

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **Plot 3, Manor Farm Barns, Leebotwood Church Stretton, Shropshire**

### **Archaeological Evaluation**



By

**Kate Pitt ACIfA**

**Report No. 1607**

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# *Archaeology Wales*

## **Plot 3, Manor Farm Barns, Leebotwood Church Stretton, Shropshire**

### **Archaeological Evaluation**

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**September 2017**

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## **Non-Technical Summary**

*Archaeology Wales carried out an archaeological evaluation in August 2017 to examine the archaeological potential of a site intended for development at Plot 3, Manor Farm Barns, Leebotwood, Church Stretton, Shropshire.*

*The proposed development site falls within an area recorded on the Historic Environment Record as previously containing earthwork remains of a number of building platforms of possible medieval date (HER PRN 03837). It is therefore possible that below ground archaeological features and deposits associated with the building platforms survive. Historic cartographic sources indicate that the south-eastern corner of the proposed development site was occupied in the later 19th century by an agricultural building of likely post-medieval date.*

*One evaluation trench 15m in length was excavated within the proposed development footprint. There was no evidence within the trench for any archaeological features, such as medieval building platforms. A noticeable ridge to the north west of the trench might be the remains of such features, but as it was located outside the footprint of the development it is uncertain if it would be impacted by any landscaping or other groundworks associated with the development.*

*No further archaeological work in the form of a targeted watching brief is recommended if works are likely to impact upon the identified archaeological resource.*

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Location and Scope of Work**

1.1.1 In August 2017 Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) carried out a field evaluation on at Plot 3, Proposed Residential Development SW of Manor Farm Barns, Leebotwood, Church Stretton, Shropshire. The assessment area is centered at NGR 347613 298524 (Figures 1 & 2). The work was carried out at the request of Mr and Mrs Groom in order to comply with a planning condition from Shropshire County Council (Planning Application 17/00198/FUL).

1.1.2 The purpose of the proposed programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation was to provide the local planning authority with the information that they have requested in response to the planning application. In line with Paragraph 141 of the NPPF, it was recommended that a phased programme of archaeological work, to comprise an initial field evaluation followed by further mitigation as appropriate, is undertaken as a condition of planning permission for the proposed development. The Condition reads as follows:

*'No development approved by this permission shall commence until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological*



*work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI). This written scheme shall be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of works.*

*Reason: The site is known to hold archaeological interest.'*

- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation for the work was prepared by Aurea Izquierdo Zamora, Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of Mr and Mrs Groom and agreed with Shropshire County Council Historic Environment Team (henceforth SCC-HER) in its capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority.
- 1.1.2 The AW project number for the work is 2544 and the site code is LCS/17/EV. The project details are summarised on the Archive Cover Sheet (Appendix V).
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

## **1.2 Geology and Topography**

- 1.2.1 The site is a small, flat parcel of approximately 1,300 sq. m. located at Manor Farm (Leebotwood), just off the road A49. It comprises the access lane and a small parcel located just south from the existing garage. The parcel is void of buildings.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology on the area comprises Halesowen Formation: mudstone, siltstone and sandstone, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 307 to 309 million years (Carboniferous) within a local environment previously dominated by rivers. Superficial geology comprises Glaciofluvial Sheet Deposits: sand and gravel deposits formed up to 2 million years ago (Devensian) within a local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions (British Geological Survey).

## **1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 1.3.1 The proposed development site falls within an area recorded on the Historic Environment Record as previously containing earthwork remains of a number of building platforms of possible medieval date (HER PRN 03837). First identified in 1981, it is understood that the earthworks were subsequently damaged by ploughing shortly afterwards, although in 1992 degraded earthworks were still visible. It is therefore possible that below ground archaeological features and deposits associated with the building platforms survive within the proposed development site.
- 1.3.2 A historic edition of the Ordnance Survey map also indicate that the south-eastern corner of the proposed development site was occupied in the later 19th century by an agricultural building of likely post-medieval date.

## **2. Aims and Objectives**

### **2.1 Field Evaluation**

- 2.1.1 The objectives of the field evaluation, as defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation by AW, were to locate and describe, by means of strategic trial trenching, archaeological features that may be present within the development area. The work will

elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance.

- 2.1.2 The work will include an assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within national and regional research frameworks. The intrusive trial trench evaluation will result in a report that will provide information of sufficient detail to allow informed planning decisions to be made which can safeguard the archaeological resource. Preservation in situ will be advocated where at all possible, but where engineering or other factors result in loss of archaeological deposits, preservation by record will be recommended.
- 2.1.3 The report will include a comprehensive assessment of the historic context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within regional, national and, if relevant, international research frameworks.

#### **Site Specific Research Aims**

- 2.1.4 It is important to recognize that whilst primarily designed to mitigate impacts, developer-led archaeology is also regarded as research activity with an academic basis, the aim of which is to add to the sum of human knowledge. Curators recognize the desirability of incorporating agreed research priorities as a means of enhancing the credibility of the development control process, ensuring cost-effectiveness and legitimately maximizing intellectual return.
- 2.1.5 This intrusive trial trench evaluation has the capacity to identify areas where subsequent mitigation may contribute to the following research aims for rural medieval sites, addressed within the research framework for the archaeology of the West Midlands (Hunt 2011):
- Village origins, particularly in light of regional framework from pre-Conquest phases, and which might be related to the major socio-economic shifts occurring in English society, such as the development of open fields, the growth of dependent tenure and the onset of manorialism. Also, the precise distribution of nucleated settlement, the point at which it appears in the landscape, and the factors that gave rise to.
  - Fluidity of settlements, including re-planning phenomenon that affected many settlements in the 12th century, addressing questions on how widespread was this phenomenon, at this and other dates, and what was the socio-economic context to which it related? The desertion and/or shrinkage of rural settlements, to explore in detail within the wider context of settlement 'life cycles', how and why settlements of various types grow, and differences with trends that might be observed within urban settlement.
  - Broader themes are also to be addressed as follows: the extent, nature, economy and character of settlement and landscape use; the relationships between landscape, geomorphology and soil types, the type and date of land-use within the site; the reliability of earlier geophysical surveys with regards to feature type/date and soil/geology.

### **3 Methodology**

#### **3.1 Field Evaluation**

- 3.1.1 Excavation of one evaluation trenches (Figure 3) was undertaken using a JCB 3CX

mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision. All spoil was stored in separate piles (topsoil and subsoil/natural).

- 3.1.2 The trench locations was agreed in the WSI (AW). The trench measured 15m in length by 1.8m wide.
- 3.1.3 Prior to commencement of excavation, the trench location was scanned for services using a CAT scanner.
- 3.1.4 The on-site work was undertaken by Jerry Bond. The overall management of the project was undertaken by Auri Zamora ACIFA.
- 3.1.5 All areas were photographed using high-resolution (16mp+) digital photography with images taken in \*RAW format and converted to TIFF format for archive storage. All on-site illustrations were undertaken on drafting film using recognized conventions and scales (1:10, 1:20, 1:50, as appropriate).
- 3.1.6 All works were undertaken in accordance with the CIfA's *Standards and Guidance: for an Archaeological Evaluation* (2014) and current Health and Safety legislation.

### **3.2 Finds**

- 3.2.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and recorded by context.

### **3.3 Palaeo-environmental Evidence**

- 3.3.1 No deposits suitable for sampling were encountered during the course of the evaluation.

## **4 Evaluation Results**

### **4.1 Soils and Ground Conditions**

- 4.1.1 The ground conditions were good throughout the project, with fair weather.

### **4.2 Description (Figure 4)**

- 4.2.1 A natural deposit of sands and gravels and mudstones (105) was encountered along the base of the trench at 0.7m below the present ground surface, and was itself overlain by an intermittent deposit of firm clay silt (104), which was pale brown in colour. Few stones were noted in this deposit and it was considered to be a naturally derived deposit formed after the end of the last period of glaciation. Both natural deposits were greater than 0.2m in thickness but an exact dimension was not ascertained as they were not fully excavated and both were part of the underlying geological natural typical for the area.
- 4.2.2 Above the natural deposits was a buried topsoil horizon (103), a very dark brown loam, fairly loose and with frequent quantities of small and medium sub angular and rounded stones. This deposit extended across the width of the trench and for most of its length (>14.2m) and was 0.1m in thickness. A small number of finds of pottery and CBM were recovered from this layer and are likely to date from the late 19th to early 20th centuries.
- 4.2.3 Toward the eastern end of the trench was a compacted gravel deposit (107) a pale grey in colour and derived largely of mixed aggregates and gravels thought to be hard core layer for an overlying road/track surface (106). The trackway was of asphalt/tarmac and only survived as a broken up layer, probably as the result of limited demolition of the track



after it went out of use. The hard core layer (107) was 0.05-0.08m thick and extended beyond the width of the trench (N-S) and to the east beyond the length of the trench, being >2.8m. The track appeared to run in a NE-SW direction and was said by the land owner to have run toward a building to the south of the plot, though the building is no longer in existence. A brick and masonry wall was visible forming the part southern boundary of the site and is possibly the remains of the structure that formerly occupied the site.

- 4.2.4 Overlying the track (106) and the buried topsoil (103) was a deposit (102) which was a firm pale brown clay with flecks of mortar/cement and is considered to be fairly recent deposition of material across the area of the site. It was across all of the area of the trench (>15m E-W and 1.8m N-S) and varied in thickness of 0m toward the western end of the trench and up to 0.6m thickness toward the eastern end. Cutting this deposit was a blue plastic water pipe of a modern date. To the north east of the site was a series of modern barn conversions and it is likely that (102) was deposited during the works associated with them.
- 4.2.5 Overlying was the extant topsoil layer (101), a very dark brown loam, being fairly loose and bearing a large quantity of roots from the recently removed vegetation, comprising of grasses and brambles. This layer was of an average thickness of 0.2m and extended across the full area of the evaluation trench. Finds of CBM, plastics and iron were noted but none were retained due to the nature and date of the deposit.

## **5 Finds**

- 5.1.1 Only a comparatively small finds assemblage was recovered from the evaluation. A small number of late 19<sup>th</sup> century to early 20<sup>th</sup> century finds of pottery and CBM were recovered from buried topsoil horizon (103). Modern finds of CBM, plastics and iron were visible in topsoil (101). All of the material was noted but was not retained.

## **6 Discussion and Interpretation**

### **6.1 Overall Interpretation**

- 6.1.1 The proposed development site falls within an area recorded on the Historic Environment Record as previously containing earthwork remains of a number of building platforms of possible medieval date (HER PRN 03837). First identified in 1981, it is understood that the earthworks were subsequently damaged by ploughing shortly afterwards, although in 1992 degraded earthworks were still visible. It is therefore possible that below ground archaeological features and deposits associated with the building platforms survive within the proposed development site.
- 6.1.2 Historic edition of the Ordnance Survey map also indicate that the south-eastern corner of the proposed development site was occupied in the later 19th century by an agricultural building of likely post-medieval date.
- 6.1.3 Following the evaluation, the results showed no evidence within the area of the trench for any earlier features to have survived, such as medieval building platforms, though a noticeable ridge to the north west of the trench might be the remains of such features, but as it was not targeted by the evaluation this was not established. This shallow earthwork is located outside the footprint of the development and it is uncertain if it would be impacted by any landscaping or other groundworks associated with the development.
- 6.1.4 Evidence was encountered for a trackway (106/107) across the eastern end of the trench, which from its construction is unlikely to be of any great age and appeared to have been constructed directly upon the then extant ground surface (103). Both of these were buried

at a later date and within recent years by a layer of redeposited clay and building material (102) and by an overlying topsoil (101). It is probable that the trackway and the “building” to which it was directed are the post medieval structure that was previously noted to have existed on the site.

- 6.1.5 A brick and masonry wall that formed part of the southern boundary of the site is possibly the surviving above ground remains of the post medieval structure to which the track way led. It was outside the footprint of the evaluation trench and was beyond the scope of this phase of works.

## **6.2 Assessment of Significance and Recommendations**

- 6.2.1 No archaeological remains were identified within the evaluation trench that related to PRN 03837, earthworks of possibly medieval building platforms. A late post-medieval track was discovered in the evaluation trench that is of low, local significance, possibly linked to a masonry wall that is still extant on the southern boundary.
- 6.2.2 The undulating nature of the plot could suggest that archaeological remains are still located within the development area that are associated with PRN03837, but fell outside of the area directly targeted by the evaluation trench. Further archaeological work will not be necessary.

## **7 Acknowledgements**

- 7.1.1 Thanks are due to Jerry Bond and Irma Bernardus (AW) for their on-site supervising and assistance with illustrations, and to Mr and Mrs Groom for their support.

## **8 Bibliography and References**

British Geological Survey: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, retrieved 04/08/2017.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014, *Standards and Guidance for a Field Evaluation*.

Hunt, John, 2011. The Medieval Period, in Watt (ed), *The Archaeology of the West Midlands. A framework for research*. Oxbow: Oxford.



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## **APPENDIX I:** Figures

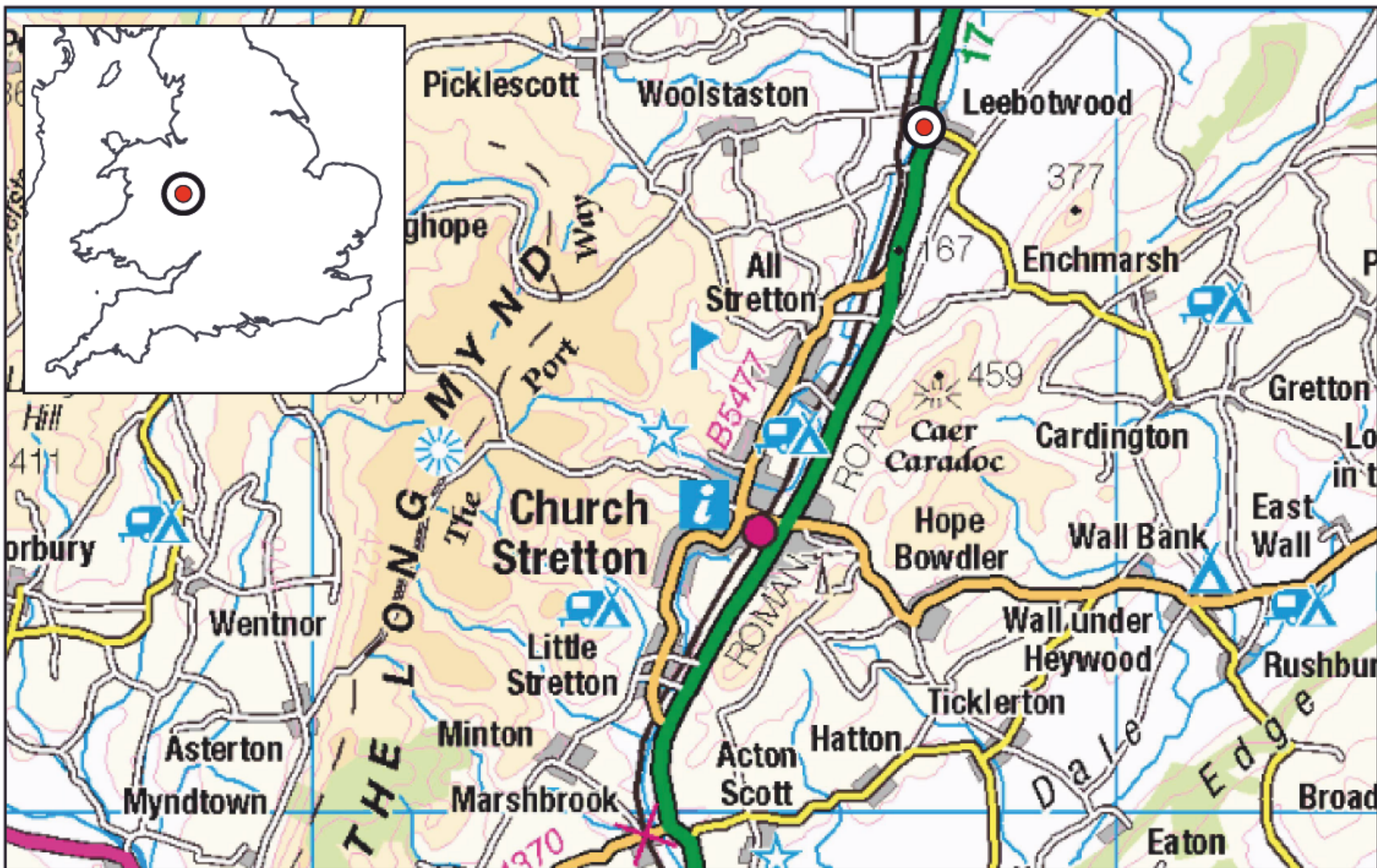


Figure 1: Location Map of site (target)  
within Shropshire; scale: 1:60,000



0 1 2 3 km

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Revealing the past, informing the future



Figure 2: Location of site (target) within Leebotwood; scale: 1:3,750



0 50 100 150 m

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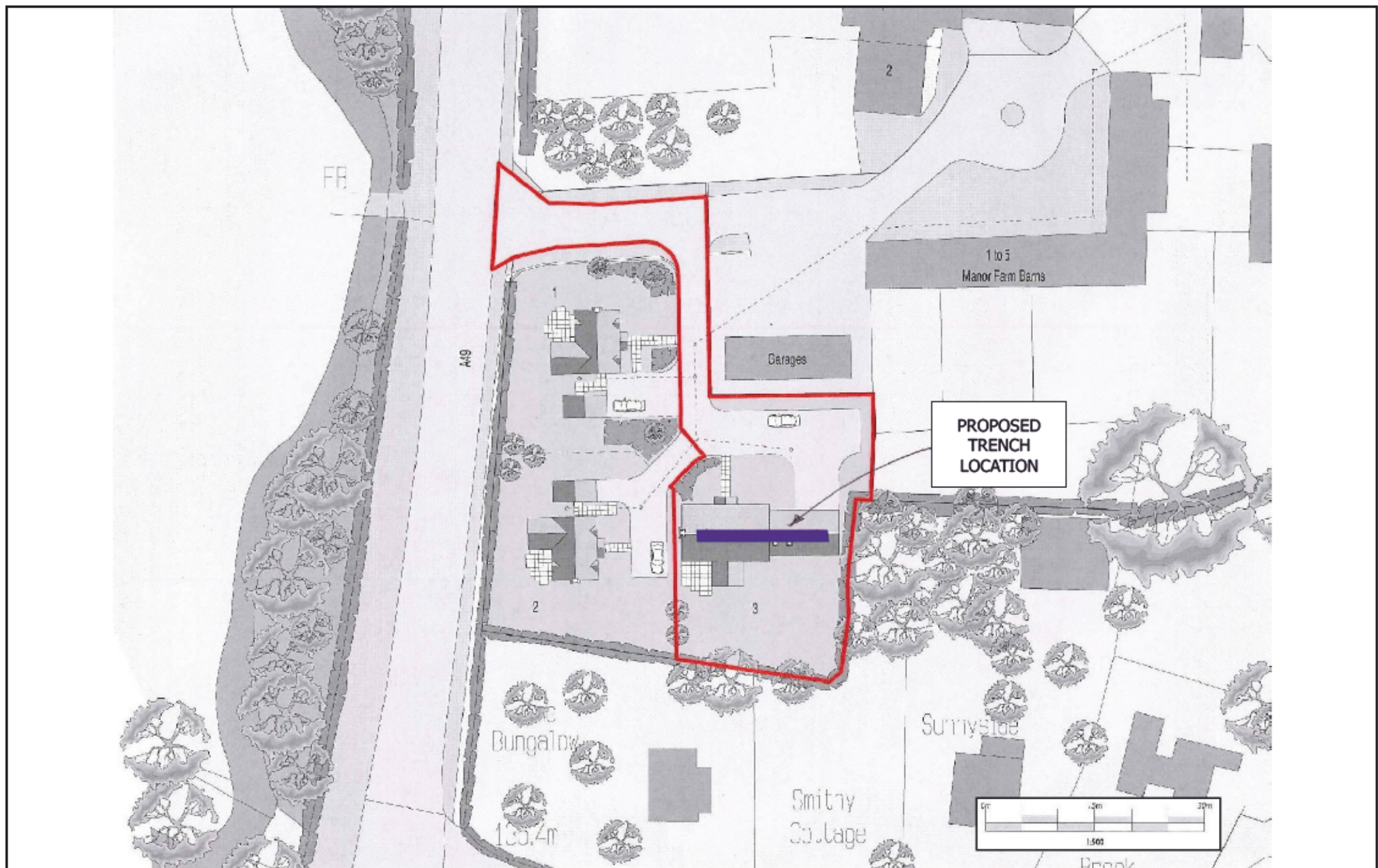
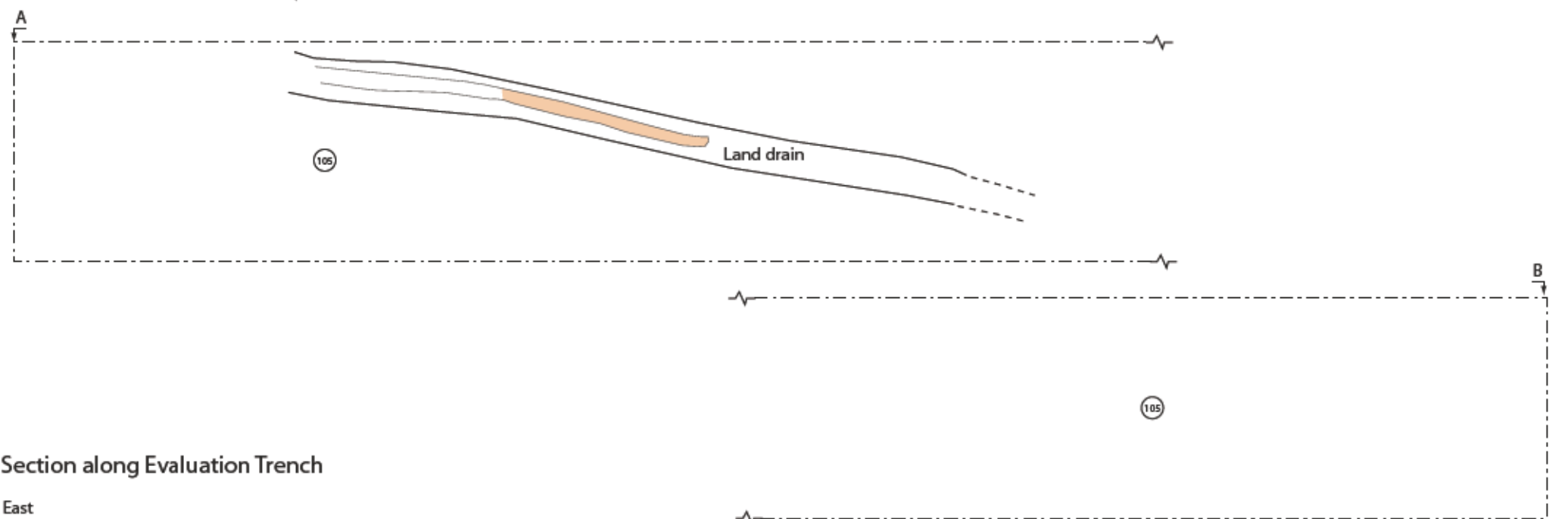


Figure 3: Detailed plan of proposed development area (red) and trench (blue) - from Gareth Hickman Architectural Ltd source.

# Plan of Evaluation Trench



# Section along Evaluation Trench

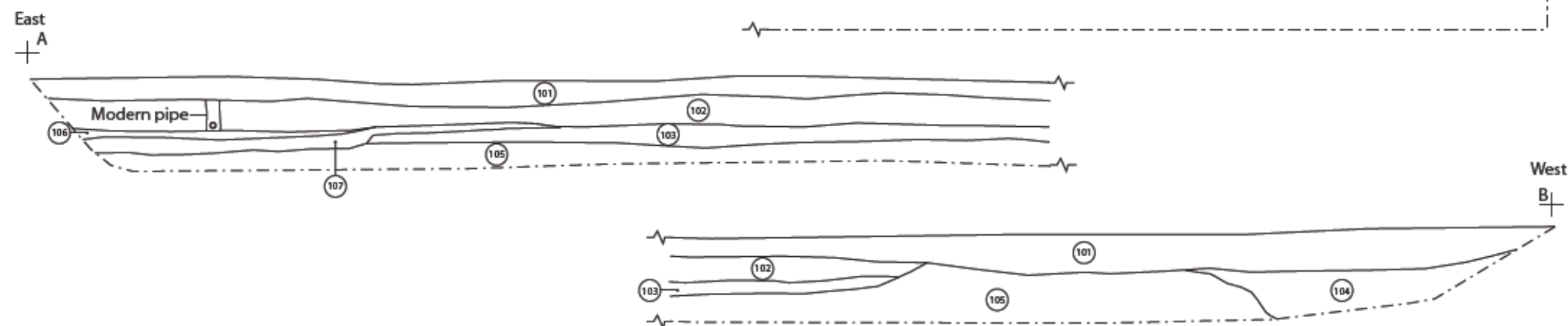


Figure 4  
Plan & section of  
evaluation trench



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## **APPENDIX II:**

### **Plates**



Plate 1. Pre-excavation view of Trench 1, looking north-east.



Plate 2. Trench 1, looking east.  
Scales 2m x 1m





Plate 3. Trench 1, looking west.  
Scales 2m x 1m



Plate 4. North-facing section of Trench 1, looking south-west. 1m x2m scales





Plate 5. North-facing section of Trench 1, looking south-east. 1m x2m scales



Plate 6. North facing section of Trench 1, eastern end. Looking south. Scales 2m x 1m





Plate 7. North-facing section of Trench 1, eastern end, looking south-west. 1m x2m scales



Plate 8. North facing section of Trench 1, eastern central. Looking south. Scales 2m x 1m





Plate 9. North-facing section of Trench 1, western central area, looking south. 1m x2m scales



Plate 10. North facing section of Trench 1, western end. Looking south. Scales 2m x 1m

# *Archaeology* *Wales*

## **APPENDIX III: WSI**

## **WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION**

### **FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**at Plot 3 at Manor Farm Barns, Leebotwood, Church Stretton,  
Shropshire**

**Prepared for:**

**Mr and Mrs G Groom**

**Planning Application Number: 17/00198/FUL**

**Project No: 2544**

**03/08/2017**



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Figure 1. Location Map of Site within Shropshire

Figure 2. Location Map of Site within Leebotwood

Figure 3. Detailed plan of the site, showing area and trench of proposed investigation



## Summary

*This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details a programme of archaeological evaluation to be undertaken by Archaeology Wales at the request of Mr and Mrs G Groom.*

*The programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation will be undertaken prior to the determination of a planning application for the development of Erection of dwelling together with double garage at Plot 3, Manor Farm Barns, Leebotwood, Church Stretton, Shropshire, centred on SO 47613 98524. The associated Planning Application No. is 17/00198/FUL.*

*The proposed development site falls within an area recorded on the Historic Environment Record as previously containing earthwork remains of several building platforms of possible medieval date (HER PRN 03837). Late-19<sup>th</sup> century Ordnance Survey map also indicate that the south-eastern corner of the proposed development site was occupied in the by an agricultural building of likely post-medieval date.*

*On this basis, the proposed development site is deemed to have high archaeological potential, and the Archaeology Service of Shropshire County Council has recommended the implementation of a programme of archaeological evaluation.*

*All work will be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).*

## 1. Introduction and planning background

This WSI details the methodology for a programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation to be undertaken in association with the proposed development of 'Erection of 1 No dwelling together with double garage', located at Plot 3, Proposed Residential Development SW Of Manor Farm Barns, Leebotwood, Church Stretton, Shropshire, centred on SO 47613 98524 (347613 298524) (Figure 1 and 2). The associated Planning Application No. is 17/00198/FUL.

This WSI has been prepared by Aurea Izquierdo Zamora, Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) at the request of Mr and Mrs Groom.

The methodology set out in this WSI has been agreed with Shropshire County Council – Historic Environment Team (henceforth SCC-HER) in its capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority. SCC-HER has recommended that an intrusive archaeological evaluation of the development area is undertaken prior to the commencement of ground works to assess the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.



The recommendations made by SCC-HET are set out in a letter to the local planning authority dated 09/02/2017.

The purpose of the proposed programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation is to provide the local planning authority with the information that they have requested from the client in response to their planning application, and in line with Paragraph 141 of the NPPF, it is recommended that a phased programme of archaeological work, to comprise an initial field evaluation followed by further mitigation as appropriate, be made a condition of any planning permission for the proposed development. The Condition reads as follows:

*'No development approved by this permission shall commence until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI). This written scheme shall be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of works.'*

*Reason: The site is known to hold archaeological interest.'*

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). AW is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA.

## **2. Site Description**

The site is a small, flat parcel of approximately 1,300 sq. m. located at Manor Farm (Leebotwood), just off the road A49. It comprises the access lane and a small parcel located just south from the existing garage. The parcel is voided of buildings.

The underlying geology on the area comprises Halesowen Formation: mudstone, siltstone and sandstone, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 307 to 309 million years (Carboniferous) within a local environment previously dominated by rivers. Superficial geology comprises Glaciofluvial Sheet Deposits: sand and gravel deposits formed up to 2 million years ago (Devensian) within a local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions (British Geological Survey).

## **3. Archaeological background**

The proposed development site falls within an area recorded on the Historic Environment Record as previously containing earthwork remains of a number of building platforms of possible medieval date (HER PRN 03837).

First identified in 1981, it is understood that the earthworks were subsequently damaged by ploughing shortly afterwards, although in 1992 degraded earthworks were still visible. It is therefore possible that below ground archaeological features and deposits associated with the building platforms survive within the proposed development site.

Historic edition of the Ordnance Survey map also indicate that the south-eastern corner of the proposed development site was occupied in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century by an agricultural building of likely post-medieval date.

## 4. Objectives

This WSI sets out a program of works to ensure that the intrusive trial trench evaluation will meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014)*.

The objective of the intrusive trial trench evaluation will be to locate and describe, by means of strategic trial trenching, archaeological features that may be present within the development area. The work will elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance. The work will include an assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within national and regional research frameworks.

The intrusive trial trench evaluation will result in a report that will provide information of sufficient detail to allow informed planning decisions to be made which can safeguard the archaeological resource. Preservation *in situ* will be advocated where at all possible, but where engineering or other factors result in loss of archaeological deposits, preservation by record will be recommended.

The report will include a comprehensive assessment of the historic context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within regional, national and, if relevant, international research frameworks.

### 4.1. Site Specific Research Aims

It is important to recognize that whilst primarily designed to mitigate impacts, developer-led archaeology is also regarded as research activity with an academic basis, the aim of which is to add to the sum of human knowledge. Curators recognize the desirability of incorporating agreed research priorities as a means of enhancing the credibility of the development control process, ensuring cost-effectiveness and legitimately maximizing intellectual return.

This intrusive trial trench evaluation has the capacity to identify areas where subsequent mitigation may contribute to the following research aims for rural medieval sites, addressed within the research framework for the archaeology of the West Midlands (Hunt 2011):

- Village origins, particularly in light of regional framework from pre-Conquest phases, and which might be related to the major socio-economic shifts occurring in English society, such as the development of open fields, the growth of dependent tenure and the onset of manorialism. Also, the precise distribution of nucleated settlement, the point at which it appears in the landscape, and the factors that gave rise to.

- Fluidity of settlements, including re-planning phenomenon that affected many settlements in the 12th century, addressing questions on how widespread was this phenomenon, at this and other dates, and what was the socio-economic context to which it related?
- The desertion and/or shrinkage of rural settlements, to explore in detail within the wider context of settlement 'life cycles', how and why settlements of various types grow, and differences with trends that might be observed within urban settlement

Broader themes are also to be addressed as follows: the extent, nature, economy and character of settlement and landscape use; the relationships between landscape, geomorphology and soil types, the type and date of land-use within the site; the reliability of earlier geophysical surveys with regards to feature type/date and soil/geology.

## **5. Timetable of works**

### **5.1. Fieldwork**

The programme of intrusive trial trench evaluation will be undertaken prior to the commencement of ground works associated with the proposed development. The work is proposed to start in August 2017. Archaeology Wales will update SCC-HER with the exact date.

### **5.2. Report delivery**

The report will be submitted to Mr and Mrs Groom and to SCC-HER within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional HER.

## **6. Fieldwork**

### **6.1. Detail**

The work will be undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014).

The archaeological project manager in charge of the work will satisfy him/herself that all constraints to ground works have been identified, including the siting of live services and Tree Preservation Orders.

The agreed evaluation areas will be positioned to maximise the retrieval of archaeological information and to ensure that the archaeological resource is understood.

It is proposed that a single trench of 15m by 1.8m will be machine-excavated within the planned development area (Figure 3). The exact positioning of the trenches will depend on the position of any extant services or other obstructions that come to light



during the initial phase of ground works. The locations and dimensions of the trenches have been agreed with SCC-HER.

The evaluation trench (Trench 1) will be excavated to the top of the archaeological horizon by a machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under close archaeological supervision. All areas will be subsequently hand cleaned using pointing trowels and/or hoes to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features and to determine their significance. The excavation of the minimum number of archaeological features will be undertaken, to elucidate the character, distribution, extent and importance of the archaeological remains. As a minimum small discrete features will be fully excavated, larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated) and long linear features will be sample excavated along their length - with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature and to investigate terminals, junctions and relationships with other features. Should this percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined full excavation of such features/deposits will be required.

Sufficient excavation will be undertaken to ensure that the natural horizons are reached and proven, where this can be practically and safely achieved. If safety reasons preclude manual excavation to natural, hand augering may be used to try to assess the total depth of stratification within each area. The depth of the excavation will conform to current safety requirements. If excavation is required below 1.2m the options of using shoring will be discussed with Mr and Mrs Groom and SCC-HER.

Where potentially significant archaeological features be encountered during the course of the evaluation then SCC-HER and Mr and Mrs Groom will be informed at the earliest possible opportunity. SCC-HER may subsequently request that further archaeological work is undertaken in order to fully evaluate areas of significant archaeological activity. Such work may require the provision of additional time and resources to complete the archaeological investigation.

## **6.2. Recording**

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc) using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

All features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries.

Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 12MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

The archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will have access to the AW metal detector and be trained in its use.

### 6.3. Finds

The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological (2014)* will form the basis of finds collection, processing and recording.

All manner of finds regardless of category and date will be retained.

Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under *The Treasure Act 1996* will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (normally Phil Parkes at Cardiff University).

### 6.4. Environmental sampling strategy

Deposits with a significant potential for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental material will be sampled, by means of the most appropriate method (bulk, column etc). Where sampling will provide a significant contribution to the understanding of the site AW will draw up a site-specific sampling strategy alongside a specialist environmental archaeologist. All environmental sampling and recording will follow English Heritage's *Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology* (2002).

### 6.5. Human remains

In the event that human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established and the coroner informed. All human remains will be left *in situ* and protected during backfilling. Where preservation *in situ* is not possible the human remains will be fully recorded and removed under conditions that comply with all current legislation and include acquisition of licenses and provision for reburial following all analytical work. Human remains will be excavated in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains: Technical Paper Number 13* (1993).

A meeting with SCC-HER, Mr and Mrs Groom and AW will be called if the human remains uncovered are of such complexity or significance that the contingency arrangement (6.1 above) would not be of sufficient scope.

### 6.6. Specialist advisers

In the event of certain finds, features or sites being discovered, AW will seek specialist opinion and advice. A list of specialists is given in the table below although this list is not exhaustive.

Artefact type	Specialist
Flint	Kate Pitt (Archaeology Wales)
Animal bone	Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall (APS)
Clay pipe	Hilary Major (Freelance)
Glass	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst (University of York)/Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy (University of Leicester)/ Quita Mold (Freelance)
Metal work and metallurgical residues	Dr Tim Young (GeoArch)
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson (Bradford University)
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby (Freelance)
Roman Pottery	Rowena Hart (Archaeology Wales)/ Peter Webster (Freelance)
Post Roman pottery	Stephen Clarke (Monmouthshire Archaeology)
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot (Freelance)
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling (University of Wales – Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers (Freelance)

#### 6.6.1. Specialist reports

Specialist finds and palaeoenvironmental reports will be written by AW specialists, or sub-contracted to external specialists when required.



## 7. Monitoring

SCC-HER will be contacted approximately five days prior to the commencement of archaeological site works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

Any changes to the WSI that AW may wish to make after approval will be communicated to SCC-HER for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.

Representatives of SCC-HER will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the field evaluation. No area will be back-filled, until SCC-HER has had the opportunity to inspect it, unless permission has been given in advance. SCC-HER will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

## 8. Post-fieldwork programme

### 8.1. Archive assessment

#### 8.1.1. Site archive

An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2006) upon completion of the project.

The site archive (including artefacts and samples) will be will be prepared in accordance with CIfA Guidelines (*Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, 2014). The legal landowners consent will be gained for deposition of finds.

#### 8.1.2. Analysis

Following a rapid review of the potential of the site archive, a programme of analysis and reporting will be undertaken. This will result in the following inclusions in the final report:

- Non-technical summary
- Location plan showing the area/s covered by the watching brief, all artefacts, structures and features found
- Plan and section drawings (if features are encountered) with ground level, ordnance datum and vertical and horizontal scales.
- Written description and interpretation of all deposits identified, including their character, function, potential dating and relationship to adjacent features. Specialist descriptions and illustrations of all artefacts and soil samples will be included as appropriate.
- An indication of the potential of archaeological deposits which have not been disturbed by the development

- A discussion of the local, regional and national context of the remains by means of reviewing published reports, unpublished reports, historical maps, documents from local archives and the regional HER as appropriate.
- A detailed archive list at the rear listing all contexts recorded, all samples finds and find types, drawings and photographs taken. This will include a statement of the intent to deposit, and location of deposition, of the archive.

## **8.2. Reports and archive deposition**

### **8.2.1. Report to client**

Copies of all reports associated with the intrusive trial trench evaluation, together with inclusion of supporting evidence in appendices as appropriate, including photographs and illustrations, will be submitted to Mr and Mrs Groom and SCC-HER upon completion.

### **8.2.2. Additional reports**

After an appropriate period has elapsed, copies of all reports will be deposited with the relevant county Historical Environment Record, the National Monuments Record and, if appropriate, Historic England.

### **8.2.3. Summary reports for publication**

Short archaeological reports will be submitted for publication in relevant journals; as a minimum, a report will be submitted to the annual publication of the regional CBA group or equivalent journal.

### **8.2.4. Notification of important remains**

Where it is considered that remains have been revealed that may satisfy the criteria for statutory protection, AW will submit preliminary notification of the remains to Historic England.

### **8.2.5. Archive deposition**

The final archive (site and research) will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution, usually the relevant Local Authority museums service. Arrangements will be made with the receiving institution before work starts.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, copies of all reports and the final archive will be deposited no later than six months after completion of the work.

Copies of all reports, the digital archive and an archive index will be deposited with Historic England. Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER. A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to SCC-HER.

In addition, an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> must be completed, and preferably initiated with key fields on Details, Location and Creators Forms at the beginning of the work. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Any spatial data generated will be submitted to the Shropshire County Council HER in a suitable format (e.g. shapefile, MapInfo MIF, dxf, etc).

#### **8.2.6. Finds deposition**

The finds, including artefacts and ecofacts, excepting those which may be subject to the Treasure Act, will be deposited with the same institution, subject to the agreement of the legal land owners.

### **9. Staff**

The project will be managed by Aurea Izquierdo Zamora (AW Project Manager) and the fieldwork undertaken Jerry Bond (Archaeology Wales). Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of SCC-HER and Mr and Mrs Groom.



## **Additional Considerations**

### **10. Health and Safety**

#### **10.1. Risk assessment**

Prior to the commencement of work AW will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations* 1992. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. A copy will be sent to the client (or their agent as necessary) for their information. All members of AW staff will adhere to the content of this document.

#### **10.2. Other guidelines**

AW will adhere to best practice with regard to Health and Safety in Archaeology as set out in the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology* (2002).

### **11. Community Engagement and Outreach**

Wherever possible, AW will ensure suitable measures are in place to inform the local community and any interested parties of the results of the site investigation work. This may occur during the site investigation work or following completion of the work. The form of any potential outreach activities may include lectures and talks to local groups, interested parties and persons, information boards, flyers and other forms of communication (social media and websites), and press releases to local and national media.

The form of any outreach will respect client confidentiality or contractual agreements. As a rule, outreach will be proportional to the size of the project.

Where outreach activities have a cost implication these will need to be negotiated in advance and in accordance with the nature of the desired response and learning outcomes.

### **12. Insurance**

AW is fully insured for this type of work, and holds Insurance with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hiscox Insurance Company Limited through Towergate Insurance. Full details of these and other relevant policies can be supplied on request.

### **13. Quality Control**

#### **13.1. Professional standards**

AW works to the standards and guidance provided by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*. AW fully recognise and endorse the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*, *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of*

*Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* and the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs* currently in force. All employees of AW, whether corporate members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists or not, are expected to adhere to these Codes and Standards during their employment.

### **13.2. Project tracking**

The designated AW manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

## **14. Arbitration**

Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision in accordance with the Rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' *Arbitration Scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists* applying at the date of the agreement.

## **15. References**

British Geological Survey: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, retrieved 04/08/2017.

Hunt, John, 2011. *The Medieval Period*, in Watt (ed), *The Archaeology of the West Midlands. A framework for research*. Oxbow: Oxford.



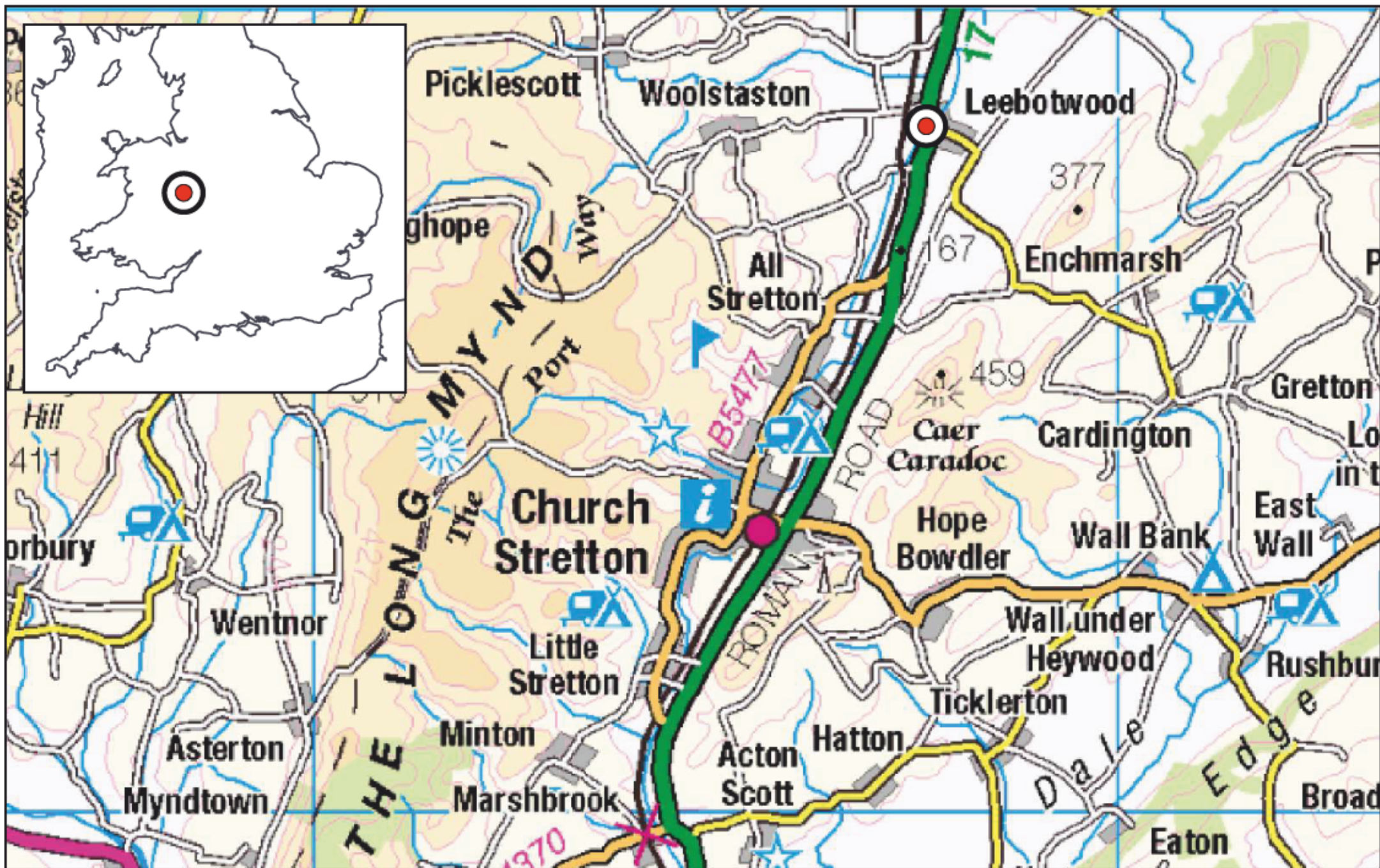


Figure 1: Location Map of site (target) within Shropshire; scale: 1:60,000



0 1 2 3 km

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Figure 2: Location of site (target) within Leebotwood; scale: 1:3,750



0 50 100 150 m

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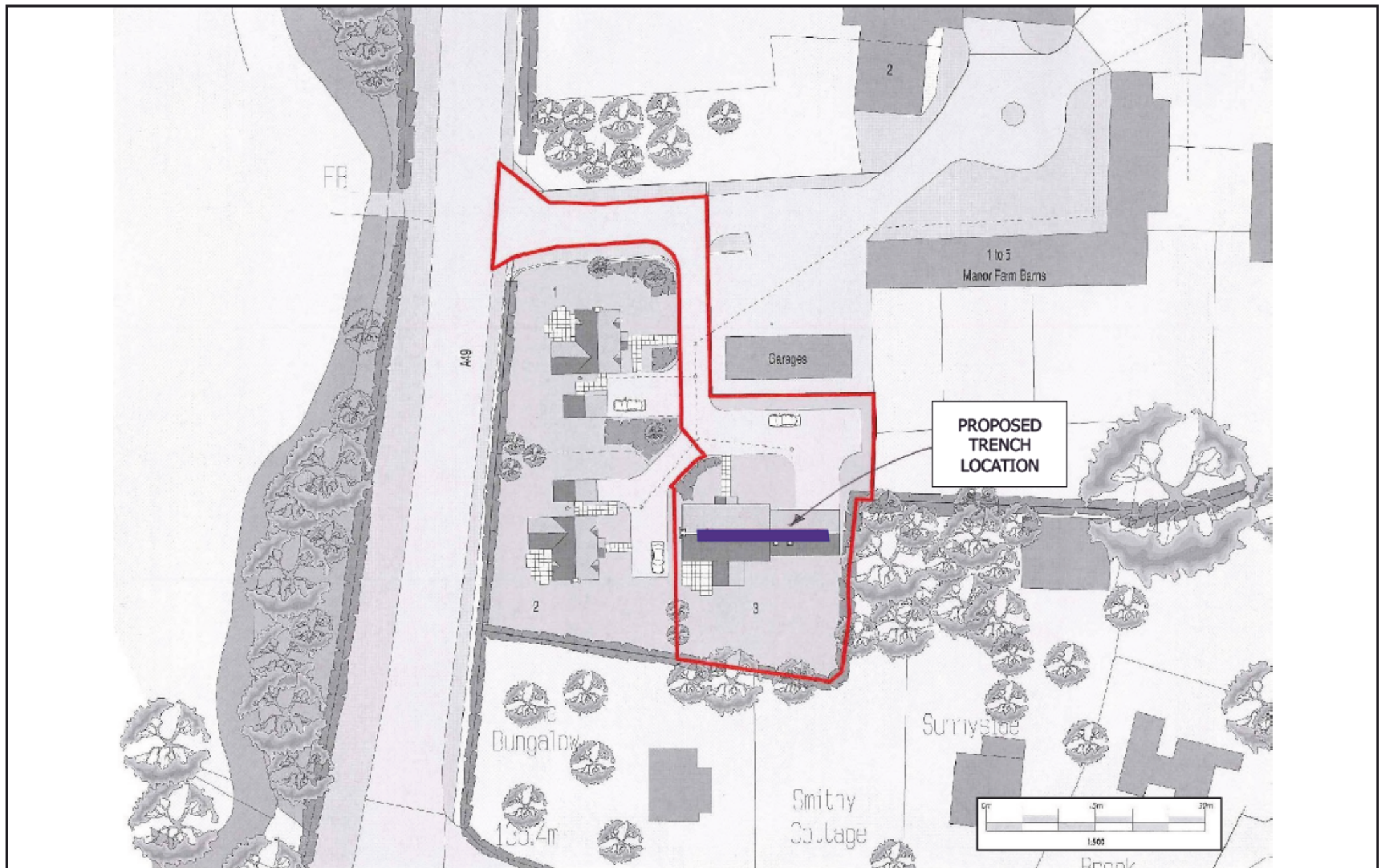


Figure 3: Detailed plan of proposed development area (red) and trench (blue) - from Gareth Hickman Architectural Ltd source.

# *Archaeology* *Wales*

## **APPENDIX IV: Archive Cover Sheet**



## ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

### Plot 3 Manor Farm Barns, Leebotwood, Church Stretton, Shropshire

Site Name:	Leebotwood, Church Stretton
Site Code:	LCS/17/EV
PRN:	03837
NPRN:	-
SAM:	-
Other Ref No:	-
NGR:	NGR 347613 298524
Site Type:	Green Field
Project Type:	Evaluation
Project Manager:	Auri Zamora
Project Dates:	August 2017
Categories Present:	Modern
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of duplicate Archives:	Shropshire Museums Service
Number of Finds Boxes:	NA
Location of Finds:	NA
Museum Reference:	NA
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to access:	None

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