

**A WATCHING BRIEF AT SWAN LANE,  
OSWESTRY, SHROPSHIRE 2014**

by  
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A report for  
**SPELLER METCALFE LIVING LTD**

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1** In January 2014 work began on redevelopment of a site at Swan Lane, Oswestry, Shropshire (NGR SJ 292 300). The redevelopment will replace high density 20<sup>th</sup> century housing with a mixed residential development of 19 dwellings.

**1.2** The development site lies partially within the historic medieval core of Oswestry as defined by the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey (Historic Environment Record [HER] No. 05803), within a group of tenement plots of medieval date on the west side of Beatrice St and north of Castle St, Oswestry (HER 05790). The development site lies beyond the town's 13<sup>th</sup> century defences in a suburb that is thought to have been developed by the 14<sup>th</sup> century. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, John Leland recorded this area as one of Oswestry's four suburbs.

**1.3** It was considered that the 20<sup>th</sup> century housing would have caused a significant amount of disturbance and truncation to archaeological deposits on this site. Nevertheless, it was considered possible that archaeological remains relating to the medieval and later development and occupation of this part of the town might survive within the proposed development site. Because of the potential significance of the archaeological resource, it was considered necessary that the groundworks be accompanied by an archaeological watching brief. The Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council, was commissioned by Speller Metcalfe Living Ltd to undertake the archaeological work.

**1.4** The aim of the watching brief was to allow for the preservation by record of any archaeological remains that might be encountered during the groundworks.

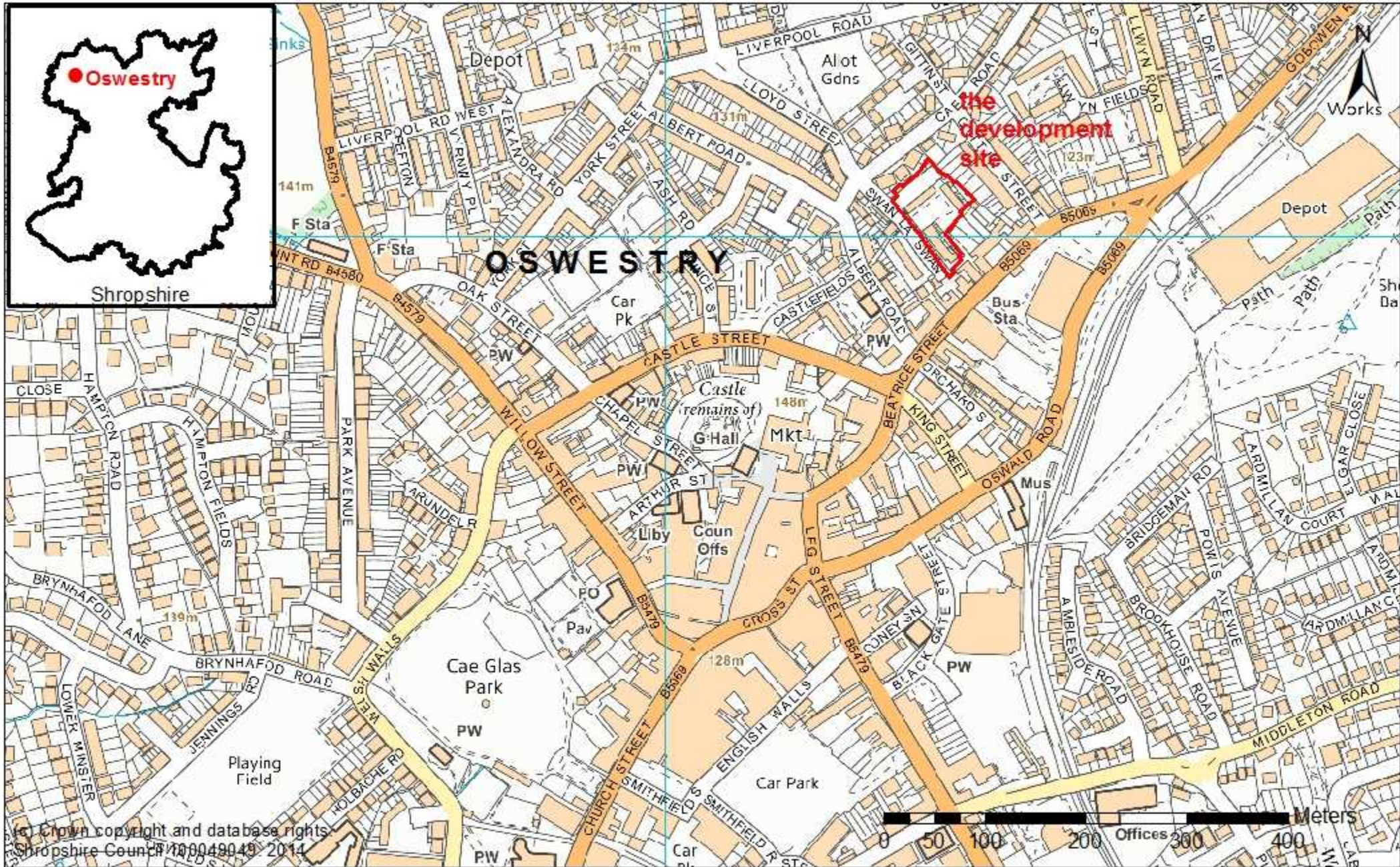
## **2 THE WATCHING BRIEF.**

**2.1** The site was visited on two occasions in January following the removal of floor slabs and foundations for the standing buildings.

**2.2** The ground was seen to have been heavily disturbed by the 20<sup>th</sup> century construction of the high density housing, and the current demolition works. No significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded during the watching brief.

## **3 REFERENCES**

**Dalwood, H, et al**, 1996: *Archaeological Assessment of Oswestry, Shropshire*, Hereford and Worcester County Council Archaeology Service Report No. 333



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### SWAN LANE, OSWESTRY 2014

Figure 1: The location of the development site

### Archaeology Service

Historic Environment Team, Shropshire Council,  
 Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 8ND

1:5,000



Photo 1: The site at Swan Lane, Oswestry, looking NW



Photo 2: The northeastern part of the development site, looking SE



Photo 3: Deposits at the southern corner of the site, looking SW