY