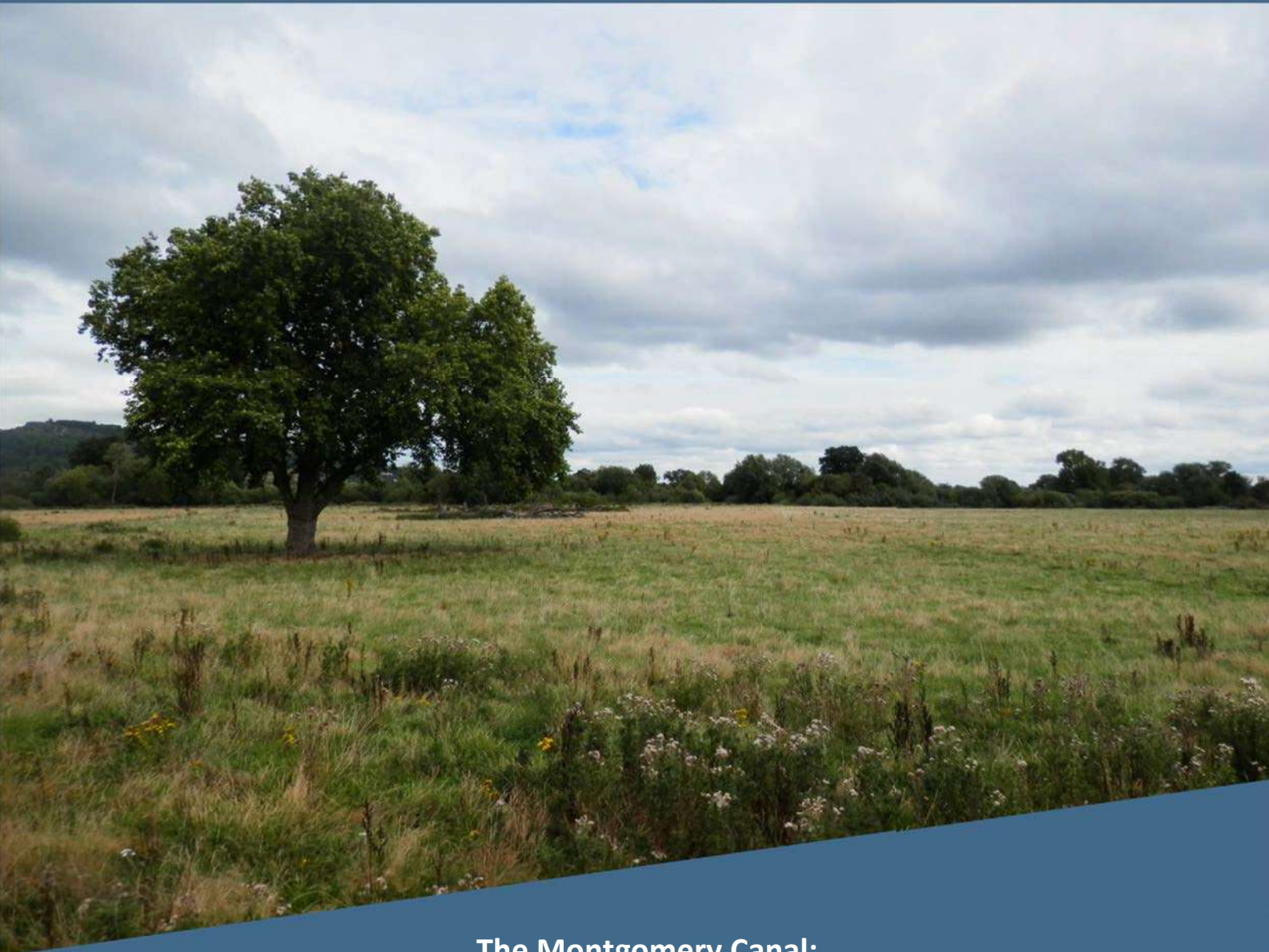


Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment



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

On behalf of



February 2024 (Updated November 2024)

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Cover: View looking NNE across the site of the proposed development

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1 Executive Summary

Border Archaeology (BA) has undertaken an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment regarding the proposed Vyrnwy Reserve on land adjacent to the Montgomery Canal, near Williams Bridge, Llandysilio, Powys. The results of the assessment are summarised thus:

Prehistoric: The potential for encountering evidence of prehistoric activity within the site has been assessed as **Moderate**, reflecting the underlying potential for prehistoric material to be identified within the site. This underlying potential reflects the amount of Iron Age activity recorded in the wider vicinity of the site on the CPAT Historic Environment Record, particularly in the vicinity of Bryn Mawr hillfort. 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, and two possible palaeochannels.

Romano-British: The potential for encountering archaeological deposits or features associated with Romano-British activity has been assessed as being **Low**, reflecting the lack of recorded Romano-British activity within the designated study area. Recorded Romano-British activity within the wider landscape surrounding the site is limited to a series of possible marching camps near Clawdd Coch, the origins of which are debated, and a poorly located Romano-British coin hoard, neither of which are close enough to the site to impact upon its archaeological potential.

Medieval: The potential for encountering archaeological deposits or features associated with medieval activity has been assessed as being **Moderate**, reflecting the potential for any works associated with the proposed development to encounter evidence of medieval agricultural activity. This potential is due to the presence of areas of ridge and furrow attached to Pentreheylin Hall being recorded on the CPAT Historic Environment Record within the boundaries of the site, suggesting that a medieval farm predated the later post medieval farm/estate at Pentreheylin. A number of further areas of medieval ridge and furrow are also recorded on the CPAT Historic Environment Record within the designated study area.

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 works associated with the proposed development to encounter evidence of features associated with the post-medieval parkland formerly attached to Pentreheylin. Recorded features include a former argae ford and a former corn mill and possible associated mill leat on the northern boundary of the site, and there is also potential to encounter further possible undocumented high status landscape features associated with the parkland. There is also potential for works on the southern 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 western 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 **Moderate**. This assessment largely reflects the potential of the works associated with the development encountering features or deposits of a **prehistoric, medieval** or **post-medieval** date. The potential for encountering archaeological 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 Moderate 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.

Crynodeb:

Cynhanesyddol: Mae'r potensial ar gyfer dod ar draws tystiolaeth o weithgarwch cynhanesyddol o fewn y safle wedi'i asesu'n 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, a dwy palaeo-sianel bosibl.

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 Isel, 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 Gymedrol, 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 cefn a rhych sy'n gysylltiedig â Phentreheylin 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 yd a phosibl dyfrffos melin 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 Gymedrol. 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 **cynhanesyddol**, **canoloesol** neu **ôl-ganoloesol**. Mae'r potensial ar gyfer dod ar draws nodweddion neu ddyddodion o ddyddiad Brythonaidd-Rufeinig wedi'i asesu'n Isel. Gan nad oes tyllau turio na

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.

Crynodeb o Gasgliadau ac Argymhellion: O ystyried potensial Cymedrol 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.

2 Introduction

Border Archaeology (BA) was instructed by Glandŵr Cymru: The Canal and Rivers Trust in Wales to produce an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (ADBA) with regards to 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 to navigation.

3 Site Description

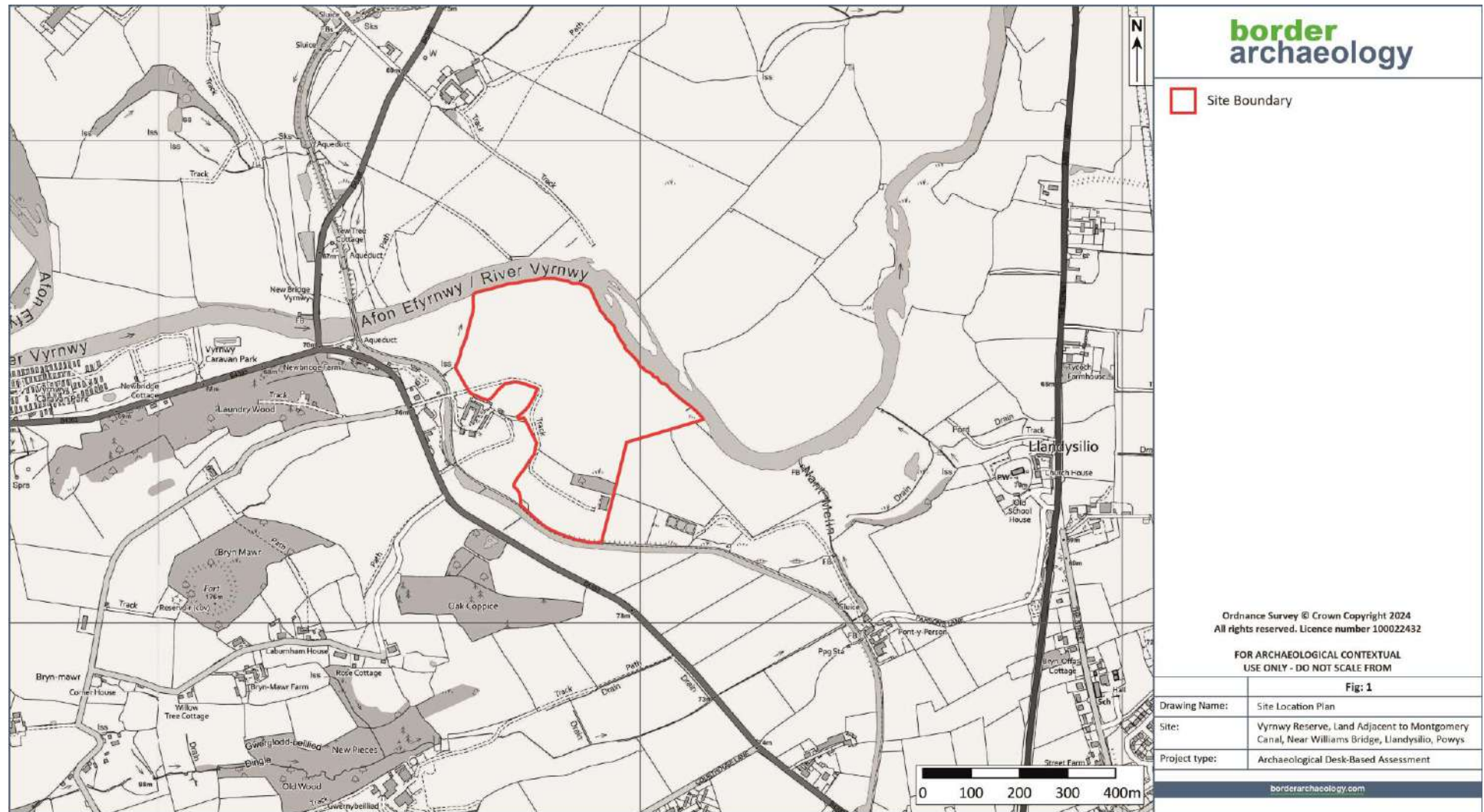
The site covers an area of 139,927.38m² and is centred on NGR: SJ 25806 19509. The site consists of a large area of undeveloped land to the N and E of Pentreheylin Farm, and is situated between the River Vyrnwy/Afon Efyrrwy and the Montgomery Canal. The site is located approximately 625m to the W of 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 2024).

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 flood plain of the River Vyrnwy/Afon Efyrrwy. 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 2024).

No available borehole records are recorded in the vicinity of the site by the British Geological Survey (BGS 2024). However, Archaeological monitoring of geotechnical investigation in March 2024 within the boundaries of the site. This consisted of four trial pits excavated to depths of between 1.20mbgl (64.24mAOD) and 2.50mbgl (62.74mAOD), nine window samples excavated to depths of up to 8.50mbgl (57.15mAOD), and a cable percussive borehole excavated to a depth of 6.80mbgl (56.67mAOD). The trial pits encountered alluvium at depths of between 0.20mbgl (65.35mAOD) and 0.50mbgl (64.94mAOD) in two of the pits, with river terrace deposits encountered at between 1.6mbgl (63.95AOD) and 2.3mbgl (63.19AOD) in one of these two pits, as well as within a further pit (BA 2024).



4 Methodology

4.1 Aims & Objectives

This ADBA 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 Charitable 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**. A total of 50 HER sites and monuments, and 1 archaeological event, were identified within the 500m study area defined for the purposes of this study (*Table 2; Fig. 2*). 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 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.

Site visits and assessment were undertaken on the 31st August 2023, the 25th October 2023 and the 8th February 2024, and photographs obtained of the proposed development site (see Section 7).

4.4 Archiving

The digital archive will be deposited with the NMR, RCAHMW. In addition the pdf report, once approved by the CPAT planning archaeologist, will be submitted to the CPAT HER (Historic Environment Record) via its online portal (<https://cpat.org.uk/hedoos.html>).

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 archaeological 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. Recorded in the HER as an oval double-ditched enclosure of Iron Age date (HER: 7970) the cropmark has also been suggested as representing 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.

The LiDAR data suggests a linear feature running across the N portion of the site (*Fig. 10*), which may represent a post-medieval, or even medieval mill leat (see Sections 5.4 and 5.5). However, there is potential that this feature may, instead represent a paleochannel, and a former course/drainage channel associated with the River Vyrnwy/Afon Efyrnwy. If the feature were to be proven to be a paleochannel, it has the potential to hold deposits containing important palaeoenvironmental information. Therefore, it is important that the origin of this feature is investigated prior to any work taking place which may disturb it.

A second potential paleochannel is possibly located towards the E edge of the site. This is listed as representing former ridge and furrow (see Section 5.4). However, without any dating evidence, there is also potential that it may instead represent a paleochannel or some form of drainage channel. Indeed, the area of the feature was heavily flooded during the site visit (see Section 7). Consequently, were the works associated with the proposed development be likely to disturb this feature, it will be important that some form of archaeological mitigation take place in order to determine its origins.

Conclusion: The potential for evidence of prehistoric activity being identified within the site has been assessed as **Moderate**. This assessment reflects the underlying potential for prehistoric material to be identified, due to the significant Iron Age activity recorded on the periphery of the study area, with particular reference to 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 organic remains such as waterlogged wood and pollen which could shed light on environmental changes and human activity dating back to early prehistory. The assessment also reflects the possible presence of a pair of paleochannels within the boundaries of the site, which may also contain important palaeoenvironmental information.

Any deposits encountered on the site or finds made during development works would be considered of **High** archaeological significance, as these would further contribute to the existing knowledge regarding the chronology 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.

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 1m DTM data shows some faint traces of ridge and furrow (*Fig. 10*), 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.

There is potential, however, that the feature identified on the LiDAR data, actually represents a paleochannel or some form of drainage channel. Indeed, the area of the feature was heavily flooded during the site visit (see Section 7). Consequently, were the works associated with the proposed development be likely to disturb this feature, it will be important that some form of archaeological mitigation take place in order to determine its origins.

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. 10*) 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 Pentreheylin is also indicative of medieval/early post-medieval occupation at the site. It is possible that Pentreheylin 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.

The CPAT HER records a post-medieval mill within the boundaries of the site (see Section 5.5), and the LiDAR data suggests that there may be a surviving mill leat (although this may also be the remains of a paleochannel). Although there is no documentary evidence for the mill having medieval origins, given the presence of medieval farming/manorial activity at Pentreheylin, it is possible that the post-medieval mill had medieval origins, and therefore one of the aims of any archaeological work undertaken in the vicinity of the possible mill site will be to ascertain the date of any features identified. Interestingly, the place-name 'Pentreheylin' is comprised of two elements: 'Pentre', village in Welsh, and 'Heylin', most likely a personal name, although it could be a corruption of 'Felin', or mill.

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. There is also possibility that a potential post-medieval mill site close to the river within the site boundaries may have had medieval origins.

Should any medieval archaeology be identified during the works associated with the development, such evidence would be considered to be of **Medium to High** significance, reflecting the potential for findings to shed light on the pattern of medieval settlement and land use in this area, with particular reference to the focus of medieval manorial settlement at Pentreheylin.

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 wall feature was noted on the edge of the site, forming the boundary between the site of Pentreheylin Hall and the associated lawns and gardens, and the lower ground comprising the rest of the parkland (see Section 7). This wall holds up the higher ground which rises up above the much wetter ground that forms the site. This wall appears to be a roughly coursed drystone wall, and may represent a revetment wall possibly associated with the raised lawned garden above. It appears to be of a 18th or 19th century date, and may form a surviving piece of the landscape of the Pentreheylin Hall parkland. This wall could also be part of a wall shown separating the grounds of the hall itself from the parkland on the historic cartography (see below).

A cornmill is also recorded on the riverfront within the grounds in the late 18th century (HER: 37529) and, although the exact location of the mill is not recorded, the CPAT HER records that traces of a former weir are potentially visible at low water. The CPAT HER shapefile places this mill on the N boundary of the site, on the southern riverbank. A small section of the parish of Llandysilio extends to the N of the river, as shown on the 1840 tithe map (*Fig. 6*), 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. In the late 18th Century Thomas Pennant wrote a description of a mill near 'New Bridge' close to 'Llanymynach', which appears to indicate the mill at Pentreheylin. It is described thus: 'The river is kept confined by a dam, for the sake of a mill, and forms a fine reach. The overflowing makes a pretty cascade, and the views upwards, of small valleys and hanging woods, are exceedingly beautiful.'

The presence of a mill at the site is also shown in the field names recorded in the 1840 Tithe Survey for Llandysilio. The eastern portion of the site is listed as being part of 'Dol y Felin', Mill Meadow, whilst the field to the immediate E of the site is recorded as 'Cae Felin', Mill Field. Both of these field names are indicative of the presence of mill nearby.

The LiDAR data covering the site (*Fig. 10*) suggests that there is some form of channel to the S of the site of this possible mill site recorded on the CPAT HER. This may represent a palaeochannel/former course of the river through its flood plain, or it may be a feature associated with the former mill. It is possible that it represents a former headrace and tailrace mill leat system, fed by the weir mentioned by Pennant, associated with the former mill. Whilst the exact location of the mill is unknown, it is likely to have been located close to the weir site, and possibly close to the potential leat channel. Consequently, there is increased archaeological potential in the vicinity of the possible mill site and the potential leat feature. Any work which disturbs the paleochannel/leat feature also has potential to provide paleoenvironmental evidence which may be used to date the feature.

This potential palaeochannel/leat feature is also shown on available online aerial survey imagery, which record the site when conditions are conducive to the visibility of cropmarks (see *Fig. 11* as an example). On these images the line of the linear palaeochannel/leat feature is clearly visible running E/W across the northern portion of the site. Of note on these images as well is the corner of a possible small rectangular enclosure to the immediate N of the linear feature, which may provide an indication for a potential location for a mill structure, or possible associated enclosure.

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). The drain was noted during the site visit (see Section 7). This drain 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 Efyrynwy.

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 Efyrynwy (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. 5*) 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. 6*) 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 'Dol y Felin', and are 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. As previously mentioned, the tithe survey also hints at the presence of a nearby mill, with 'Dol y Felin' (Mill Meadow) being part of the site, and 'Cae Felin' (Mill Field) being located to the E. No further features are recorded and the only other feature of interest is the small patch of land on the opposite side of the river (Plot 219a), which is also attached to the Pentreheylin Estate, and is listed as 'Little Wood over the River'.

The 1840 map also potential records the first clear evidence of the wall noted during the site visit (see Section 7), separating the site from the gardens/lawn surrounding Pentreheylin itself. The tithe map shows a wall to the immediate NE of the site of the former hall (now demolished), and it is possible that this represents the former retaining wall separating the site of the hall and its immediate formal gardens, from the informal parklands and the flood plain of the river.

The 1887 Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6-Inch Survey of Montgomeryshire (*Fig. 7*) 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, and the wall separating Pentreheylin from the site, this time emphasises with hachures, which may be indicative of the drop in elevation caused by this retaining wall. However, no further

features are recorded. Similarly, very few changes are recorded on either the 1901 Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 25-Inch Survey of Montgomeryshire (*not reproduced*), the 1902 Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 6-Inch Survey of Montgomeryshire (*Fig. 8*) or the 1954 OS 1:10,000 National Survey (*Fig. 9*), the landscape of the site being largely the same on the 20th century cartography as that shown on the 19th-century cartography.

LiDAR data covering the site of the proposed development was also consulted (*Fig. 10*), 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. This feature was noted during the site visit (see Section 7), and is clearly visible as a shallow ditch at its E end, although it is less distinguishable at its W end. The point where it joins the river at its E end was also clearly visible on the ground. As has already been mentioned, this linear feature, as well as a possibly associated rectangular feature were noted on available online aerial photographic sources covering the site of the proposed development.

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 landscaped parkland formerly attached to Pentreheylin.

This includes the former argae ford, a retaining wall separating the former parkland from the site of Pentreheylin Hall itself, and the potential cornmill and associated possible leat feature on the N edge of the site, as well as undocumented buried 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 the possible post-medieval mill and associated water management features within the boundaries of the site, the former Parkland at Pentreheylin, and the construction and usage of the Montgomery Canal during the late 18th/early 19th century.

6 Historic Environment Record Gazetteers & Maps

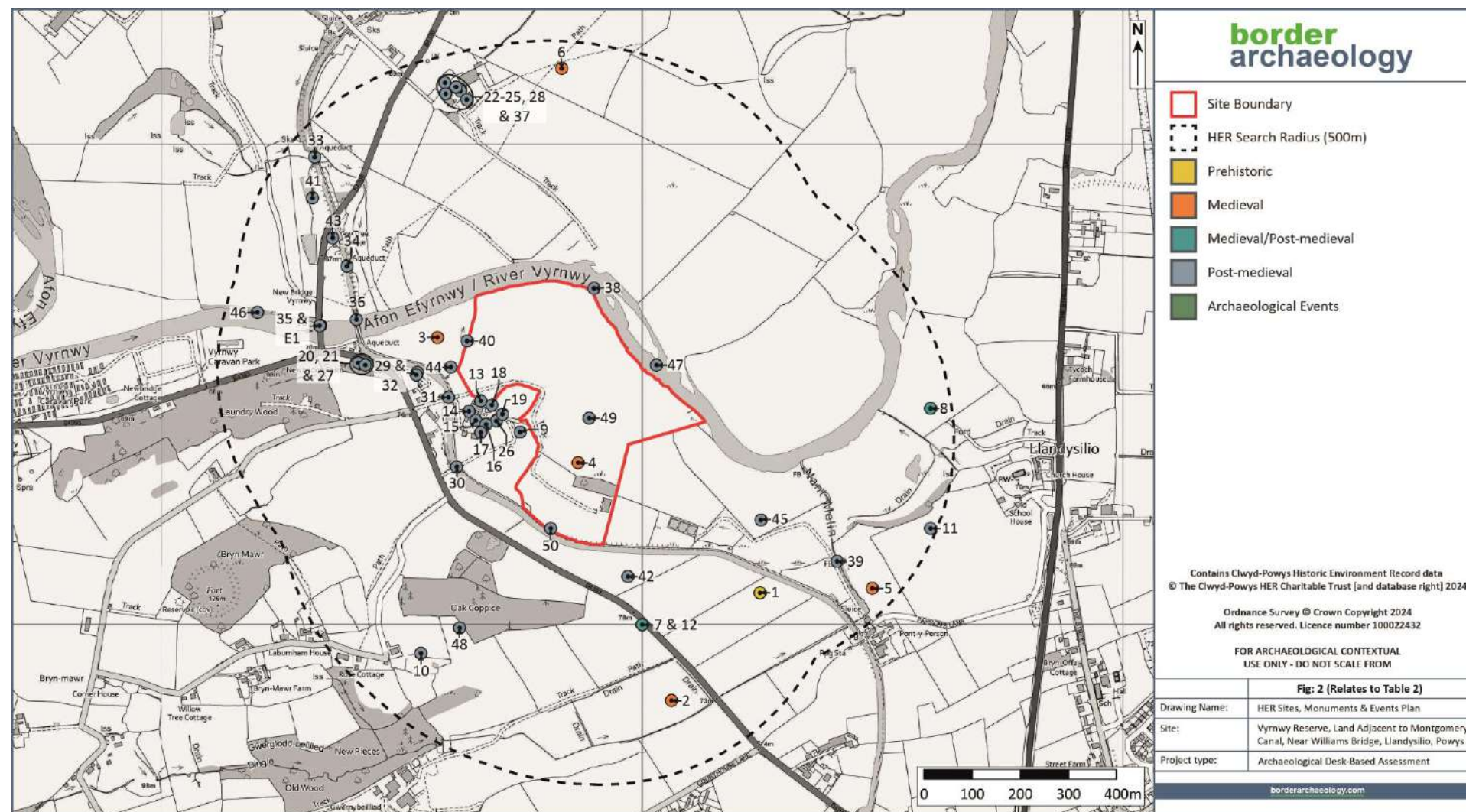
Table 2: Gazetteer of archaeological sites & monuments recorded within a 500m radius of the Site based on consultation of the CPAT Historic Environment Record (HER). This table relates to Fig. 2.

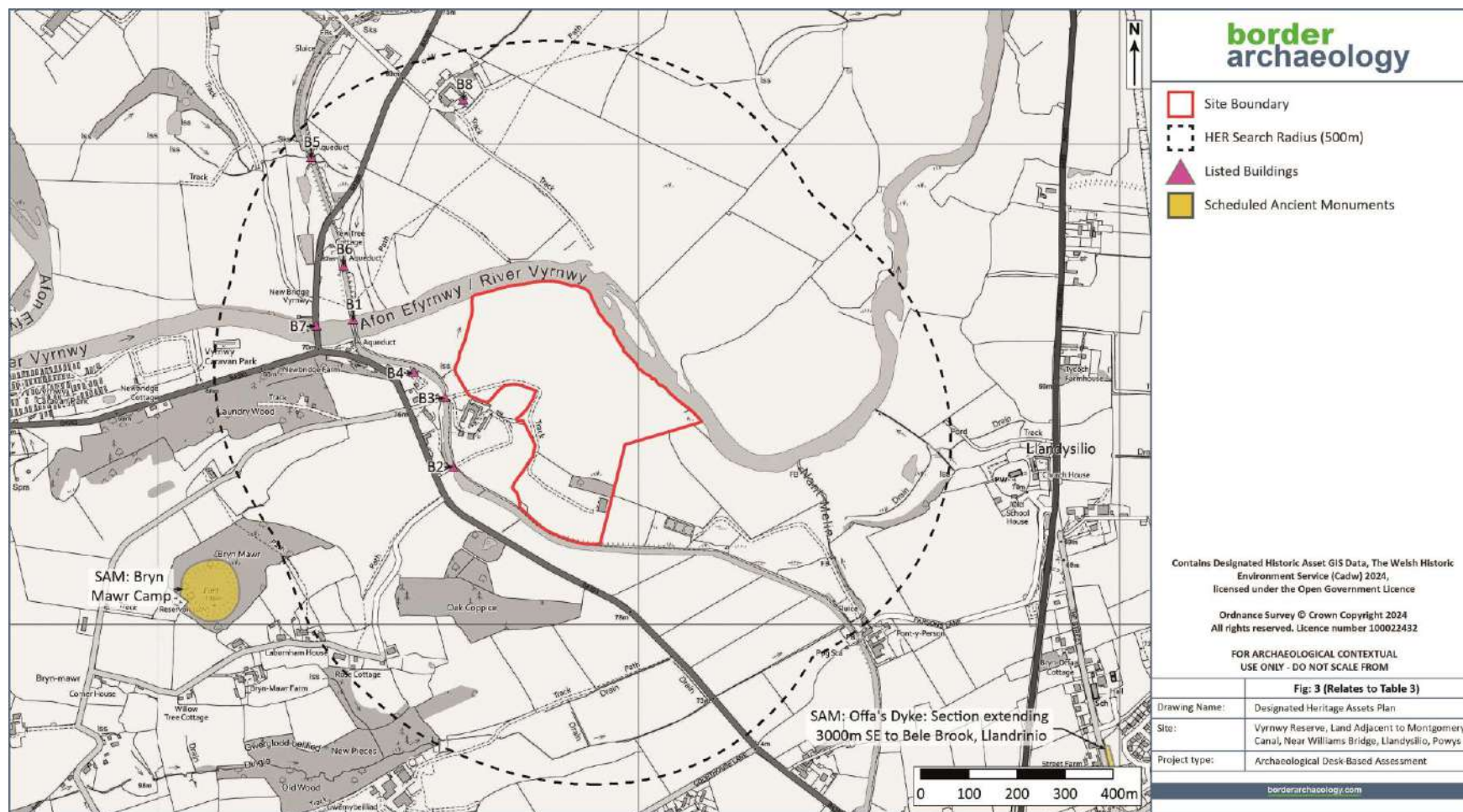
#	PRN	Name	Date	NGR
1	7970	Llandysilio Double-Ditched Enclosure	Iron Age	SJ 2624 1906
2	128356	Ridge & Furrow	Medieval	SJ 2606 1884
3	38119	Ridge & Furrow	Medieval	SJ 2557 1959
4	64651	Ridge & Furrow	Medieval	SJ 2586 1933
5	64715	Maes Coch Fieldname	Medieval	SJ 2647 1907
6	64726	Ridge & Furrow	Medieval	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

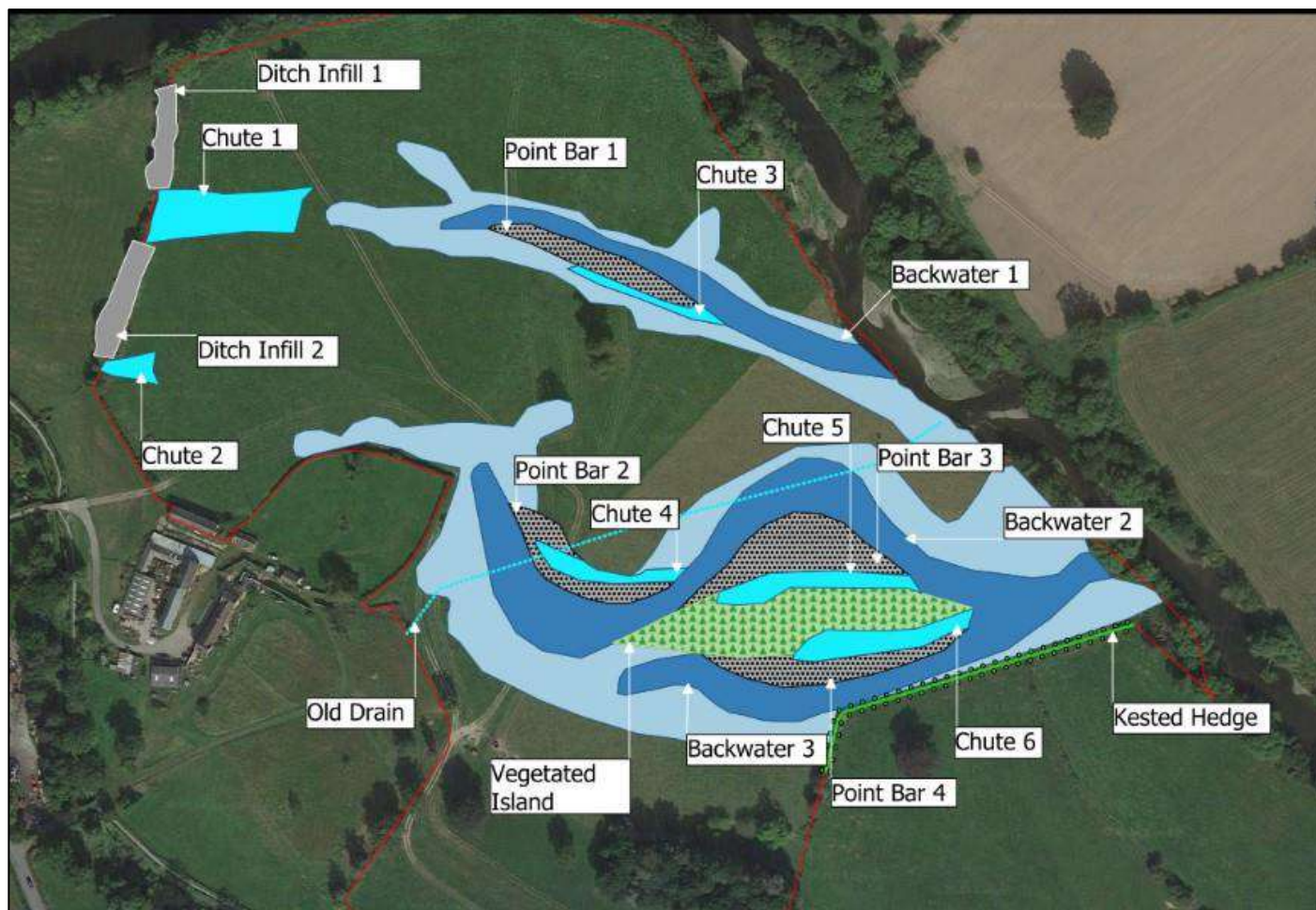
37	32417	House, Pentref Farm	Post-med.	SJ 2563 2009
38	37529	Pentreheylin Mill	Post-med.	SJ 2590 1970
39	64571	Nant Melin footbridge	Post-med.	SJ 2640 1913
40	64577	Pentre-heylin Drain	Post-med.	SJ 2563 1959
41	64615	New Bridge Quarries	Post-med.	SJ 2531 1988
42	64650	Holloway, Pentrehelyn	Post-med.	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	II*	SJ 2540 1963
B2	8536	Bridge (No.98) over Montgomeryshire Canal	II	SJ 2561 1932
B3	8537	Pentreheylin Bridge (No.97) over The Montgomeryshire Canal	II	SJ 2559 1947
B4	8538	Former Salt Warehouse at Newbridge	II	SJ 2553 1952
B5	14203	Four-Arch Aqueduct over Vyrnwy Flood Plain (Northern Arches) New Bridge Vyrnwy	II	SJ 2531 1997
B6	14204	Three-Arch Aqueduct over Vyrnwy Flood Plain (Southern Arches) New Bridge Vyrnwy	II	SJ 2538 1974
B7	14205	Road Bridge over River Vyrnwy	II	SJ 2532 1962
B8	14217	Pentref	II	SJ 2563 2009







*Fig. 4: Plan Outlining the Proposed Scheme
(Reproduced Courtesy of the Client)*

7 Site Assessment

BA visited the site on 31st August 2023 and on 8th February 2024 to determine the topography and the presence of any visible features of archaeological significance (*Plates 1-20*). The site was accessed via a pair of small lanes leading NE from the B4393 towards Pentreheylin Farm, which each cross separate bridges across the Montgomery Canal (Bridge 97 and Bridge 98).

During the first site visit the site was heavily overgrown with thick grass coverage, and visibility of features on the ground was difficult. During the second site visit the grass coverage was much lower, making the visibility of features on the ground a lot easier. Some of these features were also emphasised by the heavy rain and wet ground conditions, with some flooding being present in places.

The site consists of a large northern field, with smaller enclosures to the S, where the site borders the line of the Montgomery Canal. This smaller section of the site contains farm buildings housing tractors and other agricultural equipment, within its N corner. The fields surround Pentreheylin Farm, and its attached yards and gardens, to the N and to the E. These fields are largely overgrown, with thick grass growth, and large patches of nettles, thistles, and other naturally occurring species. The overgrown nature of these fields meant that it was not possible to ascertain whether any surviving ridge and furrow was visible within the fields during the first visit, although some depressions, most likely representing natural drainage, were noted. A number of large specimen trees, most likely a result of the sites former use as parkland attached to Pentreheylin, were also noted within the fields.

During the 2024 site visit the potential ridge and furrow feature was much more visible, due to the short grass and flooding (*Plates 6-9*). It consists of a large reverse S shaped linear depression which cuts across the parkland in a SW/NE direction, before turning N towards the river. This feature was full of water due to the weather conditions, although it does not appear to reach the river, joining the hedgerow on the NE side of the site. It was not possible to ascertain the nature of this feature from the ground, and further work may be required in order to fully determine its origins.

The wall separating the lower parkland from the site of Pentreheylin Hall and its associated gardens was noted during the site visit (*Plates 10 & 11*). The wall appears to be a roughly coursed drystone wall, and may represent a revetment wall possibly associated with the raised lawned garden above. It appears to be of a 18th or 19th century date, and may form a surviving piece of the landscape of the Pentreheylin Hall parkland. A modern farm building was also noted on the E boundary of the site (*Plate 12*).

On the N side of the site, the possible mill leat/palaeochannel feature was noted (*Plates 13-16*). This consisted of a shallow linear u-shaped depression running across the N portion of the site, cutting across a bend in the river. It was much more noticeable on its E edge, and is barely visible on its W edge. There is a clear point where it 'flows' back into the river, from a greater height on the river bank. No other features associated with a possible mill site were visible on the ground.

The riverbank itself (*Plates 17 & 18*) is largely heavily overgrown, with small areas of shallows and trees dominating and masking the edge of the river. The exception to this is the area where the leat/palaeochannel rejoins the river, where the bank is cleared and considerably higher than the height of the river itself (which was relatively high on the day of the site visit due to the heavy rain).

The site is separated on its S boundary from the line of the Montgomery Canal by a substantial mature hedge, and a well-established towpath. The post-medieval drain (*Plates 19 & 20*) on the W boundary of the site was also noted, and appeared to be actively draining excess water from the canal towards the river. Pentreheylin Farm itself consists of a collection of post-medieval farm buildings in varying states of repair. No trace of the former large house survives, within the area of garden to the E of the extant farm.



Plate 1: View looking NNE across the site of the proposed development (2023)



Plate 2: View looking NE across the site of the proposed development (2023)



Plate 3: View looking E across the site of the proposed development (2023)



Plate 4: View looking E across the S section of the site of the proposed development (2023)

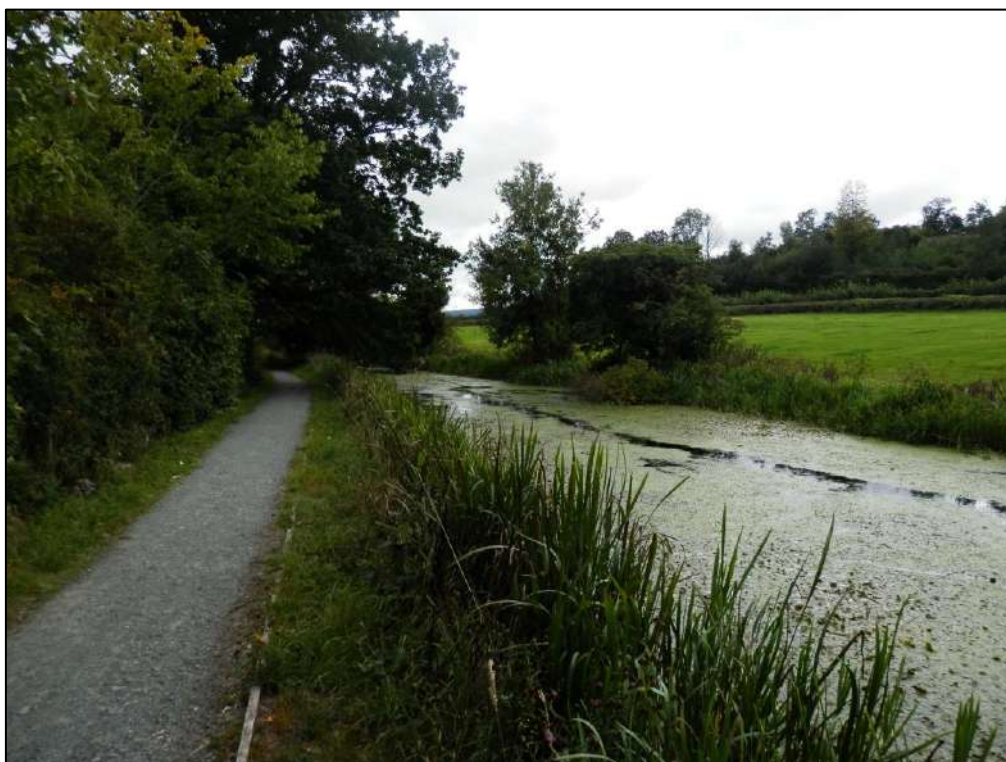


Plate 5: View looking SE along the section of canal to the immediate S of the site of the proposed development (2023)



Plate 6: View looking NE at the flooded curved linear feature (2024)



Plate 7: View looking NNE



Plate 8: View looking N at the flooded curved linear feature (2024)



Plate 9: View looking N at the N end of the flooded curved linear feature (2024)



Plate 10: View looking SW at the wall feature on the S boundary of the site (2024)



Plate 11: View looking SW at the detail of the wall feature on the S boundary of the site (2024)



Plate 12: View looking ENE at the modern farm building on the E boundary of the site (2024)



Plate 13: View looking WSW at the point where the leat/palaeochannel feature rejoins the river (2024)



Plate 14: View looking W along the leat/palaeochannel feature (2024)



Plate 15: View looking S across the leat/palaeochannel feature (2024)



Plate 16: View looking ENE along the E end of the leat/palaeochannel feature (2024)



Plate 17: View looking N at an overgrown section of riverbank (2024)



Plate 18: View looking ENE at a cleared section of riverbank (2024)



Plate 19: View looking SW at the drain running along the W boundary of the site (2024)



Plate 20: View looking NE at the drain running along the W boundary of the site (2024)

8 Conclusions

8.1 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. 4*). 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 Montgomery 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 Efyrynwy, 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 any impact, as well as investigate 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 18th/19th century boundary.

8.2 Overall Conclusions

The archaeological potential of the proposed development has been assessed as **Moderate**.

The potential for evidence of prehistoric activity being identified within the site has been assessed as **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 environs 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**.

The potential for encountering archaeological features or deposits of a medieval or post-medieval date has also been assessed as **Moderate**. 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. The mill site is of particular interest, and any disruptive works that have the potential to impact upon any features associated with it, particularly the linear feature in the N side of the site which may represent a former mill leat, should be subject to archaeological mitigation. 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. 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 18th/19th century boundary.

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 archaeological features or deposits of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval date. 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 **Moderate** 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 at CPAT, will be necessary to determine the extent, depth and significance of any buried archaeological features and deposits within the site.

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10.1 Cartography

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

1830: Ordnance Survey drawing of Oswestry (British Library)

1840: Llandysilio Tithe Survey

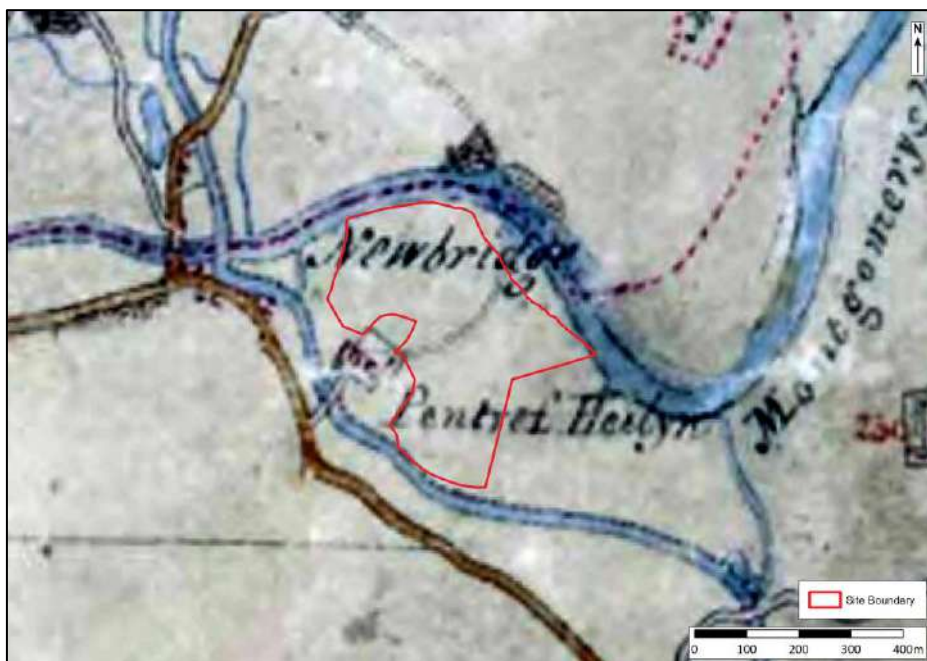
1887: OS 1st Edition 6-Inch Survey of Montgomeryshire

1901: OS 2nd Edition 25-Inch Survey of Montgomeryshire

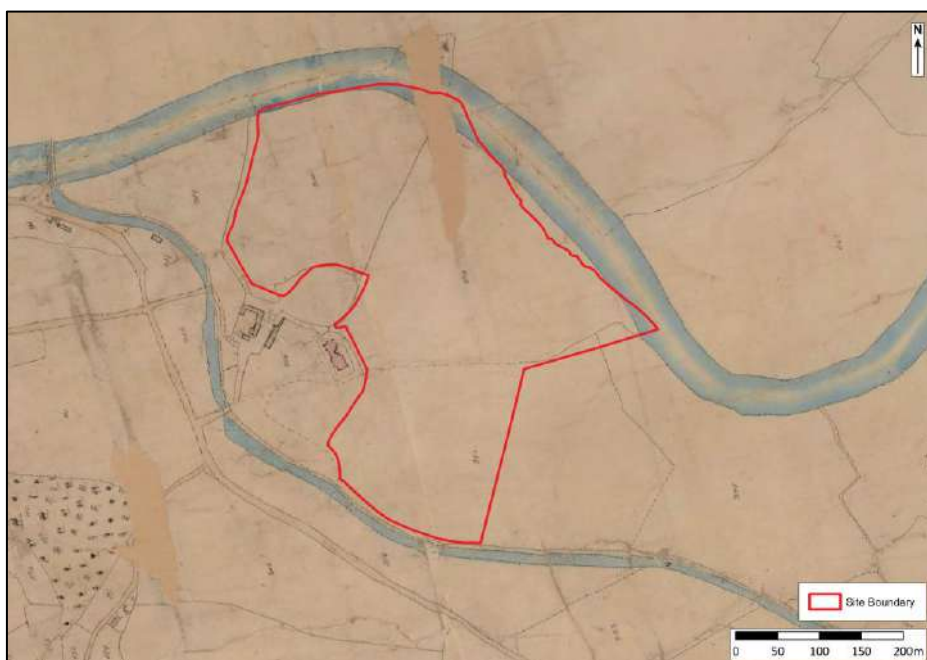
1902: OS 2nd Edition 6-Inch Survey of Montgomeryshire

1954: OS 1:10,000 National Survey

11 Appendix 1: Historic Maps



*Fig. 5: Extract from the Ordnance Survey drawing of Oswestry (1830)
(Reproduced by courtesy of the British Library)*



*Fig. 6: Extract from the Tithe Survey of Llandysilio (1840)
(Reproduced by courtesy of Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru/National Library of Wales)*

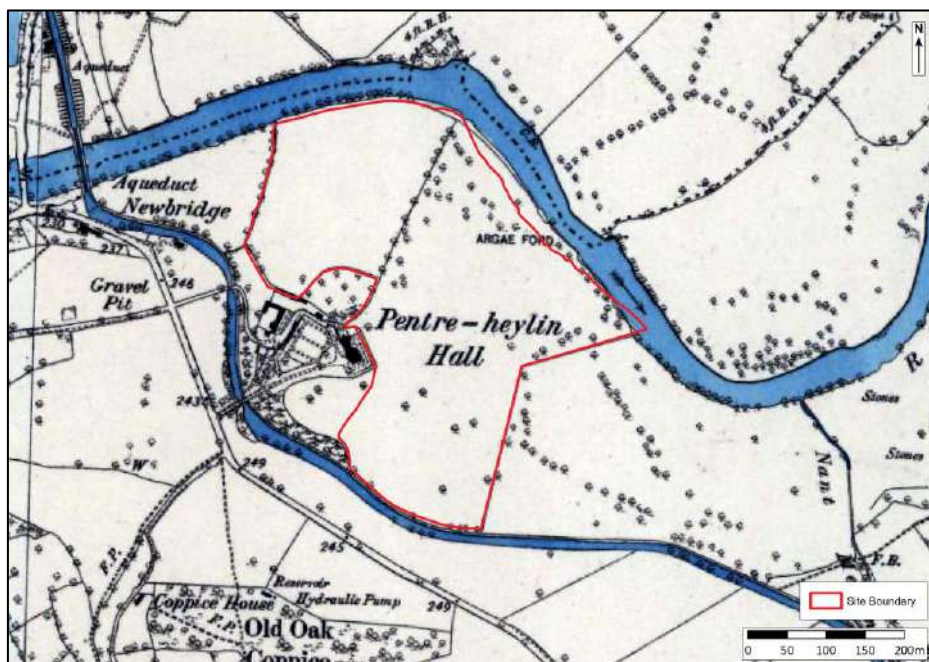


Fig. 7: Extract from the OS 1st Edition 6-inch Survey of Montgomeryshire (1887)
(Reproduced by courtesy of Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru/National Library of Wales)

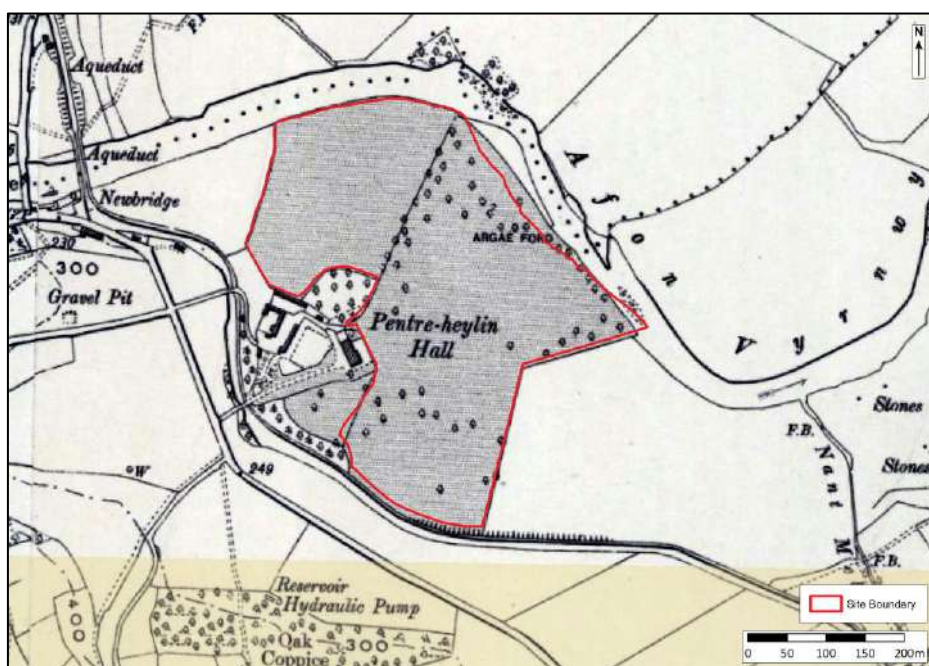


Fig. 8: Extract from the OS 2nd Edition 6-inch Survey of Montgomeryshire (1902)
(Reproduced by courtesy of Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru/National Library of Wales)

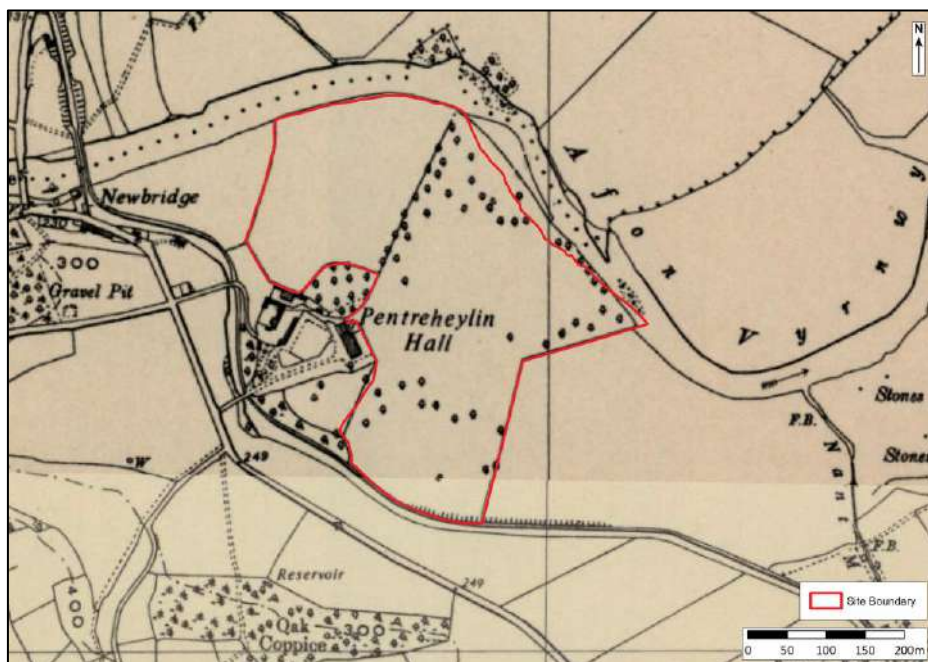


Fig. 9: Extract from the OS 1:10,000 National Survey (1954)
(Reproduced by courtesy of Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru/National Library of Wales)

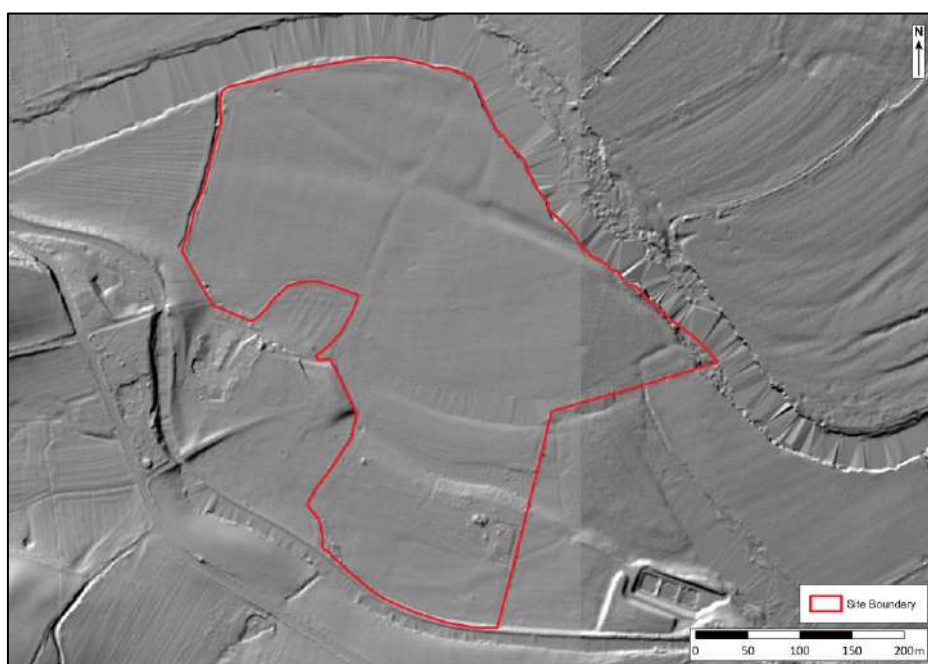


Fig. 10: Extract from 1m DTM LiDAR Data
(Reproduced courtesy of the Welsh Government)



*Fig. 11: Extract from available online aerial imagery, showing potential linear and rectangular features in the vicinity of the potential mill site
(Reproduced from Bing.com)*

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