

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Mwrog Street Flood Alleviation Scheme, Ruthin

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

CPAT Report No 479

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Mwrog Street Flood Alleviation Scheme, Ruthin

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

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Report for Parsons Brinckerhoff Ltd

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Denbighshire County Council have been concerned about flooding on Mwrog Street in the western part of Ruthin, leading to the inundation of residential and commercial properties in the vicinity. This led to Parsons Brinckerhoff Ltd being commissioned to consider and evaluate a range of options for flood alleviation in the area. Following discussions with the National Assembly (NAFW) and a public consultation exercise, Option 2 (Stream Diversion) was selected as the preferred option.
- 1.2 In mid April 2002, the Contracts Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (hereafter CPAT Contracting), were invited to submit a tender for a desk-top assessment, based on a brief prepared by Mrs F. Gale, County Archaeologist for Denbighshire (brief unnumbered; dated April 2002) for Parsons Brinckerhoff Ltd. A tender and specification (see Appendix 1) were prepared on 17 April 2002 and these were accepted by Parsons Brinckerhoff Ltd on 9 May 2002. Subsequently, on 22 May 2002 CPAT Contracting was invited to revise its quote, to enable the desk-based study to be expanded into a full impact assessment for input into an Environment Statement. No new brief was provided to inform this additional work, and the methodology adopted for this revised programme was based on the approach adopted by CPAT Contracting for earlier, but unrelated Environmental Statement reports.
- 1.3 Both the desk-top and field study elements of the assessment were conducted in late May due to the tight timetable of the project programme.

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The archaeological and historic landscape assessment of a proposed project such as the Mwrog Street Flood Alleviation Scheme will in normal circumstances follow a set of well-established procedures which in this instance are partially outlined in the brief from the County Archaeologist.
- 2.2 The desk-top element of the assessment will normally integrate evidence – cartographic, documentary and photographic (usually in the form of aerial photography) – held in a range of archives and other repositories to create what might be termed a ‘picture’ of the archaeology and historic landscape of the area in which the project will be conducted. The archives can range from those of national standing through to small local repositories, and in this case the primary archives were the National Monuments Record held in Aberystwyth, the regional Sites and Monuments Record held in Welshpool, and the National Library of Wales, also in Aberystwyth. Regrettably the main, local repository, the Denbighshire Record Office is currently undergoing refurbishment and is closed for enquiries. A full list of the archives consulted, together with the relevant material held in them can be found in Appendix 3.
- 2.3 The second stage is a fieldwork examination of the development area to identify, where possible, and to assess those archaeological and historic landscape elements that were recorded during the desk-top work, and also to examine the landscape for other visible features that for one reason or another did not appear in any of the desk-top sources. For the Mwrog Street scheme the fieldwork was completed, though in far from ideal conditions because many of the fields have been left for a silage or hay crop and were too overgrown for accurate field observations.
- 2.4 The third stage – the report – draws on the results of the desk-top study and the field survey to define the historic and archaeological elements of the landscape in the project area. It does not, however, feature a comprehensive map regression analysis as recommended in the original brief, because the assessment of the historic cartography did not suggest that there was anything to be gained from such an exercise. What are incorporated into this stage of the work are mitigation measures to reduce or negate

the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource and, where appropriate, to lessen its effect on the setting of archaeological and historic monuments that lie close to its boundaries.

3 LOCATION and TOPOGRAPHY (Fig. 1)

- 3.1 The proposed flood alleviation scheme, to the west and north of Ruthin, requires the construction of a channel tangentially across the flood plain of the River Clwyd (Afon Clwyd), running from the Mwrog Stream opposite Llanwrog church (at SJ 11425793) to the Clwyd itself a little to the south-east of Plas-y-Ward (at SJ 12066022). The proposed northern section follows existing drains, while further south the new drain runs parallel to existing hedge boundaries or across fields.
- 3.2 The flood plain is a flat low-lying area, more than one kilometer wide. Southwards the low ridge on which Ruthin was established rises above the levels and barely deflects the river's course, although it does act as a backdrop to the levels when viewed from the north (Soulsby 1983, 232). The valley floor though flat has a micro-topography of its own: old watercourses (palaeochannels) and the silt ridges beside them provide an uneven surface, clearly evident on the ground and also from the air.
- 3.3 Towards the southern end of its proposed course the new drain angles past the Maes Hafod housing estate and passes close to the edge of the flood plain, the valley slope rising immediately to the west.
- 3.4 The fields through which the drain passes are exclusively given over to pasture or are left for silage or hay crops. The exceptions are where it passes industrial premises in the central section of its course.

4 ARCHAEOLOGY and THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

- 4.1 Ostensibly, the plain of Afon Clwyd, because of its nature and proclivity to flood, has been avoided by earlier settlement as the dearth of topographical detail and the ring of farms – Caerfallen, Plas-y-Ward, Plas Einws and others - on the early 19th-century Ordnance Surveyor's survey drawing implies. That this is not wholly the case, however, is indicated by the construction of post-medieval farms such as Plas-y-Ward (late 18th century) in positions that barely rise above the general ground level on the flood plain, and also by one or two of the features recorded during the study.
- 4.2 Ruthin itself, on the other hand, has a long history. Evidence of Roman activity and perhaps early medieval burials have been found in the Brynhyfryd Park area in the residential eastern portion of the town. Prior to the Edwardian Conquest in the 13th century, a Welsh settlement here was probably the administrative centre (*maerdref*) for the commote of Dyffryn Clwyd, the modern Wells Street formerly being Welsh Street. Ruthin Castle was constructed immediately after 1277 when the area came under Edward I's control, and a town was laid out around it, achieving borough status in 1282 or soon after. St Peter's church was founded as a chapel at the same time, but was rebuilt in 1310 as a collegiate church, and other evidence suggests that the town expanded rapidly in the early 14th century. Sacked by Glyndwr in 1400, the town recovered quickly, but in the following century it went into decline, though from 1536 it functioned as one of the county towns of Denbighshire.
- 4.3 Immediately to the north-west of the town of Ruthin and north of the Maes Hafod estate is at least one but perhaps as many as four prehistoric barrows (Fig. 1; PRN 81777), presumably of Bronze Age date. One is clearly recognisable on aerial photographs, although whether a mound still survives cannot be established at present because of the vegetation conditions. The others are less distinct on the photos and other excavation is likely to confirm or refute the interpretation. Two similar barrows were recognised some years ago in Station Field, Rhewl, a few hundred metres to the west of the northern end of the proposed flood alleviation scheme (Fig. 1; PRNs 100614-5), and these have now been scheduled as ancient monuments of national importance.

- 4.4 The presence of barrows in these two localities indicates that this landscape, low-lying though it is, was attractive to prehistoric communities. It seems likely, then, that settlement or other activity, as well as burial, occurred on the valley floor in some periods of the prehistoric era.
- 4.5 Even more than today the levels traversed by the proposed drainage channel were in previous centuries sub-divided into small ditched plots tenanted by numerous different people, even if the whole area was owned by one member of the Myddleton family (at least in the 19th century). The physical remains include low boundary banks with thorn trees and occasionally other deciduous species, drainage ditches, stone-built culverts beneath field access ways, and gateposts of limestone blocks, and on the flood plain edge, holloways. Not surprisingly, many of these plots were meadows, given over to hay production as the Tithe Apportionment makes clear. At what point in time this landscape was divided up in this way is unknown. The straight stretch of the channel, immediately south of Plas-y-Ward served as the parish boundary between Llanynys and Ruthin and this might suggest it was of some antiquity, but the fact that the boundary then picked up another, more sinuous ditch running on a different alignment, hints at the likelihood that the field patterns were not altogether fixed. At some point the valley floor underwent a degree of planning and the ground was broken into multiple banked or ditched plots and, possibly at the same time, Afon Clwyd a little further east was canalized, its course being artificially straightened. When all this happened it is impossible to determine it could have been no earlier than the 16th or 17th century.
- 4.6 Brick production in the 19th century, though not necessarily at an earlier date, is revealed in the vicinity of the present Brickhouse Farm. In 1840 one of the fields was even then known as 'Cae Bricks', and later in the century the main brick pits and the ancillary buildings associated with it were shown on contemporary maps (Fig. 3). By 1900, however, the brickworks appear to have gone out of use and Brickfield Farm had developed from what had previously been a house or cottage associated with the brickworks. The present farm building is almost but not quite on the site of its predecessor. The areas of the brickworks now functions as a yard and no visible traces of the 19th-century industrial activity are now immediately apparent.
- 4.7 The Vale of Clwyd railway ran from Denbigh down to Ruthin and cut across the valley floor. Opened in 1862, its date of closure has not been established, although it is reasonable to assume a date in the 1960s. Much of its line in the immediate vicinity of the flood alleviation scheme has now been removed and its course is barely evident. However, elements of the infrastructure, particularly some of the bridges have been retained, including one that carries the railway across the drain which will be adapted for the proposal.
- 4.8 One small earthwork was recorded near the Maes Hafod estate. Showing as a slight depression with a rim of spoil around its lip, this could be the site of a shallow surface quarry or a pond, or some unidentified feature. Basically, its function and its date are unclear.

5 SITES and SIGNIFICANCE

- 5.1 The results from the documentary, cartographic and field surveys have been combined here to identify those features of potential archaeological significance which are depicted on Figure 1.
- 5.2 Each site, whether identified through the desk-top study or through fieldwork, has been given a Primary Record Number (or PRN), the sequential recording system used in the regional Sites and Monuments Record. These numbers are used on any accompanying plans and also in the text descriptions.
- 5.3 The importance attributed to each site which has been identified in or adjacent to the area of the proposal is given in Table 1. Sites have been graded in importance from A to E, using the following criteria, which have been developed from that used in the Department of Transport's *Design Manual*

for Roads and Bridges (Volume 11, Section 3, Part 2), and also categorised in the *Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments Draft Archaeology and the Trunk Road Programme in Wales: a Manual of Best Practice*.

Category A - Sites which are statutorily designated as being of national importance under the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act* of 1979, or those considered by us to merit such a designation. It is presumed that sites in this category will be preserved and protected *in situ*.

Category B - Sites of regional importance; these are not of sufficient importance to merit a statutory designation but are nevertheless of particular relevance to the understanding of the archaeological resource of the region. Preservation *in situ* is the preferred option for these sites, but if loss or damage is unavoidable, appropriate detailed recording should be undertaken.

Category C - Sites of local importance; these are of lesser merit but are nevertheless useful in understanding the archaeological resource of the local area. These may not be of sufficient importance to justify preservation if threatened, but do merit adequate recording in advance of loss or damage.

Category D - Damaged or minor sites which are of interest but which, due to their condition or nature, are unlikely to provide much significant information on the archaeological resource of the area. For these rapid recording should be sufficient.

Category E - Sites which could not properly be evaluated from the information revealed by this assessment. Some form of further assessment may be required to ensure that these sites can be properly assessed; otherwise, specific mitigation which takes into account the uncertainty of the results of the evaluation should be considered.

Table 1: Archaeological and historic landscape sites within 100m of the proposed route, categorised by importance

Site PRN	Category	Type	Period
81777	A	Round barrow	Bronze Age
81778	C	Brickworks	19 th Century
81788	C	Railway	19 th Century
81780	D	Holloway	Medieval/Post-medieval
81781	D	Holloway	Medieval/Post-medieval
81784	D	Stance	Modern ?
81785	D	Culvert	19 th Century
81786	D	Culvert	19 th Century ?
81787	D	Bridge abutment?	Unknown
81779	E	Earthwork	Unknown
81782	E	Earthwork	Unknown
81783	E	Earthwork	Unknown

6 EVALUATION OF IMPACTS and RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MITIGATION

- 6.1 As a result of the change in the nature and scale of the archaeological assessment (see para 1.2 above), no guidance was available in the original brief as to the evaluation of the impacts of the proposal on the archaeological and historic elements of the landscape. Instead guidance was provided by Parsons Brinckerhoff Ltd in a general statement on impact assessment.
- 6.2 We are informed that the operations corridor for the alleviation scheme is likely to be in the region of 20m. However, in the absence of details of all elements of the infrastructure that relate to the proposal, we have looked at a broader corridor – approximately 100m – and identified the historic elements within it.
- 6.3.1 Table 2 indicates the potential impact of the development on the various features identified in as far as the impact can be assessed, the likely magnitude and the significance of that impact. It is predicted that the impact on elements of the historic landscape will occur during the construction work, but it is unlikely that post-construction works will have much effect. However, it must be stressed that all impacts are irreversible.
- 6.3.2 Site PRN and Site Category in Tables 1 and 2 have been explained above (paras 5.2 and 5.3).
- 6.3.3 The *nature of the impact* attempts to identify whether construction work will affect the site directly through ground disturbance, vehicular intrusion or the like, and is based on the proximity of the feature to the proposed line of the new drainage channel. Where a feature is at some little distance the impact is classed as indirect, reflecting the fact that damage might be inflicted on the site if construction works spread (for whatever reason) beyond the designated corridor. Where a feature is close to the proposed corridor but in an adjacent field which appears to be unaffected by the proposal this is classed as a negligible impact.
- 6.3.4 *Magnitude of the impact* is a measure of the scale of the damage likely to be inflicted in relation to the size of the feature. Thus the impact on a small feature of construction works is likely to be classed as 'high', regardless of its perceived importance, while limited disturbance to a large feature may qualify only as 'low'.
- 6.3.5 *Significance* is used here as an indicator of the perceived importance of the historic landscape feature and what the overall effect of its loss or any damage during construction works would be, taking into account its size and nature, in as far as this can be ascertained.

Table 2: Potential Impacts of the Proposal on the Elements of the Historic Landscape

Site PRN	Category	Nature of impact	Likely magnitude of impact	Significance of any impact
81777	A	Indirect impact	High	Major
81778	C	Direct impact	Low	Minor
81779	E	Direct impact	Medium/High	Moderate?
81780	D	Indirect impact	Low	Minor
81781	D	Direct impact	Low	Minor
81782	E	Negligible impact?	Negligible	Moderate
81783	E	Direct impact	High	Moderate?
81784	D	Direct impact	High?	Minor
81785	D	Direct impact	High	Minor
81786	D	Direct impact	High	Minor
81787	D	Indirect impact	Low	Minor
81788	C	Direct impact	Low	Minor

- 6.3.6 It should be stressed here that the Denbighshire County Archaeologist in her capacity as archaeological curator for the region may also wish to make her own assessment of the impacts of the development, based on the information available to her, and that her views may differ from what is expressed here.
- 6.4.1 It is assumed that a corridor for all construction works will be fenced off as a first stage in the scheme, and that no ground disturbance, infrastructure works or vehicular intrusion will be permitted outside the fenced area.
- 6.4.2 Table 3 lists mitigation measures that are recommended where impacts, direct and indirect, have been identified above. Without exception these measures involve standard practices for identifying, recording or protecting historic landscape features during developments of this kind. These measures may be intrusive in advance of or, where necessary, during construction works (e.g. evaluation) or non-intrusive (e.g. watching brief, site recording).
- 6.4.3 Some potentially interesting features (e.g. PRNs 81778, 81781, 81783) will require carefully scrutiny during the initial construction works, and time may have to be allowed for archaeological recording if the works reveal anything of significance.
- 6.4.4 In view of the potential scale of ground disturbance for the scheme it is recommended that a watching brief (coupled with appropriate recording) be maintained during initial construction works along the whole line of the new drain, in case sub-surface sites or features are uncovered.

Table 3: Recommended Mitigation for Potential Impacts of the Proposal on Elements of the Historic Landscape

Site PRN	Category	Mitigation
81777	A	No construction works of any kind must encroach on the area defined. If necessary the archaeologically sensitive area must be fenced off (under archaeological supervision) before any work commences
81778	C	Watching brief to be maintained during initial construction works in vicinity of former brickworks; some recording work envisaged
81779	E	Part of site will fall within fenced corridor; either corridor will have to be shifted to avoid this feature, or trial excavation will be necessary prior to commencement of any site works with the possibility of full excavation in the event that the trial work is positive.
81780	D	None necessary
81781	D	Watching brief to be maintained during initial construction works; some recording work envisaged
81782	E	None necessary
81783	E	Watching brief to be maintained during initial construction works; recording work envisaged, if mound of interest
81784	D	Watching brief to be maintained during initial construction works
81785	D	Photographic and drawn record before works commence
81786	D	Photographic and drawn record before works commence
81787	D	Photographic record before works commence
81788	C	Watching brief
Total length of drain		Watching brief

7 SUMMARY OF EFFECTS and MITIGATION

- 7.1 One important archaeological site (PRN 81777) has been recognised close to the proposal area, but with adequate care during initial site works its protection can be ensured.
- 7.2 Two earthworks of unknown significance (PRNs 81779 and 81783) and one of known form (PRN 81781) lie wholly or partly within the corridor, and in the case of one (PRN 81779) intrusive evaluation will be required if the corridor cannot be adjusted, but for the others a watching brief should be sufficient during construction works with the proviso that some recording work may be necessary which itself might have an impact on the construction works.
- 7.3 Various minor features which lie on the line of the proposed drain need not be avoided but should be recorded photographically with an accompanying drawn record.
- 7.4 In view of the presence of several prehistoric barrows on the valley floor, the possibility of other sub-surface archaeological remains cannot be discounted. A watching brief should be maintained during initial construction works.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 The writer would like to thank the staff of the following repositories and also the named individuals for their help and assistance:

Flintshire Record Office, Hawarden
National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth
National Monument Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth
Regional SMR, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, Welshpool

Mrs F Gale, Denbighshire County Council
Mr N Jones, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust
Ms S Ryan, Parsons Brinckerhoff Ltd

APPENDIX 1

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN THE VICINITY OF THE PROPOSED FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

PRN: 15420 Craig-y-ddywart quarries NGR: SJ110593
 Type: Quarry Period: Post Medieval ?

Stone quarry shown on published OS map. Quarries were large when photographed in 1947 (RAF CPE UK 1935/1273; 17-01-47).

PRN: 15487 Craig-y-ddywart limekiln NGR: SJ11155923
 Type: Kiln (lime) Period: 20th century

Large limekiln in area of former limestone quarry. (CPAT 1999)

PRN: 19275 Corwen to Rhyl railway disused NGR: SJ109601
 Type: Railway Period: 20th century

Disused railway, part of Corwen to Rhyl line. Closed in 1950/60s.

PRN: 81771 Plas-y-Ward NGR: SJ11856036
 Type: House Period: Post Medieval

Double-pile house, probably late 17th century, according to Smith 1989, fig 149; NMR), but a later comment from the NMR suggests that it could be late 18th century, of plastered stone, with two storeys and attics. Slated, and brick end stacks.

PRN: 81772 Plas Einws NGR: SJ11345994
 Type: House Period: Post Medieval

House, but only surviving ancient features are two chimneys which probably belonged to a timber-framed house. The walls now, however, are 19th century (NMR).

PRN: 81777 Maes Hafod mound NGR: SJ11685864
 Type: Round barrow Period: Bronze Age

A circular soil (or crop)mark, suggestive of a ring ditch. Its appearance on a photograph taken in January is hardly convincing (RAF CPE UK 1935/3273; 17-01-47). However, another AP (RAF F22 58 RAF 1416/0029; 21-04-54) shows a distinctive circular 'blodge' in a ploughed field, together with another two or three smaller and more amorphous features nearby. The 'blodge' and the 'ring ditch' are exactly the same place.

No obvious surface remains, but a slight mound could easily have been hidden beneath the silage crop (RJS 05/06/02).

PRN: 81778 Rhewl brickworks NGR: SJ11725935
Type: Brickworks Period: Post Medieval

Brickworks shown on 1st edition of OS map in 1875, although the name 'Cae bricks' on the Tithe Map suggests earlier development.. By 1900 the brickworks had fallen out of use and Brickfield Farm had emerged.

PRN: 81779 Maes Hafod earthwork NGR: SJ11375858
Type: Earthwork Period: Unknown

Depression about 12m NNE/SSW by 7m by 0.4m deep on upper (NW) side, with spoil rimming hollow particularly on E and S sides. However, from a distance it looks more like a platform. Function unclear; it might be a quarry or a pond, but might have some other function (RJS 05/06/02).

PRN: 81780 Maes Hafod holloway I NGR: SJ11325854
Type: Trackway Period: Medieval

Holloway, at its lower end up to 2m deep and about 6m wide (RJS 05/06/02).

PRN: 81781 Maes Hafod holloway II NGR: SJ11355854
Type: Trackway Period: Medieval

Overgrown holloway, 1-1.5m deep and 4m or more wide (RJS 05/06/02).

PRN: 81782 Maes Hafod platform NGR: SJ11305853
Type: Earthwork Period: Medieval

Platform, largely natural, lying towards base of undulating slope, just above the valley floor. Could be up to 25m long but precise definition is impossible. No clear signs of man-made development but an obvious site for steading (RJS 05/06/02).

PRN: 81783 Mwrog stream mound NGR: SJ11435803
Type: Earthwork Period: Unknown

Ground mounded up and field boundary runs over the top of it. Its size is difficult to estimate because of the vegetation. Probably levee material beside a palaeochannel but could be artificial (RJS 05/06/02).

PRN: 81784 Glasdir hardstanding NGR: SJ11715886
Type: Stance Period: Modern

Packed stone exposed on surface, possibly a platform or stance. Dimension unknown (RJS 05/06/02).

PRN: 81785 Plas Einws railway culvert NGR: SJ11705975
Type: Bridge Period: 19th century

Culvert in limestone rubble with dressed stone for arch; carried stream beneath railway and thus of later 19th-century date. Arch about 1.1m high above water level and 1.2m wide (RJS 05/06/02).

PRN: 81786 Plas-y-Ward culvert NGR: SJ11926014
Type: Bridge Period: Post Medieval

Site of culvert carrying drain below farm track (now gone). 'Abutment' in N bank of drain, and rubble on S side. Another lies upstream at SJ 11896012 and is still functioning (RJS 05/06/02).

PRN: 81787 Plas-y-Ward bridge NGR: SJ12066023
Type: Bridge Period: Post Medieval ?

Bank of Afon Clwyd revetted in limestone, perhaps indicative of a former bridge. Visible on both sides of the river, although that on the W side is more obvious (RJS 05/06/02).

PRN: 81788 Vale of Clwyd disused railway NGR: SJ11725974
Type: Railway Period: 19th century

Denbigh to Ruthin railway opened 1862 (RJS 05/06/02)

PRN: 100614 Rhewl round barrow A NGR: SJ11516032
Type: Round barrow ?Period: Bronze Age

Round barrow A is much spread, but at least 130 paces in circumference, and height 3ft . Three stones measuring around 2ft x 1 and 1/2 ft were removed from the mound around 1909 (Davies, E 1929). Site visited 15/12/1998 when the dimensions were recorded as diameter c. 25m, height 1.5m (CPAT 1998).

PRN: 100615 Rhewl round barrow B NGR: SJ11366038
Type: Round barrow ?Period: Bronze Age

Barrow B - the smaller in circumference of the two recorded as 3.5 ft high (Davies 1929). Site visited 15/12/1998; the smaller of two mounds in pasture field. Dimensions recorded as diameter 20m, height 0.7m (CPAT 1998).

PRN: 101507 Cae Groes Faen placename NGR: SJ11006020
Type: Cross Period: Medieval

No cross visible close to crossroads near Maes Maen Cymro

PRN: 102912 Maes Maen Cymro Battlefield NGR: SJ1160
Type: Battle site Period: Medieval

A battle was fought at Maes Maen Cymro in 1118, when Hywel ab Ithel made war upon his neighbours, the sons of Owain ab Edwin, lords of the cantref of Dyffryn Clwyd. Although Hywel won, he later died of his wounds.

APPENDIX 2

MWROG STREET FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME, RUTHIN, DENBIGHSHIRE SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT BY THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

1 Introduction

- 1.1 An archaeological desk top study is to take place as part of the initial Environmental Impact Assessment for the Mwrog Street Flood Alleviation Scheme, Ruthin, Denbighshire. The proposed development involves the diversion of the present culvert which runs along Mwrog Street, to be replaced by a new route joining the River Clwyd further to the south. A Brief has been prepared by Fiona Gale, County Archaeologist (dated April 2002), which details the works required.
- 1.2 The archaeological potential of the proposed route is unknown and at present no archaeological sites have been recorded in the immediate area.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the assessment are:
 - 2.1.1 to reveal by means of a desk based study, the nature, significance and, where possible, the chronology of the archaeology within the area of the proposed development in so far as these aims are possible;
 - 2.1.2 to prepare a report outlining the results of the assessment, incorporating sufficient information on the archaeological resource for a reasonable planning decision to be taken regarding the future management of the archaeology.

3 Methods

- 3.1 The assessment will involve the examination of all the readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, and photographic sources. Repositories consulted will include the following: County SMR, CPAT, Welshpool; the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth; the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth; County Record Offices, Hawarden and Ruthin.
- 3.2 Following the completion of the desk top study an illustrated and bound report will be prepared according to the principles laid out in the Curatorial Brief. This will be in A4 format and contain conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Historic Background; Archaeological potential; Conclusions and Recommendations and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives and finds. Copies of all relevant cartographic sources will be included, together with copies of photographic or pictorial evidence where possible. Copies of the report will be provided to the Regional SMR held jointly by Denbighshire Archaeology Service and the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust.
- 3.7 The site archive will be prepared to specifications laid out in Appendix 3 in the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991).

4 Resources and Programming

- 4.1 The assessment will be undertaken by Mr RJ Silvester, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

- 4.2 All report preparation will be completed by the same field archaeologist who conducted the assessment.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that the desk top study will be completed within 4 days The report will be completed within 2 weeks of the completion of the desk top study. At present, CPAT would require two weeks written notice before work could commence.
- 4.4 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance.

N.W. Jones
17th April 2002

APPENDIX 3

Archives

The following archives and other repositories were consulted in order to inform the desk-top assessment. Individual sources are detailed below.

Flintshire Record Office, Hawarden (FRO)
National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth (NLW)
National Monument Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth (NMR)
Regional SMR held by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, Bangor (CPAT)

Note:

Denbighshire Record Office at Ruthin is currently closed and inaccessible

Aerial Photographs: Vertical photos

(All held by the NMR, Aberystwyth or the National Assembly of Wales AP Unit, Cardiff). Copyright considerations prevent their reproduction in this report)

1946 (16 January) RAF 3G/TUD/UK35/5253-5
1947 (17 January) RAF CPE UK 1935/1273-4
1947 (13 April) RAF CPE UK 1996/4407-8
1954 (21 April) F22 58 RAF1416/0028-30

Maps: Estate and other Manuscript Plots

1774 Lands of Sir William Bagot, Llanynys parish (*NLW/Map A205 – Bachymbyd 12*)
1780 Part of Gailegfa holding, Llanynys parish (*NLW/Map 7320*)
1819-21 Ordnance Surveyors' survey drawing No 313
1823 (*circa*) Town of Ruthin (*FLO/D/DM/162/35*)
1839 Ruthin Tithe Map and Apportionment (1841)
1840 Llanynys Tithe Map and Apportionment (1841)

Other maps potentially depicting this area but not consulted because unavailable:

1786 Lands in parish of Llanynys (NLW Maps Vol 19)
1813 Pool Park Estate (NLW/ Pool Park Estate Vol1, Map 2)

Maps: Printed

1875 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1st Edition Denbighshire 19.3 & 19.7
1899 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 2nd Edition Denbighshire 19.3
1900 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 2nd Edition Denbighshire 19.7
1989 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 SJ05/15
1990 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 SJ04/14

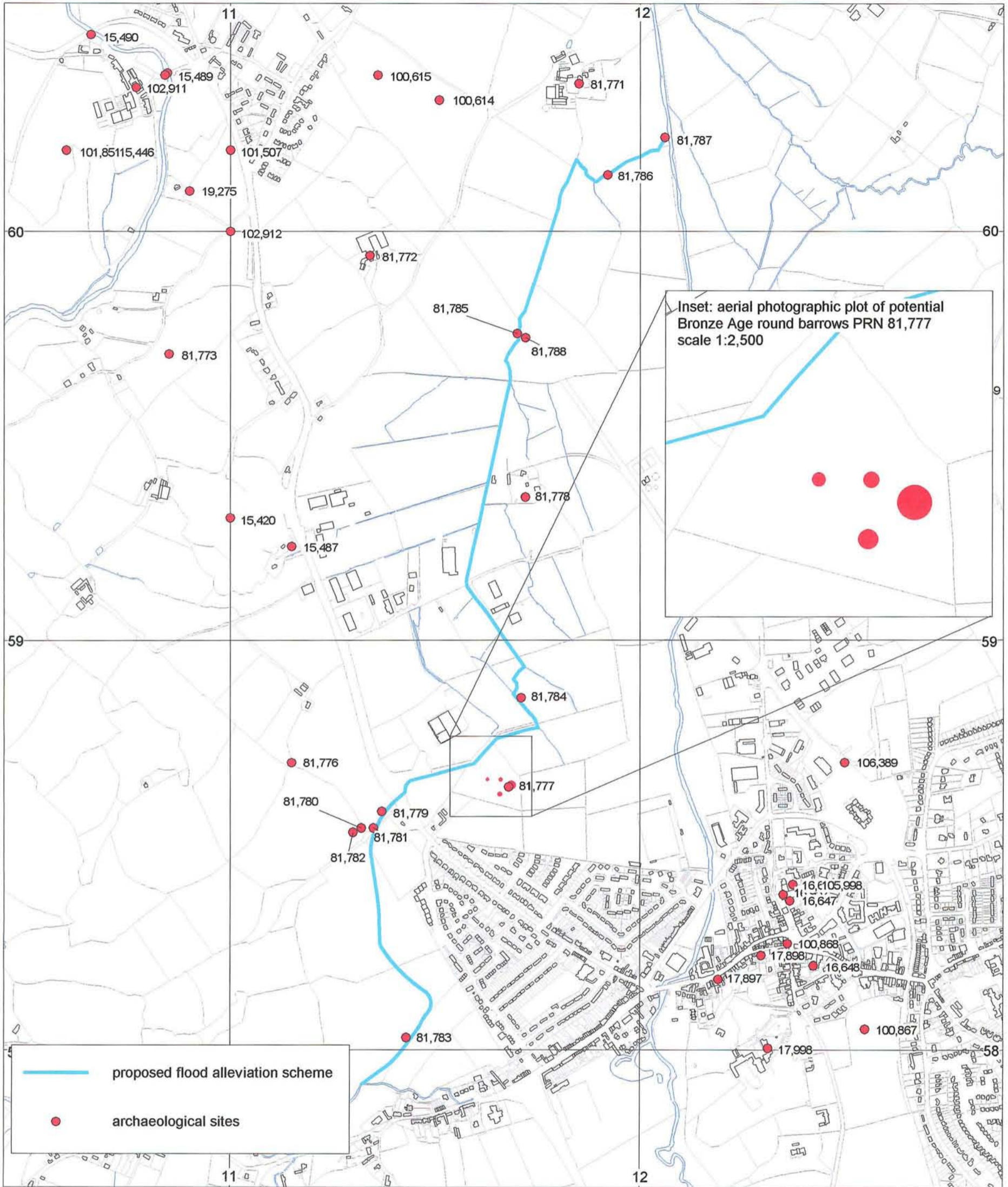
Sources: Secondary Material

Baughan, P C, 1980, *A regional history of the railways of Great Britain. Vol 11. North and mid Wales*, Newton Abbot: David and Charles

Silvester, R J, 1995, *Glyndwr District historic settlements*, Welshpool: CPAT

Soulsby, I, 1983, *The towns of medieval Wales*. Chichester: Phillimore

Fig. 1 Mwrog Street Flood Alleviation Scheme: Archaeological sites. Scale 1:10,000



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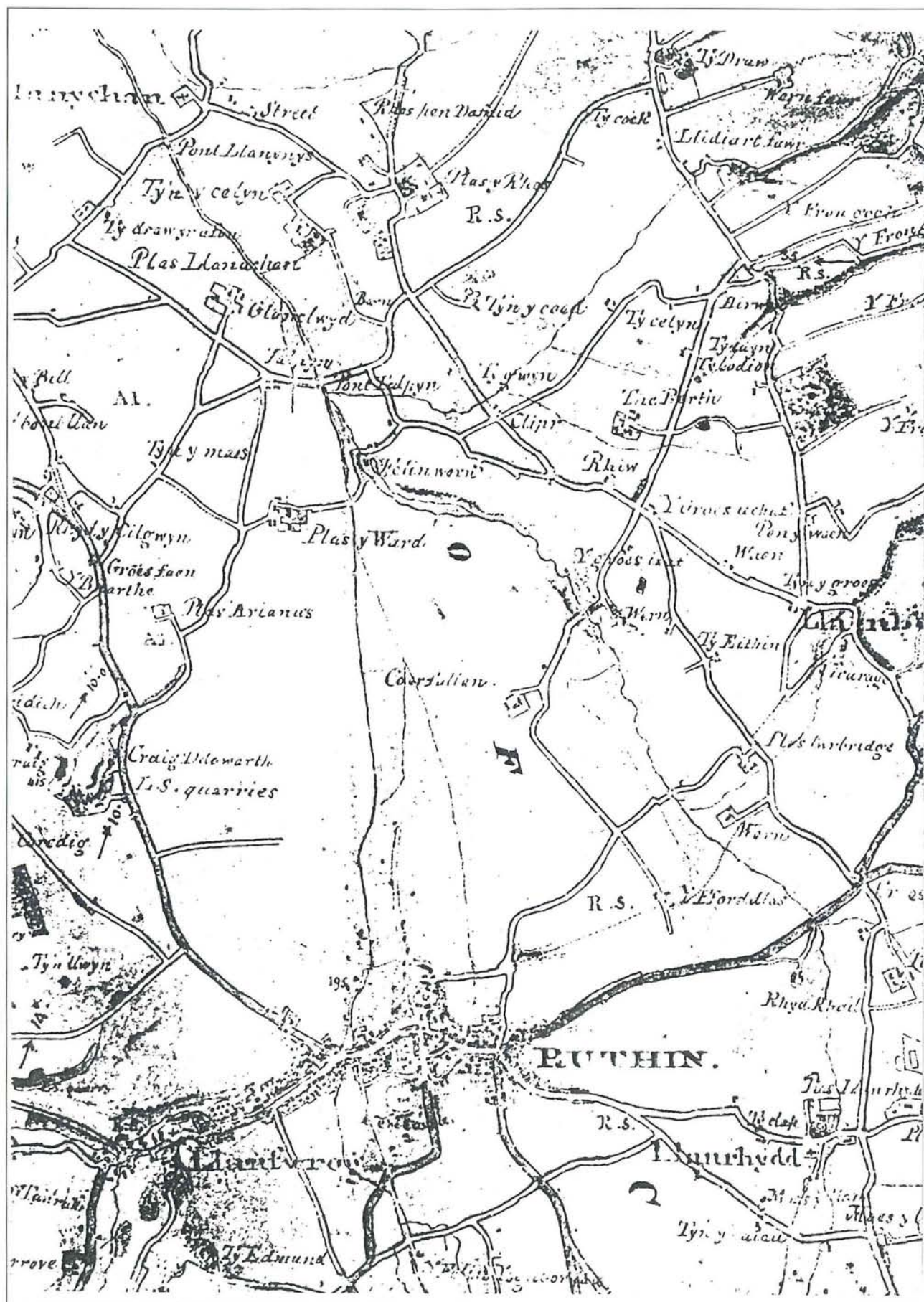


Figure 2: Detail from Ordnance Surveyors' survey drawing of 1819-21

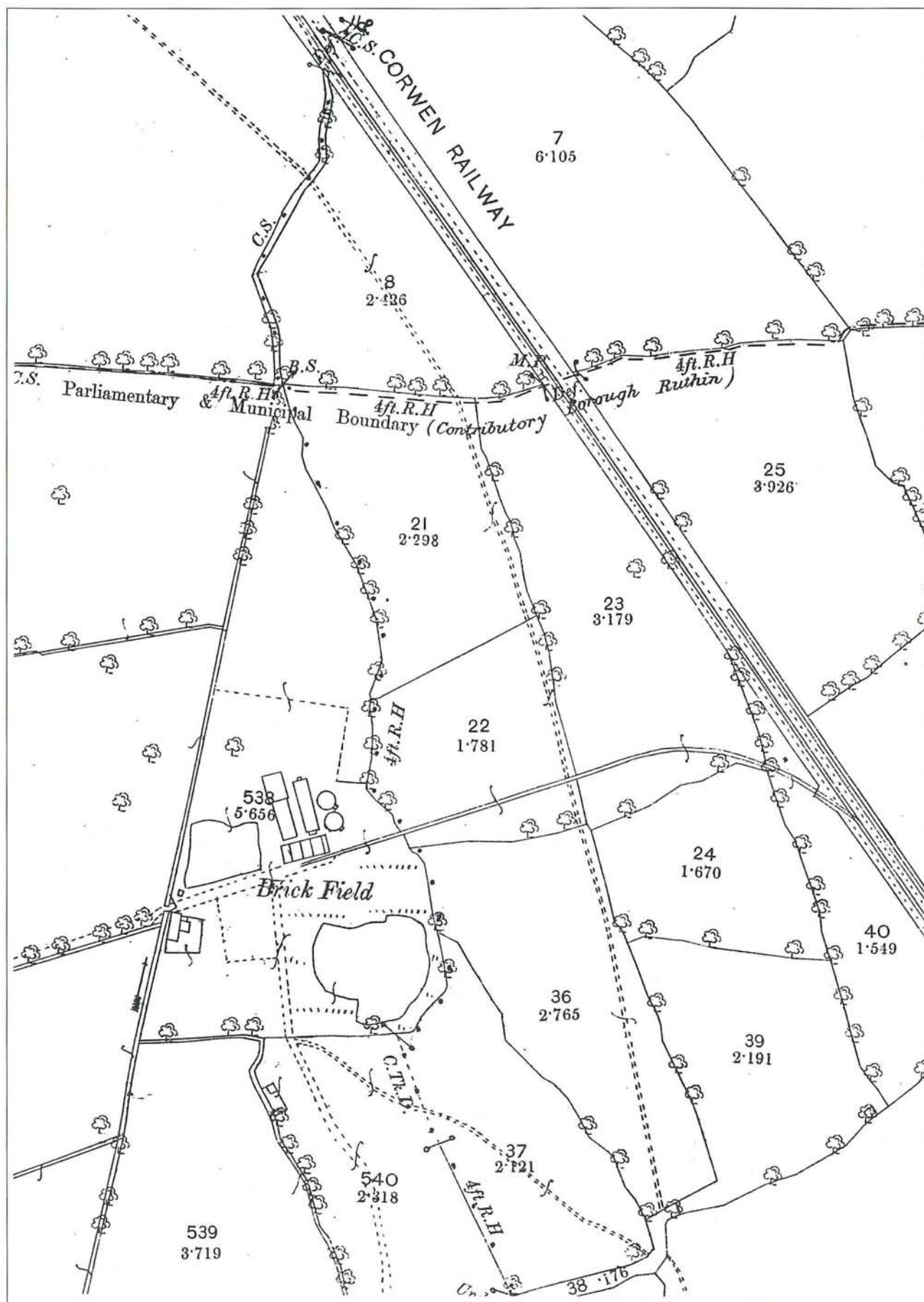


Figure 3: Detail from Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1875