Archaeology & Heritage Assessment



The Montgomery Canal: Vyrnwy Reserve Land Adjacent to the Montgomery Canal Near Williams Bridge, Llandysilio, Powys

On behalf of



November 2023 (Updated November 2024)

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1 Executive Summary

Border Archaeology (BA) has undertaken an Archaeology & Heritage Assessment of the proposed Vyrnwy Reserve adjacent to the Montgomery Canal, near Williams Bridge Llandysilio Powys. The results of the assessment are summarised thus:

1.1 Archaeological Assessment

Prehistoric: The potential for encountering evidence of prehistoric activity within the site has been assessed as **Low to Moderate**, reflecting the underlying potential for prehistoric material to be identified. This underlying potential is a result of Iron Age activity being recorded in the wider vicinity of the site on the Historic Environment Record. The assessment also reflects the presence of superficial alluvial deposits, which may contain material of a prehistoric date, as well as paleoenvironmental information, across the site.

Romano-British: The potential for encountering archaeological deposits or features associated with Romano-British activity has been assessed as being <u>Low</u>, reflecting the lack of recorded Romano-British activity within the designated study area.

Medieval: The potential for encountering archaeological deposits or features associated with medieval activity has been assessed as <u>Moderate</u>, reflecting the potential for any works associated with the proposed development to encounter evidence of medieval agricultural activity. This assessment recognises the presence of areas of ridge and furrow cultivation features associated with Pentreheylin Hall as recorded on the CPAT Historic Environment Record within the boundaries of the site.

Post-medieval: The potential for encountering evidence of post-medieval activity within the site has been assessed as **Moderate**. This assessment is based upon the potential for the proposed development works to encounter features associated with the post-medieval parkland formerly attached to Pentreheylin. Recorded features include a former argae ford and a former cornmill on the N boundary of the site, and there is also potential to encounter further possible undocumented high-status landscape features associated with the parkland. Any works on the southern edge of the site may impact the fabric of the canal, particularly during connection of the open-water nature reserve and the canal, and for works on the west edge of the site to impact the post-medieval drain connecting the canal to the river.

Overall Conclusion: The archaeological potential of the site has been assessed as <u>Moderate</u>. This assessment largely reflects the potential of the works associated with the development encountering features or deposits of a **medieval** or **post-medieval** date. The potential for encountering features or deposits of a prehistoric date has been assessed as <u>Low to Moderate</u>. The potential for encountering features or deposits of a Romano-British date has been assessed as <u>Low</u>. No boreholes or invasive archaeological works are recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site and it is thus not possible to predict the potential depths of any significant archaeological deposits and features in this specific area.

1.2 Heritage Assessment

Aqueduct carrying Montgomeryshire Canal over River Vyrnwy (Grade II*; 14206): The impact of the proposed development has been assessed as Neutral/Slight. This overall assessment takes into account the High significance of the aqueduct, cross-referenced against the magnitude of impact, assessed as Negligible. This assessment of impact recognises that the W edge of the new reserve will be visible in the distance from the canal towpath as it crosses the Aqueduct. However, as no structures are proposed on this edge of the development and the landscape change is from boggy meadow to a wetland reserve, these changes will be minimal, and the general riverine/rural nature of the landscape will not change. Consequently, the proposed development will not affect the heritage value of the Grade II* listed heritage asset or the ability of the public to appreciate the heritage asset.

Pentreheylin Bridge (No.97) over The Montgomeryshire Canal (Grade II; 8537) & Bridge (No.98) over Montgomeryshire Canal (Grade II; 8536): The impact of the proposed development has been assessed as Neutral/Slight. This overall assessment takes into account the High significance of the bridges, cross-referenced against the magnitude of impact, assessed as Negligible. This assessment of impact reflects the proximity of the bridges to the site, whilst acknowledging the minimal visual impact of the proposed development. The new reserve will not be visible in conjunction with the bridges from any of the key viewpoints of the structures as the canal is sunken. However, the new reserve will be visible in the distance by anyone using the bridges to cross the canal but the proposed landscape changes will be minimal. Therefore, the development does not affect the heritage value of the Grade II listed heritage assets or the public's ability to appreciate the heritage assets.

The impact of the proposed development on the remainder of the Heritage Assets detailed in this report has been assessed as **Neutral.** This overall assessment takes into account the **High** significance of these assets, cross-referenced against the magnitude of impact, assessed as **No Change.**

Overall Conclusion: The overall impact of the proposed development in heritage terms may be assessed as **Neutral/Slight.** This assessment reflects the very minor visual impact of the proposed development on views from the Grade II* Aqueduct carrying Montgomeryshire Canal over River Vyrnwy and the Grade II Pentreheylin Bridge (No.97) over The Montgomeryshire Canal and Bridge (No.98) over the Montgomeryshire Canal. However, these changes will be minimal, and the general riverine/rural nature of the landscape will not change. Consequently, the development does not affect the heritage value of the heritage assets or the ability of the public to appreciate them. It should be noted that, if either of the Grade II listed bridges over the canal are used to provide access routes to the site during the works, care must be taken to avoid any damage to the bridge structure.

Summary Conclusion and Recommendations: Given the <u>Moderate</u> potential of the site in archaeological terms, it is recommended that an appropriate programme of site investigation and recording, the details of which to be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist, will be necessary to determine the extent, depth and significance of any buried archaeological features and deposits within the site. It is BA's considered opinion that, *prima facie*, based on the available archaeological, documentary and cartographic sources, the archaeological potential of the site does not present an impediment to development and the proposed development can also be broadly supported in heritage terms.

1.3 Crynodeb Gweithredol

Mae Border Archaeology (BA) wedi cynnal Asesiad Archaeoleg a Threftadaeth o warchodfa arfaethedig Efyrnwy wrth ymyl Camlas Trefaldwyn, ger Pont Williams Llandysilio Powys. Crynhoir canlyniadau'r asesiad fel a ganlyn:

1.3.1 Asesiad Archeolegol

Cynhanesyddol: Mae'r potensial ar gyfer dod ar draws tystiolaeth o weithgarwch cynhanesyddol o fewn y safle wedi'i asesu'n **Isel i Gymedrol**, sy'n adlewyrchu'r potensial sylfaenol i ddeunydd cynhanesyddol gael ei ddarganfod. Mae'r potensial sylfaenol yma o ganlyniad i weithgarwch Oes yr Haearn a gofnodwyd yng nghyffiniau ehangach y safle ar y Cofnod Amgylchedd Hanesyddol. Mae'r asesiad hefyd yn adlewyrchu presenoldeb dyddodion afonol arwynebol, a allai gynnwys deunydd o ddyddiad cynhanesyddol, yn ogystal â gwybodaeth baleoamgylcheddol, ar draws y safle.

Brythonaidd-Rufeinig: Mae'r potensial ar gyfer dod ar draws dyddodion neu nodweddion archeolegol sy'n gysylltiedig â gweithgarwch Brythonaidd-Rufeinig wedi'i asesu'n <u>Isel</u>, sy'n adlewyrchu'r diffyg gweithgarwch Brythonaidd-Rufeinig sydd wedi'i gofnodi o fewn ardal ddynodedig yr astudiaeth.

Canoloesol: Mae'r potensial ar gyfer dod ar draws dyddodion neu nodweddion archeolegol sy'n gysylltiedig â gweithgarwch canoloesol wedi'i asesu'n <u>Gymedrol</u>, sy'n adlewyrchu'r potensial i unrhyw waith sy'n gysylltiedig â'r datblygiad arfaethedig ddod ar draws tystiolaeth o weithgarwch amaethyddol canoloesol. Mae'r asesiad hwn yn cydnabod presenoldeb ardaloedd o nodweddion amaethu cefnen a rhych sy'n gysylltiedig â Pentreheylin Hall fel y cofnodwyd ar Gofnod Amgylchedd Hanesyddol CPAT o fewn ffiniau'r safle.

Ôl-ganoloesol: Mae'r potensial ar gyfer dod ar draws tystiolaeth o weithgarwch ôl-ganoloesol o fewn y safle wedi'i asesu'n **Gymedrol**. Mae'r asesiad hwn yn seiliedig ar y potensial i'r gwaith datblygu arfaethedig ddod ar draws nodweddion sy'n gysylltiedig â'r parcdir ôl-ganoloesol a oedd wedi'i gysylltu'n flaenorol â Phentreheylin. Mae'r nodweddion a gofnodwyd yn cynnwys cyn-ryd argae a chyn-felin ŷd ar ffin ogleddol y safle, ac mae potensial hefyd y darganfyddir nodweddion tirwedd statws uchel annogfenedig posibl pellach sy'n gysylltiedig â'r parcdir. Gallai unrhyw waith ar ymyl ddeheuol y safle effeithio ar adeiledd y gamlas, yn arbennig wrth gysylltu'r warchodfa natur dŵr agored a'r gamlas, a gallai gwaith ar ymyl orllewinol y safle effeithio ar y draen ôl-ganoloesol sy'n cysylltu'r gamlas â'r afon.

Casgliad Cyffredinol: Mae potensial archeolegol y safle wedi'i bennu'n <u>Gymedrol</u>. Mae'r asesiad hwn yn adlewyrchu'n bennaf y potensial y bydd y gwaith sy'n gysylltiedig â'r datblygiad yn dod ar draws nodweddion neu ddyddodion o ddyddiad canoloesol neu ôl-ganoloesol. Mae'r potensial ar gyfer dod ar draws nodweddion neu ddyddodion o ddyddiad cynhanesyddol wedi'i asesu'n <u>Isel i Gymedrol</u>. Mae'r potensial ar gyfer dod ar draws nodweddion neu ddyddodion neu ddyddodion o ddyddiad cynhanesyddol wedi'i asesu'n <u>Isel i Gymedrol</u>. Mae'r potensial ar gyfer dod ar draws nodweddion neu gwaith archeolegol mewnwthiol wedi'u cofnodi yng nghyffiniau uniongyrchol y safle, nid yw'n bosibl rhagweld dyfnderoedd posibl unrhyw ddyddodion a nodweddion archeolegol arwyddocaol yn yr ardal benodol hon.

1.3.2 Asesiad Treftadaeth

Dyfrbont sy'n cario Camlas Trefaldwyn dros Afon Efyrnwy (Gradd II*; 14206): Mae effaith y datblygiad arfaethedig wedi'i asesu'n **Niwtral/Bach**. Mae'r asesiad cyffredinol hwn yn ystyried arwyddocâd **Uchel** y ddyfrbont, wedi'i groesgyfeirio yn erbyn maint yr effaith, a aseswyd yn **Ddibwys**. Mae'r asesiad effaith hwn yn cydnabod y bydd ymyl orllewinol y warchodfa newydd yn weladwy yn y pellter o lwybr halio'r gamlas lle mae'n croesi'r Ddyfrbont. Fodd bynnag, gan nad oes unrhyw adeileddau wedi'u cynnig ar hyd ymyl yma'r datblygiad a bod y dirwedd yn newid o ddôl gorsiog i warchodfa gwlyptir, bydd y newidiadau hyn yn fân, ac ni fydd natur afonol/wledig gyffredinol y dirwedd yn newid. Yn sgil hyn, ni fydd y datblygiad arfaethedig yn effeithio ar werth treftadaeth yr ased treftadaeth rhestredig Gradd II* na gallu'r cyhoedd i werthfawrogi'r ased treftadaeth.

Pont Pentreheylin (Rhif 97) dros Gamlas Trefaldwyn (Gradd II; 8537) a Phont (Rhif 98) dros Gamlas Trefaldwyn (Gradd II; 8536): Mae effaith y datblygiad arfaethedig wedi'i asesu'n Niwtral/Bach. Mae'r asesiad cyffredinol hwn yn ystyried arwyddocâd Uchel y pontydd, wedi'i groesgyfeirio yn erbyn maint yr effaith, a aseswyd yn Ddibwys. Mae'r asesiad effaith hwn yn adlewyrchu agosrwydd y pontydd i'r safle, tra'n cydnabod effaith weledol fach y datblygiad arfaethedig. Ni fydd y warchodfa newydd yn weladwy mewn cysylltiad â'r pontydd o unrhyw rai o olygfannau allweddol yr adeileddau gan fod y gamlas yn suddedig. Fodd bynnag, bydd y warchodfa newydd yn weladwy yn y pellter i unrhyw un sy'n defnyddio'r pontydd i groesi'r gamlas, ond bydd y newidiadau tirwedd arfaethedig yn fach. Felly, nid yw'r datblygiad yn effeithio ar werth treftadaeth yr asedau treftadaeth rhestredig Gradd II na gallu'r cyhoedd i werthfawrogi'r asedau treftadaeth.

Mae effaith y datblygiad arfaethedig ar weddill yr Asedau Treftadaeth a fanylir yn yr adroddiad hwn wedi'i asesu'n **Niwtral**. Mae'r asesiad cyffredinol hwn yn ystyried arwyddocâd **Uchel** yr asedau hyn, wedi'i groesgyfeirio yn erbyn maint yr effaith, a aseswyd fel **Dim Newid**.

Casgliad Cyffredinol: Gellid asesu effaith gyffredinol y datblygiad arfaethedig mewn termau treftadaeth yn <u>Niwtral/Bach</u>. Mae'r asesiad hwn yn adlewyrchu effaith weledol fach iawn y datblygiad arfaethedig ar olygfeydd o'r Ddyfrbont Gradd II* sy'n cario Camlas Trefaldwyn dros Afon Efyrnwy a phont Gradd II Pentreheylin (Rhif 97) dros Gamlas Trefaldwyn a Phont (Rhif 98) dros Gamlas Trefaldwyn. Fodd bynnag, bydd y newidiadau hyn yn fach, ac ni fydd natur afonol/wledig gyffredinol y dirwedd yn newid. Yn sgil hyn, nid yw'r datblygiad yn effeithio ar werth treftadaeth yr asedau treftadaeth na gallu'r cyhoedd i'w gwerthfawrogi. Dylid nodi, os caiff y naill bont restredig Gradd II dros y gamlas ei defnyddio i ddarparu llwybrau mynediad i'r safle yn ystod y gwaith, y dylid cymryd gofal i osgoi unrhyw ddifrod i adeiledd y bont.

Crynodeb o Gasgliadau ac Argymhellion: O ystyried potensial <u>Cymedrol</u> y safle mewn termau archeolegol, argymhellir y bydd angen rhaglen briodol o waith ymchwilio a chofnodi ar y safle, y mae ei manylion i'w cytuno gyda'r Archeolegydd Cynllunio, i bennu graddfa, dyfnder ac arwyddocâd unrhyw nodweddion a dyddodion archeolegol sydd wedi'u claddu o fewn y safle. Ym marn BA, ar ôl ystyried popeth, *prima facie*, yn seiliedig ar y ffynonellau archeolegol, dogfennol a chartograffig sydd ar gael, nid yw potensial archeolegol y safle'n rhwystr i ddatblygiad, a gall y datblygiad arfaethedig hefyd gael ei gefnogi yn eang mewn termau treftadaeth.

2 Introduction

Border Archaeology (BA) was instructed by Glandŵr Cymru: The Canal & Rivers Trust in Wales to produce an Archaeology and Heritage Assessment in connection with the proposed Vyrnwy Reserve on land adjacent to the Montgomery Canal near Williams Bridge Llandysilio Powys (*Fig. 1*). Glandŵr Cymru is considering purchasing this piece of land with the intention of using it for dredging disposal and the creation an open-water nature reserve, as part of The Montgomery Canal Restoration Project, which aims to reopen more of the Montgomery Canal.

3 Site Description

The site covers an area of 139,927.38m² and is centred on NGR: SJ 25806 19509. The site consists of a large area of undeveloped land to the N and E of Pentreheylin Farm, and is situated between the River Vyrnwy/Afon Efyrnwy and the Montgomery Canal. The site is located approximately 625m to the W of the village of Llandysilio and lies at an approximate altitude of 65m AOD. The site is accessed along a pair of lanes leading from the B4393 towards Pentreheylin Farm, which each cross separate bridges across the Montgomery Canal. The site is not located within a Conservation Area and no Listed Buildings or Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) are located within the site boundary.

3.1 Soils & Geology

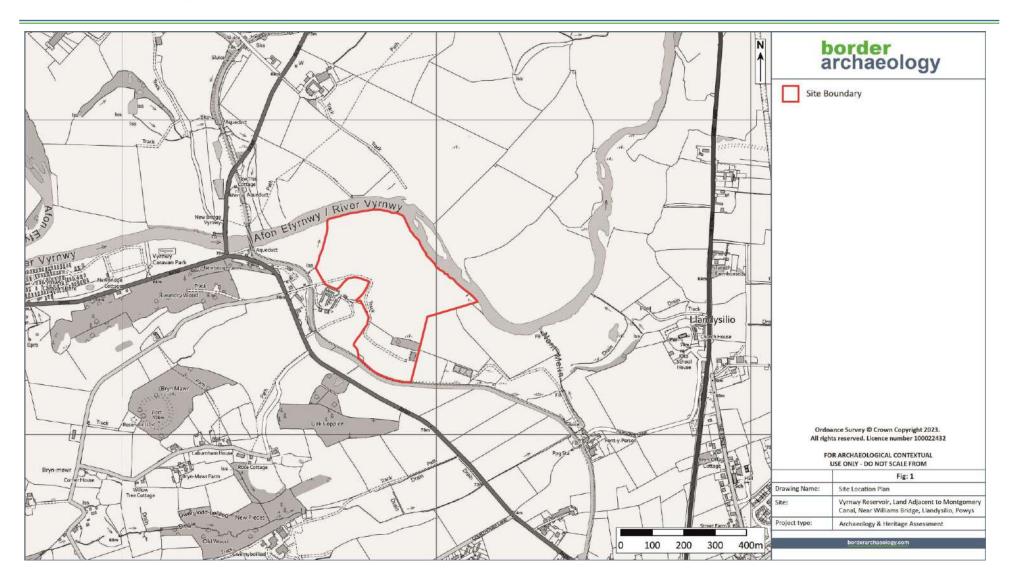
The British Geological Survey (BGS) identifies the solid geology underlying the site as belonging to the Allt-tairffynnon Formation. This consists of interbedded siltstone and mudstone, and represents a sedimentary bedrock formed between 455.25 and 452.75 million years ago during the Ordovician period (BGS 2023).

Superficial sedimentary deposits of alluvium are recorded across the site of the majority of the proposed development. These consist of clay, silt, sand and gravel, and were formed between 11.8 thousand years ago and the present during the Quaternary period due to the site's location on the floodplain of the River Vyrnwy/Afon Efyrnwy. Superficial River Terrace Deposits, consisting of sand and gravel, are recorded towards the S end of the site, close to the line of the canal. These sedimentary deposits were formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present during the Quaternary period (BGS 2023).

No available borehole records are recorded in the vicinity of the site by the British Geological Survey (BGS 2023).

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4 Archaeology Assessment: Methodology

4.1 Aims & Objectives

This Archaeology & Heritage Assessment seeks to identify any known or potential archaeological and built-heritage assets (both designated and undesignated) in the vicinity of the specific study area and establish the importance of these archaeological and built heritage assets (including an assessment of their character, extent and quality) within a local, regional and national context.

4.2 Criteria for Assessment of Potential & Importance of Heritage Assets

Potential

This assessment contains a record of the known and potential archaeological and built-heritage assets in the vicinity of the proposed development. The potential for encountering a particular resource in the vicinity of the site has been assessed according to the following scale:

Low – Very unlikely to be encountered;

Moderate – Possibility that features may be encountered in the vicinity of the site; **High** – Remains highly likely to survive in the vicinity of the site.

• Importance (Value)

The criteria used to determine the importance of archaeological and built heritage assets in the vicinity of the proposed development (*Table 1*) has been informed by guidelines for assessing cultural heritage assets contained in *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Sustainability and Environment Appraisal LA 106: Cultural Heritage Assessment* (revised January 2020) and informed by relevant Historic England guidance regarding the assessment of archaeological assets, including: *The Setting of Heritage Assets Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 2nd Edition* (Historic England 2017), *Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets Historic England Advice Note 12* (Historic England 2019) and *Preserving Archaeological Remains* (Historic England 2016).

BA is also fully cognisant of national and local planning policy guidelines with respect to heritage assets, including the following:

- *Planning Policy Wales,* Chapter 6 ('The Historic Environment') (Llywodraeth Cymru/Welsh Government 2016);
- Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017) which supplements *Planning Policy Wales*;
- Powys Local Development Plan 2011-2026 (Adopted April 2018) (Powys County Council 2018);
- Canal and River Trust Heritage Standard (Canal & River Trust 2016).

Table 1: Factors for assessing the importance of archaeological and built heritage assets				
Very High	World Heritage Sites (including nominated sites).			
	Assets of acknowledged international importance.			
	Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged international research objectives.			
High	Scheduled Monuments (including proposed sites).			
	Undesignated assets of schedulable quality and importance.			
	Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives.			
Medium	Designated or undesignated assets that contribute to regional research objectives.			
Low	Designated and undesignated assets of local importance.			
	Assets compromised by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations.			
	Assets of limited value, but with potential to contribute to local research objectives.			
Negligible	Assets with very little or no surviving archaeological interest.			
Unknown	The importance of the resource has not been ascertained.			

4.3 Consultation of Archaeological Records

In order to understand the full archaeological and historical context of the site, information was collected on the known cultural heritage features within a 500m radius, the results of which are shown on a series of maps and accompanying gazetteers (*Figs. 2-3; Tables 2-3*). These maps show the location of known archaeological and built heritage features (including archaeological events and monuments) and previous archaeological interventions within the study area, which are listed in the gazetteer and referenced in the text.

The research carried out for this Archaeology Assessment consists of the following elements:

- Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) Historic Environment Record (HER) the HER includes information from past investigations, find spots and documentary and cartographic sources. The CPAT HER supplied a HER enquiry number: **E6829**;
- Cadw information on statutory designations including SAMs, registered parks and gardens and listed buildings along with identified Heritage at Risk;
- British Geological Survey (BGS) solid and drift geology digital map; BGS geological borehole record data;
- Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru/National Library of Wales, The British Library, the National Archives and the Archifau Powys/Powys Archives historic maps, published and unpublished archaeological and historical accounts;
- Internet sources, including LPA local plan and information on conservation areas, archaeological priority areas and locally listed buildings;
- Archifau Powys/Powys Archives and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)– collections of aerial photographs dating back to 1949 were consulted.

A site visit and assessment were undertaken on the 25th October 2023 and photographs obtained of the proposed development site (*Fig. 4*).

5 Archaeological Assessment

This section analyses the information available from historical sources and records of archaeological work carried out in the vicinity of the specific study area and discusses its implications regarding the nature and significance of the archaeological resource within the site and potential impact on archaeological features and deposits. These assessments relate to the CPAT HER data, which is presented in Section 6. This data consists of sites, monuments, and events (*Fig. 2; Table 2*), and Listed Buildings (*Fig. 3; Table 3*).

5.1 Previous Archaeological Investigations

No archaeological investigations are recorded within the boundaries of the site, according to the datasets supplied by the CPAT HER. The only archaeological event recorded within the designated study area is a Heritage Assessment undertaken in 2018 in connection with repairs to the Vyrnwy River Bridge (the road bridge) to the immediate S of the site (HER: 152033). This event, however, will have no impact upon the assessment of the archaeological potential of the proposed development.

In March 2024 Border Archaeology undertook Archaeological Monitoring of geotechnical investigation (GI) within the boundaries of the site as part of the proposed Vyrnwy Reserve scheme. Four trial pits were excavated by machine to depths of between 1.20mbgl (64.24mAOD) and 2.50mbgl (62.74mAOD). Nine window samples (WS01-WS03 and WS05-WS10) were also extracted to depths of up to 8.50mbgl (57.15mAOD) and a cable percussive borehole put down to a depth of 6.80mbgl (56.67mAOD). Hand-digging of the first 1.2m of each hole was monitored but no archaeology was observed.

The trial pits encountered alluvium at depths of 0.20mbgl (65.35mAOD) in TP003 and 0.50mbgl (64.94mAOD) in TP001, with river terrace deposits encountered at 1.6mbgl (63.95AOD) in TP002 and 2.3mbgl (63.19AOD) in TP003 (Fig. 2). The programme of archaeological observation thus confirmed that no deposits, features or finds of archaeological interest were present within these limited sections of the site (BA 2024).

5.2 Prehistoric

No positively identified prehistoric features, deposits or findspots are recorded within the site boundary on the dataset supplied by the CPAT HER.

Furthermore, the number of positively identified prehistoric sites recorded within the designated study area on the CPAT HER is limited to a single cropmark feature near Llandysilio located approximately 340m to the SE of the proposed development. Considered to represent an oval double-ditched enclosure (HER: 7970) the cropmark has also been interpreted as a construction feature contemporary with the Montgomery Canal (Hankinson 2008).

Bryn Mawr Hillfort (HER: 1250) is located approximately 600m to the W of the site of the proposed development and is therefore just outside of the designated study area. The hillfort consists a pentagonal univallate enclosure

on top of Bryn Mawr but with most of the fort located to the W of the summit. The outer scarp measures 0.8m high and the inner scarp 1.8m in height. A possible hut site is recorded in the SW portion of the hillfort but the NW portion has been impacted by quarrying. The hillfort is listed as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM: MG158).

Whilst no Iron Age archaeology has been identified within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site, it is clear that the development lies within a wider landscape containing clear evidence for Iron Age activity, the hillfort at Bryn Mawr representing a clear focal point for Iron Age settlement in this part of the Vyrnwy/Efyrnwy valley. Consequently, there is an underlying potential that further evidence of Iron Age activity may be encountered during the works associated with the proposed development.

As discussed in Section 3.1., Quaternary alluvial deposits cover most of the site with river terrace sand and gravel recorded towards the southern extent. These deposits very much reflect the location of the site squarely within the floodplain of the River Vyrnwy/Afon Efyrnwy with consequent potential for preservation of organic remains of palaeoenvironmental significance (including pollen and waterlogged wood) and to contain artefactual material (i.e., lithics) of early prehistoric date, although it is likely that any such artefacts recovered would be residual in context.

Conclusion: The potential for evidence of prehistoric activity being identified within the site has been assessed as **Low to Moderate**. This assessment reflects the underlying potential for prehistoric material to be identified, due to the significant Iron Age activity recorded marginally outside the study area, namely, Bryn Mawr hillfort. This assessment also reflects the presence of superficial alluvial deposits across the site, which may contain artefactual material of a prehistoric date, as well as paleoenvironmental remains.

Any deposits encountered on the site or finds made during development works would be considered of **Medium** archaeological significance, as these would further contribute to the existing knowledge regarding the nature and extent of prehistoric activity in the region, particularly in relation to the Iron Age settlement of the Vyrnwy/ Efyrnwy valley.

5.3 Romano-British

The dataset supplied by the CPAT HER records no positively identified features, deposits, or findspots of a Romano-British date within the site boundary and, moreover, no sites of a positively identified Romano-British date are recorded within the designated study area.

A series of cropmarks recorded near Clawdd Coch were excavated by the University of Manchester in the early 1990s and interpreted as evidence of a series of Roman army marching camps (HER: 34331; HER: 119954; HER: 142631; HER: 130436; HER: 35035; HER: 35038; HER: 35037; HER: 35036; Jones 1992; Burnham 1993). However, this interpretation is not universally accepted (Silvester 2008). The CPAT HER records two features, Clawdd Coch Roman Fort Site A (HER: 130435; 662m to the NW of the site) and Clawdd Coch Roman Fort Site B (HER: 21; 1km to the NW of the site) as being of a solely Romano-British date although, again, the CPAT HER notes that these interpretations remain provisional.

The CPAT HER also contains a record of a findspot, where an urn containing a number of Roman coins was reportedly recovered in the vicinity of Carreghofa before 1878 (HER: 26) approximately 730m to the NW of the site. However, this find is now lost and only a vague location is provided (NGR: SJ 2500 2000). Furthermore, no details of the coins contained within the hoard are recorded.

Conclusion: The potential for finding evidence of Romano-British activity within the boundaries of the site has been assessed as **Low**. This assessment reflects the lack of recorded Romano-British activity within the site boundaries and the designated study area, with recorded Romano-British sites within the wider landscape surrounding the site being limited to a series possible Roman army marching camps near Clawdd Coch, the origins of which are debated, and a poorly located Romano-British coin hoard. Neither of these sites are close enough to the site of the proposed development to impact upon its archaeological potential.

Should any deposits or features of a Romano-British date be uncovered during the works associated with the proposed development, they would be considered as having a **Medium** significance, as the finds would help to contribute to our knowledge of the nature and the extent of Romano-British activity in the region, particularly in relation to the possible Roman army marching camps.

5.4 Medieval

Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation features associated with Pentreheylin Hall farm are recorded on the CPAT HER within the southern portion of the site (HER: 64651) (NGR: SJ 2586 1933). Evidence for a former open-field system with which these features may have been associated is not readily apparent on either the modern or historic cartography (see Section 5.5) and the CPAT HER notes that no surviving traces were recorded during a 2003 site visit. Furthermore, no traces were visible during the site visit undertaken for this report, due to the overgrown and boggy nature of the field that comprises the site of the proposed development (see Section 7). However, the available LiDAR DTM data shows some faint traces of ridge and furrow (*Fig. 11*), including features resembling relict boundaries with a distinctive 'reverse-S' form. Any works are therefore likely to encounter evidence of medieval agricultural activity, including buried ridge and furrow features, pottery scatters, pits and former field boundaries.

Other areas of medieval - and medieval/post-medieval - ridge and furrow are recorded within the designated study area at Newbridge (HER: 38119; 67m to the W of the site), Llys Rhysnant (HER: 128356; 354m to the SE of the site), Carreghofa (HER: 64726; 443m to the N of the site) and Llandysilio (HER: 23662; 457m to the E of the site). Much of this surviving ridge and furrow is visible on the available LiDAR DTM data (*Fig. 11*) and attests to the importance of agriculture to the area prior to construction of the Montgomery Canal in the 18th century.

Pentreheylin Hall itself (HER: 8808) represents the now-demolished ruins of a large neo-Jacobean house that was rebuilt in the mid-19th century (see Section 5.5). However, the cartographic record suggests that an earlier house stood on the site and the ridge and furrow attached to the farm at Pentre-heylin is also indicative of medieval/early post-medieval occupation at the site. It is possible that Pentre-heylin represents some form of medieval manorial site/large farm, with associated evidence of medieval agricultural exploitation of the surrounding landscape.

In the medieval period the site lay within the N portion of the parish of Llandysilio, close to the boundary (the river) with the parish of Llanymynech (see Section 5.5). The site is located approximately 185m to the NW of the CPAT HER GIS datapoint representing the settlement of Llandysilio (HER: 15712). However, this datapoint is situated some way to the W of the actual village of Llandysilio, which is next to the A483 between Welshpool and Oswestry, and is focussed on the church of St Tysilio, which has possible 7th century origins, although the current church dates from the 19th century.

Conclusion: The potential for encountering remains associated with medieval activity within the boundaries of the site has been assessed as Moderate. This assessment reflects the potential for any works associated with the proposed development to encounter evidence of medieval agricultural activity based on records of ridge and furrow cultivation features associated with Pentreheylin Hall within the boundaries of the site, as well as a number of further areas of ridge and furrow within the designated study area.

Should any medieval archaeology be identified during the works associated with the development, such evidence would be considered to be of Medium significance, reflecting the paucity of medieval archaeology in the surrounding landscape.

5.5 Post-medieval

The site of the proposed development is located within an area of former parkland attached to the former Pentreheylin Hall (HER: 72649). As has already been mentioned, Pentreheylin Hall (HER: 8808) was a large neo-Jacobean house that was rebuilt c. 1830 by Thomas Penson, and which, after being in a ruinous state for many years, was demolished by the end of the 20th century. The site of the house is located to the immediate SW of the proposal site, to the E of the farm at Pentreheylin (HER: 189646). The farm at Pentreheylin is recorded on the HER as containing a number of possibly traditional farm buildings (HER: 182370; HER: 182371; HER: 182372; HER: 182373; HER: 182374; HER: 182375; HER: 182376).

Much of the evidence for parkland at Pentreheylin, in which the site is located and which is identified on the historic cartographic record (see below), has disappeared with only a few specimen trees still standing. The CPAT HER states the possibility that the park one extended across the river and an argae ford is recorded on the cartographic record (HER: 72635). A cornmill is also recorded on the riverfront within the grounds in the late 18th century (HER: 37529) and the CPAT HER records that traces of a former weir are potentially visible at low water. A small section of the parish of Llandysilio extends to the N of the river, as shown on the 1840 tithe map (Fig. 5), and this may mean that the small extension to the parish boundary may have incorporated a small extension to the parkland or part of the mill site.

A post-medieval drain is also recorded on the CPAT HER running along the NW boundary of the site, and the former parkland (HER: 64577). This connects a sluice on the canal with the river and was probably used for drainage. The sluice was noted to be operational during the site visit, as water could be heard running through it down from the canal towards the W boundary of the site and the River Vyrnwy/Afon Efyrnwy.

The site is located to the NE of the line of the Montgomery Canal (HER: 72650), close to the site of two bridges over the waterway: Bridge 97 (HER: 32378) and Bridge 98 (HER: 32377). Both are Grade II listed structures leading from the B4393 towards Pentreheylin Farm. The line of the canal borders the SE portion of the site, although the farm itself is located between the canal and the SW portion of the site. The site is also located approximately 240m to the S of a series of listed bridges and aqueducts carrying the canal over the River Vyrnwy/Afon Efyrnwy (HER: 32408) and floodplain (HER: 32405; HER: 32406).

The Montgomery Canal forms a continuous stretch of waterway running SW for 56km from Welsh Frankton (where it meets the Llangollen Canal) to Newtown, via Llanymynech and Welshpool. It originally comprised four distinct canal sections, which were subsequently connected to form a continuous waterway. Three of the four sections, amounting to 55km of the route, were constructed to transport agricultural lime from the quarries at Llanymynech. To the N of Llanymynech, the canal connected with the Llanymynech branch of the Ellesmere Canal. SW of Llanymynech, the earliest phase of canal construction undertaken between 1794 and 1797 ran the 26km to Welshpool, with a small branch to Guilsfield, but funds had been depleted to the extent that the final 12km leg to Newtown was not completed until 1815-21. The funding issues meant these two sections of canal were under separate ownership, the earliest stretch being known as the Montgomeryshire Canal (Eastern Branch) and the 19th-century extension as the Montgomeryshire Canal (Western Branch) (Hughes 1988, 9). The site of the proposed development is adjacent to the Eastern Branch, which was constructed in the form of a trough on a bed of puddled clay.

Typically, the canal lost commercial competitiveness to the expanding rail network throughout the 19th century, although it was still making a profit in 1887. However, by 1922 the canal had been absorbed by the London and North Western Railway, which in turn became part of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway in 1923. The canal was disused in 1934 and in 1944 an Act of Abandonment was passed allowing the bridges to be lowered, blocking the canal.

The earliest available map depicting the landscape of the site with any accuracy is the 1830 Ordnance Survey Surveyor's Drawing of Oswestry (*Fig. 6*) which was published shortly after the completion of the canal in 1821. This source renders the landscape setting of the site in a manner comparable to modern mapping. The site is shown on the strip of land between the canal and the river, to the immediate E of 'Pentref Heilyn'. The 1830 map was published in the year that the neo-Jacobean house at Pentreheylin was built and it is not clear if the house shown is that building or an earlier one, but a farmstead is shown on the location of the cluster of surviving farm buildings, which suggests that some form of farm/house at Pentreheylin predated the 1830 construction.

No details of field morphology or land use are recorded with respect to the site and no other features are shown within the site boundary apart from a footpath that appears to cross it, although this is probably a result of the level of detail shown. A darker area on the opposite side of the river may indicate features associated with the cornmill or a small extension to the Pentreheylin estate across the river.

The 1840 Tithe Survey for Llandysilio provides a greater level of detail (*Fig. 7*) separating the site to form three enclosures, these being Plot 219 to the NW, Plot 220 to the NE and Plot 214 to the S. Plots 219 and 220 are described as meadows named 'Dol Heylin' and attached to the farm at 'Pentreheylin Hall', owned and occupied by John James Esquire. Plot 214 is listed as pasture named 'Long Platt and Long Meadow' which was also in the ownership of John James Esquire but was tenanted by Martha Owen. The information recorded in the tithe survey confirms that the land was attached to the Pentreheylin estate and the large house at Pentreheylin is clearly shown. No further features are recorded and the only other feature of interest is the small patch of land on the opposite site of the river (Plot 219a), which is also attached to the Pentreheylin Estate, and is listed as 'Little Wood over the River'.

The 1887 Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6-Inch Survey of Montgomeryshire (*Fig. 8*) depicts a landscape very similar to that shown on the earlier 19th century cartography. The farmstead/house at Pentreheylin is still recorded and the enclosure pattern of the proposed development site largely retained its earlier morphology, as shown in 1840, although Plot 220 and Plot 214 appear to have been amalgamated and are shown as parkland. Also shown is the argae ford on the NE edge of the site. However, no further features are recorded. Similarly, very few changes are recorded on either the 1902 Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 6-Inch Survey of Montgomeryshire (*Fig. 9*) or the 1954 OS 1:10,000 National Survey (*Fig. 10*), the landscape of the site being largely the same on the 20th century cartography as shown on the 19th-century cartography.

LiDAR data covering the site of the proposed development was also consulted (*Fig. 11*), and, as well as the possible evidence for medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow within the site boundary, a channel or ditch feature appears to cut across the N edge of the site. This may be a feature connected with the former parkland or possibly a relict field boundary but the most likely interpretation, given that it connects with the river at either end, is that it represents some form of drainage channel or a former river course.

Conclusion: The potential to encounter remains associated with post-medieval activity has been assessed as **Moderate**. This assessment reflects the potential for the works associated with the proposed development to encounter evidence of features associated with the post-medieval parkland formerly attached to Pentreheylin. This includes the former argae ford and cornmill, as well as undocumented high-status landscape features. There is also potential for any works on the southern edge of the site to impact the fabric of the canal, particularly when connecting the open-water nature reserve to the canal, and for works on the western edge of the site to impact upon the post-medieval drain connecting the canal to the river.

Should any post-medieval archaeological features or deposits be encountered, these would likely be of **Medium** archaeological significance in contributing to the understanding of 18th century canal construction.

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6 Archaeology Assessment: Site Assessment

BA visited the site on 31st August 2023 to determine the topography and the presence of any visible features of archaeological significance (*Plates 1-11*). The site was accessed along a pair of small lanes leading NE from the B4393 towards Pentreheylin Farm, each of which crossed separate bridges across the Montgomery Canal (Bridge 97 and Bridge 98).

The site comprises a large northern field, with smaller enclosures to the S, where the site borders the line of the Montgomery Canal. The fields surround Pentreheylin Farm and its attached yards and gardens, to the N and E. These fields support a dense growth grass interspersed with large patches of nettles, thistles and other naturally occurring species.

The dense vegetation cover concealed any earthwork features and it was therefore not possible to ascertain whether any ridge and furrow surviving, although some depressions, most likely representing natural drainage, were noted. A number of large specimen trees, most likely associated with the former parkland attached to Pentreheylin, were also noted within the fields.



Plate 1: View looking NNE across the site of the proposed development

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Plate 2: View looking NE across the site of the proposed development



Plate 3: View looking E across the site of the proposed development

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Plate 4: View looking E across the S section of the site of the proposed development



Plate 5: View looking SE along the section of canal to the immediate S of the site of the proposed development

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Plate 6: View looking NW at Pentreheylin Farm



Plate 7: View looking NE across the land to the immediate E of Pentreheylin Farm

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Plate 8: View looking NE across the site of the proposed development



Plate 9: View looking NE at the site of the proposed development and Pentreheylin Farm

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Plate 10: View looking NE along the W side of the site of the proposed development



Plate 11: View looking NE of the sluice leading to the post-medieval drain along the W side of the site

7 Archaeology Assessment: Conclusions

7.1 Potential Impacts

The following summary description of the development is based on updated drawings and information supplied by the client on 24th October 2024 (*Fig. 5*). Subsequent publication of revised proposals and specifications for the proposed development, together with updated plans and drawings, may necessitate revisions to this report and the conclusions reached.

In brief, the proposed works involve the creation of an offline reserve to provide suitable habitat for floating water plantain (*Luronium natans*) and other key macrophytes associated with the Mongomery Canal. In order to achieve this, the Canal and Rivers Trust are researching innovative reserve design concepts that consider the unique ecology of the species concerned and the ecosystem functioning of the environment in which they naturally occur.

The proposed wetland habitat scheme therefore involves a number of features detailed in the proposed plan, including new channels connecting with the River Vyrnwy/Afon Efyrnwy, new ponds, new wildflower meadows, new wet meadows, new areas of trees/hedgerows and an access track. It is hoped that the new channels that will be created will be naturally connected to the river, and that control structures will not be needed. No specific excavation depths have been supplied by the client but on similar reserves the excavations have been undertaken to a maximum depth of 2.5m.

The main channel detailed in this plan has the potential to extend across the area of the site containing the possible mill leat/palaeochannel feature, as well as the site of the possible post-medieval mill, which may also have medieval origins. Therefore, any disruptive works associated with this part of the scheme have potential to encounter/disturb archaeological features and deposits. Consequently, it may be necessary to undertake archaeological mitigation work in order to mitigate any impact, as well as investigate the nature of the mill leat/palaeochannel feature. Similarly, prior to any work being undertaken in the vicinity of the ridge and furrow/palaeochannel on the E side of the site, it may be necessary to undertake archaeological mitigation work in order to mitigate the nature of the feature, as well as investigate the nature of the site, it may be necessary to undertake archaeological mitigation work in order to mitigate the nature of the feature, as well.

Although these are not detailed in the proposed plan, there is also potential for any associated works on the southern edge of the wider site to impact upon the fabric of the canal, particularly if any works are undertaken to join the open-water nature reserve to the canal. There is also potential for works on the W edge of the site to impact the post-medieval drain connecting the canal to the river. Care should also be taken that none of the works impact the wall separating the former parkland from the site of Pentreheylin Hall itself, as this may represent a $18^{th}/19^{th}$ century boundary.

7.2 Overall Conclusions

The archaeological potential of the proposed development has been assessed as <u>Moderate</u>. This assessment largely reflects the potential of the works associated with the proposed development to encounter features or deposits of a medieval or post-medieval date. The assessment of medieval archaeological potential reflects the potential for evidence of medieval agricultural activity to be encountered during the works associated with the proposed development, due to the presence of areas of ridge and furrow attached to Pentreheylin Hall within the boundaries of the site.

The assessment of post-medieval archaeological potential reflects the potential for these works to encounter evidence of features associated with the post-medieval parkland formerly attached to Pentreheylin. This includes the former argae ford and cornmill, as well as undocumented high-status landscape features. There is also potential for any works on the S edge of the site to impact the fabric of the canal, particularly when joining the open-water nature reserve to the canal, and for works on the W edge of the site to impact upon the post-medieval drain connecting the canal to the river.

The potential for evidence of prehistoric activity being identified within the site has been assessed as **Low to Moderate**, reflecting the underlying potential for prehistoric material to be identified during the works associated with the proposed development. This assessment is based upon the extent of Iron Age activity recorded in the wider vicinity of the site, particularly in the vicinity of Bryn Mawr hillfort, and also reflects the presence of superficial alluvial deposits across the site, which may contain artefactual material of a prehistoric date, as well as paleoenvironmental remains. The potential for encountering remains associated with Romano-British activity within the boundaries of the site has been assessed as **Low**.

Conclusion: The archaeological potential of the site has been assessed as **Moderate**. This assessment largely reflects the potential of the works associated with the development encountering features or deposits of a **medieval** or **post-medieval** date. The potential for encountering features or deposits of a prehistoric date has been assessed as **Low to Moderate**. The potential for encountering features or deposits of a Romano-British date has been assessed as **Low**. As no boreholes and no invasive archaeological works are recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site, it is not possible to predict the potential depths of significant archaeological deposits and features in this specific area.

Recommendations: It is Border Archaeology's considered opinion that, *prima facie*, the archaeological potential of the site does not present an impediment to the proposed development. Given the <u>Moderate</u> potential of the site in archaeological terms, it is recommended that an appropriate programme of site investigation and recording, the details of which to be agreed with the Relevant Planning Archaeologist, will be necessary to determine the extent, depth and significance of any buried archaeological features and deposits within the site.

8 Historic Environment Record Gazetteers & Maps

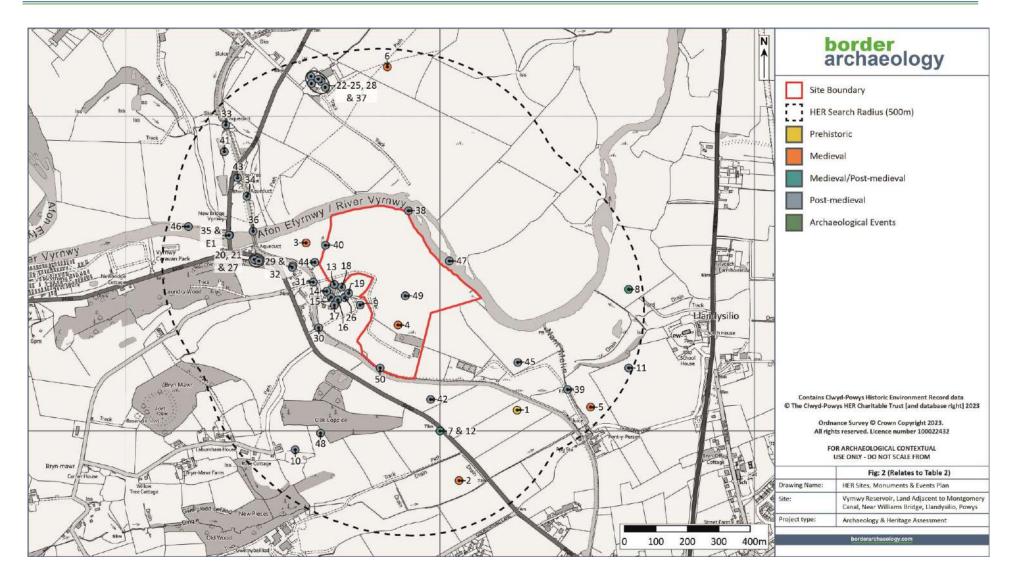
#	PRN	Name	Date	NGR
1	7970	Llandysilio Double-Ditched Enclosure	Iron Age	SJ 2624 1906
2	128356	Ridge & Furrow	Medieval	SJ 2606 1884
3	38119	Ridge & Furrow	Medieval	SJ 2557 1959
4	64651	Ridge & Furrow	Medieval	SJ 2586 1933
5	64715	Maes Coch Fieldname	Medieval	SJ 2647 1907
6	64726	Ridge & Furrow	Medieval	SJ 2583 2015
7	15712	Llandysilio	Med./PM	SJ 2600 1900
8	23662	Ridge & Furrow	Med./PM	SJ 2660 1945
9	8808	Pentre Heylin Hall	Post-med.	SJ 2574 1940
10	8809	Bryn Mawr Farmstead	Post-med.	SJ 2554 1894
11	117674	Findspot: Charles II Irish Copper Halfpenny	Post-med.	SJ 2660 1920
12	130292	Crash Site: Avro Anson I K6228	Post-med.	SJ 2600 1900
13	182370	Farm Building, Pentre-heylin Hall Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2566 1946
14	182371	Farm Building, Pentre-heylin Hall Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2564 1944
15	182372	Farm Building, Pentre-heylin Hall Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2565 1942
16	182373	Farm Building, Pentre-heylin Hall Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2567 1941
17	182374	Farm Building, Pentre-heylin Hall Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2566 1940
18	182375	Farm Building, Pentre-heylin Hall Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2568 1945
19	182376	Farm Building, Pentre-heylin Hall Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2571 1943
20	182377	Farm Building, Newbridge Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2541 1954
21	182378	Farm Building, Newbridge Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2542 1954
22	182399	Farm Building, Pentref Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2559 2012
23	182400	Farm Building, Pentref Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2562 2011
24	182401	Farm Building, Pentref Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2561 2011
25	182402	Farm Building, Pentref Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2559 2010
26	189646	Pentre-heylin Hall Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2569 1942
27	189647	Newbridge Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2541 1954
28	189656	Pentref Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2562 2011
29	20398	Newbridge Timber Wharf	Post-med.	SJ 2553 1952
30	32377	Montgomeryshire Canal, Bridge 98	Post-med.	SJ 2561 1932
31	32378	Montgomeryshire Canal, Bridge 97	Post-med.	SJ 2559 1947
32	32379	Pentreheylin Salt Warehouse	Post-med.	SJ 2553 1952
33	32405	New Bridge Vyrnwy Aqueduct	Post-med.	SJ 2531 1997
34	32406	New Bridge Vyrnwy Aqueduct	Post-med.	SJ 2538 1974
35	32407	New Bridge Vyrnwy Road Bridge	Post-med.	SJ 2532 1962
36	32408	New Bridge Vyrnwy Aqueduct	Post-med.	SJ 2540 1963

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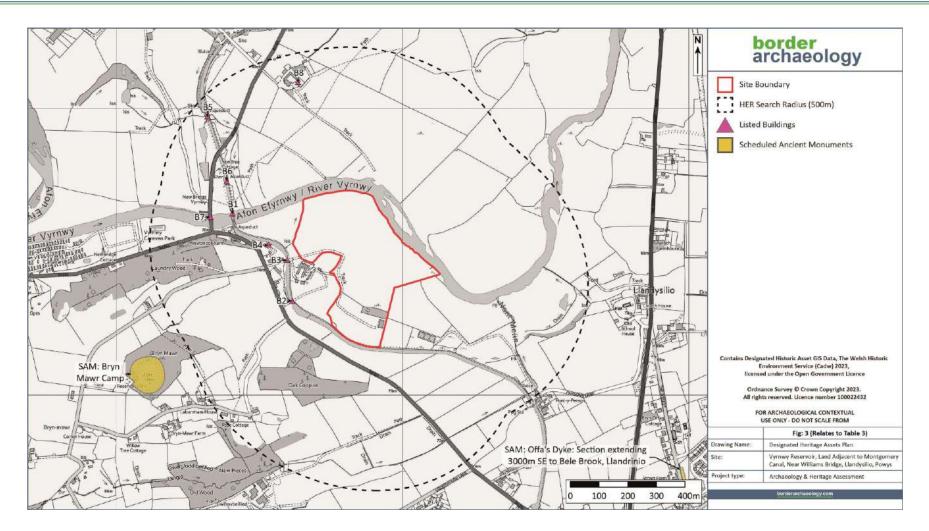
		consultation of the CPAT Historic Environment Record (HER). This table relates to Fig. 2.				
#	PRN	Name	Date	NGR		
37	32417	House, Pentref Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2563 2009		
38	37529	Pentreheylin Mill	Post-med.	SJ 2590 1970		
39	64571	Nant Melin footbridge	Post-med.	SJ 2640 1913		
40	64577	Pentre-heylin Drain	Post-med.	SJ 2563 1959		
41	64615	New Bridge Quarries	Post-med.	SJ 2531 1988		
42	64650	Holloway, Pentrehelyn	Post-med.	SJ 2597 1910		
43	64659	Yew Tree Cottage Farmstead	Post-med.	SJ 2535 1980		
44	64711	Cae yr Hendy	Post-med.	SJ 2560 1953		
45	64712	Cae Felin	Post-med.	SJ 2624 1921		
46	64730	Clawdd Coch River Wharf	Post-med.	SJ 2520 1965		
47	72635	Argae Ford, Pentreheylin Hall	Post-med.	SJ 2603 1954		
48	72636	Well, Gwerglodd-bellied	Post-med.	SJ 2562 1899		
49	72649	Parkland, Pentreheylin Hall	Post-med.	SJ 2589 1943		
50	72650	Section of Montgomeryshire Branch, Shropshire Union Canal	Post-med.	SJ 2581 1920		
E1	152033	Heritage Assessment: Vyrnwy River Bridge	2018	SJ 2533 1962		

Table 3: Gazetteer of Listed Buildings recorded within a 500m radius of the Site. This table relates to Fig. 3.				
#	Ref.	Name	Grade	NGR
B1	14206	Aqueduct Carrying Montgomeryshire Canal over River Vyrnwy	*	SJ 2540 1963
B2	8536	Bridge (No.98) over Montgomeryshire Canal	П	SJ 2561 1932
B3	8537	Pentreheylin Bridge (No.97) over The Montgomeryshire Canal	II	SJ 2559 1947
B4	8538	Former Salt Warehouse at Newbridge	П	SJ 2553 1952
		Four-Arch Aqueduct over Vyrnwy Flood Plain (Northern Arches) New Bridge		
B5	14203	Vyrnwy	II	SJ 2531 1997
		Three-Arch Aqueduct over Vyrnwy Flood Plain (Southern Arches) New		
B6	14204	Bridge Vyrnwy	П	SJ 2538 1974
B7	14205	Road Bridge over River Vyrnwy	II	SJ 2532 1962
B8	14217	Pentref	П	SJ 2563 2009

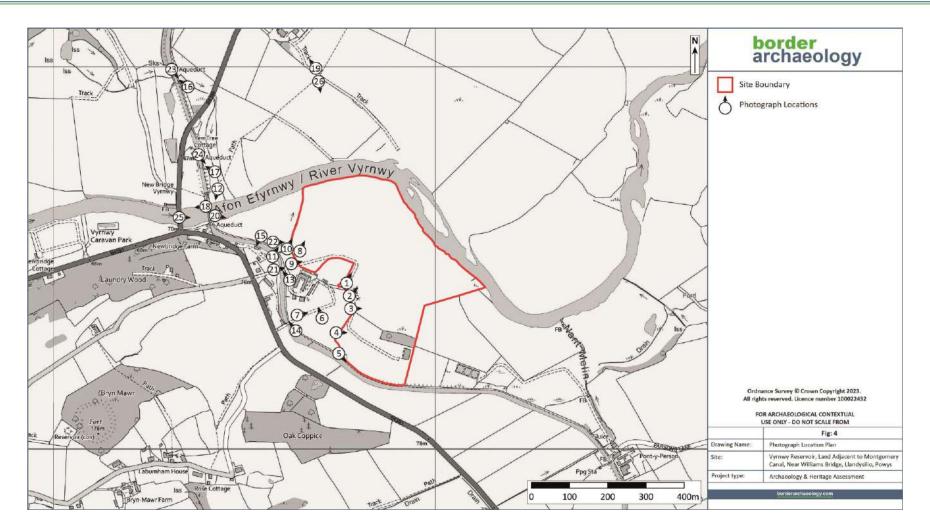
Archaeology & Heritage Assessment Vyrnwy Reserve near Williams Bridge Llandysilio Powys November 2023 (Updated November 2024)



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Archaeology & Heritage Assessment Vyrnwy Reserve near Williams Bridge Llandysilio Powys November 2023 (Updated November 2024)

border archaeology

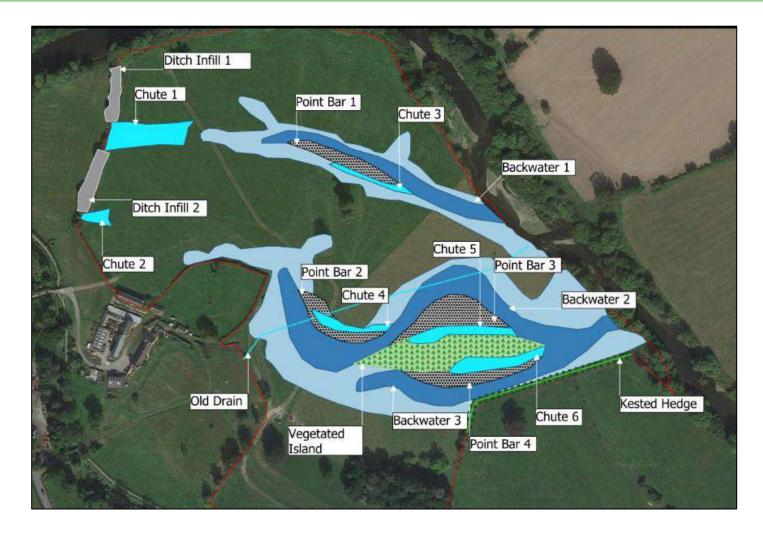


Fig. 5: Plan Outlining the Proposed Scheme (Reproduced Courtesy of the Client)

9 Heritage Assessment: Methodology

This Heritage Assessment identifies and describes those designated and undesignated heritage assets that may be affected by the proposed development and assesses their significance, followed by a description of the application proposals and an assessment of their potential impact on these heritage assets, in order to reach an overall assessment of the significance of impact upon the built heritage resource in the vicinity of the proposed development.

9.1 Legislative Framework

This HIA has been compiled to determine the potential impact on heritage assets and their respective settings in the vicinity of the proposed development and is primarily informed by *The Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Cadw 2017a), which outlines a four-stage process for considering the impact of a proposed development within the setting of historic assets.

Policies regarding built heritage Assets in Wales were originally set out in the UK Government's Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, which has subsequently been amended by the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The Welsh Government's planning policies are set out in *Planning Policy Wales* (11th Edition, 2021) and *Future Wales: The Nation Plan 2040*, as well as local plans produced by relevant planning authorities. This is supplemented by *Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment* (2017).

The assessment is also informed by the *Powys Local Development Plan 2011-2026* (Adopted April 2018) (Powys County Council 2018), in particular, Strategic Policy SP7 (Safeguarding of Strategic Resources and Assets). This states that it is Council policy to:

...safeguard strategic resources and assets in the County, development proposals must not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the resource or asset and its operation.

The policy goes on to define strategic resources and assets in Powys as including:

Historic environment designations, including:

- i. Registered Historic Landscapes.
- *ii. Registered Historic Parks and Gardens.*
- iii. Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other archaeological remains.
- iv. Listed Buildings and their curtilages.
- v. Conservation Areas.

AND the setting of designations i-v.

The assessment also notes Policy TD3 (Montgomery Canal and Associated Development), which states that:

Development proposals that support the restoration of the Montgomery Canal and preserve and enhance the role of the canal as a multifunctional resource, including off-line nature reserves and other appropriate canal-related development, will be supported. Proposals for development that would adversely affect the canal's scientific and conservation designations or prejudice its sensitive restoration will be opposed.

The assessment also reflects relevant policies contained within the *Canal and River Trust Heritage Standard* (Canal & River Trust 2016). This includes the following:

The Trust will give all its heritage assets, whether designated (i.e., legally protected) or non-designated, the same level of beneficial treatment...

Before works to a historic building, structure or historic site take place, a heritage assessment should be undertaken to determine its significance. This assessment will establish heritage value and will help to guide the planning and execution of works.

New development can be acceptable in an historic setting provided it maintains an appropriate visual context of form, scale and materials, and does not devalue the significance of heritage assets.

Where new development in the historic setting is being delivered by the Trust or its partners, the historic setting should derive a direct financial and aesthetic benefit as a dividend of the new development.

A site visit was undertaken on 25th October 2023 and a photographic record of the site showing the nearby heritage assets and their respective settings was undertaken from key vantage points (*Fig. 4*).

2/ Assessment of the Significance of the Heritage Assets and the extent to which their Settings respectively contribute to their Significance

This assessment has been primarily based upon criteria for assessing visual and physical impact on cultural heritage assets contained in the *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges*, Vol. 11 Section 3 part 2 (Highways Agency 2007), as well as relevant criteria contained in Section 4.1 of *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Cadw 2017a), which are briefly outlined below:

The setting of an historic asset comprises:

- Its current surrounding;
- Our present understanding and appreciation of the historic asset;
- What (if anything) survives of its historic surroundings.

Setting is defined as not being dependent on public rights of way or current access to the asset or viewpoints overlooking the asset.

Factors which contribute to the significance of the heritage asset may include:

- **Rarity**: Does it exemplify a pattern or type seldom or never encountered elsewhere? It is often assumed that rarity is synonymous with historical importance and therefore high value, but it is important not to exaggerate rarity by magnifying differences and downplaying common characteristics;
- **Representativeness:** Is its character or type representative of important historical or architectural trends? Representativeness may be contrasted with rarity;
- Aesthetic appeal: Does it (or could it) evoke positive feelings of worth by virtue of the quality (whether designed or artless) of its architecture, design or layout, the harmony or diversity of its forms and materials, or through its attractive physical condition?
- Integrity: Does it retain a sense of completeness and coherence? In a historic landscape with a high degree of integrity, the functional and hierarchical relationships between different elements of the landscape remain intelligible and nuanced, greatly enhancing its evidential value and often its aesthetic appeal. Integrity is most often used as a measure of single-phase survival, but some buildings and landscapes are valuable precisely because of their multiple layers, which can have considerable evidential value;
- **Associations:** Is it associated with important historic events or people? Can those associations be verified? If they cannot, they may still be of some significance, as many places and buildings are valued for associations that are traditional rather than historically proven.

Consideration was given as to whether the setting of the heritage assets contributes or detracts from its significance, with reference to the following attributes, namely:

- Topography;
- Presence of other heritage assets;
- Formal design;
- Historic materials and surfaces;
- Land use;
- Trees and vegetation;
- Openness, enclosure and boundaries;
- History and degree of change over time;
- Integrity;
- Surrounding townscape character;
- Views from, towards and across the asset (to including the asset itself);
- Visual prominence and role as focal point;
- Intentional intervisibility with other historic and natural features;
- Sense of enclosure, seclusion, intimacy or privacy;
- Accessibility, permeability and patterns of movement;
- The rarity of comparable survivals of setting;

- Associative relationships between heritage assets;
- Cultural associations.

3/ Assessment of the Magnitude of Impact of the Proposed Development on Heritage Assets and their Settings

Having determined at an initial stage that there will be no direct physical impact upon the heritage assets, the magnitude of visual impact resulting from the proposed development on the setting of the heritage assets was assessed supported by a photographic survey of the area from key vantage points. Consideration was given to key attributes of the proposed development in terms of:

- Location and siting, e.g., proximity to asset, extent, degree to which location will physically or visually isolate the asset and position in relation to key views;
- Form and appearance, e.g., prominence/conspicuousness, competition with or distraction from the asset, scale and massing, proportions, materials, architectural style or design;
- Additional effects, e.g., change to built surroundings and spaces, change to general character and tree-cover;
- Permanence.

The assessment was based on the following criteria:

- **High:** The development has a severe impact upon established 'views from' and/or 'views to' the heritage asset in terms of prominence within the view, directly obscuring or occluding views of it from the viewpoint and significantly disrupting the overall coherence of its extant setting;
- **Moderate:** The development has a clearly discernible impact upon established 'views from' and/or 'views to' the heritage asset, in terms of prominence within the view, but does not significantly obscure or occlude views of it from the viewpoint. It may cause limited disruption to the overall coherence of the extant setting of the heritage asset;
- **Minor:** The development is only partially discernible upon established 'views from' and/or 'views to' the heritage asset. It does not obscure views of the heritage asset from the viewpoint and thus causes no appreciable disruption to the overall coherence of its setting;
- **Negligible:** The development will result in very slight changes to key historic building elements that hardly affect it. The development will result in very slight changes to the setting of an historic building;
- **No change:** There is no discernible impact upon historic fabric or to the setting of the Heritage Asset as a result of the development.

4/ Overall Assessment of the Significance of Impact on the Heritage Assets

A conclusion is then drawn, integrating both the assessment of the significance of the heritage assets and their associated settings and the magnitude of impact of the proposed development to produce an overall assessment of the implications of the development proposals, as detailed in the table below:

Table 4: Overall Significance of impact on heritage assets					
<u>Magnitude of</u>	Importance of heritage asset				
<u>impact</u>	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Negligible
No change	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Negligible	Slight	Slight	Neutral/Slight	Neutral/Slight	Neutral
Minor	Moderate/Large	Moderate/Slight	Slight	Neutral/Slight	Neutral/Slight
Moderate	Large/Very Large	Moderate/Large	Moderate	Slight	Neutral/Slight
Major	Very Large	Large/Very Large	Moderate/Large	Slight/Moderate	Slight

9.2 Consultation of Records Relating to Designated Heritage Assets

In order to fully appreciate the significance of the heritage assets and their respective settings that may be affected by the proposed development, information was collected on designated and undesignated built heritage assets within a 500m radius around the area of the proposed development.

The research carried out for the Heritage Assessments consisted of the following elements:

- Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) Historic Environment Record (HER) information on archaeological and built heritage assets, previous archaeological investigations and historic building surveys. The CPAT HER supplied a HER enquiry number: E6829. A total of 8 designated built heritage assets, all Listed Buildings, were identified within the 500m study area defined for the purposes of this study (*Table 3; Fig. 3*). One SAM was identified just outside the study area: Bryn Mawr Camp (Ref: 3001).
- Cadw information on statutory designations including SAMs, Registered Parks and Gardens and Listed Buildings along with identified Heritage at Risk.
- British Geological Survey (BGS) solid and drift geology digital map. BGS geological borehole record data.
- Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru/National Library of Wales, The British Library, the National Archives and the Archifau Powys/Powys Archives historic maps, published and unpublished archaeological and historical accounts;
- Internet sources, including LPA local plans and information on Conservation Areas, Archaeological Priority Areas and locally Listed Buildings;
- Archifau Powys/Powys Archives and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)– collections of aerial photographs dating back to 1949.

However, it became clear from cartographic analysis that, due to the location of the proposal site, and the intervening topography, only eight designated heritage assets had the potential to be impacted visually by the proposed development. Consequently, the eight heritage assets to be assessed in terms of potential impacts from the proposed development were:

- Aqueduct carrying Montgomeryshire Canal over River Vyrnwy (Grade II*; 14206);
- Pentreheylin Bridge (No.97) over The Montgomeryshire Canal (Grade II; 8537);
- Bridge (No.98) over Montgomeryshire Canal (Grade II; 8536);
- Former Salt Warehouse at Newbridge (Grade II; 8538);
- Four-Arch Aqueduct over Vyrnwy Flood Plain (Northern Arches) New Bridge Vyrnwy (Grade II; 14203);

- Three-Arch Aqueduct over Vyrnwy Flood Plain (Southern Arches) New Bridge Vyrnwy (Grade II; 14204);
- Road Bridge over River Vyrnwy (Grade II; 14205);
- Pentref (Grade II; 14217).

10 Heritage Assessment

10.1 Assessment of Heritage Assets

The following section contains a description of the designated and non-designated heritage assets with the potential to be impacted by the proposed development, and their settings, followed by an assessment of their significance in heritage terms.

10.1.1 Aqueduct carrying Montgomeryshire Canal over River Vyrnwy (Grade II*; 14206)



• Identification of Heritage Asset & its Associated Setting

Plate 12: View looking SW at the Aqueduct carrying Montgomeryshire Canal over River Vyrnwy

The Aqueduct carrying Montgomeryshire Canal over River Vyrnwy (*Plate 12*), which was Grade II* listed in 1993 (14206), is located approximately 210m to the W of the site of the proposed development. It runs parallel to B4398 road bridge over the River Vyrnwy/Afon Efyrnwy, and links the embanked canal from the N to the higher S side of the river at Newbridge.

The Aqueduct was designed by John Dadford, a canal engineer from Cardiff, between 1794 and 1796, and was built by J. Simpson and W. Haseldine of Shrewsbury. After completion, the collapse of one arch was followed by a series of repairs completed by an engineer named George Buck from 1820. A handrail was added 1828 and further major repairs were undertaken in 1891 and 1971. The building is described as follows in the Listing:

Long five-arch masonry structure of squared blocks with capping bands, rusticated segmental archrings with keystones and rusticated soffits. V-shaped stepped cutwaters with almond profile and domed cappings. Lines of oval brace-plates to tie-rods through haunches of arches. Centre arch and outer north arch have cradles of fishbellied cast iron girders with tie-rods though haunches and exposed rods under soffits. Outer masonry ends are checked forward with curving abutments descending to end at square piers about river banks. Three tapering stone piers with cappings on towpath side of aqueduct with ironwork handrail set in stone seatings. Large masonry edges to narrow length of canal contained by puddled clay etc.

The key aspects of the setting of the Aqueduct consist of the River Vyrnwy/Afon Efyrnwy, over which it carries the canal, which flows WSW-ENE beneath the listed structure, as well as the canal itself, which flows NW-SW, with an immediate turn WSW to the S of the Aqueduct. The setting is also defined by the Grade II listed road bridge over the River Vyrnwy/Afon Efyrnwy, the aqueducts over the river's floodplain to the N of the heritage asset, and the agricultural land surrounding the crossing point.

• Assessment of the Significance of the Heritage Asset & the extent to which its Setting contributes to its Significance

The Aqueduct may be regarded as a heritage asset of **High** significance in architectural and historical terms. This assessment reflects its status as a Grade II* Listed Building and a well-preserved example of a late 18th century aqueduct. The listing states that it represents the finest individual structure on the Montgomery Canal and that it has historic interest as an example from the last generation of clay-lined aqueducts.

The setting of the Aqueduct, in relation to the River Vyrnwy/Afon Efyrnwy and the canal, is fundamental to its significance, as it was constructed at the intersection of the two waterways. Its rural setting and the surrounding agricultural landscape are also of importance to its significance, as these reflects the primary purpose of the canal it carries, which was designed to transport agricultural lime from the quarries at Llanymynech.

10.1.2 Pentreheylin Bridge (No.97) over The Montgomeryshire Canal (Grade II; 8537)

• Identification of Heritage Asset & its Associated Setting

Pentreheylin Bridge (No.97) over the Montgomeryshire Canal (*Plate 13*), which was Grade II listed in 1993 (8537), is located approximately 47m to the SW of the site of the proposed development. It carries the access road from the B4398 over the Montgomery Canal to Pentreheylin Hall and Farm. The bridge dates from before 1833 and probably from George Buck's period as engineer for the Montgomery Canal. The building is described as follows in the Listing:

Simple trabeated structure with "fish-bellied" cast iron girders, (concrete infill). Plain decking with replacement timberwork handrails. Ramped rubble abutments curve out to end in splayed piers on north side (plain to south side). Stonework towpath edge.

The key aspects of the setting of Bridge 97 consist of the Montgomery Canal, over which it carries an access road leading to Pentreheylin Hall and Farm, as well as the hall/farm and the agricultural landscape surrounding it. The canal runs N-S beneath Bridge 97.



Plate 13: View looking NW at Pentreheylin Bridge (No.97) over the Montgomeryshire Canal

• Assessment of the Significance of the Heritage Asset & the extent to which its Setting contributes to its Significance

Pentreheylin Bridge (No.97) over the Montgomeryshire Canal may be regarded as a heritage asset of **High** significance in architectural and historical terms. This assessment reflects its status as a Grade II Listed Building and a well-preserved example of a 19th century canal bridge.

The setting of Bridge 97, in relation to the Montgomery Canal, is fundamental to its significance, as its primary function was to provide access to Pentreheylin Hall and Farm over the canal. Its rural setting and the surrounding agricultural landscape also contribute to its significance in reflecting the historic setting of the heritage asset, crossing a canal designed to transport agricultural lime from the quarries at Llanymynech and the primary function of the farm to which it provides access.

10.1.3 Bridge (No.98) over Montgomeryshire Canal (Grade II; 8536)

• Identification of Heritage Asset & its Associated Setting

Bridge (No.98) over the Montgomeryshire Canal (*Plate 14*), which was Grade II listed in 1993 (8536), is located approximately 125m to the W of the site of the proposed development. It carries a field road over the Montgomeryshire Canal to Pentreheylin Farm on the E bank. The bridge dates from before 1833 and probably dates from George Buck's period as engineer for the Montgomery Canal. The building is described as follows in the Listing:

Simple trabeated structure with "fish-bellied" cast iron girders and slate infill. Plain concrete decking with replacement wooden handrails. Plain red brick abutments with outward sweep and stone cappings. Stonework towpath edge.

The key aspects of the setting of Bridge 98 consist of the Montgomery Canal, over which it carries an access road leading to Pentreheylin Hall and Farm, as well as the hall/farm and the agricultural landscape surrounding it. The canal passes under Bridge 98 in a NW-SE direction.

• Assessment of the Significance of the Heritage Asset & the extent to which its Setting contributes to its Significance

Bridge (No.98) over the Montgomeryshire Canal may be regarded as a heritage asset of **High** significance in architectural and historical terms. This assessment reflects its status as a Grade II Listed Building and a well-preserved example of a 19th century canal bridge.

The setting of Bridge 98, in relation to the Montgomery Canal, is fundamental to its significance, as its primary function was to provide access to Pentreheylin Hall and Farm over the canal. Its rural setting, and the surrounding agricultural landscape, is also an important part of its significance, as it reflects the historic setting of the heritage

asset, crossing a canal designed to transport agricultural lime from the quarries at Llanymynech, and the primary function of the farm it provides access to.



Plate 14: View looking NW at Bridge (No.98) over the Montgomeryshire Canal

10.1.4 Former Salt Warehouse at Newbridge (Grade II; 8538)

• Identification of Heritage Asset & its Associated Setting

The Former Salt Warehouse at Newbridge (*Plate 15*), which was Grade II listed in 1993 (8538), is located approximately 85m to the W of the site of the proposed development. It is located on a meadow site close to the W bank of the Montgomery Canal between Newbridge and Pentreheylin. It was probably built by John Goolden of Maesbury Marsh in 1824. The listing description reads:

Fine two-storey late Georgian design with rusticated stone quoins and coped gable parapets with moulded kneelers and corniced stacks. Rubble walls with brickwork eaves, slate roof. Two square upper openings with masonry surrounds and iron bars; similar outer ground floor openings with adjoining boarded doors. Remains of seating and timber support for loading crane at right hand angle. Segmental arched loading doors linked to ground floor opening in right gable end. Similar treatment to single storey rear elevation with high central loading door flanked by square, barred openings."

The key aspects of the setting of the former salt warehouse consist of the Montgomery Canal, which formerly provided transport links to the warehouse, as well as the rural settlement of Newbridge of which it forms part and the agricultural landscape surrounding it. The canal passes the warehouse in a NW-SE direction at this point.



Plate 15: View looking SW at the Former Salt Warehouse at Newbridge

• Assessment of the Significance of the Heritage Asset & the extent to which its Setting contributes to its Significance

The Former Salt Warehouse at Newbridge may be regarded as a heritage asset of **High** significance in architectural and historical terms. This assessment reflects its status as a Grade II Listed Building, and as well-preserved example of a 19th century industrial building associated with the canal. The listing states that, despite its deteriorating condition, it represents a fine masonry building and is the best of the early warehouses associated with the canal. The building does appear to have been recently restored and converted to a family home since the date of the listing. The isolation building is described as being a very distinctive elements of the landscape.

The setting of the Former Salt Warehouse at Newbridge, in relation to its position next to the Montgomery Canal, is fundamental to its significance, as its primary historical function was as an industrial building adjacent to the canal, which made use of the waterway for transportation.

10.1.5 Four-Arch Aqueduct over Vyrnwy Flood Plain (Northern Arches) New Bridge Vyrnwy (Grade II; 14203)

• Identification of Heritage Asset & its Associated Setting

The Four-Arch Aqueduct over Vyrnwy Flood Plain (Northern Arches) New Bridge Vyrnwy (*Plate 16*), which was Grade II listed in 1993 (14203), is located approximately 427m to the NW of the site of the proposed development. It is located between Carreghofa Locks and the B4398 road, which crosses the Montgomery Canal at Williams Bridge. It was designed by John Dadford in 1794-1796 and was partly rebuilt by the Shropshire Union Railway and Canal Company c. 1890 with metal tie-rods and brick arch-linings. The listing description reads:

Squared stone cappings and quoins, rubble facings, four round (rebuilt) blue brick arches with arch rings meeting (on both sides) at low, stepped cutwaters with pryamidal tops. Outer ends checked forward with curved abutments sloping down to low brick piers. Paired oval brace-plates to haunches of each arch.

The key aspects of the setting of the Aqueduct consist of the Montgomery Canal, which it carries over the floodplain of the River Vyrnwy/Afon Efyrnwy, and the floodplain itself, which provides the purpose for the construction of the heritage asset.

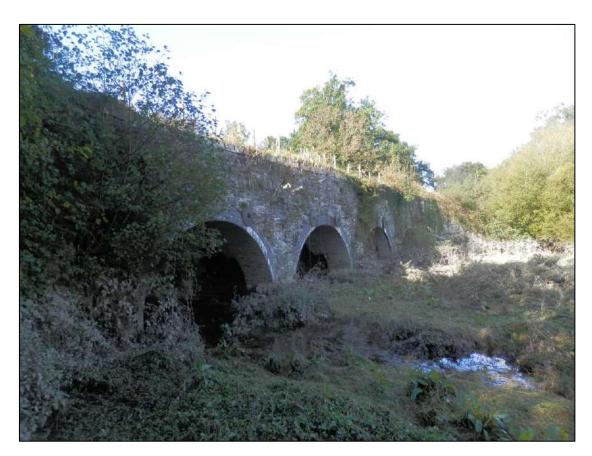


Plate 16: View looking NW at the Four-Arch Aqueduct over Vyrnwy Flood Plain (Northern Arches) New Bridge Vyrnwy

• Assessment of the Significance of the Heritage Asset & the extent to which its Setting contributes to its Significance

The Four-Arch Aqueduct over Vyrnwy Flood Plain (Northern Arches) New Bridge Vyrnwy may be regarded as a heritage asset of **High** significance in architectural and historical terms. This assessment reflects its status as a Grade II Listed Building and well-preserved example of a late 18th century aqueduct.

The setting of the Aqueduct, in relation to the canal and the floodplain of the River Vyrnwy/Afon Efyrnwy, is fundamental to its significance, as it was constructed close to the intersection of the two waterways to provide a crossing point leading to the main aqueduct over the river itself.

10.1.6 Three-Arch Aqueduct over Vyrnwy Flood Plain (Southern Arches) New Bridge Vyrnwy (Grade II; 14204)

• Identification of Heritage Asset & its Associated Setting

The Three-Arch Aqueduct over Vyrnwy Flood Plain (Southern Arches) New Bridge Vyrnwy (*Plate 17*), which was Grade II listed in 1993 (14204), is located approximately 267m to the NW of the site of the proposed development. It is located between the B4398 road at Williams Bridge and the River Vyrnwy. It was originally constructed for the Montgomery Canal Company by John and Thomas Dadford between 1794 and 1796 but is much repaired and was entirely refaced in blue brick in 1890 (according to a stone date plaque over the western face of the central arch) by the Shropshire Union Railway and Canal Company. The structure is described as follows in the listing entry:

Central core or red brick arches, blue brick facings with brick band above the arches, chamfered stone cappings. Three elliptical arches with central raking buttresses and sweeping abutments with stone pyramidal caps. Above each arch a pair of floreated terminals to tie-rods.

The key aspects of the setting of the Aqueduct consist of the Montgomery Canal, which it carries over the floodplain of the River Vyrnwy/Afon Efyrnwy, and the river and floodplain itself, which provides the purpose for the construction of the heritage asset.

• Assessment of the Significance of the Heritage Asset & the extent to which its Setting contributes to its Significance

The Three-Arch Aqueduct over Vyrnwy Flood Plain (Southern Arches) New Bridge Vyrnwy may be regarded as a heritage asset of **High** significance in architectural and historical terms. This assessment reflects its status as a Grade II Listed Building and as well-preserved example of a late 18th century aqueduct. The listing describes the aqueduct as being included for its group value as integral to the Montgomeryshire Canal adjacent to the Vyrnwy Aqueduct and as an example of structural development in terms of canal engineering.

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The setting of the Aqueduct, in relation to the canal and the floodplain of the River Vyrnwy/Afon Efyrnwy, is fundamental to its significance, as it was constructed close to the intersection of the two waterways, in order to provide a crossing point leading to the main aqueduct over the river itself.



Plate 17: View looking NW at the Three-Arch Aqueduct over Vyrnwy Flood Plain (Southern Arches) New Bridge Vyrnwy

10.1.7 Road Bridge over River Vyrnwy (Grade II; 14205)

Identification of Heritage Asset & its Associated Setting

The Road Bridge over River Vyrnwy (Plate 18), which was Grade II listed in 1953 (14205), is located approximately 286m to the W of the site of the proposed development. The existing bridge was built before 1773, when it was mentioned by Thomas Pennant, and incorporated an older and narrower bridge. It formerly carried the old Welshpool-to-Oswestry main road, prior to the construction of Llanymynech Bridge in 1828. Several feet have been added on the W side and some of the arches have been refaced or rebuilt; two earlier rusticated arches remain on the S section. The breakwaters were repaired in 1854. The building is described as follows in the listing entry:

Freestone masonry, plain narrow band below parapet of large freestone blocks. Four regular segmental arches, rounded cutwaters with plain buttresses above. The two southern arches have tie-rods running through them which terminate in bolted triangular brace plates. Northern embankment with five low, round-arched flood arches in rubble stone.

The key aspect of the setting of the road bridge relates to its function in carrying the road over the River Vyrnwy/Afon Efyrnwy, which flows W-E beneath it and provides the reason for the construction of the asset. Another important aspect of the setting is the Montgomery Canal and its associated listed aqueducts, as the bridge and the aqueducts have collective value as a group of 18th century historic infrastructure assets.



Plate 18: View looking W at the Road Bridge over the River Vyrnwy

• Assessment of the Significance of the Heritage Asset & the extent to which its Setting contributes to its Significance

The road bridge may be regarded as a heritage asset of **High** significance in architectural and historical terms. This assessment reflects its status as a Grade II Listed Building, and as well-preserved example of an 18th century road bridge. The listing also states that the bridge forms an impressive grouping with the Vyrnwy Aqueduct to the E.

The setting of the bridge, in relation to River Vyrnwy/Afon Efyrnwy, the Montgomery Canal and the aqueducts, is fundamental to its significance, the bridge forming part of an important group of 18th century infrastructure assets associated with the crossing of the river.

10.1.8 Pentref (Grade II; 14217)

• Identification of Heritage Asset & its Associated Setting

Pentref (*Plate 19*), which was Grade II listed in 1953 (14217), is located approximately 394m to the N of the site of the proposed development. The building is located about 300m SW of Wern and is approached along a short track from a crossroads 100m SE of Carreghofa Locks. Pentref was most likely built in 1821 based on a dated lead rainhead. The exterior of the building is described thus in the listing entry:

Two storeys, attic and cellar, single pile with two adjoining parallel rear wings, rubble stone with roughly square quoins, clay tiled roofs. Brick end stacks to left gable and to gable and ridge to left hand wing where it adjoins main front. Three windows; ground floor, inserted C19 large-paned sashes with side lights under dressed stone lintels and cills; first floor, three-light with central casement under stone cambered heads; attic, two-light casements. Central recessed door, two-panel with glazed upper, door case with fluted strips, plain pitch-roofed canopy on curved brackets. Single two-light casement to attic storey of right gable. Right hand rear (dairy) wing has symmetrical fenestration on the ground floor and first floors; all two-light casements under cambered stone heads except lower right which retains cruciform window with metal bars, gauze infill and internal shutters.

As a historic farm, the setting of Pentref consists of agricultural fields to the N of the River Vyrnwy/Afon Efyrnwy.

 Assessment of the Significance of the Heritage Asset & the extent to which its Setting contributes to its Significance



Plate 19: View looking NW at Pentref

Pentref may be regarded as a heritage asset of **High** significance in architectural and historical terms. This assessment reflects its status as a Grade II Listed Building and as well-preserved example of a 19th century farmhouse.

As a historic farm, the setting of Pentref within farmland to the N of the River Vyrnwy/Afon Efyrnwy is fundamental to its significance as an integral component of the rural landscape of this part of the Vyrnwy/Efyrnwy valley.

11 Heritage Assessment: Description of Proposals & Magnitude of Impact

11.1 Summary Description of Proposals

The following summary description of the development is based on drawings and information supplied by the client on 3rd November 2023 (*Fig. 5*). Subsequent publication of revised proposals and specifications for the proposed development, together with updated plans and drawings, may necessitate revisions to this report and the conclusions reached.

In brief, the proposed works involve the creation of an offline reserve to provide suitable habitat for floating water plantain (*Luronium natans*) and other key macrophytes associated with the Mongomery Canal. In order to do this the Canal and Rivers Trust are researching innovative reserve design concepts that consider the unique ecology of the species concerned and the ecosystem functioning of the environment in which they naturally occur.

To achieve this, the proposed wetland habitat scheme involves a number of features detailed in the indicative plan, including new channels controlled by control structures connecting with the River Vyrnwy/Afon Efyrnwy, new ponds, new wildflower meadows, new wet meadows, new areas of trees/hedgerows and an access track. No above ground structures/buildings are proposed, with the visual impact on the surrounding landscape being likely to be limited to the change from farmland to a wetland reserve with associated planting/water channels.

11.2 Assessment of Magnitude of Impact

11.2.1 Aqueduct carrying Montgomeryshire Canal over River Vyrnwy (Grade II*; 14206)

The proposed development will have no physical impact upon the Grade II* Listed Building.

In terms of the visual impact of the proposed development upon views associated with the Aqueduct carrying Montgomeryshire Canal over River Vyrnwy, the magnitude of impact can be assessed as being minimal. The new reserve will not be visible in conjunction with the Aqueduct from any of the key viewpoints of the structure, from the road bridge or from the riverbank.

However, it should be noted that the W edge of the new reserve will be visible in the distance from the canal towpath as it crosses the Aqueduct (see *Plate 20*). Whilst there will be views across the edge of the reserve from the Aqueduct, there are no structures proposed on this edge of the proposed development and the only change is

one from boggy meadow to wetland reserve. The changes will be minimal and the general character of the riverine/rural landscape will not be affected.

Therefore, the proposed development will have little impact on the setting of the Aqueduct. Consequently, the magnitude of impact of the proposed development upon the Grade II* listed Aqueduct carrying the Montgomeryshire Canal over the River Vyrnwy has been assessed as Negligible. The development does not affect the heritage value of the Grade II* Listed Building or the ability for the public to appreciate the heritage asset.



Plate 20: View looking SE towards the site of the proposed development from the Aqueduct carrying Montgomeryshire Canal over River Vyrnwy

11.2.2 Pentreheylin Bridge (No.97) over The Montgomeryshire Canal (Grade II; 8537)

The proposed development will have no permanent physical impact upon the Grade II Listed Building. However, as the bridge will likely provide an access route to the site during the works associated with the development, care must be taken to avoid any damage to the bridge structure.

In terms of the visual impact of the proposed development upon views associated with Pentreheylin Bridge (No.97) over the Montgomeryshire Canal, the magnitude of impact can be assessed as being minimal. Despite the proximity of the bridge to the site, the new reserve will not be visible in conjunction with the bridge from any of the key viewpoints of the structure, due to the sunken nature of the line of the canal at this point. However, it should be

noted that the new reserve will be visible in the distance by anyone using the bridge to cross the canal (see *Plate 21*). Whilst there will be views across the reserve from the bridge, there are no structures proposed on this edge of the proposed development, with the landscape changes consisting of the change from a boggy meadow to a wetland reserve. These changes will, consequently, be minimal, and the general riverine/rural nature of the landscape will not change.

Therefore, the proposed development will have little impact on the setting of the bridge and the magnitude of impact of the proposed development upon the Grade II listed Pentreheylin Bridge (No.97) over The Montgomeryshire Canal has consequently been assessed as **Negligible**. The development does not affect the heritage value of the Grade II Listed Building or public appreciation of the heritage asset.



Plate 21: View looking ENE to towards the site of the proposed development from Pentreheylin Bridge (No.97) over the Montgomeryshire Canal

11.2.3 Bridge (No.98) over Montgomeryshire Canal (Grade II; 8536)

The proposed development will have no permanent physical impact upon the Grade II listed Heritage Asset. However, as the bridge will probably provide an access site route during the works associated with the development, care must be taken to avoid any damage to its structure.

In terms of the visual impact of the proposed development upon views associated with Bridge (No.98) over the Montgomeryshire Canal, the magnitude of impact can be assessed as being minimal. Despite the proximity of the Bridge to the site, the new reserve will not be visible in conjunction with the bridge from any of the key viewpoints as the canal is sunken at this point.

However, whilst it should be noted that it was not possible to gain access to the top of the bridge during the site visit, due to it being a private access route, it is clear from the analysis of the modern cartography that the new reserve will be visible in the distance by anyone using the bridge to cross the canal. Although there will be views across the reserve from the bridge, no structural elements are proposed on this edge of the development, with landscape change limited to the conversion of the land from boggy meadow to wetland reserve. These changes will, therefore, be minimal, and the general riverine/rural nature of the landscape will not change.

Therefore, the proposed development will have little impact on the setting of the bridge. Consequently, the magnitude of impact of the proposed development upon the Grade II Listed Pentreheylin Bridge (No.97) over The Montgomeryshire Canal has been assessed as **Negligible**. The development does not affect the heritage value of the Grade II listed heritage asset or the ability for the public to appreciate the heritage asset.



11.2.4 Former Salt Warehouse at Newbridge (Grade II; 8538)

Plate 22: View looking E to towards the site of the proposed development from the canal towpath opposite the Former Salt Warehouse at Newbridge

The proposal will have no permanent physical impact upon the Grade II listed Heritage Asset.

In terms of the visual impact of the proposed development upon views associated with the former salt warehouse, the magnitude of impact can be assessed as none. Despite the proximity of the warehouse to the site, the new reserve will not be visible in conjunction with the warehouse from any of the key viewpoints along the canal towpath, due to the substantial hedgerow running along the E side of the towpath (see Plate 22).

Consequently, the magnitude of impact of the proposed development upon the Grade II listed Former Salt Warehouse at Newbridge has been assessed as **No Change**. The development does not affect the heritage value of the Grade II listed heritage asset or public appreciation of it.

11.2.5 Four-Arch Aqueduct over Vyrnwy Flood Plain (Northern Arches) New Bridge Vyrnwy (Grade II; 14203)

The proposed development will have no permanent physical impact upon the Grade II Listed Heritage Asset. In terms of the visual impact of the proposed development upon views associated with the asset (Northern Arches), the magnitude of impact can be assessed as none.



Plate 23: View looking SE to towards the site of the proposed development from the Four-Arch Aqueduct over Vyrnwy Flood Plain (Northern Arches) New Bridge Vyrnwy

The Aqueduct is located some distance from the site of the new reserve, which will not be visible in conjunction with the heritage asset from any of the key viewpoints of the structure along the canal towpath, due to distance and intervening tree cover. Furthermore, the site of the proposed development is also not visible from the Aqueduct itself (see *Plate 23*).

Therefore, the proposed development will have little impact on the setting of the Four-Arch Aqueduct over Vyrnwy Flood Plain (Northern Arches) New Bridge Vyrnwy. Consequently, the magnitude of impact of the proposed development upon the Grade II listed Aqueduct has been assessed as **No Change**. The development does not affect the heritage value of the asset or the ability for the public to appreciate it.

11.2.6 Three-Arch Aqueduct over Vyrnwy Flood Plain (Southern Arches) New Bridge Vyrnwy (Grade II; 14204)

The proposed development will have no permanent physical impact upon the Grade II listed Heritage Asset.



Plate 24: View looking SE to towards the site of the proposed development from the Three-Arch Aqueduct over Vyrnwy Flood Plain (Southern Arches) New Bridge Vyrnwy

In terms of the visual impact of the proposed development upon views associated with the Three-Arch Aqueduct over Vyrnwy Flood Plain (Southern Arches) New Bridge Vyrnwy, the magnitude of impact can be assessed as none. The Aqueduct is located some distance from the site of the new reserve, which will not be visible in conjunction with the heritage asset from any of the key viewpoints of the structure along the canal towpath, due to intervening

tree cover. Furthermore, the site of the proposed development is also not visible from the Aqueduct itself (see *Plate 24*).

Consequently, the proposed development will have little impact on the setting of the Three-Arch Aqueduct over Vyrnwy Flood Plain (Southern Arches) New Bridge Vyrnwy. Therefore, the magnitude of impact of the proposed development upon the Grade II Listed Aqueduct has been assessed as **No Change**. The development does not affect the heritage value of the Grade II listed heritage asset or the ability for the public to appreciate the heritage asset.

11.2.7 Road Bridge over River Vyrnwy (Grade II; 14205)

The proposed development will have no permanent physical impact upon the Grade II listed Heritage Asset.

In terms of the visual impact of the proposed development upon views associated with the Road Bridge over River Vyrnwy, the magnitude of impact can be assessed as none. The bridge is located some distance from the site of the new reserve, which will not be visible in conjunction with the heritage asset from any of the key viewpoints of the structure, due to distance and intervening trees. Furthermore, the site of the proposed development is also not visible from the bridge itself (see *Plate 25*).



Plate 25: View looking E to towards the site of the proposed development from the Road Bridge over the River Vyrnwy

Therefore, the magnitude of impact of the proposed development upon the Grade II listed bridge has been assessed as **No Change**. The development does not affect the heritage value of the Grade II listed heritage asset or the ability for the public to appreciate the heritage asset.

11.2.8 Pentref (Grade II; 14217)

The proposed development will have no permanent physical impact upon the Grade II listed Heritage Asset.

In terms of the visual impact of the proposed development upon views associated with Pentref, the magnitude of impact can be assessed as none. The farmhouse is located some distance from the site of the new reserve, which will not be visible in conjunction with the heritage asset from any of the key viewpoints of the building along the nearby footpath, due to distance and intervening trees. Furthermore, there is no visibility of the site of the proposed development from the farmhouse itself (see *Plate 26*).



Plate 26: View looking SSE to towards the site of the proposed development from Pentref

Therefore, the magnitude of impact of the proposed development upon the Grade II Listed Building has been assessed as **No Change**. The development does not affect the heritage value of the Grade II listed heritage asset or the ability for the public to appreciate the heritage asset.

12 Heritage Assessment: Overall Significance of Impact & Conclusion

Having determined the intrinsic significance of the specific heritage assets considered for the purposes of this study and the potential magnitude of impact of the proposed development on these assets, it is now possible to reach an informed overall appraisal of the implications of the proposals by means of cross-referencing the significance of the heritage assets against the magnitude of impact.

Table 5: Assessment of Overall Impact upon Heritage Assets			
Heritage Asset	Significance of Heritage Asset	Magnitude of Impact	Overall Impact
Aqueduct carrying Montgomeryshire Canal over River Vyrnwy (Grade II*; 14206)	High	Negligible	Neutral/Slight: This overall assessment takes into account the High significance of the aqueduct, cross-referenced against the magnitude of impact, assessed as Negligible. This assessment of impact reflects the fact that the W edge of the new reserve will be visible in the distance from the canal towpath as it crosses the Aqueduct. However, as no structures are proposed on this edge of the development, with the landscape changes consisting of the change from a boggy meadow to a wetland reserve, these changes will be minimal, and the general riverine/rural nature of the landscape will not change. Consequently, the proposed development will not affect the heritage value of the Grade II* Listed heritage asset, or the ability for the public to appreciate the heritage asset.
Pentreheylin Bridge (No.97) over The Montgomeryshire Canal (Grade II; 8537)	High	Negligible	Neutral/Slight: This overall assessment takes into account the High significance of the bridge, cross-referenced against the magnitude of impact, assessed as Negligible. This assessment of impact reflects the proximity of the bridge to the site, whilst also acknowledging the minimal visual impact of the proposed development. The new reserve will not be visible in conjunction with the bridge from any of the key viewpoints of the structure, due to the sunken nature of the line of the canal at this point. However, the new reserve will be visible in the distance by anyone using the bridge to cross the canal. Despite this, the landscape changes will consist of a very minor change from a boggy meadow to a wetland reserve. These changes will, consequently, be minimal, and the general riverine/rural nature of the landscape will not change. Therefore, the development does not affect the heritage value of the Grade II Listed heritage asset, or the ability for the public to appreciate the heritage asset.
Bridge (No.98) over	High	Negligible	Neutral/Slight: This overall assessment takes into account the High significance of the bridge, cross-referenced against the magnitude of impact, assessed as Negligible. This assessment

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	Table 5: Assessment of Overall Impact upon Heritage Assets			
Heritage Asset	Significance of Heritage Asset	Magnitude of Impact	Overall Impact	
Montgomeryshire Canal (Grade II; 8536)			of impact reflects the proximity of the bridge to the site, whilst also acknowledging the minimal visual impact of the proposed development. The new reserve will not be visible in conjunction with the bridge from any of the key viewpoints of the structure, due to the sunken nature of the line of the canal at this point. However, the new reserve will be visible in the distance by anyone using the bridge to cross the canal. Despite this, the landscape changes will consist of a very minor change from a boggy meadow to a wetland reserve. These changes will, consequently, be minimal, and the general riverine/rural nature of the landscape will not change. Therefore, the development does not affect the heritage value of the Grade II Listed heritage asset, or the ability for the public to appreciate the heritage asset.	
Former Salt Warehouse at Newbridge (Grade II; 8538)	High	No Change	Neutral: This overall assessment takes into account the High significance of the Grade II Listed former salt warehouse, cross-referenced against the magnitude of impact, assessed as No Change. This assessment of impact reflects the lack of intervisibility between the heritage asset and the site of the proposed reserve due to the substantial hedgerow on the E side of the canal towpath, between the heritage asset and the site.	
Four-Arch Aqueduct over Vyrnwy Flood Plain (Northern Arches) New Bridge Vyrnwy (Grade II; 14203)	High	No Change	Neutral: This overall assessment takes into account the High significance of the Grade II Listed aqueduct, cross-referenced against the magnitude of impact, assessed as No Change. This assessment of impact reflects the lack of intervisibility between the heritage asset and the site of the proposed reserve due to distance and intervening trees.	
Three-Arch Aqueduct over Vyrnwy Flood Plain (Southern Arches) New Bridge Vyrnwy (Grade II; 14204)	High	No Change	Neutral: This overall assessment takes into account the High significance of the Grade II Listed aqueduct, cross-referenced against the magnitude of impact, assessed as No Change. This assessment of impact reflects the lack of intervisibility between the heritage asset and the site of the proposed reserve due to distance and intervening trees.	
Road Bridge over River Vyrnwy (Grade II; 14205)	High	No Change	Neutral: This overall assessment takes into account the High significance of the Grade II Listed road bridge, cross- referenced against the magnitude of impact, assessed as No Change. This assessment of impact reflects the lack of intervisibility between the heritage asset and the site of the	

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Table 5: Assessment of Overall Impact upon Heritage Assets			
Heritage Asset	Significance of Heritage Asset	Magnitude of Impact	Overall Impact
			proposed reserve due to the distance of the bridge from the
			site.
Pentref (Grade II; 14217)	High	No Change	Neutral: This overall assessment takes into account the High significance of the Grade II Listed farmhouse, cross- referenced against the magnitude of impact, assessed as No Change. This assessment of impact reflects the lack of intervisibility between the heritage asset and the site of the proposed reserve due to the distance of the farmhouse from the site.

Summary Conclusion: The overall impact of the proposed development in heritage terms may be assessed as <u>Neutral/Slight</u>. This assessment reflects the very minor visual impact the proposed development will have upon views from the Grade II* listed Aqueduct carrying Montgomeryshire Canal over River Vyrnwy, and the Grade II listed Pentreheylin Bridge (No.97) over The Montgomeryshire Canal and Bridge (No.98) over Montgomeryshire Canal. However, these changes will be minimal and the general riverine/rural character of the landscape will not be affected.

Consequently, the development does not affect the heritage value of the heritage assets, or the ability for the public to appreciate them.

It should be noted that, if either of the Grade II listed bridges over the canal are used to provide site access routes during the works associated with the proposed development, care must be taken to avoid any damage to the structure of the bridges.

Based on this assessment, it is thus considered that the proposed development can be supported in heritage terms.

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14.1 Cartography

(All maps were obtained from Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru/National Library of Wales unless otherwise stated):

1830: Ordnance Survey drawing of Oswestry (British Library).

- 1838: Llanymynech Tithe Survey.
- 1887: Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6-Inch Survey of Montgomeryshire.
- 1902: Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 6-Inch Survey of Montgomeryshire.
- 1954: Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 National Survey.

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15 Appendix 1: Historic Maps

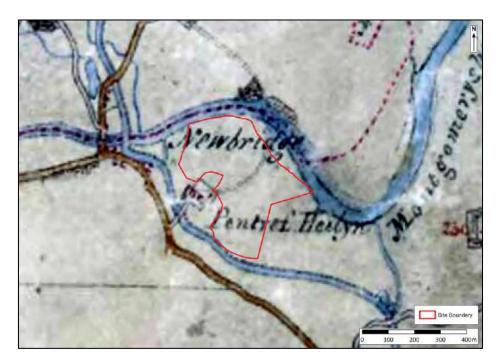


Fig. 6: Extract from the Ordnance Survey drawing of Oswestry (1830) (Reproduced by courtesy of the British Library)

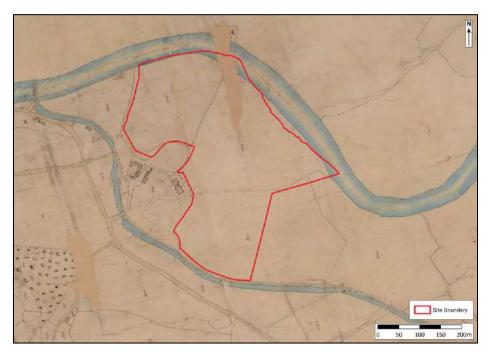


Fig. 7: Extract from the Tithe Survey of Llandysilio (1840) (Reproduced by courtesy of Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru/National Library of Wales)

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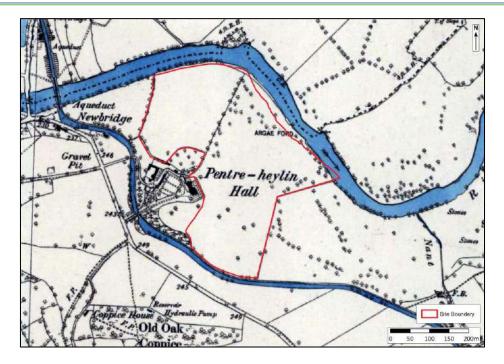


Fig. 8: Extract from the OS 1st Edition 6-inch Survey of Montgomeryshire (1887) (Reproduced by courtesy of Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru/National Library of Wales)

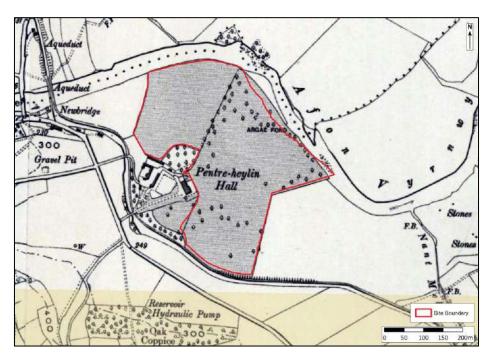


Fig. 9: Extract from the OS 2nd Edition 6-inch Survey of Montgomeryshire (1902) (Reproduced by courtesy of Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru/National Library of Wales)

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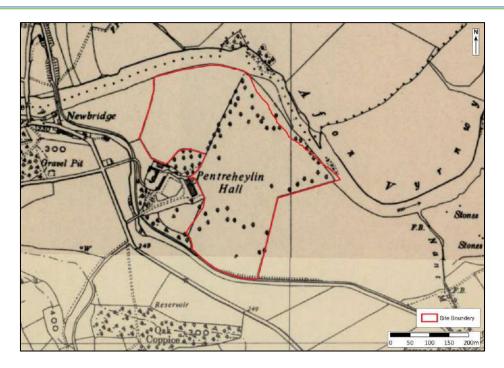


Fig. 10: Extract from the OS 1:10,000 National Survey (1954) (Reproduced by courtesy of Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru/National Library of Wales)

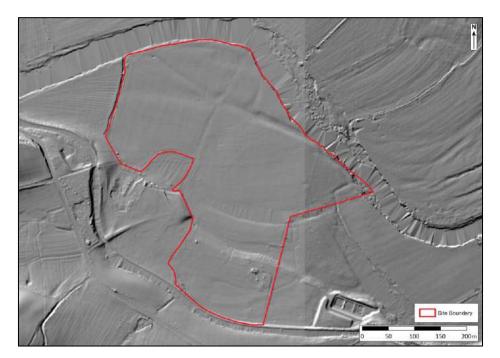


Fig. 11: Extract from 1m DTM LiDAR Data (Reproduced courtesy of the Welsh Government)

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