

CPAT Report No. 1842


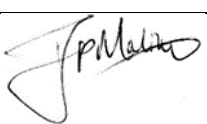
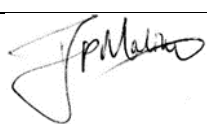
Former Travis Perkins Yard, New Road, Newtown, Powys

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS
CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Client name: Mid Wales Property Developments
 CPAT Project No: 2592
 Project Name: Travis Perkins, Newtown
 Grid Reference: SO 10878 91321
 County/LPA: Powys
 Planning Application: 21/1961/FUL
 CPAT Report No: 1842
 HER Enquiry No: N/A
 Event PRN: 140394
 Report status: Final
 Confidential until 11/01/2023

Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:
		
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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust on the site formerly occupied by the Travis Perkins builders yard, New Road, Newtown, Powys (NGR SO 10878 91321) in November 2021. The work was undertaken in connection with a planning application (No 21/1961/FUL) for the construction of a residential development on the site on behalf of Mid Wales Property Developments. The work involved the archaeological excavation of two trenches on land at the rear of the plot, and was required by the planning authority as information held within the Historic Environment Record had indicated the potential for a section of the Roman Road from Forden to Caersws to survive in this part of the Development Site.

No evidence for the Roman road was found within the trenches, with the natural subsoil being overlain by clay subsoil and a deposit of black cultivation soil containing material of 19th-century date. It therefore appeared that the Roman road either lay outside the area that was evaluated or that all traces of it had been removed by subsequent activity.

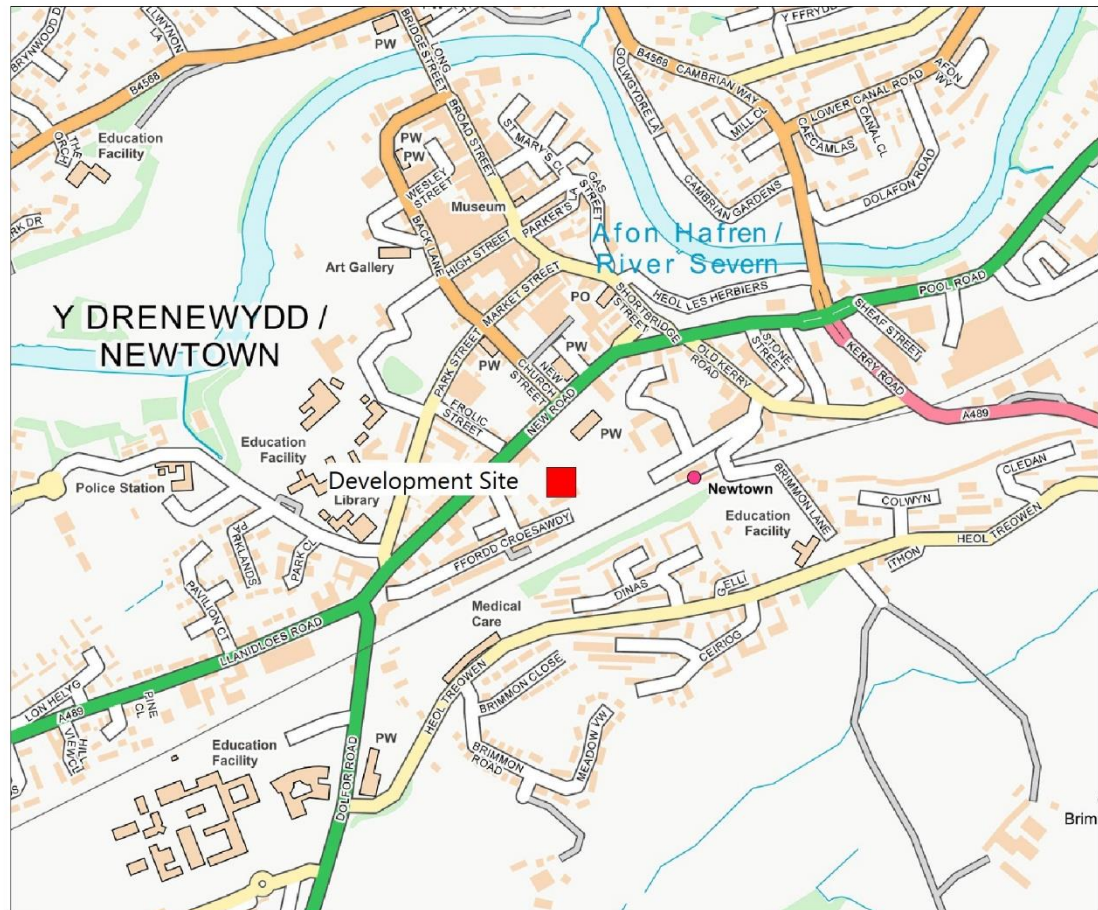
Crynodeb

Bu Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys yn cynnal gwerthusiad archaeolegol ar safle oedd unwaith yn iard adeiladwyr Travis Perkins, Ffordd Newydd, Y Drenewydd, Powys (Rhif Grid Cenedlaethol SO 10878 91321) fis Tachwedd 2021. Ymgwymerwyd â'r gwaith mewn cysylltiad â chais cynllunio (Rhif 21/1961/FUL) ar gyfer adeiladu datblygiad preswyl ar y safle ar ran cwmni datblygu Mid Wales Property. Roedd y gwaith yn galw am waith cloddio archaeolegol mewn dwy rych ar dir y tu cefn i'r llain, ac roedd yr awdurdod cynllunio wedi gofyn am hyn gan fod y wybodaeth yn y Cofnod Amgylchedd Hanesyddol wedi awgrymu ei bod yn bosibl bod adran o'r ffordd Rufeinig o Ffordun i Gaersws wedi goroesi yn y rhan hon o'r Safle Datblygu.

Ni ddatgelwyd unrhyw dystiolaeth o'r ffordd Rufeinig o fewn y rhychau, gydag is-bridd clai wedi gorchuddio'r is-bridd naturiol a dyddodion pridd aredig du yn cynnwys deunydd yn dyddio o'r 19^{eg} ganrif. Felly roedd yn ymddangos bod y ffordd Rufeinig naill ai y tu allan i'r ardal a werthuswyd neu fod gweithgarwch diweddarach wedi cael gwared ag unrhyw olion.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust was engaged by Mid Wales Property Developments, of Newtown in Powys, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in connection with a planning application (No 21/1961/FUL) for the construction of a residential development on the site of the former Travis Perkins yard off New Road in Newtown, Powys (NGR SO 10878 91321: SY16 1AS).



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Fig. 1: Location of the Development Site

- 1.2. Mark Walters, acting in his role as the archaeological advisor to Powys County Council, had commented on the application to note that information held within the Historic Environment Record indicated the potential for a section of the Roman Road between the forts at Forden and Caersws to survive at the south-eastern end of the Development Site. It was accordingly thought that any surviving remains could be impacted by the construction of new dwellings and any ground reduction works that might be required in that area. Lack of knowledge about the condition of possible remains on this plot meant that in order to make a balanced decision on the application, the advisor had requested an archaeological evaluation be carried out before the application was determined.
- 1.3. The purpose of evaluation is to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of

preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit, leading to one or more of the following:

- the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource
- the formulation of a strategy to mitigate a threat to the archaeological resource
- the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research

1.4. The evaluation was carried out at the end of November 2021 and this report written in January 2022.

2 Archaeological Background

2.1. This section provides a summary of what is known about the Roman road through Newtown and largely follows the work done by Jones and Grant (et al) 2013.

2.2. The road, recorded as RR64, follows the south bank of the river heading south-west from Forden Gaer, through the village of Abermule, and is then assumed to lie beneath the modern road as it approaches the outskirts of Newtown. The continuing expansion of Newtown has removed visible signs of its line, until it reappears briefly near Glanhafren on the western fringes of the town. The best-preserved length is that approaching Caersws, where the road survives as a pronounced bank (or *agger*), the line of which runs beneath Maesmawr Hall and is then cut by the River Severn. The exact crossing point of the river cannot now be deduced as the meandering course of the Severn has scoured this section of the floodplain and the road is lost again until it approaches the south gate of the later fort at Caersws (Fig. 2).

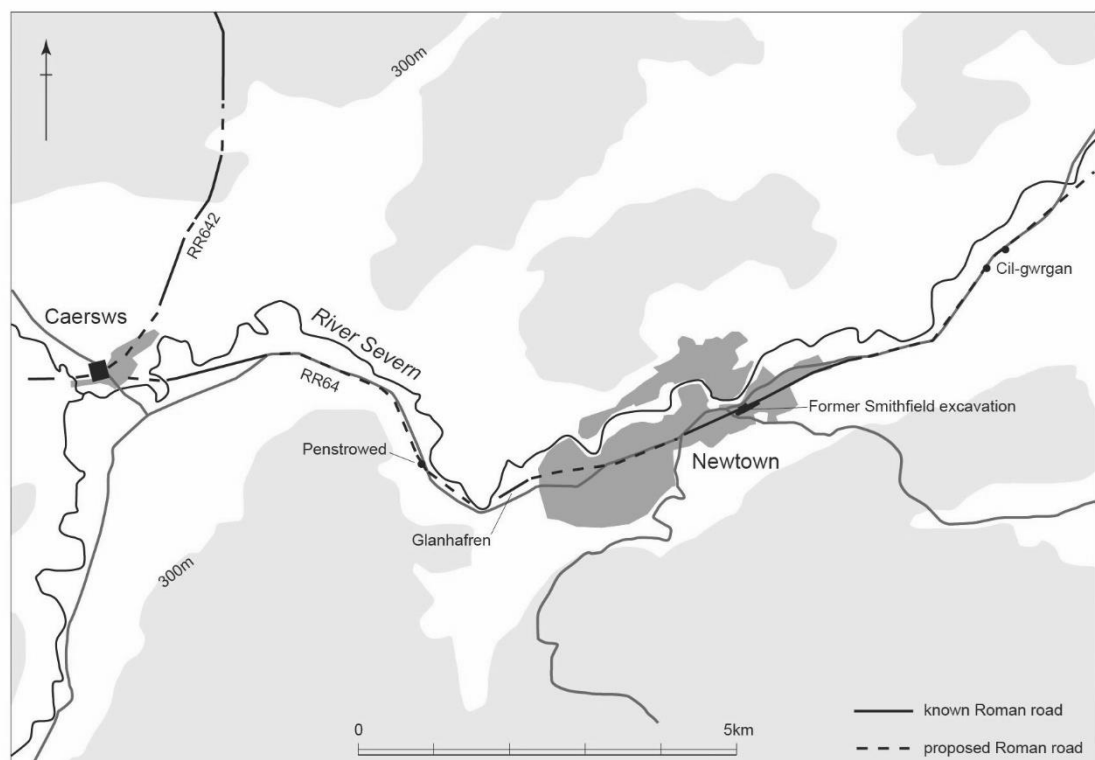


Fig. 2: The route of the Roman road RR64 along the Severn Valley and through Newtown

- 2.3. The Roman road through Newtown was first recorded by the Wiltshire antiquary, Richard Colt Hoare at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Forty years later T. W. Hancock described the road through Newtown as running 'to a small pot-house called the Green Tavern; and continues its course in the fields south of the new church, to houses in the brick-fields, on property of the late Mrs. Owen, where a portion of it was discovered some years ago; hence it directs its course close to the rectory, through fields towards an encampment or Roman out-post, opposite the parish church of Llanllwchaearn' (Hancock 1848, 96).
- 2.4. Putnam (1962) argued for a direct route close to the river, as evidenced by the lines of field boundaries on a map of around 1798, which continued for 1.4km through an area which now forms part of the town and continued for a further 300m westwards along what is now Llanidloes Road. This tied in neatly with the observations made by Colt Hoare and Hancock. A critical spot was the Sportsman's Arms, stated to have been built on the road (RCAHMW 1911). The public house was demolished many years ago, but records reveal that it was set almost exactly where the line of field boundaries transferred into Llanidloes Road. Further west, a section was identified in the Park Brickworks.

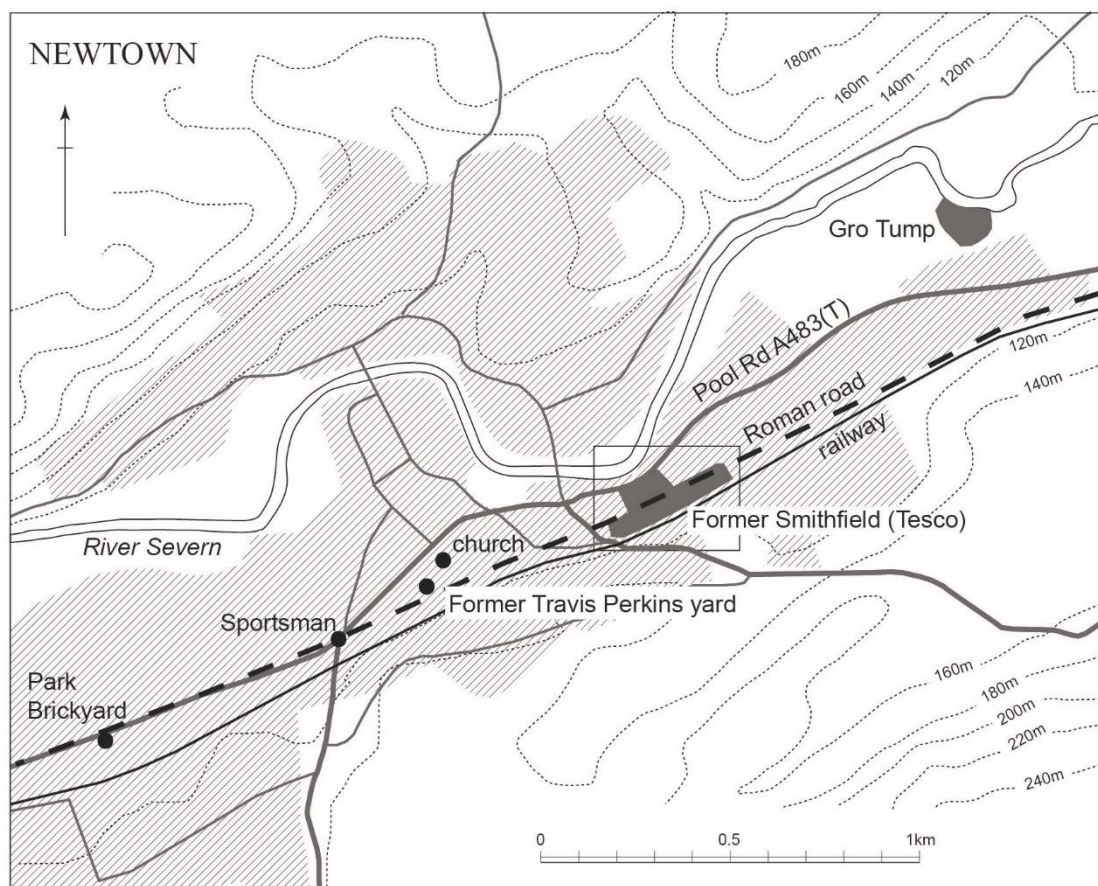


Fig. 3: The route of the road, showing significant points which demonstrate its alignment and the approximate position of the evaluation

- 2.5. The most recent evidence of the road was revealed by archaeological excavations carried out by CPAT in 2009 (Jones and Grant, 2013) on the site of the former Smithfield and before the construction of a Tesco supermarket (see Figs 3 and 4). These showed that the road consisted of three phases, with its width varying from 4.1m to 4.5m in the first two phases, but increasing to around 6m in the final phase. Typically, the road make-up survived to a height of around 0.4m above a basal deposit of clay; a total length of 218m was identified.



*Fig. 4: Part of the Roman road revealed in the excavations at the former Smithfield in 2009.
CPAT 2870-039*

3 Evaluation

- 3.1. The evaluation was conducted on 30 November 2021, in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. (2020). The trenches were aligned north-north-west/south-south-east and excavated using a machine fitted with a 1.5m-wide toothless bucket.

Trench 1 (Fig. 5)

- 3.2. Trench 1 measured 10m in length and was 2.5m wide. The length of the trench was limited to the north-north-west by a concrete slab which had been the foundation for one of the buildings within the Travis Perkins yard.
- 3.3. Within the trench, the upper 0.30m of the deposits comprised modern hardcore and black cinder waste, below which was a rich black cultivation soil, 0.30m thick, containing 19th-century brick and tile fragments. This overlay a stiff bright yellowish-orange clay subsoil, also 0.30m deep, beneath which was a stiff, bright, orangey-brown, silty and stony clay subsoil of natural origin.
- 3.4. No evidence of the Roman road, or other significant archaeological deposits or features, was revealed.



Fig. 5: Trench 1 after excavation, from the NNW. Photo CPAT 4966-0013

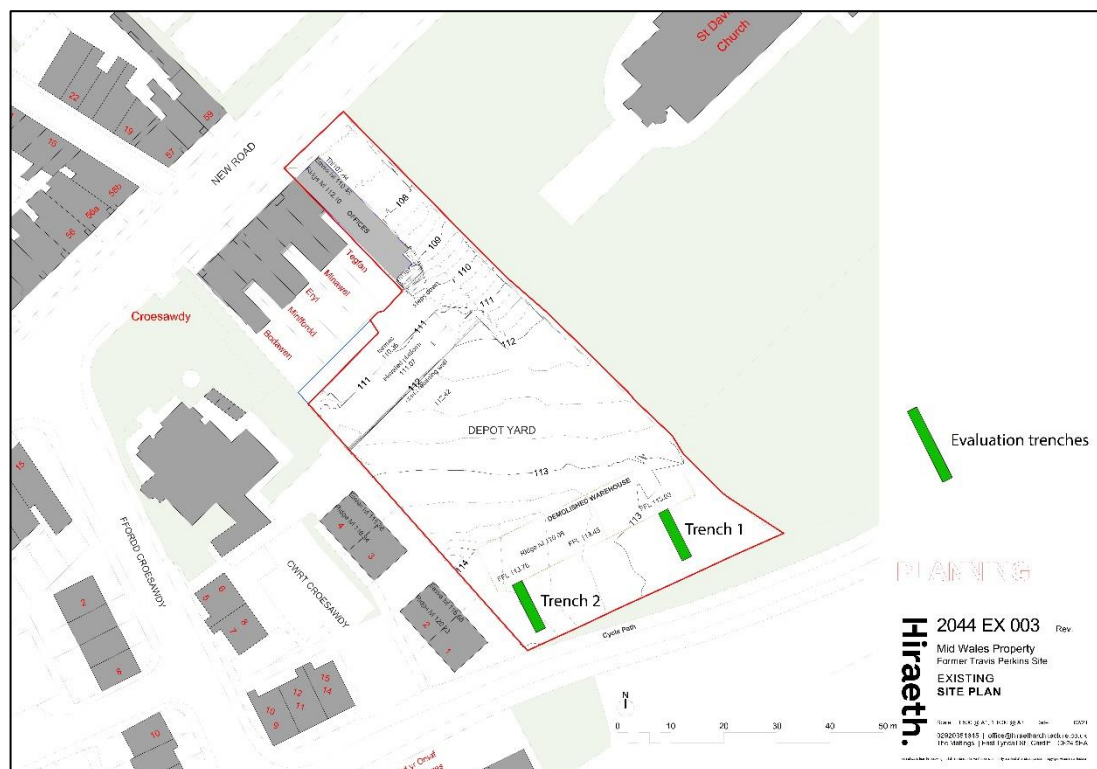


Fig. 6: Detailed plan of the Development Site showing trench locations in green

Trench 2 (Fig. 7)

- 3.5. Trench 2 measured 10m long and was between 3m and 2.5m wide. As with Trench 1, the length of the trench was limited to the north-north-west by a concrete slab which had been the foundation for one of the buildings within the Travis Perkins yard.
- 3.6. The upper 0.20m of the deposits in the trench consisted of modern hardcore, and this overlay a black cultivation soil of the same character as that seen in Trench 1, though here it was only 0.1m in thickness. This overlay a stiff bright yellowish-orange clay subsoil, also 0.30m deep, beneath which was a stonier, poorly-sorted colluvial clay gravel that represents the natural subsoil.
- 3.7. No evidence of the Roman road, or other significant archaeological deposits or features, was revealed.



Fig. 7: Trench 2 after excavation, from the NNW. Photo CPAT 4966-0021

4 Conclusions

- 4.1. No evidence for the Roman road was found within either trench, with the natural subsoil being overlain by clay subsoil and a deposit of black cultivation soil containing material of 19th-century date.

- 4.2. The lack of evidence for the road suggests that either its alignment lies outside the area that was evaluated, or that all traces of it had been removed by subsequent activity, potentially in the 19th century.

5 Sources

Published sources

Burnham, B. C. and Davies, J. L., 2010, *Roman Frontiers in Wales and the Marches* (Aberystwyth).

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Hankinson, R., 1996, 'Carno to Newtown overhead powerline', *Archaeology in Wales* 36, 58.

Jones, N., 2009, 'Newtown, Forden Gaer to Caersws Roman road', *Archaeology in Wales* 49, 116.

Jones, N., and Grant, I., 2013, 'Excavations on the Forden Gaer to Caersws Roman Road 2009', *Montgomeryshire Collections*, 101, 1-18.

Margary, I. D., 1973, *Roman Roads in Britain*. 3rd ed. (London).

Putnam, W. G., 1962, 'The Roman road from Forden to Caersws', *Montgomeryshire Collections*, 58, 141-49.

RCAHMW, 1911, *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire*. I County of Montgomery (London).

Williams, R., 1902, 'A parochial account of Newtown', *Montgomeryshire Collections*, 32, 175-202.

Cartographic sources

1798 Plan of Newtown and surrounding area (*NLW Glansevern 147/now Folio 89*)

6 Archive deposition Statement

- 6.1. The project archive has been prepared according to the CPAT Archive Policy and in line with the CIfA *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (2014). The archive is entirely digital and will be deposited jointly with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and the National Monuments Record (RCAHMW). No artefacts were recovered.

Archive summary

CPAT Event PRN: 140394

21 digital photographs, CPAT film no 4966

Appendix 1: CPAT WSI 2592

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust has been instructed by Mid Wales Property Developments to undertake an archaeological evaluation in connection with a planning application (No 21/1961/FUL) for the construction of a residential development on the site of the former Travis Perkins yard off New Road in Newtown, Powys (NGR SO 10878 91321: SY16 1AS).



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Fig. 1: Location of the Development Site

- 1.2. Mark Walters, acting in his role as the archaeological advisor to Powys County Council, had commented on the application to note that information held within the Historic Environment Record indicated the potential for a section of the Roman Road from Forden to Caersws to survive at the south-eastern end of the Development Site and that any surviving remains could be impacted by the proposed new dwellings and ground reduction works in that area. Lack of knowledge about the condition of any possible remains on this plot meant that in order to make a balanced decision on the application, the advisor requested an archaeological evaluation be carried out before the application was determined and it is that evaluation which is the subject of this written scheme of investigation.
- 1.3. The purpose of evaluation is to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of

preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit, leading to one or more of the following:

- the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource
- the formulation of a strategy to mitigate a threat to the archaeological resource
- the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research



Fig. 2: Detailed plan of the Development Site showing trench locations in green

2 Methodology

- 2.1. A plan of the Development Site, with the agreed trench locations depicted, is given as Figure 2. It is believed that the approximate course of the Roman road lies across the area of the concrete plinth of a demolished warehouse immediately to their north-west. At this stage the concrete plinth will be left in-situ.
- 2.2. Initially, it was proposed that three 20m x 1.8m trenches, aligned north-west/south-east and as close as possible to the projected line of the Roman road, would be excavated at the southern end of the site. However, examination of the plan of the Development Site showed that the area available for the trenches was limited to a strip 15m wide between the concrete plinth of the demolished warehouse and the south-east boundary of the plot. Discussions with the archaeological advisor to the Council led to an agreement that it would be sufficient for the purposes of the evaluation to excavate two 15m x 1.8m trenches within the locations depicted on Fig. 2.

- 2.3. The evaluation trenches will be initially excavated by machine under close archaeological supervision, to attempt to identify any evidence relating to the Roman road. This will be followed by hand cleaning, investigation and recording of any layers or features that may be revealed, sufficient to elucidate their nature and likely origin within the aims of the evaluation.
- 2.4. The evaluation will be conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014, revised 2020). The excavation of any archaeological features or deposits will be undertaken by hand using the conventional techniques for archaeological excavation:
- The presence or absence of archaeological features will be noted.
 - Where features of archaeological interest are identified they will be systematically investigated by hand with sufficient work being undertaken to determine their date, character and function, using the conventional techniques for archaeological excavation and in accordance with CIfA Standard and Guidance.
 - All features will be located as accurately as possible on an overall plan of the development at an appropriate scale, showing boundaries depicted on OS mapping.
 - Contexts will be recorded on individual record forms, using a continuous numbering system, and be drawn and photographed as appropriate.
 - Plans will be drawn on permatrace to a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate.
 - Photography will utilise a digital SLR camera with a minimum resolution of 12 mega pixels, include a metric scale in each view, and be logged in a photographic register.
 - In the event of human burials being discovered the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) will be informed. The remains will initially be left in situ, and if removal is required, a MoJ licences will be applied for under the Burial Act 1857.
 - In the event of finding any artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasures Act 1996, the appropriate procedures under this legislation will be followed.

3 Artefact selection strategy

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

High priority for retention

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

High priority for disposal

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

4 Post-excavation and reporting

- 4.1. All artefacts and environmental samples will be treated in a manner appropriate to their composition and a sampling strategy will be developed as appropriate:
- All stratified finds will be collected by context, or where appropriate, individually recorded in three dimensions. Unstratified finds will only be collected where they contribute significantly to the project objectives or are of particular intrinsic interest.
 - All finds and samples will be collected, processed, sorted, quantified, recorded, labelled, packed, stored, marked, assessed, analysed and conserved in a manner appropriate to their composition and in line with appropriate guidance.
 - arrangements will be made to assess and study any artefacts, assemblages and environment samples.
 - Any artefacts recovered during the evaluation will be deposited with an appropriate museum, subject to the permission of the owner.
- 4.2. Following the on-site work an illustrated report will be prepared containing conventional sections to include:
- Non-technical summary
 - Introduction
 - Site location
 - Archaeological Background
 - Aims & objectives
 - Methodology
 - Evaluation results
 - Conclusions
 - References
 - Appropriate appendices on archives and finds
- 4.3. The report summary will be provided in English and Welsh, in accordance with the *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) V1* (July 2018).

5 Site archive

- 5.1. The overall archive will conform to guidelines described in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE), Historic England 2015, the CIfA (2014) *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* and *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales* (NPAAW, 2017).
- 5.2. The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record (NMR), RCAHMW, including a copy of the final report. This archive will include all written, drawn, survey and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. A copy of

the digital archive only will also be lodged with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust.

6 Data management plan

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

7 Resources and programming

- 7.1. The evaluation will be undertaken by two skilled archaeologists under the overall supervision of Tim Malim, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). CPAT is also a CIfA Registered Organisation and as such agrees to abide by their *Code of Conduct* (2021) and the *Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment* (2014).
- 7.2. All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist(s) who conducted the site work. Copies of the report will be deposited with the client and the regional Historic Environment Record within one month of the completion of on-site works. If appropriate, a short report will be published in *Archaeology in Wales*.
- 7.3. The client should be aware that in the event that significant archaeological remains are revealed there may be a requirement for more detailed excavation and specialist services. Any further work over and above the original evaluation and report would be the subject of a separate WSI and costing. The following figures provide an indication of the types of additional services and indicative costs which might be required, for which the client is advised to make some provision.

Curatorial monitoring	£150 per visit
Finds conservation etc	£350 per day
Radiocarbon dating	£400 each
Finds specialist	£330 per day

- 7.4. Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 7.5. CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance, as well as Professional Indemnity insurance.

Richard Hankinson

24th November 2021