

Excavation and survey on the site of the Penhwnllys hoard, Llanddona Anglesey



 Cadw



Llywodraeth Cymru
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Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

Excavation and survey on the site of the Penhwnllys hoard, Llanddona Anglesey

Report

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Event PRN 45246

Prepared for: Cadw

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Written by: Jane Kenney and Dave Hopewell

Illustration by: Jane Kenney and Dave Hopewell

Cover photograph: Volunteers metal-detecting the excavation trench and surrounding field

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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Excavation and geophysical survey at the site of the Penhwnllys hoard, Llanddona, Anglesey (G2540)

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Summary

In October 2017 a hoard of 30 silver coins and 54 copper alloy Roman coins dating to the mid-3rd century AD were found by metal-detectorists on land belonging to Penhwnllys Uchaf Farm, Llanddona, Anglesey. Gwynedd Archaeological Trust carried out some work to investigate the location of the hoard; a small excavation was carried out in October 2017 and a geophysical survey in April 2018. The excavation investigated the find spot and this recovered another 5 copper alloy coins but no other finds and did not find any traces of a container for the hoard or pit that it might have been buried in. A metal-detecting survey of the field undertaken at the same time as the excavation did not recover any other finds. The geophysical survey of the area around the findspot also failed to identify any related features, so the hoard appears to have been buried in an isolated location.

The excavation and associated metal-detecting have ensured that all the coins from the hoard have been recovered. The excavation and geophysical survey demonstrated that there is no related archaeology in the immediate area of the hoard find.

Yn Hydref 2017 daeth defnyddwyr datgelwyr metel o hyd i gasgliad o 30 darn arian a 54 darn aloi copor Rhufeinig yn dyddio o ganol y 3^{edd} ganrif OC ar lain o dir yn perthyn i Fferm Penhwnllys Uchaf, Llanddona, Ynys Môn. Bu Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd yn ymchwilio lleoliad y casgliad; cynhaliwyd cloddiad bychan yn Hydref 2017 ac arolwg geoffisegol yn Ebrill 2018. Ymchwiliodd y cloddiad y man darganfod a dadorchuddiodd 5 darn ychwanegol o aloi copor ond 'run darganfyddiad arall, ac ni ddaeth o hyd i'r un arlliw o gynhwysydd ar gyfer y casgliad na thwll ble allai fod wedi ei gladdu. Ni ddaeth arolwg datgelu metel o'r cae a gynhaliwyd yr un pryd o hyd i unrhyw ddarganfyddiadau eraill. Methodd yr arolwg geoffisegol a gynhaliwyd o'r ardal o amgylch y man darganfod ag adnabod unrhyw nodweddion cysylltiedig, felly ymddengys fod y casgliad wedi ei gladdu mewn safle ar ben ei hun.

Mae'r cloddiad a'r datgelu metel cysylltiedig wedi sicrhau fod holl ddarnau'r casgliad wedi cael eu hadfer. Dangosodd y cloddiad a'r arolwg geoffisegol nad oes archaeoleg cysylltiedig yn yr ardal sydd agosaf at safle darganfod y casgliad.

1. Background

1.1. Circumstances of the hoard find

On 4th October 2017 two metal detectorists, one of whom is a long standing volunteer for Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT), were detecting with permission on land belonging to Penhwnllys Uchaf Farm, Llanddona, Anglesey. They found 30 silver coins and 54 copper alloy coins from one location, all Roman in date. This find was reported to GAT on 10th October (the delay being due to relevant GAT staff being unavailable before that date). Due to concerns about loss of coins to other metal detectorists the site was checked again on 15th October and a further 4 silver and 4 copper alloy coins were found and brought in to GAT on 16th October to be included with the rest of the find. The original find site was avoided this time to prevent disturbance and the coins came from the area immediately around, but they are clearly part of the same hoard.

The number of coins in one area makes it clear that this was a hoard, and the number of silver coins makes it a Treasure Find. On 20th October the coins were collected by the National Museum and they are to be recorded under the Treasure Act 1996. All the silver coins appear to be mid-3rd century AD and most are in very good

condition, as if mint coins were placed in the hoard. The copper alloy coins are worn as if much used and are less well preserved. They appear to be of a wider range of dates.

The hoard, located at SH 59739 80908, comes from just below a fairly level shelf near the top of a low hill to the north-east of Llanddona (figure 1). The hill is about 1km from the coast and just under 1km east-south-east of the hillfort of Bwrdd Arthur (SAM AN024).

There was an urgent need to investigate the location of the hoard and recover any remaining coins before the site became known to other metal detectorists. Therefore, following discussions with Ian Halfpenney, Senior Inspector for Cadw, a successful application was made for a contingency grant from Cadw to carry out a small excavation and magnetometer survey.

1.2. Objectives of the work

Investigation of the find spot by a small excavation aimed to determine whether the hoard was deposited in a pit or if any remains of a vessel to hold the coins might survive. Further metal detecting was needed to locate any more coins that belong to the hoard and precisely locate and investigate any secondary focus for the coins, which might indicate more than one hoard.

It is possible that the hoard was deliberately buried in an isolated position but it is also possible that the hoard was located here because it was close to a contemporary structure. The upper part of the field in which the coins were found appears almost artificially levelled, although this could be the result of normal limestone bedrock formations. The level area would have provided a suitable location for a structure requiring a view of the coast. It is not impossible that a signal tower or lookout was located here to cover the entrance to the Menai Straits. To test whether there may have been a related structure it is proposed to carry out a geophysical survey. This may indicate whether the hoard was isolated or a marker of more extensive activity.

1.3. Geology and topography

The findspot is close to the top of a low limestone hill. Limestone forms all of the Penmon peninsula and adjacent coast. The findspot is quite close to the border between the limestone and the mudstone and siltstone that form the lower lands to the south-west. Further south-west the underlying bedrock is metamorphic and igneous (Geology



Plate 1. Location of trench near the top of the hill

of Britain Viewer) (figure 2). The limestone provides good soils but the higher areas are exposed to the winds from the sea. There are fine views from close to the findspot across the Menai Strait and this would provide a location from which ships entering the Strait might be watched.

The findspot itself was on quite a steep slope just below the top of the hill (plate 1).

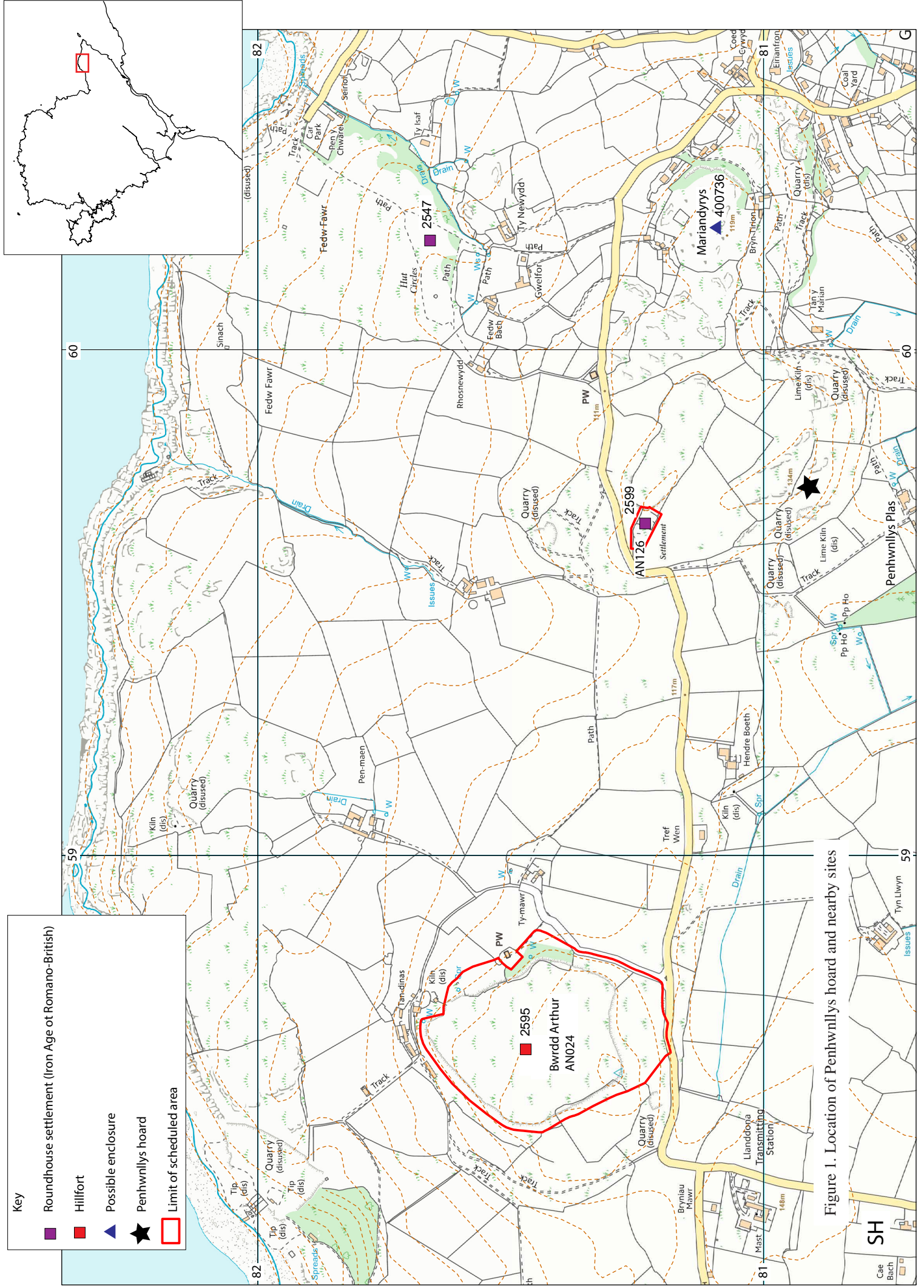


Figure 1. Location of Penhwnllys hoard and nearby sites

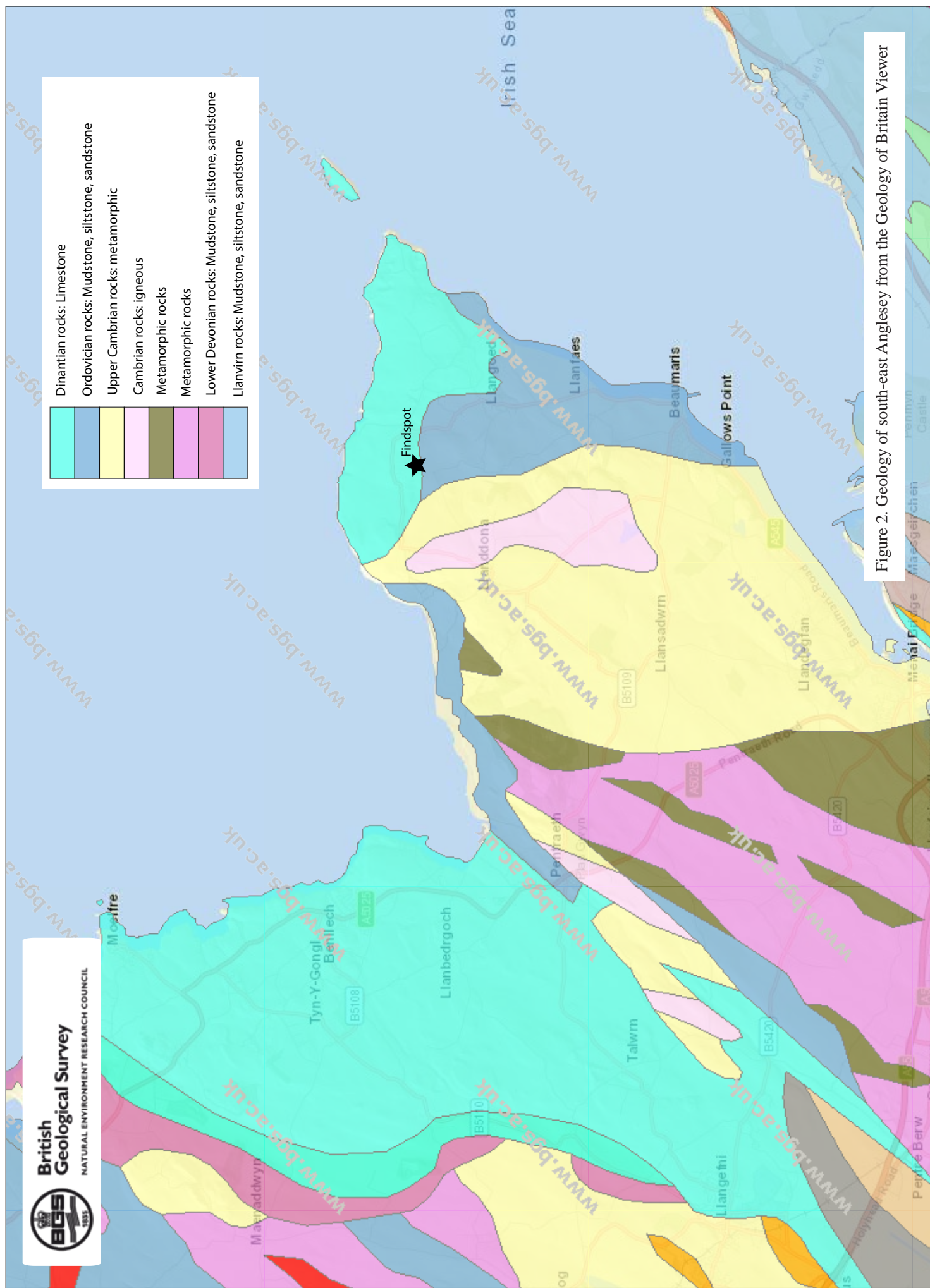




Plate 2. Metal-detecting in the trench during excavation and in the general area to ensure the recovery of all coins

2. Methodology

2.1. Excavation

On Wednesday 25th October 2017 a small excavation was carried out to investigate the find spot. A trench measuring about 2.9m by 2.9m was hand dug over the site of the coin hoard find spot. It was also positioned to investigate a slight hollow visible in the ground surface.

The area was deturfed then the topsoil was removed with spades and the area was trowelled down to either bedrock or natural glacial silt. The turf and spoil was checked for coins throughout the process with metal detectors (plate 2).

The trench was recorded by general photographs and overlapping photographs for the production of a 3D model using the program Agisoft Photoscan. The model was georeferenced by points located by a survey quality GPS. The trench and find spot of the hoard were also located by GPS.

2.2. Metal-detector survey

As well as checking soil from the excavation with the metal-detectors the upper part of the field not over grown with gorse was repeatedly and intensively checked with metal detectors. No coins or other significant objects were found away from the hoard findspot.

2.3. Geophysical Survey

Fluxgate gradiometer survey provides a relatively swift and non-invasive method of surveying large areas. The current survey was designed to investigate an area of approximately 0.3 ha at the top of a sloping field above Penhwnllys Plas in response to the discovery of a hoard of Roman coins. The survey was carried out by David Hopewell on 24th April 2018.

Instrumentation

The survey was carried out using a Bartington Grad601-2 dual Fluxgate Gradiometer. This uses a pair of Grad-01-100 sensors. These are high stability fluxgate gradient sensors with a 1.0m separation between the sensing elements, giving a strong response to deeper anomalies.

The instrument detects variations in the earth's magnetic field caused by the presence of iron in the soil. This is usually in the form of weakly magnetised iron oxides which tend to be concentrated in the topsoil. Features cut into the subsoil and backfilled or silted with topsoil therefore contain greater amounts of iron and can therefore be detected with the gradiometer. This is a simplified description as there are other processes and materials which can produce detectable anomalies. The most obvious is the presence of pieces of iron in the soil or immediate environs which usually produce very high readings and can mask the relatively weak readings produced by variations in the soil. Strong readings are also produced by archaeological features such as hearths or kilns because fired clay acquires a permanent thermo-remnant magnetic field upon cooling. This material can also get spread into the soil

leading to a more generalised magnetic enhancement around settlement sites.

Not all surveys can produce good results as anomalies can be masked by large magnetic variations in the bedrock or soil or high levels of natural background “noise” (interference consisting of random signals produced by material within the soil). In some cases, there may be little variation between the topsoil and subsoil resulting in undetectable features. *It must therefore be stressed that a lack of detectable anomalies cannot be taken to mean that there is no extant archaeology.*

The Bartington Grad601 is a hand held instrument and readings can be taken automatically as the operator walks at a constant speed along a series of fixed-length traverses. The sensor consists of two vertically aligned fluxgates set 1.0m apart. Their cores are driven in and out of magnetic saturation by an alternating current passing through two opposing driver coils. As the cores come out of saturation, the external magnetic field can enter them producing an electrical pulse proportional to the field strength in a sensor coil. The high frequency of the detection cycle produces what is in effect a continuous output.

The gradiometer can detect anomalies down to a depth of approximately one metre. The magnetic variations are measured in nanoTeslas (nT). The earth’s magnetic field strength is about 48,000 nT, typical archaeological features produce readings of below 15nT although burnt features and iron objects can result in changes of several hundred nT. The instrument is capable of detecting changes as low as 0.1nT.

Data Collection

The gradiometer includes an on-board data-logger. A high resolution survey was specified in the project design. Readings in the survey was therefore taken along parallel traverses of one axis of a series of 20m x 20m grids. Readings were taken with a traverse interval of 0.5m and were logged at intervals of 0.25m along each traverse giving 3200 readings per grid. Guide-lines with marks at 1m intervals were used to ensure accurate data collection.

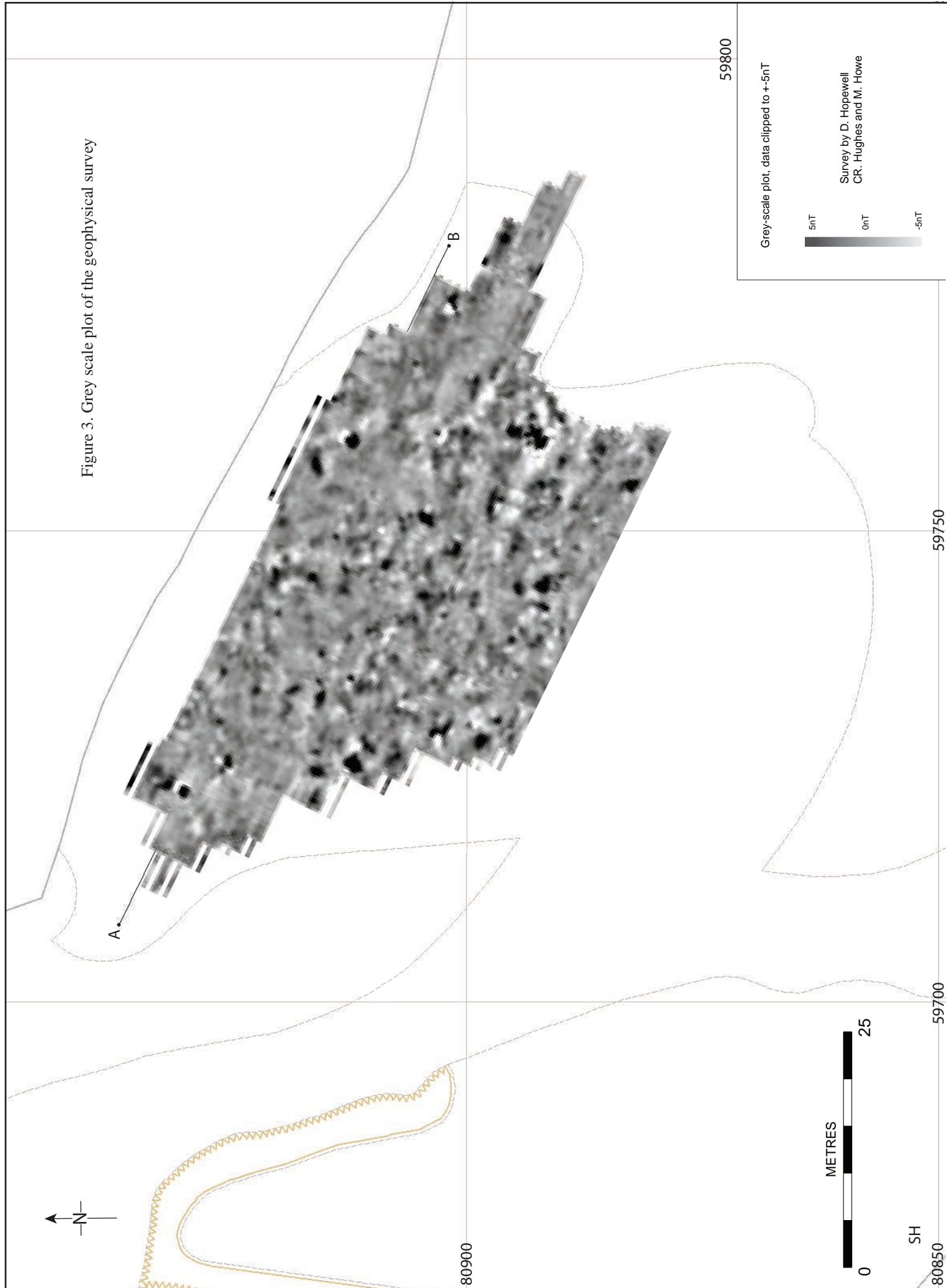
Data presentation

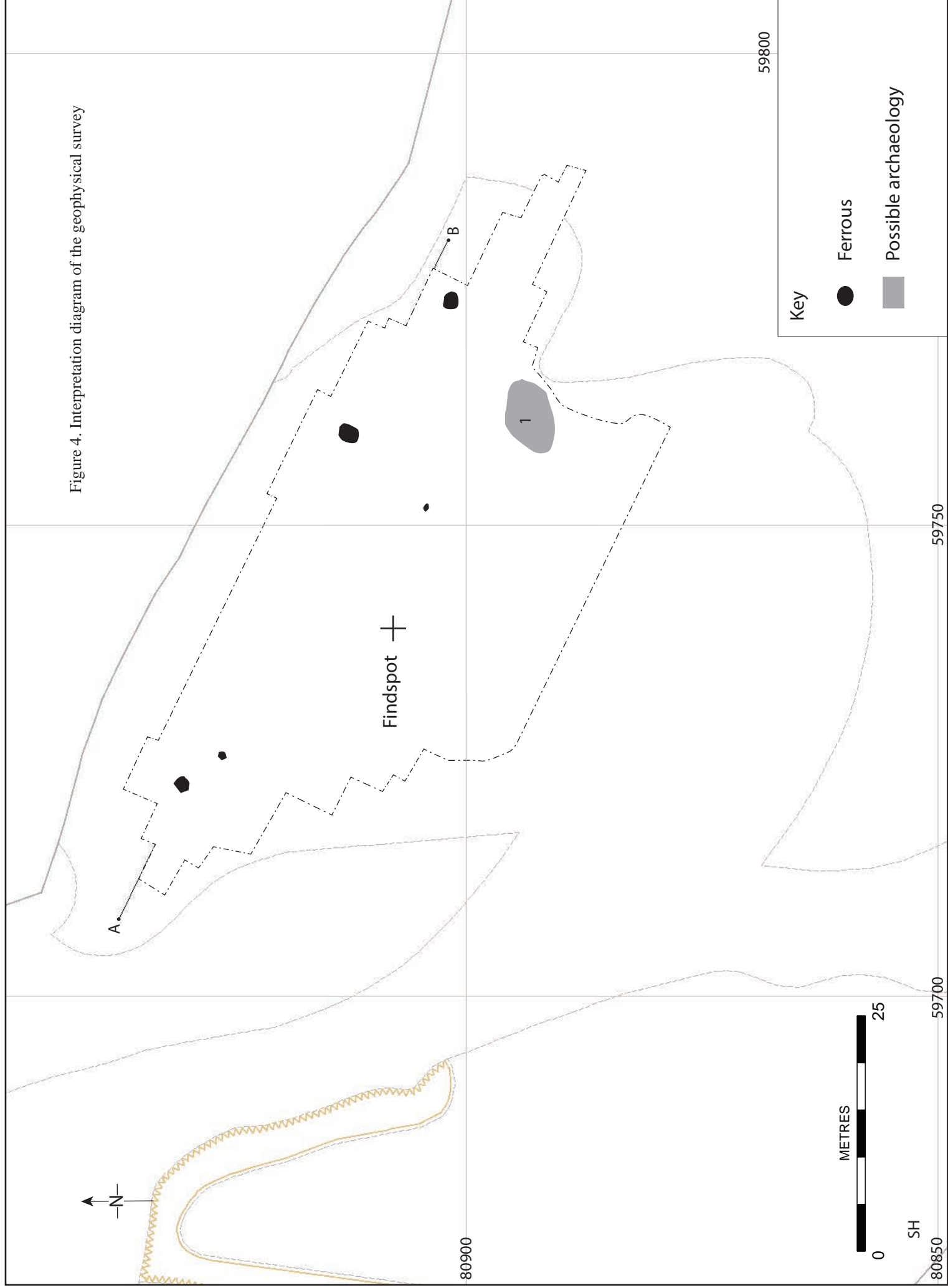
The data was transferred from the data-logger to a computer where it was compiled and processed using ArchaeoSurveyor 2 software. The data is presented as a grey-scale plot (figure 3) where data values are represented by modulation of the intensity of a grey-scale within a rectangular area corresponding to the data collection point within the grid. This produces a plan view of the survey and allows subtle changes in the data to be displayed. This is supplemented by an interpretation diagram (figure 4) showing the main features of the survey with reference numbers linking the anomalies to descriptions in the written report. It should be noted that the interpretation is based on the examination of the shape, scale and intensity of the anomalies and comparison to features found in previous surveys and excavations etc. In some cases the shape of an anomaly is sufficient to allow a definite interpretation e.g. a Roman fort. In other cases all that can be provided is the most likely interpretation. The survey will often detect several overlying phases of archaeological remains and it is not usually possible to distinguish between them. Weak and poorly defined anomalies are most susceptible to misinterpretation due to the propensity for the human brain to define shapes and patterns in random background noise. Several types of archaeological sites, such as prehistoric settlement and cemeteries, often produce weak or indistinct anomalies and can sometimes not be distinguishable from natural background variations. Features such as ditches could also be assigned to many periods and functions. An assessment of the confidence of the interpretation is given in the results.

Data Processing

The data is presented with a minimum of processing although corrections were made to compensate for instrument drift and other data collection inconsistencies. High readings caused by stray pieces of iron, fences, etc. are usually modified on the grey scale plot as they have a tendency to compress the rest of the data. The data is however carefully examined before this procedure is carried out as kilns and other burnt features can produce similar readings. Grey-scale plots are always somewhat pixelated due to the resolution of the survey. This at times makes it difficult to see less obvious anomalies. The readings in the plots are therefore smoothed using the graduated shade function in Archaeosurveyor. This reduces the perceived effects of background noise thus making anomalies easier to see. Any further processing is noted in relation to the individual plot.

Figure 3. Grey scale plot of the geophysical survey





3. Results

3.1. Excavation

See figure 5 for plan and section. Plates 3 and 4.

The topsoil (101) was a mid brown slightly clayey silt with few stones. It had a depth of between 0.1m and 0.3m on to limestone bedrock. There was no noticeable differentiation within the topsoil indicating an active topsoil and older ploughsoil and considering the steepness of the slope and the uneven ground surface it is highly unlikely that the field has ever been ploughed.

The bedrock (103) was eroded limestone with some rounded pieces loose within the glacial silt (102) that filled the grykes and covered part of the bedrock. Some of the bedrock, especially in the north-east corner of the trench was highly fractured and eroded and composed of numerous fairly loose stones.

The silt (102) was a red-brown silt overlying the bedrock and similar to silt deposits widely found across Anglesey and generally assumed to be loess deposited at the end of the last ice age.

In the south-west corner of the trench was a hollow [105], which measured 0.9m by 0.52m and had steep sides and a fairly rounded base. It was 0.3m deep below the surface of the bedrock and its fill (104) was indistinguishable from the topsoil. This hollow appeared to be natural and may be a gryke formerly filled with natural silt but dug into by a burrowing animal.

The slight hollow visible on the ground prior to excavation (2.1 above), was found to be caused by a dip in the underlying bedrock. No anthropogenic features found in the trench.

Five additional copper alloy coins from the hoard were recovered through metal-detecting of the soil in the trench as it was being dug. Two of the coins (PAS2017-11-02 and 03) were recovered *in situ* very close to the original coin find spot, and three were recovered from the turf or topsoil. On the plan PAS2017-11-01 marks the general location from which most of the coins found by the initial metal-detecting came. No other finds were recovered.



Plate 3. Trench fully excavated



Plate 4. Photomosaic of the trench fully excavated

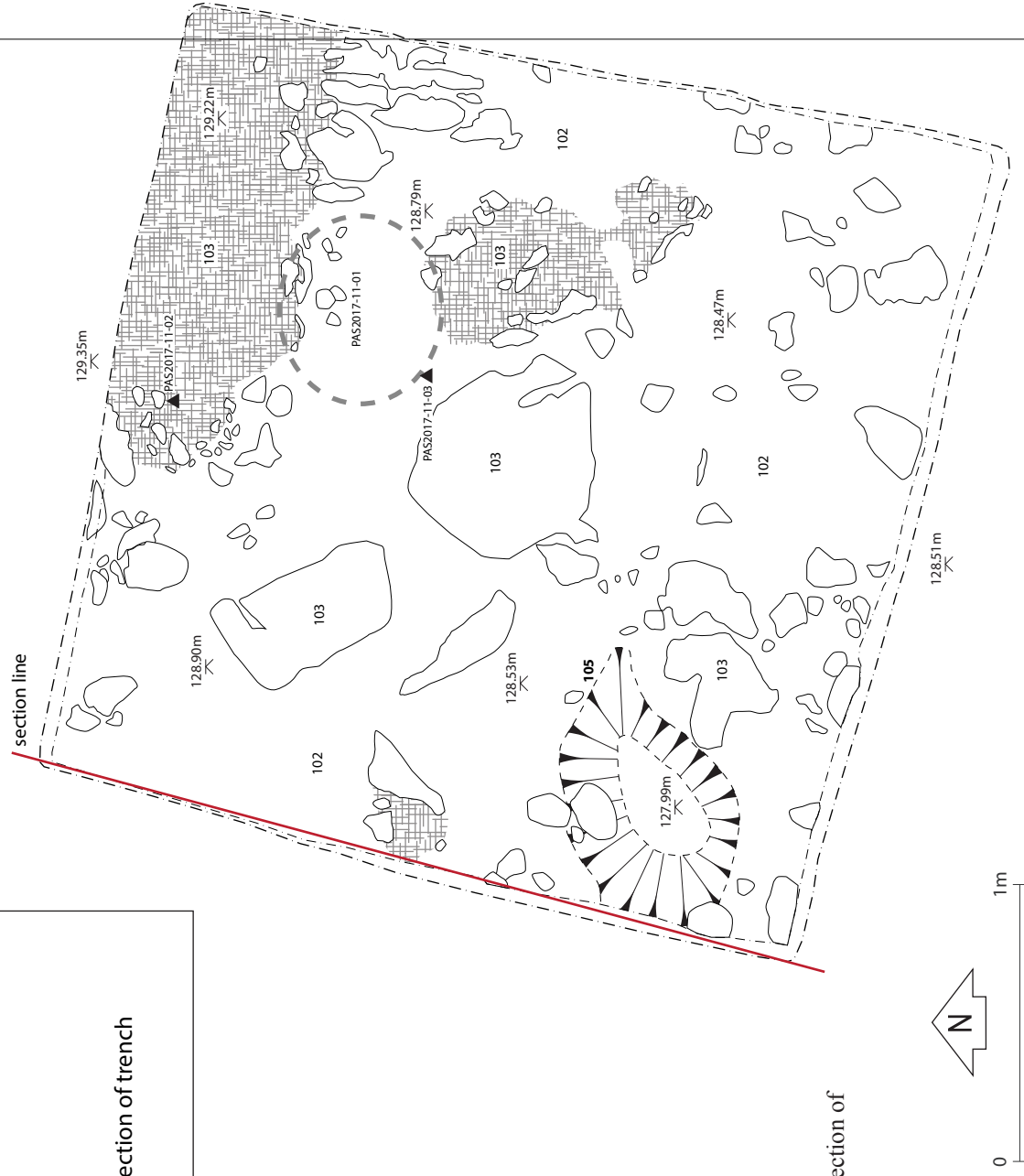
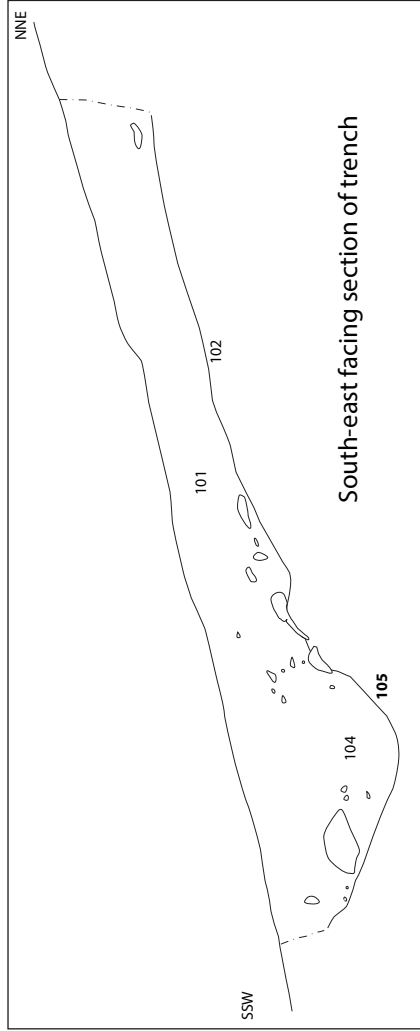


Figure 5. Plan of trench dug over findspot with SE facing section of trench as inset

3.2. Geophysical survey

The grid was extrapolated from a baseline (A) 259708.162E 380936.864 N and (B) 259780.166E 380902.008N (see figures 3 and 4). Survey conditions were generally good. The upper part of the field was level, comprising the south-western edge of a flat topped hill. The south-western part of the survey area was fairly steeply sloping. The extent of survey was limited by patches of dense gorse. Limestone bedrock was visible in several places and soil appeared to be shallow.

The levels of magnetic variation across the survey were low, presumably as a result of the lack of natural iron compounds in the limestone bedrock and the shallow soil. The data was clipped to $\pm 5\text{nT}$ revealing medium-scale random variations that are almost certainly a result of changes in the level and composition of the bedrock. There were a few small ferrous anomalies; visible as small half-black and half-white features on the grey-scale plot that are probably the results of modern rubbish, such as bottle-tops or nails, in the topsoil. A small patch of slightly increased magnetic activity (1 on the interpretation plan) could be interpreted as thermoremanent magnetism from a fire. It is on a slope and there are no signs of any other features so a fire from scrub clearance, its most likely source.

The survey produced clear results but revealed no significant archaeological anomalies. The hoard was found towards the centre of the survey ("Findspot" on figure 4) and there were no changes or anomalies on the geophysical survey results that indicated its position.

4. Discussion

See figure 6 for location of sites discussed.

The excavation recovered five further copper alloy coins so the total is 97 coins (30 silver and 7 copper alloy). The coins were not buried in any recognisable pit or associated with a pot or other surviving container. It is likely that they were buried in a shallow hole, not now distinguishable in the topsoil, in a bag made of leather or other organic material which has entirely decayed. There was no rock on the ground surface or any other natural object that could have acted as a marker for the location of the hoard, although such an object may have existed in the past and have been removed.

This corner of Anglesey, with its limestone bedrock, has rich soils and is well drained and would be a likely area for Roman occupation. Relatively little in the way of Roman cultural material has been found here, but this is probably due to a lack of investigation. A fibula probably dating to the first half of the 2nd century AD (PRN 24073) was found at Penmon and a penannular brooch probably dating to the 4th century (PRN 2234) was found with other artefacts of various dates when a reservoir was built near Wern y Wylan Hotel in the 1930s (Hughes 1934). Late 4th century shell-tempered ware and 3rd to 4th century black burnished ware from two small trenches at Caim suggest late Roman period occupation and with imported pottery from the English Midlands and Devon (FI file PRN 7360). Guest and Wells (2007, 350-1) record Roman coins found in Beaumaris. Some found in 1880 were Roman but of unknown type and date but in 1909 a hoard of 4th century bronze coins were found in Beaumaris.



*Plate 5. View of
Bwrdd Arthur from
the findspot*

There are numerous roundhouse settlements in the area including many in the Penmon Deer Park, but only one has been excavated. The excavated roundhouse (PRN 2544) produced no datable artefacts except part of an iron sickle considered to be probably of Roman date (Phillips 1932, 256-7). Some of these sites might have been used into the Roman period. The settlement closest to the find spot is an enclosed homestead of polygonal plan (PRN 2599; NPRN 95594) that is likely to date to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. It lies just below the highest point at the north-western end of the hill and has six or more circular huts and some rectangular huts within an enclosure, which is polygonal in plan. The settlement is scheduled (AN126). There is also a possible hilltop enclosure about 400m east of the find spot on the hill of Mariandyrys (NPRN 400736).

The best evidence for Roman activity in the area comes from Din Silwy/Bwrdd Arthur (PRN 2595, SAM AN024). This is a large Iron Age hillfort about 1km west of the find spot (plate 5) but numerous Roman finds have been found there. The Royal Commission (RCAHMW 1937, 83) mentions finds of coarse Roman pottery including mortaria dating to the late 3rd and 4th centuries as well as “native local wares”. The latter seems unlikely as the Iron Age in North West Wales is almost entirely aceramic, with the possible exception of some Very Coarse Pottery (VCP) probably from salt containers. No further details of these finds are recorded nor where the sherds might be held. Baynes (1929, 30) lists 65 Roman coins found on Din Silwy as casual finds, not in a hoard. Most of these are 3rd century with the majority being coins of Carausius. Many of these Baynes had in his own possession and they may now be in the National Museums of Wales. Guest and Wells also list a find of “a great number of silver and copper coins” along with other Roman objects in 1831, which included coins of Nero, Vespasian and Constantine. There was also a single find of a coin of Victorinus in 1908 (Guest and Wells 2007, 352). The number of coins suggests a Roman military instillation in the 3rd century AD and possibly before, though the hill fort is originally Iron Age and a ring-headed pin and iron chain found on the site probably date to its original use (Lynch 1991, 262).

A coin hoard (PRN 1596) reported as being found near Din Silwy in 1986 was considered by the National Museums of Wales to be “spurious as a British find” and cannot be used to elucidate the use of the hill fort. These coins were bought by David Wilson of Stone Science, Llanddyfnan (FI File PRN 1596). The hill has been subjected to metal-detecting activity, despite being scheduled and a coin hoard, presumably Roman, was reported as being found in 1988, but this was sold and no details survive. An inspection of the site following this metal-detecting activity found numerous holes in the turf but also recovered some iron objects discarded by the metal-detectorists. These objects were Roman in date and included a spade shoe and adze-type hoe (FI File PRN 2595), suggestive of cultivation rather than military activity.



Plate 6. Rich lowland farmland just south-west of the findspot

It is possible that the Penhwnllys hoard was related to the Roman use of Bwrdd Arthur. The similarity of the date of the hoard with many of the coins from the hillfort could suggest a link. It is not impossible that the hoard was collected by a native resident of the area rather than a Roman incomer and there are many native settlements. The probable late date for the closest enclosed settlement (PRN 2599) means that it is possible that the person

who buried the hoard could have come from that settlement. However the scatter of Roman finds in this area may hint at more extensive Roman settlement that has not yet been found. If there was a Roman villa on Anglesey, which does not seem unlikely, this corner of the island with its rich soil and access to the Straits would be a likely location (plate 6). Much more work is necessary to understand the use of this part of Anglesey in the Roman period but this find contributes important new evidence to aid that understanding.

5. Conclusion

The excavation combined with additional metal-detecting will have ensured that all the coins from the hoard have been recovered and that there is no related archaeology in the immediate area of the hoard find. All available information has therefore been recovered from the find spot and further metal-detecting will pose no threat to the find. Metal-detecting of the rest of the field showed that there is very little else to find in this immediate area and no further hoards exist here. Further metal-detecting here is therefore highly unlikely to reveal any more finds of significance. However it would be of interest to investigate the field to the north-east of the field wall, which covers the very top of the hill. This land belongs to another landowner but one of the volunteers intends to ask permission to metal detect this area which may possibly add further information to this find.

The geophysical survey suggests that there are no other features in the area and that the hoard was buried in an isolated location away from contemporary, or indeed earlier, activity.

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7. Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to the landowners, Mary and John Gaunt, for permission to carry out work on the site and to their son Christopher; also to Ben Scholes, the tenant of the land for putting up with disruptions. All the metal-detecting and much of the excavation were carried out by CR (Beaver) Hughes, Brian Thomas and Archie Gillespie. They are especially thanked for their hard work. Beaver Hughes and Megan Howe assisted with the geophysical survey. Thanks also to Mark Lodwick, Mark Redknap and Adam Gwilt of the National Museums of Wales for their advice. The report was edited by Andrew Davidson.

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RCAHMW (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales) 1956. *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments of Caernarvonshire, Volume I: East*, HMSO, London

Gwynedd Historic Environment Record

Further Investigation Files: PRN 2595, 19156 and 24139

Websites

Geology of Britain Viewer, British Geological Survey: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed 05/07/2017)

Appendix I: Roman and Iron Age sites from the south-eastern peninsula of Anglesey

Sites recorded on the HER

PRN 1596

Name: Coin Hoard, Findspot, Din Sylwy (alleged)

NGR: SH 5800 8000

Period: Roman

Description

A hoard of "Roman" coins were bought by Mr. D. Wilson, and the story published by the press on 10th December 1986. Mr Wilson visited GAT just prior to this and reported that he believed the hoard had come from a field around the edge of Din Sylwy. RBW and RSK visited Mr. Wilson and RBW purchased the bulk of the hoard (c.80 coins) which he sent to the National Museum for cleaning and identification. Their report is in the FI file, and they conclude that "a considerable number [of the coins in the hoard] are 'modern' imports" and that the hoard is "spurious as a British find". <1>

PRN 2234

Name: Finds, Findspot, Reservoir, Wern y Wylan

NGR: SH 5617 7963

Period: Roman

Description

Number of artefacts discovered in the 1930s when the stream by Wern y Wylan Hotel (then being built) was widened to form a reservoir. These included a Roman penannular brooch (probably 4th century), a spindle whorl, a grooved stone maul and a silver half-groat of Edward III.<1> No further information. Reservoir centred at above NGR. <2>

PRN 2537

Name: Roman Settlement, Remains of, Llangoed

NGR: SH 6119 8071

Period: Iron Age/ Roman

Description

A Romano-British open settlement, 6 hut circles, terraces and enclosures. Huts and terraces on S slope of hill side, 9 hut circles at top of slope. Average diameter 15ft. Some partly cut into the limestone. Terraces below and around forming narrow strip fields in some places. A sub-rectangular enclosure 40ft x 20ft on a slight platform to the W. <1> The majority of excavated examples of open settlements belong to Roman period. <2> Remains of 6 hut circles visible, 4 set into hillside reminiscent of 'platform houses' having a cut and fill about 1.0m, and 2 shallow depressions, probably sites of hut circles. The huts vary from 4.0m-6.0m diameter. Enclosure to W (SH61078072) and the terraces are described as by RCAHM. Surveyed at 1:2500. <3>

PRN 2544

Name: Hut Group, Site of, Parc Dinmor, Penmon

NGR: SH 6345 8126

Period: Prehistoric

Description

Group of three huts close together on limestone ridge. Traces of two more huts to NE. Best preserved is 25ft diameter, excavated 1932, in centre of which was a rectangular socket for a post and to the S a number of standing slabs. Finds include iron sickle, iron socketed gouge, large quantity of pot boilers (found inside hut), midden of shells and bones, stone hammer, etc, and thin bronze plate. <1> <2>

It is clear that the occupation is Iron Age. The sickle seems to associate it generally with the Roman occupation, although no RB pottery found. Emergency excavations were carried out and when the site was about to be destroyed by quarrying in 1931. Finds include saddle quern and mullens. Animal remains include a fragment of red-deer antler, bones of Celtic sheep, Celtic ox and one horse tooth. On N side of hut rear entrance a large hole was found in the limestone completely filled with mussel shells. Sickles of the type have been found on a Roman site at St. Albans. <3>

Site similar to that of at Ty Mawr (SH28SW2). Not obviously associated with cultivation terraces, although finds indicate corn growing possibly in extensive field system west of the hut. <4> Site of this hut group now falls within a quarry. <5>

Excavations were carried out at this settlement prior to quarrying in 1931 by C.W. Phillips (1932a; 1932b). The work identified two or possibly three stone walled roundhouses which were conjoined by short stretches of walling. One of the roundhouses buildings was excavated and this was found to have a diameter of c. 7.6m, with stone-faced walls c. 2m wide, and an entrance facing east. A rectangular stone-lined setting in the centre of the building was interpreted as a posthole (Phillips 1932b, 292). A large saddle quern and rubbing-stone were found tilted on their sides to the south of this feature. Further upright stone settings were located along the south-eastern side of the interior and appear to represent a partition wall which may have defined an activity area. The floor appeared to consist of dark earth, with some charcoal, and a possible ephemeral midden was identified just inside the entrance and on the right-hand side of the doorway, rich in shell and animal bones, such as sheep, cattle and also antler (Phillips 1932a, 250). Two iron objects were deposited within the floor - a socketed iron gauge and a plate fragment. A collection of hammerstones and stone pounders were also recovered from this horizon, although they were present in other occupation contexts within the building as well.

Much larger quantities of midden material, largely consisting of shells, but including objects such as a perforated copper-alloy strip fragment, were accumulated outside the entrance and along the eastern and northern exterior of the building. A large circular pit at the back of the structure, on the west side, had been infilled with food refuse, most notably shell waste, and it is clearly associated with the accumulation of midden deposits (Phillips 1932a, 249). Mussel shells were dominant in the pit assemblage, although inside the building winkle and limpet shells were found in the greatest quantities. A bone implement, possibly a gauge, was also recovered from this building, alongside twelve whetstones, fire-cracked stones and five slates with cut marks. (Waddington 2013)

PRN 2546**Name:** Hut Group, Tyn-y-gate, Llangoed**NGR:** SH 6102 8088**Period:** Prehistoric**Description**

Site of RB hut group. Huts on flat top of limestone plateau about 300yds S of Tros-y-Marian and same distance from Eirianallt cottage. 4 huts with average diameter of 25ft, one with an annexe and two others joined together, from which the remains of a wall run to the edge of the slope. <1> Poor condition, robbed of stone, majority of the excavated huts groups belong to the Roman period. <2> Stony banks alone remain, too fragmentary for survey. <3>

PRN 2547**Name:** Hut Group, Fedw Fawr, Llangoed**NGR:** SH 6020 8160**Period:** Prehistoric**Description**

Three hut circles on Fedw Fawr 1m NW of church (i.e. area 601817) between the 200ft and 300ft contours. Two huts close together and one to the SW. Bank running E and W on each side of other single hut. Average diameter of the huts is 20ft. <1> Condition fair in 1947. <2> SH602816 Two hut circles 7.0m and 9.0m in diameter have banks 2.0m high, and are 12.0m apart. The larger, to SW, has possibly a small rectangular annexe on E side. 64m WSW of the larger hut is a small mound 0.5m high and 6.0m in diameter, with banks 0.4m high. Surveyed at 1:2500. <3> Site now hidden by dense gorse. <4>

PRN 2548**Name:** Hut Group, Llangoed**NGR:** SH 6090 8000**Period:** Prehistoric**Description**

Group of huts on marshy ground 100ft OD close to W bank of a stream on Llangoed Common, 650yds SW at St. Cawdras's Church (area 608800). Largest hut, 35ft diameter has opening to the E and has apparently been converted into a cock-pit. Four more huts are about 20 ft diameter and are now represented by low, uneven earthen banks with no stones visible. There are also two banks meeting at a right angle. Much denuded. <1>

The majority of excavated open hut groups belong to Roman period. <2>

SH609800 only the remains of one hut circle can now be seen: 10.0m diameter, banks 0.3m high and open to a stream on the E side.

Probably the hut that RCAHM reports as being re-used as a cockpit. Surveyed at 1:2500. <3>

PRN 2551**Name:** Hut Group and Field System, Penmon Deer Park**NGR:** SH 6241 8030**Period:** Prehistoric**Description**

Homestead group of 3 huts ranging from 20-30ft diameter bounded to N by a collapsed dry stone wall and divided into two roughly equal parts by two cross banks. Two huts are separate and lie to the E, 38ft and 40ft diameter. Sited at SH62418031 from plan. (RCAHMW, 1937) To the S are a group of 6 scattered huts, 3 clearly defined ranging from 24'-34' diameter and three shallow bowl-shaped depressions 20'-26' diameter. Sited at SH62458027 from plan. (Most of the Anglesey huts are Romano British). <2>

At SH62418031 a roughly pentagonal enclosure about 28.0m in diameter, distributed by modern quarrying in the SW and containing remains of two hut circles 4.0m diam and 8.0m. The former is terraced into the hill slope within the enclosure; the latter with turf covered stone walls up to 0.3m high is built into the enclosing bank in the E.

SH62418027, c.50m S of the enclosure are the remains of a large hut circle measuring 13.0m in diameter. The turf bank, up to 0.3m high, has been destroyed by modern quarrying in the W.

SH624408027 A hut circle 10.0m diameter with turf and stone banks up to 0.5m high and in an entrance in the NW. From the N side of the circle a turf bank 14.0m long links the hut circle in a rectangular enclosure in the W some 4.5m x 6.0m orientated N-S and open on E side.

SH62488031; 62488025; 62508026; 62518025; four shallow depressions, 6.0m diameter and up to 0.5m deep, divided into two by a stony bank some 0.5m high and 90.0m long, orientated N- S are probably the remains of hut circles. Surveyed at 1:2500. <3>

A69/9 an enclosed homestead (associated with terraced fields) of a class 2c, of the late 1st century BC of the Roman British period. <4> <5>

Penmon hut groups recorded (and one excavated) by Phillips in 1932. <7>

Scheduled area revised. <8>

PRN 2554**Name:** Hut Group, Site of, Penmon**NGR:** SH 6374 8127**Period:** Prehistoric**Description**

Group of 20 hut circles arranged along slopes of a limestone ridge, 12 on E of crest, 8 on W.

A few are well preserved but the majority are either vague hollows and platforms or fragments of banks and walling. An irregular wall, its course approx N - S and running half way down the slope appears to have bounded the group in the W. <1>

Most of the Anglesey huts are Romano British. <2>

None of the huts are now visible. <3>
SEE PRN 2555 FOR HER6 INFO

PRN 2555

Name: Field System, Penmon Deer Park

NGR: SH 6380 8120

Period: Prehistoric

Description

Cultivation terraces on gentle slope to E of the settlement (SH68SW). Traceable as a series of terraces forming irregular rectangular fields. Good condition but overgrown. <1> Cultivation terraces and probable field banks extend over the whole of Penmon Deer Park and are probably associated with the various settlements (ie SH68SW3,10,11,12 and 13). Extent delineated on field 6 inch. <2> Damaged by ploughing. <3>

PRN 2563

Name: Hut Group, Penmon Deer Park

NGR: SH 62831 81130

Period: Prehistoric

Description

Hut groups and fields recorded (and one excavated) in Penmon Park by Phillips. <1> Group of enclosures with a large circular hut and remains of two small circular huts and an irregular sub-rectangular enclosure. (RCAHMW, 1937). Distributed area of ground slightly raised above the surrounding land contains much stone: that is all that remains of the site. <3>
Scheduled area revised by CADW. <5>

PRN 2564

Name: Hut Group, Penmon Deer Park

NGR: SH 62755 80995

Period: Prehistoric

Description

Large scattered group of enclosures and banks comprised of 10-approx. circular hut sites and a rectangular enclosure of which 3 sides remain. There are also other lines of banks and remains of stone walls. A line of 3 huts forms the W edge of this group. (RCAHMW, 1937) Unenclosed group of 4 hut circles 6.7m in diameter with banks up to 0.6m high. Shallow depressions within the group probably represent two more huts, while to the NE (SH62788103) ploughing has exposed a midden 0.3m high of undefined extent, consisting of decaying mussel, limpet and snail shells. A saddle quern muller found on the mound during field excavation is now in Bangor Museum. <2>
Scheduled area revised. <4> Penmon hut circles recorded (and one excavated) by Phillips in 1932. <5>

PRN 2565

Name: Hut Group, Penmon Deer Park

NGR: SH 6290 8110

Period: Prehistoric

Description

Small group of 6 huts with diameters 20ft and 30ft immediately to the S of the park wall. Banks are associated with the group, especially one, which lies partly under the wall, which is associated with a circa 500 yd long terrace, which runs NE-SW across the park. (RCAHMW, 1937). Hut groups and fields around Penmon recorded (and one excavated) by Phillips in 1932. <2> Hut group recorded by OS. <3>
Scheduled area revised in 1989. <5>

PRN 2588

Name: Hut Group, Penmon Deer Park

NGR: SH 62849 79991

Period: Prehistoric

Description

Hut groups and field systems in Penmon park described (and one excavated) by Phillips. <1>
Hut group situated on an artificial platform on low-lying ground comprising one circular hut and two sub-rectangular enclosures. 50yds NNE is another hut. (RCAHMW, 1937). An area of raised ground, roughly oval, circa 30m x 20m and orientated NW-SE. Within are two circles and remains of a sub-rectangular enclosure. All turf-covered stone banks up to (0.4m?) high. 60m to N a small area of raised ground represents the site of a hut circle. <3> Scheduled area revised. <5>

PRN 2595

Name: Din Sylwy or Bwrdd Arthur Hillfort, Llanddona

NGR: SH 5863 8146

Period: Prehistoric

Description

Hillfort, known as Din Sylwy or Bwrdd Arthur, on a flat hill surrounded by a wall of limestone blocks with vague indications of a number of hut sites, and on the S the remains of a semi-circular enclosure some 18yds across attached to the main wall. (RCAHMW, 1937)
These 'hill cites' were founded in C2nd AD, probably between the first and second occupations of Segontium. While capable of defence they appear rather as a native attempt to imitate towns of the more civilised lowland tribes erected under Roman influence. Condition good but

demanding and overgrown in parts. Main period of occupation is suggested by coins ranging from Nero to Constantinus: pottery etc of late C3rd and C4th and native coarse ware carrying an Iron Age tradition. <2>

Both names of the site are in common use, site as described by RCAHM. Vague indications of a number of huts sites too indistinct for identification or survey. Published survey (25inch) revised <3> Coin hoard supposedly found in this locality - PRN 1596.

A hilltop camp of about 20 acres surrounded by a natural scarp of almost perpendicular limestone cliffs between 20ft and 50ft high. The area slopes at a sharp angle towards NE. Traces of three entrances. Top of natural scarp is crowned by a rough stone wall 3-4 ft thick, each side being marked by a line of megalithic slabs set in the ground. The interior is rough pasture overgrown with gorse and undergrowth. Chance finds include fragments of late Romano-British pottery and coarse native ware apparently of the same date. <4> See also <6>

Site visit to ascertain whether the reported recent metal detector activity has been carried out. No disturbances could be seen which could be directly attributed to such activity. <7> Hoe found on E side - S. Rees preparing note. <8>

R-B spade-shoe found by RSK, 27.9.88, and sent for conservation at UCNW. S. Rees again to write note see F.I. File. <9> <10>

A very large hillfort on a flat-topped hill surrounded by natural scarps also defended by a substantially-built stone wall faced externally and internally and with two simple entrances. No certain internal buildings have been identified although there are numerous, probably natural low terraces. The site is now becoming overgrown with scrub so aerial photography or geophysics is unlikely to be productive. There have been no excavations but there are casual finds of a coin hoard and pottery indicating occupation in the 3rd and 4th centuries AD and metal detectorist finds of ironwork indicating occupation as early as the 3rd-2nd centuries BC (Lynch 1991, 260-1). (Smith, 2005)

The natural scarp provides the main defence as there are no ditches, and the enclosure wall is only c.2.5m wide and can never have been of any great height. The entrances are likewise simple. The site as a whole therefore is more like a large defended enclosure than a true hillfort and perhaps an oppidum. The absence of houses identifiable as such is odd because settlement remains in the limestone areas are usually substantial and easily identifiable. (Smith, 2005)

PRN 2599

Name: Hut Group, Llaniestyn, Llanddona

NGR: SH 59662 81230

Period: Prehistoric

Description

A group of huts at W end of Marian Dyrys, 1 1/4m NE of the church (Llaniestyn). They lie about 400ft OD on a level terrace at the foot of a bluff, which terminates a higher plateau. 6 or more circular huts, 16-25ft in diameter, and others that are rectangular. On the N side are two straight sections of an enclosing wall forming a right angle. <1>

This is possibly an enclosed homestead of polygonal plan, 2-4C AD. <2>

A partly enclosed group of 2 rectangles and 3 circular huts centred on SH59648123: (A) SH59678122. A circular hut 10.0m diameter, walls 1.1m thick, occasional stones on the circumference and an entrance on the W.

(B) SH59658123. A rectangular hut 5m x 4m, open to the N, with walls 0.4m high and 2m thick.

(C) SH59668124. A circular hut, 8m diameter with double walling 1.2m thick and 0.4m high, slightly lower inside than out. Entrance to the E.

(D) SH59628125. Rectangular hut 8m x 4.2m open to S with walls 2m thick on the W and 1.5m thick on the E.

(E) SH59628125. Circular hut with annexe on NE. Hut is 8m diameter and 8.9m deep, with occasional stones on the circumference.

Entrance on the E. Annexe, 9m x 2m comprises a low stone wall with an entrance midway along S side.

A low bank of stones encloses huts A, B and C on three sides while a modern wall bounds the N side.

Similarities can be drawn between this site and Din Lligwy (SH48NE). Surveyed at 1:2500. <3>

Site visit. cursory inspection to ascertain position and status. Overgrown but salient features can still be seen. General impression of a very well preserved site. <4> Site scheduled A126 <5> Site scheduled An 126 <6>

PRN 2645

Name: Spindle Whorls, Findspot, Llansadwrn

NGR: SH 5570 7760

Period: Prehistoric

Description

Three stone-spindle whorls found 'about 50yrs ago' in a field on Rhiwa. Mrs A. J. Evans of 5 Maes Hafotty Llansadwrn indicated the field immediately E of the farm outbuildings. The exact site(s) not known, nor any circumstances of the find(s).

A) 1 1/4ins diameter, 1/2inch thick with straight hole, 1/4 ins diameter through centre.

B) 1 3/8ins diameter, 3/8ins thick with hour glass perforation.

C) Damaged, 4ins x 3 1/2ins x 1 inch thick with hour glass perforation.

Preserved in David Hughes Secondary School, Menai Bridge, in the care of Mr G. T. Evans one of the masters. <1>

PRN 2663

Name: Hut Circle, Llanddona

NGR: SH 5734 7955

Period: Prehistoric

Description

A small circular feature resembling a hut circle, visible on APs at SH 5735 7954. <1>

A hut circle lies on east facing slope. 16m diameter externally and 6m internally with an entrance 4m wide to the East. Banks range from 0.4m - 0.9m in height. Surveyed at 1:2500. <2>

PRN 5224

Name: Pommel, Findspot, Llanfaes

NGR: SH 6058 7800

Period: Prehistoric

Description

Pommel found on path at Llanfaes. <1>

PRN 5893

Name: Decorated Quern, Findspot, Llangoed

NGR: SH 6130 7970

Period: Prehistoric

Description**PRN 6629**

Name: Two Stone Mortars, Findspot, Tre-castell

NGR: SH 6165 7870

Period: Prehistoric

Description

Report of two stone mortars unearthed while ploughing. The area is in the location of the medieval township of Tre-castell. The 1st mortar is approx. 0.4m x 0.3m x 0.3m in size with a hole in one surface c. 0.2m deep, of gritstone. The 2nd mortar is 0.3m square and 0.25m high with a hole 0.1m deep and 0.2m in diameter. The rim of the hole has been 'recently damaged'. <1>

PRN 7097

Name: Roman Coin, Findspot, Llanfaes

NGR: SH 6074 7809

Period: Roman

Description

Roman coin found at Llanfaes - awaiting further information. <1>

PRN 7360

Name: Romano British Pottery, Findspot, Dinmor Farm

NGR: SH 6230 8092

Period: Roman

Description**PRN 24073**

Name: Fibula, Findspot, Penmon

NGR: SH 6191 7988

Period: Roman

Description

Trumpet brooch' with waist-knob and cast relief decoration. Probably dating to the first half of the 2nd century AD. <1>

PRN 24153

Name: Pottery and Spindle Whorls, Findspot, Llanfaes

NGR: SH 6050 7790

Period: Roman

Description

Lead spindle whorl, stone spindle whorl or weight, rim sherd and possible handle sherd. <1>

PRN 59576

Name: Hut Circle Settlement, Possible, S of Llanddona

NGR: SH 57633 78093

Period: Roman

Description

Possible enclosed hut circle settlement identified on aerial images, but not visited. (Nigogosian, 2014)



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

