

CPAT Report No. 1922


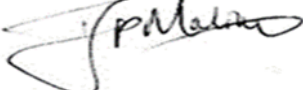
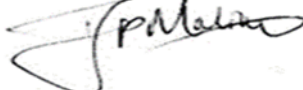
# Newtown Mound, Powys

Community Excavation 2022



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS  
CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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## Summary

In February/March 2022 the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT), on behalf of Newtown and Llanllwchaearn Town Council and Cadw, undertook an archaeological evaluation of Newtown Mound (MG160) and a linear earthwork bank, the latter identified during a previous heritage assessment. As part of the evaluation CPAT were assisted by a team of volunteers who were engaged in an outreach programme that included both on site excavation and finds processing.

The investigations on Newtown Mound revealed evidence for significant archaeological deposits, in situ, dating from the medieval period (14<sup>th</sup> century), English Civil War garrison (mid-17<sup>th</sup> century) and the later re-landscaping undertaken in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, the remains of a polygonal building (summerhouse), marked on late 19<sup>th</sup> century O.S mapping, were not identified. Numerous artefacts dating from these periods were recovered. The deposits were sealed by a topsoil, 50mm thick.

The previous heritage assessment identified two areas of significant modern erosion on the perimeter of the mound summit, a consequence of public footfall and bicycle usage. The evaluation has demonstrated that the erosion along the eastern edge of Trench 1 has truncated what is believed to be the remains of a medieval embankment. As part of the ongoing management plans it is suggested that any further public access from that direction should be discouraged. The erosion in Trench 2 does not appear to have removed anything of archaeological significance other than mound construction material.

The excavation of the linear bank revealed that the earthwork survives to a height of 1.9m and the width is approximately 7.5m. An accompanying ditch, recorded along the western side, could be at least 5-6m wide and 2-3m deep. The limited investigations also demonstrated that the monument is not of 18<sup>th</sup> century origin but rather of earlier design, possibly part of the Newtown defences dating from the English Civil War (mid-17<sup>th</sup> century period) or possibly of earlier, medieval, origin.

Overall, the 2022 excavation has demonstrated that the archaeological potential for both Newtown Mound and the Linear Earthwork is significantly high. Furthermore, if so desired, areas for further investigation to both realise the project objectives and to aid with the management and interpretation of the heritage of the sites have been identified.

The response to the community excavation from the volunteer experience point of view has been overwhelming. Volunteer numbers engaging in the project, in excess of 115 people over a period of 5 weeks, is one of the highest participation rates ever to engage in a CPAT Outreach programme. The project delivered the opportunity for volunteers of mixed ability to engage in both field craft and/or indoor workshops in such a way that allowed them to aid and contribute to the greater understanding of the earlier, and hitherto lesser studied, heritage of Newtown.



## Crynodeb

Fis Chwefror/Mawrth 2022, bu Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys (CPAT), ar ran Cyngor Tref y Drenewydd a Llanllwchaearn a Cadw, yn gwneud gwaith gwerthuso archaeolegol o Dwmpath y Drenewydd (MG160) a gwrthglawdd llinellol. Roedd y gwrthglawdd hwn wedi'i nodi yn ystod asesiad blaenorol o'r dreftadaeth. Fel rhan o'r gwerthusiad, bu tîm o wirfoddolwyr yn cynorthwyo CPAT. Roedd y rhain yn cymryd rhan mewn rhaglen allgymorth a oedd yn cynnwys gwaith cloddio ar safle a phrosesu darganfyddiadau.

Datgelodd yr ymchwiliadau ar Dwmpath y Drenewydd dystiolaeth o ddyddodion archaeolegol sylweddol, yn eu lle, yn dyddio o'r cyfnod canoloesol (14eg ganrif), garsiwn o Ryfel Cartref Lloegr (canol y 17eg ganrif) a'r gwaith tirlunio diweddarach a wnaed yn y 19eg ganrif. Fodd bynnag, ni nodwyd gweddillion adeilad amlochrog (hafdy), a oedd wedi'i nodi ar fap yr Arolwg Ordnans ar ddiwedd y 19eg ganrif. Datgelwyd nifer o arteffactau yn dyddio o'r cyfnodau hyn. Roedd uwchbridd, 50mm o drwch, wedi selio'r dyddodion.

Roedd yr asesiad blaenorol o dreftadaeth wedi nodi dwy ardal o erydiad modern sylweddol ar berimedr copa'r twmpath, o ganlyniad i'r cyhoedd yn cerdded a phobl yn defnyddio beiciau yno. Mae'r gwerthusiad wedi dangos bod yr erydiad ar hyd ymyl ddwyreiniol Rhych 1 wedi trychu'r hyn y credir mai gweddillion gwrthglawdd canoloesol ydyw. Fel rhan o'r cynlluniau rheoli parhaus, awgrymir y dylid annog y cyhoedd i beidio â mynd at y twmpath o'r cyfeiriad hwnnw. Nid yw'r erydiad yn Rhych 2, i bob golwg, wedi cael gwared ag unrhyw beth o arwyddocâd archaeolegol, heblaw am ddeunydd adeiladu'r twmpath.

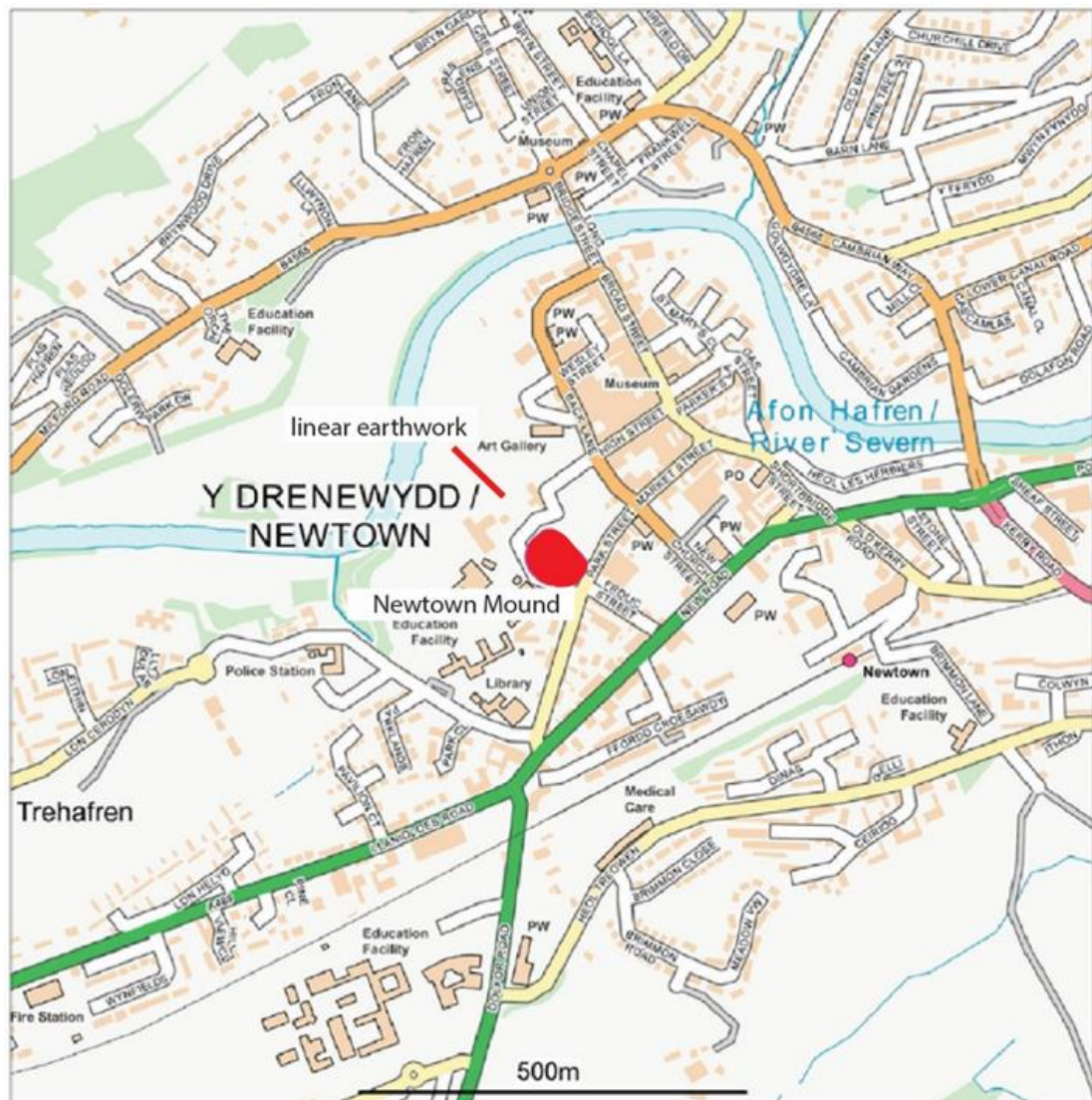
Datgelodd gwaith cloddio'r clawdd llinellol fod y gwrthglawdd wedi goroesi i uchder o 1.9m ac mae ei led yn rhyw 7.5m. Gallai'r ffos sy'n cyd-fynd ag ef, a gofnodwyd ar hyd yr ochr orllewinol, fod yn 5-6m o led o leiaf ac yn 2-3m o ddyfnder. Dangosodd yr ymchwiliadau cyfyngedig hefyd nad yw'r heneb yn tarddu o'r 18fed ganrif ond, yn hytrach, ei bod o ddyluniad cynharach, o bosibl rhan o amddiffynfeydd y Drenewydd yn dyddio o Ryfel Cartref Lloegr (canol yr 17eg ganrif) neu, o bosibl, yn tarddu o'r cyfnod canoloesol cynharach.

Yn gyffredinol, mae gwaith cloddio 2022 wedi dangos bod y potensial archaeolegol ar gyfer Twmpath y Drenewydd a hefyd y Gwrthglawdd Llinellol, yn sylweddol uchel. Hefyd, os dymunir hynny, mae ardaloedd wedi'u nodi ar gyfer ymchwilio pellach, i gyflawni amcanion y prosiect a hefyd i gynorthwyo â rheoli a dehongli treftadaeth y safleoedd.

Mae'r ymateb i'r gwaith cloddio cymunedol o safbwynt profiad y gwirfoddolwyr wedi bod yn aruthrol. Mae niferoedd y gwirfoddolwyr a gymerodd ran yn y prosiect, sef mwy na 115 o bobl dros gyfnod o 5 wythnos, yn un o'r cyfraddau cyfranogi uchaf erioed ar raglen Allgymorth CPAT. Cyflwynodd y prosiect gyfle i wirfoddolwyr cymysg eu galluoedd gymryd rhan mewn crefft maes a/ neu weithdai dan do mewn ffordd a oedd y caniatáu iddynt gynorthwyo a chyfrannu at ddealltwriaeth well o dreftadaeth gynharach y Drenewydd, sydd heb ei hastudio rhyw lawer hyd yma.

# 1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was commissioned by Newtown and Llanllwchaearn Town Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation to further assist with the future management of the scheduled earthwork known as Newtown Mound, which lies to the south-west of the centre of Newtown, in Powys. The mound is a scheduled monument (MG160) and is located within the town, on the north-western side of Park Street, beside the council offices (Fig. 1; SO 1071 9142).
- 1.2. The evaluation of Newtown Mound was entirely within the scheduled area and Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) was required. An application for SMC, supported by a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (See Appendix 1: CPAT WSI 2319) was submitted in January 2022 by CPAT on behalf of Newtown and Llanllwchaearn Town Council. The application was approved, and consent granted in February 2022.



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Cynnwys data OS © Hawlfraint y Goron [a hawliau cronfa ddata] OS [2018]

*Fig. 1 Location of Newtown Mound MG160 and the linear bank*

- 1.3. Ongoing work under a townscape initiative by Newtown Town Council is improving the condition of, and public access to, the monument, removing scrub and saplings from the grassed ditches and undertaking management work to the large trees around its summit. The mound is in fair condition but there is some heavy erosion to the south-east corner and other areas of the summit created by generations of children using it as a BMX ramp and stunt ground.
- 1.4. Prior to the 2022 evaluation, a heritage assessment was conducted by CPAT (Jones, N. W. and Watson, S., 2020) which included a detailed topographical survey, while a geophysical (GPR) survey undertaken by Sumo Geophysics Ltd investigated the summit of the mound. The purpose of this work was to better understand the monument and enhance on-site interpretation with a view to raising its profile within the town. This provided further evidence of adjacent garden features from historic mapping and some unexplained GPR anomalies but no conclusive results from the mound itself.



*Fig. 2 Newtown Mound (MG160) and moat, viewed from the south-east. Photo CPAT 4980-0043*

- 1.5. In summary, the monument is a large, 5m high flat-topped mound with a wide surrounding ditch in the grounds of the former Newtown Hall. Assumed to be a motte and bailey castle it is of unusual form being almost a 'D' shape in plan with a very broad summit and is undocumented until the post medieval period. Theories as to its origins include the base of a late castle founded by the Mortimers alongside their new borough on gaining the area in the 1280s, a 17<sup>th</sup> century Civil War earthwork, and some form of prospect mount for Newtown Hall. With regards to the latter, a polygonal brick summerhouse is shown on the western edge of the summit on early maps, although the mound appears too large to have been newly created as a garden feature (Fig.2).



- 1.6. As part of the project the 2022 evaluation also included trial excavation across the line of a linear earthwork bank identified during the heritage assessment. The bank, located beyond the scheduled area to the north-west of the former Newtown Hall and of unknown origin, crosses the floodplain (Figs. 1 & 3). Marked on early Ordnance Survey map editions the bank has been variously interpreted as a garden feature, part of a large castle bailey, town defences or a flood bank.



Fig. 3 Linear bank, viewed from the south-west. Photo CPAT 4980-0077

- 1.7. Cadw have stated in the approved SMC consent the following.

*'...the aim of the project is to enhance our understanding of a prominent and heavily visited but poorly understood monument. The trial trenches are to be sited to target specific features or characterise different elements of the earthworks, which have high potential to retain evidence of their form, construction date and function.'*

*The mound summit excavations will be evaluations only; buried features or deposits will be sampled to characterise them and obtain dating evidence where possible but will otherwise be preserved in situ. Such information will enhance the evidential value of the mound and adjacent bank and help to understand threats such as erosion by the bike ramp, tree roots and possible access arrangements. This will in turn inform the future management of the monument to retain these evidential values and potentially also the protection by designation of the linear earthwork once it is better understood.*

*The excavations will have only a temporary impact on the aesthetic values of the monument as they will be backfilled on completion. In the longer term it is envisaged that the excavations will help to enhance its communal values by raising awareness of the site amongst the local community and informing its better management and improved access. The volunteer*

*element of the project (in which there has been extensive interest) and associated open days will be critical to the success of this.'*

- 1.8. The subsequent evaluation (community excavation) was undertaken with the assistance of local volunteers over a period of 5 weeks between 7<sup>th</sup> Feb – 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The project was initially funded by Newtown and Llanllwchaearn Town Council, with additional grant aid from Cadw. 108 people applied directly through CPAT's application form, and several others volunteered later in the excavation once word of mouth had attracted further volunteers from the local area. Initially the excavation was planned to take place over three weeks but was extended by a further two weeks due to adverse weather conditions and the need for longer to evaluate some aspects of the site. Over the course of these five weeks, over 115 volunteers helped with the excavation, recording, and finds processing.

## 2 Evaluation

- 2.1. The excavations were undertaken in accordance with both the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (See Appendix 1: CPAT WSI 2319) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014).

### Newtown Mound

- 2.2. The evaluation on the summit of Newtown Mound consisted of three trenches (1-3 Fig. 4). All work was undertaken by hand and the turf and topsoil was removed and stored adjacent to the trenches for subsequent reinstatement.

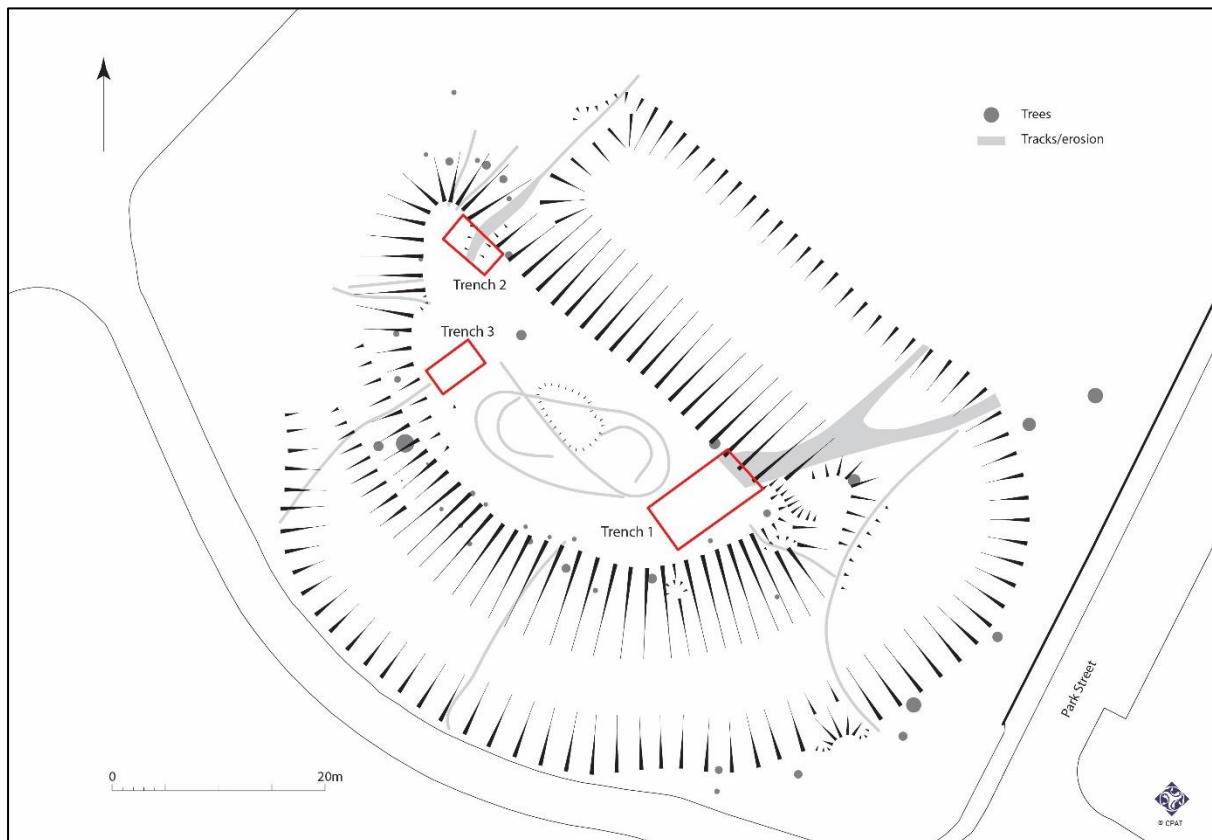


Fig. 4 Trench location plan (Trenches 1-3), Newtown Mound 2022.



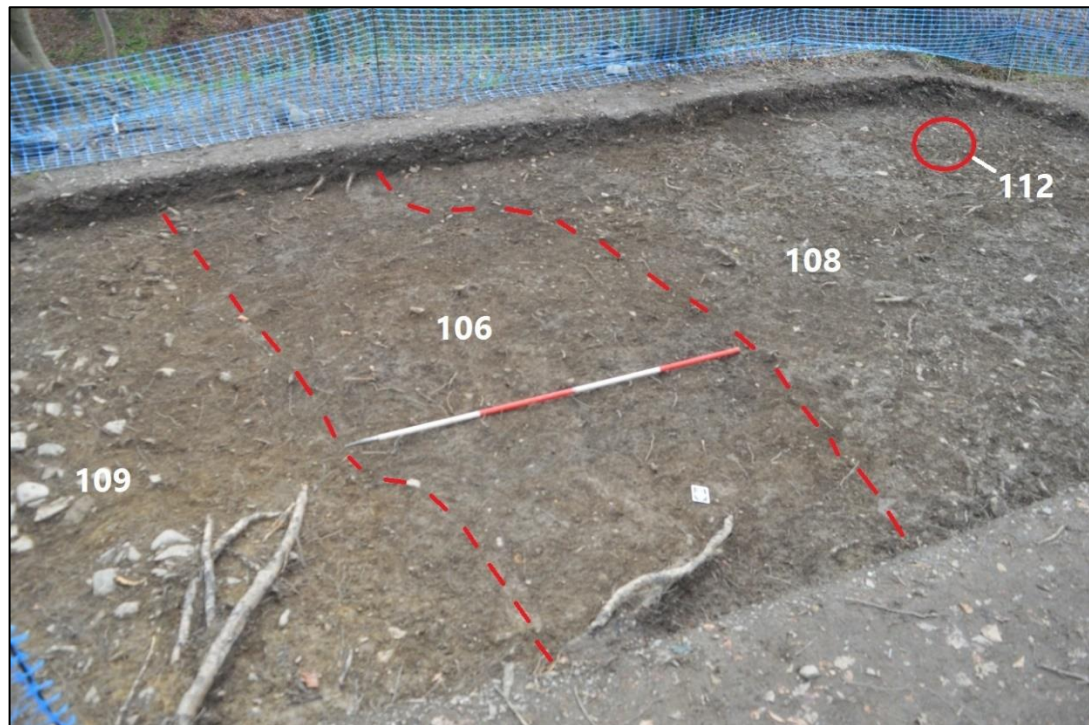
***Trench 1 (Figs 5 - 8 & Appendix 6 Fig 35, 9.8m x 4.8m)***

- 2.3. Trench 1, orientated north-east to south-west, was located along the south-eastern end of the mound. The trench size and location were designed to sample a large area of the summit to ascertain the depth and nature of the deposits whilst specifically targeting an area of modern disturbance where bike riders had eroded an access track into the side of the mound perimeter (Fig. 4). Within the eroded areas the topsoil had been removed (and in some parts the underlying deposits), exposing soil horizons of undetermined significance and origin.
- 2.4. Upon removal of the modern topsoil (101), up to 80mm thick, a sequence of deposits (102-103) were encountered that, based on the artefacts recovered, dated from the late 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The deposits, with a combined thickness of up to 220mm, consisted of firm dark grey stoney silts and clay. The material, containing a significant quantity of fragmented ceramic building material (CBM), roofing slates, bottle glass and floor tiles, also contained earlier ceramics dating from the medieval period. A clay pipe bowl dating from the mid- 17<sup>th</sup> century was also recovered. Of note was a slip decorated floor tile (*carpet pattern*), dating from the early-14<sup>th</sup> century, examples of which can be found in situ at Strata Florida Abbey, Powys (Lewis 1999, 805A, page 100 and 203) and Buildwas Abbey, Shropshire (See Appendix 5, Figs. 25-27).
- 2.5. There were no notable features within these deposits, and the layers appear to have been deposited in a uniform fashion. Therefore, it is probable that the material had been imported onto the mound. Although the deposits contained artefacts and building material dating from the medieval period, the inclusion of late 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century material suggests a period of landscaping, possibly to create a viewing platform, associated with the Newtown Hall estate.



*Fig. 5 Trench 1, removal of general overburden and 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>-century deposits. Viewed from the north.  
Photo CPAT 4980-0029.*

- 2.6. The removal of these deposits revealed a uniform undisturbed layer (104) of grey silty clay, 0.10m thick. Unlike the overlying imported material, the deposit contained few artefacts; fragments of sandstone roofing tile, five fragmented unglazed floor tiles (of light orange sandy-ware fabric), three lead musket shot (varying calibre, see Appendix 5, Fig. 28) and a lead bag seal. The origin of this deposit is unknown but appears to have accumulated during the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries. No features were evident and so the deposit was removed revealing two features: a broad linear [106] and a small pit [112] truncating earlier deposits (108 and 109) (Fig. 6 and Appendix 6 Fig. 35).



*Fig. 6 Trench 1, viewed from the north. Photo CPAT 4980-0051.*

- 2.7. The partial excavation of these features, together with a sondage (test pit) located in the south-west corner of the trench, identified an additional three possible phases of occupation on the mound. These phases predated the overlying deposits (102-104) associated with the remodelling of the site during the 18-20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **Phase 1**

- 2.8. Along the eastern edge of the trench were the possible remains of an embankment, between 2-2.9m wide. The bank (?), which remains unexcavated, consisted of a layer of firm yellow clay (105) sealed by a spread of angular stone (109). A single rim sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the stone spread, an unglazed piece of reduced micaceous orange sandy ware, of probable 12-13<sup>th</sup> century origin.
- 2.9. At the south-western end of the trench, at the base of the sondage excavated to a depth of 0.2m, was a deposit of firm grey gravelly silt (115). This was truncated by a circular feature [116], 0.5m in diameter. Neither the deposit or feature were excavated. They were sealed by a layer of brown silt (114), up to 0.11m thick. The excavation of the later linear feature, [106], which truncated the bank (109) to the east, and possibly both the deposits (115, 114), revealed



that they were probably contemporary, if not earlier, with the bank and are therefore probably of medieval origin.

### **Phase 2**

- 2.10. The deposit 114 was sealed by a firm stone surface (108). The sondage revealed that the surface was 5cm thick, consisting of tightly packed pebbles, in a grey silty clay, forming a metallated surface. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the surface other than a single body sherd of pottery. The ceramic, an olive lead-glazed hard red ware, is probably of late Elizabethan early Jacobean (16th–17th century) origin. Unfortunately, the relationship between the surface (108) and the bank (109), to the east, had been removed by the later linear feature [106] (Fig. 7). Based on the artefactual evidence one must assume the bank predates the metallated surface.



*Fig. 7 Partial excavation of linear gully 106, surface (108) to the left and bank (?) 109 to the right. Viewed from the south-east. Photo CPAT 4980-0071.*

### **Phase 3**

- 2.11. Located towards the east end of the trench, orientated north to south, was a broad linear gully [106], up to 2.8m wide and 0.24m deep. The gully truncated the surface 108, (and subsequently all underlying deposits) and the stoney spread (109) to the east. It contained three fills (107, 110 and 111) (Fig. 8, Appendix 6, Fig. 35 Sections C-D and F-E). The basal fill (111), a soft brown clayey silt up to 6cm thick, contained a spread of charcoal from which two small calibre, round lead shot were recovered. Further lead ammunition; a single small calibre round ball, and pieces of hammered shot, together with pieces of waste sheet lead and an unidentifiable cu-alloy item, were also recovered from the upper fill (107) of the gully.
- 2.12. No dateable pottery was recovered from the gully. However, it is probable that, based on material recovered from earlier and later deposits, the feature may be of 17<sup>th</sup> century origin.

The nature of the recovered lead artefacts suggests some association with the military garrison stationed on the mound during the first English Civil War (c 1642-1646).



*Fig. 8 Linear gully [106], of Civil War origin (c 1640's). Viewed from the south-east. Photo CPAT 4980-0113.*

In the south-west corner of the trench a small circular pit [112], 0.5m in diameter, truncated the surface 108. The feature, which was partially excavated within the sondage test pit, contained a fill (113) from which a single sherd of 'press-moulded' slipware was recovered. The pottery is of late 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century origin.

### ***Trench 2 (Fig 9 & Appendix 6, Fig 36, 5.2m x 3m)***

- 2.13. Trench 2, orientated north-west to south-east, was located along the north-western corner of the mound. Like Trench 1, the location targeted an area of modern disturbance where the public had eroded an access track into the side of the mound perimeter (Fig. 4). The degree of erosion was particularly significant; a 2.5m wide scar orientated north-east to south-west exposing what appeared to be either natural undisturbed subsoil (205) or sterile mound construction material (Fig. 9).
- 2.14. The modern topsoil (201), 30mm thick, was removed revealing a sequence of deposits (202-203) that, based on the artefacts recovered, dated from the mid- 18th-20th centuries. The deposits, with a combined thickness of up to 200mm, consisted of firm dark grey stoney silts and clay, comparative to the deposits 102 and 103 in Trench 1. Similarly, the material appears to have been imported onto the mound for purposes of re-landscaping.
- 2.15. Very few artefacts were recovered. Covering a broad timeline they included a body sherd of unglazed orange pottery (of undiagnostic medieval origin), a sherd of black glazed fine red earthenware (17-18<sup>th</sup> century), small fragments of ceramic building material and bottle glass.



In addition, a medal dated c.1901 commemorating the coronation of Edward VII, was recovered from unstratified deposits on the spoil heap.



*Fig. 9 Trench 2, illustrating significant modern erosion, viewed from the north-east. Photo CPAT 4980-0034.*

- 2.16. The removal of these deposits revealed a uniform undisturbed layer (204) of grey silty clay and fragmented angular stone. A sondage, excavated through the deposit in the southern corner of the trench, revealed the material was 0.11m thick overlying a firm deposit (205) of pale yellowish clay and gravel (Appendix 6, Fig. 36, Section A-B). The absence of features and dateable artefacts from these deposits would suggest that they are part of the mound construct.
- 2.17. There was no evidence of a continuation of the possible bank (109), recorded along the eastern perimeter of Trench 1. The only feature recorded was a modern post-hole [206], 0.4m in diameter, revealed upon removal of the topsoil.

***Trench 3 (Figs 10-12 & Appendix 6, Fig. 37, 4.8m x 2.8m)***

- 2.18. Trench 3, orientated north-east to south-west and located on the western side of the mound, was positioned over an area where a building was marked on earlier O.S mapping. The 1885 Ordnance Survey (1:500 Town plan of Newtown) indicated the presence of a 'Summer House' on the mound; the origin, nature, and extent of which was unknown but presumed to be of 19<sup>th</sup> century date. As an aid to training purposes, less experienced and first-time volunteers were assigned to this trench to hone their excavation skills on what was presumed to be late post-medieval (low significance) deposits. Subsequently a 1m wide baulk was introduced across the width of the trench as a means of maintaining an in-situ record of the excavated material (Fig. 10).



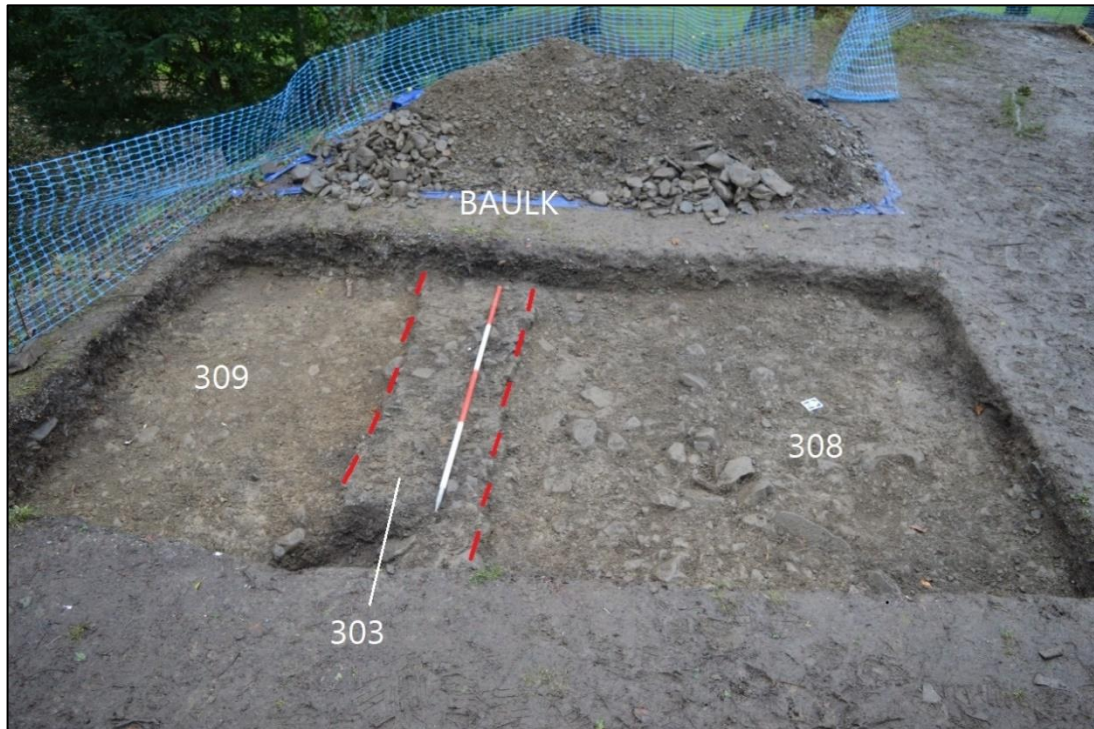
- 2.19. The modern topsoil (301), up to 0.1m thick, contained numerous artefacts dating from the mid-17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The underlying deposit (302) consisted of fragmented shales with lenses of modern white chippings (probably associated with early 20<sup>th</sup> century landscaping). The deposit had been truncated along the southern perimeter by a circular feature [305], 1.2m in diameter and 0.39m deep, the nature of which suggested it was the remains of a shrub/tree hole. Artefacts recovered from the fill (304) included: ceramic building material, animal bone and a large rim fragment from an earthenware *pancheon* bowl. The remains of a similar feature [307] was excavated in the northern corner of the trench.
- 2.20. Underlying the deposit (302) was a firm deposit (303) of assorted sized stones in a matrix of shale and dark grey silty clay. The material, slightly metallised, could have been the remains of a compacted surface associated with the foundations of a building. However, in the absence of structural features such as post-holes, the evidence to associate this with a 19<sup>th</sup> century summer house is rather tentative. The deposit contained numerous fragments of butchered animal bone, iron nails, a lead weight and multiple sherds of pottery of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century origin.
- 2.21. The deposits 302 and 303, with a combined thickness of up to 200mm, were comparative with the imported overlying deposits in Trenches 1 and 2 and are therefore probably associated with the re-landscaping attributed to the 18/19<sup>th</sup> century.



*Fig. 10. Trench 3, removal of 18-19<sup>th</sup> century deposits, viewed from the south. Photo CPAT 4980-0064.*

- 2.22. The removal of deposit 303 revealed a firm layer of large cobbles and shale (308) within a matrix of mid grey silty clay. The nature of the deposit, up to 0.11m thick, was unlike any material recorded in Trenches 1 and 2. It contained fragments of iron nails, butchered animal bone, a piece of melted lead and undiagnostic orange fragments of ceramic building material. Although undated, the deposit is probably associated with the 17<sup>th</sup> century Civil War occupation, or possibly earlier activity.

- 2.23. The material was removed west of the baulk revealing a compacted pale greenish-grey silty clay (309), similar to the deposit 204 recorded in Trench 2. This appeared to be the remains of a trampled surface. Unfortunately, as with the overlying material (308), the deposit remains undated but may be associated with the medieval occupation of the site (Figs 11-12).



*Fig. 11. Trench 3, viewed from the south-east. The compacted surface (309), possibly of medieval origin, to the left. Photo CPAT 4980-0092.*

- 2.24. There was no evidence of the summer house, illustrated on the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century mapping, within the bounds of Trench 3. It is quite possible that the structure was not substantial, possibly timber framed and set on posts, the evidence for which perhaps lay beyond the limit of the 2022 excavation.





*Fig. 12 Trench 3, post excavation, viewed from the north-west. Photo CPAT 4980-0096.*

## Discussion

- 2.25. Newtown Mound lies within what was formerly the grounds of Newtown Hall, a gentry house located to the south-west of the town centre. The hall (SO 1068 9149) was originally built in the years before 1577 by Richard Pryce, the then vicar of Kerry and is recorded by a witness in an Exchequer Special Commission in 1596 at Booth Hall of Newtown as having been called 'Mote House'. The hall has since been demolished and the site is now occupied by the Council Offices.
- 2.26. The mound has been claimed as both a very late construction contemporary with the new town and a much earlier castle site established (presumably) soon after the Conquest (c.1066 A.D). There is no supporting evidence either way.
- 2.27. At some point, possibly the late-17<sup>th</sup> century, the mound was incorporated into the grounds of Newtown Hall and utilised as a landscape feature. The site was visited by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) in 1909 and was recorded in their Inventory of the County of Montgomeryshire – the summit of the mound described as having been lowered to accommodate a tennis lawn and summer house. Around 1909 or 1910 the foundations of 'a small medieval dwelling' (but probably, likely to be of 17th-century date) were uncovered on the mound summit but unfortunately, a report was never published.
- 2.28. The 2022 excavation revealed that, from a conservation point of view, there is a modern thin deposit, only 50mm thick, of overburden sealing any archaeological deposits of significance. Underlying this are a sequence of deposits (up to 200mm thick), post-dating the Civil War

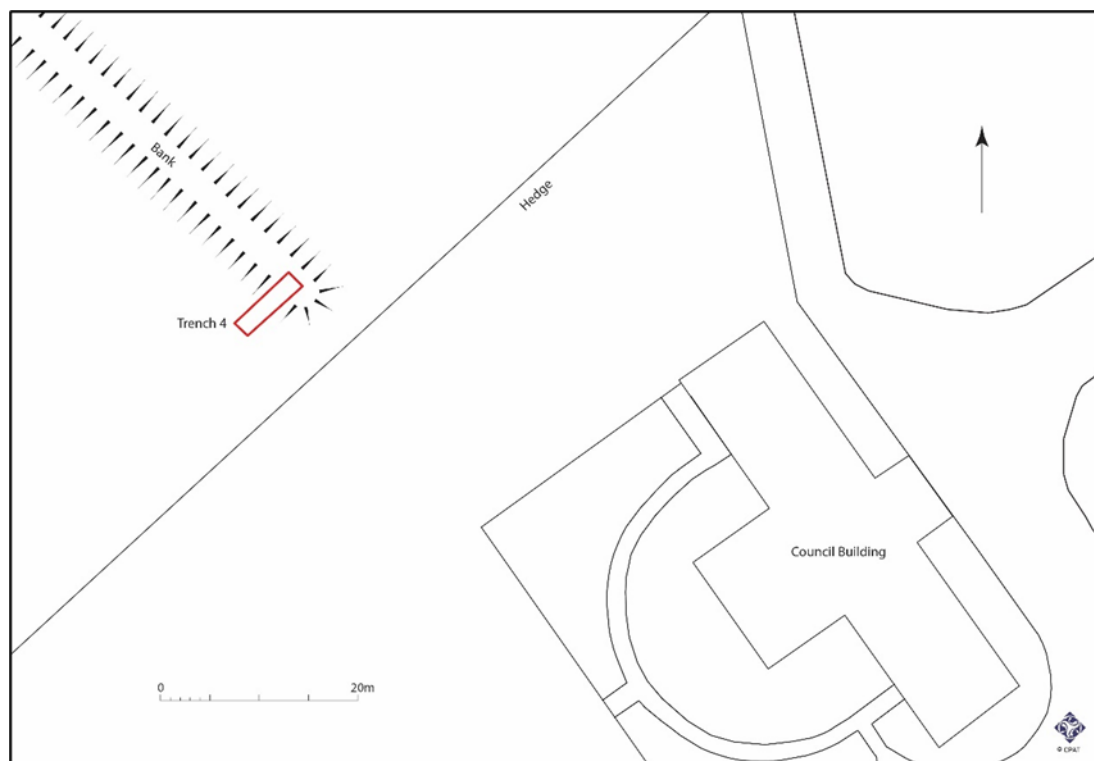
period, that have been imported onto the mound from the early 18th century onwards into the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This demonstrates that there has been significant remodelling of the summit of the mound although no evidence for a tennis lawn or summerhouse was recorded.

- 2.29. The imported material did, however, seal and preserve in-situ earlier deposits and artefacts such as pottery dating from medieval times and lead ammunition: (musket balls and shrapnel hammered shot), probably associated with the Civil War garrison occupation during the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century. Therefore, this demonstrates that there is archaeology preserved in situ on the mound that pre-dates the 18<sup>th</sup> century. These significant archaeological deposits survive at a depth of approximately 0.25m (250mm) below the present ground horizon. To fully understand, date and interpret these features would require further excavation.
- 2.30. Two of the Trenches, 1 and 2, were located in areas of existing erosion where modern trackways have eroded the edges of the mound. The track erosion along the eastern edge of Trench 1 truncates what is believed to be the remains of a medieval embankment and therefore it would be prudent to discourage any further public access from that direction. The erosion in Trench 2 does not appear to have removed anything of archaeological significance other than mound construction material. Therefore, this is an area that may well be utilised as an improved access onto the summit of the mound, subject to consultation with Cadw.
- 2.31. No features of archaeological significance were identified in Trench 3 other than surviving surfaces associated with the original construction of the mound, probably of medieval origin or 17th century origin.

## Linear Bank

### ***Trench 4 (Figs 13-24 & Appendix 6, Fig. 38, 7m x 2m)***

- 2.32. The linear earthwork bank, orientated north-west to south-east, is located beyond the scheduled area approximately 28m north-west of the present council buildings. Surviving to a height of 1.3m and approximately 9m wide at the base of the modern break of slope, the bank stands in an area of open grassed parkland with a miniature railway located to the south-west (Figs. 13-15).
- 2.33. The evaluation trench, orientated north-east to south-west, was located across the line of the bank at the south-east end next to a tarmac footpath. The original excavation design required that the trench should cross the full width of the bank. However, owing to the wet ground conditions and with a growing concern for the level and quality of the eventual re-instatement, the length of the trench was reduced in size (7m x 2m) to preserve the east facing side of the bank which had already been planted with numerous daffodils coming into bloom (Fig. 14). In addition to this, the extent of the south-western end of the trench was limited owing to the presence of the in-situ miniature railway track.



*Fig. 13 Location of Trench 4, across the line of the linear bank. Newtown Mound 2022.*



*Fig. 14 The earthwork, pre-excitation, viewed from the south-east. Photo CPAT 4980-0076.*





*Fig. 15. Location of Trench 4, pre-excavation, viewed from the west. Photo CPAT 4980-0078.*

- 2.34. The excavation was undertaken with a machine excavator with hand excavation thereafter. All turf, topsoil and underlying excavated material was removed and stored adjacent to the trench for subsequent reinstatement.
- 2.35. Upon removal of the turf and topsoil (401), up to 0.11m thick, the underlying construction material for the bank was immediately exposed. At the base of the bank, towards the south-western end of the trench, a sequence of deposits (402, 407 and 408), up to 0.4m thick, were removed revealing a stiff deposit (409) of dark grey sticky silty clay. The overlying deposits (402, a loose dark brown clay, 407, a very firm pale buff clay and 408, a light grey clay), were of modern 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century origin. The underlying deposit 409 was subsequently identified as the uppermost fill of a broad ditch associated with the construction of the bank.
- 2.36. The bank material was carefully removed down onto the old ground surface, revealing in section a sequence of construction deposits that were subsequently recorded in detail (Appendix 6, Fig. 38). Owing to the health and safety constraints (working within a 2m wide trench), investigation of the loose ditch fills was limited to a depth of 1m below the present ground surface (Fig. 16). Although this would not allow us to fully investigate the nature and origin of the monument (bank and ditch), it did afford the opportunity to identify when the ditch was last visible as a partially infilled feature.



*Fig. 16. Trench 4, post excavation, viewed from the north-east. Photo CPAT 4980-0134.*

### **Bank**

- 2.37. The excavation revealed that the bank (422) survives to a height of 1.9m and the width is approximately 7.5m. The latter can only be confirmed by further excavation of the south-east end of the trench. The earthwork was probably constructed from material excavated during the construction of the ditch [420]. A total of seven construction deposits (412-417 and 419) were recorded, with later interventions, [404 and [406], located on the crest of the bank (Fig. 17).
- 2.38. At the base of the bank was a stiff charcoal flecked bluish-grey clay (418). This was mixed with, or sealed by, a thin crust/deposit of orange 'iron panning' – a form of soil mineralisation occasionally associated with buried relic ground surfaces (Fig. 18). The thickness of the deposit and the nature of the underlying subsoil is unknown as, owing to time constraints, it was not sampled. The deposit was sealed by a charcoal flecked layer (417) of reddish-ochre fine silty clay, 0.2m thick. This was the primary construction layer for the bank (422). The layer, 1.8m wide at the base, resembled a low-lying bank. It has been suggested that this might be the remains of a 'marking out' bank, used to indicate the line of construction the earthwork should follow.
- 2.39. There then followed a sequence of three construction layers (416, 415 and 414), all of which appeared to have been cast from west to east, as evident in the recorded section as tip lines (Appendix 6, Fig 38.). This has been postulated as the first phase of bank construction, as the deposits thereafter appeared to seal the original internal edge of the ditch [420] (see section 2.43).



- 2.40. Overlying the deposit 417 was a layer of firm orange-brown silty clay (416), 0.4m thick, with occasional small pebbles. This was sealed by a distinctively bluish grey stiff clay (415) containing numerous pebbles and large cobbles. The deposit, up to 0.9m thick, formed the core of the construction material for the bank. At the north-east end of the trench, the deposit also sealed the basal ground surface deposit (418). A thin, 0.2m thick, ochre/brown fine silty clay (414) sealed the deposit (415). The material, containing fragments of charcoal, occasional small pebbles and confined to the north-east facing side of the bank, appeared to be the uppermost layer of the postulated Phase 1 bank construction.



*Fig. 17. Trench 4, section through the bank construction deposits, viewed from the south-west. Photo CPAT 4980-0121.*





*Fig. 18. Trench 4, possible buried relic ground surface (418) at the base of the bank. The orange 'iron panning' deposit clearly visible. Viewed from the south. Photo CPAT 4980-0159.*

- 2.41. A deposit of firm charcoal-flecked ochre-brown fine silt (419) sealed the north-western edge of the base of the bank (416). This material, which was later covered by bank construction deposits (413 and 412), appears to seal the original internal edge of the ditch [420]. The deposit's relationship between the bank and ditch, which subsequently has become key to understanding the earlier origins of the monument, was, owing to time constraints, not explored.
- 2.42. Extending across the full width of the bank, sealing the deposit 419, was a deposit (413) of stiff pale grey silty clay, 0.3m thick, with occasional pebbles. On the crown of the bank the deposit was sealed by the uppermost construction layer (412), a stiff yellowish-grey clay 0.3m thick. Both deposits possibly represent a second phase of bank construction.
- 2.43. Two features (404 and 406), probably modern in origin, truncated the uppermost layers, (412 and 413) along the crest of the bank. The feature 404, 0.26m in diameter, 0.3m deep and containing a singular fill (403) of loose brown silty clay, is probably the remains of a post-hole. The other feature 406, a broad 1.3m wide pit, 0.26m deep, contained a singular fill (405) similar to 403.
- 2.44. No dateable artefacts were recovered from any of the bank construction deposits. Given the large quantity of pottery, ceramic building material and other artefacts recovered from the excavated material from the adjacent ditch (see 2.48) and the Newtown Mound, this is unusual if we are to believe the bank is of post-medieval origin (late-16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century). Construction of an earthwork generally involves using adjacent material such as plough-soils and underlying material. Invariably, certainly in an area adjacent to the core of the town, one would

expect some small fragments of waste material that would be present in some part of the bank.

- 2.45. Additionally, the characteristics of the construction layers vary from rich ochre brown fine silts to leached and bluish clays, reminiscent of relic soils pre-dating the post-medieval period. The evidence, at the moment, favours a date of medieval origin although a Civil War (c.1640's) date should not be discounted.

### ***Ditch***

- 2.46. The extent of the ditch, located on the south-west side of the bank, extended beyond the bounds of the trench. Within the confines of the excavation, it was recorded that the ditch was at least 4.3m wide and 0.6m deep. It could be at least 5-6m wide and 2-3m deep. As previously mentioned, only the uppermost fills were investigated owing to the constraints of time and health and safety.
- 2.47. The inner edge of the ditch cut [420] was identified at the base of the trench, 2.7m from the north-east end of the trench (Fig. 19). The earliest ditch fill, only partially investigated, was a stiff pale grey clay (421), with inclusions of small pebbles. The fill, which is undated, could have resulted from embankment erosion although the nature of the fine silty clay implied a more alluvial origin, possibly the result of a flood event.



*Fig. 19. Trench 5, viewed from the south-west. The inner edge of the ditch cut [420] is in front of the black and white 1m scale. Photo CPAT 4980-0145.*



- 2.48. Overlying the fill 421 was a deposit of firm grey fine silty clay (411), at least 0.2m thick. The fill, again only partially excavated, contained small pebbles and well-preserved fragments of animal bone. The fill, which remained undated but would appear to pre-date the 18<sup>th</sup> century, was also of an alluvial nature. It was sealed by a lighter grey silty clay (410), 0.3m thick, from which fragments of hand-made brick, of unknown date, were recovered.
- 2.49. The uppermost fill of the ditch [420] was a dark grey sticky silty clay (409), up to 0.3m thick. The deposit was very distinctive, containing multiple fragments of bottle glass, ceramic, ceramic building material and larger pieces of hand-made brick, all dating to the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century (Fig. 20).



*Fig. 20. Trench 4, partial section through upper fills of the ditch [420]. Large assemblage of bottle glass (c. 1730's) visible to the right of the photo scale. Viewed from the north-west. Photo CPAT 4980-0127.*

- 2.50. Some of the artefacts recovered from the ditch fill 409 were particularly diagnostic and alluded to the possibility that the material was derived from Newtown Hall. Of note were the large fragments of Staffordshire salt glazed stoneware (later reconstructed by the volunteers in the workshop – a 'charger' (platter) of c. 1720-1760) and the malt bottle (of which there were many fragments), with the Pryce family seal attached (c.1730's) (See Appendix 5, Figs 29-35).

## Discussion

- 2.51. The medieval town has the hallmarks of a deliberately planned settlement, with a fairly regular street pattern, perhaps founded in the 13th century on a new site protected on three sides by a prominent bend in the River Severn. Subsequently the river provided some natural protection as well as a level of definition to the medieval settlement that developed here.
- 2.52. There has been speculation about defences around the town in the form of a wall or bank, but there has been nothing to substantiate their former existence, and no helpful documentary



references. Spurgeon, who noted in 1966 that there was a modern flood bank or garden feature with an outer ditch to the north-west of Newtown Hall running towards the river, wondered whether it might overlie the town defences. In this instance, he had assumed that the existing upstanding earthwork was not of antiquity.

- 2.53. The bank also appears to be depicted on the 1798 Plan of Newtown (Fig. 21) and possibly extended further towards the house than is shown on the later mapping. Spurgeon proposed that the earthwork could have been constructed in 1641-2 to channel water into the motte ditch and records that.

*'on 30th December, 1641, Richard Amyas, Steward to Sir John Pryce of Newtown Hall, wrote to his Master in London informing him that: '... The armour of the corn and Powder p'te of yt cam to the mott yesterday. Then, on the 9th February, 1642, he wrote: 'For the magazine all things are allredie brought to the mott w'ch were to be had at Poole and the townesmen of Newtowne willingly upon their own charge have cast up all that ... of the poole aboute the mott under the bridge and allong the side of the Shiriffe walke and wee intend to bring in the water to inviron yt within a short tyme for yt will be done w'th a small charge and thend of the mott next maise y vain or haveing above the stone wall but a sclender wall must of necessity be boarded with the pentise below which shall carry over the wall the breadth of two boards to keep the wall drie from violence of the weather which caused some p'te of the wall latelie to fall w'ch shalbe made up after yt is boarded ... etc.' '*

- 2.54. Spurgeon goes on to say that it would seem that Sir John Pryce was refortifying and stocking the old motte at this troubled time. The men of Newtown were apparently deepening ditches and attempting to flood the moat by trenching along the 'Shiriffe Walk', which may be the flood bank between the Hall and the river.

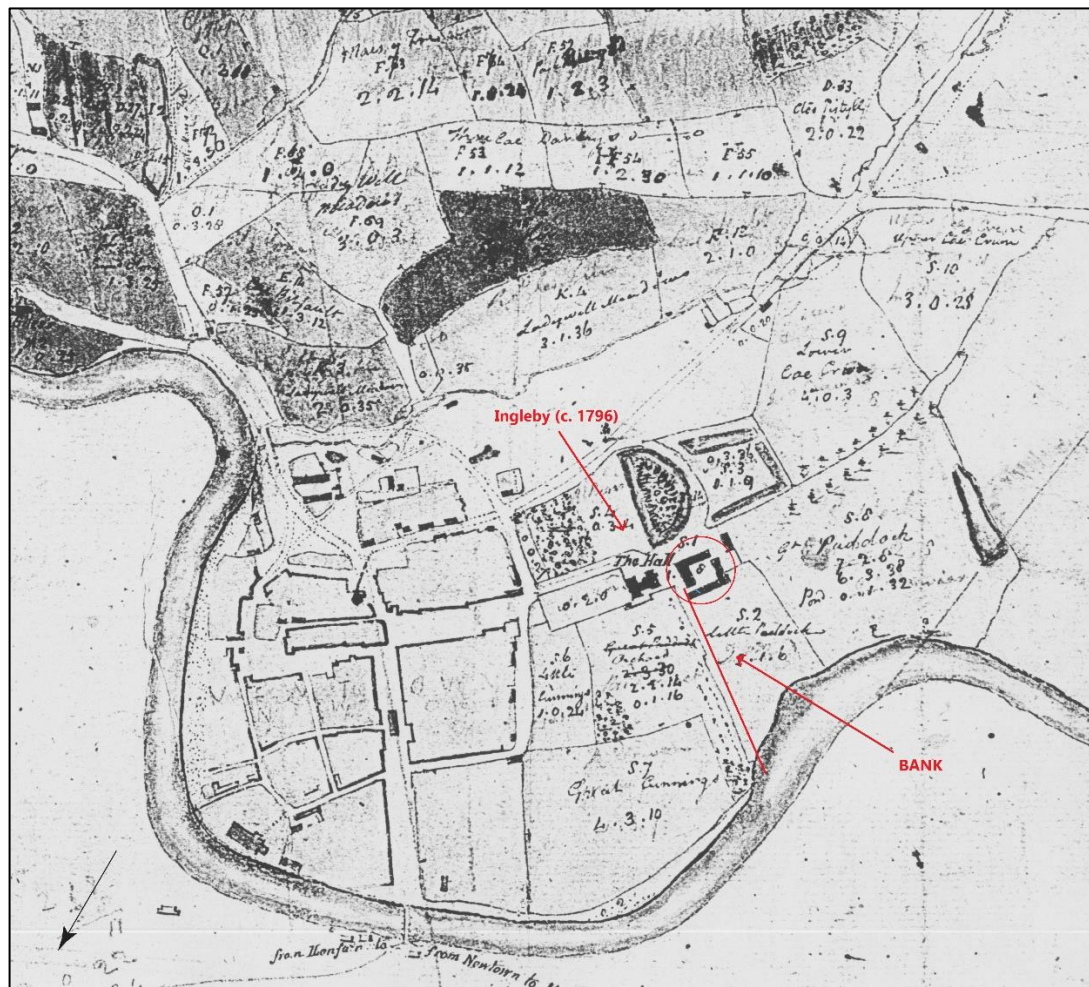


Fig. 21. 1798 Glansevern Map of Newtown (north is to the bottom). Line of the bank, direction of Ingleby's 1796 painting and outbuildings, indicated in red. (Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland)

- 2.55. A great deal of the speculation regarding the bank being described as a formal 'garden feature' associated with Newtown Hall has stemmed from the interpretation of a painting by John Ingleby in 1796 (Fig. 22). The view, which was originally thought to have been taken from the north-west of the hall, indicated that there were a series of earthen banks with trees growing along their length to the north-east of the house and that some farm buildings lay off to one side of it as well as a small lake or pool.
- 2.56. A re-evaluation of the painting and contemporary mapping (post CPAT excavation 2022) has now revealed that the view is in fact from the south-east and the pond to the left of the Hall is probably the mound moat, the buildings in the background being those shown on the c.1796 Glansevern Map (Fig. 21).



*Fig. 22. 1796 painting of Newtown Hall by John Ingleby, viewed from the south-east.*

- 2.57. The date and function of the linear earthwork is currently not known although, as has been previously mentioned, several possibilities may be proposed, including flood defences, a raised trackway to a former crossing point of the river, civil war defences, or an earlier feature relating to the mound. Certainly, either the alignment of the earthwork with the motte or its relationship with Newtown Hall appear key to understanding this feature.
- 2.58. On the O.S map c.1885 (Fig. 23) the north-western end of the bank and ditch are depicted as still visible whereas the south-eastern end has been infilled and the bank possibly truncated because of enclosure improvements. It is probable that the ditch had already been infilled with material from Newtown Hall at least a century earlier, as early as the mid-18th century. This is corroborated by the results of the 2022 excavation where a substantial bottle and pottery cache (c. 1720-65) was recorded in the upper layers of the ditch. The heraldic device depicted on the bottle seals, has been identified by the *Institute for the Study of Welsh Estates* (ISWE) as belonging to the Pryce family of Newtown Hall. The bottle type is known as a 'mallet' bottle and is of mid-18<sup>th</sup> century (c.1730) origin.





*Fig. 23. Extract from the 1885 1:500 Ordnance Survey map of Newtown, showing the mound in the bottom right corner and the earthwork bank aligned NE-SW to the NE of Newtown Hall, which runs to the edge of the river. (Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland)*

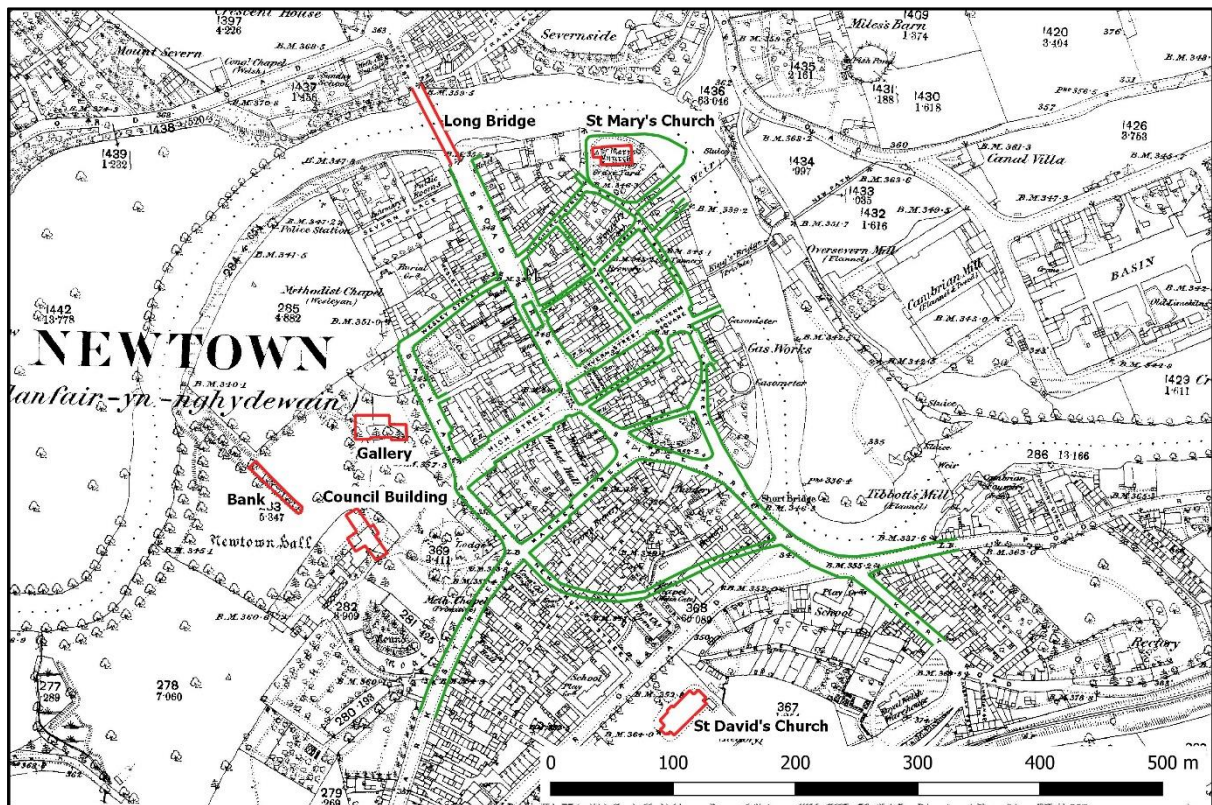


Fig. 24. The medieval street plan of Newtown is likely to reflect that shown on the Glansevern map of 1798, shown here in green against the Ordnance Survey 252 mapping of 1886. Notable landmarks, including the Bank, are highlighted in red. (Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland)

- 2.59. What remains of the bank today extends for approximately 72m, although it has been truncated at its northern extent during the creation of the car park and more recently a building development. The removal, and loss, of this part of the earthwork may now prove to be of some significance. In profile, the bank survives between 7.5-8m wide at the base, with 45° sloping sides to a 3m wide level top.

### **Further excavation?**

- 2.60. The 2022 excavation of the linear bank demonstrated that the earthwork is not of 18<sup>th</sup> century origin and is not part of a formal garden design, perceived to be associated with Newtown Hall. The complete absence of artefactual dating evidence from the construction deposits corroborates this interpretation. Furthermore, the ditch along the western edge of the bank is far more substantial in form than was originally believed, being at least 5m in width and 1.5m deep. An extended trench across the earthwork, to ascertain the width of both bank and ditch and any other associated features, would almost certainly demonstrate the full profile and extent of the monument.
- 2.61. In the event of further investigation into the earthwork, there is charcoal material present in both the underlying and basal deposits of the bank to provide sufficient material for scientific dating e.g., C.14 analysis. An alternative dating method: Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL), could also be applied.

- 2.62. There appears to be at least two phases of bank construction evident, and the nature of the ditch fills allude to earlier origins, possibly medieval, reinforcing the argument that the monument (both bank and ditch) could possibly be the only remains of the hitherto unknown town defences of Newtown. Understanding the nature and origin, state of preservation and artefactual potential is essential to the successful interpretation of the relationship between both the bank and Newtown Mound within the wider landscape of the town.
- 2.63. The nature of modern excavation requires Health and Safety measures to be enforced which limits excavation of features of any great depth. To that end the 2022 excavation was somewhat limited in what could be achieved in both workable space and timescale. To properly ascertain the nature, extent, and origin of this monument then it is suggested that the trench site be revisited with a view to expanding the workable area, creating a safely 'stepped' working environment.
- 2.64. The level of archaeological potential has been demonstrated, and areas for further investigation to realise the project objectives have also been identified. Furthermore, the potential of the artefactual resource is evident from the quantity of material recovered in such abundance (high status bottles and ceramics, of mid-18th century origin, belonging to the Pryce family from Newtown Hall). It is now apparent that the ditch has been used over the centuries as a dumping ground for refuse from the hall and the immediate locale. Therefore, the potential for earlier dateable material to be recovered from the lower deposits is high.

### ***Finds***

- 2.65. The volunteer experience was not limited to site work alone and there was an opportunity for individuals to participate in the preliminary processing of the artefacts recovered from site. The work was undertaken as part of the 'Finds Workshop' based at the Oriel Davies in Newtown. The finds were washed and bagged, including contextual labels and identifiers, and then subsequently removed for temporary storage to CPAT offices. Throughout the excavation the public were able to visit the gallery, see the finds on display and talk with the volunteers.
- 2.66. All those involved contributed greatly to the process of managing the ever-increasing site archive. The next stage in the post-excavation process is the process of full cataloguing, weighing, and subsequent selection of items to be retained for purposes of both display and archive. As part of the volunteer skills enhancement programme, and to retain some degree of continuity, CPAT hope to further engage the Newtown volunteers in this process. This, however, does require skilled supervision.
- 2.67. The full catalogue of finds is now pending subject to further funding and the possibility of further investigative work on site.

### ***Outreach (See Appendix 2, 'Evaluating Social Value and Wellbeing at Newtown Motte excavations 2022', Appendix 3 & 4).***

- 2.68. From a community excavation and volunteer point of view the project delivered the opportunity for volunteers of mixed ability to engage in both field craft and/or indoor



workshops in such a way that allowed them to aid and contribute to the greater understanding of the earlier, and hitherto lesser studied, heritage of Newtown.

- 2.69. The 'Finds Workshop' based at the Oriel Davies, where individuals were afforded the opportunity to help with post-excavation processing, proved to be very popular. The artefactual recovery rate from the excavations, specifically the pottery sherd and bottle count, was fairly high. In a community training excavation this is an ideal scenario as, regardless of the origin of the material, the volunteers quickly become competent in the basics of archaeological field craft and the importance of identifying different contexts for phasing and dating the site. In addition to this, lots of 'finds' make for a rewarding experience!
- 2.70. In summary, one last observation. In recent times, more emphasis has been placed on the promotion of 'wellbeing', amongst our communities. CPAT's experience during and after the 2022 Newtown excavations demonstrated to us how important it was for members of the public, and professional staff alike, to have the opportunity to work alongside each other, being part of a heritage-based experience, in a team environment achieving and delivering meaningful results with, hopefully, a longer-term legacy. (See also Spring Festival, Appendix 3).

### 3 Acknowledgements

- 3.1. The author would like to thank the following for their assistance with the project: Will Davies, Ian Halfpenny and Fiona Grant, Cadw; Richard Hankinson, Chris Mathews, Will Logan, Penny Foreman, Zoe Arthurs and Jack Rowe, CPAT; Newtown and Llanllwchaearn Town Council, Zac Howard and Ffiona Ferneyhough; Development Managers (NLTC) and all the staff at Oriel Davies. A special thanks to all the community volunteers who assisted with the excavations. Machining and reconsolidation were undertaken by Ben Davies Plant Hire.

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Unpublished sources.

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## 5 Archive deposition Statement

- 5.1. 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* (2020b).

### Archive Summary

Archives Officer	Sophie Watson
HER Enquiry No	N/A
HER Event PRN	214642
OASIS Reference No	N/A
Digital Archive Repository	RCAHMW
Documentary Archive Repository	N/A
Finds Archive Repository	N/A
Accession Numbers	N/A

### Digital Archive

Sub folder	Contents	Retained by CPAT	Selected for Archive
 Finds data	Awaiting full post excavation processing	N	Y
 GIS data	-	0	0
 Metadata	2406_Metadata.docx 2406_Technical_Documentation.docx 2406_RCAHMW_Archives_Deposit_Agreement.docx	Y Y Y	Y Y Y
 Photography			
 Film_4980	160 JPG Images 4980_Photo_Register	Y Y	Y Y
 Report	2406_CPAT_Report_1922.docx 2406_CPAT_Report_1922.pdf	Y Y	Y Y
 Site data	2406_Context_Form.pdf (x 40) 2406_Trench_Form.pdf (x 2) 2406_Drawing_Register.pdf 2406_Context_Register.pdf (x2) 2406_Drw1-2.pdf 2406_Drw3-4.pdf 2406_Drw5-6.pdf 2406_Drw7-8.pdf 2406_Drw9.pdf	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y
 Survey data	newtown22.dxf newtown22_2.dxf	Y Y	Y Y

**Documentary Archive**

	<b>Hard copy</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Retained by CPAT</b>	<b>Selected for Archive</b>
Context register	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Drawings register	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Finds register	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Levels register	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Photo register	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Context sheets	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Finds/samples record	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Trench record forms	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
A2 plans	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
A3 plans	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Finds Archive (Section pending subject to further work)**
**Finds Deposition**  
**Agreement obtained**  
**Archive Repository**  
**Accession Number**

Y/N  
 To be confirmed  
 XXXX / N/A

**Pottery/Ceramics**

Prehistoric  
 Roman  
 Medieval  
 Post-medieval  
 Modern  
 Undated  
 CBM  
 Clay Pipe  
 Other (specify)

<i>collected</i>	<i>processed</i>	<i>catalogued</i>	<i>specialist</i>	<i>conserved</i>	<i>discarded</i>

**Stone**

Stone Artefacts  
 Roofing Tile/Slate  
 Building Materials  
 Flint/Chert  
 Other (specify)

<i>collected</i>	<i>processed</i>	<i>catalogued</i>	<i>specialist</i>	<i>conserved</i>	<i>discarded</i>

**Metalwork**

Ironwork  
 Copper Alloy  
 Lead  
 Silver  
 Metalworking Residues  
 Other (specify)

<i>collected</i>	<i>processed</i>	<i>catalogued</i>	<i>specialist</i>	<i>conserved</i>	<i>discarded</i>

**Bone/Animal Remains**

Animal Bone  
 Human Skeletal Material

<i>collected</i>	<i>processed</i>	<i>catalogued</i>	<i>specialist</i>	<i>conserved</i>	<i>discarded</i>



Shell					
Other (specify)					

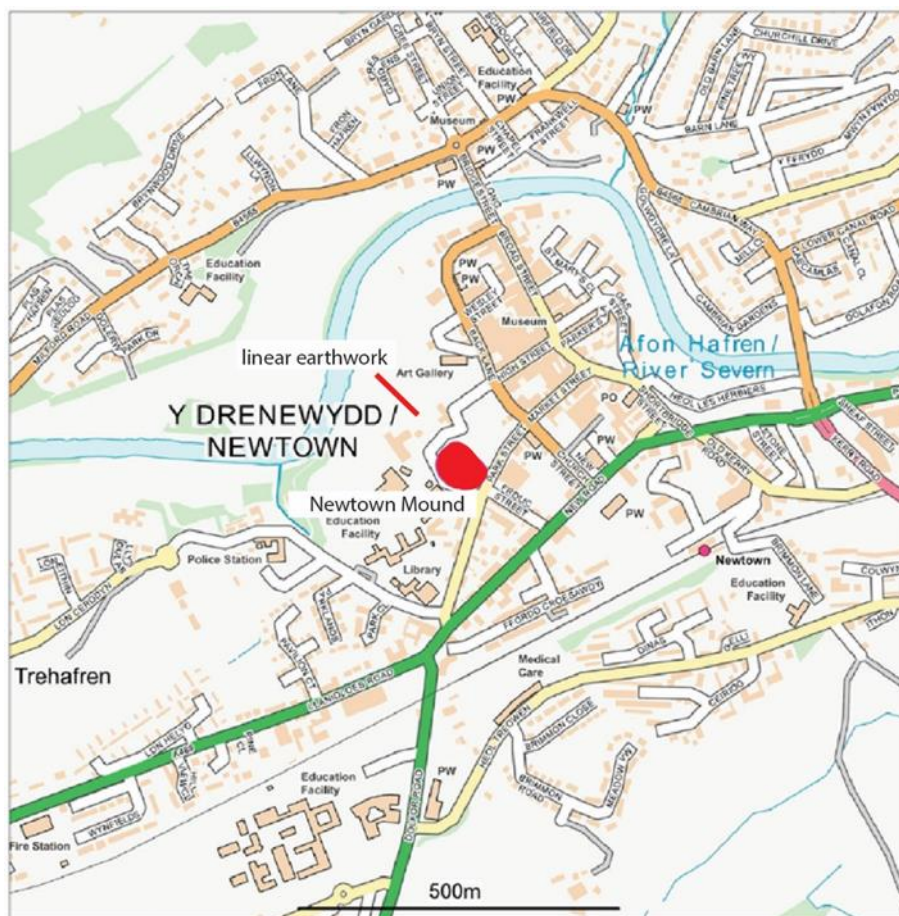
<b><i>Samples</i></b>	<i>collected</i>	<i>processed</i>	<i>catalogued</i>	<i>specialist</i>	<i>discarded</i>
Bulk soil					
Charcoal					
Other (specify)					

	<i>yes/no</i>	
<b><i>Finds Catalogues</i></b>		
<b><i>Box Catalogue</i></b>		<b><i>Number of boxes</i></b>

## Appendix 1: CPAT WSI 2319

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) has been invited by Newtown and Llanllwchaearn Town Council to submit a proposal for undertaking an archaeological evaluation to further assist with the future management of the scheduled earthwork known as Newtown Mound, which lies to the south-west of the centre of Newtown, in Powys. The mound is a scheduled monument (MG160) and is located within the town, on the north-western side of Park Street, beside the council offices (Fig. 1; SO 1071 9142).

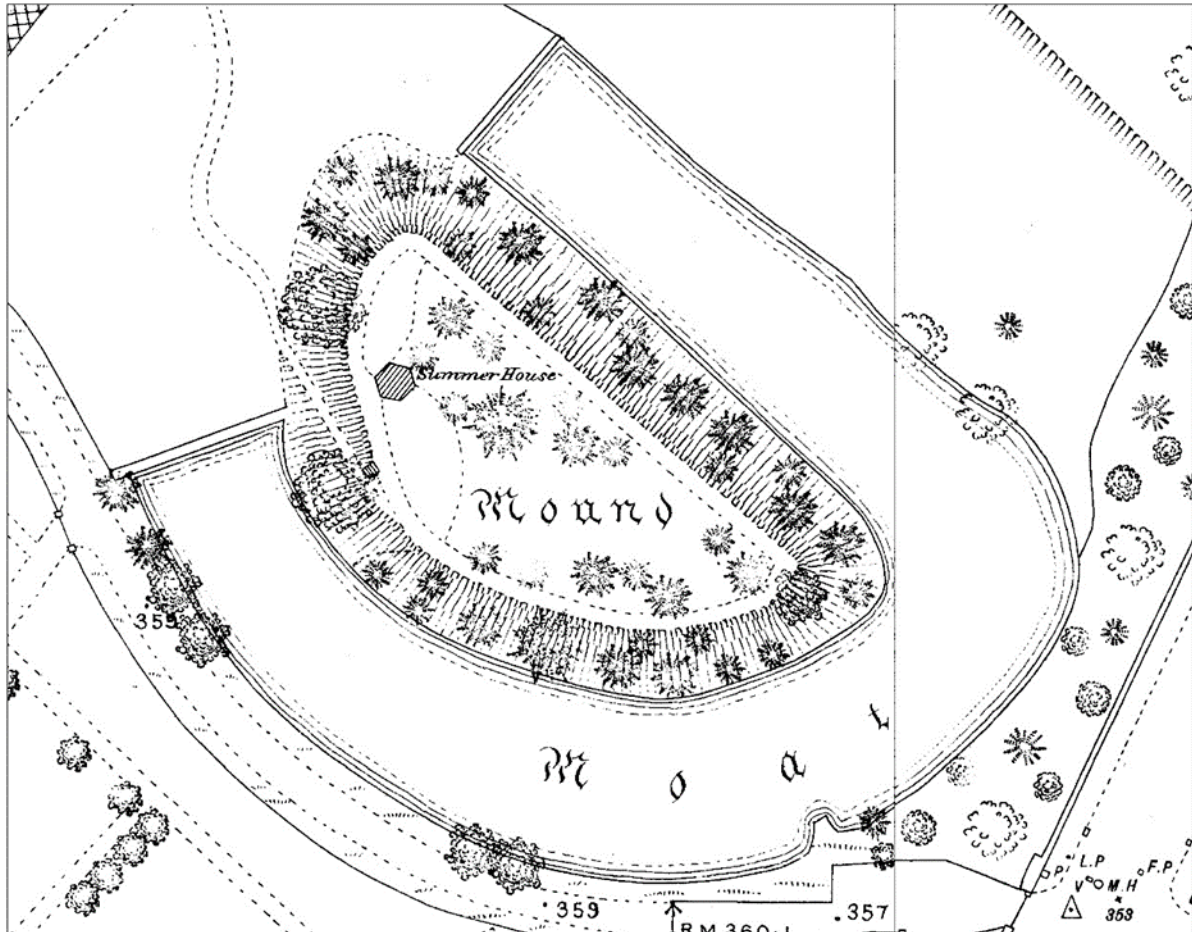


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*Fig. 1 Location of Newtown Mound MG160 and the linear bank*

- 1.2. Little is known about the mound, although it is thought to be medieval in date and associated with the foundation of the town, perhaps in the 13th century. The mound is unlike other medieval earthwork castles in along the Welsh Marches, being both larger and D-shaped. There is evidence to suggest that the mound was refortified during the Civil War and the summit may subsequently have been occupied by a building. During the 18th century the mound was incorporated into the gardens and parkland surrounding nearby Newtown Hall and a summerhouse was added on the summit during the 19th century (Fig. 2).

- 1.3. A heritage assessment was conducted by CPAT in 2020, which included a detailed topographical survey, while a geophysical survey undertaken by Sumo Geophysics Ltd investigated the summit of the mound but revealed no evidence for any buried structures.



*Fig. 2 Extract from the 1885 Ordnance Survey 1:500 map of Newtown showing the Newtown Mound.  
(Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland)*

- 1.4. The project also includes the investigation of a linear earthwork in the town park, the date and function of which are unknown, although it may be associated with Newtown Hall.

## 2 Objectives

- 2.1. The objectives of the evaluation are:
- to investigate three areas on the summit of Newtown Mound to further elucidate the form, date and construction of any remains which may be present;
  - to excavate a single trench to investigate a linear earthwork in the town park;
  - to record any archaeological features identified during the evaluation;

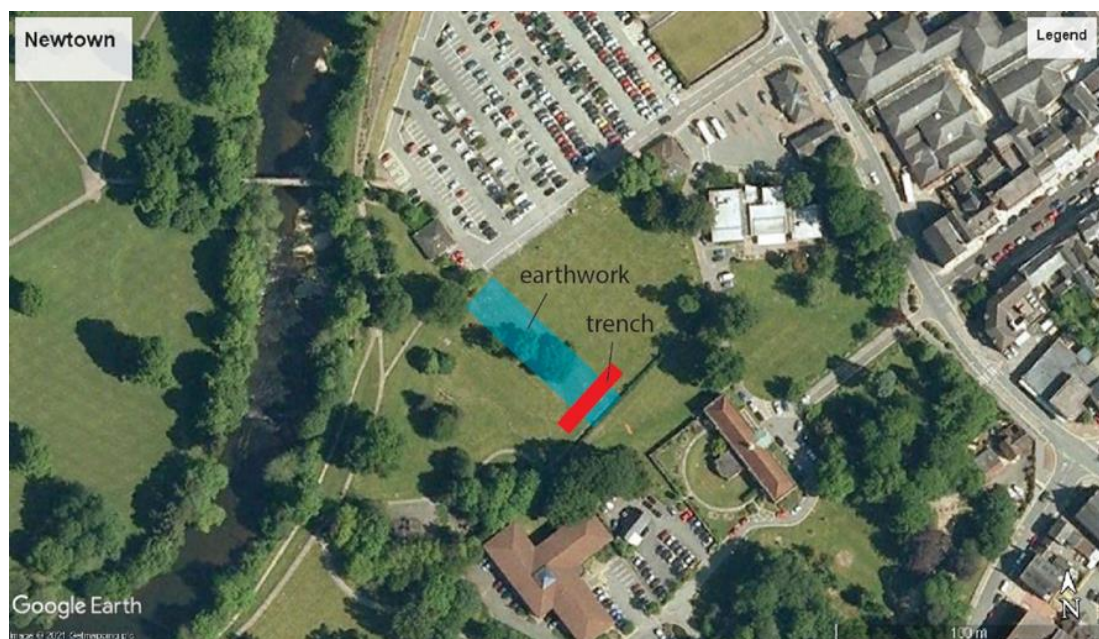


- to allow local volunteers to assist in delivering the project through participation in fieldwork and finds processing;
- to prepare a report outlining the results of the evaluation and the research potential of the site archive;
- to prepare a final publication of the results in an appropriate regional or national journal, depending on the nature and significance of any archaeology.

## 3 Methodology

### Evaluation

- 3.1. The evaluation of Newtown Mound will be entirely within the scheduled area and Scheduled Monument Consent will be required.
- 3.2. The evaluation on the summit of Newtown Mound will consist of three trenches, the dimensions and locations of which are depicted in Fig. 4 at the rear of this document. All work will be undertaken by hand. The turf and topsoil will be removed and stored adjacent to the trenches for subsequent reinstatement. After the removal of overburden onto the surface of the first significant archaeological horizon a decision will be made following the advice of Cadw's Regional Inspector regarding the objectives and extent of further excavation.
- 3.3. In the case of the linear bank a trench up to 20m long and 2m wide will be excavated initially using a machine fitted with a wide toothless ditching blade. All modern overburden will be removed down to the level of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. A decision will then be made regarding the careful removal of the upper bank material and upper ditch fills by machine under close archaeological supervision.



*Fig. 3 Location of the trench across the linear earthwork*

- 3.4. Excavated material will be temporarily stored adjacent to the trench, which will be reinstated with this material upon completion. Excavations on the mound will be surrounded by plastic barrier mesh, while the linear earthwork excavations will be surrounded by heras fencing.
- 3.5. The excavation of archaeological features or deposits will be undertaken by hand using the conventional techniques for archaeological excavation:
- 3.6. Where features of archaeological interest are identified 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 ClfA Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation (revised 2020).
- 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.
  - Stratigraphic units will be assigned a record number and entered along with a description on an individual record form or trench recording sheet 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 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.

## Site boundaries

- 3.7 The site boundaries for the evaluation are as follows:
- Newtown Mound – all areas on the summit of the mound which are enclosed by barrier fencing.
  - Linear Bank – the area enclosed by heras fencing.

## Artefacts

- 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.

- 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 will be made to assess and study any artefacts, assemblages and environment samples.
- Any artefacts recovered during the recording process will be deposited with the nearest regional or county Museum, subject to the permission of the owner. The artefacts will be deposited along with a copy of the site report including a detailed list of all artefacts recovered.

## Selection Strategy

3.9 Unstratified finds will only be collected where they contribute significantly to the project objectives or are of particular intrinsic interest. All artefacts will be retained from stratigraphically secure contexts of 18th-century date or earlier. In the case of later or disturbed contexts, all 18th-century or earlier material will be retained, together with a sample of later finds to assist with dating and phasing, unless later deposits/artefacts are deemed to be of high archaeological value.

3.10 CPAT has a retention policy for artefacts which prioritises as follows:

### High priority for retention

- Rare finds from stratified and unstratified contexts
- Prehistoric and early medieval assemblages
- Key stratigraphic dating assemblages crucial to the structural development of the site
- Assemblages which are not well represented in museum collections

### High priority for disposal

- Unstratified material unless intrinsically dateable and unusual/rare
- Artefacts from residual/intrusive contexts unless of key stratigraphic importance to the site
- Assemblages already well represented in museum collections
- Unprocessed environmental/soil samples

## Site archive

3.11 The overall archive will conform to guidelines described in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE), Historic England 2015, the CIfA (2020) *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* and *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales* (NPAAW, 2017) and *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records* (HERs) V1 (July 2018).

3.12 The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record (NMR), RCAHMW, including a copy of the final report. This archive will include all written, drawn, survey and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. A copy of the digital archive only will also be lodged with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust.

### **Data management plan**

3.13 The project will be conducted in accordance with CPAT's data management policy. All paper records will be collated, catalogued and labelled with the unique project code. All digital data



will follow strict file naming, to include the unique project code, and be sorted into a standard series of sub-folders. The digital data will be catalogued, including a list of file types and relevant software.

## Report

- 3.14 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
- 3.15 The report summary will be provided in English and Welsh, in accordance with the Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) V1 (July 2018).

## 4 Resources and programming

- 4.1. The assessment will be undertaken by a team of skilled archaeologists with additional assistance from volunteers 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 (2019).
- 4.2. All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist(s) who conducted the evaluation.
- 4.3. It is anticipated that the evaluation will be completed within fifteen working days with a team of two archaeologists assisted by volunteers, and the report prepared immediately thereafter.
- 4.4. It is hoped that the evaluation will afford community outreach opportunities. Local volunteers (skilled and un-skilled) will be encouraged to participate in the excavation and assist with the processing of recovered artefacts.
- 4.5. Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 4.6. CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance, as well as Professional Indemnity insurance.

## 5 References

Jones, N. W. and Watson, S., 2020. *Newtown Mound, Powys: Heritage Assessment*. CPAT Report 1689

Wajzer, M. R. and Udyrysz-Krawec, M., 2020. *Newtown Motte, Powys: geophysical survey report*. Sumo Geophysics Survey Report 17047.

N W Jones

25 February 2021

## Appendix 2: Outreach

### Evaluating Social Value and Wellbeing at Newtown Motte excavations 2022

Penelope Foreman, June 2022

#### Introduction

In February 2022, The Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) conducted several weeks of excavation at the site of Newtown Mound, a suspected early medieval motte site in the grounds of Parc Dolerw. The mound is a scheduled monument (MG160) and is located within the town, on the north-western side of Park Street, beside the council offices. Alongside research objectives of investigating both the mound and a nearby linear feature, CPAT wanted to allow local volunteers to participate in excavation and finds processing. Some evaluation was planned to establish an impact on individual well-being on taking part in the dig.

Invitations to volunteer were shared over social media in January 2021, once Covid-19 restrictions on volunteering and working in groups were lifted in Wales. The main publicity method was sharing on Facebook, which allowed a reach across many different communities within the Newtown areas. Existing CPAT volunteers were also invited to take part.

108 people applied directly through CPAT's application form, and several others volunteered later in the excavation once word of mouth had attracted further volunteers from the local area. Initially over three weeks, the excavation was extended by a further two weeks due to adverse weather conditions and the need for longer to evaluate some aspects of the site. Over the course of these five weeks, over 115 volunteers helped with the excavation, recording, and finds processing. Following the excavation, all volunteers were contacted to reflect on their time on site. Of the volunteers, 19 responded – around 18% of the cohort, which is slightly higher than the average return for online surveys.

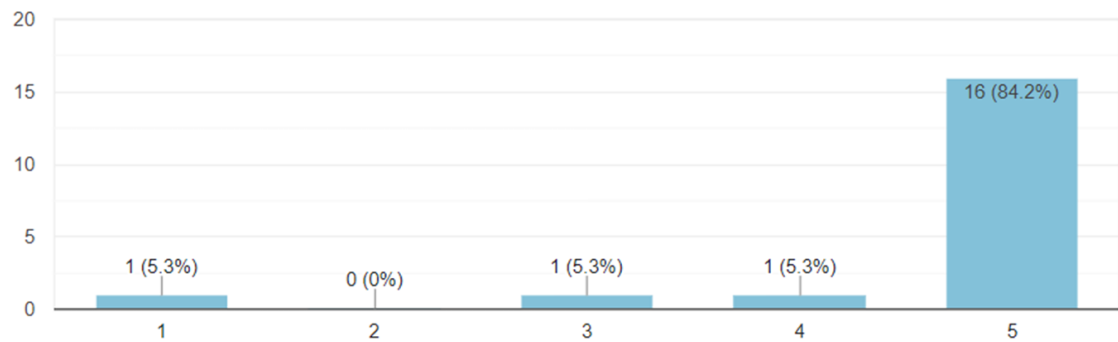


## Results

How satisfied were you with your time on the project?

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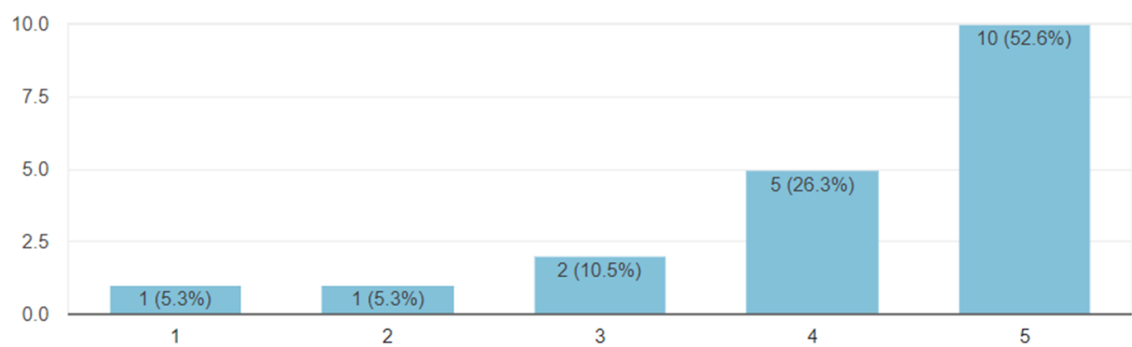
19 responses

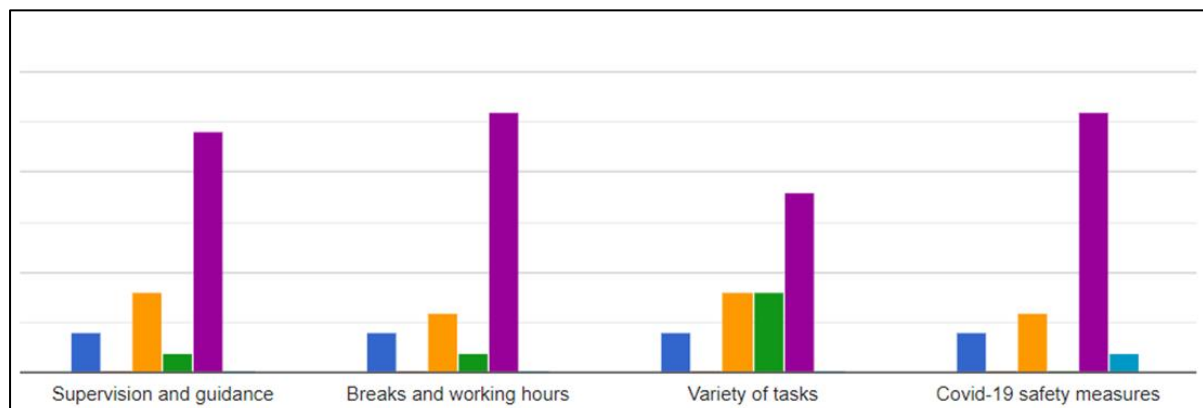
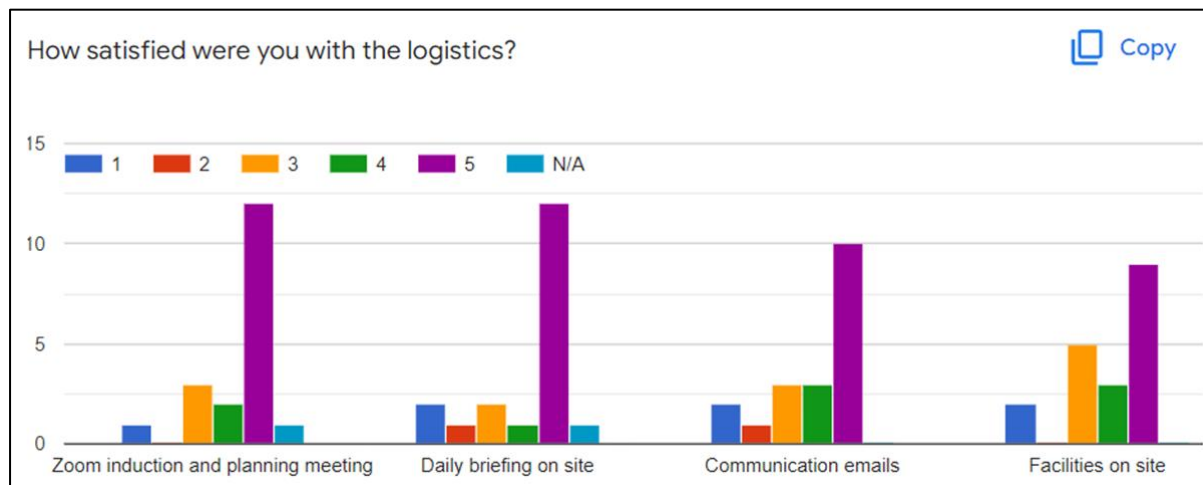


How relevant and interesting do you think it was for your interest, studies, or career?

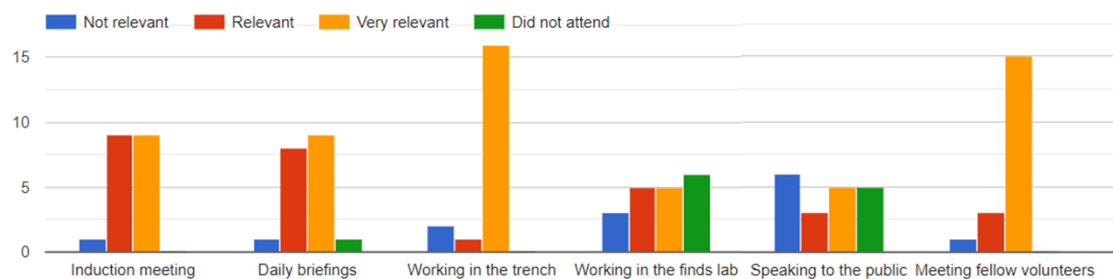
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19 responses





Which part did you enjoy the most?



There were also three "free text" option on the post-excavation survey. Original spelling and grammar preserved.

What was the most positive aspect of the project?	<i>What could have been improved?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with very knowledgeable staff who were incredibly patient.</li> <li>• Participating</li> <li>• The welcoming from people and the learning experience given by all.</li> <li>• being outside the banter the learning the link with the gallery dig find display</li> <li>• First experience in hands-on Excavation and recording.</li> <li>• The willingness of the professionals to take time to explain and educate; the involvement of children in the project.</li> <li>• Meeting with like minded people with a shared interest, and realising an ambition.</li> <li>• Very helpful staff, giving advice and teaching about finds.</li> <li>• Learning basic archaeological techniques and listening to the archaeologists</li> <li>• Learning about the dig and the processes</li> <li>• Being involved in such a brilliant experience</li> <li>• Friendly relaxed environment</li> <li>• Learning new skills</li> <li>• Getting involved with the community, meeting new people. Fabulous for my mental health.</li> <li>• A chance to work alongside and learn from experts on a truly exciting project, and lack of experience was no problem as we were trained on the job. An open and friendly culture was</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing</li> <li>• The weather 😊</li> <li>• Nothing to add</li> <li>• the weather</li> <li>• The weather! Seriously Ian was brilliant at filling in weather gaps with education on the processes involved.</li> <li>• The weather!!</li> <li>• I was pleased with everything 😊</li> <li>• More room needed for finds to be seen.</li> <li>• The weather!</li> <li>• Too much time spent standing around waiting to get going (maybe that is normal, but I found it frustrating)</li> <li>• Better knee pads!! Everything was brilliant</li> <li>• Nothing</li> <li>• Apart from the weather. Nothing, very well organized.</li> <li>• Provision to cover the site so that heavy rain was not such an issue.</li> <li>• slightly less standing around at the beginning of the day?</li> <li>• We were booked in for the last day and arrived to find that no-one was expecting us and we were not needed. We understood and it wasn't a major problem, bit it was disappointing. The team in the</li> </ul>



<p>superbly fostered by the team leaders, which made the whole activity fun to take part in - it was like being on a treasure hunt. Facebook updates really helped to keep the story alive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• i really enjoy digging but in addition the team running it were great and I met some very interesting people</li> <li>• Viewing the finds on the final day</li> <li>• How friendly, helpful and encouraging everyone was. This was much appreciated as I was a complete beginner who had never been on a working site before.</li> <li>• Such a friendly group and keen to pass on knowledge</li> </ul>	<p>field said they would not need people on the last day in most cases, so we shouldn't have been booked in. A lesson for future projects, it seems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I was very happy with the whole experience.</li> <li>• Maybe there could be a social event at the end of the dig?</li> </ul>
<p>What is one word you would use to describe volunteering on the dig?</p>	
<p>Absorbing</p> <p>Amazing (2)</p> <p>Brilliant</p> <p>Committed</p> <p>Dedicated</p> <p>Different</p> <p>Discovery</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Exciting</p> <p>Failure</p> <p>Fascinating</p> <p>Happiness</p> <p>Inspirational</p> <p>Worthwhile</p>	

A discovery

Enjoyable

Fun

Insightful

## Comments – emails and observations

- 5.21. As well as the survey, some observations were made on site and feedback was sent by email. In particular, some volunteers with specific access needs or existing conditions got in touch to say how much the experience meant to them. Names have been removed, original spelling and grammar maintained.

Tough decribing the dig in one word.

I miss it already.

Thank you so much for the experience, the friendships I've made on the dig.

I am anxious due to my anxiety but very excited to be involved in this project I have wanted to be part of something like this for a long time.

It's amazing to see how it works.

There has been an added benefit from the dig from its knock-on effects. XXXX was asked to talk about his experience from Newtown at his last Young Archaeologists Club meeting. The leaders told us after, that he was so excited when talking about it to the group that by the end the young people were catching "the bug" and getting excited by it all too. The leaders said it helped to enthuse the rest of the group and they were very pleased XXXX had had the experience.

XXXX was thrilled to have taken part and although may not have been very vocal, he was quietly buzzing from the experience when he got home.

Everything I worry about or that I have to do, it all goes away when I'm here.

## Key findings

There were some major themes in the responses to this survey, which suggested the main benefits to participants were;

-friendship and social aspects

- being valued and part of the team and working alongside knowledgeable and approachable professional archaeologists
- learning.

Meeting other volunteers ranked as highly as being involved in fieldwork on site. These two elements combined to highlight the fact that though online volunteering opens opportunities to reach wider audiences and make volunteering accessible to people who otherwise would be unable to visit sites, it is the social and hands on element of volunteering that provide the most value, so in-person volunteering cannot be replaced.

As has been found in other research into volunteer participation, being trusted to work on site alongside archaeologists and to undertake tasks on a genuine excavation are also highly valued. The self-confidence this type of work develops in volunteers is noticeable as they spend more time on site. There were several individuals who disclosed they had anxiety as part of the health and safety forms before coming onto site, who subsequently shared that they felt at ease and enjoyed their time on site and requested further volunteer roles on future projects.

Learning was one of the top benefits identified by volunteers on site. This represents a spread of age and background demographics, from prospective archaeology students to retired people with a lifelong interest and engagement in archaeology.

The areas for improvement were largely to do with the weather – understandable due to the prevalence of named storms at the time and the associated high winds and cold temperatures. Holding the excavation at this time of year was a necessity, due to work programme, funding, and logistical issues, but this means many participants were limited in their involvement due to risks of travelling, the impact of cold weather on their health, or the closure of site on their available days.

One person also mentioned that a social event at the close of the project would have been beneficial. Given the overwhelming positive feedback on the positive nature of the friendship and socialising opportunities the excavation gave volunteers, a gathering at the close of the project would have a positive impact for many of the volunteer cohort. Given the blend of ages and distances some people would have to travel, the venue and nature of this gathering would have to be carefully planned to be as accessible as possible.



## Appendix 3: Newtown Spring Festival



## Digging Newtown Mound

### Excavations begin in February 2022



The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust were invited by Newtown and Llanllwchaearn Town Council to submit a proposal for undertaking an archaeological evaluation to further assist with the future management of the scheduled earthwork known as Newtown Mound, which lies to the south-west of the centre of Newtown, in Powys.

Little is known about the mound, although it is thought to be medieval in date and associated with the foundation of the town, perhaps in the 13th century. The mound is unlike other medieval earthwork castles in and along the Welsh Marches, being both larger and D-shaped. There is evidence to suggest that the mound was refortified during the Civil War and the summit may subsequently have been occupied by a building. During the 18th century the mound was incorporated into the gardens and parkland surrounding nearby Newtown Hall and a summerhouse was added on the summit during the 19th century. In the 20th and 21st centuries it has been a popular spot for young people to meet, ride bikes, and socialise.

The excavation took the form of a series of four trenches;

Trenches 1-3 cut into the top of the mound, looking for evidence of when and how it was built - investigating the results of a previous geophysical survey.

Trench 4 cut across an earthwork in the park, to find out if it relates to the mound and why it might have been built.

A fantastic team of volunteers worked alongside CPAT staff in the trenches and in our finds lab in Oriel Davies. Together they excavated, recorded, and re-covered the site over five weeks of challenging weather conditions!



**From left to right:** Fragment of medieval tile; volunteers on one of the Mound trenches; volunteers in the Finds Lab; the 17th century bottle bearing the Pryce family crest

The early phase of the dig removed the top, most recent layer of soil from the Mound. This layer contained finds from Victorian pottery to a medieval tile fragment to modern bicycle reflectors, and probably represents a layer dumped onto the site in the 19th century to level it off for recreational use. Eventually a stone-filled layer that was the first "historic" layer began to emerge. Finds emerging at this stage were from the 17th century Civil War period - lead musket and pistol balls, clay pipes - giving us hints to what the Parliamentarian refortification of the Mound was like. Around this time Newtown Hall stood where the current registry office is, and was an important Parliamentarian HQ.

A large quantity of glass bottles were recovered from trench 4. Although mostly broken, one near-complete example was pieced together - bearing the crest of the Pryce family who were resident at Newtown Hall in the 17th century. The excavations in Trench 4 revealed a substantial bank and ditch implying the embankment was probably a defensive feature (Medieval or Civil War) associated with the town.

Thanks to Newtown & Llanllwchaearn Town Council and Cadw for funding this excavation, and to Oriel Davies for providing us with space for our Finds Lab, and for shelter and warmth on the days when the weather had been less kind to us.

## Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust





## Appendix 4. Photo Montage











## Appendix 5. Finds



*Fig. 25 Fragment of slip decorated floor tile (carpet pattern), dating from the early-14th century.*



*Fig. 26. Illustration of tile found in situ at Strata Florida Abbey, Powys (Lewis 1999).*





*Fig. 27 Re-used medieval tiles at Buildwas Abbey, Shropshire.*



*Fig. 28 18<sup>th</sup> century (?) musket and pistol lead shot. Trench 1*





*Fig. 29 Fragments of mid-18<sup>th</sup> century 'mallet' bottles and salt glazed stoneware plates. Recovered from the ditch in Trench 4.*



*Fig. 30 Washed 18<sup>th</sup> century 'mallet' bottles on display at Oriel Davies.*



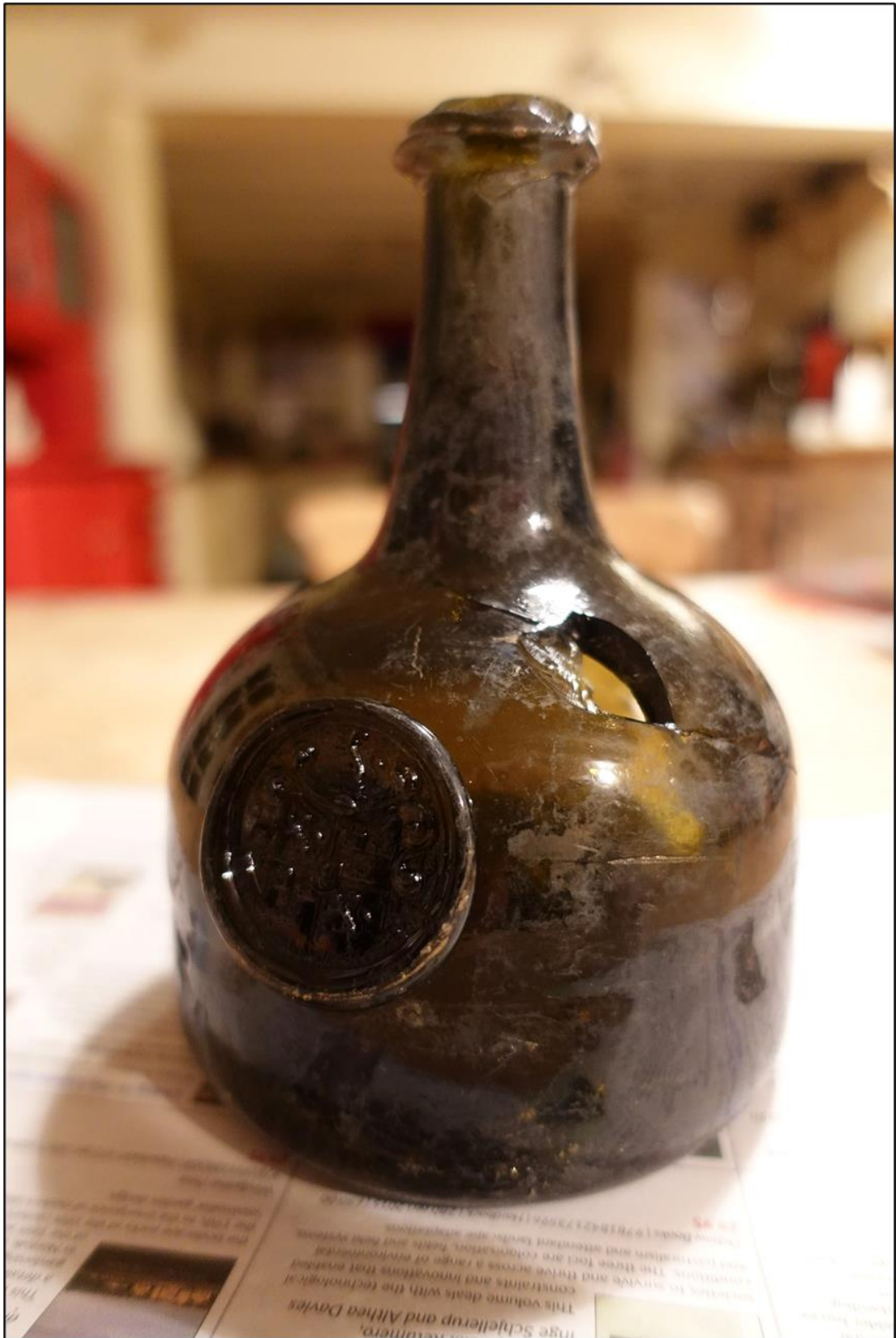
*Fig. 31 Pryce family bottle seal, Newtown Hall (c.1730's).*



*Fig. 32 Pryce family bottle seal in-situ on 'mallet' bottle (c.1730's).*



*Fig. 33 Reconstructed Staffordshire salt glazed stoneware 'charger' (platter). (c. 1720-1760).*



*Fig. 34 'Transitional mallet bottle', with Pryce family seal attached (c. 1730's).*

Appendix 6. Trench 1-4, plans and sections

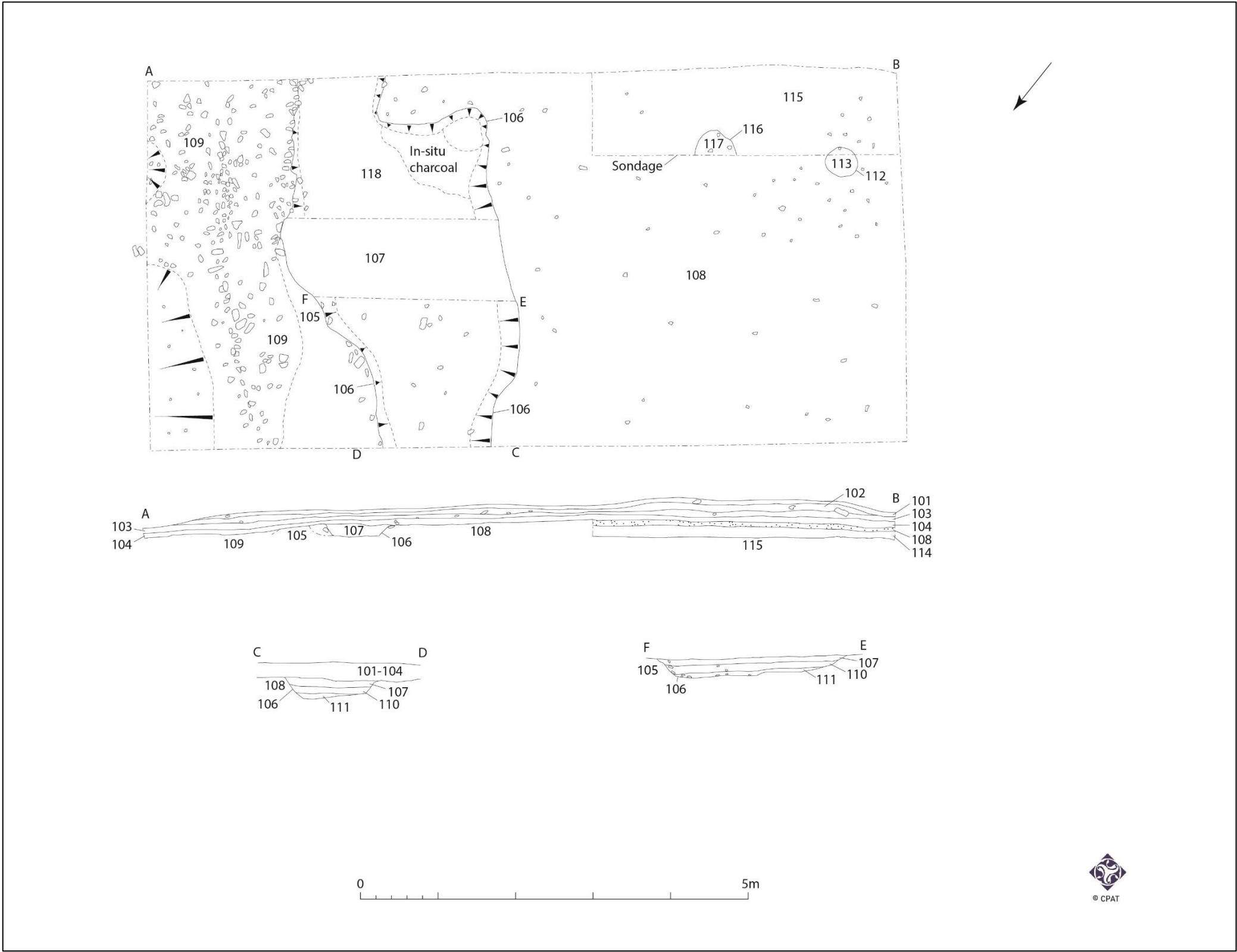


Fig. 35. Plan and sections for Trench 1, Newtown Mound 2022.



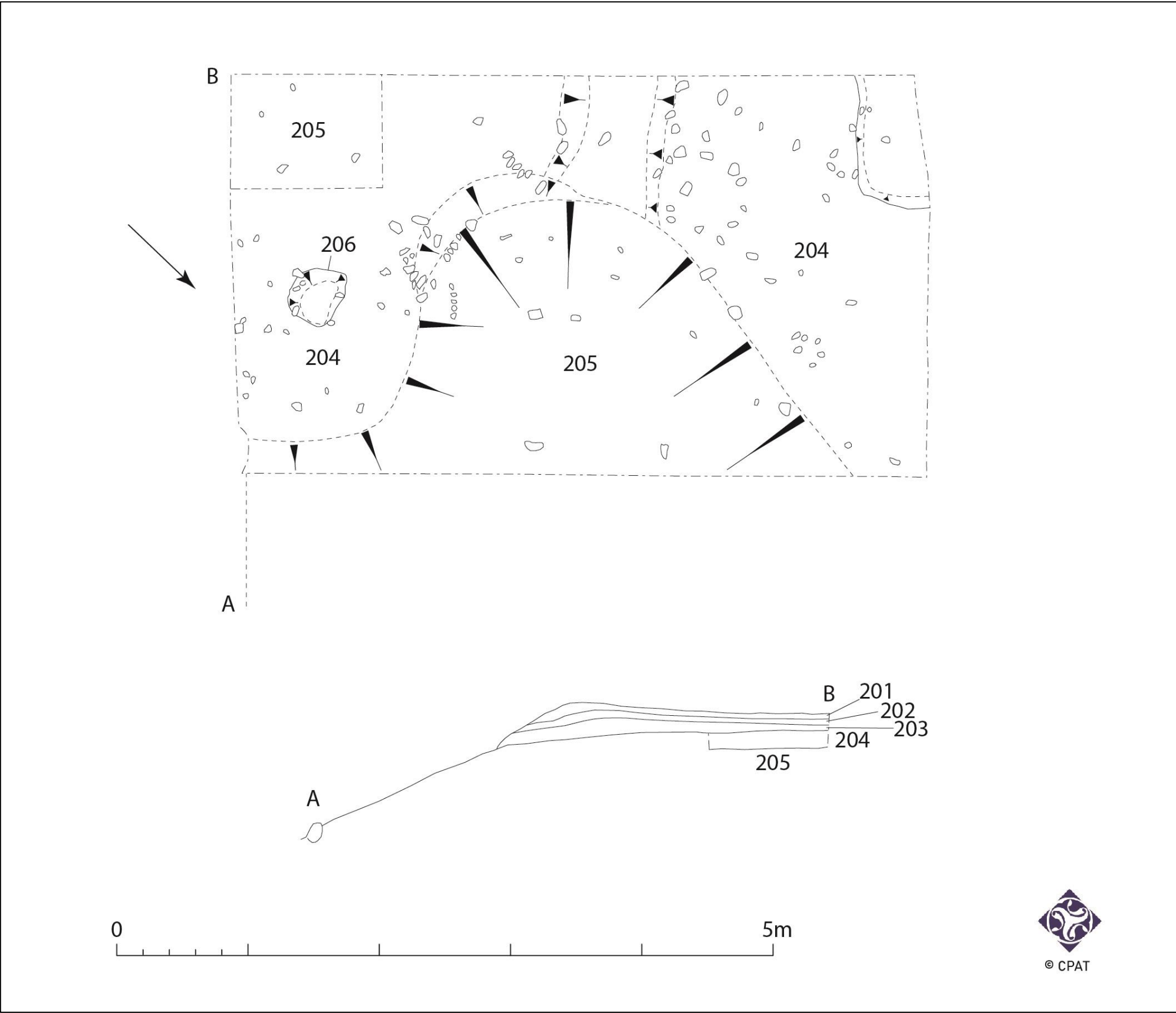


Fig. 36. Plan and section for Trench 2, Newtown Mound 2022.

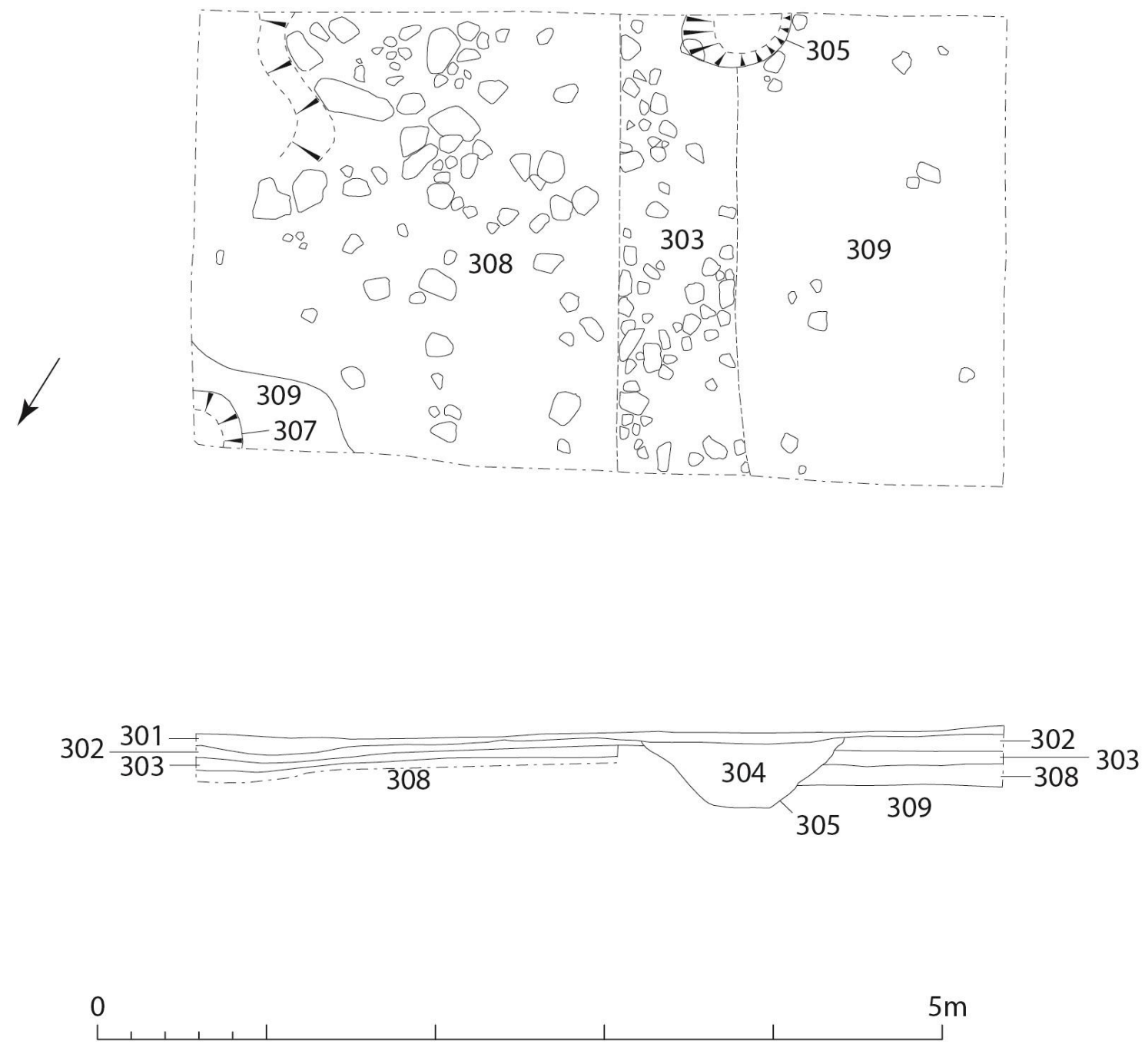


Fig. 37. Plan and section for Trench 3, Newtown Mound 2022.

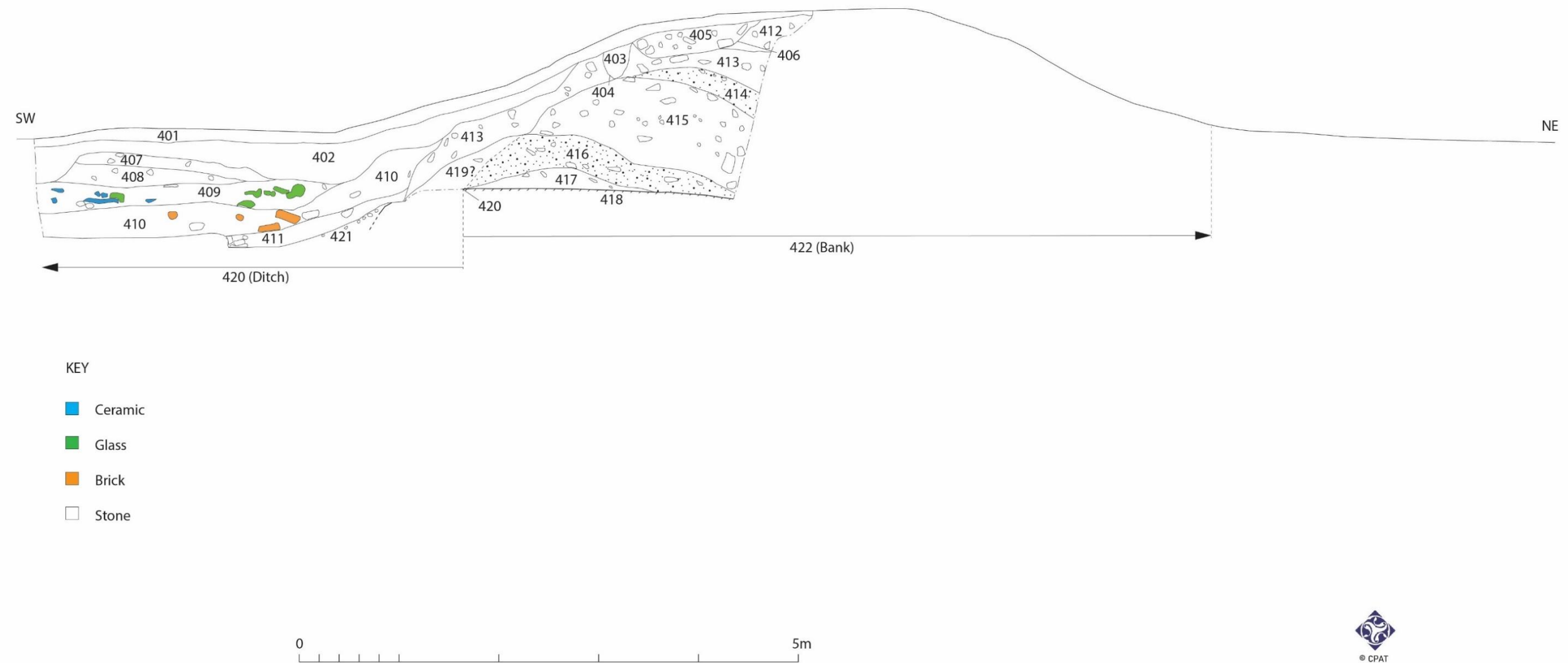


Fig. 38. South-east facing section, Linear Bank (422) and Ditch (420), Trench 4 2022.