

CPAT Report No. 1375

**Cavalier Centre, Bradley Farm, Much Wenlock,
Shropshire**

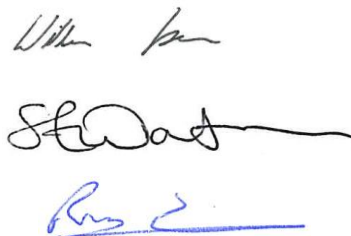


ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS

CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Client name: Perry Riding for the Disabled Group
 CPAT Project No: 2049
 Project Name: Cavalier Centre, Bradley Farm, Much Wenlock, Shropshire
 Grid Reference: SJ 6355 0130
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Cover photo: CPAT 4081-0025 View from the east across the site to Bradley Farm



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Summary

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust undertook a pre-planning assessment for a plot of land to the east of Bradley Farm, Much Wenlock, in Shropshire, in connection with proposals for the construction of a riding and carriage driving centre.

The site occupied a single field, covering an area measuring about 200m by 80m, about 1.5km to the north-east of Much Wenlock (NGR SJ 6355 0130). An examination of the LiDAR coverage carried out during 2014 revealed a number of features which were tentatively interpreted as a possible settlement site, perhaps of medieval date (Shropshire HER Record No 30949).

A topographic survey was carried out by CPAT in the summer of 2015, which suggested that the visible earthworks were predominantly clay pits associated with brick production on the site. A possible former field boundary and associated ridge and furrow in the centre of the study area were identified as being of earlier date.

This was followed in October 2015 by an evaluation comprising seven trenches which were positioned to investigate the extant features, the results of which appeared to confirm the findings of the topographic survey.

A trench at the east end of the study area revealed a large quantity of handmade brick wasters. These were predominantly of a single type, and similar in size and material to those used in the construction of buildings at Bradley Farm during the late 18th century. No evidence of a kiln was found although there was a considerable quantity of fuel waste associated with the wasters.

Trenching in the west extent of the site revealed a ditch, possibly a field boundary curving from the north to the west. To the east an up cast bank oriented north-northwest south-southeast seemed to form the eastern edge of a large rectangular pit, possibly a clay extraction pit reutilised as a pond. Another possible clay pit was identified in the south extent of the study area.

No evidence for *in-situ* structural remains was revealed in the course of this evaluation. Finds were largely residual and late post medieval in date. A single abraded sherd of late medieval, green glazed pottery was recovered from a subsoil colluvium in the north extent of the site. No evidence for occupation on the site was revealed during the course of this work.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. This report describes the results of an archaeological assessment conducted by the Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) in connection with the with proposals for the construction of a riding and carriage driving centre at Bradley Farm, near Much Wenlock in Shropshire (Fig. 1; NGR SJ 6355 0130). The site was formerly pasture and meadowland and was located adjacent to the western extent of the 17th-century farm.

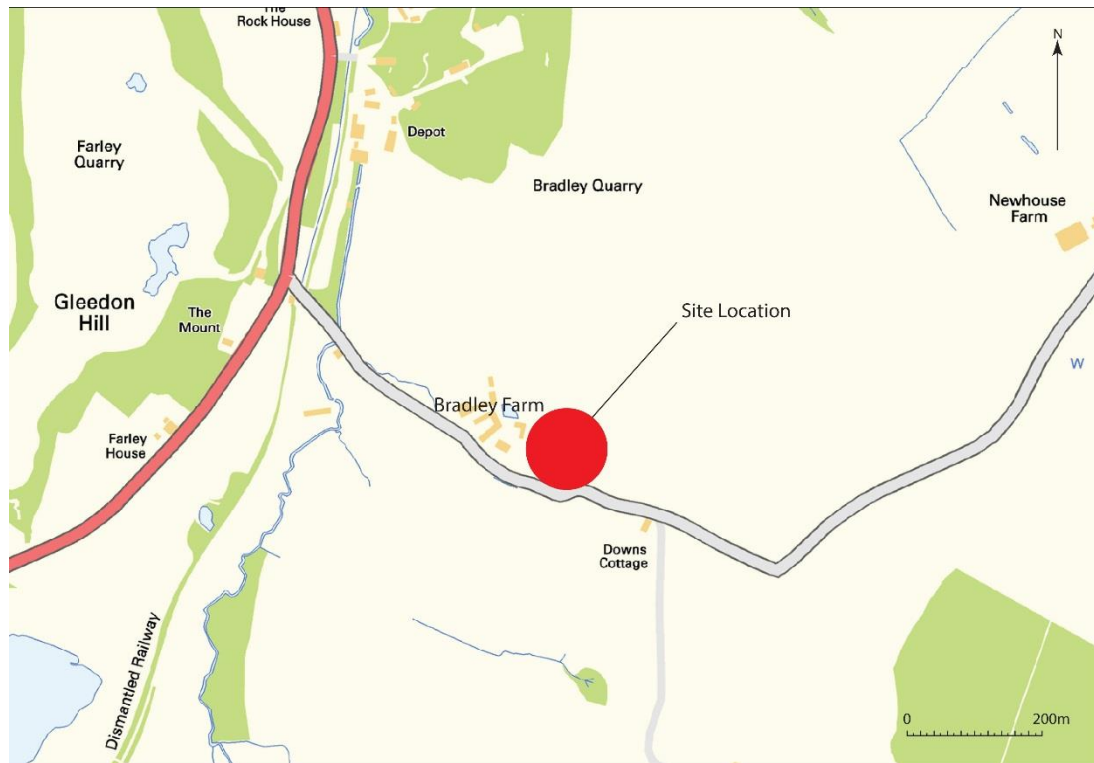


Fig. 1: Site location

- 1.2. The initial assessment comprised a topographic survey to determine the presence and location of earthworks on the site. This survey also informed the location of trial trenching in order to more fully investigate these features. Seven trenches were excavated, totalling 110m in length (Fig. 2).

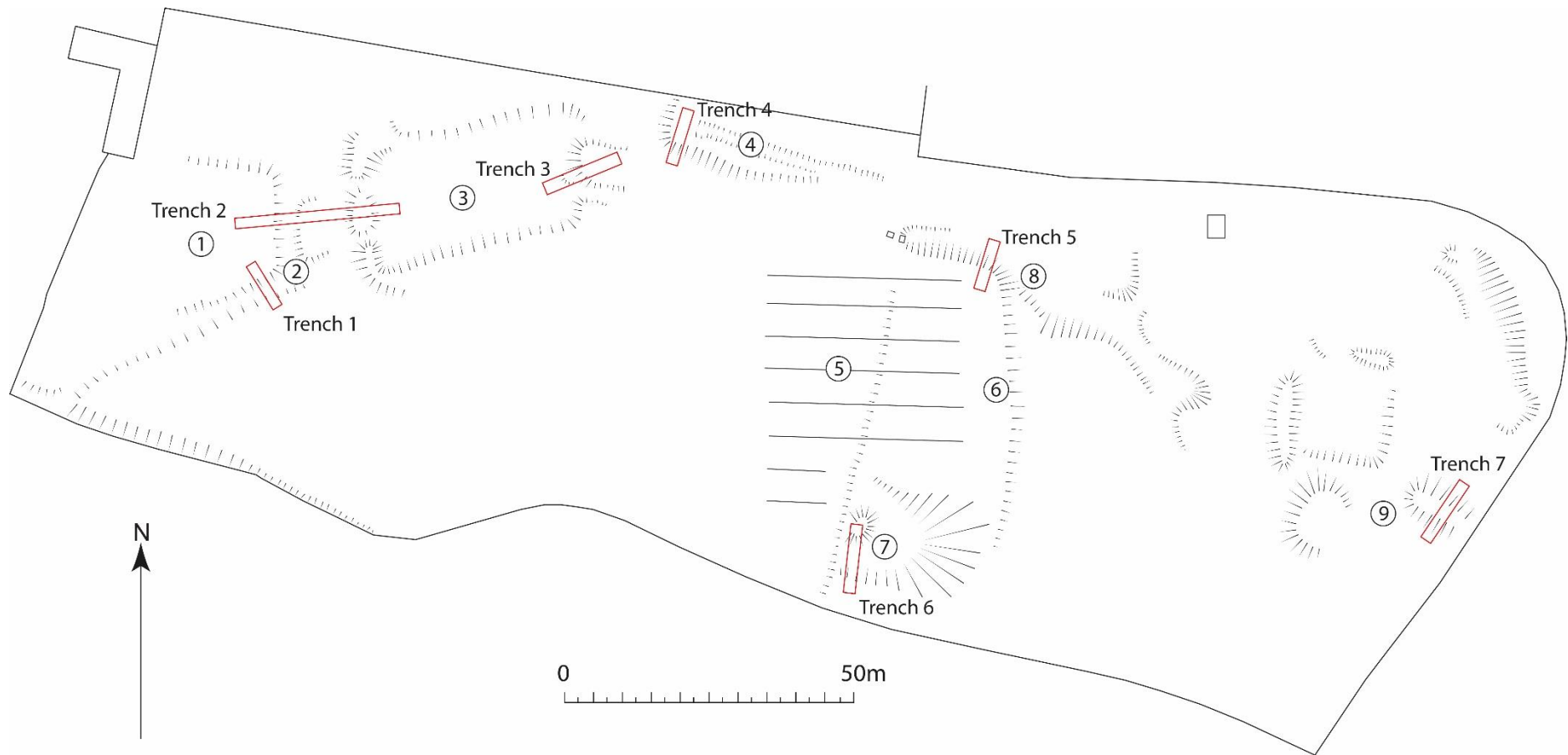


Fig. 2: Topographic and trench location plan

2 Historical Background

- 2.1. Bradley Farm falls within the township of Farley, Wyke and Bradley - one of seven townships within the parish of Much Wenlock, formerly the administrative centre of an ancient borough which began in 1247 and ended in 1948.
- 2.2. Early settlement of the Much Wenlock area is evidenced by a number of stray finds namely from the Bronze Age period in the form of stone tools. Works within the town of Much Wenlock in the 1980's revealed evidence of a late Roman/early Saxon cemetery.
- 2.3. An Anglo-Saxon monastery was founded at Much Wenlock in about 680 by King Merewalh of Mercia, whose abbess daughter Milburge was hailed as a saint.
- 2.4. By the 12th century, Wenlock had been re-founded by the Normans as a priory of Cluniac monks and impressive remains of this medieval priory survive today.
- 2.5. Bradley is first mentioned in 1255 and between the 16th and 19th centuries had two farms located on opposite sides of the Farley Brook, which runs to the west of the present Bradley farm, rising at Westwood and running northwards to the Severn at Buildwas.
- 2.6. In the middle ages, much of Bradley was common land and by the late 13th century, Wenlock Priory's large manor of Much Wenlock was divided into separately run estates. Bradley and Wyke, with Benthall and Posenhall, seem to have been managed as one estate, called Bradley. By 1369, Wigwig and Harley were added and the estate was called Bradley Grange.
- 2.7. Bradley Farm is believed to date to the early 17th century. The farmhouse is timber framed but was rebuilt in rubble stone possibly in the late 17th century/early 18th century with several later alterations and extensions in the late 18th/mid-19th centuries. Most of the extant farm buildings were constructed in brick between the late 18th century and the early 19th century. A carved date inscription in the threshing barn dates the building to 1783. The farmhouse and farm buildings are Grade II listed.
- 2.8. In 1773 Bradley Farm was assigned to Thomas Pitt, whose son Francis assigned it to Abraham Darby IV in 1827 at which time it comprised around 142 acres. Darby also ran the Bradley Rock Limestone Quarry, which lies to the immediate north of Bradley Farm. The quarry become the sole source for the Dawley Castle furnace and Lightmoor Ironworks and by 1873 was yielding around 20,000 tonnes of stone per year for the Coalbrookdale Company.
- 2.9. The Silurian limestone which lies close to the surface in abundance along Wenlock Edge was quarried for building, iron fluxing, aggregate, and conversion to lime for building, tanning, and agriculture. Five quarries are recorded within 1km of the proposed development plot, as well as at least three water mills, harnessing power from the brooks that divided up the Wenlock townships.
- 2.10. The Tithe Map of 1849 shows Bradley Farm surrounded by fields in a pattern relatively similar to that visible today. Most of the fields were meadows with some arable and occasional rough pasture, then named 'leasow'. The field to the immediate

south-west of Bradley Farm (1583) was recorded as a plantation. The development plot, which now forms part of one field was shown as two fields (1592 & 1593), the former boundary for which is visible as an earthwork on recent LiDAR data. The farm and larger field closest to it (1581 & 1593) were recorded under the ownership and occupancy of Abraham Darby. This large field (1593) was called 'The Drudge Meadow and part of Bath Meadow'. The smaller field to the east (1592 - Part of the Bath Meadow) was then owned by the Right Honourable Lord Forester who owned 194 acres of land in the Wenlock township in 1848, but had bought 827 acres more by 1858, equating to over half of the Much Wenlock manorial estate. Much of the Forester Estate was sold on in the 20th century.

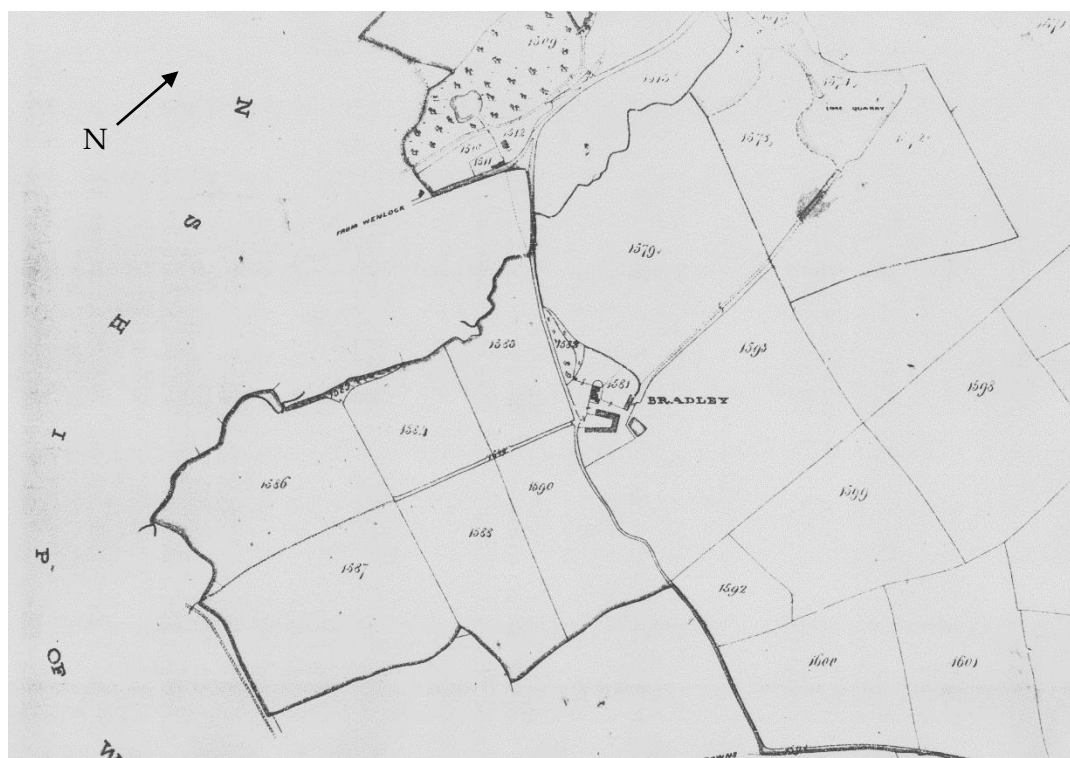


Fig. 3: The 1849 Tithe map

- 2.11. The outlying fields immediately surrounding the farm were owned by both Darby and Forester. The field to the north-east (1599) being interestingly named 'The Claypit Meadow'.
- 2.12. By 1862, the Much Wenlock and Severn Junction Railway had opened which allowed Much Wenlock limestone could be carried on the Severn Valley line towards iron works in the West Midlands or by river to local ironworks.

3 Topographical Survey

- 3.1. The topographical survey was conducted on the 4th and 5th of August 2015 and comprised a total station survey of the visible earthworks within the development plot.

- 3.2. At the western end of the field, the broad platform had not been characterised, but could have been the site of some form of structure (Fig. 2, 1). To its east was a raised bank, perhaps a denuded dam creating a pond (Fig. 2, 3) on its eastern side. The function of the mound at the east end of the possible pond was not clear, nor was the raised area to the north-east of the mound, although a shallow gully running on top of it was likely to represent subsidence on top of a small water pipe of relatively modern date (Fig. 2, 4).
- 3.3. A north/south scarp which faced westwards defined the course of a field boundary which was extant in the 19th century; at its southern end the broad hollow to the east seemed most likely to have been a clay pit associated with brick manufacture (Fig. 2,7), although this interpretation relied on circumstantial evidence found elsewhere in the field. The earthwork starting to the east of the possible clay pit which ran north then curved to the west, was a redundant field boundary (Fig. 2,6) of greater age than that from the 19th century and was probably associated with the east/west aligned ridge and furrow cultivation to its west (Fig. 2, 5). On the east side of the earlier boundary were a group of poorly-defined earthworks which gave the impression of defining the edges of excavations, although this is not certain. Rather clearer evidence of a past excavation was a sub-square feature further east, originally noted as a possible pond, but on too great a slope for that interpretation to be correct. To the south and south-east two mounds were identified (Fig 2, 9). Both had a large component of brick fragments in their makeup, implying that they may have been the remains of clamp kilns from brick making; if this was the case then the sub-square feature may have been a clay pit which provided the material for the bricks. At the north-east corner of the field, the earthworks again suggest evidence for the quarrying of near surface material.
- 3.4. Overall, the earthworks visible in the field could represent a series of features related to brick-making, though at the time of the survey this interpretation depended on a number of artefacts visible in mole disturbances. Some of the features may have been unrelated and the presence of settlement could not be ruled out.

4 Evaluation

- 4.1. Following the topographic survey, an archaeological evaluation, comprising seven trial trenches, was carried out in order to further investigate some of the extant features. This was undertaken between 28th September and the 2nd October. A monitoring visit was carried out on 30th September by Charlotte Orchard of Shropshire Council.

Trench 1

- 4.2. Trench 1 was oriented north-northwest south-southeast and was excavated through a possible platform located at the west extent of the study area and a linear depression running northeast-southwest to the south of it (Fig. 2, 1 and 2).
- 4.3. Following the removal of the topsoil (101), a firm light yellowish silt subsoil deposit was revealed (102). Cutting (102) a ditch [106] extending in excess of 5.5m in width and 0.5m deep was revealed. Filling this was a compact mid brown clay (107) containing charcoal and ceramic building material flecks. The ditch was cut at the north-north-west end by a modern land drain [104].

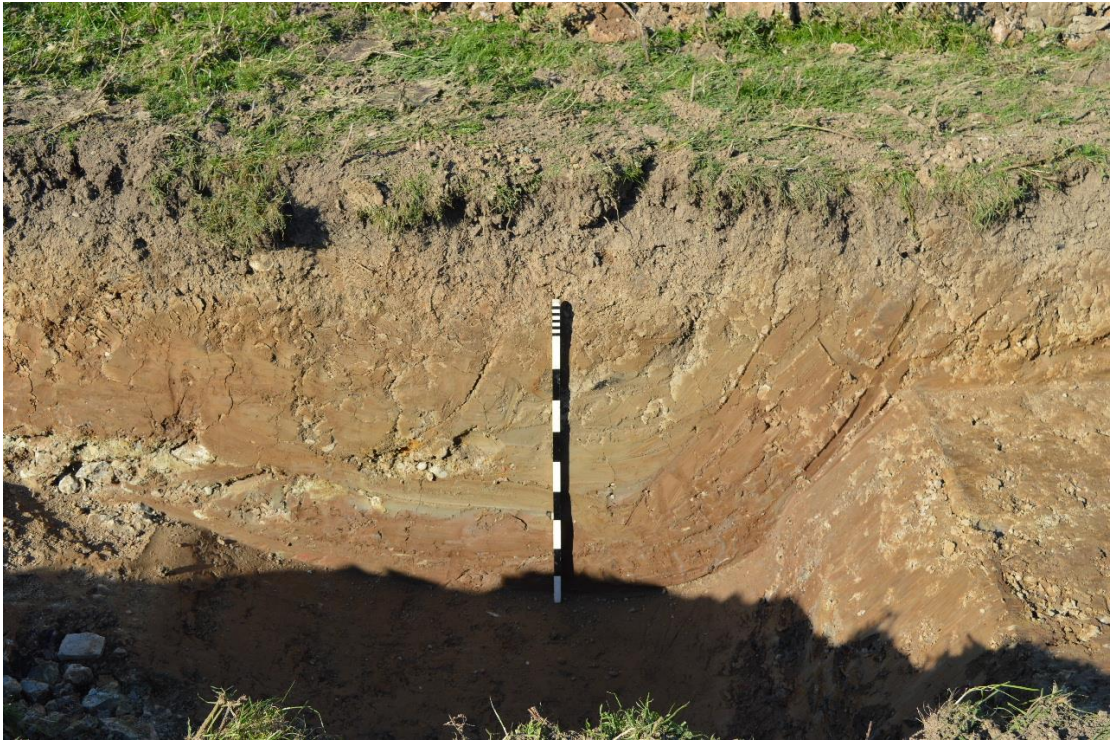


Fig. 4: CPAT 4081-0002 View from the south of ditch [204]

Trench 2

- 4.4. Trench 2 was oriented broadly east/west and was also positioned to investigate the platform at the west end of the study end, and a large rectangular depression to the east of this (Fig. 2, 1 and 3). Removal of the topsoil (201) revealed the light yellowish silty subsoil deposit (202).
- 4.5. Three linear features were revealed cutting the subsoil. [206] and [208] were identified as cuts for land drains, oriented broadly north south, located in the centre of the trench. To the east of these was a ditch [204] oriented north-northwest south-southeast, measuring 1.98m in width and 0.72m depth with a bowl shaped profile. The fill (205) comprised a greyish clay.



Fig. 5: CPAT 4081-0011 View from south-west of upcast bank (211)

- 4.6. At the east end of Trench 2, underlying the subsoil, an upcast soil bank (211) was discernible. This was constructed from a yellowish stony silt, probably redeposited subsoil and was oriented on a similar north-northwest south-southeast alignment to ditch [204]. Overlying the soil bank to the east was a thin black organic layer (210) overlying a compact very pale yellow silt layer (212).

Trench 3

- 4.7. Trench 3 was oriented north-east south-west and was excavated to investigate the east side of the hollow rectangular feature (Fig. 2, 3) and a possible platform identified immediately to the east of this.
- 4.8. Following removal of the topsoil (301), a burnt organic deposit of silt and pebbles (305) was revealed in the vicinity of the possible platform. Underlying (305) was a subsoil deposit (304). Underlying this at the west end of the trench was a silty clay deposition (302) filling a gently sloping cut [303] extending >1.5m to a depth of 0.26m.

Trench 4

- 4.9. Trench 4 was oriented broadly north south and was located in order to investigate a linear bank running east-west along the north extent of the study area.



Fig. 6: CPAT 4081-0018 West facing section of Trench 4

- 4.10. The uppermost deposit comprised an uneven topsoil, overlying (402) a thick subsoil deposit. This was cut by two modern service pipes, oriented east west. Underlying (402) a silting deposition (404) was revealed, within a natural channel oriented east west in the south extent of the trench.

Trench 5

- 4.11. Trench 5 was aligned north/south and was located to investigate a gully or channel oriented east/west within the trench (Fig. 2, 8). This could also have been part of a shallow escarpment (Fig. 2, 6) curving from the south to the west delineating the easternmost extent of ridge and furrow in the centre of the study area (Fig. 2, 5)
- 4.12. Underlying the topsoil (501), a firm greyish sandy clay subsoil was revealed (502), overlying a natural reddish sand deposition (503). All three deposits revealed sloped away to the north into a spring fed channel, filled with large stone pieces which was not excavated into.

Trench 6

- 4.13. Trench 6 was located in the south of the study area to investigate a large shallow depression (Fig. 2, 7), interpreted as a possible clay pit.
- 4.14. Underlying the topsoil (601) and cutting the subsoil (602), a pit [604] was partially revealed within the south extent of the trench. The pit measured >4.5m in length and extended across the entire width of the trench, but was relatively shallow at 0.38m in depth. The fill (605) comprised a dark brown clay.

Trench 7

- 4.15. Trench 7 was positioned to investigate one of a series of linear earthworks identified at the east extent of the study area (Fig 2, 9). The potential for possible brick making activity in this area was suggested during the topographic survey when it was noted that upcast from mole hills contained fragments of brick material.



Fig. 7: CPAT 4081-0032 Deposit (702) in west facing section of Trench 7

- 4.16. Underlying the topsoil (701) a deposit (702) comprising burnt fuel waste, charcoal and handmade brick fragments was revealed, extending >12m by >1.4m and 0.25m in thickness. Underlying (702) was the subsoil (703). Cutting (703) at the northeast end of the trench was a large stone drain or culvert (706) oriented north-northeast south-southwest.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1. The assessment, which comprised a desk-based study, topographical survey and field evaluation, investigated a series of earthwork features within a plot of land at Bradley Farm, Much Wenlock. The results indicate that although the site had originally been identified as a possible deserted medieval settlement, the earthworks in fact relate to former field boundaries and features associated with post-medieval brick making.
- 5.2. Trench 1 contained a wide but relatively shallow ditch [106]. This may have been an overflow channel or drain from the pond located to the north-east.

-
- 5.3. Excavations in Trench 2 revealed a ditch [204] which had previously been recorded during the topographic survey and appeared to form a continuation of the ditch [106] identified in Trench 1. The soil bank was also visible as an extant feature, forming the west extent of a hollow rectangular area (Fig. 2, 3), interpreted as a silted up pond.
 - 5.4. There was no evidence to suggest the possible platform at the west end of the trench was artificially formed, it seems to have been defined by the excavation of the ditch to the east and south.
 - 5.5. Trench 3 revealed a shallow gently sloping cut [303] filled by a greyish silt clay. This was probably the eastern margin of the pond previously revealed in Trench 2. There was no evidence for any artificial levelling to form the platform at the east end of the trench.
 - 5.6. Deposits in Trench 4 were truncated by two modern service pipes. A single very heavily abraded sherd of late medieval dark green glazed pottery was recovered from the subsoil (402). The natural deposits in Trench 4 (403) trended away sharply to the south to form a silted up gully, possibly part of the same feature identified in Trench 5.
 - 5.7. Trench 5 revealed a natural channel or gully appearing to curve from the east to the south.
 - 5.8. A single feature in Trench 6 [604] appeared to be a large shallow clay extraction pit, deliberately backfilled once it had served its purpose. This could be interpreted as further evidence for brick production on the site.
 - 5.9. Excavations in Trench 7 revealed a layer of fuel waste and handmade brick wasters (702). The brick was similar in size and fabric to that used in the construction of the late 18th and early 19th century buildings at Bradley Farm. The brickwork used in the construction of the large main threshing barn built in 1783 compared very closely with samples of brick recovered from Trench 7. The farmhouse was partially rebuilt in brick during this period, probably using the same type of materials.
 - 5.10. The presence of brick wasters and fuel dumped within a single deposit would very strongly suggest that brickmaking for this phase of the farm construction was carried out in this part of the study area, although no evidence for a kiln or kilns was found during the assessment.
 - 5.11. This assessment could provide no clear evidence of occupation within the study area. None of the possible platforms evaluated (Trenches 1, 2 and 3) were found to have been artificially built up, and there were no structural or artefactual remains discovered in these areas that could imply that they were the remains of settlement.
 - 5.12. The pond may have been used for stock watering but could originally have been excavated for materials extraction. It probably would have been fed by the spring located to the east of Trench 5, with the ditch to the west acting as an outlet. It is not depicted on the 1849 Tithe map which shows a later pond, also now silted up, located to the northeast of the farm. An 18th century or earlier date for the feature is suggested.

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- 5.13. The earliest identified feature on the site was the ridge and furrow running east-west across the centre of the study area. It was unclear whether the shallow escarpment to the east of this was a natural feature or an artificial delineation.
- 5.14. The disturbed area to the east of this escarpment (Fig. 2, 9) and the shallow depression immediately to the west of it (Fig. 2, 7) were probably both associated with post-medieval brick making activity, probably during the 17th or 18th century. The field was very well suited for this activity, with access to the raw materials for brick production, including clay, sand and running water within the field or close by. The adjacent field to the northeast is named on the Tithe Apportionment of 1849 as Claypit Leasow. The same document also indicates a lime quarry on the property located to the north of Bradley Farm.

6 Archive deposition Statement

- 6.1. The project archive has been prepared according to the CPAT Archive Policy and in line with the CIfA *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives guidance* (2014). The archive will be deposited with the regional Historic Environment Record, maintained by Shropshire Council, while artefacts are to be deposited with the Shropshire Museum Service. A summary of the archive is provided in Appendix 1.

Appendix 1: Site Archive

40 digital photographs CPAT Film No 4081

7 trench recording forms

2 Site drawings

1 sherd of pottery from (402)

1 sample brick waster (702)

Appendix 2: Illustrations

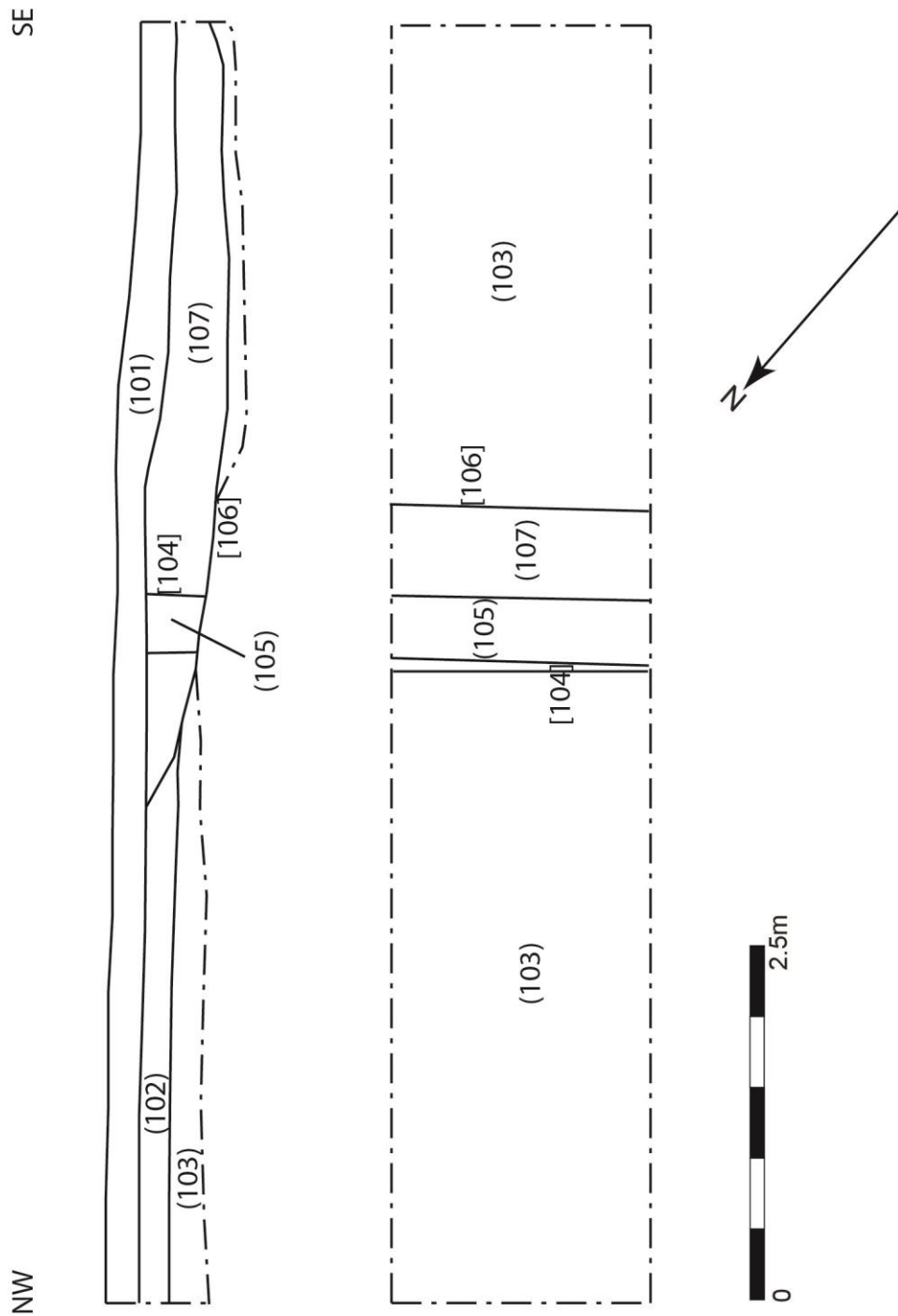


Fig. 8: Section and plan of Trench 1

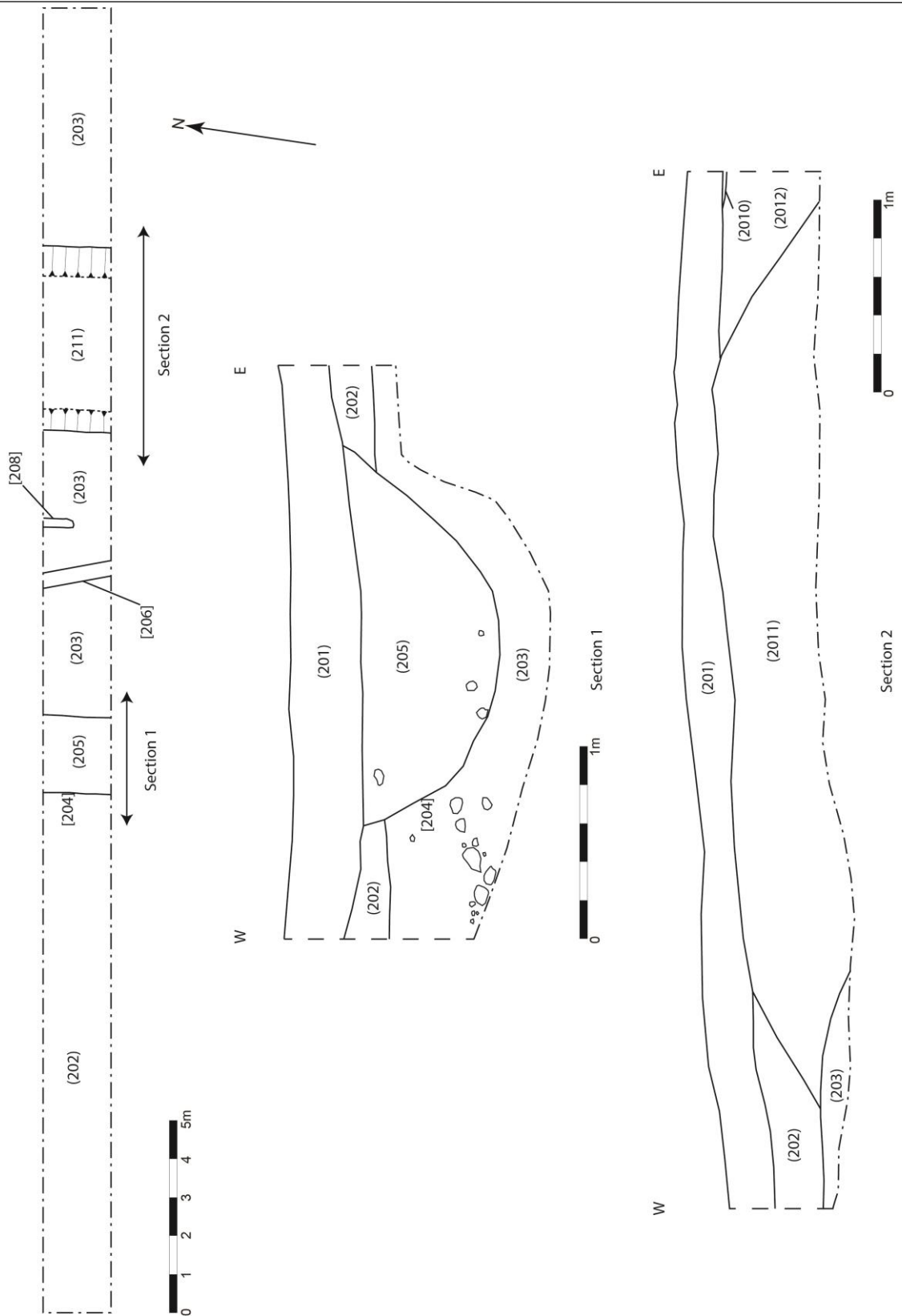


Fig. 9: Plan and sections of Trench 2

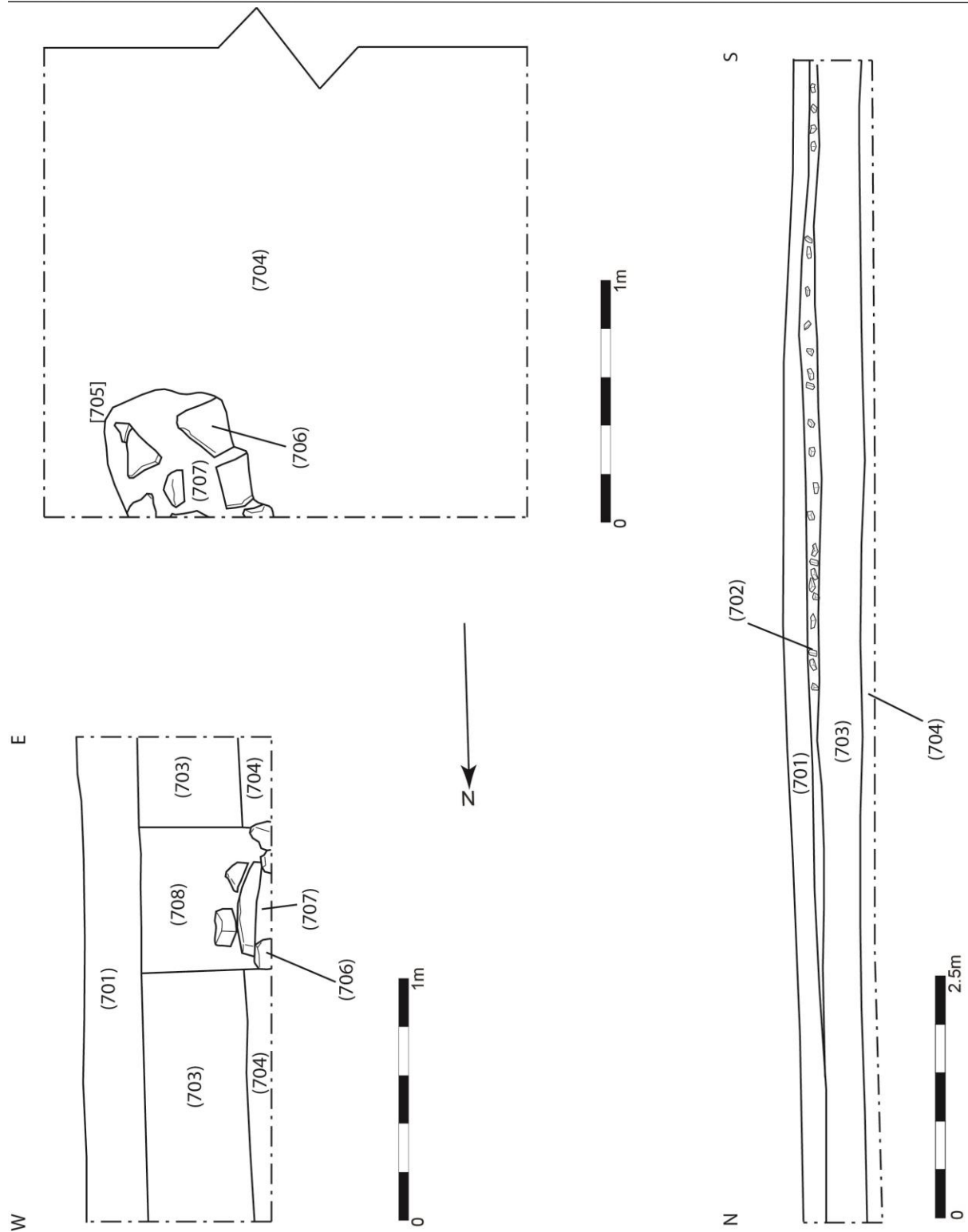


Fig 10: Plan of north extent of trench 9 and sections

Appendix 3: CPAT WSI 1591

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) have been invited by the Perry Riding for the Disabled Group to prepare a specification for undertaking a topographic survey in advance of the construction of a riding and carriage driving centre at Bradley Farm, near Much Wenlock in Shropshire.

1.2 The site occupies a single field, centred at NGR 6349 0131, covering an area measuring about 200m by 80m, about 1.5km to the north-east of Much Wenlock. Past archaeological work in the locality has been limited to the recording of a number of Listed buildings in the Bradley Farm complex and a site visit by Mr M Krupa of Shropshire Council to assess the validity of information obtained from LIDAR, which had implied that the field in question had been the site of a settlement, perhaps of medieval date (Shropshire HER Record No 30949).

1.3 Full planning permission has been granted for the development (planning application 14/02127/FUL), with the inclusion of the following condition relating to the cultural heritage:

Condition 12. No development approved by this permission shall commence until the applicant, or their agent or successors in title, have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI). This written scheme should provide for a pre-construction recording comprising archaeological topographic survey of the earthwork complex and evaluation comprising targeted trial trenching based on the findings from the topographic survey with sufficient documentary research to inform those processes and provision for further mitigation should proved necessary. The written scheme shall be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of works.

The initial recording and evaluation may conclude that further archaeological work may be necessary to ensure appropriate preservation by record is achieved consistent with the significance of the remains and the content of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Reason: The area is of archaeological potential and it is important that any archaeological features and finds are properly recorded.

1.4 It is understood that the scheme of archaeological works required to comply with the planning condition consists of an initial topographic survey and that this will be followed by archaeological evaluation, whose scope will depend on the results of the survey and their comparison with the proposed development. Further work may be determined to be appropriate following the completion of the evaluation.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 The survey will be conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014) and will comprise a Level 2/3 survey of the archaeological earthworks that conforms with English Heritage's guidance on 'Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes: A guide to good recording practice' (2009). Prior to the commencement of work, a desk-top study will be compiled of the

immediate area to provide a background to the study. The topographic survey will then aim to record all visible archaeological features and earthworks in the study area, and to provide an interpretation of those earthworks to better understand the nature, form and significance of site. This will also allow for the comparison of the results with the development proposals. Where features of archaeological interest are identified during the ground works they will be presented on a hachured plan, which includes the boundaries of the field.

2.2 On completion of the survey, the results will be presented to the client and Charlotte Orchard of the Historic Environment Team at Shropshire Council to enable discussions to take place regarding the layout of the development. It is envisaged that the position of individual features of the development may be adjusted to minimize their impact on the historic environment at this stage.

2.3 Although the next phase of the work does not form part of this Written Scheme of Investigation, the survey and subsequent discussions are likely to be followed by the archaeological evaluation of a selection of the features which have been revealed. This will be by agreement between the two parties mentioned in the previous paragraph and subject to a separate Written Scheme of Investigation, once its scope has been confirmed.

2.4 Following the on-site work an illustrated report will be prepared containing:

- Non-technical summary
- A location map of study area showing the area of the development;
- Results of the desk-based study;
- Details of the methodology used;
- A plan showing the location of the archaeological features which have been identified;
- Conclusions, including a preliminary assessment of the likely nature of the features recorded;
- Archive location
- Supporting illustrations as appropriate
- References.

2.5 The site archive will be prepared to specifications in English Heritage's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) system and the CIfA *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2014), to be deposited with the regional Historic Environment Record (HER).

2.6 The Shropshire HER participates in the OASIS scheme, a form for which will be completed at each reporting stage.

3 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

3.1 The topographic survey will be undertaken by two skilled archaeologists under the overall supervision of Dr R J Silvester, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). CPAT is also a CIfA Registered Organisation (RAO No 6) and as such agrees to abide by their *Code of Conduct* (2014) and the

Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology (2014).

3.2 All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist(s) who conducted the site work. Copies of the report will be deposited with the client and the regional Historic Environment Record within one month of the completion of on-site works.

3.3 Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.

3.4 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance, as well as Professional Indemnity insurance.

R Hankinson

27 July 2015

Appendix 4: CPAT WSI 1592

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) have been invited by the Perry Riding for the Disabled Group to prepare a specification for undertaking an archaeological evaluation in advance of the construction of a riding and carriage driving centre at Bradley Farm, near Much Wenlock in Shropshire.

1.2 The site occupies a single field, centred at NGR 6349 0131, covering an area measuring about 200m by 80m, about 1.5km to the north-east of Much Wenlock. Past archaeological work in the locality has been limited to the recording of a number of Listed buildings in the Bradley Farm complex and a site visit by Mr M Krupa of Shropshire Council to assess the validity of information obtained from LIDAR, which had implied that the field in question had been the site of a settlement, perhaps of medieval date (Shropshire HER Record No 30949).

1.3 Full planning permission has been granted for the development (planning application 14/02127/FUL), with the inclusion of the following condition relating to the cultural heritage:

Condition 12. No development approved by this permission shall commence until the applicant, or their agent or successors in title, have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI). This written scheme should provide for a pre-construction recording comprising archaeological topographic survey of the earthwork complex and evaluation comprising targeted trial trenching based on the findings from the topographic survey with sufficient documentary research to inform those processes and provision for further mitigation should proved necessary. The written scheme shall be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of works.

The initial recording and evaluation may conclude that further archaeological work may be necessary to ensure appropriate preservation by record is achieved consistent with the significance of the remains and the content of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Reason: The area is of archaeological potential and it is important that any archaeological features and finds are properly recorded.

1.4 The scheme of archaeological works described herein comprises the second phase of archaeological investigation at the site and follows an initial topographic survey, which was compiled to identify the extent of the earthworks on the site, provide a preliminary interpretation, and allow the earthworks to be compared to the development proposals. The layout of the evaluation trenches has been approved by Charlotte Orchard of the Historic Environment Team at Shropshire Council, acting in her capacity as the Archaeological Curator for this development. Further work may be determined to be appropriate by the Curator following the completion of the evaluation.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Following the completion of the topographic survey detailed in CPAT WSI 1591, a further stage of assessment is required, comprising field evaluation. The evaluation will be conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2013). A total of seven trenches are to be excavated, totalling 110m in length, the layout and size of these have been discussed with, and approved by, Charlotte Orchard, the Curator.

2.2 The trenches will be excavated using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket of an appropriate width. All modern overburden will be removed by the machine down to the level of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. Thereafter, all excavation will be conducted by hand unless otherwise agreed with the Curator in advance. The evaluation will be essentially non-destructive and designed to determine the depth at which archaeologically sensitive deposits survive, together with their nature condition and significance. The depth of natural deposits will be determined to assess the extent of any stratified deposits which may be encountered.

2.3 It has been assumed that the archaeological excavations will not proceed below a depth of 1.2m and provision has accordingly not been included for shoring the trenches, should this be required. The area is currently pasture land occupied by sheep, and it is to be preferred that these will be removed from the field for the duration of the evaluation; any change to this may result in additional charges for the provision of fencing. Excavated material will be temporarily stored adjacent to each trench and on completion the trenches will be reinstated with the excavated material to an appropriate standard determined by agreement with the client.

2.4 The base and at least one section of each trench will be manually cleaned and recorded. The evaluation will be designed to determine the depth at which archaeologically sensitive deposits survive, together with their nature, condition and significance.

2.5 Contexts will be recorded on individual record forms and be drawn and photographed as appropriate. All photography would be in digital format to a minimum resolution of 6 mega pixels. All features will be planned at an appropriate scale, normally 1:20, with sections recorded as appropriate. The trenches will be surveyed as accurately as possible in relation to the topographic survey and with respect to buildings and boundaries identified on modern Ordnance Survey maps, by the use of total station surveying. Levels will be related to Ordnance Datum where possible, using a survey provided by the client.

2.6 All artefacts will be related to their contexts from which they were derived and treated in a manner appropriate to their composition and would be processed by trained CPAT staff.

2.7 Provision will be made for the sampling of deposits for environmental and technological evidence where appropriate. Any environmental samples taken shall be bulk samples of a minimum of 20 litres in order to assess the survival of organic remains (pollen, plant macrofossils, insect macrofossils and diatoms). They shall be taken only from contexts considered to be of a high potential and used as a basis for assessing

potential further analysis. Samples for radiometric dating will also be collected at the same time, if required.

2.8 In the event of human remains being encountered all relevant statutory and Ministry of Justice requirements shall be fully complied with.

Reporting

2.9 An illustrated report will be produced on the results of the evaluation, providing an assessment of the known cultural heritage resource within the development area.

2.10 The results from the assessment will be submitted in an illustrated report in pdf format which will include:

- a) Written assessments of the specified objectives
- b) A full written description and interpretation of the results of all elements of the project.
- c) It will be fully illustrated with drawings and plans to an appropriate scale.
- d) All documentary research/historical analysis shall be supported by copies of any relevant historic maps, documents and aerial photographs subject to permissions. All sources consulted will be cited.

2.11 In addition to copies submitted to the client, a copy of the project report will be provided to the Historic Environment Team, Shropshire Council, and one further copy to the Shropshire Historic Environment Record.

Archive

2.12 Prior to the commencement of the project CPAT will contact the Curator of Archaeology, Museum Services, Shropshire Council, who will advise on an appropriate repository for the project archive, the provision for any finds, and, when applicable, the fee level for depositing the archive. The deposition of any finds will only take place following receipt of written consent from the owner(s).

2.13 The site archive, including finds and environmental material, will be ordered, catalogued, labelled and conserved and stored according to the UKIC Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage and the CIfA *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2014). The project archive will be presented to an appropriate Museum or recipient body within 12 months of completion of the field work, subject to the agreement of the site owner with regards to any finds.

2.14 The Shropshire HER participates in the OASIS scheme, a form for which will be completed at each reporting stage.

3 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

3.1 The evaluation will be undertaken by a small team of experienced field archaeologists under the overall supervision of Mr Nigel Jones, Principal Archaeologist, CPAT, who is a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA). CPAT is a CifA Registered Organisation and as such agrees to abide by their *Code of Conduct (2014)* and the *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology (2014)*. At present CPAT would be able to carry out the evaluation in late August/early September 2015, subject to instruction by the client.

3.2 All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist who conducted the fieldwork. Copies of the report will be deposited with the client and the regional Historic Environment Record within one month of the completion of on-site works.

3.3 In addition to copies submitted to the Client, a copy of the project report will be provided to the Historic Environment Team, Shropshire Council, and one copy to the Shropshire Historic Environment Record. The site archive will be deposited with Shropshire Museum Service, along with any finds, subject to the permission of the owner.

3.4 Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.

3.5 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance, as well as Professional Indemnity insurance.

R Hankinson

19 August 2015