

LLANUWCHLLYN TO GLAN-LLYN CYCLE PATH

Archaeological Assessment



Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

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Archaeological Assessment

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Written by: Roland Flook

Cyhoeddwyd gan Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Craig Beuno, Ffordd y Garth,
Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2RT

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Cadeiryddes/Chair - Yr Athro/Professor Nancy Edwards, B.A., PhD, F.S.A.
Prif Archaeolegydd/Chief Archaeologist - Andrew Davidson, B.A., M.I.F.A.

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Approvals Table				
	Role	Printed Name	Position	Date
Originated by	Document Author	Roland Flook	Project Officer	29/01/2015
Originated by	Document Author	Gerwyn Richards	Project Officer	29/01/2015
Originated by	Document Author	Spencer Smith	Project Officer	29/01/2015
Reviewed by	Document Reviewer	John Roberts	Principal Archaeologist	03/02/2015

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SUMMARY

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust has been commissioned by Gwersyll yr Urdd Glanllyn to carry out an archaeological assessment in advance of the proposed development of a new cycle path adjacent to the A494 between Gwersyll yr Urdd Glan-llyn (the Glan-llyn Outdoor Education Centre) and a point opposite Lon Farm, Llanuwchllyn, Meirionnydd.

A desktop assessment and a field walkover were subsequently undertaken. These resulted in the identification of a number of sites which would be affected by the proposed development.

The most potentially significant was a banked earthwork enclosure (002) located at the SW end of the proposed development near Glanllyn Isa. The feature was noted in a 1948 RAF aerial photograph and measures 75m square. In the photograph it appears to have at least two rounded corners which can be indicative of a Roman military site. Other evidence suggests that this may in fact be a late agricultural enclosure, however considering the proximity of the Roman fort at Caer Gai, the possibility of finding further associated Roman sites is very real. The walkover identified two parallel and very low banks (014 and 016) with possible associated ditches. One of these could correspond to the enclosure. The proposed development corridor will affect the whole of the NW side of the enclosure as well as a 2.5m wide strip through its interior, and will also disturb the NW ends of the two linear banks (014, and 016).

At the NE end of the proposed development a small building (001) perhaps 3.5m square was identified on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25 inch map of 1888. The building is no longer extant and no evidence of this building could be found during the walkover. However, this may be due to significant modern dumping in this area. The proposed development corridor runs very close to the location of this feature and it is highly likely that there will be disturbance of any surviving remains.

Recommendations have been made for Trial Trenching of the above features (001, 002, 014, & 016).

During the walkover a substantial, rough, curvilinear earth and stone bank (010) some 33m long was identified approximately halfway along the proposed corridor and immediately adjacent to the A494. It appears to be designed to control and disperse water which is flowing from an outlet or drain under the road; probably to prevent waterlogging of the pasture. The feature appears to be a very ad hoc affair, and probably of fairly modern construction. The drain however may be a feature from the original road construction. The bank is likely to be completely destroyed by the proposed development. A watching brief is recommended during the development works to record any significant features and in particular to record the drain.

Two field boundaries will also be breached and a former estate driveway will be crossed by the cycle path route (009, 011 and 008 respectively). The two field boundaries appear to be clawdds and could represent fairly early field boundaries. A basic record is recommended for these features, in particular, a record in section once the features have been breached.

1. INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust has been commissioned by Gwersyll yr Urdd Glanllyn to carry out an archaeological assessment in advance of the proposed development of a new cycle path between Llanuwchllyn (NGR SH 8719 3068) and Gwersyll yr Urdd Glanllyn (the Glanllyn Outdoor Education Centre) (NGR SH 8875 3184), Meirionnydd. The original study area comprised a linear distance of approximately 2.4km. The route closely following the existing A494 (T) road corridor, running along its S edge, with only limited deviations at the northern and southern ends.

This route was originally assessed and archaeological impacts identified in 2012 (GAT report 1055). Of these, the most potentially significant involved the Roman Road (GAT PRN 17792/GAT PRN 17793) from the Roman fort of Caer Gai (SAM ME 018; GAT PRN 1569) to the Roman Fort of Caersws (SAM MG 001; CPAT PRN 1575). The assessment identified that the route of the cycle path would intersect the line of this Roman road potentially impacting upon any surviving archaeological remains.

A further 7 areas were also identified where the proposed ground reduction would extend to at least 750mm below existing ground levels. In addition, it was possible that the proposed route would encounter the remains of a demolished building SW of the standing building at New Inn.

The Assessment Report (GAT 1055) recommended that evaluation trenching be undertaken in the area of the Roman Road, with strip map and sample recording at the 7 other areas where ground reduction would be significant, as well as the area to the south west of New Inn.

The archaeological curator (Snowdonia National Park Authority Archaeologist) subsequently requested that these works be undertaken as part of the Planning Permission for this part of the work.

Between February and March 2014, GAT undertook this programme of archaeological works in the area from New Inn (NGR SH 87273086) at the W end and Lon Farm (NGR SH88293168) at the E end. In particular, the Roman Road from Caer Gai to Caersws was encountered at (NGR SH8794531265) and archaeological trenching was carried out. The compilation of the final report for this programme of works is currently being completed.

Subsequently, the E end of the route from Lon Farm to the Gwersyll yr Urdd Glan-llyn (the Glan-llyn Outdoor Education Centre) was modified from that described above. Originally the route was to follow an existing curving drive or track which opens onto the A494 opposite Lon Farm and runs round the S side of Glan-llyn-isa and then leads on to Glan-llyn (GAT Report 1055). It is now proposed that the cycle path run more or less parallel to the S edge of the A494 as elsewhere, and includes a stretch through the grounds of the Gwersyll yr Urdd Glan-llyn (the Glan-llyn Outdoor Education Centre) (Figure 4). This route is significantly different from that set out in the original assessment. A new archaeological assessment was therefore required to examine this revised eastern part of the route before planning permission could be granted for this section.

The development corridor for this section of the cycle path will be 2.5m wide comprising 2 m for the footpath proper with an additional 0.5m grass verge. The length will be 545m thus affecting an area totalling 1362.5 sq. m. The foundations for the cycle path will require excavation to a reduced level of between 150mm and 200mm across the route. This will be back filled with type 1 stone to dust. A stock proof fence will be erected alongside the open

S edge of the path with 150mm timber kerbs fixed between posts. The intention is for the cycle path to follow the natural contours of the land where possible. While some infilling may be required, there is currently no plan for any levelling by deeper excavation than that noted above.

The assessment will address the following:

- The history of the site
- The potential impact of development on archaeological remains
- The requirements for further assessment in the form of intrusive field evaluation.

The project will be undertaken in four stages:

1. Desk-based assessment
2. Field visit
3. Report compilation
4. Project archive

The archaeological assessment was undertaken in accordance with guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Wales 2014* and *Welsh Office Circular 60/96 (Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology)*. The assessment and evaluation used existing information to establish the archaeological significance of the site; to assess the impact of the development proposals on surviving monuments or remains; and to help inform future decision making, design solutions and potential further evaluation and mitigation strategies.

The assessment conformed to the guidelines specified in *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment desk-based assessment* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 03/02/2015). A project design was completed for the assessment and submitted to the Snowdonia National Park Authority Archaeological Officer on the 8th of January 2015 (Appendix I), and was subsequently approved on the 15th of January 2015.

2. METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

2.1 Desk top study

The desktop study comprised the consultation of maps, documents, computer records, written records and reference works, which form part of the Historic Environment Record (HER), located at Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT), Bangor. Information about listed buildings was consulted by means of the CARN (Core Archaeological Index), which is the online index of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments, Wales. Relevant aerial photographs from the collection at the Central Registry of Aerial Photograph, Wales were examined.

Sites, buildings and find spots listed in the GAT HER were identified, with PRN referring to the unique Primary Record Number given to each individual site (Appendix 2).

2.2 Field Search

The aims of this stage of the work were to:

- verify the results of the desk based assessment
- identify any further archaeological sites which may exist as above ground features
- assess the potential for the preservation of below-ground archaeology
- assess the impact upon the historic landscape
- photograph and record the present condition of all sites noted.

The field search was undertaken on the 16th January 2015, in the area of the revised route: from opposite Lon Farm (NGR SH88303167) to the Gwersyll yr Urdd Glan-llyn (the Glan-llyn Outdoor Education Centre) (NGR SH88693198). Potential features and sites were located by hand held GPS. Scaled, colour digital photographs were taken, measurements were made, and a written description was made for each site on GAT *pro forma* survey sheets. At the NE end of the proposed route within the broadleaf woodland at Glan-llyn, a 20m wide survey corridor was assumed to allow for slight changes to the route due to the need to protect existing trees. In the remaining two open pasture fields to the SW, the survey corridor was 10m wide. The NE woodland end was walked SE to NW in transits approximately 10m apart, while the two SW pasture fields were walked in transits NE to SW along the axis of the proposed path.

Conditions for the field visit were mixed. The morning suffered from intermittent waves of snow, hail and rain. These did not affect the identification of the sites, but made recording more difficult and time consuming. The afternoon cleared and was bright, still and dry.

13 sites were recorded during the walkover survey and a total of 66 photographic images were taken.

2.3 Report

The available information was synthesised to give a summary of the archaeological and historic background and of the assessment and recommendations, as set out below. The separate features, their evaluation and recommendations are listed separately, and a summary of the overall assessment of the area is given at the end. The categories used in each case are explained below:

2.3.1 Definition of Value

To assess the importance of sites and to allow the appropriate mitigatory action to be proposed for each, a framework of categories will be used with each site allocated to a particular category according to its relative importance. The criteria used for assessing the value of features was based upon those used by the Secretary of State for Wales when considering sites for protection as scheduled ancient monuments, as set out in the Welsh Office circular 60/96 and are based on the following categories of importance:

Category A - Sites of National Importance.

This category includes Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings (Grade I and II*) as well as those sites which would meet the requirements for scheduling (ancient monuments) or listing (grade I and II* and certain grade II) or both.

Sites that are scheduled or listed have legal protection, and it is recommended that all Category A sites remain preserved and protected *in situ*.

Category B - Sites of Regional Importance

These sites are those which would not fulfil the criteria for scheduling, but may include Listed Buildings at grade II. They are sites of particular importance within the region.

Preservation *in situ* is the preferred option for Category B sites, but if damage or destruction cannot be avoided, appropriate detailed recording might be an acceptable alternative. Sites that are Listed have legal protection, and it is recommended that all listed buildings are preserved *in situ*.

Category C - Sites of District or Local Importance

These sites are not of sufficient importance to justify a recommendation for preservation if threatened, but nevertheless merit adequate recording in advance of damage or destruction.

Category D - Minor and Damaged Sites

These are sites which are of minor importance or are so badly damaged that too little remains to justify their inclusion in a higher category. For these sites the most appropriate mitigation is often rapid recording either in advance or during destruction.

Category E - Sites needing further investigation

Sites, the importance of which is as yet undetermined and which will require further work before they can be allocated to categories A-D, are temporarily placed in this category, with specific recommendations for further evaluation. This category can also apply to areas as well as to individual sites.

2.3.2 Definition of Impact

The impact of the proposed development on each feature was estimated. The impact is defined as *none, slight, unlikely, likely, significant, considerable or unknown* as follows:

None:

There is no construction impact on this particular site.

Slight:

This has generally been used where the impact is marginal and would not by the nature of the site cause irreversible damage to the remainder of the feature, e.g. part of a trackway or field bank.

Unlikely:

This category indicates sites that fall within the band of interest but are unlikely to be directly affected. This includes sites such as standing and occupied buildings at the margins of the band of interest.

Likely:

Sites towards the edges of the study area, which may not be directly affected, but are likely to be damaged in some way by the construction activity.

Significant:

The partial removal of a site affecting its overall integrity. Sites falling into this category may be linear features such as roads or tramways where the removal of part of the feature could make overall interpretation problematic.

Considerable:

The total removal of a feature or its partial removal which would effectively destroy the remainder of the site.

Unknown:

This is used when the location of the site is unknown, but thought to be in the vicinity of the proposed works.

2.3.3 Definition of field evaluation techniques

Field evaluation is necessary to fully understand and assess most class E sites and to allow the evaluation of areas of land where there are no visible features but for which there is potential for sites to exist. Two principal techniques can be used for carrying out the evaluation: geophysical survey and trial trenching. Topographic survey may also be employed where sites are thought to survive as earthworks.

Geophysical survey most often involves the use of a magnetometer, which allows detection of some underground features, depending on their composition and the nature of the subsoil. Other forms of geophysical survey, including resistivity survey and ground penetrating radar might also be of use.

Trial trenching allows a representative sample of the development area to be investigated at depth. Trenches of appropriate size can also be excavated to evaluate category E sites. Trenching is typically carried out with trenches of between 20 to 30m length and 2m width. The topsoil is removed by machine and the resulting surface is cleaned by hand, recording features. Depending on the stratigraphy encountered the machine may be used to remove stratigraphy to deeper levels.

2.3.4 Definition of Mitigatory Recommendations

Below are the measures that may be recommended to mitigate the impact of the development on the archaeology.

None:

No impact so no requirement for mitigatory measures.

Detailed recording:

This requires a full photographic record and measured survey prior to commencement of works.

Archaeological excavation may also be required depending on the particular feature and the extent and effect of the impact.

Basic recording:

Requiring a photographic record and full description prior to commencement of works.

Strip, Map and Sample:

The technique of Strip, Map and Sample involves the examination of machine-stripped surfaces to identify archaeological remains. The stripping is undertaken under the supervision of an archaeologist. Stripping and removal of the overburden is undertaken in such a manner as to ensure damage does not take place to surfaces that have already been stripped, nor to archaeological surfaces that have not yet been revealed.

Stripping is undertaken in as careful a manner as possible, to allow for good identification of archaeological features. A small team of archaeologists will be responsible for subsequently further cleaning defined areas where necessary. Complex sites which cannot be avoided will need to be fully excavated.

Watching brief:

This is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.

Avoidance:

Features, which may be affected directly by the scheme, or during the construction, should be avoided. Occasionally a minor change to the proposed plan is recommended, but more usually it refers to the need for care to be taken during construction to avoid accidental damage to a feature. This is often best achieved by clearly marking features prior to the start of work.

Reinstatement:

The feature should be re-instated with archaeological advice and supervision.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 Geology and Topographic description

The study area is located at the extreme SW end of Llyn Tegid. This lake lies within a major geological fault cutting NE to SW across North Wales. The fault also forms the narrow valley to the SW, which is drained by the Afon Dyfrdwy and its tributaries. The underlying geology consists primarily of Alluvial River Terraces & Peat, beyond the floodplain there are Bala (Ashgill, Caradoc) Llandeilo & Arenig beds (Geological Survey, England & Wales, Sheets 9 & 10).

The development corridor runs in a roughly SW to NE direction along the S edge of the A 487 (T) road, extending from opposite Lon Farm to beyond the Gwersyll yr Urdd Glanllyn (the Glanllyn Outdoor Education Centre). In this area the road is set on higher ground above the floodplain of the Afon Dyfrdwy and slopes down gently from approximately 195m OD in the NE to 185m OD in the SW. The surrounding fields are generally improved pasture, with some surviving elements of a designed garden landscape apparent. These include possible 'parkland' fields with scattered trees to the S along the Afon Dyfrdwy, and an area of broadleaf woods to the NE around the Gwersyll yr Urdd Glanllyn (the Glanllyn Outdoor Education Centre) itself.

Boundaries are mixed with clawdd enclosed fields but also hedgerows including occasional mature broad leaf trees, suggesting well established boundaries. The fields are generally well drained but there are numerous points in the area where water issues from the ground indicating significant sub-soil channelling of water runoff from upslope. The 18th-century traveller, Reverend W. Bingley, noted that Llyn Tegid was subject to 'dreadful' overflows, while other sources record a massive torrent in June 1781 when the Twrch overflowed its banks and the floods rushed over the Vale of Edeirnion to the south, killing several people and animals, destroying 17 houses and 5 bridges and inundating acres of meadows and cornfields. The Welsh lawyer Richard Fenton described the catastrophe in *Archaeologia Cambrensis* in 1813 (Historic Landscape Characterisation - GAT Report 638). The current development corridor is on sufficiently high ground that it can be expected to have generally escaped these types of events in the past.

3.2 Desktop Assessment - Archaeological and Historical background

3.2.1. Prehistoric sites

Evidence of prehistoric activity is limited to a single findspot. A Bronze Age stone axe hammer (PRN 4258 SH 8852 3163) was found near Glanllyn Isa, approximately 110metres SE of the proposed route. However, this lack of evidence may reflect a lack of investigation rather than a lack of prehistoric occupation. The find does indicate some level of Bronze Age activity in the area and, with its easy access to water and farmable land, the area would have been an attractive area for settlement in later prehistoric times. It is possible that greater evidence for prehistoric activity or settlement survives undiscovered below ground.

To the SE of the proposed route is Glanllyn Mound (NPRN 411869 SH 8899 3170). At the moment interpretations of this feature vary. It is possible that it is prehistoric in date, possibly a barrow. However, it could also be much later and may represent a post-medieval platform for viewing the designed landscape, the lake and the gardens and features associated with the Glanllyn Estate.

3.2.2 Roman sites

By contrast, there is significant evidence indicating Romano-British activity and settlement within the study area. The SW end of the revised route is located approximately 500 metres NE of the Roman auxiliary fort of Caer Gai which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (PRN 1569 SH 8775 3150; SAM ME018). There is also associated Romano-British settlement activity recorded here. Excavations during the 1960s identified extensive structural remains including a bath house (PRN 17178 SH 8779 3138; SAM ME018) and a *vicus* or native settlement (PRN 4252 SH 8775 3150) to the SE. A Roman fort has also been identified to the NE of Bala, in Llanfor, (PRN 3211 SH 9370 3610; SAM M092).

To the west of Caer Gai an inscribed stone is recorded (PRN 4253 SH 8750 3150). Since lost, the stone was described in *Archaeologia Cambrensis* as “early Christian stone with the inscription HEC [sic] IACET SALVIANVS BVRS (? or G) OCAVI(s) FILIUS CVPETIAN[II]” (Nash-Williams 1950). Another inscribed stone, interpreted as a Roman Legionary stone (PRN 4254 SH 8794 3156), is recorded to the E of the fort. It is possible that this stone relates to the supposed site of the Legionary Cemetery (PRN 4255 SH 8800 3166). Also to the east of the fort is the possible site of a shrine (PRN 6241 SH 8790 3155).

At least three Roman roads are postulated running from Caer Gai. Of particular interest with respect to the current phase of the development is, the route of the Roman road to the Roman fort at Brithdir (PRN 17648 SH 8733 3098). Current interpretations suggest this road underlies the A494 as it runs along the NW shore of Llyn Tegid. However, at a point NW of Glanllyn Farm, current thinking suggests it deviates from the A494 and runs further up the slope to the NW, possibly underlying the existing track to Coed-y-lon. This would put the road 115m to the NW of the proposed development corridor of the cycle path. However, the exact location of the Roman road within this area has not been confirmed to date. (Hopewell 2007).

Approximately 230m SW of the Caer Gai to Caersws road aerial photographs record a parchmark complex which includes a square ditched feature (NPRN 406210 SH 87763 31128). Although currently undated the small square enclosure could represent Roman funerary activity. A similar cropmark is recorded at Forden Gaer in Powys (NPRN 309300 SO 2131899439), to the south east of Caer Gai.

Nearer the fort, is Cae Capel (PRN 59423 SH 8780 3135). This was apparently known as Cae'r Capelau - the field of the chapels - in the 17th century, 'where there was a chapel or two in former times' and 'where a paved surface is revealed when the field is dug'. These structures may merely represent elements of the remains of the native settlement or *vicus* outside the fort, nevertheless, bones were recorded as having been found here towards the end of the 19th century. This find along with the suggestive 'Capel' place name, implies possible funerary activity (again undated) near the fort. It is common to find Roman burials along the routes approaching forts or other major Roman settlements and it is therefore possible that Roman burials occurred here also.

3.2.3 Medieval

An examination of the Gwynedd HER shows no known sites of medieval origin within at least 2km of the revised section of the proposed cycle route. However, the remains and place name evidence associated with PRN 59423 Cae Capel described above, could also relate to a sub-Roman, or early Christian continued or re-occupation of the site at Caer Gai.

Also, a description of the fort from *Archaeologia Cambrensis* (1884) has been interpreted as suggesting that a “*post-Roman citadel*” occupied the site, extending beyond the current standing earthwork ramparts. However, place name evidence suggests that these boulders

are more likely to relate to a field known as Wern Dwyndir. A field of rough or hummocky land and therefore are probably not indicative of structural remains. (Richards, 2012)

The fort is also the site of a 16th century manor house (see PRN12322 below) and it is quite possible that this replaced an earlier, medieval house on the same site.

Local legend also adds weight to the idea that Caer Gai may have been occupied during the post-Roman and early medieval period. It is claimed that the site became the seat of *Cai Hir ap Cymyr*, after the Roman abandonment. *Cai Hir ap Cymyr* is thought to have been the foster father of King Arthur. (Richards, 2012)

Further suggestions of medieval activity and occupation in the immediate area are gleaned from a record of lands owned by Basingwerk abbey around Gwern Hefin Farm (SH89303282), just to the NE of the development site. However, it seems likely that the holdings were much more extensive in the area as there is another recording the grant of all of the pasture of Penllyn by Reiner the Bishop of St Asaph sometime between 1186 and 1224 (Archaeologia Cambrensis 1886 p.115). In addition, it seems the monks owned the lake as well as its fishing rights. (Williams, 1991 p.39)

The apparent lack of more tangible evidence of a medieval date in the immediate area may (again) be the result of limited investigation. It is possible that a number of the farmsteads and hamlets in the vicinity have medieval origins and it is possible that evidence of medieval activity may survive below ground.

3.2.4 Post-Medieval

3.2.4.1 Early Maps

Though of very small scale, the early 16th century maps of Merionethshire by Saxton and Speed both depict a site in the area of Glanllyn; this is however labelled in both cases as "*Glanllyntegid*". This provides graphic evidence of the relative importance of the estate at that time. Unfortunately little other relevant detail can be seen on these maps, though the SW end of Llyn Tegid does seem to extend further to the SW at this time, the change perhaps indicating later reclamation of the floodplain(?)

Although not depicted on the Speed or Saxton maps, the Historic Environment Record indicates a 17th century manor house within the boundaries of Gaer Gai Roman fort, approximately 250m north of the proposed cycle route. This is Caer Gai Manor House (PRN 12322 SH 8776 3156), a Grade II* listed building (Listed Building Number 4683). The brewhouse and pigsties area also Grade II listed (Listed Building Number 24708). RCAHMW describes Caer Gai house as: "*The mansion or plas, of the Vaughans, The house is thought to have been built in the late sixteenth century, but, following sacking in 1645, it was extensively restored, possibly entirely rebuilt, in 1650. It was again restored in the nineteenth century. The one and a half storey washhouse and brewhouse, adjoining on the south, may originally have been built in the seventeenth century*".

It is almost certain that there were estate maps for Glanllyn predating the Ordnance survey 'County' series maps. However inspection of the National Library of Wales and the local archives indexes and map catalogues produces documentary evidence but no available maps. It would appear that any associated maps must have become alienated from the textual references at some point. These may have been destroyed or may have been retained by the owners at the time of the transfer of other documentary evidence.

The earliest available relevant map is by Samuel Lewis published in 1833 in "A Topographical Dictionary of Wales". This records the route of the A494, as well as the village of Llanuwchllyn with a cross indicating St Deiniol's Church. The map contains no further information or detail of the proposed route and its scale prevents any accurate assessment of whether the road alignment has altered significantly either. One potentially significant feature of the map is the fact that the road appears to be on a much straighter alignment than it is currently. It is uncertain however, whether this is a recording error by the map makers, or whether the road alignment has in fact been altered since the map was drawn (Richards, 2012).

The parish of Llanuwchllyn produced its own tithe maps during the early 19th century. A map dating to 1849 was located in the Meirionnydd Archives, however this is of very limited value. The map clearly records the village of Llanuwchllyn to the SW and the adjoining fields. The location of caer Gai is also obvious as a square-shaped enclosed field system, sub-divided into at least 13 smaller fields, and another parcel of fields are delineated around Ty Cerrig. However the rest of the map is blank, unfortunately including the area of the revised cycle path route. A label on the map records the blank areas as: "Sir WW Wyn Bart 's Land" indicating these fields belonged to Sir Watkin Williams Wynn baronet. In the *Tithe Maps of Wales* (p.260) the recipients of the tithe are listed as the Parish (£94) and Sir Watkin Williams Wynn (£94). It seems that the landowner had somehow acquired part of the tithe payment and it is possible that because he was the recipient, the mapping was not carried out on his lands. The detailed recording of caer Gai and the other groups of fields, does suggest that these were not owned by Sir Watkin at that time (Richards, 2012).

The early edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch maps (1st edition 1888, and 2nd edition 1901) were also investigated. These show in detail the main features of Glan-llyn. This includes the main house (PRN 12372 SH 8875 3184), which is described in the HER as "19th century, stone, 2 storey, slated, with two round two storey bays. French windows in main block, deep eaves, rear wing." The current structure is early 19th century though it is built on an earlier foundation (GAT Report 638 p.87) . "Fenton called the house new in 1804, and a heavy gloomy building" (Haslam R., et al, 2009. p.667)

This house was used as a hunting 'box' or lodge by the Williams-Wynn family. However, these lands were initially in the hands of the Vaughans until the estates of Llwydiarth, Llangedwyn and Glanllyn were inherited by Anne Josephine Vaughan. She married Sir Watkin Williams Wynn (1692 – 1749) the 3rd baronet of Wynnstay. Subsequently Anne died with no surviving heirs. The lands were then inherited by Sir Watkin Williams Wynn (1749-1789) the 4th baronet who was the first borne of the second marriage of his father, Sir Watkin Williams Wynn 3rd baronet, and therefore, not a direct descendant of the Vaughans of Glanllyn. In this way the estate passed to the Wynn family.

Just to the W of the main house the Historic Environment Record notes an outbuilding (PRN12371 NGR SH8873 3184) which is described as: "Early 19th century, outbuildings adjoining Glanllyn Mansion. Stone, 2 storey, slate roof, casements, arched recess with spring and trough".

The map also shows features of the designed garden and landscape. The Royal Commission lists these as including: woodland, parkland, woodland with vista paths, carriage drive, walled garden, well, terrace, pier, pond, orchard, nursery, lodge, parterres, and two boathouses . There is also an icehouse known within the grounds but its location is now lost (Sylvia P. Beaman and Susan Roaf, *The Ice Houses of Britain*, p.534).

250m to the SW of Glanllyn is Glan-llyn Isaf. Glan-llyn-isa is not shown on the 1888 map but appears on the 1901 version. However, the drive that currently seems to deliberately curve to avoid Glan-llyn-isa is shown and therefore the drive obviously predates the current house.

The drive is depicted as surrounded on both sides by fields containing scattered trees indicating that this was parkland at this date. About halfway along this drive and to the S is a building marked as 'Beudy-coed.' The name indicates an outbuilding associated with the farm, and implies that cattle were an important part of the farm regime at that time.

Three other accesses appear to be shown opening onto the A494: another more shallow curving drive at the SW edge of the woodland at Glanllyn, a possible track running into the walled gardens, and at the NE end, a footpath. The track and footpath seem to correspond to footpaths in the Nursery on the opposite side of the A494 thus connecting this feature to the rest of the estate. Just to the SW of the NW end of this footpath and adjacent to the A494, a small square building is marked. This building is not marked on modern mapping.

Further to the NE and just outside the development zone, a curvilinear earthwork is shown on the maps running N to S into Glanllyn. On the day of the walkover survey, a member of the Gwersyll staff identified this as a "specially constructed drive to accommodate the visit of Queen Victoria and Princess Beatrice to Glanllyn". This visit is recorded as having taken place in August 1889 (GAT Report 638 p.87)

Of particular interest overall, is the significant change in the character of Glanllyn noticeable from the 1st edition to the 2nd edition maps; a span of only 12 years. In the walled gardens, the decorative footpaths, and many of the trees seem to have disappeared by 1901, suggesting a change of use, and that the decorative character of the gardens has broken down or been abandoned. This extends to the Nursery across the A494, which is a substantial feature on the 1889 map but has virtually disappeared on the 1901 map. In addition, it is noticeable that the remaining trees in the 'parkland' in the fields to the SW around Glanllyn-isa have disappeared perhaps suggesting that these fields were now strictly pasture and no longer had a decorative function. This may indicate that the whole ethos of the farm had changed from that of a monumental, designed landscape decorating a stately home, to a more commercially driven one. The alternative is that it merely depicts decline. This may be borne out by the fact that the estate was eventually handed over to the Welsh Agricultural Sub-Committee for management in lieu of death duties in 1948. It is noted in a later entry in Hansard (2 March 1961) that: "it was taken over in a most neglected and dilapidated condition so that it was inevitable that large sums of money would have to be spent on repairing old buildings and building new ones".

Further to the NE of Glanllyn and just beyond the proposed development is Glanllyn Farm (NPRN265218 NGR SH8895132143) formerly known as 'Hen-Glanllyn'.

It is identified by the Royal Commission as located "on the western shore of Bala – large estate with associated tower (folley?). Twy Glanllyn and large boat-house complex". On the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1888 and 1901, it also contains a country garden, decorative paths, wells, and a wide tree lined access drive from the A494 complete with a lodge. It is a Grade II Listed Building. The Listing states: that this was "the home farm for Glanllyn, and was associated with the earlier house of the same name: a ceiling from the early house (probably of C16 date) is incorporated into the stables (www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk). Though tantalizing, it is unclear whether this ceiling came from an earlier house at Hen-Glanllyn or from an earlier house at Glanllyn to the SW. The Rev. W. Hughes does note in *A Short History of the Parish of Llanuwchllyn* that Glanllyn "originally known by the name of Ty'n-y-wern, was first built, according to the writer of the 'Gwybedydd' in the time of Henry VIII".

However, the name ('Hen' meaning 'Old') does suggest that Hen-Glanllyn may have pre-dated Glanllyn, the decorative features and monumental drive and lodge also perhaps imply something more than a simple working farm. It is known that there was an earlier structure that Glanllyn replaced, and it is possible that Hen-Glanllyn may have been this earlier site

which then became more of a working farm as the residential element of the estate shifted to the new site at Glan-llyn to the SW.

This interpretation might be supported further by the evidence of the Speed and Saxton maps which do seem to show the site at Glan-llyn (labelled "Glanllyntegid") as located further along the NW side of Llyn Tegid nearer to the Afon Llafar, though the small scale and imprecision of the map argue against putting much weight on this evidence on its own.

3.2.4.2 Aerial Photographs

Modern aerial photographs were also investigated. Of particular interest was an RAF AP from March 1948 (Plate1). This showed several new features not recorded on the Historic Environment Record or elsewhere. Potentially the most significant was a large banked enclosure (002) measuring 75m square which was located immediately to the E of Glan-llyn-isa and with its N side parallel to the A494.

What is most intriguing is that this feature appears to have at least two rounded corners which is often diagnostic of a Roman military site. This, along with its size, and its proximity to the known Roman fort at Caer Gai, located only 550m to the SE, initially suggests the possibility that it may be an associated feature; possibly a small extra mural military enclosure, or a practise camp. The feature is visible or at least part of its former shape is still reflected in some sort of later cultivation pattern visible on other 1948 APs as well as the 1964 AP (Plate 2); though crucially the rounded corners are not obvious in any of these.

Though highly evocative, it seems most likely that the large enclosure has, in fact, a post-medieval agricultural origin. This is deduced largely from its shape. Firstly, its N side is scrupulously parallel to the current A494 suggesting that it post-dates the alignment of the road. In addition it would be surprising if a feature running so closely alongside the road would have survived the road's construction. Further, the feature's S side is distorted, deviating noticeably from a straight alignment. This appears deliberate presumably to fit the enclosure inside the pre-existing curving arc of the estate drive to the S. In addition, if this was a Roman practise camp, one might expect see significant breaks in the earthwork banks indicating entrances or gateways into the camp. These are not present in the 1948 AP.

On the same March 1948 AP (Plate1), a much smaller rectilinear enclosure can also be seen immediately adjacent and to the N of Glan-llyn isa. This contains a series of small rectangular features (004). As mentioned, Glan-llyn isa doesn't appear on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map of 1888. It first appears on the 2nd edition map of 1901. At this point the still extant curvilinear enclosure located immediately around the house on modern maps is shown, but the small enclosure beyond it to the NW containing the rectangular features is not. This first appears on the 1948 RAF AP which suggests that it was constructed sometime between 1901 and 1948. The most likely interpretation of these features is that they are sunken cultivation beds associated with occupation of Glan-llyn isa. The site was visited as part of the walkover survey (see below) and similar features were found to survive but surprisingly in a completely different arrangement. This comprised just two sunken beds located long side by long side immediately to the NW of the back of Glan-llyn-isa, with an area of ridge and furrow (lazy beds?) located to the W. (Plates 3 &4).

Interestingly a different 1948 AP from May 16 appears to show the area of the original sunken bed planted with a crop. A shadow of the original beds may be just visible as a cropmark in this latter. Strangely, a slightly later one from 19 May 1948 appears to show them as ploughed, but nonetheless it seems possible that the original layout of the beds was destroyed or at least overplanted sometime in 1948. As it was 1948 when Glan-llyn was ultimately handed over to the Welsh Agricultural Sub-Committee for management in lieu of death duties, it is possible that this change in cultivation was associated with a change in

regime at the estate. The 1949 map Ordnance Survey map, does not show any features resembling those identified in the 1948 AP, however, this apparently was not a full resurvey and it is possible the features existed but were not deemed sufficiently significant to be worth surveying.

The 1964 AP does not show any sunken beds (or the lazy beds) around the house, perhaps confirming that the old ones were indeed gone by then. The new arrangement must therefore have been created sometime after that. The restoration of the sunken beds may relate to the resale of the estate back into the private sector in 1962.

3.2.5 Recent archaeological work in the area

- *A494 Bala to Glanllyn Cycle Path/Footway* (GAT Project G1975 - John Roberts, 2007; Report 706) archaeological assessment of the connecting earlier phase of the development immediately to the N.

- *Caer Gai, Llanuwchllyn, Bala, Gwynedd* – (Aeon Archaeology Project A0033.1 – Richard Cooke, 2014; Report 0035) – watching brief and Trial Trenching at Caer Gai Roman fort during consolidation works

- *Roman Roads in North West Wales* (GAT Project G1632 - David Hopewell, 2006; GAT Report 668) – research report on Roman Roads

3.3 Statutory and non-statutory designations

The proposed development is located within an area which is listed on Cadw's 1998 *Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales*: HLW (Gw) 16 - Bala and Bala Lakesides.

There are no Listed Buildings or Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the immediate area of the proposed development corridor.

3.4 Archaeological Field Survey Results

Twelve sites were recorded during the field walkover. The most potentially significant was 016 a very low turfed linear bank with a possible ditch running NNE-SSW and located at the SW end of the proposed development near Glanllyn isa. This is in the approximate location and on the same alignment as the SW side of 002, a banked earthwork enclosure initially identified on a 1948 RAF aerial photograph during the desktop assessment. In the photograph this enclosure measured approximately 75m square and appears to have at least two rounded corners which could be indicative of a Roman military site. However, no other physical trace could be found of the enclosure. The proximity of the Roman fort at Caer Gai means it would be reasonable to find further associated Roman sites in this area. However, other evidence suggests that this feature may in fact be a late agricultural enclosure (see discussion above at 3.2.3.2 Aerial Photographs). A second and very similar parallel bank and possible ditch just to the NE of 016 (014) adds weight to this argument.

At the NE end of the proposed development a small building (001) perhaps 3.5m square had been identified on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25 inch map of 1888. The building is no longer extant and no evidence of this building could be found during the walkover. However, this may be due to significant modern dumping in this area.

A substantial, rough, curvilinear earth and stone bank (010) some 33m long was identified approximately halfway along the proposed corridor and immediately adjacent to the A494. It

appears to be designed to control and disperse water which is flowing from an outlet or drain under the road; probably to prevent waterlogging of the pasture. The feature appears to be a very ad hoc affair, and probably of fairly modern construction. The drain however may be a feature from the original road construction.

Two field boundaries and a former estate driveway wall were also encountered during the walkover (008, 009, 011). All these features were depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1888. The two field boundaries appear to be *cloddiau* and could therefore represent fairly early field boundaries. The drive wall is probably a relic of the designed landscape around Glan-llyn. Two much later rough boulder walls were also recorded running from the drive wall (008) to the adjacent field boundary (009). These appear to have been constructed as part of the infrastructure associated with the current outdoor activity centre at Glan-llyn.

A complex of features making up the existing A494 roadside retaining wall was recorded at the extreme NE end of the development corridor. These included a lower possibly earlier retaining wall or causeway of mortared stone (006), the current mortared stone roadside wall (007) with an existing break (012) providing a former access point (to be re-used by the cycle path scheme).

A peculiar open but overgrown machine-excavated trench was identified in this area (005). This was recorded as it was in the same area as 001 and was interpreted initially as the possible result of the recent robbing out of the foundations of this building. It was later confirmed to be associated with the removal of a nearby wind-fall tree.

An area of lazy beds and two sunken banked cultivation beds were noted in the yard at Glan-llyn. These are demonstrably modern and were photographed only. (see 003 and 004 discussion above at 3.2.3.2 Aerial Photographs).

A member of staff at the centre pointed out a feature (013) in a field beyond the development corridor to the NE. This was a prominent turfed, bank. He stated that this was the causeway for a track which he called "Victoria Road" as it had been built especially for Queen Victoria's visit in 1889. The feature was not visited or recorded.

4 SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

4.1 Location Summary

The development corridor is located at the SW end of Llyn Tegid (Bala Lake) extending from the Gwersyll Glan-Ilyn (Glan-Ilyn Outdoor Pursuits Centre) running along the S edge of the A494 to a point opposite Lon Farm. It is situated on higher ground (approximately 190 m OD) above the floodplain of the Afon Dyfrdwy, which, with its tributaries the Twrch and Lliw, drains the valley to the SW. Llanuwchllyn is located 1.5 km to the SW.

4.2 Environmental Remains and Soil Morphology

The potential for the survival of environmental remains on the site is considered to be fairly low, as the area of the proposed development runs along on higher ground above and sloping down to the river. Waterlogged remains are therefore considered unlikely.

4.3 Artefactual Potential

There is potential for the recovery of artefacts in the vicinity of the development corridor in particular due to the nearby presence of a major Roman military site and the close proximity of a known Roman road. In addition, a prehistoric Bronze Age axe-hammer was found approximately 100m to the S indicating prehistoric activity in the area. There may also be artefacts from medieval and post-medieval agricultural activities as there are indications of buildings dating to at least the 16th century in the area. The development corridor also runs alongside the A494 so there is the possibility of casual losses from travellers on foot as well as

4.4 Gazetteer of Sites

The feature listed below (located on Figure 01) was identified during the survey, with recommendations for further assessment and mitigatory measures, where appropriate.

NB: The archaeological recommendations reflect the information currently provided by the client; any change to the boundary of the proposed development area may require the recommendations to be reconsidered.

Feature 001 Rectangular Building

SH88693196 (A) (approximate, taken from historic map evidence, may involve error)

Period: Unknown

Category: E

Impact: Likely – development will be very close to the location of this site

A small rectangular structure is marked on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map of 1889 measuring approximately 3.5m by 3.5m. No structural remains were identifiable at the NGR however there was evidence of considerable recent dumping in the area which may have obscured the site. Very occasional large irregular boulders, but these could be from the construction of the A494 roadside wall or the dumping. On the OS, the building is shown as located immediately adjacent to the footpath. The map locates this away from the proposed route, however, if the current gateway (012 below) reflects the former location of the footpath, and it is also to be re-used for the cycle path, (as stated on the architects drawing (Figure 4) , then it is possible that any surviving remains may be disturbed by the excavation for the footpath. It is possible however that in this area the path will have to be made up rather than dug out to level the path to the road which is much higher than adjacent land.

Recommendations for further assessment: None
Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Trial Trenching.

Feature 002 Large Enclosure

SH88403167 (C)

Period: Post-medieval? Roman?

Category: E

Impact: Significant

A large square enclosure noted on the 1948 RAF aerial photos. It measures approximately 75m square and has two possible rounded corners: in the NW and SW which may suggest a Roman origin. However, in other respects its form suggests it is a post-medieval agricultural enclosure of some kind. The development zone will cut across the N end of the enclosure resulting in potential disturbance to the enclosure banks as well as to a strip of the interior.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Trial Trenching - two trenches, one in the SW and one in the NE where the development corridor affects the potential feature.

Feature 003 Enclosure

SH88463168 (C)

Period: Post-medieval?

Category: C

Impact: None - the site is beyond the development zone

This appeared to be a separate enclosure noted on the 1948 RAF aerial photograph however when visited the enclosure was seen to now also incorporate 004 (see below). When visited, the enclosure contained two sunken banked cultivation beds to the E and a possible clearance cairn, while to the W (ie. 004) there was an area of lazy beds. These features did not match those seen on the 1948 aerial photograph.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: None.

Feature 004 Small Enclosures

SH88463167 (C)

Period: Post-medieval?

Category: C

Impact: None – the site is beyond the development zone

A series of at least 4 rectangular banked(?) enclosures butting long side to long side seen on the 1948 RAF aerial photograph. When the site was visited the enclosures were gone and had been replaced by an area of lazy beds. However, two similar features were noted to the E in the former 003 (see above for explanation). These features probably represent post-medieval garden cultivation.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: None.

Feature 005 Trench

SH88701319

Period: Modern

Category: D

Impact: Considerable

A very roughly rectangular, fairly fresh excavation on the NW side of a large leaning stump. The trench appeared to be machine excavated. It was considered at the time as probably associated with the removal of a large windblown tree. However, the feature was recorded as it is located in the rough area of the possible building (feature 001 see above), and it was thought that this might have represented the recent robbing out of the foundations of the building. (It was later confirmed by a member of the Centre staff that the trench was related to the fallen tree removal).

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: None

Feature 006 Wall

SH88703198 (C)

Period: Post-medieval

Category: E

Impact: Unlikely - the cycle path will use an existing access through the roadside wall.

Wall located below the existing modern roadside wall (007 below). 45m long, maximum 2.0m tall. Contains large and very large irregular boulders, faced to the SE, gaps are filled with small angular stones, all mortared with a hard pale cream gritty mortar. Rougher foundations or a possible offsets are visible at the base in places. Appears to run up to the NE side of the gateway (012 below). The feature changes radically in character beyond this to the SW.

This may possibly represent an earlier retaining wall or causeway for the A494. It appears to lie in a hollow which is or was part of a former water runoff channel(?). It could be fairly early post-medieval? Or earlier?

The architects drawing states that the cycle path will make use of the "opening to existing boundary stone wall" so no disturbance is expected to this feature.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Avoid

Feature 007 Wall

SH88693198

Period: Post-medieval, modern?

Category: C

Impact: Unlikely, the cycle path will use an existing access through the roadside wall

Fairly modern looking mortared stone wall alongside the A494. Very variable irregular stones faced to SE. Very hard gritty pale cream coloured mortar. Quite wide joints infilled in places with smaller irregular stones. The top of the wall main body has been levelled with more tabular shaped pieces in places and the very top course has the stones laid on their ends to form a decorative capping. Appears to have recently been rebuilt or heavily repointed.

The architects drawing states that the cycle path will make use of the "opening to existing boundary stone wall" so no disturbance is expected to this feature.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Avoid

Feature 008 Former Drive

SH88623186 (C)

Period: Post-medieval?

Category: C

Impact: Significant

Curving stone wall, very ruinous, almost completely overgrown with ivy, moss, and scrub. Irregular shaped stones, appears to be mortared with a very hard gritty pale cream coloured mortar. Appears to be faced on both sides. The wall is leaning in places.

Probably represents one side of a former driveway into Glan-llyn, the other side was formed by the field boundary 009. Probably part of the estate infra-structure, could be early, but probably post-medieval at least. No obvious surfacing to the drive itself, but the area is heavily overgrown.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Watching Brief, Basic Record

Feature 009 Field Boundary

SH88623186 (C)

Period: Post-medieval?

Category: C

Impact: Significant – will cut through an area of the surviving boundary

Existing field boundary now fenced. Formerly probably a clawdd. Survives only one course high. However appears to comprise two skins of drystone walling facing with earth between. Overgrown with turf, appears to be mainly rounded stones where visible. Many medium sized trees (beech) and small hawthorns (blackthorn?) growing along it suggesting a former hedge? Forms the other side of the drive access to Glan-llyn with site 008 above but appears to have always been a field boundary. Looks systematically robbed out.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Basic Record

Feature 010 Bank

SH88583183 (C)

Period: Modern, Post-medieval?

Category: C

Impact: Considerable – will probably be completely destroyed

Sinuuous curving low earth bank, parallel and centred about 2m from the A494 boundary wall. Mostly turfed over and well spread, some large stones visible. There is a hollow to the NW of it which is full of water particularly at SW end. This is being fed from under the road, no actual pipe was visible but a regular void is apparent which may be the original road drain. It seems most likely that the banked feature represents a late attempt to contain the outflow or runoff water from under the road and to channel and disperse it, thus avoiding waterlogging of the field. A similar feature was recorded adjacent to the A5 on a recent project (A5 Cymro Gate Retaining wall, Cymro Gate, Gwynedd - GAT report 1137). Note: for half of the banks length, the associated A494 boundary wall is very well made, well faced, large boulders with many tabular pieces, heavily mortared pale hard gritty cream coloured mortar. Possibly this represents a repair of a recent collapse – caused by water flow undermining the wall?

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Watching Brief and record during development.

Feature 011 Field Boundary

SH88453172 (C)

Period: Post-medieval?

Category: C

Impact: Significant

Very low ruinous dry stone wall mostly turfed over and now surmounted with a maintained hedge. Where broken through, the feature appears to be a clawdd, note large stones standing on their edges acting as facing particularly on NE side. Quite spread in places particularly downslope on SW side. The hedge has been properly 'steeped' (laid sideways).

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Basic Record

Feature 012 Gateway

SH88693198

Period: Post-medieval?

Category: C

Impact: Unlikely – existing feature will be reused for cycle path access.

There is a finished break in the modern A494 roadside wall (007) 1.82m wide 1.10m high, and 0.55m thick. This may be associated with the former footpath seen on the Ordnance Survey map of 1888 leading into the Nursery across the road. The building 001 was located immediately to the W of this footpath. The NE side of this gateway looks to be rebuilt, change in the stones noticeable within the fabric. Possible repair or possibly a narrowing of an earlier gateway?

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Avoid

Feature 013 Bank

SH88753205 (C)

Period: Post-medieval?

Category: C

Impact: None – not in the development zone

One of the Gwersyll staff pointed out a prominent turfed curvilinear earthwork in the field just to the NE of the end of the development zone. He stated that this was called "Victoria Road", as it had been specially built to accommodate Queen Victoria when she was to visit Glanllyn. He stated that in the end she did not visit. (This seems counter to the references which indicate she did visit in August 1889 with Princess Beatrice). The site was only viewed from across the field boundary, not directly visited.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Avoid

Feature 014 Bank

SH88393167 (C)

Period: Post-medieval?, Roman?

Category: E

Impact: Significant – the development zone will disturb the N end of this feature.

Very low and wide turfed linear bank (the feature can only be seen in very oblique light). Oriented NE-SW. It measures 2m wide and is almost imperceptible at approximately 0.05m high. There is the slight possibility of a linear hollow running along its E side perhaps indicating a ditch(?), though this is not secure as it is equally ephemeral in character. The linear bank seems to fade out about 5m from the A494 retaining wall, but again this may be just due to its tenuous nature. It is unclear what this feature may be, possibly an old field boundary, drainage, or possibly some more significant function as it is similar to 016 below.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Trial Trenching

Feature 015 Wall

SH88623184 (C)

Period: Modern

Category: C

Impact: None – lies outside the current development zone.

One of two of very rough drystone walls extending in a slightly curving arc from 008 to 0094.3 m length. constructed of large irregular boulders. Cuts across the old drive access delineated by 008 and 009 so probably part of the Gwersyll outdoor activities infrastructure.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Avoid

Feature 016 Bank

SH88373167 (C)

Period: Post-medieval?, Roman?

Category: E

Impact: Significant – the development zone will disturb the N end of this feature.

Very low and wide turfed linear bank (the feature can only be seen in very oblique light). Oriented NE-SW. It measures 2m wide and is almost imperceptible at approximately 0.05m high. There is the slight possibility of a linear hollow running along its W side perhaps indicating a ditch? Though this is far from secure as it is equally ephemeral in character. The linear bank seems to fade out but approaches much closer to the A494 retaining wall and possibly runs right up to it., It is unclear what this feature may be. It is very close to matching the location and alignment of the W side of the enclosure 002 above. The fact that the ditch (if real) is on the W side ie the outside of the enclosure, adds some further interest. It could however just be an old field boundary, drainage, or part of a modern enclosure.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Trial Trenching

Feature 017 Wall

SH88623185 (C)

Period: Modern

Category: C

Impact: Unlikely – lies outside the current development zone.

One of two of very rough drystone walls extending in a slightly curving arc from 008 to 009. 4.3 m in length and constructed of large irregular boulders. Cuts across the old drive access delineated by 008 and 009 so probably part of the Gwersyll outdoor activities infrastructure.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Avoid

5. CONCLUSIONS

The archaeological assessment examined a corridor for a new cycle path running along the S side of the A494 from Gwersyll yr Urdd Glan-llyn (the Glan-llyn Outdoor Education Centre) to a point opposite Lon Farm Llanuwchllyn Meirionnydd.

The subsequent desktop assessment and field walkover resulted in the identification of a number of sites which would be affected by the proposed development.

The SW part of the development zone comprises improved pasture, while the NE end consists of a small area of scrub and woodland centred around Glan-llyn. The early Ordnance Survey maps indicate that this has been the case since at least the late 19th century. Visibility was good in the SW however, the intensely improved character of the fields means that any archaeological features that exist here are likely to have been cleared or ploughed flat. Any archaeological features are thus likely to survive only as below ground remains. In the NE visibility was restricted somewhat by the undergrowth though not so as to degrade significantly the quality of the results. More important was the presence of what appears to be significant dumping at the extreme NE end which could conceivably have obscured archaeological features

The most potentially significant feature identified by the assessment was a banked earthwork enclosure (002) located at the SW end of the proposed development near Glanllyn isa. The feature was noted in a 1948 RAF aerial photograph and measures 75m square. In the photograph it appears to have at least two rounded corners which can be indicative of a Roman military site. Other evidence suggests that this may in fact be a late agricultural enclosure, however considering the proximity of the Roman fort at Caer Gai, the possibility of finding further associated Roman sites is very real. The walkover identified two parallel and very low banks (014 and 016) with possible associated ditches. One of these could correspond to the enclosure. The proposed development corridor will affect the whole of the NW side of the enclosure as well as a 2.5m wide strip through its interior, and will also disturb the NW ends of the two linear banks (014, and 016) .

At the NE end of the proposed development a small building (001) perhaps 3.5m square was identified on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25 inch map of 1888. The building is no longer extant and no evidence of this building could be found during the walkover. However, this may be due to significant modern dumping in this area. The proposed development corridor runs very close to the location of this feature and it is highly likely that there will be disturbance of any surviving remains.

Recommendations have been made for Trial Trenching of the above features (001, 002, 014, & 016).

During the walkover a substantial, rough, curvilinear earth and stone bank (010) some 33m long was identified approximately halfway along the proposed corridor and immediately adjacent to the A494. It appears to be designed to control and disperse water which is flowing from an outlet or drain under the road; probably to prevent waterlogging of the pasture. The feature appears to be a very ad hoc affair, and probably of fairly modern construction. The drain however may be a feature from the original road construction. The bank is likely to be completely destroyed by the proposed development. A watching brief is recommended during the development works to record any significant features and in particular to record the drain.

Two field boundaries and a former estate driveway wall will also be breached for the cycle path route (008, 009, 011). The two field boundaries appear to be clowdds and could

represent fairly early field boundaries. A basic record is recommended for these features, in particular a record in section once the features have been breached.

5.1 Summary of Sites and Recommendations for Further Work:

Site	New PRN	Type	Period	Cat.	Impact	Recommendations
001	60099	Building	Unknown	E	Likely	Trial Trenching
002	60100	Enclosure	Post-Med, Roman?	E	Significant	Trial Trenching
003	60101	Enclosure	Post-medieval	C	None	None
004	60102	Enclosure	Post-medieval	C	None	None
005	(none)	Excavation Trench	Modern	D	Considerable	None
006	60103	Wall	Post-medieval?	E	Unlikely	Avoid
007	60104	Wall	Modern	C	Unlikely	Avoid
008	60105	Former Drive Wall	Post-medieval?	C	Significant	Watching Brief, Record
009	60106	Field Boundary	Post-medieval	C	Significant	Basic Record
010	60107	Bank	Modern?	C	Considerable	Watching Brief, Record
011	60108	Field Boundary	Post-medieval	C	Slight	Basic Record
012	60109	Gateway	Post-medieval?	C	Unlikely	Avoid
013	60110	Bank	Post-medieval	C	None	Avoid
014	60111	Bank	Post-med, Roman?	E	Significant	Trial Trenching
015	60112	Wall	Modern	D	Unlikely	Avoid
016	60113	Bank	Post-med, Roman?	E	Significant	Trial Trenching
017	60114	Wall	Modern	D	Unlikely	Avoid

6. REFERENCES AND OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED

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Fourth Edition 25" Ordnance Survey Map 1949: Merionethshire Sheet XXII SW (National Library of Scotland online OS digital map collection)

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- CPE/UK/2492 No.1072 - 11 March 1948
- RAF 540/25 No.5184 – 16 May 1948
- RAF 540/39 No.5059 - 19 May 1948

1964

- 543 RAF 2889 No.0101 - 27 May 1964

1972

- OS 72 411 No.955 – 26 September 1972

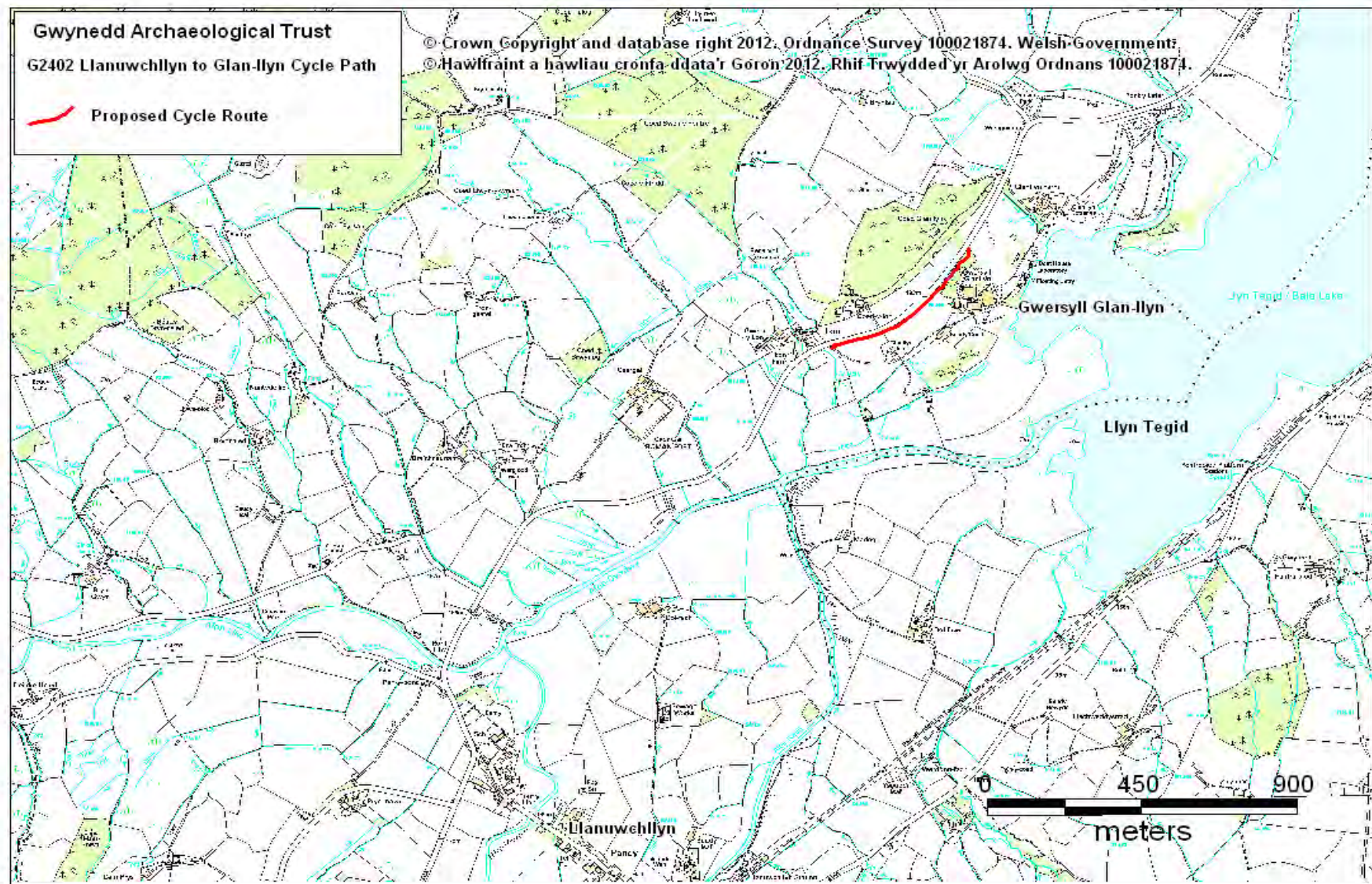


Figure 1: Location Map of Proposed Development area

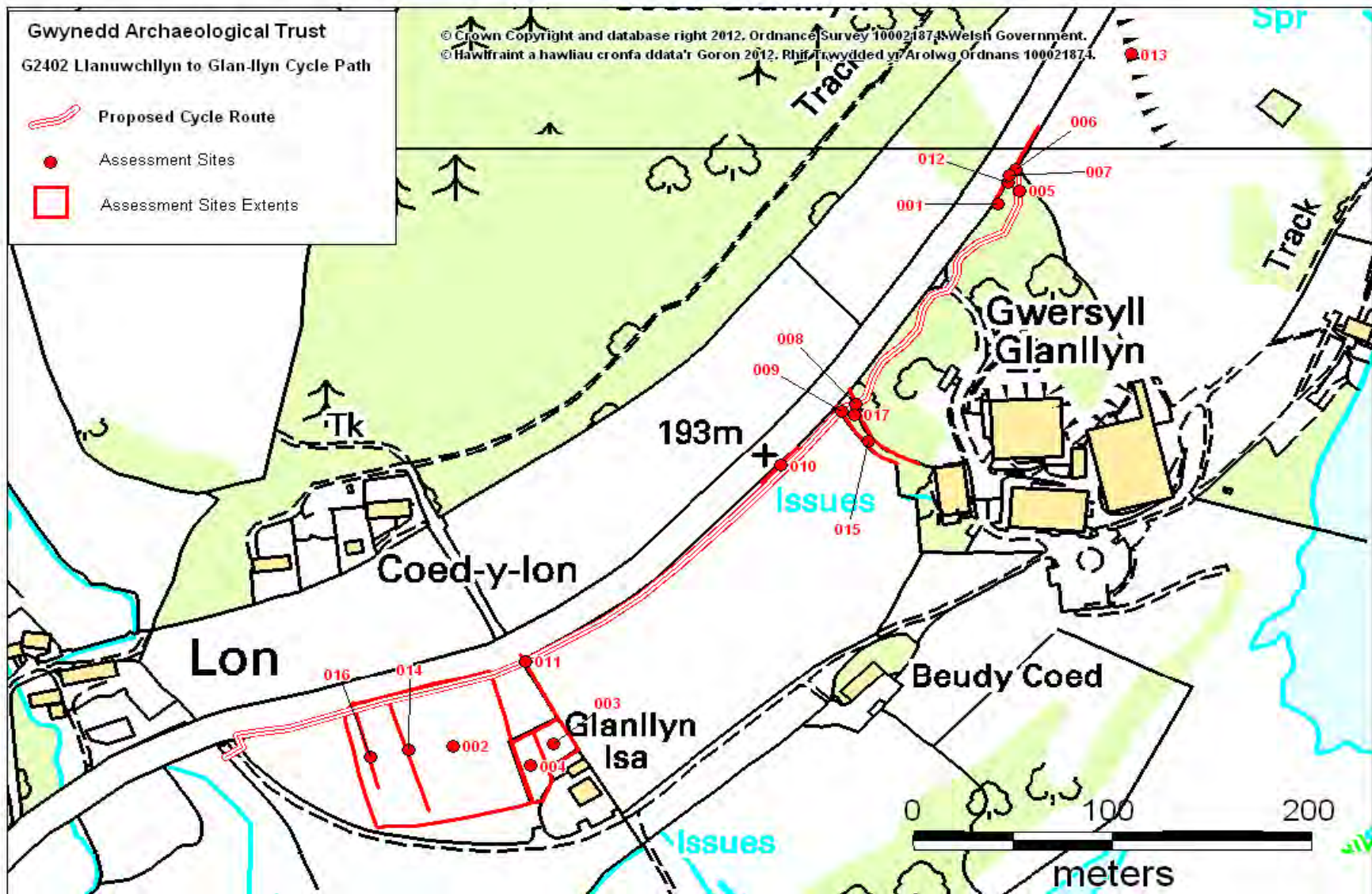


Figure 2: Sites Identified by the Assessment





Plate 1: 1948 aerial photo showing large enclosure 002 & small enclosures 003 & 004 nr Glan-llyn-isa



Plate 2: 1964 aerial photo showing changes in 002 & 003, 004



Plate 3 – Site 003 - Sunken Cultivation Beds to the N of Glan Ilyn isa



Plate 4 – Site 004 Lazy Beds – to the N of Glan Ilyn isa



Plate 5: Site 005 – Machine Dug Trench (covered by dumped brush)



Plate 6: Site 006 – early retaining wall for the A494 (lower offset stonework)



Plate 7: Site 007 – Modern Roadside wall of A494 (below is 006)



Plate 8: Site 008 Former Entrance Drive to Glan-Ilyn (note wall to left)



Plate 9: Site 009 - Field Boundary marking W side of former drive



Plate 10: Site 010 - Curvilinear Bank parallel to the A494



Plate11: Site 011 – Field Boundary (clawdd)



Plate012: Site 012 – Entranceway through 007 roadside wall



Plate13: Site 014 – Shallow linear bank and possible ditch



Plate14: Site 015 – Rough boulder cross wall on former drive



Plate15: Site 016 – Shallow linear bank and possible ditch possibly part of 002 enclosure?



Plate16: Site 017 – Second rough boulder cross wall on former drive.

APPENDIX I

**Reproduction of Gwynedd Archaeological Trust project design for
archaeological assessment G2402 (January 2015)**

**LLANUWCHLLYN TO GLAN-LLYN CYCLE PATH – A494
ACCESS FOR GLANLLYN ISA TO GLAN-LLYN
OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE, GWYNEDD**

**PROJECT DESIGN FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
(G2402)**

Prepared for

Urdd Gobaith Cymru

January 2015

**Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust**

LLANUWCHLLYN TO GLAN-LLYN CYCLE PATH – A494 ACCESS FOR GLANLLYN ISA TO GLAN-LLYN OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE, GWYNEDD

PROJECT DESIGN FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT (G2402)

Prepared for Urdd Gobaith Cymru, January 2015

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1. INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) has been asked by *Urdd Gobaith Cymru* to provide a project design for undertaking an archaeological assessment to the south of the A494 Llanuwchllyn to Bala road and also within the grounds of the Glan-llyn Outdoor Education Centre, Gwynedd (centred on NGR **SH88513176**). The land to the south of the A494 is currently open ground, whilst within the grounds of the Glan-llyn Outdoor Education Centre are mature trees.

The proposal is for the construction of part of the 'Llwybr Tegid' cycle path. The proposed scheme measures approximately 450m in length and 2m in width as indicated on *Spencer Pughe Associates* drawing **1416/1** (reproduced as Figure 01). The cycle path will require a reduced level of 150mm – 200mm excavation, to be back filled with type 1 stone to dust. A stock proof fence would be erected alongside the open edge of the path with 150mm timber kerbs fixed between posts. The intention is for the cycle path to follow the natural contours of the land and whilst some filling may be required, there is currently no intention for the cutting in of the ground resulting in much deeper excavations.

The archaeological assessment will be undertaken in accordance with guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Wales 2014* and *Welsh Office Circular 60/96 (Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology)*. The archaeological assessment will use existing information to establish the archaeological significance of the site; to assess the impact of the development proposals on surviving monuments or remains; and to help inform future decision making, design solutions and potential evaluation and mitigation strategies.

The scheme will be monitored by the Snowdonia National Park Authority (SNPA) Archaeologist. A copy of this design must be approved by the SNPA archaeologist prior to the start of the assessment.

The assessment will conform to the guidelines specified in *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment desk-based assessment* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2012).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS

A desk-based assessment is defined as “a programme of assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. It consists of a collation of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate” (CIFA 2012, 2).

The aims of the assessment are:

- to identify and record the cultural heritage within the defined study area;
- to evaluate the importance of what has been identified;
- to recommend ways in which impact upon the cultural heritage can be avoided or minimised.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

In May 2012 Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) undertook an archaeological assessment for Ymgynhoriaeth Gwynedd Consultancy (YGC) for a proposed cycle route between the village of Llanuwchllyn and the Glan-llyn Outdoor Education Centre (GAT Report **1055**). The cycle path route was to run parallel along the S edge of the modern A494 road for the most part, but at its eastern end the path would follow an existing drive running to the S of the A494.

The principal archaeological feature identified during the 2012 assessment was the Roman Road (GAT PRN 17792/GAT PRN 17793) from the Roman fort of Caer Gai (SAM ME 018; GAT PRN 1569) to the Roman Fort of Caersws (SAM MG 001; CPAT PRN 1575). The assessment identified that the route of the cycle path would intersect the line of this Roman road.

Between February and March 2014, GAT undertook a programme of archaeological works along the route of the cycle path between New Inn NGR **SH 87273086** at the western end and Lon NGR **SH88293168** at the eastern end. The Roman Road from Caer Gai to Caersws was encountered at NGR **SH8794531265** and the compilation of the final report on this programme of works is currently being undertaken.

The eastern end of the route from Lon NGR **SH88293168** to the Glan-Ilyn Outdoor Education Centre has subsequently been modified from that described above. It is now proposed that the cycle path run more or less parallel to the S edge of the A494 as elsewhere, and includes a stretch through the grounds of the Glan-Ilyn Outdoor Education Centre. This route is significantly different from that set out in the original YGC drawing **3184/GA/112/4** (reproduced as Figure 02 in GAT Report **1055**). A new assessment is therefore required to examine this revised eastern part of the route.

4. PROGRAMME OF WORK

4.1 Introduction

The assessment will address the following:

- The history of the site
- The potential impact of development on archaeological remains
- The requirements for further assessment in the form of intrusive field evaluation.

The project will be undertaken in four stages:

5. Desk-based assessment
6. Field visit
7. Report compilation
8. Project archive

4.2 Desk-based assessment

The desk-based assessment will involve a study of the following resources:

1. The regional Historic Environment Register (HER, GAT, Craig Beuno, Garth Road, Bangor, LL57 2RT) will be examined for information concerning the study area. This will include an examination of the core HER, and secondary information held within the record which includes unpublished reports, the 1:2500 County Series Ordnance Survey maps, and the National Archaeological Record index cards.
2. The National Monuments Record (NMR RCAHMW, National Monuments Record of Wales, Plas Crug, Aberystwyth SY23 1NJ) will be checked for sites additional to the HER, and if required additional supporting information will be examined at the NMR.
3. Information about Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments from Cadw will be examined in the regional HER, with supporting information from Cadw if required. The Register of Outstanding and Special Historic Landscapes and the Register of Parks and Gardens will be checked.
4. Secondary sources will be examined, including the Inventories of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments for Wales, and works held within the regional libraries. Indices to relevant journals, including county history and archaeology society journals and national society journals such as *Archaeologia Cambrensis* will be checked. Also at this stage 19th century topographical dictionaries, antiquarian tours and trade directories will be examined where relevant.
5. Evidence from aerial photographs will be collated. Vertical and oblique collections held by the NMR, CCW and Welsh Assembly Government will be considered for examination. All photographs examined will be listed in the assessment report.
6. Archive data and maps, where relevant, will be consulted in the National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth, and at the regional archives at Gwynedd Archives, Caernarfon Record Office (Archon Code: 219) Victoria Dock, Caernarfon LL55 1SH and / or Gwynedd Archives, Meirionnydd Record Office (Archon Code: 220) Ffordd y Bala, Dolgellau LL40 2YF. This will include the relevant estate maps and tithe maps and information from Land Tax Assessments. Where

relevant antiquarian prints and photographs from the national and regional archives will be examined.

4.3 Field survey

This part of the assessment will involve a walkover of the study area and assessing the sites identified during the desk-based study. Any additional sites noted will also be assessed. The location of potentially well-preserved environmental deposits will be noted.

The aims of this stage of the work are to:

- verify the results of the desk based assessment
- identify any further archaeological sites which may exist as above ground features
- assess the potential for the preservation of below-ground archaeology
- assess the impact upon the historic landscape
- photograph and record the present condition of all sites noted.

Access onto land is to be arranged by the Client.

4.4 Data processing and report compilation

Following completion of the stages outlined above, a report will be produced incorporating the following:

1. Non-technical summary
2. Introduction
3. Aims and purpose
4. Specification
5. Methods and techniques, including details and location of project archive
6. Archaeological Background
7. Results of assessment in the form of a gazetteer
8. Assessment of impacts
9. Proposals for further field evaluation and/or mitigation
10. Summary and conclusions
11. List of sources consulted.

Illustrations will include plans of the location of the study area and archaeological sites. Historical maps, when appropriate and if copyright permissions allow, will be included. Photographs of relevant sites and of the study area where appropriate will be included. A draft copy of the report will be sent to the regional curatorial archaeologist (SNPA) and to the client prior to production of the final report.

4.5 Definition of category of importance

To assess the importance of sites and to allow the appropriate mitigatory action to be proposed for each, a framework of categories will be used with each site allocated to a particular category according to its relative importance:

Category A - Sites of National Importance.

This category includes Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings (Grade I and II*) as well as those sites which would meet the requirements for scheduling (ancient monuments) or listing (grade I and II* and certain grade II) or both. Sites that are scheduled or listed have legal protection, and it is recommended that all Category A sites remain preserved and protected *in situ*.

Category B - Sites of Regional Importance

These sites are those which would not fulfil the criteria for scheduling, but may include Listed Buildings at grade II. They are sites of particular importance within the region.

Preservation *in situ* is the preferred option for Category B sites, but if damage or destruction cannot be avoided, appropriate detailed recording might be an acceptable alternative. Sites that are Listed have legal protection, and it is recommended that all listed buildings are preserved *in situ*.

Category C - Sites of District or Local Importance

These sites are not of sufficient importance to justify a recommendation for preservation if threatened, but nevertheless merit adequate recording in advance of damage or destruction.

Category D - Minor and Damaged Sites

These are sites which are of minor importance or are so badly damaged that too little remains to justify their inclusion in a higher category. For these sites the most appropriate mitigation is often rapid recording either in advance or during destruction.

Category E - Sites needing further investigation

Sites, the importance of which is as yet undetermined and which will require further work before they can be allocated to categories A-D, are temporarily placed in this category, with specific recommendations for further recommendation. This category can also apply to areas as well as individual sites.

5. DISSEMINATION AND ARCHIVING

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project will be prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions will be labelled and cross-referenced, and lodged in an appropriate place (to be decided in consultation with the regional Historic Environment Record) within an agreed submission period.

- Two copies of the paper report plus a digital report and archive on optical disc will be provided to SNPA;
- Two copies of the paper report plus a digital report and archive on optical disc will be provided to Historic Environment Record, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust; this will be submitted within six months of report completion
- A digital report and archive (including photographic and drawn) data will be provided to Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments, Wales.
- A paper report(s) plus digital report(s) will be provided to the client.

5.1 Historic Environment Record

In line with the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) requirements, the HER must be contacted at the onset of the project to ensure that any data arising is formatted in a manner suitable for accession to the HER. At the onset, the HER Enquiry Form provided by the HER, will be completed and submitted.

The assessment will be undertaken in January 2015.

6. PERSONNEL

The work will be managed by John Roberts, Principal Archaeologist GAT Contracts Section. The work will be undertaken by one of the Trust's Archaeologists experienced in the relevant skills/periods required.

7. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Trust subscribes to the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers) Health and Safety Policy as defined in **Health and Safety in Field Archaeology** (2006).

The GAT Project Archaeologist will be CSCS certified. Copies of the site specific risk assessment will be supplied to the client and landowner prior to the start of fieldwork. Any risks and hazards will be indicated

prior to the start of work via a submitted risk assessment. All staff will be issued with required personal safety equipment, including high visibility jacket, steel toe-capped boots and hard hat.

8. INSURANCE

Public Liability

Limit of Indemnity- £5,000,000 any one event in respect of Public Liability

INSURER Aviva Insurance Ltd
POLICY TYPE Public Liability
POLICY NUMBER 24 7651 01 CHC/000405
EXPIRY DATE 21/06/2015

Employers Liability

Limit of Indemnity- £10,000,000 any one occurrence.

INSURER Aviva Insurance Ltd
POLICY TYPE Employers Liability
POLICY NUMBER 24 765101 CHC/000405
EXPIRY DATE 21/06/2015

Professional Indemnity

Limit of Indemnity- £2,000,000 in respect of each and every claim

INSURER Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance PLC
POLICY TYPE Professional Indemnity
POLICY NUMBER RKK865819/1208
EXPIRY DATE 22/07/2015

9. REFERENCES

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2012 [Online] *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment desk-based assessment*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading. Available from:
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Spencer Pughe Associates drawing **1416/1**

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Ymgynhoriaeth Gwynedd Consultancy drawing **3184/GA/112/4**

APPENDIX II

Sites on the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record within a 500m radius of the Assessment Area

PRN	NPRN	Listed building number	Site name	Period	NGR
4,258			Early Bronze Age Stone Axe-Hammer	Bronze Age	SH88523163
12,371	28,430		Glanllyn Isaf; Outbuildings-glanllyn Mansion	Post-Medieval	SH88733184
12,372	28,431		Glanllyn Mansion	Post-Medieval	SH88753184
24,112			Hafted Iron Tool, Findspot, Llanuwchllyn	Modern	SH88173174
4,255			Legionary Cemetery Site, Caer Gai	Roman	SH88003166
17,606			Part of Roman Road, Caer Gai - Deva	Roman	SH87933159
17,607			Part of Roman Road, Caer Gai - Deva	Roman	SH88203172
17,608			Part of Roman Road, Caer Gai - Deva	Roman	SH88543196
4,254			Roman Legionary Stone	Roman	SH87943156
6,241			Shrine (Site of), Caer Gai	Roman	SH87903155



Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd

Craig Beuno, Ffordd y Garth, Bangor, Gwynedd. LL57 2RT
Ffon: 01248 352535. Ffacs: 01248 370925. email: gat@heneb.co.uk

