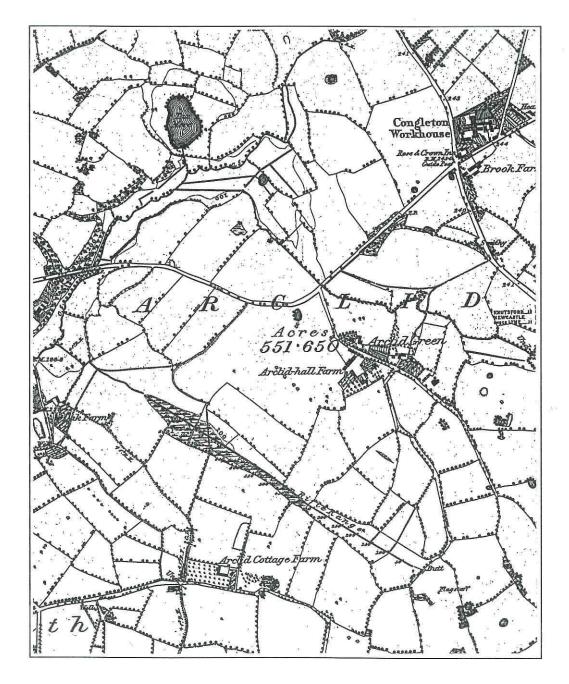
THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Application for the Determination of New Conditions - South Arclid, Arclid Quarry, Near Sandbach, Cheshire ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT



CPAT Report No 362

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Application for the Determination of New Conditions - South Arclid, Arclid Quarry, Near Sandbach, Cheshire ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

N W Jones December 2000

Report for Sloane Mead on behalf of Bathgate Silica Sand

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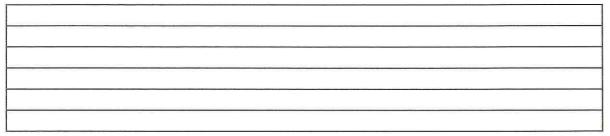
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In April 2000 the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was instructed by Sloane Mead, on behalf of Bathgate Silica Sand Ltd (Bathgate), to investigate the archaeological potential of land at South Arclid, Arclid Quarry, near Sandbach, Cheshire (henceforward termed the Site) and to assess the archaeological impact of the currently permitted silica sand workings.
- 1.2 This Assessment is required as part of a formal Environmental Statement that is being prepared to accompany an Application for Determination of New Conditions (henceforward termed the Application) submitted by Bathgate to Cheshire County Council (CCC) in December 1999, under the Environment Act 1995. The Application is currently under consideration by CCC and a planning decision is expected later this year.
- 1.3 The Environment Act 1995 sought to review and update planning conditions attached to old mineral permissions. The review takes place in two successive phases, each of three years duration. Phase 1 deals with active sites where the predominant mineral permission was granted between June 1948 and April 1969. Phase 2 deals with active sites where the predominant permission was granted between April 1969 and February 1982.
- 1.4 As the predominant permission covering Arclid Quarry falls into the Phase 2 category, the Quarry was classed as an active Phase 2 site and required the submission of an application for new conditions prior to 31st December 1999. Until the Application has been determined, Arclid Quarry can continue to be worked under the conditions attached to the old planning permissions covering the site.
- 1.5 A full Environmental Statement was not submitted with the Application, as there was insufficient time to prepare one. However, Bathgate has always indicated that it would voluntarily carry out an Environmental Assessment and submit an Environmental Statement, if the project is one which CCC believe should be subject to an Environmental Assessment.
- 1.6 CCC has stated that the determination of the Application is dependent upon receipt of an Environmental Statement and that the Environmental Assessment should include an archaeological assessment, but only in respect of South Arclid, rather than the whole of Arclid Quarry.
- 1.7 We are informed that the whole of South Arclid already has planning permission for mineral extraction and the working proposals, set out in the Application, would therefore not have any new impact on the archaeological potential of the Site.

2 SITE DESCRIPTION & DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

- 2.1 Arclid Quarry lies 2.5km north east of Sandbach, 8.5km west of Congleton and 5km south of Holmes Chapel (Fig. 1). The A534 Congleton to Sandbach road splits the Quarry and crosses the M6 Motorway at Junction 17, some 300m west of the Quarry boundary. The A5022 joins the A534 some 200 metres west of the Quarry boundary. The Quarry is situated within Congleton District in the County of Cheshire.
- 2.2 That part of the Quarry lying to the south of the A543 Congleton to Sandbach road is known as South Arclid (the Site). The Site is situated within the Cheshire plain in an area of gently undulating agricultural land. It is located in a mainly rural area, which is crossed by a number of important road links.
- 2.3 The Site has a total area of 46.2ha (114.2 acres), and is the current, active, sand extraction area, although only approximately 20.7ha (51.1 acres) is permitted for sand extraction. The north-western portion of South Arclid has not yet been worked and comprises agricultural land. The south-eastern portion of South Arclid is the current working area and comprises a quarry void. The north-western boundary of the current working area is a farm track that runs north to south across the permitted extraction area, from Arclid Hall Farm to Arclid Cottage Farm. The quarry void lies approximately 1km from the processing plant at North Arclid and is linked to it by two parallel underground pipelines.
- 2.4 The workings currently reach a depth of approximately 36m AOD, but approximately the lowest 2m are water filled. The height of the surface of the land around the extraction void varies from 60m AOD in the west to 76m AOD in the north.

- 2.5 It is proposed to extract approximately 4.8 million tonnes of saleable, high quality silica sand from the Site. The whole of this mineral reserve already has the benefit of planning permission for extraction. Current production from Arclid Quarry is approximately 322,000 tonnes per annum and the Site has some 15 years life remaining.
- 2.6 It is proposed that the Site be developed in two Stages. Stage 1 covers the current working area in the south eastern half of the Site and Stage 2 covers the north-western half of the Site. The Site is to be restored to a large landscaped lake.

3 DESK-BASED STUDY

- 3.1 Stage one of the assessment involved the examination of all readily available primary and secondary records relating to the Site, including documentary, cartographic and aerial photographic sources. Archives and repositories consulted included the following: County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and Dept. of Environmental Planning, Cheshire County Council; Cheshire County Records Office (CCRO), Chester.
- 3.2 A search of the SMR revealed that there were no recorded archaeological sites within the Site boundaries, although seven sites lay within a 1km radius, including six listed buildings (Record nos 1105/1, 1104/0/1, 1104/0/2, 1308/1, 1308/2, 1308/0/1 and an undefined cropmark (Record no. 1179). The listed buildings included Arclid Hall Farmhouse (Record no 1105/1), a brick-built house dating from c. 1700, which lies immediately to the north of the Site. The farmhouse, which was owned by the Moreton family during the 19th century, probably stands on the site of an earlier building which was formerly the seat of the Arclyds and Mainwarings (Earwaker 1972, 112; Ormerod 1882, 117).
- 3.3 Arclid is first recorded as Erclid in 1188, and the placename undertakes numerous changes in spelling over the centuries but is thought to have been originally derived from the old Norse or Danish meaning 'Arnkell's hill-side (Dodgson 1970, 264-5). The placename would therefore suggest that there has been some form of occupation in the general area from at least the early medieval period.
- 3.4 Selected cartographic sources have been used to undertake a map regression analysis of the Site (Fig. 2) from the 18th century to the present day, illustrating the changes in field patterns and the development of the area. There is no substantive information for the Site until the earliest available cartographic source, which is an 18th-century estate map depicting lands belonging to Mr John Sutton of Arclid Hall (Figs 2a and 3), and Mrs Thornycroft of Moreton Hall. This lists field names (see Appendix 1) amongst which are several which refer to a Moss, as well as Kiln Croft (Site 1), which is suggestive of brick-making, a series of buildings or possibly a small farm (Site 2) west of Arclid Hall, and a mill north of Arclid Green, outside the study area. Three fieldnames incorporate the word 'flat', which either refers to a piece of level ground, or a division of the common field, while the name Linn Land may refer to the growing of flax (Field 1972, 126 and 269). There appear to be no available records for Enclosures in this area.
- 3.5 The Tithe Survey for Arclid Township in Sandbach parish dates from 1840 (Figs 2b and 4). A study of the fieldnames listed in the Tithe Apportionment (see Appendix 1) provides useful information relating to the archaeological potential of the area. A significant number of names relate to the existence, or former existence, of peat deposits in the south and south-east of the area: Moss, Moss Hall, Marsh Meadow, The Marsh, Long Moss, The Moss, Moss Meadow. These can be mapped to indicate the likely extent of peat deposits at this time (Fig. 2b). The peat deposit, part of which has already been removed by quarrying, is part of a small basin mire. To the north, the area around Tax Mere, which was partly drained in the 18th or early 19th centuries, contains further peat deposits. Other evidence from the Tithe Survey consists of two field names which appear to refer to brick-making: Kiln Croft (Site 1) and Near Brick Bank. Other related evidence is provided by the name Brickhouses to the west of the Site (Fig. 1), and the numerous pits and pools shown on the Tithe Map and later cartographic sources (see below) which may have been the source of clay for brick-making, and also for marl, which consists of clay mixed with calcium carbonate and was used as a soil improver (Field 1972, 134).
- 3.6 The Ordnance Survey provides the most comprehensive body of cartographic evidence, beginning with the Surveyors' Drawings dated 1841 (Fig. 5). Although showing the Site and identifying (Arclid)

Hall and (Arclid) Green, the map provides little detail and has not been included in the map regression.

- 3.7 The Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map (Fig. 2c), surveyed in 1873-4, and the 1st edition 6" (Fig. 6), show most of the area little changed from the 1840 Tithe Survey, with the loss of some field boundaries and the notable addition of the Volunteers' Rifle Range (Site 3), situated along the Moss to the south of the Site. The Range is shown with a shooting butt at the south-east end, a flagstaff, and a series of marker posts at 50yds intervals, increasing from the south-east to 800yds at the northwest end. A series of linear drains is also shown within the area of the Moss. Elsewhere within the Site and its environs are numerous pools and hollows, which are likely to have been marl pits.
- 3.8 The Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 25" (Fig. 2d) and 2nd edition 6" (Fig. 7), revised in 1896-7 and published in 1898, show only a few minor changes to field boundaries from those depicted on the 1st edition. The Provisional edition (Figs 2e and 8), revised in 1907-8 with additions in 1938, again shows little change, other than that the Rifle Range is not now evident.
- 3.9 The Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 published in 1994 (Fig. 2e) shows the Site immediately before the development of South Arclid Quarry, and is basically little changed from the Provisional edition.
- 3.10 An examination of the aerial photographic sources revealed several features within the Site and its immediate environs. The 1947 RAF vertical coverage provides the most interesting coverage, showing the area before the advent of more intensive agriculture and the commencement of quarrying. A series of poorly defined earthworks indicate the remains of the buildings (Site 1) shown on the 18th century map to the north-west of Arclid Hall Farm. Several areas of ridge and furrow cultivation (Fig. 2e) are notable, particularly to the east of Arclid Hall Farm (Site 4), and along the south-western boundary of the Site (Site 5). The latter area includes two former field boundaries, depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition (Fig. 6), together with one former boundary not depicted on any cartographic source, which survive as shallow ditches (see Section 5 below). Ridge and furrow earthworks, which are formed by the action of ploughing, are indicative of an agricultural practice known as strip field cultivation and of likely medieval origin. Other features of interest include a number of what are presumed to be marl or clay pits. The 1983 vertical coverage shows no trace of the ridge and furrow, although some of the marl pits are still visible as shallow depressions, with agriculture improvement evident in most fields and several boundaries having been removed. The 1992 coverage shows the start of quarrying operations at South Arclid, but otherwise the area appears much as it did nine years previously.

4 FIELD SURVEY (Fig. 9)

- 4.1 The whole of the Site outside the current extraction area was examined by a thorough field survey undertaken on 31 May 2000 to investigate for any surviving upstanding archaeology and to assess the potential for surviving subsurface deposits.
- 4.2 Presently, the Site comprises an area of existing extraction, Stage 1, with spoil storage to the southeast, within the existing planning boundary. Beyond the limits of current extraction and storage, the Site is mostly pasture, with an area of woodland to the south-west.
- 4.3 Of those sites identified during the desk-based study, there is now no trace of the areas of ridge and furrow (Sites 4 and 5), which have been lost to post-war ploughing, or the former rifle range (Site 3). The area of Kiln Croft (Site 1) shows no earthwork evidence to suggest the possible location of a brick kiln, although subsurface remains may survive. Similarly, there is no visible evidence for the group of buildings (Site 2) depicted on the 18th-century estate map, although again subsurface remains may survive. The western part of Site 2 is now within a small area of immature woodland.
- 4.4 An area of the peat deposit (Site 6) associated with the former basin mire has already been lost to quarrying, either within the existing extraction area, or the area of overburden storage. The spoil mounds incorporate quantities of redeposited peat, including some substantial tree trunks, which are now desiccated. The surviving area of peat lies within a small woodland and occupies c. 1.5ha. Information provided by the client suggests that the peat may be up to 2m in depth at the south-eastern end, becoming progressively more shallow to the north-west. The area is fed by a drainage gully along the existing extraction margins and remains as an area of wetland.

4.5

5 SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES (Fig. 9)

- 5.1 Each site has been classified according to its perceived significance. The categories are those given in the Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments draft archaeology and the Trunk Road Programme in Wales: a Manual of Best Practice.
 - Category A sites of National importance. It is presumed that sites in this category will be preserved and protected in situ.
 - Category B sites of regional or county importance which are of particular importance within 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 district or local importance which are not of sufficient importance to justify preservation if threatened, but which merit adequate recording in advance of loss or damage.
 - Category D minor and damaged sites which not merit inclusion in a higher category, and for which rapid recording should be sufficient.
 - Category E sites whose importance could not be fully determined as a result of the assessment and may warrant further evaluation.
- 5.2 Fig. 9 depicts only those sites within the Site boundary, which are considered to have a surviving archaeological potential. Sites that are now destroyed are depicted in Fig. 2.

Site 1	Type: NGR: Source: Description: Category:	Brick Kiln ? Peri SJ 78166175 (cent 18th-century estate Tithe Survey 1840 Possible brick kiln C	tre) e ma	p DDX 139	Form: Condition: d name Kiln			
Site 2	Type: NGR: Source:	Farmstead ? Peri SJ 78336177 estate map DDX 13 PAE1947 vertical	39		Form: Condition:	Document Unknown		
	Description:	RAF1947 vertical aerial photo Two buildings depicted on 18th-century estate map, but not evident on Tithe Survey of 1840.						
	Category:	C						
Site 3	Type: NGR: Source:	78266132 (centre) Ordnance Survey	1st e		Form: Condition:	Document Destroyed		
	Description: Category:	Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1896-7 Volunteers Rifle Range consisting of a shooting butt and flagstaff at the South east end and marker posts at 50yd intervals to 800yds at the north-west end. D						
Site 4	Type: NGR: Source: Description: Category:	Ridge/Furrow Peri SJ 78596155 (cent RAF1947 vertical a Area of ridge and f D	tre) aeria	l photo	Form: Condition: east to south			
Site 5	Type: NGR:	Ridge/Furrow Peri SJ 78276113 (cent		Medieval ?	Form: Condition:	Document Destroyed		

	Source: Description: Category:	RAF1947 vertical aerial photo Area of ridge and furrow aligned north-east to south-west D						
Site 6	Type: NGR: Source: Description: Category:	SJ 7811 6142 Tithe Survey Field survey Peat deposit a	(centre) of 1840 associated			Document Damaged larger part of which has 1.5ha, within woodland.		
Site 7	Type: NGR: Source: Description: Category:	SJ 78316122 Tithe Survey o Ordnance Sur Field survey	of 1840 vey 1st e	Medieval ? dition 1874 le and up to 0.7	Form: Condition: m deep	Earthwork Damaged		
Site 8	Type: NGR: Source: Description: Category:	Boundary SJ 78376118 Tithe Survey of Ordnance Sur Field survey Shallow ditch D	of 1840 vey 1st e	Medieval ? dition 1874 de and up to 0.5	Form: Condition: m deep	Earthwork Damaged		
Site 9	Type: NGR: Source: Description: Category:	Boundary SJ 78466107 Tithe Survey Ordnance Sur Field survey Shallow ditch D	of 1840 vey 1st e	Medieval ? dition 1874 de and up to 0.5	Form: Condition: m deep	Earthwork Damaged		
Site 10) Type: NGR: Source: Description: Category:	Marl pit SJ 7868 6149 Tithe Survey Field survey Water-filled pi D	of 1840 a	Post med nd subsequent (x 12m	Form: Condition: Ordnance Su			

6 CONCLUSIONS, POTENTIAL AND PREDICTED IMPACTS

- 6.1 The assessment has identified a number of previously unrecorded archaeological sites within the Site boundary. The results from the assessment indicate that the area has been occupied and cultivated since at least the medieval period. Remnant ridge and furrow survived into the post-war period, although no trace now survives within the Site boundaries. The possible brick kiln (Site 1) and the farmstead (Site 2) both have no upstanding remains visible, although the latter was visible as an earthwork in 1947, and both may have subsurface features surviving. Although part of the area of the rifle range (Site 3) survives, the activity itself appears to have left no visible evidence. The field survey identified four earthwork sites, consisting of three former field boundaries (Sites 7-9) and a marl pit (Site 10).
- 6.2 In addition to the above-mentioned sites there is a potential for palaeoenvironmental evidence surviving within the remaining peat deposits (Site 6) close to the south-western boundary of the Site. These deposits may contain preserved organic remains, but perhaps more significantly could provide important information relating to the floral and faunal history of the area. Evidence from elsewhere in the county would suggest that such deposits frequently have associated evidence for prehistoric

activity in the form of work flints, much of which belongs to the late Neolithic and Bronze Age (c. 3200-800 cal BC), although occasionally to the late Mesolithic and early Neolithic (c. 6700-3200 cal BC). However, the finds imply nothing more than occasional visits to the fringes of wetlands from the later Mesolithic onwards and may be part of a wider picture so that at present there is no evidence for specific wetland-edge activity (Leah *et al.* 1997, 87-90 and 149).

Potential impact of existing permissions

6.3 The baseline conditions set out in the existing planning permission include an extraction boundary, which incorporates part of the area of the possible brick kiln (Site 1), together with the margins of the peat deposit (Site 6). Both sites may be damaged or lost under the existing permission. In particular, the peat deposit (Site 6) is likely to be affected once Stage 2 extraction commences, which will result in the gradual drainage of the area. Sites 3, 4 and 5 have no surviving trace, and are assumed to have been lost by ploughing. Associated works in connection with the existing permission, principally in the form of overburden storage, screen bunds etc, may have an impact on Site 1, Site 2, Site 6, Site 7, Site 8, Site 9 and also Site 10.

Potential impact of the New Conditions

6.4 The proposed New Conditions have no additional impact on any archaeological sites above the baseline established by the existing permission.

7 MITIGATION

- 7.1 Sites 1 and 2 are considered to have potential subsurface remains, which should be adequately recorded prior to damage or loss. A condition should therefore be included to allow for a watching brief during the stripping of topsoil. The potential for further, unrecorded archaeological features and/or artefacts cannot be discounted, and a watching brief is therefore considered sufficient mitigation to enable adequate recording should anything of significance be revealed during the stripping of topsoil.
- 7.2 A mitigation strategy for the peat deposit (Site 6) should take the form of a condition allowing for a programme of limited coring to assess the depth, condition and potential of the peat, with a sample extracted from the base of the deposit for spot pollen analysis to determine the initiation date for the peat. Possible further targeted sampling will be dependent on the initial assessment. Provision should be allowed for undertaking the sampling within 6 months prior to any disturbance. Any possible associated artefacts should be identified under the condition for a watching brief (7.1 above).
- 7.3 A number of sites are considered to warrant no further recording or mitigation: Sites 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10.

8 SUGGESTED NEW PLANNING CONDITION FOR SOUTH ARCLID

8.1 Bathgate has proposed the following new planning conditions in the Application:

The Mineral Planning Authority and the County Archaeologist shall be informed in writing seven days prior to the commencement of soil stripping operations. A suitably qualified Archaeologist shall be allowed to examine the area during this process.

In the event of any remains of apparent archaeological interest being uncovered, the Mineral Planning Authority and the County Archaeologist shall be informed immediately and the Archaeologist be given a reasonable opportunity to examine them before excavations continue.

8.2 Following on from Section 7, it is proposed that an additional new planning condition be added to the Schedule of New Planning Conditions contained within the Application stating:

An assessment of the surviving peat deposit shall be undertaken prior to any operations taking place within or immediately adjacent to Site 6 delineated on Fig. 9 in the Archaeological Assessment (prepared by Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and contained within Section 12 of the Environmental Statement). The assessment should consist of limited coring to assess the depth, condition and potential of the peat, with a sample extracted from the base of the

deposit for spot pollen analysis to determine the initiation date for the peat. Possible further targeted sampling will be dependent on the initial assessment.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

9.1 The writer would like to thank the following for their assistance: Wendy Owen, CPAT; Malcolm Sloane, Sloane Mead; Jill Collens, SMR Officer, and Mark Leah, Cheshire County Council, Environmental Planning; the staff of Cheshire County Records Office, Chester.

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Cartographic sources

18th century map of Arclid. Area of Arclid Hall Farm. CCRO DDX 139 Tithe Survey of Sandbach Parish CCRO EDT 351/2a Tithe Survey of Arclid Parish CCRO EDT 18/2 Ordnance Survey Surveyor's Drawings, Sheet 80 SE, 1841, scale 2" = 1 mile Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25", surveyed 1874, Cheshire 50 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 25", revised 1896-7, published 1898, Cheshire 50.6 and 50.7 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6", surveyed 1874, Cheshire 50 NE and NW Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6", revised 1896-7, published 1898, Cheshire 50 NE and NW Ordnance Survey Provisional edition revised 1907-8 with additions 1938, Cheshire 50 NE and NW

Aerial photographic sources

RAF 1947 verticals CPE/UK 1935, 1130 and 3130, 17th January 1947 1983 verticals, Run 7 34436-8, October 1983 Geonex 1992 verticals 177 92/012-3 and 233, 31st October 1992

APPENDIX 1

RECORDED FIELD NAMES

18th century estate map of Arclid Hall (DDX 139): List of field names

- 1 Poolstead
- 2 Long Croft
- 3 Mowing field
- 4 Linn Land
- 5 Moss
- 6 Moss flatt
- 7 Thorn flatt
- 8 Hall flat
- 9 Walk
- 23 Kiln Croft
- 24 Middle field
- 25 Further Whitish
- 26 Nearer Whitish
- 32 Mill and Mill meadow
- 36 New field
- 37 Whitish bottom

Tithe Survey of Arclid Township, 1840: Field names recorded within the Site boundary

- 71 Kiln Croft and Middle Field
- 75 Moss
- 76 Moss Flatt
- 77 Thorn Flatt
- 78 Hall Flatt and Walk
- 87 Poolstead
- 88 Mowing Field
- 89 Linn Land
- 90 Near Brick Bank
- 91 Marsh Meadow
- 92 The other part of Arclid Green
- 92a Part of Arclid Green
- 97 Near Shaw Field
- 98 Far Shaw Field
- 102 Shaw Field
- 103 Shaw Field
- 104 The Marsh
- 105 Holly Tree Bank
- 107 Long Moss
- 108 The Moss
- 109 Moss Meadow
- 110 Big Hemmingshaw
- 111 Nearer Blake
- 113 Hemmingshaw
- 122 Wall Croft
- 123 Barn Field and Orchard
- 124 Wash Field
- 128 Pit Field

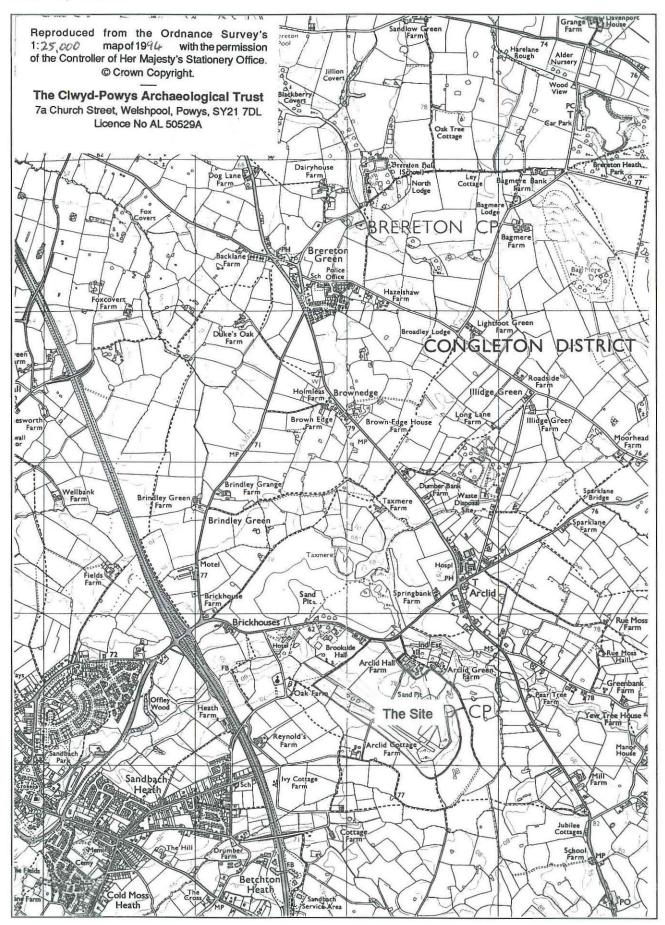
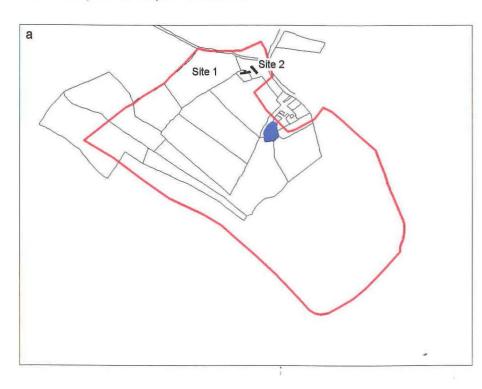


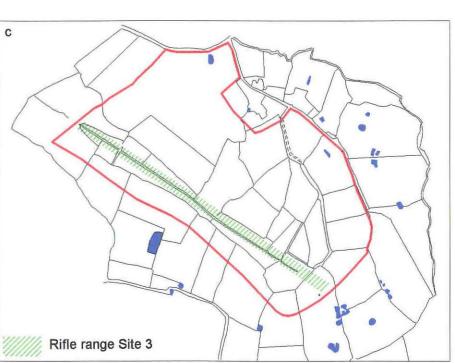
Fig. 1 Location, scale 1:25,000

18th century estate map of Arclid Hall

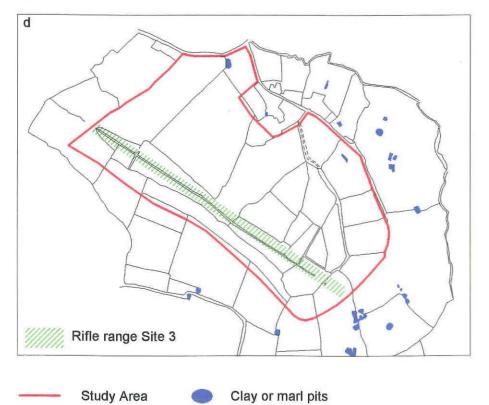


Tithe Survey 1840

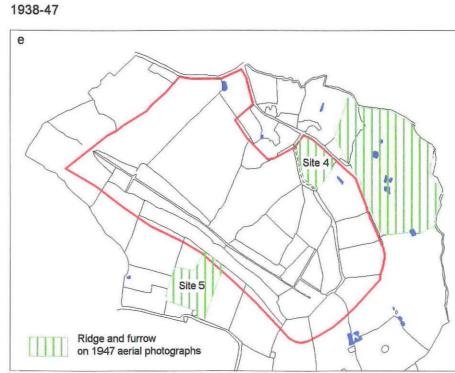
1874







2



1994

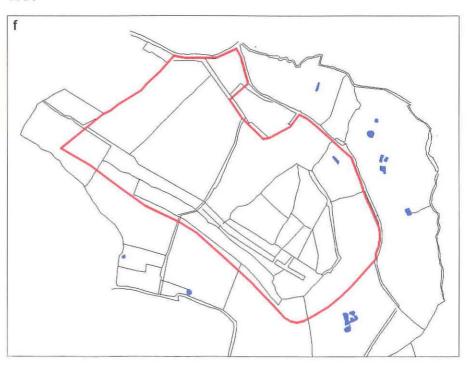


Fig. 2 Map regression analysis, scale 1:12,500

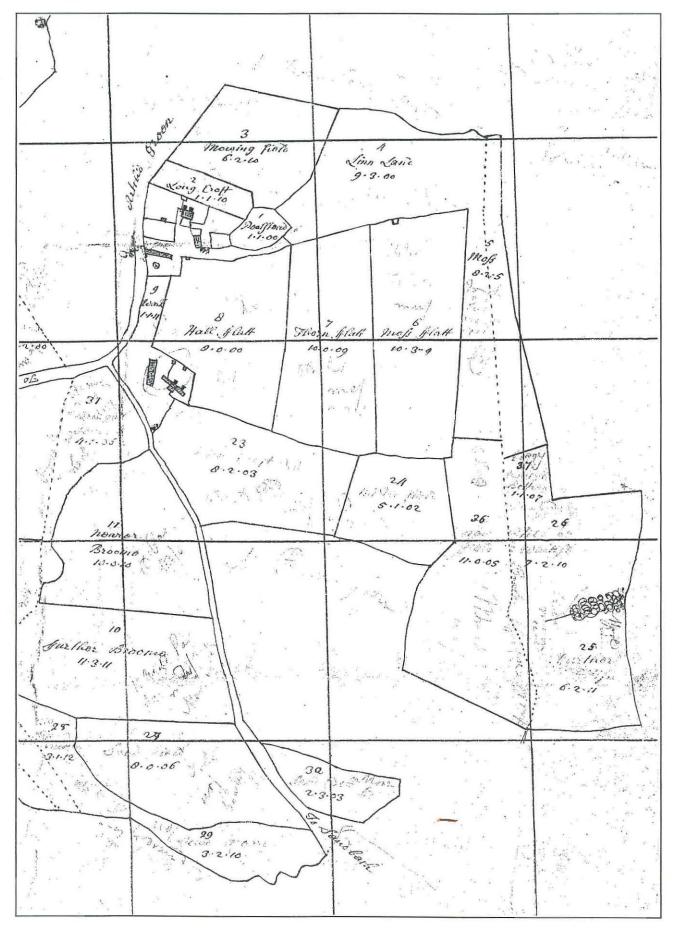


Fig. 3 18th century Estate Map of Arclid Hall (DDX 139)

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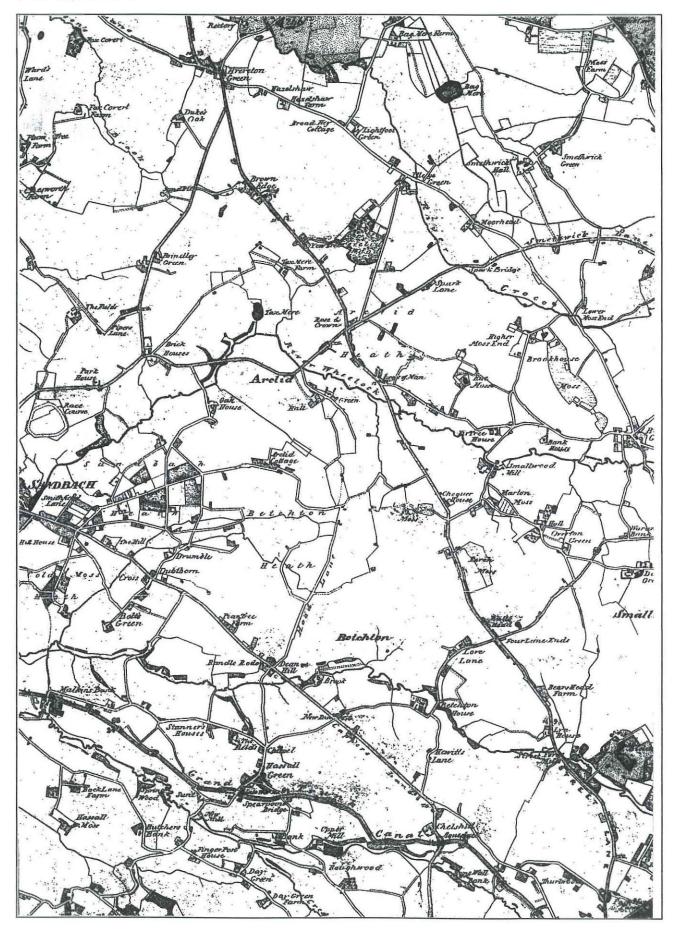


Fig. 5 Ordnance Survey Surveyor's Drawing 80 SE, 1841

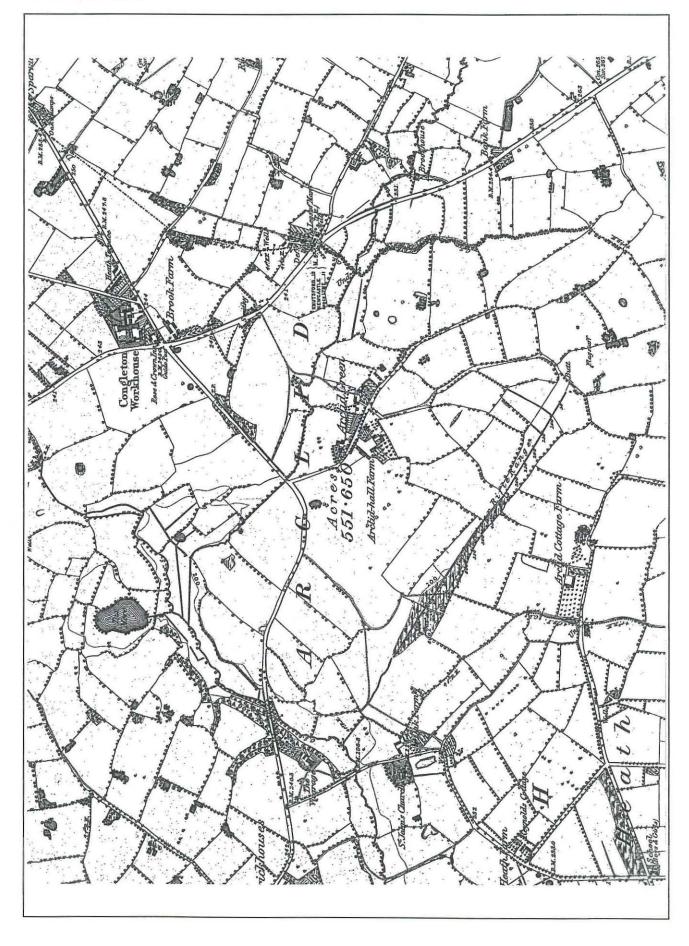


Fig. 6 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6", surveyed 1874

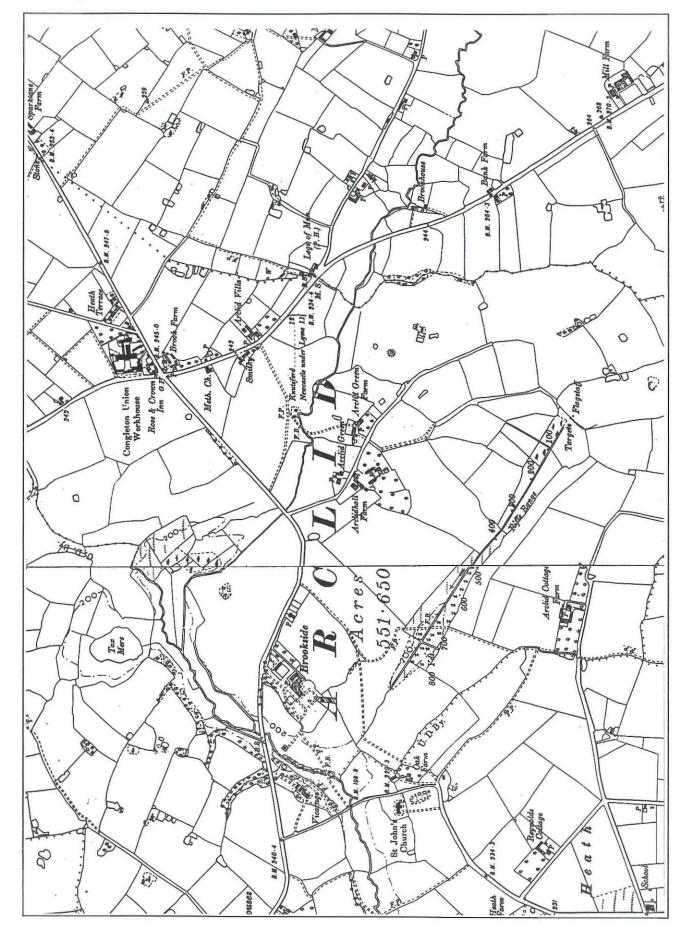


Fig. 7 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6", revised 1896-7, published 1898

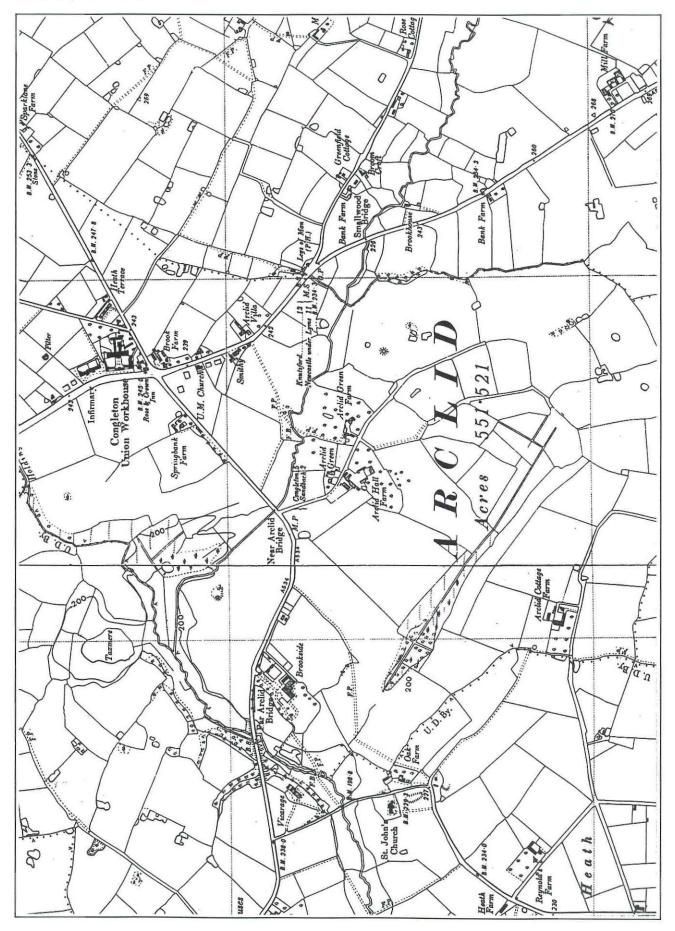


Fig. 8 Ordnance Survey Provisional edition 6", revised 1907-8 with additions in 1938

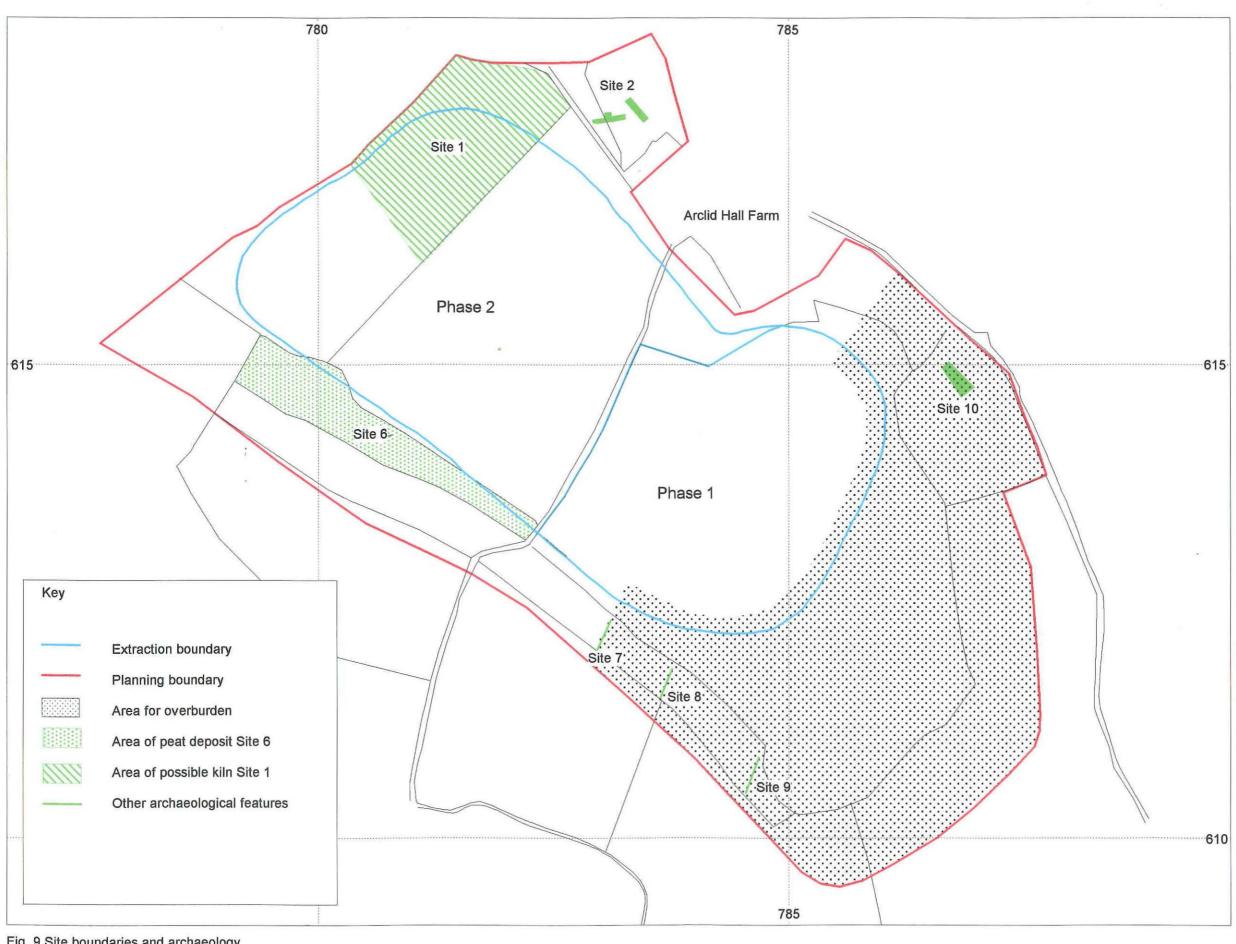


Fig. 9 Site boundaries and archaeology

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