

# Arfordir Coastal Heritage

Progress Report  
2012-13



Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd  
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust



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## Progress Report 2012-13

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Arfordir Coastal Heritage project was set up in 2009 to examine the potential impact of climate change and rising sea levels on coastal archaeology, and to involve local interest groups in the assessment process. The project was initially intended to run for a period of three years and was scheduled to end in March 2012, however due to continued interest and a potential HLF grant building on the work of the project it was decided that work should continue, though at a slightly less intensive level.

The main aim of the project for 2012-13 was to continue to support established volunteers and groups and to respond to alerts from the public.

By doing this a number of new sites have been identified and a number of previously identified eroding areas have continued to be monitored. A small number of dedicated volunteers have continued to work on sections of coastline at a slow but steady pace.

A number of the sites identified during 2012-13 have been recommended for further work in 2013-14, including limited excavation and geophysical surveys.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The project has utilised the information gathered during the original Coastal Erosion Surveys conducted by GAT between 1993 and 1998 (GAT Report Numbers 79, 198 & 251) and information gathered during the previous years of the project (GAT Report Numbers 861, 941 & 1044) meaning that little further desktop work has been undertaken.

### **Fieldwork**

Fieldwork forms a large part of the project methodology, both in terms of the work directly done by GAT, and by volunteers working as part of the project.

The majority of this fieldwork is in the form of rapid coastal survey, involving the walking of sections of coastline and recording all new archaeology found, and assessing the condition of previously identified sites. In order to prioritise which sections of coastline are most at risk of erosion, and thus in need of attention, full use has been made of the existing Coastal Erosion Survey data.

During surveys photographs were taken of all features identified, and locations recorded using a handheld GPS with an accuracy of +/-3m. Some areas were visited on numerous occasions in order to assess any changes in condition and as a reaction to storms and high tides which can shift vast amounts of sand from some beaches.

### **Outreach**

In order to reach as wide an audience as possible, outreach has been an essential part of the project. Volunteer involvement has always been an important element of the project and efforts have been made to engage with local communities and to recruit individuals and groups to monitor sections of coastline whilst feeding information back to GAT.

It was realised from the outset that the people best placed to monitor the ever changing coastline are those who are there most often. A person walking an area on a regular basis is in a much better

position to notice changes than an archaeologist who may only have the opportunity to visit once every year or two. For this reason coastal communities and history groups in these areas, are seen as a rich source of potential volunteers.

In order to aid volunteers with surveys constant support is available through meetings in the office, communication via phone calls and email, and when required accompanied visits to give advice on identified features or to provide additional training. Volunteers are encouraged to inform Trust archaeologists when surveying new areas so that a map showing all known sites and the severity of erosion, and a 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map, can be produced to aid with feature location and identification. It is also encouraged that volunteers used resources such as the Archwilio and Coflein websites to gather additional information on any of the previously recorded features which they assess. Equipment packs, purchased during 2011 with a grant from the Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty's Sustainable Development Fund, have been made available to anyone wishing to take part in the project and provide all the equipment needed for the accurate recording of features.

### **HER Enhancement**

One of the aims of the project is to enhance the regional HER, both through the information collected by GAT and submitted by volunteers.

Enhancement of the project database started during the second year of the project. This was done by incorporating the databases from the Coastal Erosion Survey undertaken between 1993 and 1998, which assessed and recorded coastal erosion and archaeological sites under threat. This provided a comprehensive list of known archaeological sites along the entire Gwynedd and Anglesey coastline, and by using GIS software, a map showing all sites along with severity of erosion. This has proved invaluable for providing volunteers with maps on which they can see the previously identified sites and mark on any new ones they discover.

Assessments undertaken by Trust archaeologists and volunteers have produced sites which have given a better overview of the coastline of Gwynedd and Anglesey. Since the beginning of the project over 200 new sites have been discovered and many known sites revisited and their state reassessed.



## **RESULTS OF PROJECT WORK 2012-13**

### **Porth Neigwl**

Port Neigwl (also known as Hell's Mouth), Llanengan, has been an area of interest due to eroding archaeology since before the project started and has produced significant archaeology. In 2008 the wooden trough of a Bronze Age burnt mound (PRN 29933) was seen eroding at the eastern end of the bay, prompting a rescue excavation funded by Cadw. Each subsequent visit undertaken as part of the project has resulted in the discovery of new archaeology, both in the form of features and more commonly prehistoric lithics.

During this year of the projects lithics (PRN 31726) were discovered in an area where no such finds had been made before (SH27922676) (Figure 1, plate 1). Attention was drawn to a section of the coast where the sand dunes had eroded, exposing a former ground surface. Investigation of the area revealed that lithics were present on top of the surface as well as in the section of the eroding cliff. During the brief visit five pieces of struck flint were discovered, including a small bladelet struck from a core, however the most interesting artefact was a flake of as yet unidentified stone which had been retouched and shows evidence of use-wear.

Two flint fragments (PRN 31727) (SH28122658) were also discovered in close proximity to a deposit of burnt stones (PRN 31601) which were thought to be prehistoric in date, identified as part of the project in 2011. The discovery of the flints does not confirm that the burnt stones are also prehistoric but shows that there is definitely evidence of prehistoric activity in the area.

Porth Neigwl had previously been considered as an area where community excavations could take place, however the idea was partially dismissed due to the logistics of removing a large amount of sand in order to reach the levels where evidence of prehistoric activity was abundant. The discovery of this lithic scatter in an area where the dunes have already eroded, and where the deposit containing prehistoric material is also eroding makes the idea a more viable one. It is hoped that a small scale excavation will take place during 2013-14 which will give local volunteers the opportunity to excavate, and will act as an incentive to encourage continuous monitoring of the area.

### **Nefyn**

A member of the public alerted the Trust to a possible ditch which was visible in an excavation taking place as part of a private development in the coastal town of Nefyn (Figure 2, SHSH30794072). The person who reported the feature believed that it may have been a ditch relating to the early history of Nefyn as it lay within the boundaries of the medieval town (PRN 3408).

Upon initial investigation the feature was clearly visible in a south facing section and appeared to be roughly 'v' shaped in profile. Further cleaning showed that the feature was in fact a pit, the base of which had been lined using part of a wooden barrel with ferrous hoops (PRN 31728) (plate 2).

Two fills were evident within the feature:

The upper fill was loose and clearly modern. It consisted of sand rich silt with small pebbles (0.005m – 0.02m) and occasional larger stones, one of which was clearly dressed, and brick. Within the context there was frequent modern rubbish including white glazed pottery, cinder and plastic.

The lower fill consisted of dark orange – brown, slightly clayey sand rich silt. The context was fairly wet compared to the surrounding gravel natural and the loose layer above, and appeared to have tip lines or discreet layers. Within the context there were numerous pieces of cinder and fragments of linoleum which were initially thought to be degraded leather.

The wooden barrel which had been placed at the base of the pit was tight against the side of the cut and had been partially cut away during the excavation. A number of staves and fragments of the hoops were visible on both sides of the cut. No base to the barrel could be seen nor was there any staining suggesting that one had ever been present.

Map regression showed that the feature must have been covered by an out building which was constructed sometime in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The garden in which the pit was located appeared to have belonged to Mountain View, the property to the north of the plot being developed. Whilst an outbuilding was shown on the adjoining plot on the OS 1918 county series map, no outbuilding was shown at the location of the pit. However a building is shown at the location on the current OS Mastermap, though its exact date of construction (which must lie between 1918 and 2009) is unknown. That building has since been demolished.

The purpose of the barrel within the pit is not instantly clear. Given Nefyn's former herring fishing industry it is possible that the pit was used for smoking fish, a buried barrel was traditionally used when preparing Arbroath Smokies, however the lack of charcoal and decline of the herring industry by 1918 may discount this theory. The fact that the barrel did not have a base suggests it was not designed to hold water, but rather to help drain it by keeping the pit clear. The waterlogged deposits also suggest it might have been a sump or cess-pit, though if this was the case, only the lowest deposit is retained from this use.

Other scoops containing 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century rubbish were visible in section. The present owner of Mountain View mentioned that her family had lived in the property for several generations and that at one point the house had been burnt to the ground and re-built. This may account for the fairly large amount of rich dark soil which overlay most of the area.

## **Glanllynau**

Glanllynau, near Llanystumdwy, was first brought to the attention of the project by a metal detectorist who had identified an alignment of wooden posts in exposed peat. Investigation showed that the posts were likely to be the remnants of a fish weir (PRN 31690), however when the site was visited further potential in the area was recognised when a pit (PRN 31689) containing flint and Bronze Age pottery was identified eroding from behind coastal erosion defence boulders.

During 2011-12 a grant was secured from the Llŷn Peninsula Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty's Sustainable Development Fund to conduct a geophysical magnetometer survey in the area to try and identify any associated features (Parry *et al* 2012, GAT report 1044). The survey did not reveal any features but map regression showed that over 50m of land had already been lost to the sea since the publication of the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 suggesting that associated features may have already been lost. It is also possible that some ephemeral features such as pit groups may not have been detectable by geophysical survey.

It had initially been thought that erosion was accelerated in areas where voids were present between the coastal edge and the erosion defence boulders, due to water being churned between the land and stones. It was in one of these areas that the pit had been discovered, however after visiting the site this year it would appear that the defences are reducing erosion as intended even in the areas where boulders have been placed without an earthen bund. Areas along the same stretch where no defences have been placed appear, from visible evidence, to be eroding at a more substantial rate.

## Marine finds from Menai Strait (PRN 38250)

The Trust was contacted by Mr David McCreadie in September 2013 about four stones he had found when diving in the Menai Strait. He had interpreted these as Roman anchors, but was keen for the Trust to look at them. Mr Ian Jones at Oriel Ynys Môn had also made the Trust aware of a copper ingot found alongside a number of stone anchors on the floor of the Menai Strait. Further enquiries revealed that both sets of finds appear to have come from the same location, though found by different divers. At present we do not have an exact location, but an approximate NGR is SH52216944, which locates them a short distance from the shore close to Plas Newydd, and between Plas Newydd and the Vaynol boathouse.

Items held by Mr David McCreadie of Dulas, Anglesey (plate 4)

1. Circular stone with flattened sides approximately 30cm diameter and 10cm thick. Central circular hole approximately 7cm diameter. Stone broken down centre into two parts. One side dressed and slightly worn, other side not dressed. Interpreted as mill stone, possibly reused as anchor.
2. Circular stone with broken flattened sides approximately 40cm diameter and 10cm thick. Central circular hole approximately 7cm diameter. One side dressed and partly worn smooth, other side not dressed. Stone bears resemblance to Anglesey millstone grit. Interpreted as mill stone, possibly reused as anchor.
3. Rough circular disk approximately 30cm diameter and up to 6cm thick. Surfaces not dressed on either side. Small central hole 3cm diameter. No evidence for either side having been dressed. Interpreted as possible anchor stone.
4. Large circular stone approximately 50cm diameter and 10cm thick. Weight approximately 45Kg. There is a central hole 8cm diameter, and a smaller hole close to the side 3cm diameter. One side flat, though not obviously dressed (but covered with barnacles, so difficult to see). The other side convex. Weight approximately 50Kg. Interpreted as a mill stone with hole at one side for turning handle. May not have been used. Possibly reused as stone anchor (plate 3).

Items accessioned by Oriel Ynys Môn  
(Petrology by Dr David Jenkins)

- 5 Roughly rectangular block of stone approximately 34cm x 18.5cm. Slightly wedge shaped varying from 10cm to 15cm towards base of stone. Neither end is flat, but both are roughly angled. Elongated 5cm x 4cm hole through stone 11cm from top. A wide shallow groove runs from the hole to the top of the stone (approximately 5cm wide, 5mm deep). Weight 14.26Kg. Interpreted as anchor stone. Petrology: quartz sandstone with rare jasper, grey clasts and black shiny magnetite/ilmenite; probably of Anglesey origin. Accession No. 25/210.3 (plate 6)
- 6 Large oval block 44cm long and 30cm wide at its broadest point (roughly central). 19cm thick. Slightly pointed base. Flat top. Oval hole 7cm from top approximately 6cm x 7cm. Weight 32.6cm. Coarse sandstone. Interpreted as stone anchor. Petrology: a quartz sandstone of probably Lower Carboniferous age; probably of Anglesey origin. Accession No. 25/210.4
- 7 Roughly triangular block of coarse sandstone, 25.5cm long, 22cm wide at base, widening to 28cm, and narrowing to 12cm at top. Thickness varies from 15cm to 17cm. There is a rough

square hole in the upper part of the triangle 6cm x 8cm. Weight is 15.48Kg. Interpreted as anchor stone.

- 8 A millstone measuring 33cm diameter and between 5cm and 7cm thick. Central hole approximately 6cm diameter, widening to an uneven oval hole 7cm x 9cm in the upper surface. Concave dressed grinding face worn smooth in places and convex (undressed) upper surface. Weight 9.72Kg. Interpreted as former upper millstone possibly reused as stone anchor. Petrology: characteristic of the basal Carboniferous in Anglesey. Composed of fine-grained angular quartz and common jasper. Accession No. 25/210.5 (plate 5)
- 9 Small round 'wheel' varying between 20cm – 22cm diameter, 10cm thick, with off-centre hole approximately 6cm square. The stone is splitting into natural layers. Interpretation – possible former grindstone, reused as stone anchor. Petrology: characteristic of transitional Upper Carboniferous 'Red Measures', and could be from exposures at Malltraeth and on the shores of the south-west end of the Menai Strait, or be imported from North East Wales. Accession No. 25/210.6
- 10 Roughly circular copper ingot approximately 28cm in diameter and weighing 18.3Kg. The upper surface has a rim approximately 3cm wide, and the rest of the surface is flat and sunk a couple of mm below the rim. The lower side is relatively flat, and curves up at the edges towards the rim (plate 7).
- 11 Segment of a circular copper ingot 5.36Kg in weight. The circumference of the rim is between 20cm and 25cm long, and the other two side 20cm and 15cm long. The method of manufacture appears the same as the complete ingot, with a protruding rim on the upper surface (plate 8).

### **Discussion**

The four stones found by Mr McCreadie were all circular with central holes, and resemble small millstones. Three at least had dressed surfaces suitable for grinding, though the fourth stone does not have a grinding surface. The largest stone had a secondary hole close to the circumference that could have held a handle for turning. Further inspection of these stones is required to identify the stone, and to check grinding surfaces for wear, but they appear typical of Anglesey millstone grit. The damage to the edges of the stones would be in keeping with their re-use as anchors. The re-use of mill stones as anchors is recorded elsewhere, and a recent compilation of anchors states 'Quern and mill stones can be recycled as anchors, so the discovery of such a stone on the sea bed need not be evidence of it having been carried as cargo'

([http://www.biganchorproject.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=14:stone-anchors&catid=8:types-of-anchors&Itemid=6](http://www.biganchorproject.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14:stone-anchors&catid=8:types-of-anchors&Itemid=6)).

Of the five stones accessioned by the Oriel, one was a millstone, one had the appearance of a former grindstone, and three were weights, each with a single hole. These last three would certainly have been suitable as stone anchors, though the lighter stone would also have been suitable for a fishing net weight.

None of the stones are readily dateable, though the size of the millstones would suggest a pre-19<sup>th</sup> century date.

The complete copper ingot and fragment are Roman, and complement a number of similar finds from Anglesey. Though the finds are from the same location, they do not have to be of comparable date, nor from the same ship. Mark Beattie-Edwards, Programme Director for the Nautical Archaeology Society, and compiler of the 'Big Anchor' project, says it is very common to find anchors together – it can indicate a regular mooring location, and loss of anchors was relatively common. It does not necessarily indicate a shipwreck, and the Roman copper ingots are not necessarily connected with the anchors.

### **Porth Ruffydd Flint Scatters**

During the 2012 Anglesey Agricultural Show members of the public were encouraged to report any discoveries they had made and bring finds to be identified at the Trust's stand. Julie Roberts, a lady who regularly walks her dog at Porth Ruffydd on Holy Island, Anglesey (approx. SH21608000) came to speak to the Trust on the first day of the show to inform us of a number of flints she had discovered in the area. The following day she returned with a number of the flints which were initially confirmed as probably being Mesolithic in date. Further investigation showed that the site was known to the Trust and had been visited in 1977 with the discovery being published in the Transactions of the Anglesey Antiquarian Society in 1982. It also came to light that archaeologist John Hallam had also previously excavated test pits and collected flints in the area but unfortunately passed away before publishing his findings.

Closer inspection of the flints appeared to suggest that the assemblage covers a broad period of time from the early Mesolithic to the Early Bronze Age. It is hoped that expert analysis of the material collected by Julie Roberts, and if possible those collected by John Hallam may identify distinct areas of activity or at least provide a detailed breakdown of the assemblage.

A limited amount of fieldwork may be considered for the area in the coming year but the main priority will be further monitoring and the implementation of a management plan to mitigate further erosion which will need to be discussed with RSPB who currently manage the area as a bird reserve.

### **Storws, Cemlyn Bay**

#### ***Introduction***

Located on the west side of Cemlyn Bay (SH32999357) are the ruins of an eighteenth century storehouse, used for storing goods before loading or after unloading from ships in the harbour at Cemlyn. The buildings are known locally as Y Storws, though the OS map of 1900 shows three properties – to the north is Glan y Mor, south is Storws (not named) and west is Min y Don. There are no surviving remains of Min y Don, which lay under the present car park.

The Bodorgan Mss at Bangor University record rent in 1779 for Shadrack Williams paying 5/- in rent for the storehouse in addition to £12 for the farm of Fronddu. Shadrack was a local farmer and trader and dealer, and appears to have built the storehouse at Cemlyn in or shortly before 1779. He dealt primarily in grain and coal. His descendants continued to trade from the site until 1907, but it is not known if the site continued in use after that date. Members of the family lived in the house on the site so that they could sell the coal and supervise storage of the grain. Shadrack's nephew was the preacher Rev. John Elias, who in his memoirs describes his uncle as 'a great improver and owner of vessels', a shopkeeper, corn merchant and coal dealer. He purchased oats and grain from local farmers for export along the north Wales coast, and then the vessels returned with cargoes of coal and salt (Williams 2005, Barnes 1982).

The site lies on the south-east side of a small narrow promontory which forms the west side of Cemlyn Bay. North of the site is the location of the first Anglesey lifeboat, founded in 1828 by the 'Anglesey Association for preservation of life from shipwreck', it was closed in 1872 when it was transferred to Cemaes Bay. Mooring posts are marked on the OS 1900 map between the storehouse and the lifeboat house. To the south lies the house of Bryn Aber, the former home of Captain Vivian Hewitt (1888-1965), aviator, ornithologist and wealthy recluse, who created the sea water lagoon inland of the shingle spit by building a dam across the outlet. The land is owned by the National Trust, and leased by North Wales Wildlife Trust, who manage the nature reserve at Cemlyn.

***Glan y Mor (PRN 31916) (SH33003 93604)***

The buildings described under this section are a self-contained group within the complex consisting of a weigh-house on the north side of a walled yard (probably a coal yard) and a cottage attached to the south side of the yard. (Letters refer to Figure 3).

*The weigh-house/office (A)*

Plate 9

At the northern limit of the property is a small rectangular, single storey structure, interpreted as a weigh house and office. This building backs onto the coal yard, and incorporates the high enclosure wall into its construction. The remains of weigh-scales lie outside the west gable. The 1900 OS map shows a second building (B) attached to the east gable of the weigh-house/office, but that building has been taken down and the stone removed. The building is orientated on an east-west axis and faces north, looking out across the shingle of Cemlyn bay. The roof is double pitched and clad in slate, with the eaves extending lower on the northern side than on the southern side. The roof features ceramic ridge tiles and has ceramic coping slabs at the eastern gable. A small rectangular, rubble built chimney extends up from the western gable; this is topped by cement flaunching and two small, circular, ceramic chimney pots. The roof survives in poor repair with holes showing on either side. The walls are rubble built using lime mortar and show patches of render, particularly at the eastern gable.

Sole access to the structure is via a doorway located on the eastern side of the northern elevation. The opening features a wooden lintel positioned directly below the eaves; remnants of a wooden frame survive, but the door itself is absent. A second doorway located on the far southern side of the eastern gable has been entirely blocked up using stone, although the wooden lintel remains visible. The interior was formerly lit by two windows, a large rectangular one in the northern elevation and a smaller one on the far southern side of the western gable; both have been entirely blocked up with red brick.

The interior of the building consists of a single room, open to the roof. The roof structure consists of a narrow ridge beam, flanked by a single purlin on either side and supported by a small central collar beam truss. The truss features a mortise and tenon joint at the top and the collar beam is fastened in place using metal bolts. The spaces between the rafters show remnants of plaster and the timbers have been whitewashed. The walls have been roughly rendered, and show remnants of orange paint in places.

A small fireplace is located just north of centre in the western elevation; this has a substantial stone lintel and red bricks in the hearth. To the south of the fireplace is a small blocked window, this has been blocked up leaving an alcove on the internal side with a wooden sill and lintel. A matching alcove is set in the eastern gable opposite, in what was formerly a doorway. The northern window has also been blocked up, leaving an alcove, however here remnants of a three light wooden window casement remain in the opening.

### *The Yard (C)*

The yard measures 15.5m x 11m and is surrounded by a stone wall over 2m high. A wide entrance with double wooden doors lay at the south end of the west wall. The enclosing wall has partly collapsed around the entrance, but otherwise is in generally good condition.

### *The Cottage (D)*

#### Plate 10

The cottage is located on the southern side of the coal yard, on the eastern edge and again appears to incorporate the high enclosure wall into its construction. The principal elevation faces south, looking towards the main storehouse. The cottage is derelict and all openings have been blocked up with stone, making the interior inaccessible. Remnants of a small structure stand at the eastern gable, set back from the main frontage, most likely a privy.

The cottage is partially derelict and survives in poor repair. The double pitched roof has entirely collapsed, though some slates survive at either gable, along with some irregular stone coping slabs. The western gable wall is very thick and features remnants of a large square chimney at the top. The eastern gable is less substantial and features a smaller chimney. The walls of the cottage are rubble built bonded with lime mortar, and partly rendered. Ivy is beginning to obscure the main face.

The southern elevation features a central door flanked by a fairly small window on either side, all of these opening have been entirely blocked up using stone, though a wooden lintel above the door remains visible. Two further blocked doorways are located on the southern side of the eastern and western gables, again displaying wooden lintels. A small window in the northern elevation has been blocked up using brick whilst a fourth set high in the eastern gable remains open.

The interior of the cottage is inaccessible; however it is probable given the presence of the two chimneys that it formerly comprised two rooms, a kitchen to the west and a parlour to the east. The small window set high in the eastern gable may have lit a loft space used as a bedroom, but it is likely the kitchen was open to the roof.

### ***Y Storws (PRN 31917) (SH 32990 93578)***

There is a single principle long range of single pile plan orientated on a northeast/southwest axis. The range comprises three parts; two large storehouses and a derelict dwelling at the southern end. The building is badly overgrown with ivy, which obscures some of the features, and the surrounding area is overgrown with brambles. The dwelling at the southern end appears to be the earliest structure in the range and the two storehouses added subsequently, possibly in two separate phases. (Letters refer to Figure 3).

### *The northern storehouse (E)*

#### Plate 11

The northern storehouse is a two storey structure which has undergone significant alteration in recent times. The structure is rectangular in plan and is orientated on a northeast/southwest axis; the roof is double pitched and has been replaced recently using corrugated asbestos panelling. The northern gable features a wide double doorway which has been entirely blocked up and rendered over. A substantial lintel, apparently made from recycled timber (it features numerous peg holes) remains visible above the blocked opening. A small rectangular window remains open at the top of the gable; however no frame or casement is present.

Access to the first floor is gained via a doorway at the south end of the east wall; this doorway is reached via a low external stone staircase. The doorway is set immediately below the eaves; it

features a wooden lintel and a ledged and braced wooden door. The western elevation is almost entirely obscured by ivy, however two small shuttered windows are set at ground floor level and two small square air vents are set at first floor level.

The first floor doorway leads onto a small landing, and provides access to both the north and south first floor rooms. The first floor of the north storehouse comprises a single room, open to the roof. The roof timbers, including a pair of collar beam trusses are of a modern date (mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century); the walls have been roughly rendered and the floor is of bare floor boards. The room is fairly poorly lit, by a single small window in the northern gable, and a pair of small square air vents set into the western wall. An open doorway in the southern gable leads through into the first floor of the southern storehouse.

The ground floor of the northern storehouse is no longer accessible, as the doorway in the northern gable has been blocked up, although it is possible to still see into the space through a gap between the floor and the stairs. The space appears to consist of a single room, lit by two small windows in the western elevation. Several wooden posts have been set below the floor joists in order to provide additional support to the first floor.

#### *The southern storehouse (F)*

Plates 11 and 12

The southern storehouse appears to be of a separate phase to the northern one, the rooflines being slightly different, however the masonry is entirely obscured by ivy, making it difficult to confirm. The structures are similar in style and roughly match each other in dimensions. This structure is again rectangular in plan and is orientated on a northeast/southwest axis; the roof is double pitched and has been replaced recently using corrugated asbestos sheeting. The eastern elevation functions as the principal frontage of this building, facing out to the coast. Access is via a central doorway at ground floor level. The opening features a wooden lintel and door frame, but no door is present. The doorway is flanked by two small rectangular windows, the southern window has been blocked up using stone, but the northern window features an early wooden shutter. The western elevation features a matching pair of windows, both retaining early wooden shutters.

The ground floor of the southern storehouse consists of a single, fairly well lit room, not internally linked to the rest of the range. The ceiling features substantial joists supported in places by upright posts. Set into the floor boards of the room above are a number of small hatches, which do not appear original. The walls are roughly rendered and the floor is a mixture of irregular stone slabs and red bricks. Wooden shelving is set against the western wall. There is a small alcove, possibly a blocked window, set on the far west side of the southern wall. The first floor of this structure is accessed via an internal door in the southern wall of the adjacent loft. The space consists of a single room, open to the roof; it features no direct sources of light, and is therefore likely, especially given the strong supports to the floor, to have been used for grain storage.

#### *The house (G)*

At the southern end of the range stands a derelict small 2 storey house. The gables stand to full height but the pitched roof is entirely absent and the eastern elevation has also partially collapsed. The eastern elevation appears to have been the principal frontage, though mostly collapsed; it is possible to make out a roughly central doorway, with at least one window at ground floor level to the north. A remnant of at least one first floor window also survives to the south of the doorway. The southern gable features a substantial rectangular chimney and has a substantial stone buttress added to the outside. The western elevation features a small window with a stone lintel and remnants of a wooden frame on the southern side. To the north a second doorway has been entirely



blocked up using stone, this is obscured by ivy from the outside, but is visible from the inside; it has a wooden lintel.

No internal divisions survive within the interior of the cottage; however two collapsed joists extend out from the western wall, and further slots in the wall mark where the location of the floor joists. The southern wall features a very substantial chimney breast, with a large brick lined opening at ground floor level. This fireplace appears to have undergone some alteration; it features two wooden lintels and two small alcoves that have been blocked up. The chimney appears to have been blocked up forming a curved top to the opening.

A second small fireplace is visible set east of centre in the northern wall, it has an irregular stone lintel and the opening has been blocked up using red brick. The presence of this second fireplace indicates this floor was formerly divided into two rooms. There is no evidence of a chimney at the top of the gable; it is possible it was removed when the storehouse was built, due to its potential as a fire risk.

#### *The Privy (H)*

The privy to the south of the main range of buildings is a small, single room, rubble built structure. It has a single pitched, slate clad roof which slopes down to the south. Access is via a small doorway in the northern elevation.

### **Talyfoel to Llanidan boathouse**

An assessment of the coastline between Tanyfoel and Llanidan boathouse on the shore of the Menai Strait on Anglesey (SH 4633 6375 to SH 4989 6679) was conducted whilst researching routes for a guided walk:

There are steep cliffs of glacial drift to the south-west of the former Mermaid Inn and ferry house at Talyfoel (SH 4746 6454). The cliffs are mostly overgrown making assessment of archaeology difficult. There were several areas of recent collapse when the area was visited on 23/02/2013. Rows of posts running about 20m down the foreshore at about 45 degrees from the mean high water level are probably the remains of groynes or other coastal defences (PRN 31918; SH47356443). This area is actively eroding although there appears to be little change compared to the 1899 Ordnance Survey map. From Talyfoel to Barras-bach (SH 4809 6552) the foreshore is revetted and protected by the road. The derelict nineteenth- and early twentieth-century timber ferry pier still stands on the foreshore (PRN 31660; SH47736474). From Barras-bach to Trefarthen Boat house (PRN 31730; SH 4863 6578) there are some signs of minor erosion, the field wall is beginning to be undermined and has collapsed in many places. This area was the landing place for the Roman trading settlement recently discovered at Tai Cochion/Trefarthen (PRN 28425). There are no visible remains on the foreshore. Some of the Roman fields and enclosures appear to have been truncated on the edge of the Strait indicating that there has been some loss since the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Test pitting showed that the low-lying field to the west of the boathouse centred on SH48416569 consists of a very thin layer of turf over rounded cobbles and gravel. This suggests that it is an area of reclaimed foreshore. Limestone bedrock has been quarried from the foreshore at SH48646573 (PRN 31731) to supply an adjacent lime-kiln (PRN 31659). Walling just below the mean high water level about 125m to the east appears to be failed coastal defences. This may indicate that the removal of the bedrock from the foreshore resulted in coastal erosion on the adjacent shoreline.

The foreshore to the north east is dominated by the activities of the owners of Llanidan Hall, probably in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century. Entry to the grounds of the hall from the foreshore is prevented by a substantial mortared limestone wall mostly sitting directly on the bedrock. This is

topped by an overhanging barbed wire barrier on iron supports. The stone for the wall was quarried from the foreshore. Toby Driver recorded 8 possible lines of walling on the foreshore during aerial reconnaissance for RCAHMW and suggested that they may be several phases of a fish trap. Two substantial double faced stone walls are visible on the foreshore. They are both too narrow to be jetties and do not appear to have a laid upper surface. The first (PRN 31648) at SH49156625 runs for about 45m at a right angle to the shore. The end is ruinous but it appears to turn 90 degrees to the south-west. A second wall (PRN 31732) of similar construction at SH49646658, 580m to the north-east can be traced for 28m down the foreshore. This has previously been recorded as a jetty, but it appears to be too narrow and no laid upper surface is present. The two walls are at either end of the quarrying on the foreshore and could be an attempt to prevent erosion caused by the quarrying or could even be a failed land reclamation scheme. Another possibility is that they were built in order to prevent access to the foreshore in front of the hall. A substantial quarry on the foreshore (PRN 31647) at SH49236642 probably produced stone for the construction of the hall itself. This length of coast is now stable; there may even have been a little deposition towards Llanidan boathouse (PRN 31733) and jetty (SH49876678).

### **Glan y Môr, Llanfaglan**

In 2006 Toby Driver of the Royal Commission photographed rectangular cropmarks at Glan y Môr, Llanfaglan, Bontnewydd, approximately 4km south-west of Caernarfon (NPRN 409821, SH45416023). At least two rectangular buildings, one of which appears to have rounded corners, and a road or trackway can clearly be seen on the aerial photographs. The features have been interpreted as a possible long hut settlement which may be associated with a coin of Charles 1<sup>st</sup> (PRN 64533) which was found nearby and could also be associated with the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Cored Gwyrfaï fish weir (PRN 14601, SAM C334, SH45116099) which is located to the north. The site occupies a low lying field, very close to the high tide mark, which would probably flood if it wasn't for the coastal defences which have been installed along the foreshore.

The landowner has been consulted and is happy for geophysical survey to take place during the late spring or early summer. When asked about the features he had no prior knowledge of them but was aware of a trackway in the field which has since gone out of use, although this was on a different alignment to the one seen in the aerial photographs. He also mentioned a rubbish dump which was present between the cropmarks and the foreshore which was largely eroded before the installation of the coastal defences.

### **Foryd Gwyrfaï, Llanwnda**

A volunteer contacted the Trust with an enquiry about a circular cropmark feature with apparent gaps or entrances to the south-west and south-east, which had been seen on Google Earth images dating from 2010 (PRN 31919; SH4587758947). The feature measured approximately 20m in diameter and could feasibly have been a prehistoric feature. Map regression did not offer an explanation for the feature and nothing was visible on other aerial photographs of the area. It was decided that the feature was suitable for geophysical survey and it was arranged that the landowner would be contacted and the site visited in order to ask if anything was known of the feature and to gain permission. Unfortunately upon visiting the landowner the feature was explained as an unfinished garden feature where a small circular bank had been raised, upon which saplings had been planted.

Whilst looking at the reported feature on aerial photographs it appeared that there was a roughly oval enclosure 100m to the north-west which could be seen in current field boundaries and as a crop

mark (PRN 31729; SH4571859103). Lidar data was also checked for the area, this appeared to confirm the presence of a possible bank which corresponded with the crop mark. If the feature is in fact an enclosure, measuring roughly 140m x 200m, it would have been located at the mouth of the Gwyrfa, just above the flood plain with the river just beyond its northern limit. Although full access was not granted by the landowner during the visit due to horses being present in the field, it did appear that a low earthwork appeared to correspond with the features seen on aerial photographs and Lidar. Again it was decided that the site was suitable for geophysical survey, initially on a small scale to determine if the cropmark was in fact archaeological or simply a coincidence or even another modern feature. When visiting the landowner it was confirmed that he had no knowledge of any modern features in the area, however he did state that the area was very wet for much of the year. It must also be said that the landowner was not overly enthusiastic about the prospect of geophysical survey but would consider allowing the work once the weather has improved. Attempts will be made to negotiate with the landowner in 2013-14.

## **OUTREACH**

### **Volunteer Involvement**

A number of volunteers have worked on the project during the course of the year. The equipment packs for the project have been in reasonable demand although a number of volunteers preferred to use their own equipment. The main areas where volunteers have been recording are stretches of coastline between Criccieth (SH50043781) and Porthmadog (SH57233838) and Trefor (SH37134750) and Clynog (SH41045003). The volunteers working at these areas have been committed to the project during previous years, providing a wealth of new information and assisting in excavations. The support given to the volunteers over the year will hopefully result in a wealth of new information being submitted in the coming year.

An interest in the project was shown by the Penmaenmawr and district U3A group. Two equipment packs were supplied for the use of the group and an offer was made to provide the group with a training session. Unfortunately the initial enthusiasm did not continue and the group decided not to participate in the project, feedback from the group suggested that the majority would rather not be confined to the coastline, it also appeared that the group would be more interested in guided tours of sites rather than taking an active role in monitoring. One member of the group who showed initial enthusiasm has expressed a continuing interest in monitoring a submerged forest and peat exposure at Morfa Conwy (PRN 31549, SH76777973).

### **Guided Walks**

A series of guided walks arranged by the Trust in association with the Countryside Council for Wales were used to promote the project. Three walks were specifically arranged in coastal areas where work had recently taken place in association with Arfordir.

At Dinas Dinlle the walk highlighted the multi period history of the area ranging from a prehistoric flint scatter which was identified as a result of the Arfordir project in 2012 to the WW2 airfield and related defences. No other site in Gwynedd better demonstrates the impact that coastal erosion can have on archaeology than the Iron Age fort of Dinas Dinlle, which made it a perfect opportunity to promote the work of the project. The weather during the walk was foul, meaning it was not possible to give a full explanation of the recording process, however the general fieldwork methods were explained and all involved showed enthusiasm despite the conditions.

Two walks were also held at Porthdinllaen, Nefyn which was the main focus of fieldwork for the project during 2011-12. The walks were well received and they provided an opportunity to report on

the findings of the geophysical survey and excavation, as well as giving a general history of the area. By walking around the headland it was also possible to show the extent of erosion and the impact it can have on archaeology.

### **Dinas Dinllaen/ Trwyn Porthdinllaen Interpretation Panel**

As part of the grant secured from the Llŷn AONB Sustainable Development Fund work was undertaken to produce an interpretation panel for the promontory fort which was the focus of last year's main community excavation. The panel was informed by the work undertaken at the fort and will focus entirely on the Iron Age history of the site which was found to be generally unknown by those visiting the area during the excavation. The panel includes a QR code which links to the Trust's website which provides more in-depth information on the site and the results of the excavation and geophysical survey, the pages also provide general information about the Arfordir project and how to get involved.

### **Anglesey AONB Youth Rangers**

The Anglesey AONB Youth Rangers is a project which aims to get young people aged between 13 and 15 interested in the heritage and landscape of the Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It provides opportunities for young people to help conserve and enhance the area whilst learning new skills, gaining valuable experiences and having fun. A range of activities which would provide the group with the skills needed to survey and record archaeological sites was prepared, however unfortunately the organiser of the group fell ill, and was unable to continue with the project. It is hoped to continue again in 2013-14 when the group is up and running again. The prepared activities involved learning how to use a handheld GPS to both mark new points and find known points, sketching and drawing rough plans of features, and conducting a measured survey. This part of the day was to take place at Tŷ Mawr hut group, South Stack (PRN 1755; SH21208200), following this a stretch of coastline would be walked to try and identify new sites and put their new skills to the test.

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## **Figures and plates**

### **Figures**

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Figure 2: Location of excavations at Nefyn

Figure 3: OS 1889 map of Storws with buildings labelled

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Plate 2 Nefyn: the base of a wooden barrel (PRN 31728)

Plate 3: Mill stone re-used as anchor (No. 4)

Plate 4: Mill stones re-used as anchors (No's 1-3)

Plate 5: Millstone reused as anchor (No.8)

Plate 6: Stone anchor (No. 5)

Plate 7: Roman copper ingot (No. 10)

Plate 8: Segment of Roman copper ingot (No. 11)

Plate 9: Storws building A weigh house/office (PRN 31916)

Plate 10: Storws building D cottage (PRN 31916)

Plate 11: Storws buildings E and F storehouses (PRN 31917)

Plate 12: Storws interior of building F (PRN 31917)





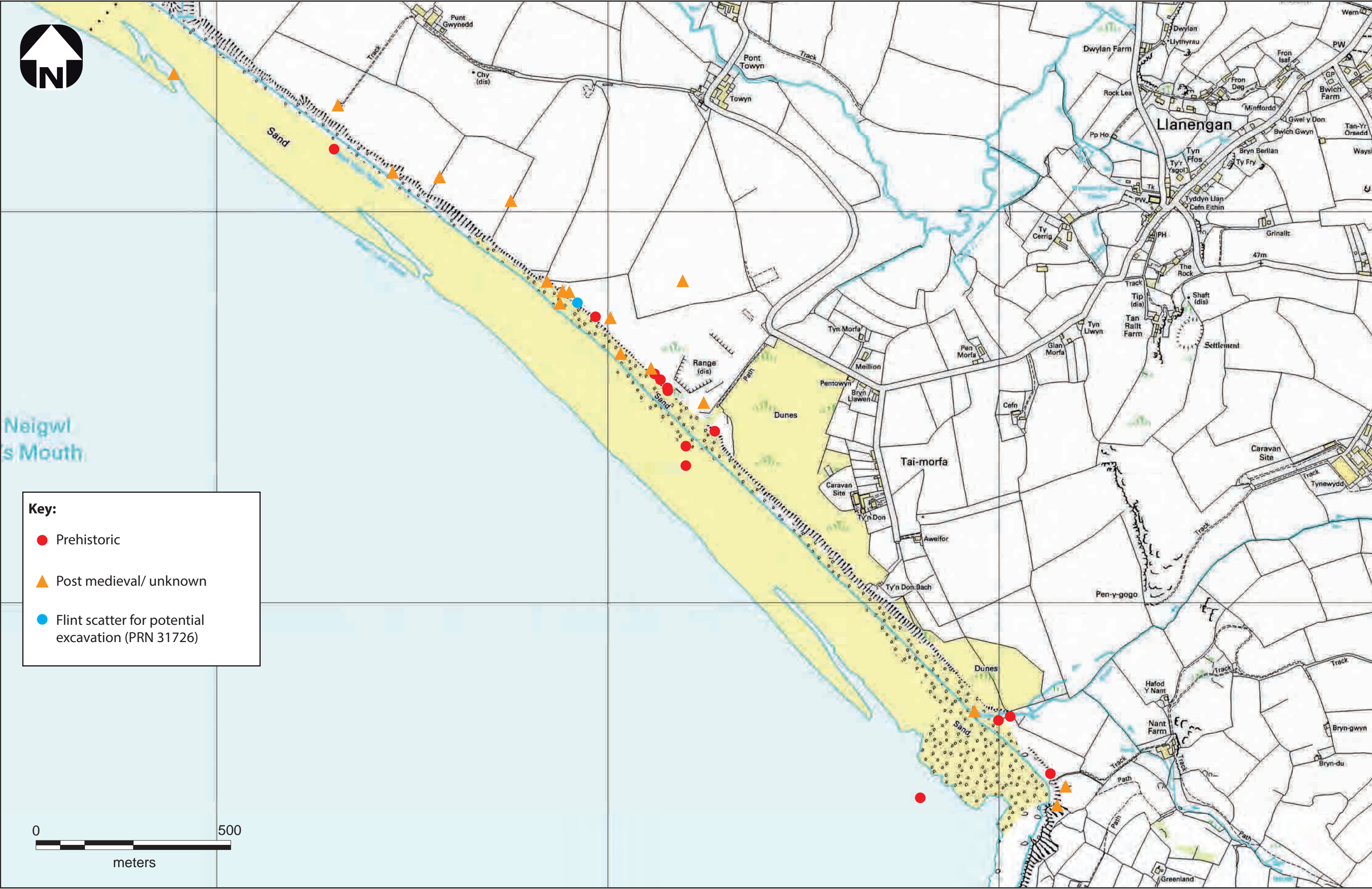


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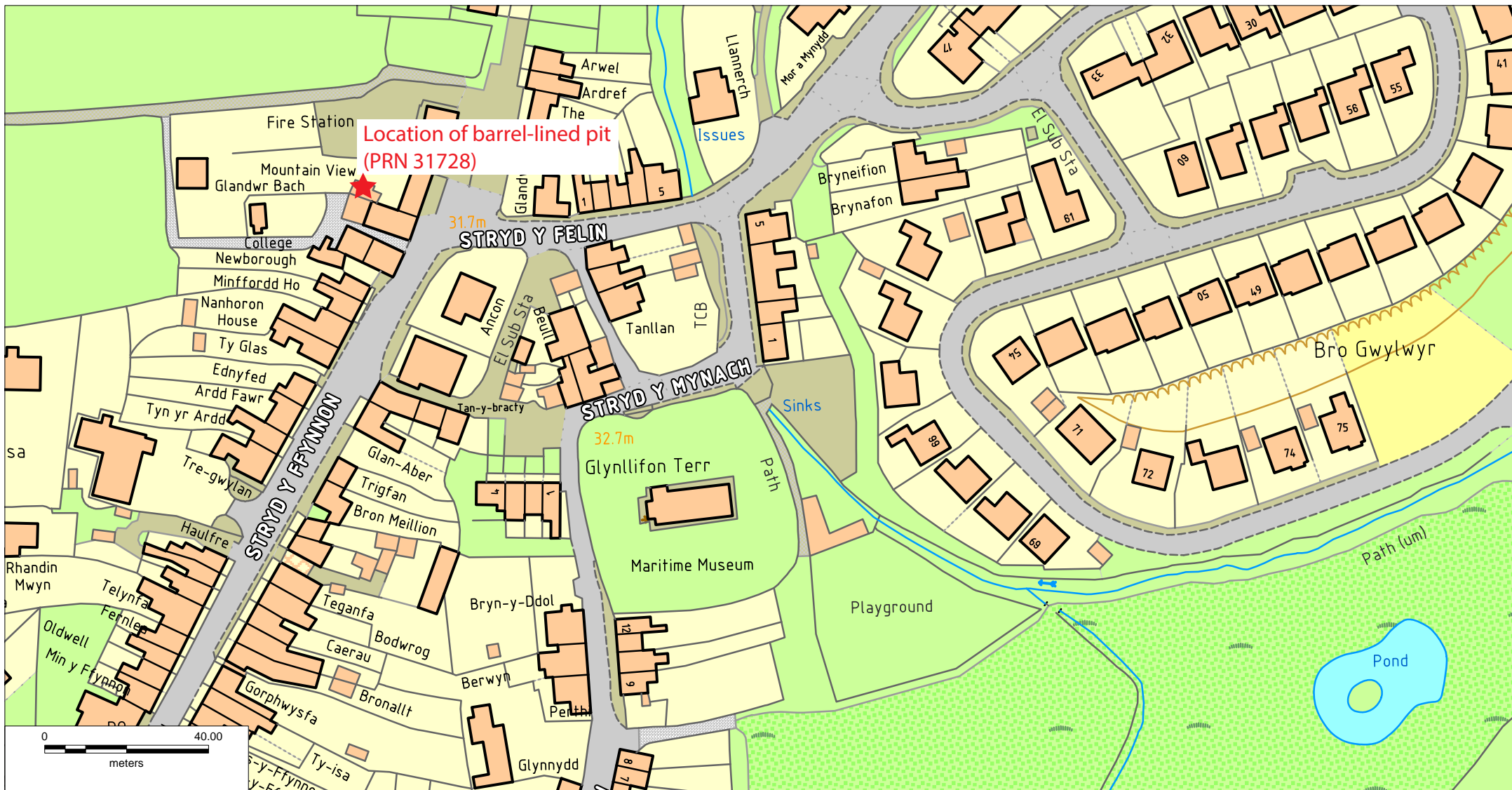


Figure 2: Location of excavations at Nefyn



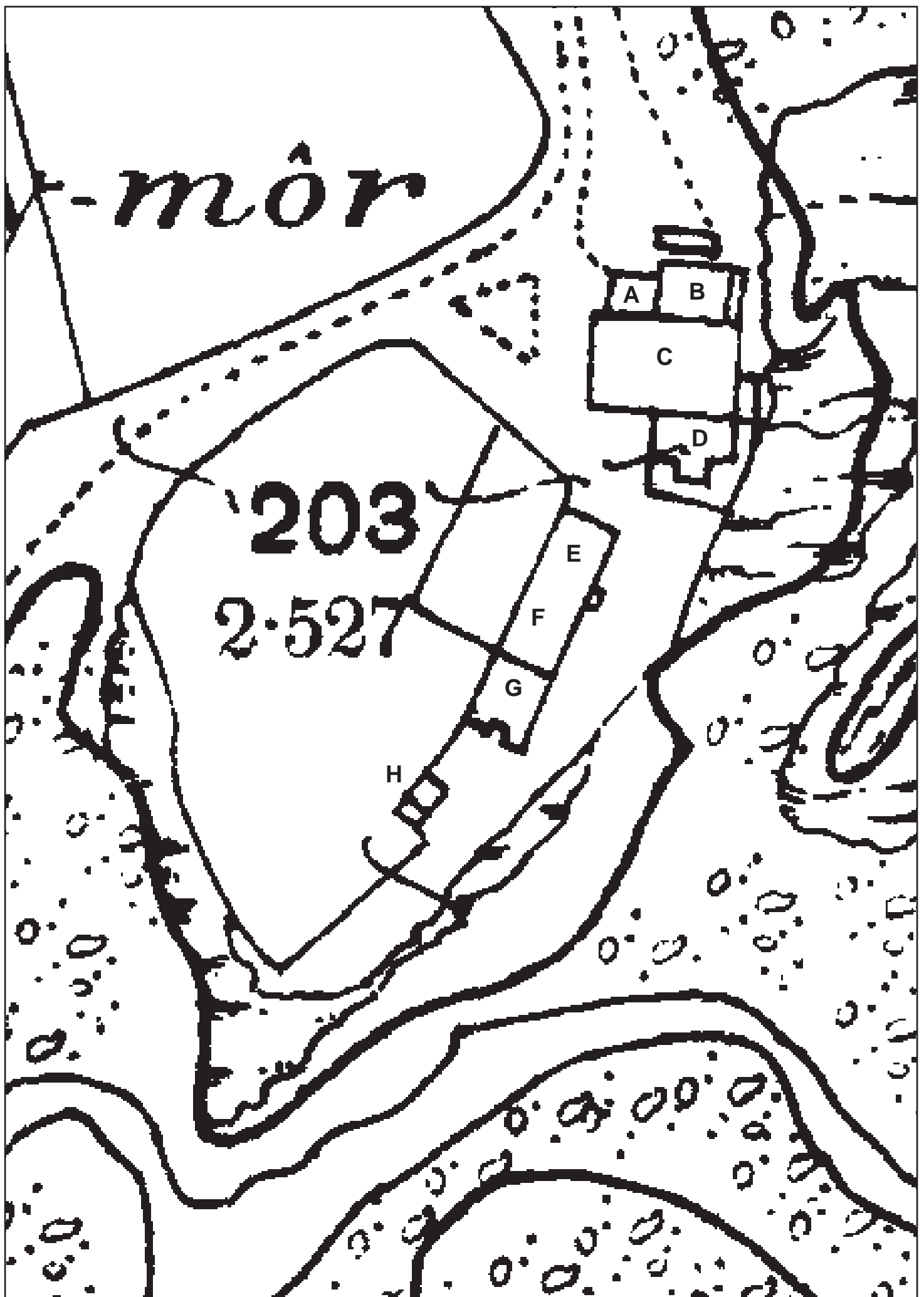


Figure 3: OS 1889 map of Storws with buildings labelled





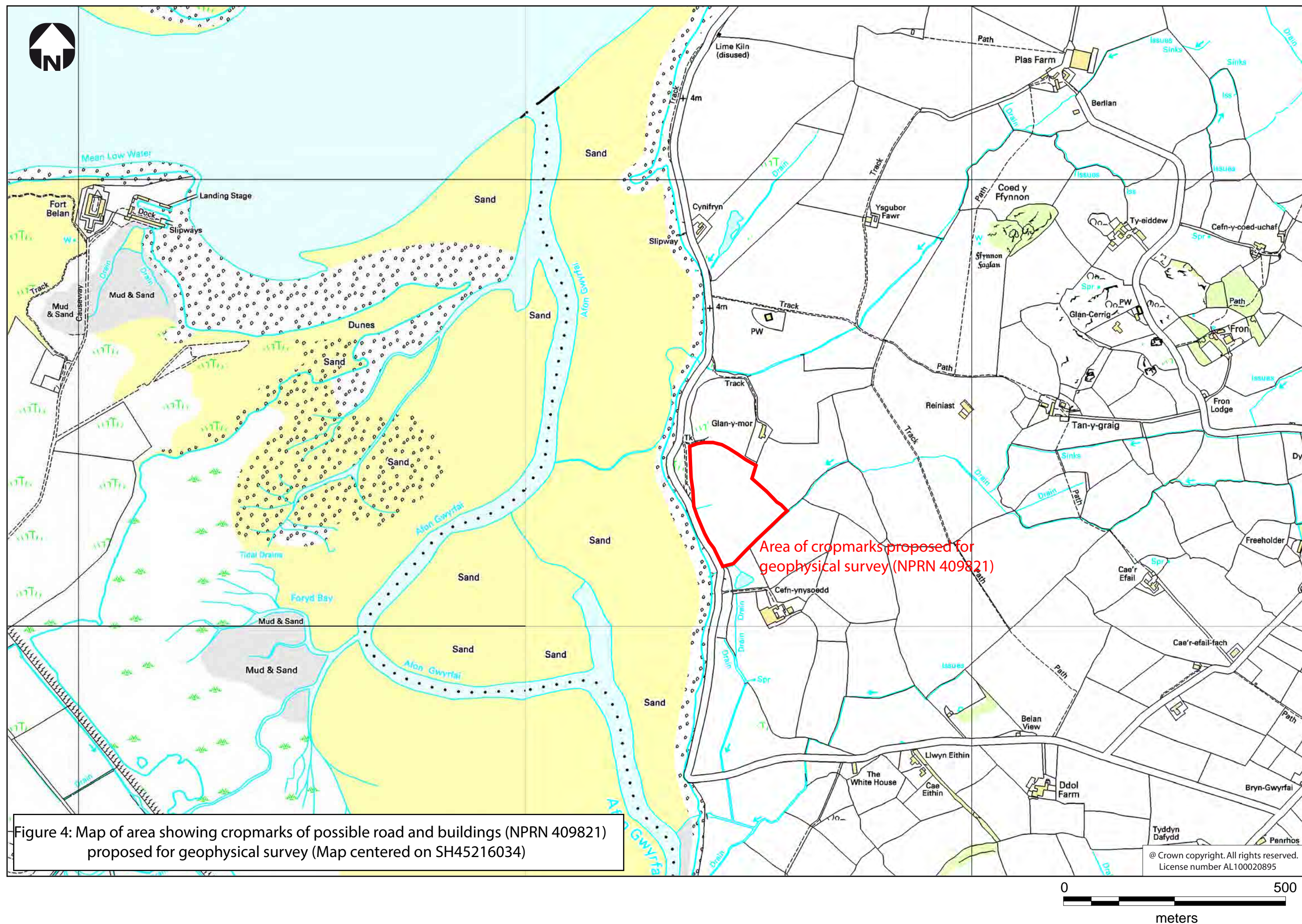








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Plate 12: Storws interior of building F (PRN 31917)







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