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Woodside, Selattyn, Oswestry, Shropshire SY10 7NR.
May 2018
V 1.0

Archaeological Watching Brief
Project Code: A0128.1
Report no. 0167

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Archaeological Watching Brief

Aeon Archaeology
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Written by:	Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA	Date: 31/05/2018
Checked by:	Josh Dean BA ACIfA	Date: 01/06/2018
Approved by:	Josh Dean BA ACIfA	Date: 02/06/2018

REGISTERED ORGANISATION CIfA

Project Code: A0128.1
Client: Iain Nelson
info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk

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1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

The archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new garden room extension and patio at Woodside, Selattyn, Oswestry did not identify any archaeological remains. The stratigraphy of the foundation trenches showed that the flat garden terrace had been created through a cut and fill episode into the natural slope, with ceramic fragments suggesting that this occurred in the mid-19th century, and likely contemporary with the construction of Woodside.

The benching cut into the southern part of the extension / patio area would have removed any potential for the preservation of archaeological remains, and the deposition of the cut material at the northern part of the area would have covered over any preserved archaeological remains.

The archaeological mitigation can be seen as having fulfilled the aims and objectives of the archaeological condition and as such it is recommended that the condition of the Scheduled Monument Consent be discharged.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Iain Nelson, hereafter the Client, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the construction of a new garden room extension and patio at Woodside, Selattyn, Oswestry SY10 7NR (**NGR SJ 25113 34621**).

The property lies within the scheduled polygon of the *Offa's Dyke: Section two miles 780 yards (3930m) long, from the stream west of Brook Cottage, Selattyn, to footpath crossing Dyke west of Bron y Garth, also in Clwyd: Wales* Scheduled Ancient Monument (**SM SA 83; HA 1004765**). Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) was granted by Historic England on 6th May 2015 (**S00108195**).

A mitigation brief was not prepared for this scheme by the Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council or the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England but the following condition was assigned to the SMC:

Condition B

No groundworks / building works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological monitoring during the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State advised by Historic England.

The use of such a condition is in line with the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended), as well as guidance set out in paragraph 141, Section 12 (Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment) of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012), published by the Department for Communities and Local Government and Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2 (Historic England 2015).

The work adhered to the guidelines specified in Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).

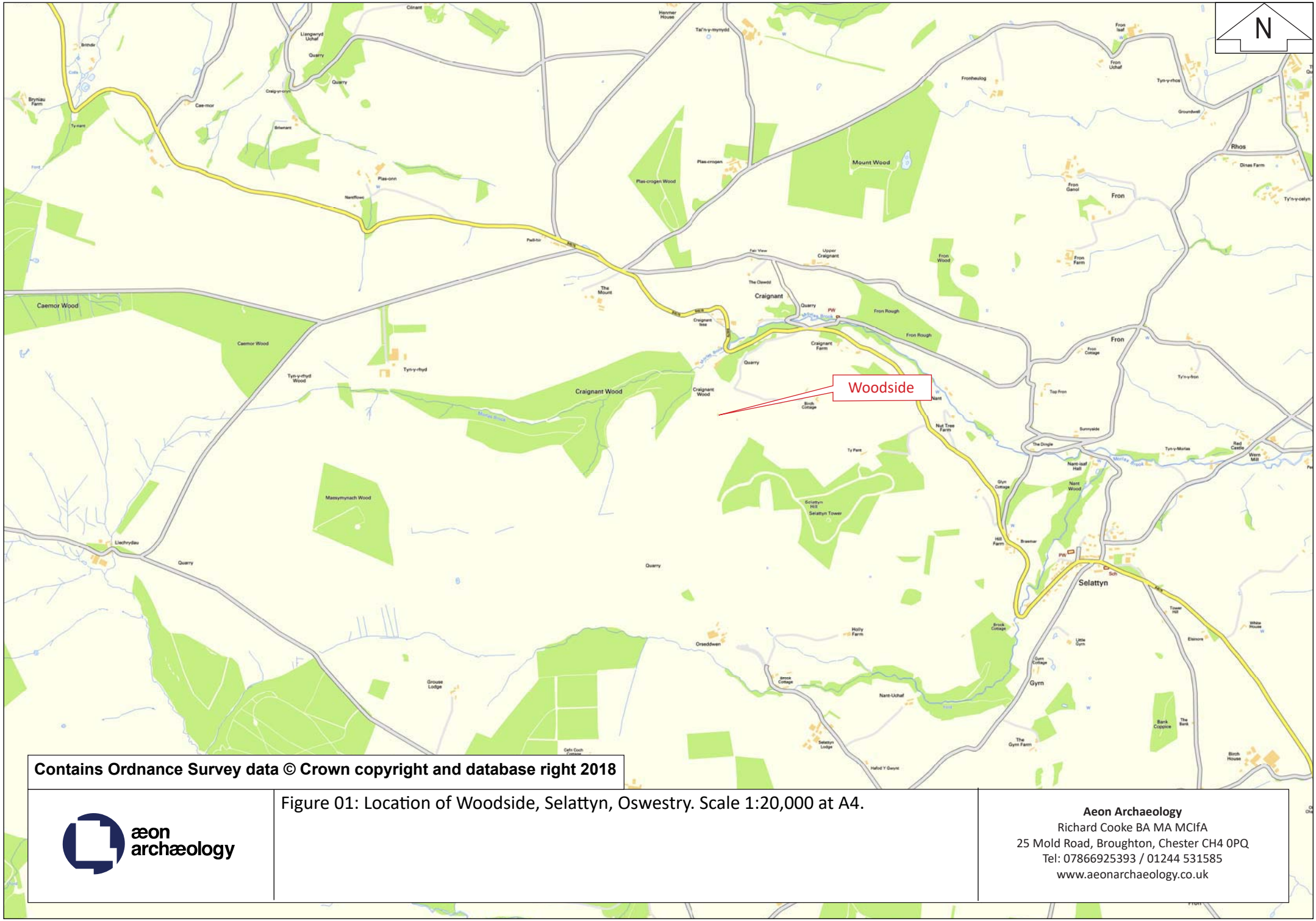

Figure 01: Location of Woodside, Selattyn, Oswestry. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

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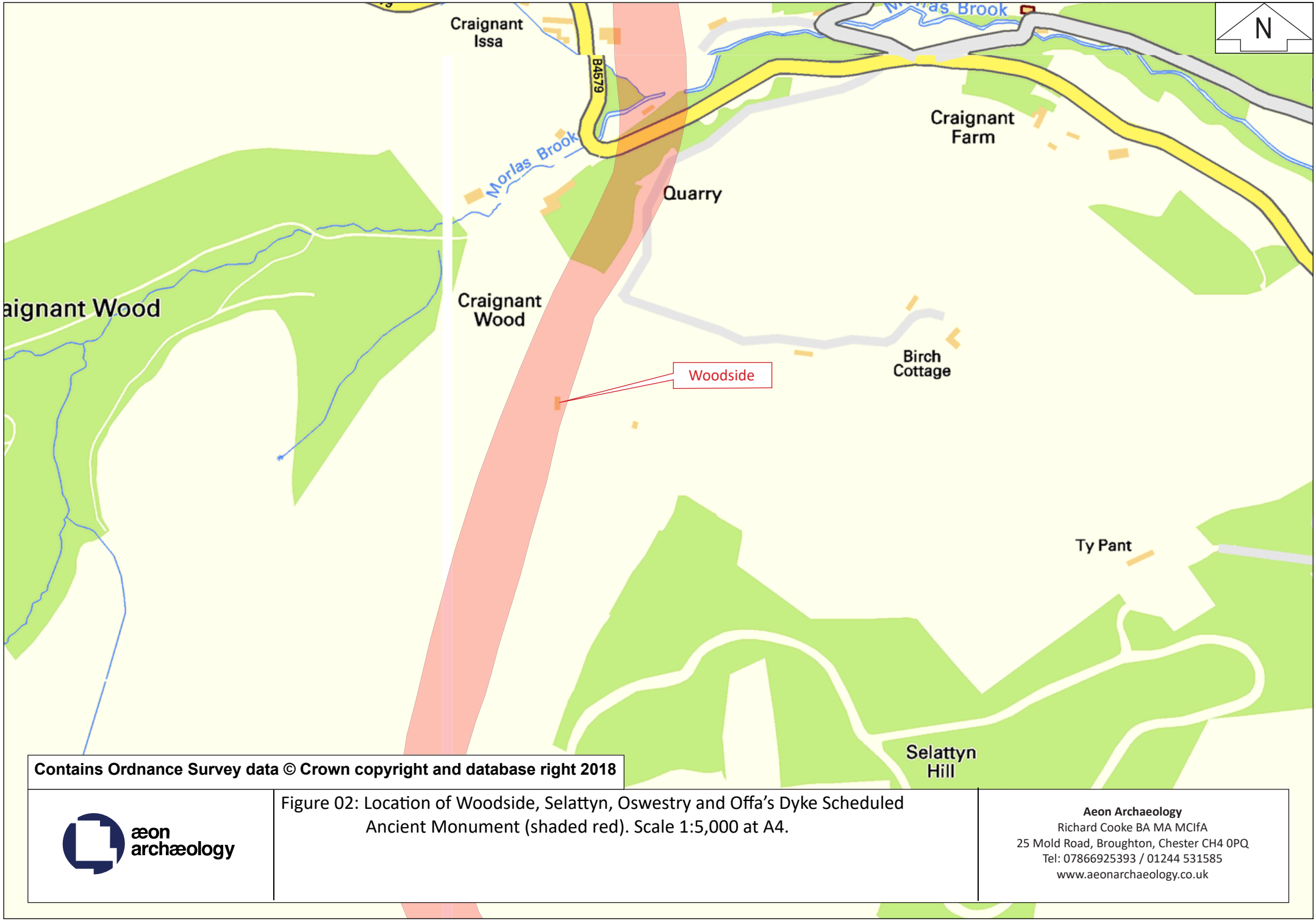

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Figure 02: Location of Woodside, Selattyn, Oswestry and Offa's Dyke Scheduled Ancient Monument (shaded red). Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

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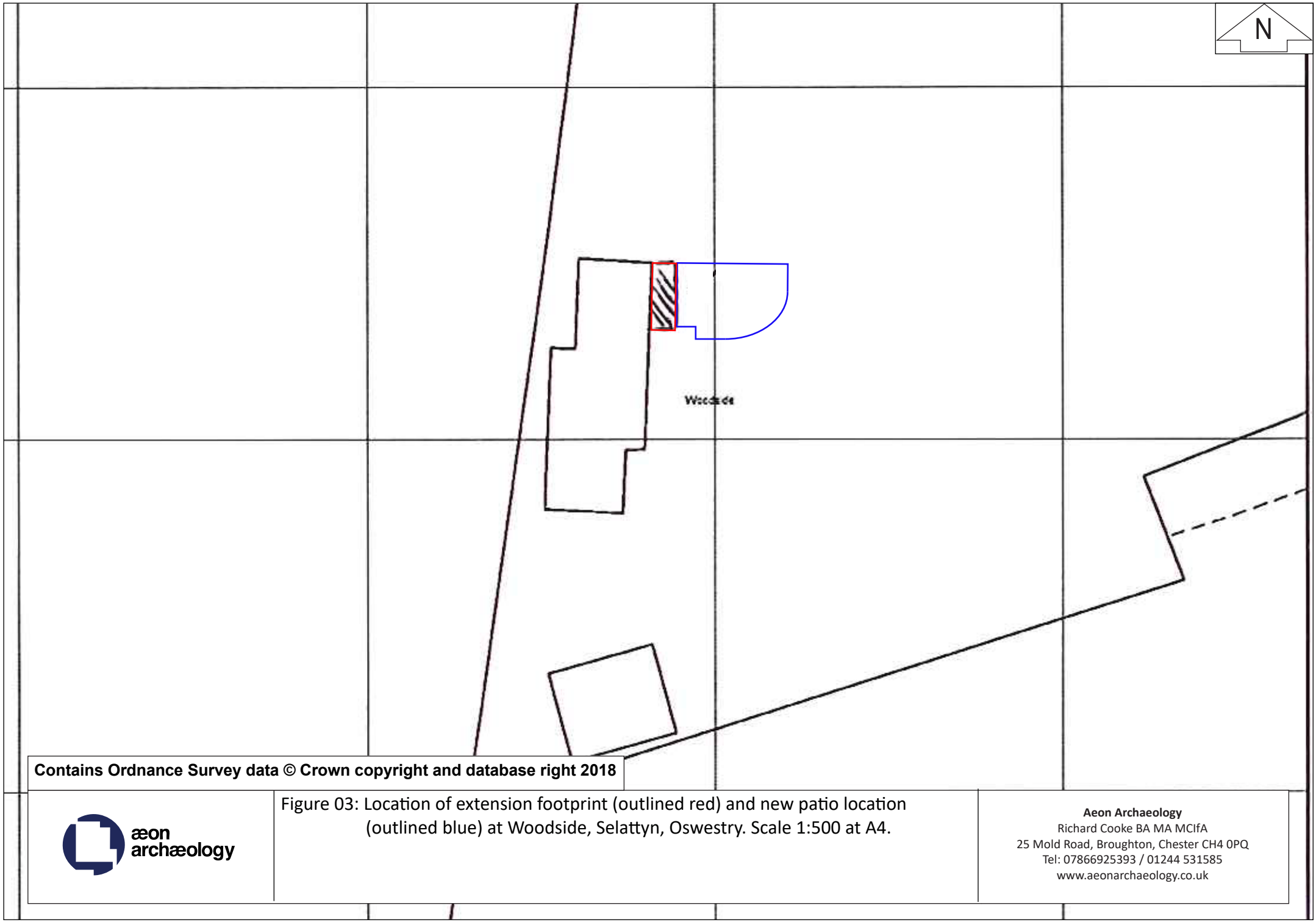

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Figure 03: Location of extension footprint (outlined red) and new patio location (outlined blue) at Woodside, Selattyn, Oswestry. Scale 1:500 at A4.

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3.0 SITE LOCATION AND HISTORY

Offa's Dyke is believed to have been built towards the end of the 8th century, by the King of Saxon Mercia, Offa, to mark the boundary between his kingdom and the Welsh kingdoms. Consisting for most of its length of a bank up to 3.5m high with a ditch on the western side, it is the longest linear earthwork in Britain, running for about 220km from North Wales to the Severn estuary through what is now Wales and the Marches.

The earthwork was dug with the displaced soil piled into a bank on the Mercian (eastern) side. Where the earthwork encounters hills, it passes to the west of them, constantly providing an open view from Mercia into Wales. The dyke may have been constructed as a defensive earthwork, as well as a political statement of power and intent.

According to the late 9th century-early 10th century writer Asser 'there was in Mercia in fairly recent time a certain vigorous king called Offa, who terrified all the neighbouring kings and provinces around him, and who had a great dyke built between Wales and Mercia from sea to sea' (Keynes & Lapidge, 1983). Sir Cyril Fox completed the first major survey of the Dyke (Fox 1955), and, in agreement with Asser, theorized that the Dyke ran from the estuary of the River Dee in the north to the River Wye in the south (approximately 150 miles, or 240 km). He observed that the dyke was not continuous, and thought it was built only in areas where natural barriers did not already exist.

Fairly recent research work by Steve Blake and Scott Lloyd (2000) made a claim that Offa's Dyke was in fact built by the Romans and is the earthwork referred to as the 'Severan Wall' built by the Emperor Septimius Severus. This earthwork is mentioned in several classical texts including the 4th century 'Scriptores Historia Augusta' in addition to the archaeologically known northern British frontiers of Hadrian and Antoninus Pius. Noting accounts such as that of Eutropius, who says that the wall of Severus was built of turf and 132 miles long, Blake and Lloyd point to the similarity with the apparent length and construction of Offa's Dyke. They also draw attention to the absence of any concrete archaeological material to support the conventional Anglo-Saxon association for the Dyke, and indeed to excavation evidence from Ffrith where Roman pottery sealed beneath the Dyke bank dated to no later than the 2nd century AD (CPAT).

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

The methodology for the watching brief was prepared with reference to the CIfA's document Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (2014) and was kept under constant review during the project, in order to see how far it met the terms of the aims and objectives, and in order to adopt any new questions which should they have arisen.

Curatorial monitoring of the archaeological work was carried out by the Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council and the Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England.

A suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist from Aeon Archaeology was commissioned for the maintenance of the watching brief. On arrival on site, the archaeologist reported to the site manager and conformed to the arrangements for notification of entering and leaving site. The archaeologist kept a record of the date, time and duration of all attendances at site, the names and numbers of archaeologists deployed and any actions taken. The archaeologist was provided with a Health & Safety Induction by the construction contractor and wore a safety helmet, safety footwear and high visibility jacket/vest at all times.

All of the archaeological deposits, features and structures identified were to be investigated and recorded under the terms of the watching brief and to be excavated manually in a controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project.

The method of recording followed the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and the stratigraphy was recorded by written descriptions even where no archaeological deposits were identified. The archaeologist recorded archaeological deposits using proformae recording forms and located them on a large-scale site plan related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum references.

The groundworks excavations were undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The drawn record comprised of plans at scale 1:20 and sections drawn at scale 1:10; propriety electronic hardware and software to prepare site drawings was used as appropriate.

A photographic record was maintained throughout, using a digital SLR camera (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution and any subsurface remains were also recorded photographically, with detailed notations and measured drawings being undertaken where required.

The archive produced is held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0128.1**.

4.2.1 Post-excavation Assessment

This report is on the results of the watching brief, in accordance with the recommendations in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006; 2015), and in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2014) has now been produced upon conclusion of the archaeological fieldwork.

4.2.2 Post-excavation Report

This report includes the following:

- A non-technical summary.
- A table of contents.
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the site.
- A statement of the project aims.
- An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same to include a statement on preservation bias and the means of data collection and sampling strategies.
- A factual summary of the history, development and use of the site.
- A statement setting out the nature, quantity and condition of the material archive
- (artefacts and ecofacts) including commentary on any bias observed due to collection and sampling strategies and commentary on long-term storage requirements.
- A statement setting out the nature and quantity of the documentary archive (notes, photographs, drawings, digital data).
- A general site plan indicating the position and size of the areas subject to watching brief and the locations of archaeological deposits identified and recorded during the works.
- Plans and sections at appropriate scales, augmented with appropriate photographs. All plans and sections will be related to the Ordnance Survey datum levels and to the National Grid.
- Other maps, plans, drawings, stratigraphic matrices and photographs as appropriate.
- Summary assessment reports on the artefact, bio-archaeological, dating and other assessments/analyses.
- A discussion of the location, extent, date, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits and finds identified during the project.
- A discussion of any research implications arising from the archaeological work.
- Notes on consultations with conservators and the nominated archive repository related to the immediate and long-term conservation and storage requirements for the data held in the site archive and recommendations of retention/discard of artefacts and ecofacts.
- A bibliography of sources consulted.
- Appendices to the report will include artefact catalogues, reports on assessments/analyses and an index to the project archive and a statement on its location/proposed repository.
- In addition the post-excavation report will summarise and draw together the findings of all of the phases of work.

4.3 Archive

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project has been prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions have been labelled, and cross-referenced, and upon approval from the Client copies of the report will be sent to the Shropshire Historic Environment Record, the Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council, the Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England, and the OASIS online database.

5.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS

5.1 The Documentary Archive

The following documentary records were created during the archaeological watching brief:

Watching brief day record sheets	3
Digital photographs	44
Context sheets	4
Drawings	0

6.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

The archaeological watching brief was maintained on 17th January 2018 during the groundworks associated with the erection of the new house extension, and on the 29th and 30th May 2018 during the groundworks associated with the new patio at Woodside, Selattyn, Shropshire. During the excavations archaeological contexts were assigned where relevant and are shown in brackets.

6.1 Excavation of foundation trench for extension / garden room

Description

The archaeological watching brief was maintained while a plot of land measuring 7.5m in length by 2.5m in width orientated north to south, and located at the northern end of the eastern elevation of Woodside, was excavated to a depth of 0.75m BGL using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The rectangular footprint was cut through a 0.3m deep dark black-brown, reasonably soft clay-silt topsoil (1001). The southernmost 2.0m of the trench was excavated 0.45m into a malleable, mid orange-brown clay natural glacial substrata (1002), which was cut through at its northern limit by a benching cut [1003] measuring >8.3m (north – south) by >2.5m (east – west) and >0.45m in depth. This cut had been infilled with a >0.2m deep dark black-brown silt-clay deposit with frequent medium sized sub-angular stone cobbles (1004) at the northernmost 2.0m of the trench, which was overlaid by a 0.25m deep dark black-brown clay-silt fill (1005) which continued throughout.

The centre of the trench had been previously disturbed within a c.0.5m wide utility corridor carrying two pvc drains, a water pipe, and an electrical cable running from south to north.

No artefacts or archaeological remains were identified during the excavation of the foundation trench for the garden room extension.

6.2 Excavation of foundation trench for new patio

Description

The archaeological watching brief was maintained while a plot of land measuring 12.0m in length by 8.3m in width orientated east to west, and located to the immediate east of the garden room extension, was excavated to a depth of 0.6m BGL using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The footprint was rectangular with a curved southern limit of excavation, and was cut through a 0.2m deep dark black-brown, reasonably soft clay-silt topsoil (1001). The southernmost 2.0m of the trench was excavated 0.5m into a malleable, mid orange-brown clay natural glacial substrata (1002). The benching cut [1003] recorded within the extension footprint was observed in plan located approximately 2.0m from the southern limit of excavation, and was uncovered to a maximum dimension of 10.0m in length (east – west) by 7.0m in width (north – south).

At the north-western corner of the patio foundation trench stony deposit (1004) was identified which measured >2.0m in length by >2.0m in width and produced fragments of red-brick. This was overlaid across the entirety of the benching cut by deposit (1005) which produced a large rim sherd of Midlands earthen ware (Pancheon Ware) of the 17th-20th century from a bowl; three fragments of body sherd from black-ware vessels of the 18th-20th century; and a ceramic tobacco pipe bowl without spur, and a bore diameter of approx 2.4mm suggesting an early 18th – mid 18th century date (CAFG, 2012).

Across the majority of fill (1005) a thin deposit measuring approximately 0.05m depth of redeposited orange-brown clay (1006) had been used as a final fill to benching cut [1003]. This deposit produced fragments of white glazed post-medieval ceramic and had been cut through by a series of linear field-drains, orientated north to south with east-west horizontal link drains. The fill of these drains (1007) was of a dark black-brown silt-clay that produced a fragment of black-ware dating from the 18th – 20th century.

Discussion

The stratigraphy within the garden room extension trench and the patio trench showed that the existing garden terrace had been created by benching into the natural slope. This involved cutting into the slope at its southern end, thus removing any potential for the preservation of archaeological remains, and then using the cut material as a fill at the northern slope to create an artificial terrace. The deposition of material at the northern end began with the laying down of a stony deposit (1004) in order to create a stable core to the terrace. This was then overlaid with redeposited topsoil deposit (1005) and finally sealed with redeposited natural clay (1006).

It is unusual that clay was used as the final levelling deposit for the terrace as this would restrict the drainage of run-off water from the higher parts of the slope, and it appears that the excavation of linear drainage runs across the terrace was an attempt at correcting drainage problems.

The artefactual evidence included red-brick fragments within stony material (1004); as well as white glazed late 19th century ceramic, 17th–20th century Pancheon Ware ceramic, 18th-20th century Black Ware ceramic, an early 18th-mid 18th century pipe bowl from deposit (1005); and 18th-20th century Black Ware ceramic fragments from deposit (1007). This would suggest that the terrace cut and fill episode was undertaken in the mid-18th century and was likely contemporary with the construction of Woodside.

Plate 01: Woodside, Selattyn extension footprint, from the south. Scale 1.0m.

Plate 02: Woodside, Selattyn extension footprint, from the north. Scale 1.0m.

Plate 03: Woodside, Selattyn extension footprint southern foundation trench, from the east. Scale 1.0m.

Plate 04: Woodside, Selattyn extension footprint northern foundation trench, from the east. Scale 1.0m.

Plate 05: Woodside, Selattyn extension footprint western foundation trench, from the north. Scale 1.0m.

Plate 06: Woodside, Selattyn extension footprint eastern foundation trench, from the north. Scale 1.0m.

Plate 07: Woodside, Selattyn extension footprint showing west facing section across garden retaining wall, from the west. Scale 1.0m.

Plate 08: Woodside, Selattyn patio footprint, from the southwest. Scale 1.0m.

Plate 09: Woodside, Selattyn patio footprint post-excavation, from the east. Scale 1.0m.

Plate 10: Woodside, Selattyn patio footprint post-excavation, from the southwest. Scale 1.0m.

Plate 11: Woodside, Selattyn patio footprint north facing section, from the north. Scale 1.0m.

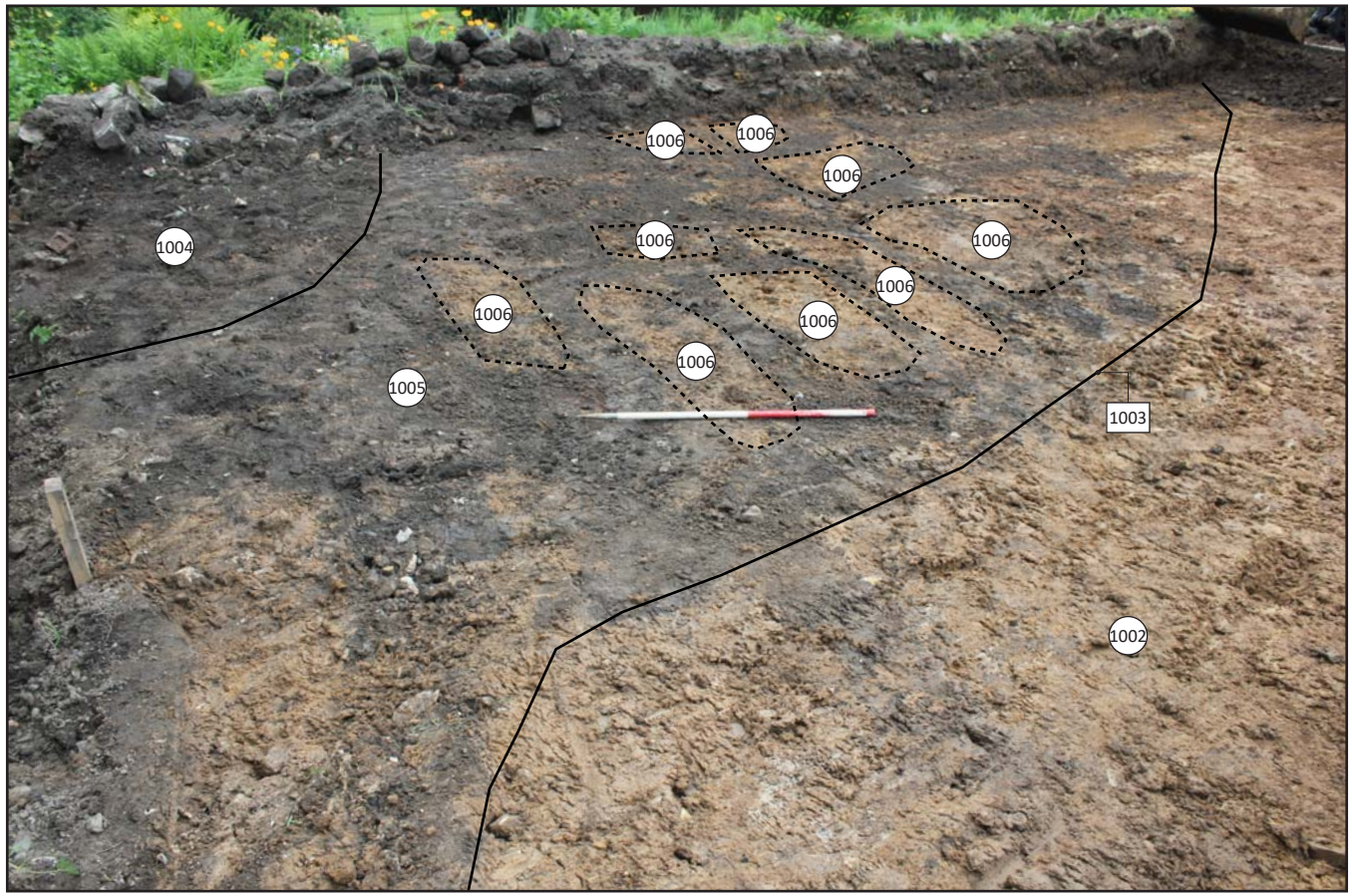

Plate 12: Woodside, Selattyn patio footprint post-excavation, from the southwest. Scale 1.0m.

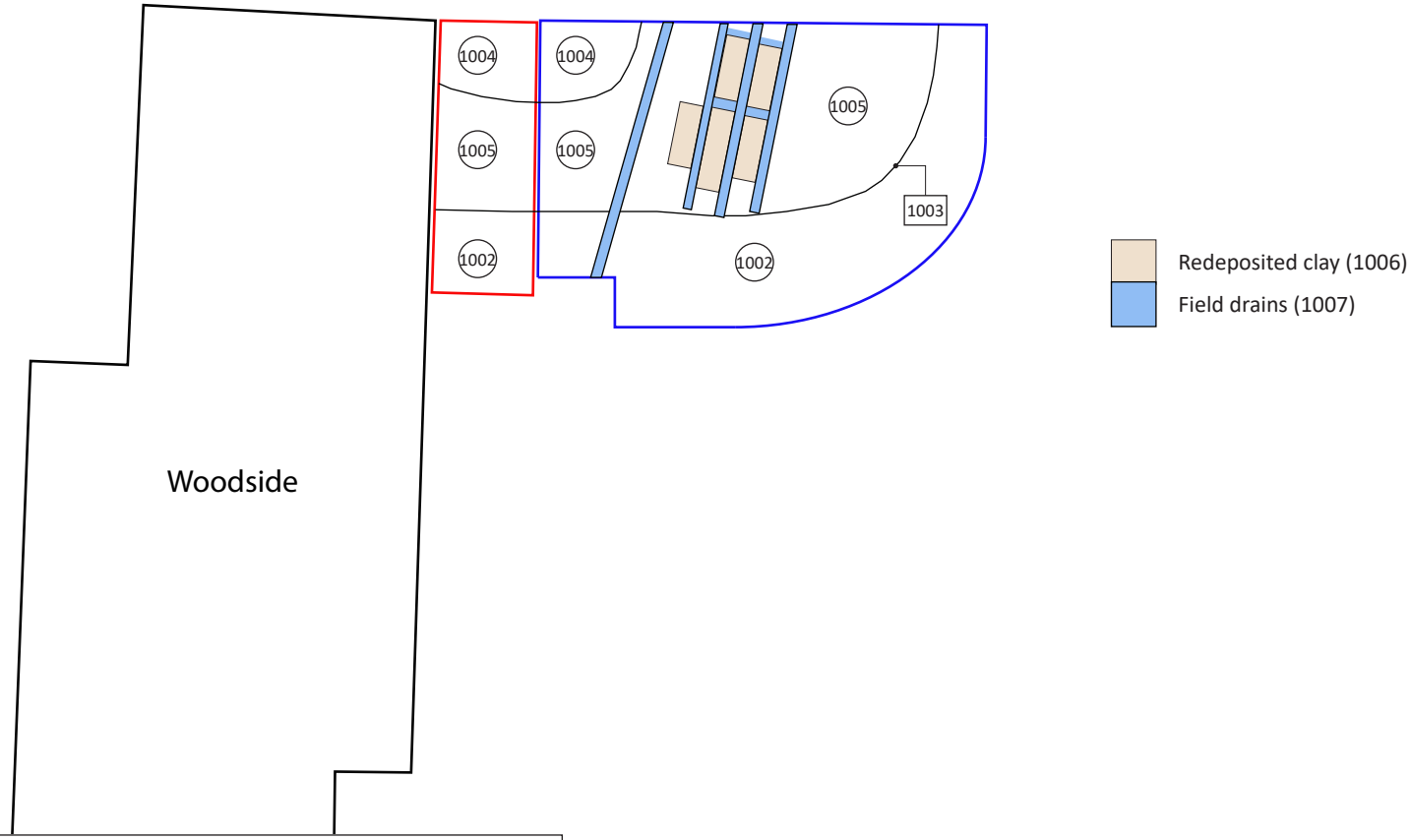

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Figure 04: Location of extension footprint (outlined red) and new patio location (outlined blue) and assigned archaeological contexts at Woodside, Selattyn, Oswestry. Scale 1:200 at A4.

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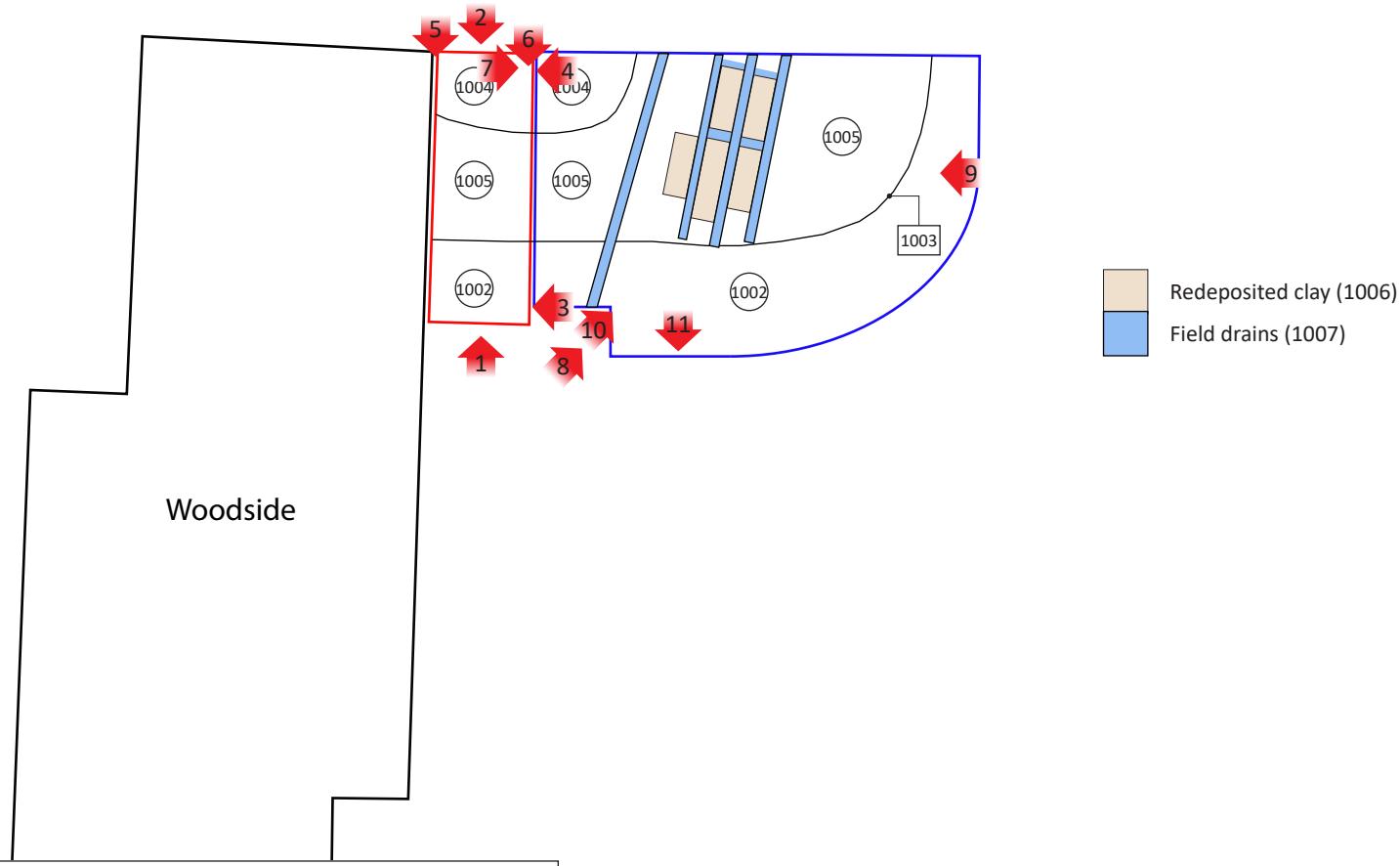

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Figure 05: Location and orientation of photographs at Woodside, Selattyn, Oswestry.
Scale 1:200 at A4.

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7.0 CONCLUSION

The archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new garden room extension and patio at Woodside, Selattyn, Oswestry did not identify any archaeological remains. The stratigraphy of the foundation trenches showed that the flat garden terrace had been created through a cut and fill episode into the natural slope, with ceramic fragments suggesting that this occurred in the mid-19th century, and likely contemporary with the construction of Woodside.

The benching cut into the southern part of the extension / patio area would have removed any potential for the preservation of archaeological remains, and the deposition of the cut material at the northern part of the area would have covered over any preserved archaeological remains.

The archaeological mitigation can be seen as having fulfilled the aims and objectives of the project and as such it is recommended that the condition of the Scheduled Monument Consent be discharged.

8.0 SOURCES

OS Maps

OS 1:10 000 Series sheet SJ 23 NE, SJ 23 SE, SJ 23 SW and SJ 23 NW.

Published sources

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APPENDIX I – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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Woodside, Selattyn, Oswestry, Shropshire SY10 7NR.

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief.

July 2017 v1.0

Project Code: A0128.1
Planning Ref: S00108195

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been commissioned by Mr Iain Nelson, hereafter the Client, to provide a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for carrying out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the construction of a new garden room extension at Woodside, Selattyn, Oswestry SY10 7NR (**NGR SJ 25113 34621**).

The property lies within the scheduled polygon of the *Offa's Dyke: Section two miles 780 yards (3930m) long, from the stream west of Brook Cottage, Selattyn, to footpath crossing Dyke west of Bron y Garth, also in Clwyd: Wales* Scheduled Ancient Monument (**SM SA 83; HA 1004765**). Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) was granted by Historic England on 6th May 2015 (**S00108195**).

A mitigation brief was not prepared for this scheme by the Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council or the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England but the following condition was assigned to the SMC:

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No groundworks / building works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological monitoring during the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State advised by Historic England.

This document addresses Condition B of the SMC.

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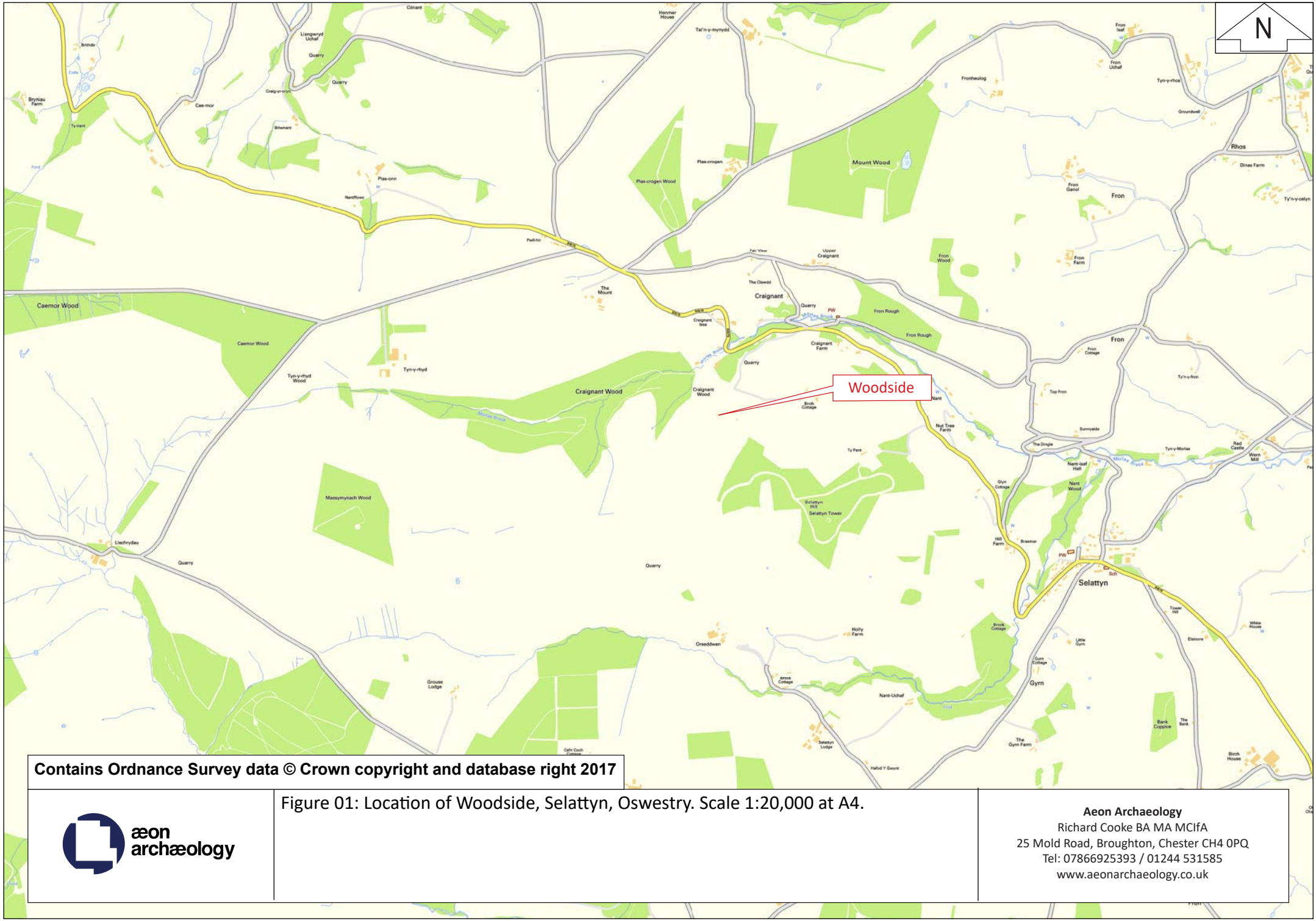

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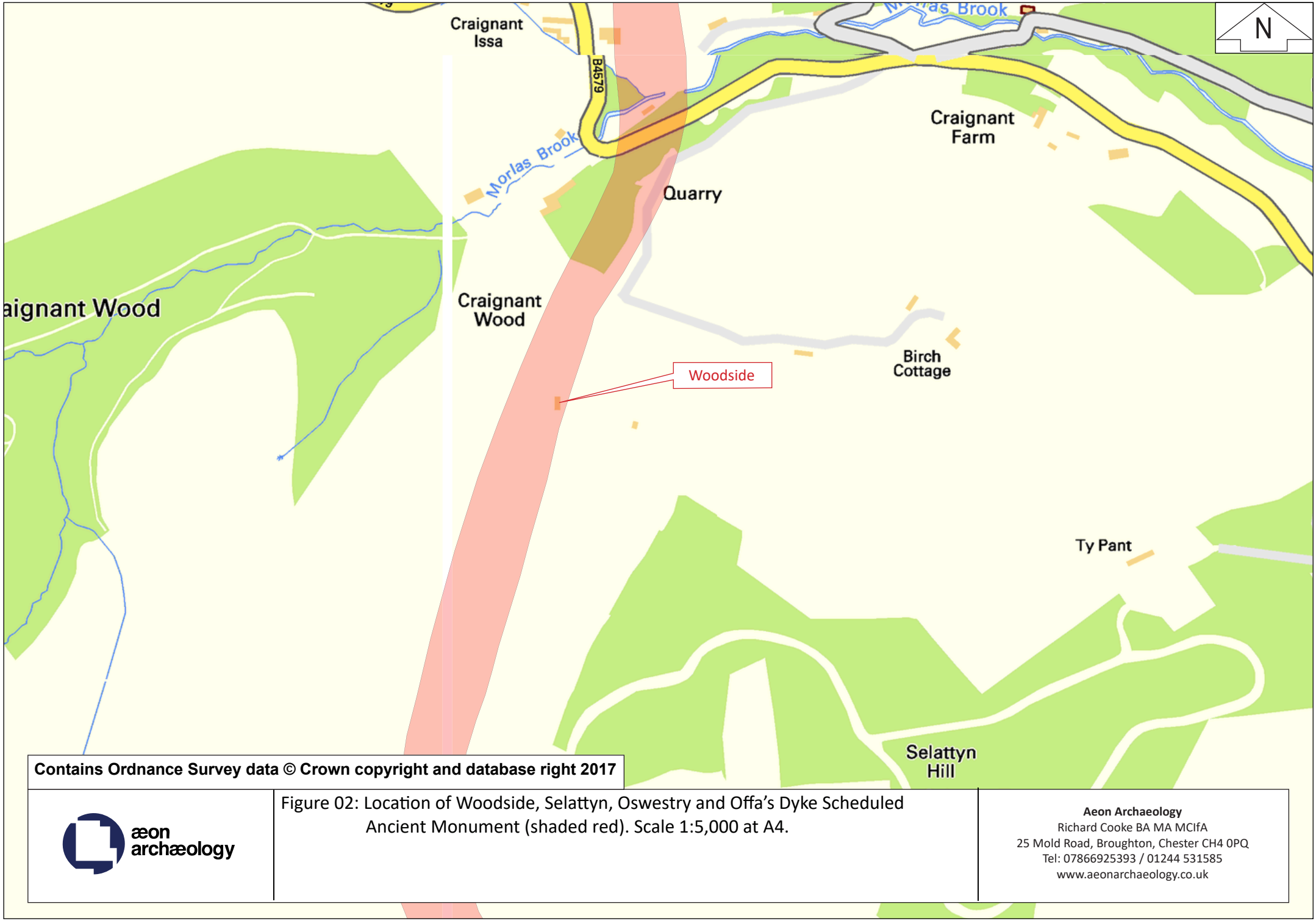

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Figure 02: Location of Woodside, Selattyn, Oswestry and Offa's Dyke Scheduled Ancient Monument (shaded red). Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

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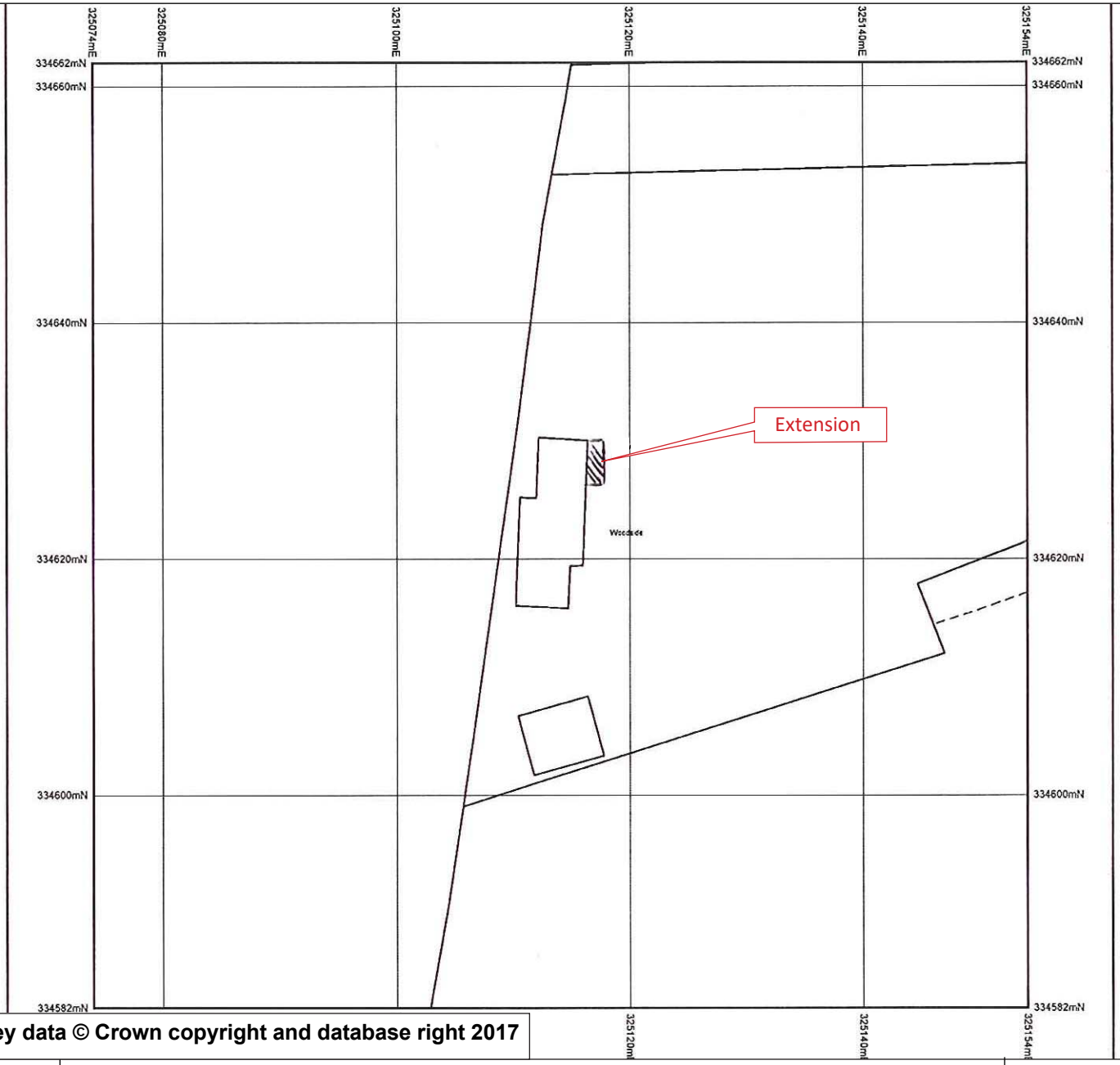

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Figure 03: Location of proposed extension at Woodside, Selattyn, Oswestry.
Scale 1:500 at A4.

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2.0 ARCHEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

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3.0 WATCHING BRIEF - ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS

The archaeological watching brief shall be maintained:

1. During the excavation of topsoil and foundation trenches at the Site.

The CIfA maintains a standard for archaeological watching brief which states that:

An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant by-laws of CIfA.

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the CIfA as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons (CIfA 2014). The watching brief will take place within a specified area within the Site where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.

The CIfA further identifies the purpose of a watching brief as allowing, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.

It is also important to note that a watching brief provides an opportunity, if needed, for a signal to be made to all interested parties, before the destruction of the archaeological materials, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

A watching brief is, therefore, not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

The aims of the watching brief are:

- To allow, within the resources available, the opportunity to gain information about and record the presence/absence, nature and date of archaeological remains on the Site affected by excavations and groundworks, the presence and nature of which could not be established with sufficient confidence in advance of works which may disturb them.

- To provide the facility to signal to the relevant authorities, before irreversible impact to remains that an archaeological and/or historic find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are inadequate to support their treatment to an adequate and satisfactory standard.

The specific objectives of the watching brief are:

- To observe and recover any artefacts of archaeological significance.

- To record the location, dimensions and nature of any deposits, features, structures or artefacts of archaeological significance.

- To recover samples of any deposits considered to have potential for analysis for palaeoenvironmental data should the opportunity arise.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

The methodology for the watching brief has been prepared with reference to the CIfA's document Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (2014) and will be kept under constant review during the project, in order to see how far it is meeting the terms of the aims and objectives, and in order to adopt any new questions which may arise.

Curatorial monitoring of the archaeological work on behalf of the Council will be carried out by the Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England. To facilitate the curatorial monitoring, the officer shall be provided with a minimum of two weeks' notice of the start of the archaeological work.

A suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist(s) from Aeon Archaeology will be commissioned for the maintenance of the watching brief. On arrival on site, the archaeologist(s) will report to the site manager and conform to the arrangements for notification of entering and leaving site. The archaeologist(s) will keep a record of the date, time and duration of all attendances at site, the names and numbers of archaeologists deployed and any actions taken. The archaeologist will be provided with a Health & Safety Induction by the construction contractor and wear a safety helmet, safety footwear and high visibility jacket/vest at all times.

If deposits and or artefacts are exposed during excavations for the development which require recording and recovery, it may be necessary to delay works whilst the proper investigation and recording takes place. Watching brief recording can often be undertaken without delay to groundworks, depending upon the specific circumstances and flexibility of all the staff on site.

Within the constraints of the terms of the watching brief work, the archaeologist will not cause unreasonable disruption to the maintenance of the work schedules of other contractors on site. In the event of archaeological discoveries the treatment of which (either arising from the volume/quantity of material and/or the complexity/importance of the material) is beyond the resources deployed the Client will be notified and a site meeting/telephone consultation arranged with the Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England. The aim of the meeting will be to confirm that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard and identify measures which would be sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard prior to destruction of the material in question.

Any archaeological deposits, features and structures identified which can be investigated and recorded under the terms of the watching brief will be excavated manually in a controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project – subject to the limitations on site access.

It may not be necessary to excavate the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits but the inter-relationships between archaeological deposits, features and structures will be investigated sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project and the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits will be investigated where practicable.

The method of recording will follow the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and the stratigraphy will be recorded in written descriptions even where no archaeological deposits have been identified. The archaeologist will record archaeological deposits using proformae recording forms and locate them on a large-scale site plan related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum references.

The groundworks excavations shall be undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The drawn record will comprise plans at scale 1:20 and sections at scale 1:10; propriety electronic hardware and software to prepare site drawings may be used as appropriate.

The photographic record will be maintained throughout using a digital SLR camera (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution (72 dpi) and all archaeological features will be recorded photographically with photographs taken in RAW format and later converted to TIFF format for long-term storage and JPEG format for presentation and inclusion in the archive. The standards for the digital archive will adhere to those set out in '*Guidelines for Digital Archaeological Archives'* (RCAHMW, 2015).

The archive produced will be held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0128.1**.

4.2 Watching brief report

4.2.1 Post-excavation Assessment

A report on the results of the watching brief, in accordance with the recommendations in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006; 2015), and in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2014) will be required to be produced upon conclusion of the archaeological fieldwork. The report will be completed within a maximum of two months of completion of work on site and may include examination and quantification leading to the identification of function, form, date, method of manufacture, material/fabric type, source, parallels, attributes and condition of artefacts; of the exploitation of wild or domesticated resources; the reconstruction of environments; and the nature of human populations.

Full analysis of the results of the project, including: dating and interpretation of excavated features; pottery and other finds analysis; analysis of industrial residues by an appropriate specialist or specialists; analysis of samples for environmental data (including pollen, plant macrofossils and beetles) by an appropriate specialist or specialists; radiocarbon dating; discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context, including relating the excavated features and palaeoenvironmental data to evidence from nearby sites, and discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context may be required.

The scope of post-excavation assessment will be subject to a specification for approval by the Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England, upon the conclusion of the fieldwork project and preliminary report.

4.2.2 Post-excavation Report

Following completion of the stages outlined above, a report will be produced that will include:

- A non-technical summary.
- A table of contents.
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the site.
- A statement of the project aims.
- An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same to include a statement on preservation bias and the means of data collection and sampling strategies.
- A factual summary of the history, development and use of the site.
- A statement setting out the nature, quantity and condition of the material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) including commentary on any bias observed due to collection and sampling strategies and commentary on long-term storage requirements.
- A statement setting out the nature and quantity of the documentary archive (notes, photographs, drawings, digital data).
- A general site plan indicating the position and size of the areas subject to watching brief and the locations of archaeological deposits identified and recorded during the works.
- Plans and sections at appropriate scales, augmented with appropriate photographs. All plans and sections will be related to the Ordnance Survey datum levels and to the National Grid.
- Other maps, plans, drawings, stratigraphic matrices and photographs as appropriate.
- Summary assessment reports on the artefact, bio-archaeological, dating and other assessments/analyses.
- A discussion of the location, extent, date, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits and finds identified during the project.

- A discussion of any research implications arising from the archaeological work.
- Notes on consultations with conservators and the nominated archive repository related to the immediate and long-term conservation and storage requirements for the data held in the site archive and recommendations of retention/discard of artefacts and ecofacts.
- A bibliography of sources consulted.
- Appendices to the report will include artefact catalogues, reports on assessments/analyses and an index to the project archive and a statement on its location/proposed repository.
- In addition the post-excavation report will summarise and draw together the findings of all of the phases of work.

Illustrations will include plans of the location of the study area and archaeological sites. Historical maps, when appropriate and if copyright permissions allow, will be included. Photographs of relevant sites and of the study area where appropriate will be included.

A draft copy of the report will be sent to the Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council, the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England, and to the client for comment and approval prior to production of the final report.

Aeon Archaeology will not be held responsible for delays and subsequent costs incurred through the onset of adverse weather. If such conditions occur additional costs may be incurred.

5.0 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS DESIGNS (FAWDs)

The discovery of substantial archaeological remains and/or features during the archaeological works may result in the requirement for an extended programme of archaeological mitigation. This may require the submission of revised quotes to the client as well as a new specification which will be required to be approved by Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England prior to implementation.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

Relevant archaeological deposits will be sampled by taking bulk samples (a minimum of 10.0 litres and maximum of 30.0 litres) for flotation of charred plant remains. Bulk samples will be taken from waterlogged deposits for macroscopic plant remains. Other bulk samples, for example from middens, may be taken for small animal bones and small artefacts.

Bulk environmental samples will also be taken from any fills, deposits or structures which yield archaeological artefacts, charcoal flecks/ fragments, bone, or any other historic remains.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs will be obtained from Oxford Archaeology.

For guidance purposes the following volume criteria represent the minimum feature sampling requirements:

- 50% of each discrete feature (e.g. pits and postholes)
- 25% of the exposed areas of each liner feature and all terminals/intersections
- 50% of structural features (e.g. beamslots, ring-ditches)
- 50%-100% of domestic/industrial working features (e.g. hearths and ovens)

7.0 HUMAN REMAINS

Any finds of human remains will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, and both the coroner and the Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England informed. If removal is necessary it will take place under appropriate regulations and with due regard for health and safety issues. In order to excavate human remains, a licence is required under Section *25* of the Burials Act 1857 for the removal of any body or remains of any body from any place of burial. This will be applied for should human remains need to be investigated or moved.

8.0 ARTEFACTS

All artefacts and ecofacts will be retrieved for identification and recording and will be treated in accordance with CIfA 2008 Guidelines for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).

All artefacts are the property of the landowner but it is recommended that finds are deposited with the rest of the project archive within an appropriate museum. Furthermore, the client agrees to granting access to all artefacts recovered by Aeon Archaeology for analysis, study and publication as necessary. All finds would be treated according to advice provided within *First Aid for Finds* (Rescue 1999). Aeon Archaeology staff will undertake initial identification, but any additional advice would be sought from a wide range of consultants.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds will be kept under review throughout the archaeological works. Any changes in recovery priorities will be under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England. There will be a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

All finds will be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. Their location and height will be plotted; finds numbers attributed, bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. Where specialist advice is required provision will be made to do so at the earliest possible convenience.

After processing, artefacts which are suitable will be cleaned and conserved in-house. Artefacts requiring specialist cleaning and conservation will be sent to the relevant specialist. All artefacts will then be sent to a specialist for analysis, the results of which will then be assessed to ascertain the potential of the finds assemblage to meet the research aims of the project. The value of the finds will also be assessed in terms of the wider educational and academic contributions.

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation of waterlogged material:

- Organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)
- Non-organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation and analysis of artefacts:

- Bone: Nora Bermingham
- Glass: Hilary Cool, Barbican Research Associates.
- Metal artefacts: Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services, Cardiff.
- Slag, burnt clay, hammerscale: Dr. Tim Young, Geoarch, Cardiff.
- Stone artefacts: George Smith, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Bangor.
- Wood artefacts: Jane Foley, Foley Conservation, Builth Wells.
- Leather: Quita Mould, Barbican Research Associates.
- Environmental Material: Dr Mike Allen, Allen Environmental Archaeology.
- Numismatics: Peter Guest, Barbican Research Associates.
- Ceramics: Leigh Dodd

If well preserved materials are found it may be necessary to employ additional staff. Furthermore, it may be necessary to suspend work within a specific region of the site, or across the whole site, while conservation and excavation/recording takes place. Aeon Archaeology accepts no responsibility for any costs incurred from delays as a result of unexpected archaeological finds.

9.0 UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES: TREASURE TROVE

Treasure Trove law has been amended by the Treasure Act 1996. The following are Treasure under the Act:

- *Objects other than coins* any object other than a coin provided that it contains at least 10% gold or silver and is at least 300 years old when found.

- *Coins* all coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found (if the coins contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least 10. Any object or coin is part of the same find as another object or coin, if it is found in the same place as, or had previously been left together with, the other object. Finds may have become scattered since they were originally deposited in the ground. Single coin finds of gold or silver are not classed as treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act.

- *Associated objects* any object whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or that had previously been together with, another object that is treasure.

- *Objects that would have been treasure trove* any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. These objects have to be made substantially of gold or silver, they have to be buried with the intention of recovery and their owner or his heirs cannot be traced.

The following types of finds are not treasure:

- Objects whose owners can be traced.

- Unworked natural objects, including human and animal remains, even if they are found in association with treasure.

- Objects from the foreshore which are not wreck.

All finds of treasure must be reported to the coroner for the district within fourteen days of discovery or identification of the items. Items declared Treasure Trove become the property of the Crown.

The British Museum will decide whether they or any other museum may wish to acquire the object. If no museum wishes to acquire the object, then the Secretary of State will be able to disclaim it. When this happens, the coroner will notify the occupier and landowner that he intends to return the object to the finder after 28 days unless he receives no objection. If the coroner receives an objection, the find will be retained until the dispute has been settled.

10.0 ARCHIVING

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project will be prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions will be labelled, and cross-referenced, and lodged with the National Monument Record, RCAHMW within six months of the completion of the project.

A draft copy of the report will be produced within two months of the completion of the fieldwork and sent to the Client, the Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England for comment prior to finalisation of the report and dissemination. Bound copies of the report and an archive CD will be sent to the regional HER,

and the Oasis online database for long term archiving. Furthermore, a summary of the project will be sent to relevant journal for publication if required.

11.0 PERSONNEL

The work will be managed by Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA, Archaeological Contractor and Consultant at Aeon Archaeology.

12.0 MONITORING AND LIAISON

Regular liaison and site monitoring meetings will take place during all stages of work. The Natural and Historic Environment Manager at Shropshire Council and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England will be informed of the start date and of discreet subsequent stages.

13.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Aeon Archaeology has a Health and Safety Policy Statement which can be supplied upon request. Furthermore, site-specific Risk Assessments and Method Statements are compiled and distributed to every member of staff involved with the project prior to the commencement of works.

14.0 INSURANCE

Liability Insurance – Insignia Underwriting Policy 347002

Employers' Liability: Limit of Indemnity £10m in any one occurrence
Public Liability: Limit of Indemnity £2m in any one occurrence
Legal Defence Costs (Health and Safety at Work Act): £250,000

The current period expires 07/09/17

Professional Indemnity Insurance – Insignia Underwriting Policy 347002

Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 07/09/17