



# **Glebe Farm, Llangunllo Coedbryn, Llandysul.**

## **Archaeological Field Evaluation**



*By*  
***Richard Scott Jones (MA, BA Hons)***



# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

## Glebe Farm, Llangunllo, Coedbryn, Llandysul.

*By*

*Richard Scott Jones (BA Hons, MA)*

### **Prepared for:**

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### **On behalf of:**

Mr Arwyn Thomas  
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Ceredigion

**Date:** 4th June 2007

**HRSW Report No:** 111



**HERITAGE**  
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## Non Technical Summary

*The following report is the result of archaeological work undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales for Alan Thomas Chartered Surveyors, on behalf of Arwyn Thomas, the owner of Glebe Farm, Llangunllo, Coedbryn, Llandysul. The work was part of a condition for an archaeological evaluation prior to the construction of a new Milking Parlour and Feeding Bin.*

*The evaluation was designed to gain information about the archaeological resource within specific areas of Llangunllo, in order to make an assessment of its archaeological worth and formulate a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource.*

*In total only one evaluation trench was excavated within the bounds of the footprint of the newly proposed Milking Parlour. No archaeological features of any significance were exposed in the trench.*

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The following text details the results of an archaeological field evaluation undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales (HRSW) on an area of land 100m northeast of Llangunllo Church, immediately adjacent to an existing Milking Parlour of Glebe Farm, Llangunllo, prior to the proposed development of a new Milking Parlour and Feeding Bin.
- 1.2 After being approached by Alan Thomas Chartered Surveyors to undertake the archaeological evaluation, HRSW submitted a project specification to Cambria Archaeology, the regional Archaeological Trust in Llandeilo, detailing the schedule of works in Mayr 2007. This specification was approved and the evaluation work was undertaken on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2007.
- 1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and guidance: for an archaeological field evaluation*, and current Health and Safety legislation.

### Planning Background

- 1.4 Planning permission was granted by Carmarthenshire County Council (*Application numbers: A /061193*) to Mr Arwyn Thomas, owner of Llangunllo Farm, Coedbryn, Llandysul, to build a new Milking Parlour and Feeding Bin (NGR: SN 3513 4403) in an area of of land 100m northeast of Llangunllo Church, adjacent to an existing Milking Parlour. A condition for an archaeological scheme of works was attached to this permission. This archaeological scheme entailed an archaeological evaluation within the footprint of the proposed new Milking Parlour.

### Site Description (*see Figs 1, 2, & 3*)

- 1.5 The location of the proposed development lies in an area of land adjacent to an existing Milking Parlour in the grounds of Glebe Farm (NGR: SN 3513 4403), which lies approx. 100m northeast of Llangunllo Church. The site lies at approx. 180m O.D on a natural slope that descends down to the west toward a tributary stream which runs down into the River Teifi. Immediately to the south of the site by approx. 100m is the small church and churchyard of St. Cynllos, of which both are believed to have a medieval foundation (PRN: 12665 / 50148). Consequently, because of the developments close proximity to the church, it is anticipated that archaeological evidence, relating to the early occupation of the site, may extend into the proposed development area.

### Geology

- 1.6 The geology of the area is a sedimentary rock of Ordovician period consisting of both Ashgill and Llandeilo types. Local geology indicates an area of sedimentary shales.

## Brief Historical & Archaeological Background

- 1.7 The Church and churchyard of St.Cynllo are both believed to have a medieval foundation, however the standing remains of the church today is of a much later date. It was designed by John Middleton of Cheltenham and built in 1869-70 in the Early English style. Polychrome banding decorates the wall planes in this strong and simply shaped church. To use a contemporary phrase, this is a "muscular church" an architectural manifestation of the Oxford Movement. The church takes its name from the Celtic saint Cynllo, who was active in the area, and means literally the Church of St. Cynllo. As to the date of St.Cynllo there are two conflicting views. There are many who would place him in the sixth century, whilst others with equal authority would date him a century earlier. Dedications to Cynllo occur also at Llanbister Nantinel, Rhayader and in Cardiganshire.
- 1.8 The establishment of Christianity in Cardiganshire was very much the result of Celtic monasticism, and churches established by Celtic saints were originally monastic cells. It is likely that Cynllo established here a monastic cell, or else it was established by his followers who came from one of the other mother houses. Other possible cells were at Monaughty and at Pilleth. Ancient records refer to Llangynllo cum capellis meaning Llangynllo and her chapels, which may mean those already mentioned and might also include Llanbister, although this is unlikely. Celtic saints were dependent upon good relations with the local king for land for their monasteries, and since Cynllo was traditionally the prince of the area he would be in a position to have land to establish his monastic cells.
- 1.9 "LLANGYNLLO (LLAN-GYNLLO), a parish in the upper division of the hundred of TROEDYRAUR, county of CARDIGAN, SOUTH WALES, 3 1/2 miles (N. E. by E.) from Newcastle-Emlyn, containing 644 inhabitants. This parish, which derives its name from the dedication of its church to St. Cynllo, is pleasantly situated on the turnpike road from Cardigan through Troedyrwyr to Lampeter, and nearly the whole of it is enclosed and in a good state of cultivation. The soil, though varying with the surface, which is finely undulated, and in some parts rises into bold eminences, is in general fertile. The surrounding country is pleasingly varied, and the scenery in many parts is highly picturesque. The upper grounds command some extensive and interesting prospects, and from the eminence on which the church is built is obtained a fine view over the beautiful vale above which stands the mansion of Bronwydd. In the immediate vicinity are some fine estates and elegant seats : of these, the principal are those of Bronwydd and Gernôs Bronwydd, the residence of the late patriotic Colonel Lloyd, who commanded the Teivy-side volunteers, and subsequently the Fishguard and Newton fencibles, and now the seat of Thomas Lloyd, Esq., is a handsome mansion, beautifully situated on the summit of an eminence richly clothed with wood, and overlooking a deep and sequestered vale, watered by a rapid and turbulent stream, which falls into the Teivy at Hênllan. Gernôs, formerly the mansion of the family of Lewis, and now the seat of Major Parry, by marriage of his, ancestor, Thomas Parry, of Cwm Cynon, Esq., with the heiress of that family, is a good mansion, pleasantly situated in grounds comprehending much varied and pleasing scenery. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of Cardigan, and diocese of St.David's, rated in the king's books at £ 6.13.4., and in the patronage of the Freeholders of the parish. The church, dedicated to St. Cynllo, a saint of the fifth century, who was eminent for the sanctity of his life and the austerity of his manners, is a neat edifice, situated on a commanding eminence, and rebuilt at the sole expense of the late proprietor of the Bronwydd estate: it consists of a nave and chancel, and is appropriately fitted up for the performance of divine service. The average annual expenditure for the maintenance of the poor is £ 176.8." [From Samuel Lewis's *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1833]

## 2 Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 In accordance with IFA's *Standards and guidance*, the aims of an archaeological field evaluation are to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site (including presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), in order to make an assessment of its merit in the appropriate context, leading to one or more of the following:
  - the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource.

- the formulation of a strategy to initiate a threat to the archaeological resource.
- the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.

2.2 An archaeological field evaluation will determine, as far as it is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the projects, and comply with the Code of conduct, Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology, and other relevant by-laws of the IFA.

### 3 Methodology

- 3.1 With regards the evaluation, ground work was undertaken by the contractor using a mechanical digger with a 2 meter wide grading bucket and hand shovel, when deemed necessary, under the guidance of the qualified supervising archaeologist. Initially the overlying top soil was removed in 4 meter long increments and if any archaeology became exposed it was excavated to ascertain its character, recorded and left in situ, whilst digging of the trench continued along its length.
- 3.2 After the ground work had been completed limited cleaning of the trench was undertaken in order to ascertain the existence or non existence of any archaeological features.
- 3.3 Where features were present limited excavation was undertaken to establish the date, depth, preservation, extent, function and relationship to other features.
- 3.4 Recording of the trench was undertaken in three formats:
- i) *Photographic record* - Photographs were taken in digital format using a 5 mega-pixel camera recording in high resolution JPEG files. Where deemed necessary standard 35 mm film format in Black and White was also appropriated
  - ii) *Drawn record* - Site drawings, plans and sections, were produced at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 on drafting film, where deemed necessary. Finished drawings have been related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.
  - iii) *Written record* - Written records were produced using a continuous numbering sequence for all contexts.
- 3.5 An environmental sampling and sampling and processing strategy was in place should the archaeological deposits warrant it. However, in this instance it was not felt that the deposits encountered required sampling.
- 3.6 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IFA's *Standards and guidance: for an archaeological field evaluation* and current Health and Safety legislation.

### 4 Results of the Field Evaluation (see Figs 2, 3, 4)

- 4.1 In the following, numbers contained within brackets ( ), refer to context numbers allocated during the watching brief. A detailed list of all contexts is given in Appendix III of this report.

#### *Trench 1*

- 4.2 Trench 1 was positioned at a diagonal within the footprint of the proposed new Milking Parlour. It

measured approx. 13 meters long x 2 meters wide. The trench would have continued to the south but was terminated due to this area of ground having already been removed extensively several years ago. This former ground work had created a pit approx. 4 metres oval and had cut through the natural shale geology to a depth of approx. 2 metres. The average depth of this trench was approx. 0.75m. The upper most deposit approx. 0.25m in depth consisted of a mixture of top soil and general debris from farming activities (100). Dateable material from this deposit was generally late 20<sup>th</sup> century in date. Directly below this deposit was a natural sand, gravel and shale mix (101). This averaged a depth of approx. 0.50m. Below this was a natural grey shale (102). The only feature that became exposed in the trench was a modern cut and fill for a water pipe (103 and 104) at the far north end of the trench. Other than this feature no archaeological features nor any dateable material earlier than the 19<sup>th</sup> century was recovered from this trench.

### *Summary of results*

- 4.8 The evaluation trench at Glebe Farm, Llangunllo, for the development of the new Milking Parlour and Feeding Bin, did not expose any significant archaeology. No dateable material was recovered earlier than the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## **5 Conclusion**

- 5.1 The evaluation trench at Glebe Farm, Llangunllo, for the development of the new Milking Parlour and Feeding Bin, did not expose any significant archaeology. No dateable material was recovered earlier than the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The area for the proposed development is to be sited onto a natural geology of grey shale bedrock. Which became fully exposed at a depth of approx. 0.40m.

## **6 Acknowledgements**

Thanks to; Mr Arwyn Thomas, the owner of Glebe Farm, Llangunllo, for his patience during the ground work and archaeological recording work.



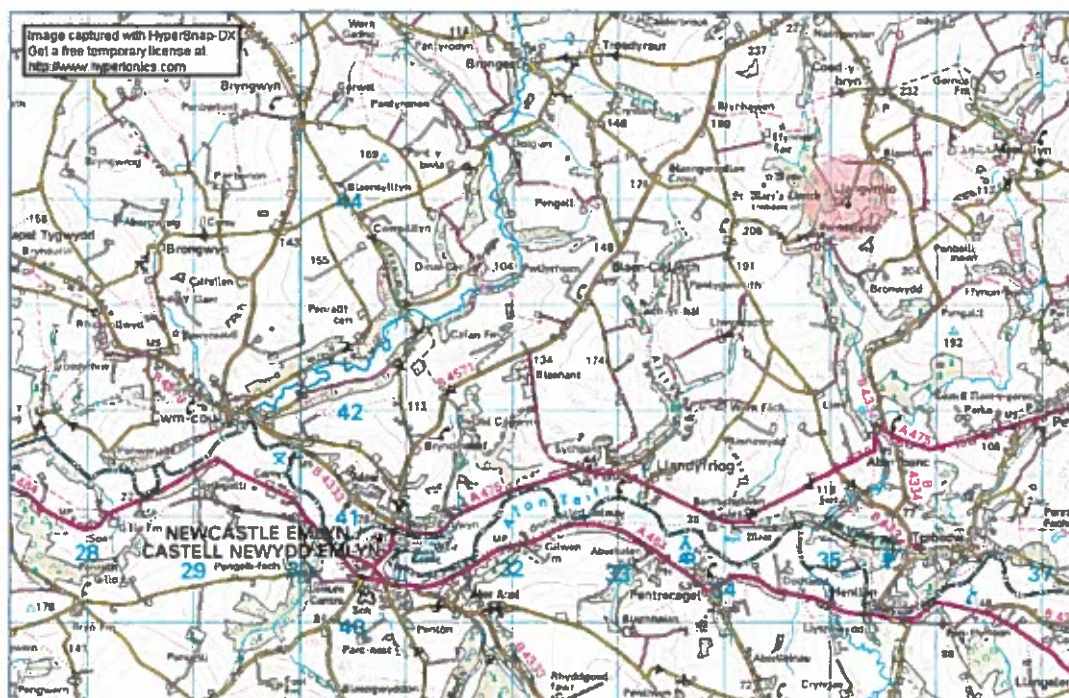
## 7 Bibliography

LEWIS, S. 1833. *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales 1833.*

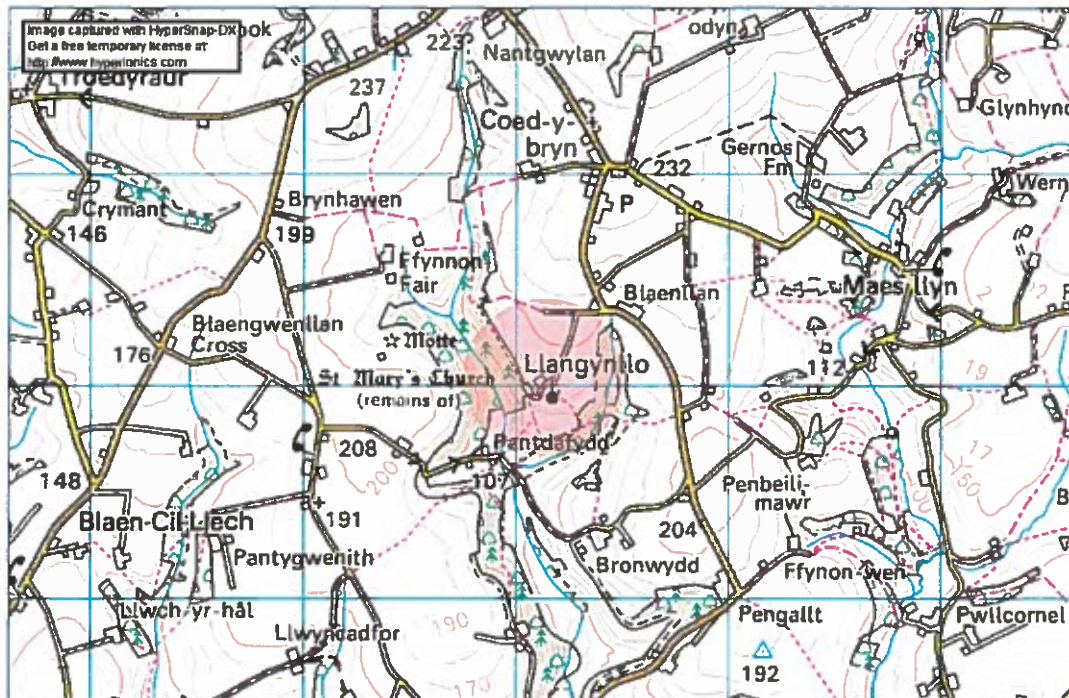


## **APPENDIX I:**

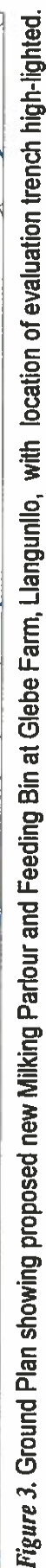
### **Figs & Illustrations**

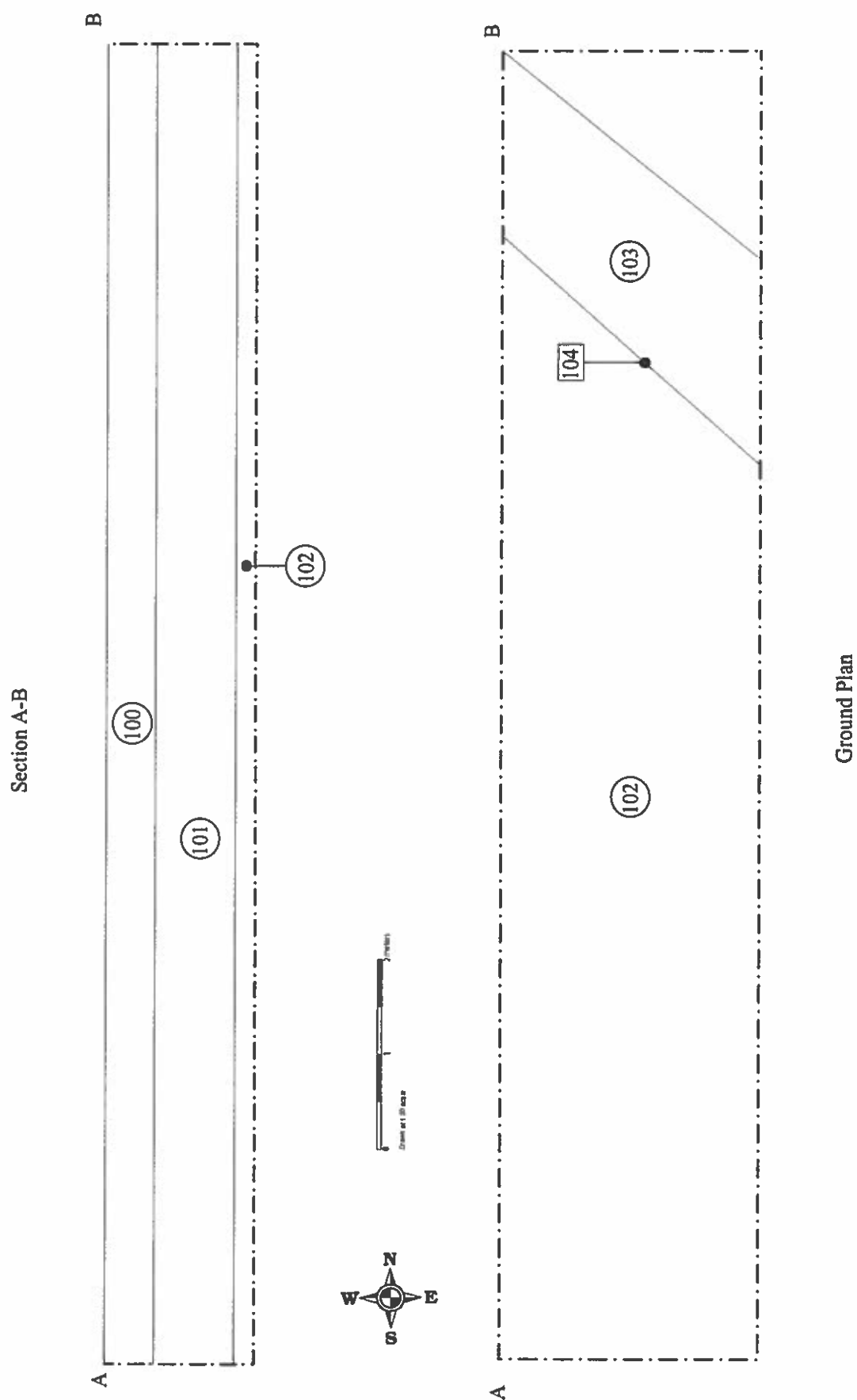


**Figure 1.** Location map showing site of Glebe Farm, Coed-y-bryn, Llangunllo, Llandysul.  
(OS 1:25000 map)



**Figure 2.** Enlarged view of location map showing site of Glebe Farm, Coed-y-bryn, Llangunllo, Llandysul.  
(OS 1:25000 map)





**Figure 4.** Trench 1 - Ground Plan and section A-B



## **APPENDIX II:**

### **Photo plates**





*Plate 1. Area of proposed new Milking Parlour. Looking south.*



*Plate 2. Area of proposed new Milking Parlour. Looking north.*





*Plate 3. Trench 1. Looking north.*



*Plate 2. Trench 1. Looking south.*





*Plate 5. Trench 1. Looking northwards.*



*Plate 6. Trench 1. Typical section through trench 1. Looking west..*



## **APPENDIX III:** Context Register

## SUMMARY OF CONTEXTS

**Glebe Farm, Llangnlllo, Coedbryn, Llandysul.**

### CONTEXTS

#### **Trench 1**

- 100. Top soil and overburden.
- 101. Mid brown silty sand/gravel/shale (natural).
- 102. Mid –light grey shale (natural).



## **APPENDIX IV:** Archive Cover Sheet

## ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

**Glebe Farm, Llangunllo, Coedbryn, Llandysul..**

**ARCHIVE DESTINATION – DAT, Llandeilo**

Site Name: **Glebe Farm, Llangunllo**

Site Code: **GFL/07/FE**

PRN:

NPRN : **N/A**

SAM: **N/A**

Other Ref No: **HRSW Report No. 111**

NGR: **SN 3513 4403**

Site Type: **Medieval Church**

Project Type: **Field Evaluation**

Project Officer: **Richard Scott Jones**

Project Dates: **May 25th 2007**

Categories Present: **N/A**

Location of Original Archive: **HRSW**

Location of duplicate Archives: **DAT, Llandeilo**

Number of Finds Boxes: **N/A**

Location of Finds: **N/A**

Museum Reference: **N/A**

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