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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
GOLF COURSE EXTENSION,
CRICCIETH GOLF CLUB, CRICCIETH.**

AUGUST 1992

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YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGGOL GWYNEDD CYF.
GWYNEDD ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST LTD.

DWYFOR DISTRICT PLANNING APPLICATION No. 2/15/284.
PREPARED FOR DAVID WILLIAMS PARTNERSHIP, COLWYN BAY.

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INTRODUCTION.

The area covered by the evaluation comprises of c20 ha of agricultural land, currently under pasture, extending north of Mynydd Ednyfed, Criccieth. The area rises to a summit c140m OD in the north east with extensive west facing slopes dropping to c95m OD on the western boundary. A small stream runs along the southern boundary of the area and is associated with patches of drained but uncleared bog. An unclassified metalled but adopted track crosses the area, whilst the south east corner adjoins the perimeter of the existing golf course.

The evaluation was conducted by the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (Contracts) in accordance with the brief (outlined below) prepared by the Gwynedd County Sites and Monuments Record for the scheme designers, David Williams Partnership, Colwyn Bay, as one of the conditions of the planning permission granted by Dwyfor District Council.

BRIEF FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION.

The scope of the evaluation was as follows:

- (a) A full appraisal of existing data relating to the site, including SMR information, aerial photographic sources, tithe, estate maps and related archive papers, (Gwynedd Archives Service, Dept. of Manuscripts and Archives, UCNW, Bangor), oral and field name evidence, and any known previous developments on the site.
- (b) A rapid but thorough field search and record by sketch survey, limited written descriptions and photographs of all existing, upstanding archaeological remains and historical features (field boundaries).
- (c) The identification of areas where non-destructive prospecting (geophysical) methods may be required to clarify the extents of, or confirm the presence or otherwise of any archaeological remains which are likely to be adversely affected by the scheme.
- (d) Consequent to (b) and (c), the identification of areas where further archaeological work may be required, including, if necessary, preservation by record (excavation) where considered worthwhile if preservation in situ is impossible, or mitigatory measures cannot be undertaken owing to the scheme design.
- (e) The production of a report summarising the results of stages (a)-(d), along with suggestions for a suitable management prescription for the area.

RESULTS OF EVALUATION.

A. Existing data and records.

Tithe Map, 1849 Penllyn parish. (Gwynedd Archive Service, Caernarfon office) (Fig. 1)

Field No.	Field name.	Translation.
102	Cae'r Lôn	Field (of the/next to) road.
103	Parc Bach	Small park.
104	Cae Ty Newydd Bach	Ty Newydd Bach field.
105	Tan y Clawdd	Smallholding
106	Cae Ty Newydd	New house field.
107	Cae'r Llyn	Lake/pond field.
108	Y Fawnog	Turbary/peat field.
109	Cae'r Fawnog	Turbary field.
116	Parc Newydd	New park.
117	Cae Mawr Tan y Clawdd	Large field, Tan y Clawdd.
118	Cae Tan y Gamfa	Field to the lower side of the stile.
123	Rhos Bella	Furthest moor/pasture.
124	Y Rhos	Moor.
125	Weirglodd Fain Ucha	Upper narrow meadow.
126	Weirglodd Fain	Narrow meadow.
127	Cae Tan Lôn	Field on the lower side of road.

Ordnance Survey. All available editions at different scales up to the present day. (UCNW Bangor and Gwynedd Archives Service, Caernarfon Office).

The field boundaries from the tithe map of 1849 and all editions of the Ordnance Survey have been recorded on Fig. 1.

Within the time available aerial photographic sources were not consulted but it is anticipated that in the light of the nature of the terrain and the results of the ground survey (below) no further evidence would be shown.

A smallholding (Tyddyn Cethin) was noted on the 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey (fig. 1, H). It was also noted on the tithe map as Tan y Clawdd, with a nearby field named Cae Ty Newydd Bach suggesting that the smallholding was of fairly recent date in 1849. No trace of this structure was found during the evaluation.

SMR (Gwynedd County Sites and Monuments Record, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Ltd).

PRN No.1301 SH 5025 3987 RCAHMW No. 1383 (Fig. 1, A)

Burnt mound north of stream. A crescent shaped mound 9.2m by 6.9m and 0.6m high opening to the east with a circular hollow 2.74m in diameter. Presently covered in gorse within a patch of peat bog. Burnt mounds are the remains of cooking places of prehistoric date, where from the results of recent excavations elsewhere in the county are sometimes associated with settlement remains.

PRN No.2364 SH 5029 4027 (Fig. 1, B)

A cleared and ploughed Romano-British enclosed native homestead adjacent to the evaluation area. Lynchets (artificial terraces formed by the movement of soil downslope caused by ploughing along the contour of a hill) were also noted on the western slopes of the evaluation area.

Oral evidence. Enquiries confirmed that part of the area had formerly been used as part of the golf course.

B. Ground survey.

The evaluation area was systematically fieldwalked on the 6th and 7th of August 1992 in order to locate the presence of any upstanding archaeological remains.

- A. (Fig. 1) **Burnt mound.**
- B. (Fig. 1) **Romano-British enclosed homestead.**
- C. (Fig. 1) Group of former golf course tees.
- D. (Fig. 1) Former green.
- E. (Fig. 1) Former green.
- F. (Fig. 1) Former green.
- G. (Fig. 1) Former tee.

Lynchets. (Fig. 1, see key).

In addition to the features noted above, a number of lynchets were observed on the western slopes of the hill. Lynchets are produced by ploughsoil washing downslope to form terraces when a hill has been ploughed along its contours. This particular type of field system was formed between the late prehistoric and medieval periods. It is possible that these lynchets were associated with the enclosed Romano-British homestead to the north of the evaluation area (Fig. 1, B).

The eastern boundary of the evaluation area.

The straight eastern boundary of the evaluation area is of particular interest as it formed the boundary between the medieval bond township of Ynysgain (detached) and the episcopal free land of Treforthyr (Gresham, 1973).

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. The evaluation revealed two areas of archaeological interest within the proposed development area, the burnt mound (Fig. 1, A) and the lynchets on the western slopes of the hill (Fig. 1). It should be noted, given the amount of archaeological activity in the area, that further remains of archaeological interest, not revealed by this evaluation, may come to light as a result of ground disturbance during landscaping. In this event an archaeological presence by a qualified archaeologist is recommended.
2. Mitigatory measures have been taken to avoid any ground disturbance within the field in which the burnt mound is situated.
3. It is further recommended that landscaping in the area of the lynchets be avoided if possible, particularly holes 10 and 12. Where this is impossible it is recommended that a detailed survey of the lynchets be undertaken (preservation by record) and that this would form the basis of further archaeological work at cost, a brief for which could be provided by the Gwynedd County Sites and Monuments Record.

REFERENCES.

- GRESHAM, C.A. 1973 Eifionnydd. Cardiff.
RCAHMW 1960 Caernarvonshire Vol. II Central. London.

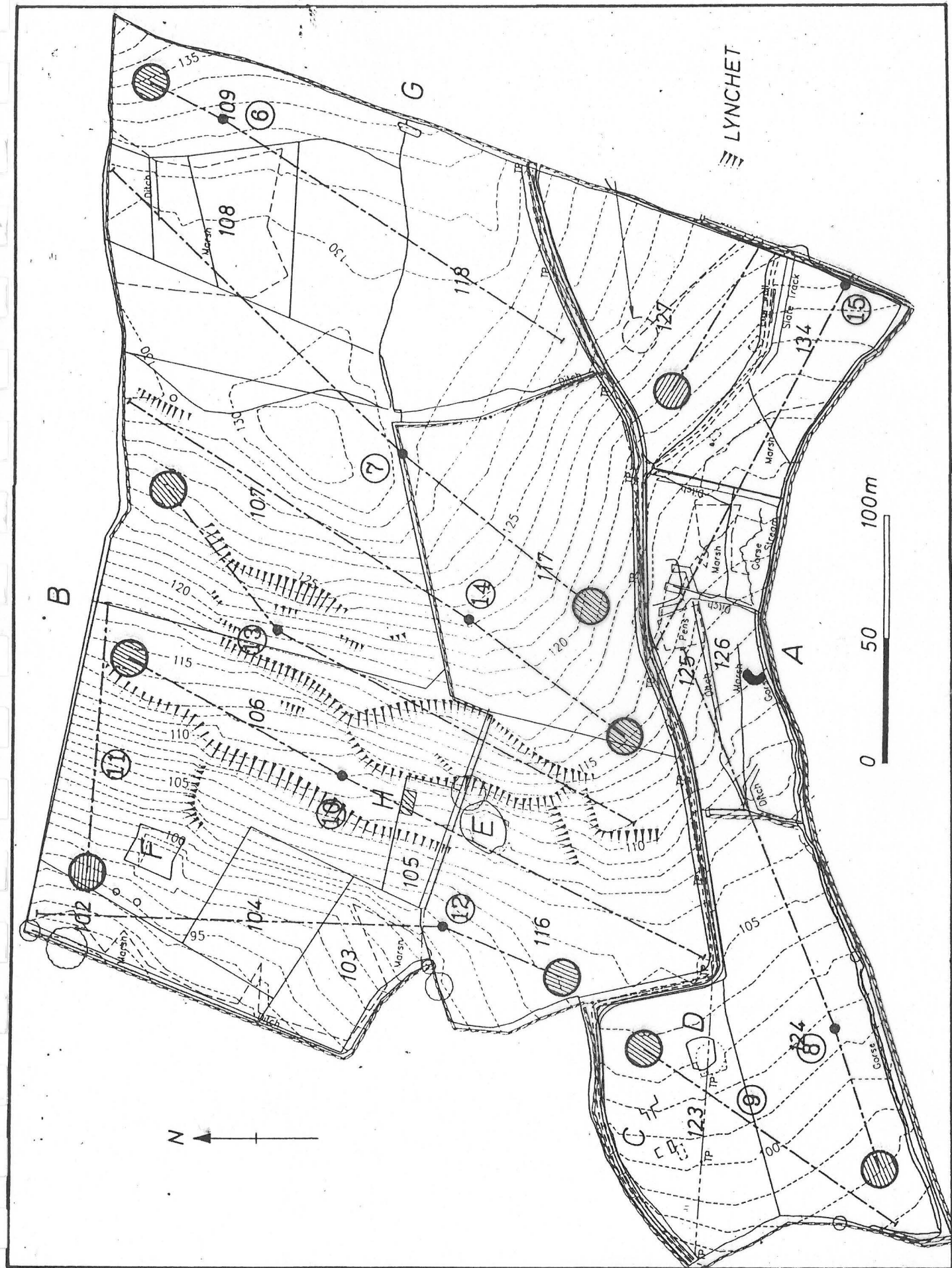


Fig. 1. Location of lynchets and archaeological features.

