

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at  
Retford Villas Pumping Station,  
Preesgweene, Weston Rhyn,  
Shropshire**



Overview of site at start of archaeological works, looking east

**ARS Ltd Report No. 2018/113**

**OASIS No. archaeo15-320747**

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Archaeological Research  
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# An Archaeological Watching Brief at Retford Villas Pumping Station, Preesgweene, Weston Rhyn, Shropshire

ARS Ltd Report No. 2018/113

June 2018



Archaeological Research Services Ltd

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## Executive Summary

**Project Name:** Retford Villas Pumping Station, Preesgweene, Weston Rhyn, Shropshire

**Site Code:** RVP18

**Planning Authority:** Shropshire Council

**Planning Application Reference:** 16/01770/FUL

**NGR:** SJ 29096 36208

**Date of Attendance:** 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> June 2018

**Date of Report:** June 2018

*Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Caulmert Ltd on behalf of Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during enabling works for the construction of a new pumping station on land adjacent to Retford Villas and Preesgweene Farm, Preesgweene, Weston Rhyn, Shropshire. The watching brief was in fulfilment of a condition attached to the planning permission for the pumping station. The proposed development lies within an area associated with the former Preesgwyn Colliery and in close proximity to a former mine shaft with the potential for 19<sup>th</sup> century remains associated with the former mine to be present, and as such was deemed to be of moderate to high archaeological interest.*

*This report comprises the results of the archaeological Watching Brief, which took place between 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018. The fieldwork project officer was Dr Rebecca Trow, Assistant Projects Officer at Archaeological Research Services Ltd, and the project was managed by Tony Brennan, Operations Manager at Archaeological Research Services Ltd.*

*The Watching Brief monitored the removal of topsoil and subsoil in a 6m x 135m strip running approximately east to west from Old Chirk Road to the footprint of the new pumping station. This strip was to facilitate machine movement and protect soils during the laying of the pipeline, which will connect the pumping station to the water mains. The trench for the water pipe was 0.6m wide and ran along the aforementioned strip. The watching brief also monitored the reduction of ground level in the footprint of the pumping station itself.*

*The footprint of the pumping station is situated on an artificial bund within the fields, to the rear of Retford Villas. This bund was known from historic mapping to be a spoil heap associated with the former Preesgwyn Colliery. With the exception of this spoil heap, no archaeological remains were encountered during the watching brief. All recovered finds were 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century in date and recovered either from the topsoil or from the colliery spoil heap.*

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1. Planning permission (16/01770/FUL) for the change of use of agricultural land and the construction of a pumping station, including the localised widening of the access road to the site, was granted in August 2016 subject to conditions.

1.1.2. Condition number 4 of the planning permission requires that:

*4. No development approved by this permission shall commence until the applicant or their agents or successors in title, 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 Planning Authority prior to the commencement of the works.*

1.1.3. Following consultation with the Shropshire Historic Environment Manager, it was agreed that an archaeological watching brief would take place during all intrusive groundworks.

1.1.4. Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) was commissioned by Caulmert Ltd on behalf of Dwr Cymru Welsh Water to undertake the watching brief.

### 1.2. Site Description, Land use, and Geology

1.2.1. The proposed development area (PDA) is located to the immediate southwest of a housing terrace called Retford Villas and the immediate northwest of Preesgweene Farm in the village of Preesgweene in Shropshire (see Figure 1). The PDA is bounded on its eastern and southern edges by a country lane providing access to Retford Villas and Preesgweene Farm. The western boundary is formed by Old Chirk Road. The northern edge is bounded by agricultural fields, of which the PDA was previously a part.

1.2.2. The field in which the PDA lies has most recently been used for sheep grazing. The field slopes steeply down towards the east from Old Chirk Road towards an artificial mound bounding the eastern edge of the field. This now grassed mound is a spoil heap associated with the former Preesgwyn Colliery.

1.2.3. The underlying geology of the site comprises Mudstone, Siltstone, and Sandstone of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation and Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation overlain by Devensian Till (BGS 2018).

### 1.3. Archaeological and Historical Background

1.3.1. No previous archaeological work has been undertaken on this site.

1.3.2. Preesgweene or Presgwyn (in Welsh) is a small village close to Preesgweene Hall. The village is today part of Weston Rhyn. Preesgweene Hall is a 17<sup>th</sup> century house with numerous 19<sup>th</sup> century and later adaptations (Historic England 2018), situated just to the southeast of the PDA.





Figure 1. Site Location

1.3.3. A railway station was built close to Preesgweene Hall, opening in 1848 when the Shrewsbury-Chester Railway Line was completed. The station was closed in 1855, after a merger of companies, and was reopened again in 1871 (Disused Stations 2017).

1.3.4. In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, a colliery opened with the main shaft entrance located to the east of the PDA. Within the PDA, a disused shaft is marked on the Ordnance Survey maps from as early as 1881. It is assumed that this shaft was related to early workings as part of Presgwyn Colliery. The spoil heaps, which are still clearly visible today, were also already marked on the Ordnance Survey maps from 1881 onwards and were presumably, therefore, formed prior to this date, probably in relation to the disused shaft marked. The colliery, located to the northeast of the railway station had a branch line from the then disused station. The colliery was closed by the time of the 1901 Ordnance Survey. By the time of the 1954 Ordnance Survey, Retford Villas, a row of six terraced houses, had been built on top of the spoil heaps, to the immediate northeast of the PDA.

## 2. Aims and Objectives

2.1. The aims and objectives of the archaeological watching brief are outlined in detail in the Written Scheme of Investigation in Appendix I, however they can be summarised as follows:

- To identify the nature, date, and extent of any below-ground archaeological remains which may be impacted upon by the proposed development
- Specifically to identify any remains associated with coal workings known to have existed in the vicinity of the PDA. Early and small scale, post-medieval, industrial processing sites were highlighted as being of particular interest for future research by *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research* (Watt 2011) and the archaeological works at the present site aimed to address this
- To create a full written, drawn, and photographic record of any such remains
- To make any recommendations for the management of the resource including further archaeological works if necessary.
- To provide sufficient, publicly accessible results, so that the archaeological impact of the proposed development can be assessed and mitigated if necessary

## 3. Methodology

3.1. All work was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (see Appendix I), and the guidance laid out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA's) *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2014b).

3.2. A risk assessment was produced before work commenced and all site operations were undertaken in accordance with the ARS Ltd Health and Safety Policy and current Health and Safety legislation.



3.3. A total area of 972m<sup>2</sup> was monitored. All excavation was completed by a 15 tonne, 360° machine, equipped with toothless buckets.

3.4. A full written and photographic record was kept and all monitored areas were tied to the National Grid using a survey-grade Leica GPS

3.5. All spoil was visually inspected for finds, which were retained and cleaned prior to specialist analysis.

## 4. Results

4.1. A site plan showing the monitored area is presented in Figure 2. The excavation of the footprint of the pumping station, a pipe trench, and associated haul road were monitored. With the exception of the spoil heap associated with Presgwyn Colliery, no archaeological remains were encountered during the archaeological watching brief. The encountered contexts are summarised in Table 1 below.

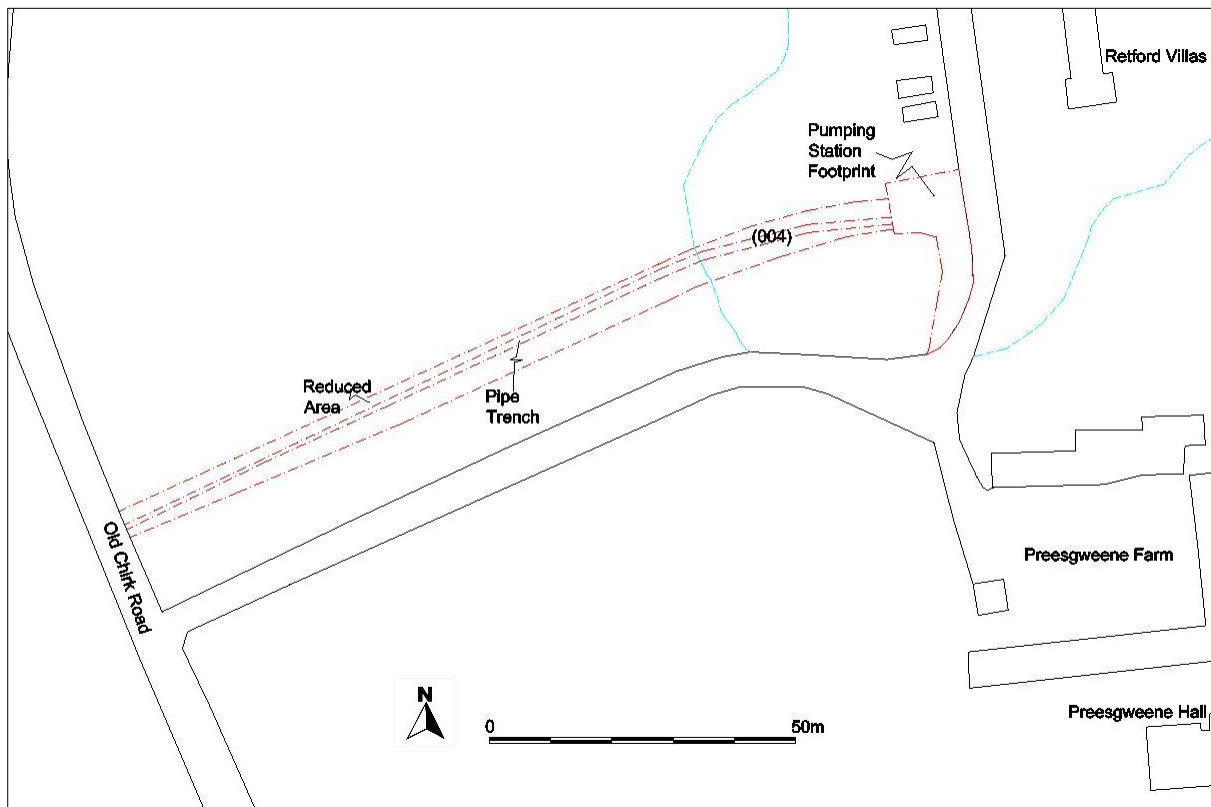


Figure 2. Site plan showing monitored areas (in red) and edge of colliery spoil heap (in blue)

4.2. The site was covered with a layer of topsoil (001), varying in depth between 0.20m and 0.35m. The topsoil produced a number of pieces of residual pottery, clay pipe fragments, and glass (see Section 5-Finds Assessment below). The subsoil was a thin layer forming an interface between the natural sandy substrate (003) and the topsoil (001).



Figure 3. Left: Topsoil strip, looking southwest with exposed colliery spoil heap (004) in foreground; Right: Pipe trench, within stripped area, looking southwest



Figure 4. Excavation for footprint of pumping station, east and south facing sections through colliery spoil heap (004)



4.3. The colliery spoil heap (004) was a clearly visible artificial mound occupying the eastern part of the PDA. The heap is also marked on historic maps. The limit of the spoil heap is shown in blue in Figure 2. The monitored foundations of the pumping station were cut into this spoil heap. The removed spoil contained numerous fragments of shale, stones, coal, brick fragments, pottery, and glass.

Table 1. Context Summary Table

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation	Dimensions
001	Deposit	Dark greyish brown sandy silt with moderate small and medium subangular & subrounded stones	Topsoil	0.20-0.35m (d)
002	Deposit	Mid yellowish grey, silty sand with moderate small & medium weathered sandstone pieces and subrounded and subangular mudstone	Subsoil	0.15-0.25m (d)
003	Deposit	Mid reddish yellow sand, comprising weathered sandstone bedrock with inclusions of small, medium and large sandstone/mudstone pieces	Natural substrate	-
004	Deposit	Dark greyish brown sandy silt, rubble deposit comprised mainly of stone, broken brick, moderate coal and clinker, pottery and glass and some other rubbish	Coal mine rubbish tip	>1.00m (d)
005	Cut	Narrow and shallow linear cut for narrow gauge water pipe	Modern pipe trench	0.20m (w), 0.10m (d)
006	Fill	Fill of pipe trench [005], topsoil derived. Very shallow, buried very recently as grass not regrown on surface	Modern pipe trench	0.20m (w), 0.10m (d)

## 5. Finds Assessment

### 5.1. Introduction

5.1.1. A moderate quantity of abraded pottery, clay tobacco pipe, glass, a coin and some ferrous objects were recovered from the topsoil (001) and the colliery spoil heap (004). The material was cleaned, counted, and individually examined to identify diagnostic pieces.

### 5.2. Pottery

5.2.1. A total of 68 sherds were recovered as summarised in Table 2. The pottery dates from the late 18<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, although the likelihood is that the few potentially earlier types (black-glazed coarseware and creamware) do in fact date to the latter end of their date range on the basis of the dates of the other sherds from the assemblage. The corpus represents refined wares (i.e. transfer printed and plain whitewares and porcelain), retail ware (i.e. stoneware bottles and jars) and utilitarian wares (i.e. coarseware). The pottery was therefore largely used for food preparation, storage, and consumption and is a mixture of types, typical of waste deposits and residual topsoil assemblages.

Table 2. Pottery Summary Table

Context	Type	Date	Bases	Rims	Handles	Body	Lid	Total	Total Weight (g)
(001)	Blue Transfer Printed Whiteware	Mid-19 <sup>th</sup> - early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	0	4	0	6	0	10	29
(001)	Black Transfer Printed Whiteware	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> - early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	0	0	0	2	0	2	7
(001)	Undecorated Whiteware	Mid-19 <sup>th</sup> - early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	2	1	1	6	0	10	54
(001)	Creamware	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> - early 19 <sup>th</sup> century	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
(001)	Brown/black Glazed Coarseware	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> century	0	1	0	2	0	3	172
(001)	Stoneware	Mid-19 <sup>th</sup> - early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	0	0	0	3	0	3	28
(004)	Blue Transfer printed Whiteware	Mid-19 <sup>th</sup> - early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	4	4	0	2	0	10	131
(004)	Undecorated Whiteware	Mid-19 <sup>th</sup> - early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	0	3	0	0	0	3	12
(004)	Porcelain	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> - early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
(004)	Creamware	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> - early 19 <sup>th</sup> century	0	0	1	0	0	1	22
(004)	Brown glazed earthenware	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> - early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	0	0	0	1	3	4	65
(004)	Stoneware	Mid-19 <sup>th</sup> - early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	2	2	0	1	0	5	273
(004)	Stoneware (Jam/marmalade jars)	Mid 19 <sup>th</sup> - early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	4	1	0	10	0	15	325
(004)	Black glazed coarseware	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> century	0	0	0	1	0	1	13

### 5.3. Clay tobacco pipe

5.3.1. A total of 20 fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from topsoil and subsoil as summarised in Table 3. A single small and badly abraded fragment of a bowl was recovered but this was not complete enough to determine the bowl form and thus provide a

date. Due to the lack of diagnostic pieces, stem bore sizes were used to date the fragments, a method with a considerable margin for error, and thus the dates given should be used as a guideline only (Higgins 2017; Oswald 1975). The pipes largely date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, in keeping with the pottery recovered from the topsoil. A single stem with a larger bore has the potential to be of a much earlier date, from the late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Table 3. Clay Tobacco Pipe Summary Table

Context	Date Range	No. Stem	No. Bowl	Stem Bore (No.)	Comments
(001)	Early 18 <sup>th</sup> -late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	16	1	4/64" (10); 5/64" (5); 7/64" (1)	1 cut end stem; bowl fragment with fluted seam
(002)	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> -late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	3	0	4/64" (2); 5/64" (1)	-

## 5.4. Glass

5.4.1. Numerous fragments of glass were recovered from the topsoil (001) and from the colliery spoil heap (004). The recovered glass is summarised in Table 4 below. The majority dates from the late 19<sup>th</sup> to the late 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and is typical of residual assemblages such as this. Two wine bottle bases were potentially from the early-mid 19<sup>th</sup> century (on the basis of the heavy black glass fabric), although the bottles were not complete enough to allow full analysis.

Table 4. Glass Summary Table

Context	Form	Colour	Date	Comments
(001)	Milk Bottle	Clear	Late 20 <sup>th</sup> century	1 pint milk bottle, Goodwin's Dairy, Whitchurch
(001)	Bottle	Pale blue	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Neck only, not moulded
(001)	Bottle	Clear	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> -early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Body shard, no marks
(001)	UID	White (opaque)	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> -mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Body shard, possibly from light fitting
(001)	UID	Blue (opaque)	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> -mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Body shard, possibly from light fitting
(004)	Beer Bottle	Green	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Base and part of body in 3 pieces. Marked "...& Son Weston Rhyn"
(004)	Beer Bottle	Amber	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Neck fragment
(004)	Wine bottle	Black	Early-mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Base only, deep punt
(004)	Wine bottle	Black	Early-mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Base only, deep punt
(004)	Bottle	Brown	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> -mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Body shard, no diagnostic features
(004)	Bottle	Pale blue	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Neck only, not moulded
(004)	Jar	Clear	Early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Base fragment, probably paste jar
(004)	Bottle	Green	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> -mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Body shard, no diagnostic features

Context	Form	Colour	Date	Comments
(004)	Bottle	Pale blue	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Body shard, no diagnostic features
(004)	Window	Clear	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> -mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Shard of window glass
(004)	Window	Clear	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> -mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Shard of window glass

## 5.5. Other Material

5.5.1. A single coin was recovered from the topsoil. This was an abraded George V halfpenny, dated to 1912. A 3" iron nail with a square profile was also recovered from topsoil and another with the same size and shape from the colliery spoil heap (004). The broken end of an iron drill bit was also recovered from the colliery spoil heap. Two ceramic bottle stoppers with metal hinges on one end were also recovered from topsoil. One of these is marked with "Wrexham Lager" and an Ace of Clubs logo. The Wrexham Lager Beer Company was founded in 1882 and exported its produce across the British Empire. The Ace of Clubs logo was in use until the 1940s when the company was sold to another producer.

## 5.6. Archive Recommendations

5.6.1. The post-medieval finds recovered are by no means unusual for a site of this nature, parallels can be found at numerous other sites producing residual materials dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries in the region. The finds have no potential for further research and could, therefore be returned to the landowner, retained in a teaching collection, archived, or discarded.

## 6. Discussion

6.1. The archaeological watching brief at Retford Villas Pumping Station, Preesgweene, Weston Rhyn, Shropshire, demonstrated that there were no significant archaeological remains present in the areas disturbed by the enabling works for the pumping station. The colliery spoil heap, although related to 19<sup>th</sup> century industry, a topic highlighted as of interest for future research in the region, offered little information regarding the practice of coal mining in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The recovered finds were either residual from topsoil or from the colliery spoil heap and although the latter confirm the mid-19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date for the coal mine at Preesgweene, can offer little other information regarding the site use. Intrusive groundworks were monitored down to impact depth and thus no archaeological remains will be impacted by the present development.

## 7. Archive Deposition

7.1. One bound copy of the final report with an attached PDF/A copy on disc will be deposited with the Shropshire Historic Environment Record (HER). The disc will also include a digital archive, consisting of the relevant CAD files, to facilitate updating of the HER database. A PDF copy of the report will also be uploaded as part of the OASIS online record (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>) for online access via the Archaeological Data Service.



## 8. Publicity, Confidentiality, and Copyright

- 8.1. Any publicity will be handled by the client.
- 8.2. Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Acts (1988)

## 9. Statement of Indemnity

9.1. All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

## 10. Acknowledgements

10.1. Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank everyone who contributed to the outcome of this project. In particular, we would like to thank Caulmert for commissioning the work on behalf of Welsh Water and Kier Group for facilitating site access and the monitoring of their work.

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## **Appendix I- Written Scheme of Investigation**

## **Retford Villas Pumping Station, Preesgweene, Weston Rhys, Shropshire**

### **Written Scheme of Investigation**

Version 1

2017



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Archaeological Research Service Ltd (ARS Ltd) for Caulmert Ltd. It details a scheme of works for an archaeological watching brief for the proposed Pumping Station, Preesgweene, Western Rhyn, Shropshire. The proposed development comprises the change of use of agricultural land and construction of a pumping station, including localised widening of the access road to the site.

1.1.2 Planning permission (16/01770/FUL) has been granted by Shropshire Council for the proposed development. Condition number 4 of the planning permission requires the following.

*'4. No development approved by this permission shall commence until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, 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 Planning Authority prior to the commencement of works.'*

1.1.3 This document has been prepared to outline the objectives and methodology for a programme of archaeological work in accordance with guidance provided by the Shropshire Historic Environment Manager who advised that the planning condition is for an archaeological watching brief during all intrusive groundworks.

1.1.4 The aim of the programme of work is, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 141 (DCLG 2012), to record and enhance understanding of the significance of heritage assets to be lost during the proposed development in a manner proportionate to their importance, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publically accessible.

### 1.2 Site Description and Location

1.2.1 The 'red line boundary' of the proposed development area (hereafter 'PDA') is centred at NGR SJ 29096 36208 (Figure 1). The PDA is bounded to the north by an existing residential property, to the east by an access road and to the south and west by farmland.

### 1.3 Landform and Geology

1.3.1 The PDA lies on land that slopes gently to the north-east towards a stream which drains in an easterly direction towards the River Ceiriog.

1.3.2 The bedrock geology of the PDA comprises Pennine Coal Measures Formation – and Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation (undifferentiated) overlain by Devensian Till – Diamicton (BGS 2017).

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The Shropshire Historic Environment Manager has provided the following archaeological and historical background of the proposed development site.



2.2 The proposed development site is situated within an area of coal workings (Shropshire HER PRN 06530), in close proximity to at least one former shaft marked on Historic editions of the Ordnance Survey map and on a raised area of mining spoil. These are likely to have been associated with the nearby Preesgwyn Colliery (HER PRN 06524) and to be of mid-late 19th century date. As a consequence, the proposed development site is considered to have moderate to high archaeological interest.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Regional Research Aims and Objectives**

3.1.1 Research topics identified for *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research* (Watt 2011) for post-medieval period includes 'for industrial process sites, greater emphasis should be placed on exploring the earlier and smaller-scale industries for which traces above ground or in the documentary record are relatively slight' (Belford 2011, 229).

#### **3.2 Watching Brief Aims and Objectives**

3.2.1 The principal aim of the programme of archaeological works is to recover and record any potential archaeological remains associated with the north-west Shropshire coal industry.

3.2.2 The following objective will contribute towards accomplishing this aim.

- ♦ To record the nature, extent and date of any surviving archaeological remains that may be encountered during the course of ground works.

### **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING**

#### **4.1 Coverage**

4.1.1 The site of the watching brief covers the groundworks associated with all intrusive ground works associated with the construction of the pumping station.

#### **4.2 General Statement of Practice**

4.2.1 All elements of the archaeological watching brief will be carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014b).

4.2.2 All staff employed on the project will be suitably qualified for their respective project roles and have substantial experience of archaeological excavation and recording.

4.2.3 All staff will be made aware of the archaeological importance of the area surrounding the site and will be fully brief on the work required by this specification.

4.2.4 All ground works covered under this specification will be undertaken by a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket working in plan.





4.2.5 ARS Ltd will ensure that plant or machinery will not be operated in the immediate vicinity of any archaeological remains until they have been recorded.

4.2.6 Contractors and plant operators will be notified that any observations of archaeological remains must be reported immediately to the archaeologist on site.

4.2.7 Regular contact will be ensured between ARS Ltd and the site project manager to ensure that ARS Ltd is kept up to date with site works and given the chance to respond appropriately and in line with the Shropshire Historic Environment Manager's requirements.

4.2.8 All site operations will be carried out in a safe manner in accordance with ARS Ltd's health and safety policy. A risk assessment will be prepared before commencement on site.

### **4.3 Methodology**

4.3.1 All relevant ground works will be undertaken by a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. If significant archaeological features are identified, the Shropshire Historic Environment Manager will be notified and a decision taken as to the best method of proceeding.

4.3.2 All excavated spoil will be scanned visually to recover small finds. Finds so recovered will be recorded with their location of origin ascribed. Finds will be retained and recorded.

4.3.3 Where archaeological features and/or deposits are identified during the watching brief, then a sufficient quantity of the said features will be investigated by hand to allow their date, nature and degree of survival to be ascribed.

4.3.4 If significant archaeological features are identified during these works, the Shropshire Historic Environment Manager will be notified and a decision made as how to proceed.

### **4.4 Sampling, Faunal Remains and Treasure**

4.4.1 This section outlines sampling methodologies to be utilised in all excavation types.

4.4.2 For sealed and stratigraphically secure deposits that have the potential to provide environmental evidence relating to diet and economy, dating evidence or land use regime, a minimum of 40 litres of sample will be taken, or 100% of the sample if smaller.

4.4.3 In the case of waterlogged or anaerobic deposits a minimum sample size of 20L will be taken.

4.4.4 Should a sequence of superimposed deposits of note be present column sampling may be considered.

4.4.5 In all instances sampling strategies will be in accordance with guidelines issued by Historic England's *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice Methods, from sampling and recovery to post excavation* (Campbell et al.



2011) and will be targeted in order to explore the levels and types of preservation present.

4.4.6 Should other types of environmental deposits be encountered, appropriate specialist advice will be sought and an appropriate sampling strategy devised. Samples will be assessed by a suitable specialist with provision for further analysis as required. Advice from the Historic England Scientific Advisor will be taken as appropriate.

4.4.7 Any human remains will initially be left *in-situ* and, if deemed necessary, removal will be undertaken following once a Coroners licence has been obtained in accordance with the relevant Ministry of Justice regulations and in discussion with the Shropshire Historic Environment Manager.

4.4.8 Finds of "treasure" will be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act (DCMS 2008). The Portable Antiquities Liaison Officer and the Shropshire Historic Environment Manager will also be notified and a site meeting may be arranged to determine if further investigation in the vicinity of the findspot is required.

4.4.9 The Shropshire Historic Environment Manager will also be notified and, if necessary, a site meeting arranged to determine if further investigation in the vicinity of the find spot is required.

## 4.5 Recording

4.5.1 Site recording will follow standard conventions outlined in the *Site Recording Manual* of Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) (2002).

4.5.2 The site will be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area. The site will be recorded in accordance with the ARS Ltd field recording manual.

4.5.3 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) will be made for all work, using pre-printed record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate measured scale plans and sections/elevations will be drawn where required at the appropriate scale and in accordance with best practice. In addition to relevant illustrations, provision for rectified photographic recording shall be made, if deemed necessary.

4.5.4 A plan of the excavated areas will be maintained, features notes and section lines recorded. All drawings will be carried out at an appropriate scale and all contexts will be recorded using a single context recording system.

4.5.5 Sample representative levels will be taken to record the maximum depth of excavation and/or natural should no archaeological features be uncovered.

4.5.6 The site archive will include plans and sections at an appropriate scale, a scale photographic record, and full stratigraphic records on recording forms/context sheets or their electronic equivalent.

4.5.7 The stratigraphy of the site will be recorded.



4.5.8 All heights above sea level will be recorded for all deposits and features in metres above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

4.5.9 A full photographic record will be compiled using a digital camera, a Fuji XP90 with 16.4 MP resolution, and a register of all photographs will be kept. The photographic record will encompass all encountered archaeological entities. In addition, key relationships between entities, where these help demonstrate sequence or form, will also be photographed. A clearly visible, graduated metric scale will be included in all record shots. A supplementary record of working images will be taken to demonstrate how the site was investigated and what the prevailing conditions were like during excavation.

4.5.10 A stratigraphic matrix will be compiled for all trenches where superimposed archaeological deposits, features or structures are encountered.

## 4.6 Finds Processing and Storage

4.6.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in accordance with the ClfA (2014c) *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* and the UKIC (1990) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*.

4.6.2 Artefact collection and discard policies will be appropriate for the defined purpose.

4.6.3 Bulk finds which are not discarded will be washed and marked. Marking and labelling will be indelible and irremovable by abrasion. Bulk finds will be appropriately bagged, boxed and recorded. This process will be carried out no later than two months after the end of the excavation.

4.6.4 All small finds will be recorded as individual items and appropriately packaged (e.g. lithics in self-sealing plastic bags and ceramic in acid-free tissue paper).

4.6.5 Vulnerable objects will be specially packaged and textile, painted glass and coins stored in appropriate specialist systems. This process will be carried out within two days of the small find being excavated.

4.6.6 During and after the excavation all objects will be stored in appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (including controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular monitoring, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material). All storage will have appropriate security provision.

4.6.7 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and Shropshire Museum Service prior to the work taking place. All finds except treasure trove at the property of the landowner.

4.6.8 All retained artefacts and ecofacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of Shropshire Museum Service.



## 5 TIMETABLE AND STAFFING

5.1 The outline timetable for the works is as follows. This will be updated by email as the project progresses.

Proposed Date	Commencement	Task
Late April 2017		Archaeological watching brief
May 2017		Archaeological watching brief report and archive

5.2 The Project Manager for the watching brief will be Tony Brennan, Operations Manager at ARS Ltd. The Fieldwork Project Officer will be Ben Dyson ACIfA, Project Officer at ARS Ltd, or Rebecca Trow, Assistant Project Officer at ARS Ltd.

5.3 Finds analysis will be carried out by appropriately qualified specialists as detailed subject to availability.

- ◆ Flint and prehistoric pottery: Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA, FSA
- ◆ Romano-British pottery: Ruth Leahy
- ◆ Samian Ware: Dr Gwladys Monteil
- ◆ Romano-British small finds: Lindsay Allason-Jones MCIfA
- ◆ Medieval and post-medieval pottery: Dr Chris Cumberpatch or Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA
- ◆ Medieval and post-medieval clay pipes, glass and metalwork: Mike Wood MCIfA
- ◆ Plant macrofossils and charcoals: Luke Parker
- ◆ Human and animal bone: Milena Grzybowska
- ◆ Radiocarbon dating: Prof Gordon Cook (SUERC)
- ◆ Finds conservation: Vicky Garlick (Durham University)

## 6 REPORT

6.1 Following completion of the watching brief, ARS Ltd will produce a report which will include:

- ◆ Non-technical executive summary
- ◆ Introductory statement
- ◆ Aims and purpose of the project
- ◆ Methodology
- ◆ A location plan showing all excavated areas and any archaeological features with respect to nearby fixed structures and roads



- ◆ Illustrations of all archaeological features with appropriately scaled hachured plans and sections
- ◆ An objective summary statement of results
- ◆ Conclusions
- ◆ Supporting data – tabulated or in appendices to include
  - ◆ Specialist Reports
  - ◆ Structural and Stratigraphic details
- ◆ Index to archive and details of archive location
- ◆ References
- ◆ Statement of intent regarding publication
- ◆ Confirmation of archive transfer arrangements
- ◆ A copy of this WSI and OASIS form.

## 7 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

7.1 One bound copy with a digital copy of the final report in PDF/A format on disc will be deposited with the Shropshire Historic Environment Record (HER). A copy of the report will be uploaded as part of the OASIS record (see below) for online access via the Archaeological Data Service.

7.2 Should the watching brief produce no archaeologically significant finds, then it is not necessary to deposit an archive with the repository museum.

7.3 Should the watching brief produce archaeologically significant finds, a project archive will be prepared for deposition by ARS Ltd with Shropshire Museum Service. The archive will comprise the primary record and synthetic works arising from the project, including documents, plans, sections, photographs, and electronic data and an accompanying metadata statement. The digital archive will be prepared in line with current best practice outline in *Archaeology Data Service/Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice* (ADS/Digital Antiquity 2011).

7.4 The archive will be prepared in line with *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2007), ClfA's (2014d) *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, and Society of Museum Archaeologists (1993) *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland*.

7.5 The Shropshire Historic Environment Manager will be notified at the earliest opportunity should the site produce archaeologically significant, unusual, or unexpected finds.

7.6 The Shropshire Historic Environment Manager will be notified in writing on completion of the fieldwork with project dates for the completion of the report.



7.7 All retained artefacts and associated material will be cleaned, recorded, properly stored and deposited in the archive.

7.8 A full set of annotated, illustrative pictures of the site, excavation, features, layers and selected artefacts deposited with the archive as digital images on disc.

7.9 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. All parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the HER. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report.

## **8 MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS**

8.1 At least one week prior notice of the commencement of the ground works to be given to the Shropshire Historic Environment Manager.

Dr Andy Wigley  
Historic Environment Team  
Shirehall  
Abbey Foregate  
Shrewsbury  
SY2 6ND  
Tel: 01743 254608

8.2 ARS Ltd will liaise with the Shropshire Historic Environment Manager at regular intervals throughout the course of the work.

## **9 GENERAL ITEMS**

### **9.1 Health and Safety**

9.1.1 All work will be carried out in accordance with The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Specific health and safety policies exist for all our workplaces and all staff employed will be made aware of the policy and any relevant issues. The particular risks involved with this project will be assessed, recorded and relevant mitigation measures put in place as part of a full risk assessment, which will be compiled in advance of fieldwork and will be read and signed by all on-site operatives. ARS Ltd retains Citation as its expert health and safety consultants.

### **9.2 Insurance Cover**

9.2.1 ARS Ltd has full insurance cover for employee liability public liability, professional indemnity and all-risks cover.





### 9.3 Community Engagement and Outreach

9.3.1 Any opportunities for engaging the local community in any archaeological findings, for example a guided site tour and/or dissemination of information via ARS Ltd's website and local media.

### 9.4 Changes to the Written Scheme of Investigation

9.4.1 Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with prior written approval of the Shropshire Historic Environment Manager.

### 9.5 Publication

9.5.1 If significant archaeological remains are recorded, a summary of the project with, if appropriate, selected drawings, illustrations and photographs will be prepared for publication in online, journal or monograph form as appropriate. Additional popular articles will also be produced for local and/or national magazines as appropriate. The final form of the publication is to be agreed with the planning archaeologist and the client dependent on the results of the fieldwork.

### 9.6 Publicity and Copyright

9.6.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client. ARS Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

## 10 REFERENCES

ADS/Digital Antiquity. 2011. *Archaeology Data Service/Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice*.

Belford, P. 2011. 'The archaeology of everything' – grappling with post-medieval, industrial and contemporary archaeology. In Watt, 211-36.

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Museum of London Archaeological Services (MoLAS). 2002. *Site Manual*. London, Museum of London.

Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA). 1993. *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland*. London: Society of Museum Archaeologists.

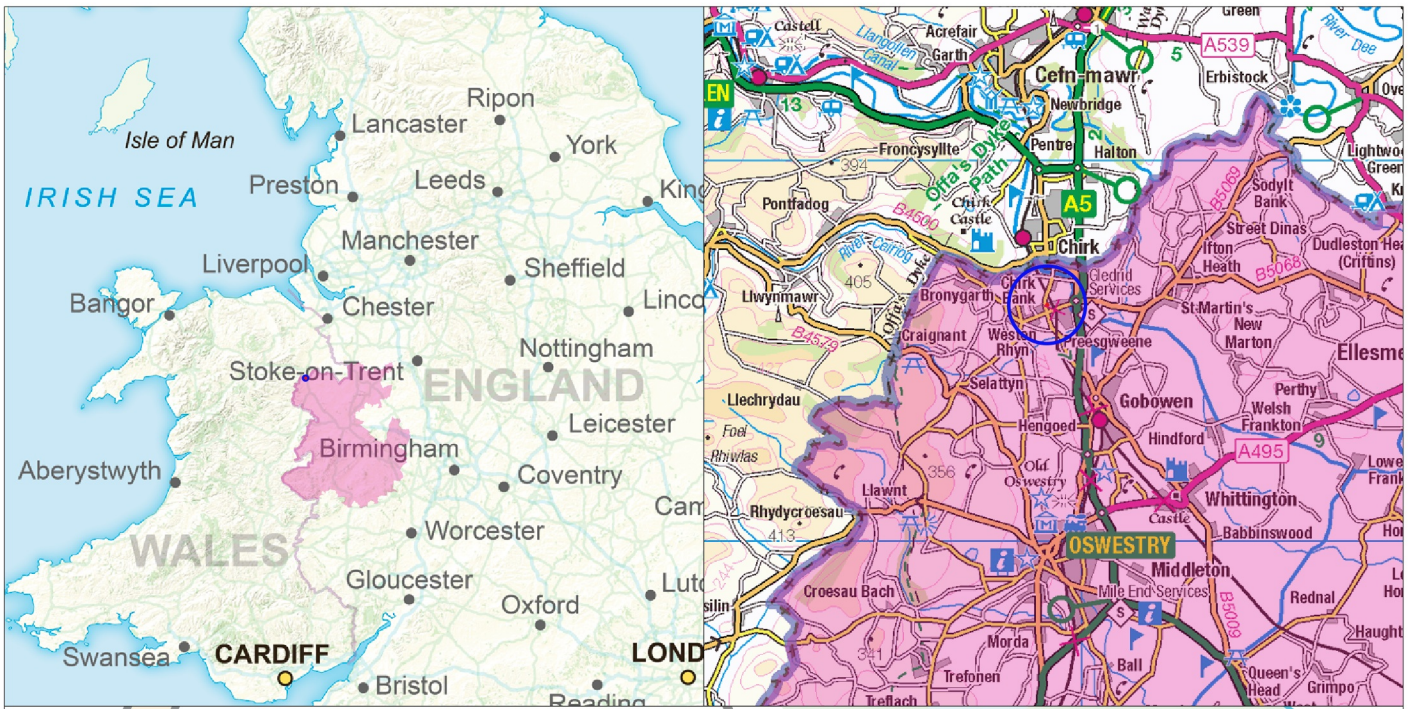
United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC). 1990. *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*.

Watt, S. 2011. *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A framework for research*. University of Birmingham.



**FIGURE**





Site name: Retford Villas Pumping Station  
 Date: March 2017  
 Drawn by: MB  
 Scale: Varies

**Figure 1:  
 Site location**



**Archaeological Research Services Ltd**

Angel House  
 Portland Square  
 Bakewell  
 Derbyshire  
 DE45 1HB



Tel: 01629 814540

[www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com](http://www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com)

This drawing: © ARS Ltd  
 Contains Ordnance Survey data.  
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 Site Boundary

 Shropshire

## **Appendix II-OASIS Form**

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

## Printable version

**OASIS ID: archaeol5-320747**

### Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Retford Villas Pumping Station, Preesgweene, Weston Rhyn, Shropshire
Short description of the project	Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Caulmert Ltd on behalf of Welsh Water, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during enabling works for the construction of a new pumping station on land adjacent to Retford Villas, Preesgweene, Weston Rhyn, Shropshire. The watching brief was in fulfilment of a condition attached to the planning permission for the pumping station. The proposed development lies within an area associated with the former Preesgwyn Colliery and in close proximity to a former mine shaft with the potential of 19th century remains associated with the former mine, and as such was deemed to be of moderate to high archaeological interest. The watching brief monitored the removal of topsoil in a 135m x 6m strip running approximately northwest to southeast, from Old Chirk Road to the footprint of the new pumping station, and the excavation of a 0.6m wide pipe trench within this. The watching brief also monitored the reduction of ground level in the 200m2 footprint of the pumping station itself. The footprint of the pumping station is situated on an artificial bund within the fields, to the rear of Retford Villas. This bund was known from historic mapping to be a spoil heap associated with the former Preesgwyn Colliery. With the exception of this spoil heap, no archaeological remains were encountered during the watching brief. All recovered finds were 19th/20th century in date and recovered either from the topsoil or from the colliery soil heap.
Project dates	Start: 18-06-2018 End: 21-06-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 5 - Character undetermined
Monument type	COLLIERY SPOIL HEAP Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NAIL Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""



Prompt Planning condition

### Project location

Country England  
 Site location SHROPSHIRE OSWESTRY WESTON RHYN Retford Villas, Preesgweene  
 Postcode SY10 7ST  
 Study area 972 Square metres  
 Site coordinates SJ 29096 36208 52.918286084173 -3.054656193323 52 55 05 N 003 03 16 W  
 Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Research Services Ltd  
 Project brief originator Archaeological Research Services Ltd  
 Project design originator Archaeological Research Services Ltd  
 Project director/manager Tony Brennan  
 Project supervisor Rebecca Trow  
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer  
 Name of sponsor/funding body Dwr Cymru Welsh Water

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient ARS Ltd  
 Physical Contents "Ceramics","Glass","other"  
 Digital Archive recipient Archaeological Data Services  
 Digital Contents "Ceramics","Glass","Survey"  
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient ARS Ltd  
 Paper Contents "Ceramics","Glass","Stratigraphic","Survey","other"  
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Matrices","Report","Survey "

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Retford Villas Pumping Station, Preesgweene, Weston Rhyn, Shropshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Trow, R. L.
Other bibliographic details	ARS Ltd Report No. 2018/113
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Issuer or publisher	ARS Ltd
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Entered by	Rebecca Trow (rebecca@archaeologicalresearchservices.com)
Entered on	27 June 2018

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