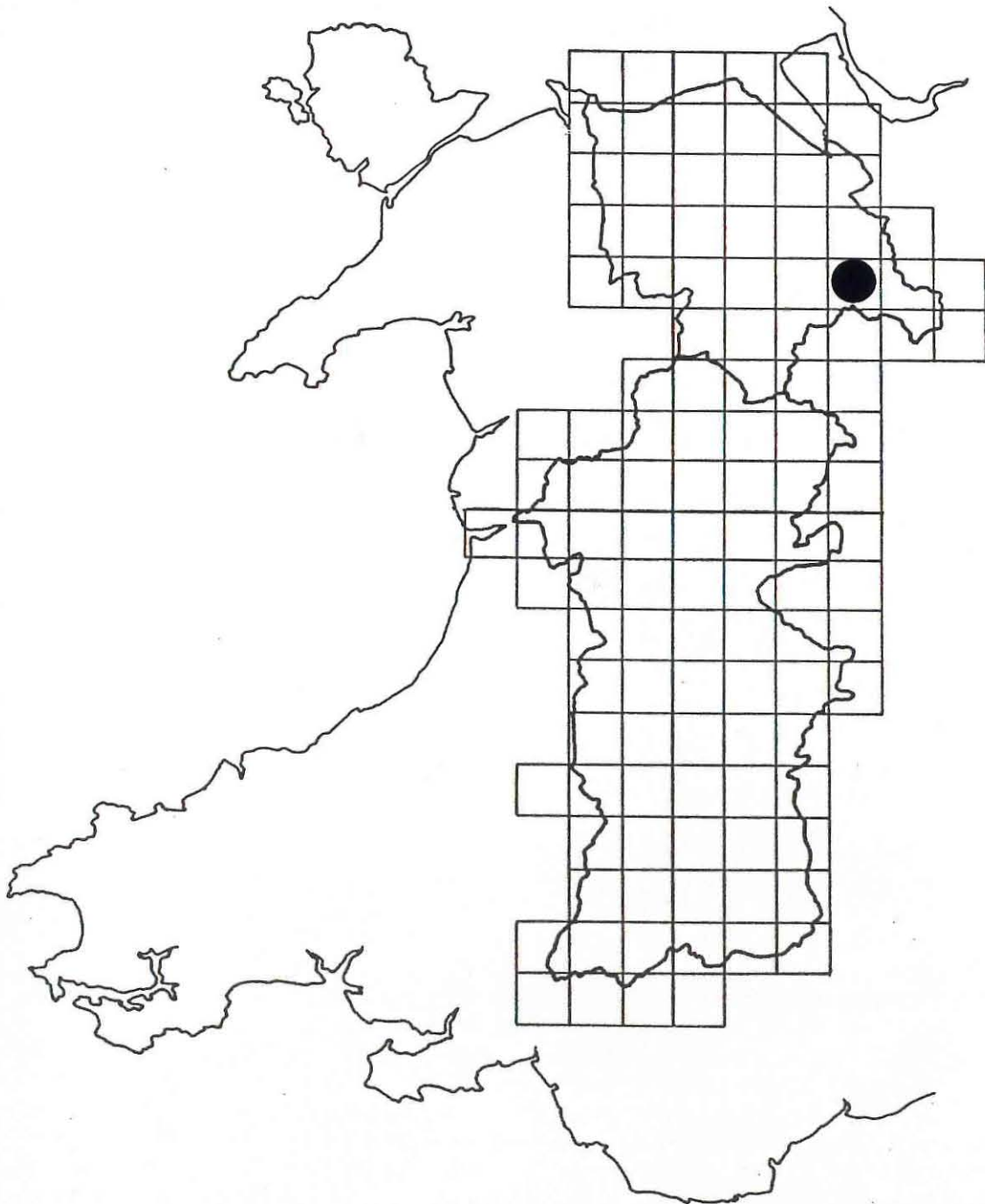


# *The Wrexham Water Company Conjunctive Use Scheme*

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED ROUTE



CPAT Report No 20

*The Wrexham Water Company  
Conjunctive Use Scheme*

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED ROUTE

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February 1992

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## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust was commissioned in December 1991, by the Wrexham and East Denbighshire Water Company through their consulting engineers, Sir William Halcrow and Partners Ltd, to carry out an archaeological field assessment of the pipeline to be constructed under the Wrexham Water Company Conjunctive Use Scheme during 1992-93.
- 1.2 The field survey requested was carried out in January 1992 and this report prepared immediately afterwards.

## **2 Location**

- 2.1 The 16m-wide works corridor defined by Halcrow Consulting Engineers consists of the pipeline itself and an easement required for its construction and maintenance. This corridor extends for a total distance of approximately 7380m from Ty Mawr Reservoir (SJ27234803) to Marchwiel Reservoir (SJ34604860) and passes through the communities of Esclusham, Erddig, and Marchwiel in the district of Wrexham Maelor.
- 2.2 In addition, a feeder pipe some 330m in length is planned to run from the main pipeline northwards to Erddig through Erddig Park.

## **3 Topography and Land-Use**

- 3.1 The proposed route passes predominantly through a gently undulating landscape with relatively steep contours occurring only to the east and west of the Gefeillau Brook (SJ34054835) in the community of Marchwiel.
- 3.2 The pattern of land-use is almost entirely agricultural and it is clear that over much of the area the field cultivation has in the past and continues to be intensive, an observation which has an important bearing on the survival of the archaeology contained in these areas.

## **ARCHAEOLOGY**

## **4 Methodology**

- 4.1 In response to an initial approach by Halcrow Consulting Engineers in October 1991, the County Sites and Monuments Record held by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust produced a catalogue of known archaeology in the vicinity of the proposed corridor. Subsequently, further information was provided by Clwyd County Council's Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.2 For the present assessment, two further lines of enquiry were followed to gauge the archaeological implications of the proposed pipeline scheme and the impact of pipeline construction:



- a) The examination of black and white vertical and oblique aerial photography of the proposed route where available, with particular attention being given to those sections in the vicinity of known archaeological sites.
  - b) The examination of the pipeline and its immediate surroundings by systematic fieldwork.
- 4.3 Within the constraints of the time available to carry out this work we are satisfied that any visible archaeology would have been detected.

## **5 General Considerations**

- 5.1 No new archaeological sites or monuments were detected as a result of fieldwork, although examination of the aerial photography suggested that further landscape features existed in Erddig Park.
- 5.2 The proposed pipeline route and/or its feeder to Erddig passes directly through three known archaeological sites, two of which are Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM):
- 1 Offa's Dyke: PRN 104800; SAM De 137
  - 2 Wat's Dyke: PRN 101513; SAM De 152
  - 3 An area of medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation strips in Erddig Park to the south of Erddig: PRN 105078
- 5.3 Several other known archaeological sites occur close to the route (as noted in 4.1 above, listed in Annex 1; see also fig. 1). It is reasonable to suppose that in their vicinity hitherto undiscovered archaeology might be present which would could be identified only after topsoil stripping.
- 5.4 The corridor section between Offa's Dyke to the west and the A483 trunk road to the east (SJ 2990 4813 - SJ 3120 4770) is of particular interest in this respect. Adjacent to the corridor in this area (which includes Offa's Dyke, previously noted above) are three other scheduled ancient monuments:
- 1 Llyntro Moated Site: PRN 101237; SAM De 193
  - 2 Hafod y Bwch Round Barrow: PRN 101238; SAM De 47
  - 3 Croes Foel Round Barrow: PRN 101236; SAM De 48

In addition to these monuments another probable barrow of prehistoric origin, now showing only as a soilmark (PRN 105077), has been recorded and it is a reasonable assumption that further sites could be discovered in this area.

- 5.5 The corridor section to the south of Erddig (SJ 3260 4785 - SJ 3288 4808) contains an extensive system of ridge-and-furrow cultivation, probably of medieval date. This is clearly visible on the ground. Aerial photography indicates the presence of a droveway apparently contemporary with the cultivation strips. Aerial photography also suggests that in an area close to the proposed pipeline route the ridge and furrow and the droveway were superseded by later features marking the former presence of formally laid out gardens.

- 5.6 Notwithstanding the clear importance of the two areas noted under 5.4 and 5.5 (above), it should be stressed that other areas traversed by the proposed pipeline might also yield hitherto undetected sites of archaeological interest.

## **6 Conclusions and Recommendations**

- 6.1 Visible surface archaeology within the defined limits of the proposed pipeline construction works is present in three locations:

- 1 Offa's Dyke (at SJ 2990 4813)
- 2 Wat's Dyke (SJ 3250 4784)
- 3 Medieval ridge and furrow and possible garden features to the south of Erddig (SJ 3260 4785 - SJ 3288 4808)

- 6.2 As Offa's Dyke and Wat's Dyke are Scheduled Ancient Monuments, it is assumed that in each case a course of action, appropriate to their status, has or will be agreed with Cadw.

- 6.3 Prior to the commencement of on-site works, a drawn record should be made of those blocks of ridge and furrow likely to be damaged or destroyed by operations on the pipeline corridor. The opportunity should also be taken to examine and if necessary record the profile of and section across any block of ridge and furrow cut through during the operations.

- 6.4 With reference to the scheduled moated site, Llyntro Moat (PRN 101237), the pipeline corridor passes close to but does not impinge directly on the visible earthworks. We would emphasise the need for a comprehensive watching brief in this area during initial topsoil stripping and during the subsequent excavation of the pipeline.

- 6.4 Elsewhere, no surface archaeology was observed. Nevertheless, in some places archaeological features may be present and might be detected below topsoil level. It is recommended on this basis that a watching brief be kept at the time of topsoil stripping particularly along those sections that are in close proximity to known archaeological sites. (fig. 1). Should archaeologically significant features be detected at this stage, a suitable archaeological response should be made in advance of further construction work.



## Annex 1

### Catalogue of Archaeological Sites in the Vicinity of the Proposed Pipeline

	<i>Site Name</i>	<i>NGR</i>	<i>PRN</i>	<i>CAR No</i>
1	Caer Groes	SJ 2294 4823	101513	1465
2	Offa's Dyke	SJ 2990 4813	104800	60116c
3	Esclusham Ind Corn Mill	SJ 2961 4820	105076	6320
4	Llyntro Moated Site	SJ 3042 4819	101237	1170
5	Croes Foel Round Barrow	SJ 3070 4810	101236	1169
6	Croes Foel Ring Ditch	SJ 3079 4815	105077	1802
7	Hafod y Bwch Round Barrow	SJ 3086 4768	101238	1171
8	Hafod y Bwch House	SJ 3100 4785	101242	1175
9	Wat's Dyke	SJ 3250 4785	101513	60009j
10	Erddig House Ridge and Furrow	SJ 3260 4785 SJ 3288 4808	105078	1895
11	Erddig Park House	SJ 3259 4823	101241	1174
12	Sontley Axe	SJ 3395 4851	101234	1167



Fig 1 Archaeological Sites and Sensitive Areas

