

CPAT Report No. 1695




# Linney Weir, River Corve, Ludlow

Photographic Survey and Watching Brief



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Client name: Colin Roberts  
 CPAT Project No: 2402  
 Project Name: Linney Weir, River Corve, Ludlow  
 Grid Reference: SO 5088 7511  
 County/LPA: Shropshire  
 Planning Application: 19/02540/FUL  
 CPAT Report No: 1695  
 Report status: Final

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02/10/2019	02/10/2019	02/10/2019

Bibliographic reference: Logan, W., 2019. *Linney Weir, River Corve, Ludlow: Photographic Survey and Watching Brief*. Unpublished report. CPAT No. 1695.

Cover image: The weir in 2009, viewed from the north-west. Photograph by Ian Capper, reproduced courtesy of Geograph.



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## Summary

In August and September 2019 the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust undertook a photographic survey and subsequent watching brief in connection with the removal of the centre section of the weir across the River Corve, at the Linney in Ludlow, Shropshire.

There is believed to have been a mill and weir at or around this location since the 13th century, although the present structure is thought to date from the 18th or 19th century.

Groundworks revealed that the weir had been built in two stages, with a distinct change in the size of the stone setts used to construct the weir ramp at the south-west extent. Excavation of the clay core of the dam revealed that the base of the structure was stabilised by a series of large beams held in place by iron-tipped wooden stakes.

# 1 Introduction

- 1.1. In July 2019 The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was invited by Colin Roberts of Fishtek Consulting to undertake a photographic survey and watching brief on behalf of the Severn Rivers Trust at Linney Weir on the River Corve, Ludlow, Shropshire (Fig. 1; SO 5088 7511). A desk-based study and heritage impact assessment (Jones et al. 2019) had been conducted previously in support of the planning application.



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Fig. 1 Location of the weir

- 1.2. The work relates to a planning application (19/02540/FUL) to partially remove the Linney Weir structure on the River Corve to allow full and safe fish passage for migratory fish up and down the River Corve/Teme. The current weir structure will be narrowed down to original river bed level from its existing 18m to an open trapezoidal channel approximately 9m wide.



1.3. The proposed development site lies just outside the medieval town of Ludlow on the River Corve, opposite the site of Corve Mill, a fulling mill which occupied a site associated with milling since the medieval period. It is likely that there would have been a weir here associated with the earlier mills. The weir and footbridge here are also shown on the early 19th century mapping of the area.

1.4. In view of the above, Shropshire Council advised the following:

**RECOMMENDATION:** In relation to Paragraph 199 of the NPPF (Revised July 2018) and Policy MD13 of the SAMDev component of the Shropshire Local Plan, it is advised that a programme of archaeological work be made a condition of any planning permission for the proposed development. This programme of archaeological work should comprise a Level 1 Photographic Survey (as defined in Historic England's 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice, 2016) of the existing structure, to be carried out before development starts, and a watching brief during ground works associated with the development.

1.5. The planning application was approved with the inclusion of the following archaeological condition:

3. 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 the written scheme of investigation (WSI) that has been submitted with this application

Reason: The site is known to hold archaeological interest.

## 2 Historical Background

2.1. Corve Mill was first recorded in 1241 and was rebuilt in 1261. It was one of four medieval mills in Ludlow and was documented as a fulling mill in 1444.

2.2. The earliest known reference to Linney Weir is a counterpart lease dated to 1820, which details the lease of land at the 'Weir Mill and Meadow' in Ludlow. A small plan in the margin of the document depicts Linney Weir and the surrounding land. The document detailed the lease of the mesuages or tenement mill and outbuildings and pieces or parcels of land to James Noaks, a Ludlow Flax Dresser.

2.3. Ordnance Survey mapping from 1885 shows the weir, sluices and mill buildings in detail, with a footbridge shown crossing the north-eastern end of the weir, in much the same position as the modern footbridge. The mill itself was no longer extant by this time. The compound for a Sewage Works was located on the Corve to the north-west of the weir.

2.4. Two buildings recorded in 1820 along the western side of the fold yard have survived to the present. These buildings are now situated within a private stable yard. The outlines of the boundaries for the mill yard and the field containing the mill and leat have also been preserved as field or property boundaries.

### 3 Photographic Survey

- 3.1. The Level 1 Photographic Survey was conducted on the 19 August 2019 in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) (2014) Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (2014). Additional photography was also carried out on the 11 and the 18 September.
- 3.2. The weir was oriented north-east-south west on the Corve which flows from east to west at this point. It measured 19m in length and varied in width from 3.5m at the south-west end to 4.5m at the north-east end, and 1.3m in height (Fig. 15). The weir had originally been constructed from a clay core with rammed stone setts forming the weir ramp. The crest had been rebuilt with concrete but was probably originally stone. There was a large breach in the weir ramp at the northernmost end, and two smaller breaches forming centrally on the weir crest.



*Fig. 2 The weir viewed from the north Photo CPAT 4684-030*





*Fig. 3 The weir viewed from the north-east Photo CPAT 4684-010*



*Fig. 4 Detail of the setts used to construct the weir ramp Photo CPAT 4684-074*





*Fig. 5 Damage to the structure of the north-east end of the weir Photo CPAT 4684-004*

- 3.3. The owner of the associated stables allowed access to photograph the two surviving buildings recorded on 1820 mapping within the stable yard. The owner confirmed that the sluice gate for the mill leat was still extant, albeit deeply buried behind bankside reinforcement and that the section of the leat running across the yard had been backfilled.
- 3.4. The smaller of these two buildings comprised a low, single storey building with a brick rear wall, but largely constructed from wood.



*Fig. 6 South-eastern most building recorded on 1820 map, viewed from the north-east Photo CPAT 4684-072*

- 3.5. To the north-west was a larger building, originally built from stone but largely rebuilt in brick with a central passageway and an unusual curved passageway incorporated into the south-east corner. This detail is recorded on the 1885 map.



*Fig. 7 North-west building recorded on 1820 map viewed from the east Photo CPAT 4684-069*



*Fig. 8 Curved passageway on south-east corner of building Photo CPAT 4684-063*



## 4 Watching Brief

- 4.1. The watching brief during the removal of the centre section of the weir was conducted on the 18 September 2019 in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) (2014) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2017). Plans and sections of the weir are provided in Figs 15-17 at the end of the report.
- 4.2. The groundworks involved the removal of a section from the centre of the weir, approximately 10m in width. The remaining ends of the weir were then battered back and landscaped (Fig. 16). The excess material was incorporated into the riverbanks on either side of the river. The weir was excavated layer by layer in order to allow the water level behind the weir to reduce in a controlled manner.
- 4.3. Seven contexts were assigned. The weir ramp was constructed using stone setts (1) and (2). The setts at the south-west end of the ramp (1) were distinctly smaller than those used to construct the central and north-east ends of the weir (2). The stonework forming the crest of the weir had been replaced with concrete (3). Underlying this was the core of the weir formed from a reddish stony clay (5). This core material was stabilised by a series of timber beams (7) 2m-2.25m in length and approximately 0.25m in width, laid across the river bed and retained in position by iron tipped wooden stakes (6) (see Fig. 14). Behind the weir, a layer of silt and gravel (4) had built up within the mill pond.



*Fig. 9 North-east facing section through the weir Photo CPAT 4684-079*



*Fig. 10 The south-west end of the weir showing the smaller size of the setts used to construct this end of the structure Photo CPAT 4684-081*

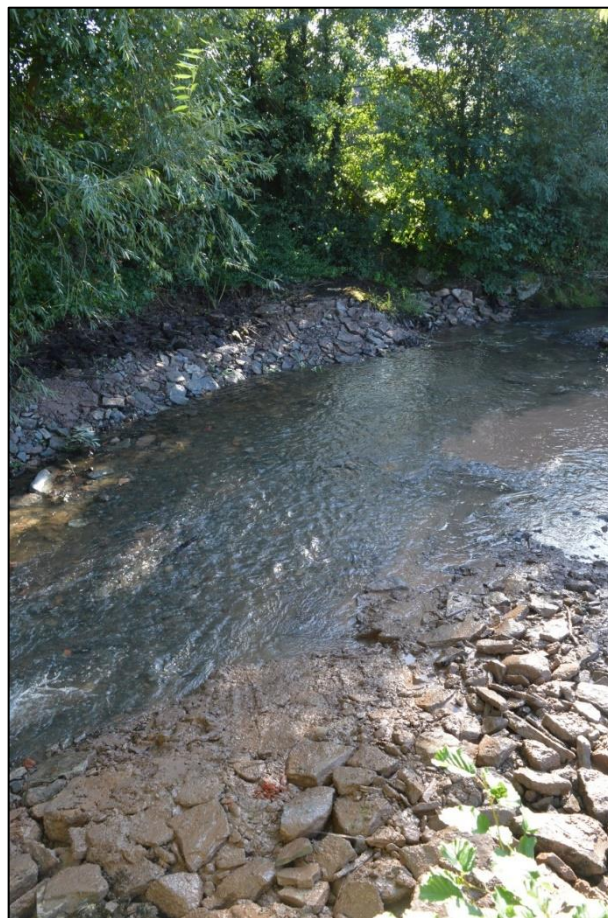


*Fig. 11 View from the north-east showing the construction of the weir ramp Photo CPAT 4684-082*

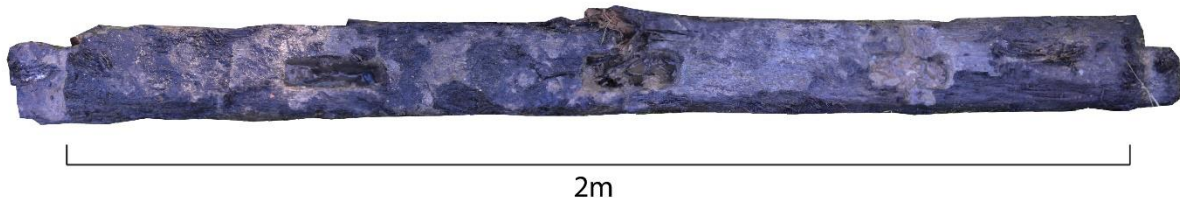




*Fig. 12 View from the north-east showing the stakes used to retain the timber bracing Photo CPAT 4684-083*



*Fig. 13 The weir following removal of the centre section, viewed from the north-east Photo CPAT 4684-088*



*Fig. 14 Reused timber beam*

## 5 Conclusions

- 5.1. The removal of the Linney Weir took place whilst the river was still flowing over it which obscured some of the details of the construction method. It was, however, still possible to determine the method and possibly the phases of construction for the weir, based on the results of this watching brief.
- 5.2. The weir structure was formed from a dump of clay and stone, retained in position by a series of timber beams laid across the watercourse and retained by iron tipped wooden stakes, positioned approximately 1.5m apart. These beams were quite varied in form, some were roughly hewn with a round section, whereas some were reused building timbers. These were laid directly onto the riverbed and had not been cut down into it.
- 5.3. The dam had evidently been constructed in two parts with the river flow redirected down one side of the watercourse. The use of much smaller setts to construct a five metre section on the south-west end of the structure would seem to indicate that this section was built after the main section was completed.
- 5.4. No evidence could be found for an earlier weir structure on the site in this location.

## 6 Sources

### **Documentary sources**

1820 Counterpart lease of the Weir Mill and Meadow, Ludlow (Shropshire Archives reference LB/4/1/1707)

### **Unpublished sources**

Jones, N. W., Logan, W. and Watson, S., 2019. *Linney Weir, Ludlow, Shropshire: Heritage Impact Assessment*. Unpublished report. CPAT Report No. 1681

### **Cartographic sources**

1885 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1st edition Shropshire 78.7.20

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## 7 Archive deposition Statement

- 7.1. 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 which is wholly digital will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record, Shropshire Council.

### **Archive summary**

1 watching brief visit form

88 digital photographs, CPAT film no 4684



## Appendix 1: CPAT WSI 2090

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) has been invited by Colin Roberts of Fishtek Consulting to undertake a Photographic Survey and Watching Brief on behalf of the Severn Rivers Trust at Linney Weir on the River Corve, Ludlow, Shropshire (Fig. 1; SO 5088 7511).



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Fig. 1 Site location

- 1.2. The work relates to a planning application (19/02540/FUL) to partially remove the Linney Weir structure on the River Corve to allow full and safe fish passage for migratory fish up and down the River Corve/Teme. The current weir structure will be narrowed down to original river bed level from its existing 18m to an open trapezoidal channel approximately 9m wide.
- 1.3. The proposed development site lies just outside the medieval town of Ludlow on the River Corve, opposite the site of Corve Mill, a fulling mill of medieval date, and there is likely to have been a weir here associated with the mill. The weir and footbridge here are also shown on the early 19th century mapping of the area.



1.4. In view of the above, Shropshire Council advised the following:

**RECOMMENDATION:** In relation to Paragraph 199 of the NPPF (Revised July 2018) and Policy MD13 of the SAMDev component of the Shropshire Local Plan, it is advised that a programme of archaeological work be made a condition of any planning permission for the proposed development. This programme of archaeological work should comprise a Level 1 Photographic Survey (as defined in Historic England's 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice', 2016) of the existing structure, to be carried out before development starts, and a watching brief during ground works associated with the development. An appropriate condition of any such consent would be:- Suggested Conditions: 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.

Reason: The site is known to hold archaeological interest.

## 2 Objectives

2.1. The objectives are:

- to provide a detailed photographic record of the building demonstrating its architectural style and present state prior to alteration by development.
- to prepare a digital plan detailing the locations of all photographs.
- to undertake a watching brief during groundworks
- to prepare a report detailing the results from the fieldwork

## 3 Methodology

### Desk-top study

- 3.1. The rapid desk-top will be undertaken to inform the Heritage Impact Assessment and provide background information for the survey and watching brief.
- 3.2. All cartographic sources consulted will be included within the desktop section of the report, together with transcriptions of relevant documents and copies of plans, maps and photographs containing relevant information, subject to any copyright restrictions.

### Photographic Survey

- 3.3. The survey will be conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2014).
- 3.4. The survey will take the form of the equivalent to an Historic England Photographic Survey - Understanding Historic Buildings (2016, 5.5, p.27), and will include:
- Description and photographic record of the weir
- 3.5. The drawn record will be created which it has been assumed can be based on existing drawings. These will be checked and annotated/amended as appropriate using conventional measured survey. The end result will include:
- Ground plan, including the locations of photographs
- 3.6. The photographic survey will be conducted using digital photography with a minimum resolution of 12 mega pixels to include:

- general views
- elevations and structural detail
- overall appearance
- setting

## Watching Brief

3.7. The watching brief will be conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014). The watching brief will be undertaken to monitor groundworks associated with the construction of the new extension. The excavation of any archaeological features or deposits will be undertaken by hand using the conventional techniques for archaeological excavation:

- The presence or absence of archaeological features encountered during the ground works will be noted.
- Where features of archaeological interest are identified during the ground works they will be systematically investigated by hand with sufficient work being undertaken to determine their date, character and function, using the conventional techniques for archaeological excavation and in accordance with CIfA Standard and Guidance.
- All features will be located as accurately as possible on an overall plan of the development at an appropriate scale, showing boundaries depicted on Ordnance Survey mapping.
- Contexts will be recorded on individual record forms, using a continuous numbering system, and be drawn and photographed as appropriate.
- Plans will be drawn on permatrace to a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50, as appropriate.
- All photography will be taken using a digital SLR camera with a minimum resolution of 12 mega pixels, including a metric scale in each view, with views logged in a photographic register.
- In the event of human burials being discovered the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) will be informed. The remains will initially be left in situ, and if removal is required, a MoJ licences will be applied for under the Burial Act 1857.
- In the event of finding any artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasures Act 1996, the appropriate procedures under this legislation will be followed.

## Post-excavation and reporting

3.8. All artefacts and environmental samples will be treated in a manner appropriate to their composition and a sampling strategy will be developed as appropriate:

- All stratified finds will be collected by context, or where appropriate, individually recorded in three dimensions. Unstratified finds will only be collected where they contribute significantly to the project objectives or are of particular intrinsic interest.
- All finds and samples will be collected, processed, sorted, quantified, recorded, labelled, packed, stored, marked, assessed, analysed and conserved in a manner appropriate to their composition and in line with appropriate guidance.
- arrangements to assess and study any artefacts, assemblages and environment samples.
- Any artefacts recovered during the watching brief will be deposited with an appropriate museum, subject to the permission of the owner.

3.9. Following the on-site work an illustrated report will be prepared containing conventional sections to include:

- Non-technical summary
- Introduction
- Site location

- 
- Archaeological Background
  - Watching brief
  - Conclusions
  - References
  - Appropriate appendices on archives and finds

### Site archive

- 3.10. The overall archive will conform to guidelines described in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE), Historic England 2015, the CIfA (2014) *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*.
- 3.11. The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the Shropshire Museums Service, including a copy of the final report. This archive will include all written, drawn, survey and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

### Report

- 3.12. Following the on-site work an illustrated report will be prepared containing conventional sections to include:
- Non-technical summary
  - Introduction
  - Site location
  - Archaeological Background
  - Evaluation
  - Conclusions
  - References
  - Appropriate appendices on archives and finds

## 4 Resources and programming

- 4.1. The assessment will be undertaken by a team of skilled archaeologists under the overall supervision of Nigel Jones, 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 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).
- 4.2. All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist(s) who conducted the fieldwork.
- 4.3. It is anticipated that the report will be prepared immediately upon the completion of the watching brief. At present CPAT would be in a position to undertake the work during August 2019, subject to the receipt of sufficient advanced notice from the client.
- 4.4. Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 4.5. CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance, as well as Professional Indemnity insurance.

S Watson

30/07/2019

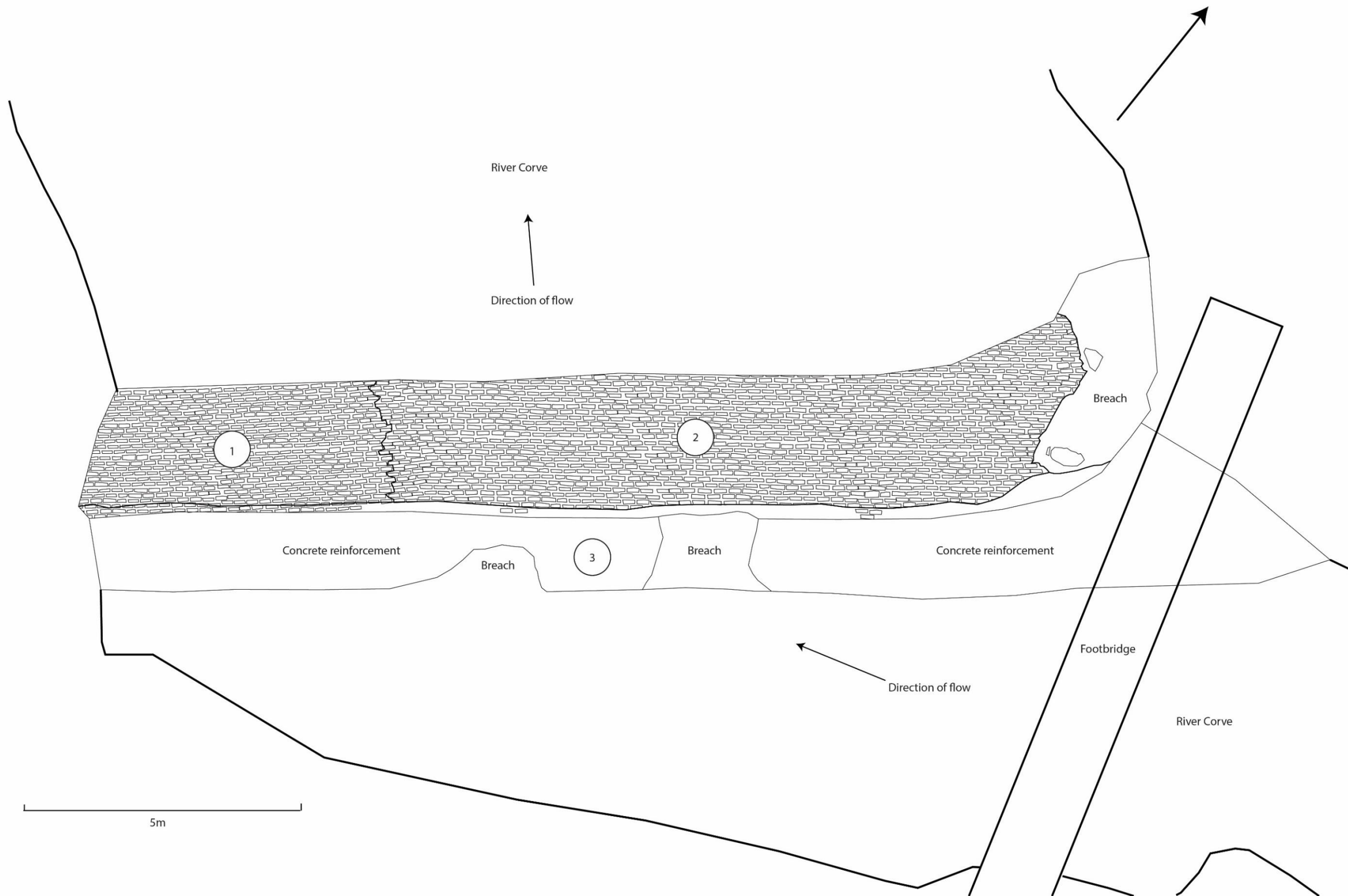


Fig. 15 Plan of the weir





Fig. 16 Plan following removal of the central section of the weir

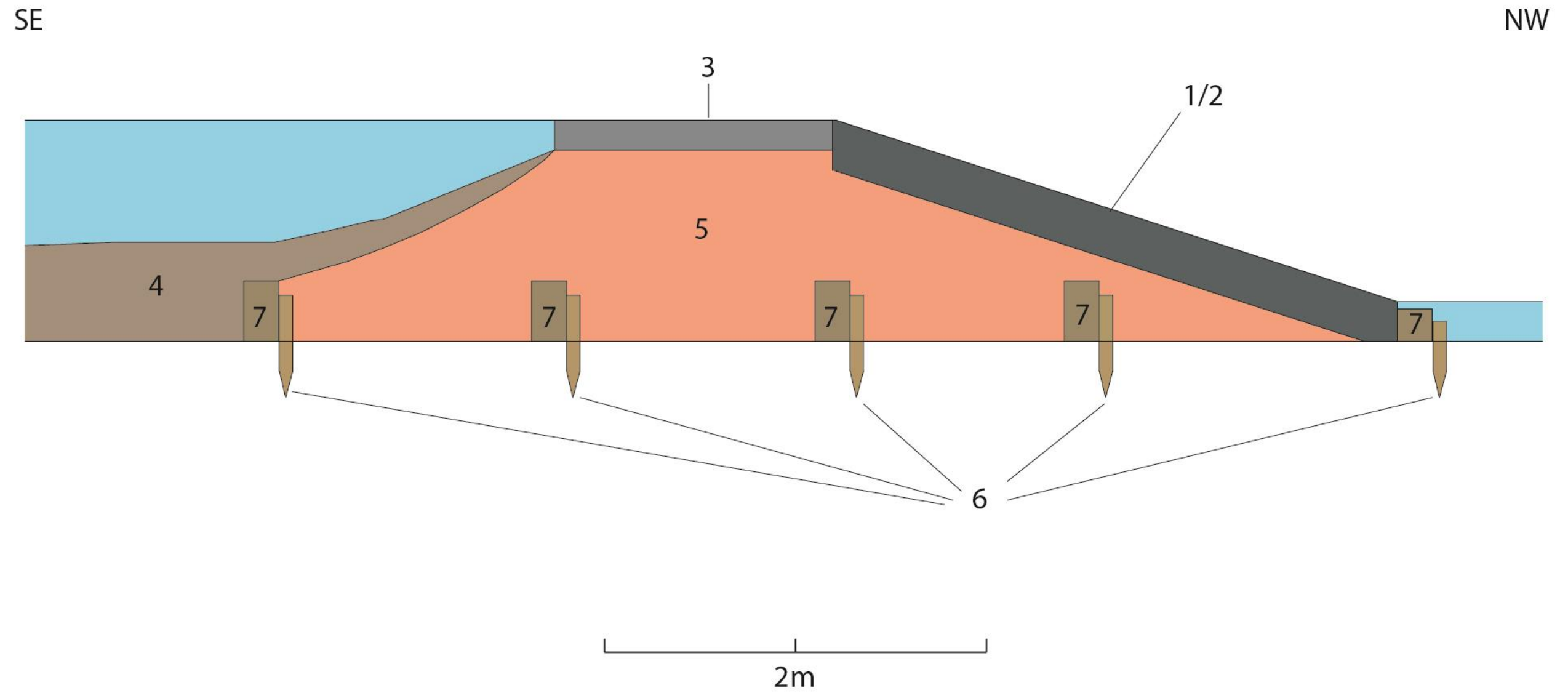


Fig. 17 Schematic cross-section through the weir