

PARC SOLAR TRAFFWLL, LLANFIHANGEL YN NHOWYN, YNYS MÔN

Historic Asset Setting Impact Assessment, Full Report



Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

PARC SOLAR TRAFFWLL, LLANFIHANGEL YN NHOWYN, YNYS MÔN

Historic Asset Setting Impact Assessment, Full Report

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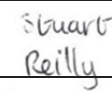

Delwedd clawr / Cover image: view north-northeast from fields in Area 3 towards the Castellor scheduled monument,
viewed from the south-southwest (archive ref: G2658_SA_029).

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CRYNODEB ANHECHNEGOL

Comisiynwyd Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd gan *Parc Solar Traffwll Limited* i gynnal Asesiad Effaith ar Leoliad Ased Hanesyddol i gefnogi ymgynghoriad cyn cyflwyno cais gan brosiect Parc Solar Traffwll, fferm solar arfaethedig ar orllewin Ynys Môn. Cwblhawyd asesiad pedwar cam ar effaith y datblygiad arfaethedig ar Glwstwr Cytiau Castellor, Heneb Rhestredig, yn unol a chanllawiau “Lleoliad Asedau Hanesyddol” Cadw. Bydd y datblygiad arfaethedig yn cael effaith negyddol ar leoliad Clwstwr Cytiau Castellor, Heneb Rhestredig (AN088), ac ystyrir yr effaith i fod yn un moderate, gan fod maint ac agosatrwydd y datblygiad arfaethedig am effeithio yn sylweddol ar osodiad yr ased hanesyddol ac am newid y lleoliad hwnnw yn sylweddol. Fodd bynnag, bydd modd gwrthdroi'r effaith ar y lleoliad ac mae'n gyfyngedig i oes y datblygiad, sef oddeutu 40 mlynedd ar hyn o bryd.

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust was commissioned by *Parc Solar Traffwll Limited* to undertake a Historic Asset Setting Impact Assessment in support of a pre-application consultation for the Parc Solar Traffwll project, a proposed solar farm on the western side of Ynys Môn. A four-stage assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument has been completed in accordance with the guidance in Cadw's “Setting of Historic Assets in Wales”. The proposed development will have a negative impact on the setting of Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088), and the magnitude of this impact is assessed as moderate, as the scale and proximity of the proposed development will result in considerable changes to the setting of the historic asset that significantly modify the setting. The impact on the setting is reversible however and limited in duration by the lifespan of the development, currently estimated to be approximately 40 years.

1 INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) has been commissioned by *Parc Solar Traffwll Limited* to prepare a *Historic Asset Setting Impact Assessment* in support of a pre-application consultation for the Parc Solar Traffwll project, a proposed solar farm on the western side of Ynys Môn. The proposed development will include photovoltaic panels; mounting frames; inverters and transformers with associated cabling; a cable route to an existing distributor network operator substation to the south of Caergeiliog; onsite switchgear units; deer fencing; and internal service road and access. The proposed development will take place within agricultural fields spread across four discrete land parcels in the vicinity of the village of Llanfihangel yn Nhowyn, Ynys Môn (Figure 01):

- Area 3 (14.33ha; NGR SH3379375955; postcode LL65 3SL);
- Area 4 (27.46ha; NGR SH3412276901; postcode LL65 3SG);
- Area 5 (7.58ha; NGR SH3457176725; postcode LL65 3SH); and
- Area 6 (25.00ha; NGR SH3157277674; postcode LL65 3NN)

The assessment has been requested by Low Carbon following feedback on a pre-planning consultation from Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services (GAPS). The GAPS Senior Planning Archaeologist has identified that the Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088; NGR SH3359776188) lies:

- immediately adjacent and to the north of Area 3;
- 425m to the southwest of Area 4;
- 750m to the west-southwest of Area 5; and
- 2.16km to the southeast of Area 6.

Given the proximity of the proposed development to the designated historic asset (Figure 01), the proposed development may have an impact on its significance and the way that the asset is experienced, understood and appreciated. The impact on the designated asset's setting will be a material consideration when determining the outcome of any planning application (Welsh Government 2018, sec 6.1.23). Consequently, an assessment of the impact is being undertaken in accordance with the *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Cadw, 2017).

The methodology used for the impact assessment incorporates a four-stage assessment process. GAPS and Cadw have reviewed the findings of Stages 1 and 2 before the assessment proceeded to Stages 3 and 4.

Stages 1 and 2 of the Historic Asset Setting Impact Assessment were undertaken in January 2021, Stages 3 and 4 were completed in February and March 2021. The assessment was conducted in accordance with the following guidance:

- *Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales* (Cadw 2011);
- *Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties* (ICOMOS 2011);
- *Guidelines for digital archives* (RCAHMW 2015).
- *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) (Version 1.1)* (The Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2018);
- *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991);
- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015);
- *Planning Policy Wales, 10th edition* (Welsh Government 2018);
- *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Cadw 2017);
- *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014); and
- *Standard and Guidance for Desk-Based Assessment* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).

The assessment is part of a staged program of archaeological works for the proposed development which includes a draft desk-based assessment undertaken by Archaeology Wales in 2019 (Garcia Rovira and Sinnot 2019), a geophysical survey completed by GAT in August 2020 (McGuinness and Reilly 2020), and a subsequent programme of archaeological evaluation by targeted trial trenching in late 2020. At the time of writing, the trial trenching results (Reilly 2021) have not yet been published, though preliminary results have been made available. The assessment of setting is based upon our present understanding and appreciation of the historic asset. Consequently, the Historic Asset Setting Impact Assessment may need to be revised if the post-excavation phase of the trial trenching reveals new information relevant to our understanding of the setting of the Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument.

The assessment was undertaken by Neil McGuinness BA MA MCIfA, a GAT archaeologist with over 15 years of experience working as a historic environment professional and experienced in the production of Historic Asset Setting Impact Assessments.

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust is certified to ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 (Cert. No. 74180/B/0001/UK/En) and is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and a member of the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME).

The project was monitored by GAPS. *The content of this report was approved by GAPS and Cadw before final issue.*

The Historic Environment Record (HER) Event Primary Reference Number for this project is 45992; the HER Enquiry number is GATHER1331.

2 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The Historic Asset Setting Impact Assessment was undertaken in accordance with the best-practice guidance set out in *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Cadw, 2017). As stated in the guidance, the document “outlines the principles used to assess the potential impact of development or land management proposals within the settings of World Heritage Sites, ancient monuments (scheduled and unscheduled), listed buildings, registered historic parks and gardens, and conservation areas” (ibid., ii). Setting is defined in the guidance as the broader landscape context into which the individual historic asset is set; this context includes physical and cultural factors specific to that location.

The assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the setting of the identified historic assets has been carried out following the four stages specified in the Cadw guidance document:

- **Stage 1:** Identify the historic assets that might be affected by a proposed change or development;
- **Stage 2:** Define and analyse the settings to understand how they contribute to the significance of the historic assets and, in particular, the ways in which the assets are understood, appreciated and experienced;
- **Stage 3:** Evaluate the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance; and
- **Stage 4:** If necessary, consider options to mitigate or improve the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance.

Detailed information regarding the individual assessment stages is included overleaf.

2.1 Stage 1: Identify the historic assets that might be affected by a proposed change or development.

This was undertaken as follows:

- i. The location, size and scale of the proposed development was examined; and
- ii. The location and nature of the identified historic asset was considered.

The historic asset that might be affected by the proposed development has already been identified by the GAPS Senior Planning Archaeologist as:

- The Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088; NGR SH3359776188)

The regional Historic Environment Register (HER) Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Craig Beuno, Ffordd y Garth, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2RT) was examined for information concerning the affected asset; The National Monuments Record of Wales (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Plas Crug, Aberystwyth SY23 1NJ) was also checked for additional data including aerial photographs.

1m resolution LiDAR data available from National Resources Wales (<http://lle.gov.wales/Catalogue/Item/LidarCompositeDataset/>) was used to construct multipoint viewshed models for the Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088) scheduled area in a GIS using both Digital Surface Model (DSM) and Digital Terrain Model (DTM) data. These models enable an assessment of the degree of visibility of the proposed development from the impacted historic asset. If the 'worst-case scenario' DTM viewshed model demonstrates that the historic asset will not be visually impacted by the proposed development it will be scoped out from further assessment at this stage.

2.2 Stage 2: Define and analyse the settings to understand how they contribute to the significance of the historic assets and, in particular, the ways in which the assets are understood, appreciated and experienced.

The setting of a historic asset is made up of:

- its current surroundings;
- our present understanding and appreciation of the historic asset; and
- what (if anything) survives of its historic surroundings.

The significance of each historic asset is considered with reference to the guidelines for establishing a heritage asset's 'value' as set out in *Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties* (ICOMOS 2011, Appendix 3A). These designation based criteria may not always reflect the true significance of a historic asset but still provide a useful starting point for assessment. The final assessment of the overall significance of the asset is made based upon professional judgment and expressed as **Very High, High, Medium, Low, Negligible**, or **Unknown**.

The significance of each historic asset is then considered with respect to the four contributory component values as set out in *Conservation Principles* (Cadw 2011, 10): its **evidential** value; its **historical value**; its **aesthetic** value; and its **communal** value in order to understand how the setting of the asset contributes to its significance.

The *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Cadw 2017) provides a series of questions to help to define and understand the significance of the asset:

- How do the present surroundings contribute to our understanding and appreciation of the historic asset today?
- Thinking about when the historic asset was first built and developed:
 - what were its physical, functional and visual relationships with other structures/historic assets and natural features?
 - what topographic or earlier features influenced its location?
 - what was its relationship to the surrounding landscape?

- was it constructed to take advantage of significant views or to be a part of a significant view?
- Thinking about changes since the historic asset was built:
 - has its function or use changed?
 - what changes have happened to the surrounding landscape/streetscape?
 - have changes happened because of changes to the historic asset or to its historical setting?
 - has the presence of the historic asset influenced changes to the landscape, for example, where a monument has been used as a marker in the layout of a field enclosure?
 - has the presence of the historic asset influenced the character of the surrounding landscape/streetscape?
 - have historic and designed views to and from the historic asset changed?
- Thinking about the original layout of the historic asset and its relationship to its associated landscape:
 - were these relationships designed or accidental/how did these relationships change over time?
 - how do these relationships appear in the current landscape; are they visual or buried features?
 - are there other significant factors, such as historical, artistic, literary, placename or scenic associations, intellectual relationships (for example, to a theory, plan or design), or other non-visual factors such as sounds or smells that can be vital to understand the historic asset and its setting?

Stage 2 also identifies the viewpoints from which the impact of the proposed change or development should be assessed, taking into account:

- views to, from and across the historic asset that were designed and developed when the historic asset was first created;

- views to, from and across the historic asset which are linked with a time in its history;
- important modern views to, from and across the historic asset – for example, popular visitor viewing points.

2.3 Stage 3: Evaluate the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance.

The *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* states that at the end of Stage 3, the assessor should be able to identify the impact that the proposed development will have upon the setting of a historic asset.

For Stage 3, the *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* lists 11 factors to be considered:

1. the visual impact of the proposed change or development relative to the scale of the historic asset and its setting;
2. the visual impact of the proposed change or development relative to the location of the historic asset;
3. whether the proposed change or development would dominate the historic asset or detract from our ability to understand and appreciate it — for example, its functional or physical relationship with the surrounding landscape and associated structures and/or buried remains;
4. the presence, extent, character and scale of the existing built environment within the surroundings of the historic asset and how the proposed change or development compares with this;
5. the lifespan of the proposed change or development and whether or not the impact might be reversible;
6. the extent of tree cover, whether it is deciduous or evergreen, and its likely longevity;
7. the impact of artificial lighting — for example, on night-time view;
8. the capability of a landscape setting to absorb change or new development without the erosion of its key characteristics;
9. the impact of the proposed change or development on non-visual elements of the setting and character of the historic asset, such as sense of remoteness, evocation of the historical past, sense of place, cultural identity or spiritual responses
10. the impact of non-visual elements of the proposed change or development, such as the removal or addition of noises and smell;

11. the cumulative effect of the proposed change or development — sometimes relatively small changes, or a series of small changes, can have a major impact on our ability to understand, appreciate and experience a historic asset.

At the end of Stage 3 the impact of the proposed development on each of the potentially impacted historic assets has been expressed as **positive**, **negative** or **neutral**. Following the guidance set out in *Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties* (ICOMOS 2011, Appendix 3B), an indication of the magnitude of the impact is given as either **major**, **moderate**, **minor**, **negligible** or **no change** using the criteria shown in Table 2.1.

Magnitude of Impact	Criteria
Major	Comprehensive changes to the setting of a historic asset
Moderate	Considerable changes to the setting of a historic asset that significantly modify the setting and affect the character of the historic asset
Minor	Slight but noticeable changes to the setting of a historic asset
Negligible	Very minor changes to the setting of a historic asset that hardly affect it
No change	No change to the setting of a historic asset

Table 2.1 Criteria used to assess the magnitude of impact of a proposed development on setting

Field visits have been undertaken for the Stage 3 assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the viewpoints identified in Stage 2. On-site observations were recorded on GAT pro-forma sheets and a photographic record made in RAW format using a digital SLR set to maximum resolution (Nikon D3100; resolution: 4608 x 3072 px [14.2 effective megapixels]). Fifty three photographic images have been archived in TIFF format; archive numbers G2658_SA_001 - G2658_SA_053.

Photographs taken from the viewpoints identified in Stage 2 have been used to assess and explain the impact of the proposed development along with the results of desk-based GIS analyses including terrain models and viewshed models.

2.4 Stage 4: If necessary, consider options to mitigate or improve the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance

This involves any proscribed action taken to avoid or minimise any harm to the significance of the historic asset and its setting, should this have been identified at the conclusion of Stage 3. The measures would need to be within the planning application boundary being considered and could include the relocation of the development or elements therein or the introduction of screening. The potential impact of the proposed development on the setting of the historic asset will then be reassessed in the light of mitigation recommendations.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Stage 1: Identify the historic assets that might be affected

3.1.1 The location, size and scale of the proposed development

The proposed development will take place within approximately 74ha of agricultural fields spread across four discrete land parcels to the south of the A55 road on the western side of Ynys Môn (Figure 01):

- Area 3 (14.33ha; NGR SH3379375955; postcode LL65 3SL);
- Area 4 (27.46ha; NGR SH3412276901; postcode LL65 3SG);
- Area 5 (7.58ha; NGR SH3457176725; postcode LL65 3SH); and
- Area 6 (25.00ha; NGR SH3157277674; postcode LL65 3NN)

Area 3 contains 6 sub-rectangular pasture fields located approximately 1.46 km to the southwest of the village of Bryngwran (Figure 01). A drainage ditch separates the northern edge of Area 3 from the Castellor AN088 Scheduled Monument and modern fields, and boggy ground and the Afon Crigyll lie to the west. Modern fields and the road from Bryngwran to Llanfaelog lie to the east.

Area 4 consists of 7 subrectangular pasture fields located slightly further north than Area 3, 500m to the southwest of Bryngwran (Figure 01). It sits on the western side of the Bryngwran to Llanfaelog road, to the west of Plas Llechylched Farm. It is bounded on its western side by boggy, waterlogged ground and ponds and the Afon Crigyll, and to the north by the minor road from Llanfihangel yn Nhowyn to Engedi. The site of the former church of St Ulched abuts the southeast side of the area.

Area 5 is a single subrectangular pasture field located immediately to the east of Area 4, on the opposite side of the Bryngwran to Llanfaelog Road, 500m to the south-southwest of Bryngwran (Figure 01). It is bounded on its north, south and eastern sides by pasture fields and the Llanfihangel yn Nhowyn to Engedi road forms the boundary at its northeastern corner.

Area 6 is located approximately 150m to the west of the edge of Llanfihangel yn Nhowyn, in fields set around the farm at Glan-y-gors (Figure 01). The 12ha deployment area consists of 8 sub-rectangular fields in the northern part of the area, the larger 3 fields lie on the western

side, the smaller and narrower and more waterlogged 5 to the east. A trackway from Glan y gors farm to Lon Bach separates the northwestern field from the main block. The minor road, Lon Bach, forms its northern boundary, while marshy ground, the Glan y gors farm and Llyn Dinam lie to the west. Pasture fields separate the deployment area from Llanfihangel yn Nhowyn to the east and more pasture fields lie to the south. A further five fields in the west and southwestern part of the area are included in the 25.00ha planning boundary for Area 6, they lie outside of the deployment boundary however and include land set aside for ecological enhancement as part of the project.

The proposed development will provisionally comprise the following:

- photovoltaic (PV) panels;
- mounting frames - matt finished small section metal structure;
- several inverters and transformers (inverters will be housed in prefabricated containers) and associated cabling (largely below ground) within each individual area;
- a cable route to the existing Distribution Network Operator (DNO) substation located to the south of Caergeiliog, DNO meterpoint, customer substation and system;
- on-site switchgear units to allow connection to the Local Distribution Network;
- 2m high deer fencing around each area with CCTV cameras for security (CCTV cameras would operate using motion sensors and would be positioned inward only to ensure privacy to neighbouring land and property);
- temporary set down areas;
- internal service roads and site access for the construction and operational phases; and
- a scheme of landscaping and biodiversity enhancement.

The proposed solar farm's PV panels will be laid out facing south within each area in arrays running from east to west. Each array will be mounted on a simple metal framework. Each panel is secured to a mounting frame and angled between 15 and 35 degrees to the horizontal. The highest part of the panel will be no greater than 3m from the ground and the lower edge of the panel sits 0.9m above ground level.

Whilst the development areas cover approximately 74ha, the PV mounting systems will be distributed at a ratio of between 40 to 60% (ground cover ratio). This figure is dependent on local topography and other environmental requirements and the areas, principally Area 6, also include areas of non-deployment land set aside for ecological enhancement.

Either pile foundations or ballasted solutions will be required to support the frames that carry the panels. The invertors and transformers will sit on concrete bases to ensure stability.

Access to the proposed development will be via Junction 4 of the A55 with onward travel along an appropriate route to the individual development areas. Service trackways, 4.5m wide and finished with compacted crushed stone, will be constructed within the development areas to provide access to the inverter/transformer stations and to enable regular inspections and maintenance of the infrastructure during the operational phase. Temporary set down areas will also be constructed within the development areas' boundaries during the construction phase of the development to accommodate the delivery of materials, equipment and welfare facilities.

The project has been designed to minimise ground disturbance within the development areas and the solar panels used have a lifespan of 40 years, after which they can be removed and the land returned to agricultural use.

(Source: Stappard and Cook 2019)

3.1.2 The location and nature of potentially impacted historic assets

The historic asset impacted by the proposed development have been identified by the GAPS Senior Planning Archaeologist as

- The Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088)

3.1.2.1 The location and nature of The Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088; NGR SH3359776188)

The Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088; GAT HER PRN 2520; RCAHMW NPRNs 303306, 308122 and 308123) is located immediately to the north of Area 3 of the proposed development. It also lies approximately 420m to the southwest of Area 4, 750m to the southwest of Area 5, and 2.2km to the southeast of Area 6 (Figure 01) .

The scheduled area covers a subrectangular area of 6.77ha and is 100-270m wide and 330m long (Plate 01). The site, which consists of two pasture fields divided by a wall, sits on a slight rise on low lying ground on the eastern side of the Afon Crigyll. The two highest parts of the settlement are connected by a slightly lower saddle, and together they form a low, L shaped plateau with a maximum height of between 9 and 10.75m AOD that stretches from the northwestern corner to the central-eastern edge of the scheduled area. Outcropping rock, which runs parallel with the Afon Crigyll to the west, causes the ground to fall steeply to the river which flows at a height of approximately 3.75m AOD here. From the higher, central parts of the site, the ground falls away gently to between 5.1 and 3.1m AOD to the south where the scheduled area is bounded by a broadly east-west flowing tributary of the Crigyll. To the north and northeast, the higher ground slopes gently away to meet another stream, again flowing broadly east-west, that cuts across the northern part of the scheduled area at a height of between 3.3 and 4.8m AOD. The southern part of the site has southwesterly and southern aspects, with views out over the Crigyll and the marshland to the southwest, and over the stream valley and the pasture fields of Area 3 to the south. The primary aspects of the northern part of the scheduled area are to the north along the Crigyll and to the northeast towards development Area 4.

The line of the outcropping rock on the western side of the settlement is continued southwards by an intermittent row of boulders, singly and in groups, possibly the remains of a boundary wall. The traces of a late-prehistoric 10m diameter stone-built roundhouse is located in the eastern field in the northeastern part of the Scheduled Area (Plate 02), its 1.0m wide stone wall is joined to an angle of walling that appears to be the remains of an

enclosure (RCAHMW NPRN 308122). There are also some ploughed-over circles in the east field just to the northwest of the better-preserved one. In the southeastern corner of the site, two circa 9.0m stone walled roundhouses with walls also about 1.0m wide are set on the west side of a rectangular stone-walled enclosure which measures approximately 20m by 30m (RCAHMW NPRN 308122). Three similarly sized detached roundhouses lie between 25 and 45m away to the northwest and west, and most of the area, particularly the eastern field (including ground outside of the scheduled area), shows undulations suggestive of enclosures of various shapes and sizes.

A possible, earlier, prehistoric chambered tomb is located in the western field (GAT HER PRN 1539). It is constructed of four very large boulders, the two largest of which are possible in-situ glacial erratics. Another very large boulder (weighing several tons) has been deliberately placed against the two others and another, somewhat smaller has been deliberately placed to form a capstone across the two larger, forming a 'chamber' open to the east. The smaller capstone has since split in two and collapsed into the chamber. The authenticity of the tomb is disputed, however, and it possibly represents a combination of naturally occurring boulders and field clearance.

(Sources: Cadw Scheduled Monument AN088 Full Report; GAT HER Records PRNs 2520 and 1539; RCAHMW Records NPRNs 303306, 308122 and 308123)

3.1.3 The visibility of the proposed development

The proposed development will take place within four discrete land parcels to the south of the A55 road on the western side of Ynys Môn (Figure 01). The Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088) is located:

- immediately adjacent and to the north of Area 3;
- 425m to the southwest of Area 4;
- 750m to the west-southwest of Area 5; and
- 2.16km to the southeast of Area 6.

1m resolution LiDAR data available from National Resources Wales (<http://lle.gov.wales/Catalogue/Item/LidarCompositeDataset/>) has been used to construct multipoint viewshed models for the Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088) in a GIS (33 points distributed across the interior and perimeter of the scheduled monument; 5km radius; observer height 1.8m). These models enable an assessment of the degree of visibility of the proposed development from the historic asset. Viewshed models for both a Digital Surface Model (DSM) (includes details of buildings and trees captured during the LiDAR survey) and a Digital Terrain Model (DTM) (filtered to represent the underlying ground surface only) have been examined.

The DTM viewshed model presents a 'worst-case scenario' for the theoretical visibility of the proposed development from the Castellor settlement (Figure 02). The DTM viewshed suggests that two of the four development areas, Area 3 and Area 4, will be visible from the Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088). The vast majority of Area 3, immediately adjacent to the Scheduled Monument to its south and southeast, may be visible from almost the entire area of the Scheduled Monument. All but the northeastern corner of Area 4, whose closest point lies 425m to the northeast, may be visible from the Scheduled Monument. There are no views from the Scheduled Monument of Area 5 or Area 6 due to intervening topography. As views of two areas that form part of the proposed development are available from the Scheduled Monument, the impact of the proposed development on the setting of the Castellor Hut Group (AN088) will need to be assessed in Stages 2 and 3 (Table 3.1).

Development Area	Visible from The Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088)
Area 3	Yes
Area 4	Yes
Area 5	No
Area 6	No

Table 3.1 Proposed development areas that may potentially visually impact the historic asset

The DSM viewshed attempts to account for the potential obstruction of views by vegetation or buildings (Figure 03). The DSM viewshed largely confirms the results of the DTM viewshed. Views of the northern edges of some of the fields that comprise Area 3 may be slightly screened by existing vegetation along the field boundaries, however, most of the area will still be clearly visible from the monument. Similarly, in Area 4, trees and vegetation along field boundaries may provide a partial screening effect along the southern edges of fields and the northern corner of the area, the vast majority of the development area will still be visible from most points within the scheduled area. The DSM viewshed results cannot be taken to be conclusive and require truthing by field assessment.

3.2 Stage 2: Define and analyse the setting of the potentially impacted historic assets

The setting of a historic asset is made up of:

- its current surroundings;
- our present understanding and appreciation of the historic asset; and
- what (if anything) survives of its historic surroundings.

3.2.1 The setting of the Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088)

3.2.1.1 The current surroundings of the Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088)

The Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088) is located in a low lying, undulating and sparsely settled, predominately agricultural, rural landscape (Figure 01). The fieldscape to the northeast, east and south of the monument consists of large to medium-sized and generally regularly patterned fields of improved grassland, indicative of Post-medieval improvement and reorganisation, and small areas of woodland. The fieldscape is little changed from that represented on the First Edition Ordnance Survey 25" County Series Map of 1888-9 (Figure 05). The fields are separated by a mixture of cloddiau, stone walls, hedgerows and drainage ditches. Rocky outcrops, a typical geological feature of this part of Anglesey are distributed across the landscape. The Afon Crygll runs north-south to the immediate west with boggy marshy ground beyond.

The monument sits in a relatively isolated position and has no public access. The pasture fields of Area 3 are located immediately to the south of the monument. The farmstead of Taihirion is set within the Post-medieval fields 200m to the south and Tai Croesion Newydd sits 300m to the southeast. Pasture fields separate the settlement from the Bryngwran to Llanfaelog road 630m to the east. A trackway runs from the southeastern side of the scheduled area to the farmstead at Gwaenfynydd 600m to the northeast. The site of the former Medieval Parish Church of St. Ulched (GAT HER PRN 2525) sits at the southeastern corner of Area 4, 450m to the north-northeast, whilst the farmstead at Plâs Llechylched lies 700m in the same direction.

Moving further afield, Llyn Traffwll, an SSSI, lies on the other side of the wetlands, approximately 1km to the northwest, with the settlement at Llanfihangel yn Nhowyn beyond. The edge of an extensive area of former sand dunes, now the home of The Anglesey Golf Club's golf course, is located 200m to the southwest. The coastally situated RAF Valley and Anglesey Airport, constructed in the mid 20th century, is located on the other side of the golf course 2km to the southwest, separated from it by the Holyhead to Chester railway. The noise of aircraft taking off and landing at the airport regularly disturbs the tranquillity of the monument. The modern A55 runs generally east-west 1.2km to the north of the monument and the sound of distant traffic moving along it can be heard from the site.

The general impression of the immediate landscape setting of Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088) is that of a grassed over prehistoric monument surviving in a pleasant, largely improved Post-medieval agricultural fieldscape on the edge of a natural, unenclosed wetland. The immediate landscape setting of the site remains largely unchanged from the nineteenth century; however more recent modern developments in the wider landscape, including The Anglesey Golf Club and RAF Valley to the southwest and the A55 to the north, intrude on what would have once been a remote and exclusively rural setting.

3.2.1.2 Our present understanding and appreciation of the Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088)

The Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088) is classified as a prehistoric hut circle settlement. It represents the remains of small stone-built homesteads and over 1000 such sites are known in northwest Wales (Smith 1999b, 22). Twenty prehistoric hut circle settlements designated as scheduled monuments survive on Anglesey, with another 57 sites, possible sites and former sites of hut circle settlements recorded on the Gwynedd HER. In 1999, Smith wrote that 55 of the northwest Wales hut group sites had been subject to archaeological excavation, and most of these have produced evidence of occupation during the Romano-British period. However, the small number of modern archaeological excavations that benefit from scientific dating have been able to show that the Romano-British material represents a later phase of use, and many may have earlier Iron Age origins in the middle of the first millennium BC (Smith 1999b). For this reason, non-scientifically dated but morphologically similar sites such as Castellor tend to be broadly designated to the Iron Age and Romano-British periods, with their occupation and use spanning the periods before and after the historically documented Roman invasion and conquest of North Wales in the first century AD. The hut group settlements are broadly contemporary with, and economically and socially complimentary to hillforts, larger sites that may have been higher

status settlements with a more overtly defensive role, or perhaps had a communal function with ceremonial and/or defensive importance to the wider community.

In 1964 The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW 1964, lxxxix – xc), building on earlier work by Gresham, Hemp and Griffiths, classified the hut group sites in Caernarvonshire into four broad types, most of which were further subdivided:

- I Huts not associated with fields or enclosures
- II Huts within enclosures (subdivided into types a-c)
- III Concentric Circles (subdivided into types a and b); and
- IV Huts associated with terraced fields (subdivided into types a - e).

Smith, writing in 1999 (1999a, 8) developed a further classification system that concentrated on the form of the hut-circle rather than any associated field system or enclosures which he classified separately:

- 1 Single Hut (subdivided into types 1.1 -1.6)
- 2 Scattered hut settlement (subdivided into types 2.1 - 2.3)
- 3 Circular / Concentric settlement (subdivided into types 3.1 - 3.2)
- 4 Nucleated / Enclosed Settlement (subdivided into types 4.1 - 4.5)
- 5 Unclassified probable settlement (subdivided into types 5.1 – 5.2)

The Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088) fits into RCAHMW classification IV(d), huts in irregular groups associated with terraced fields. It is classified by Smith as a type 4.4 - unenclosed but nucleated. It appears to have been predominately a permanent agricultural settlement. Field systems associated with the settlement would have been located on ground immediately adjacent to the settlement's former boundaries, and though earthworks suggestive of them may be evident in the eastern field, both within and beyond the scheduled area, no further visible traces survive elsewhere. The settlement is sited on good agricultural land, but also at the interface between dryland and wetland habitats, possibly a deliberate strategy to maximise the availability of food resources and raw materials. The marshland to the east and north would also have afforded a degree of defensive protection in those directions. Rivers, wetlands, and bogs are also thought to have

had cosmological significance during the British and European Iron Age, however, and the proximity of wetlands may have been an important factor in its siting beyond practical considerations.

The viewshed models (Figure 02; Figure 03) suggest that the Castellor settlement was not strategically sited to command particularly good long-range views either inland or out to the coast. The same viewshed models do confirm that the site has potentially good views to the broadly contemporary possible Iron Age hillfort at Caer Helen, Bodedern (GAT HER PRN 2517), 1.9km to the northwest of Castellor. Another hillfort, Y Werthyr, Bryngwran (Scheduled Monument AN042; GAT HER PRN 3505) lies 4.1 km to the northeast of Castellor. A third possible hillfort within 5km of the settlement, Clegir Gwynion (GAT HER PRN 29436) is also located 4.1km to the northeast of Castellor. The viewshed models suggest that the two more distant hillforts are not visible from the settlement. The views towards the most local hillfort from contemporary settlement sites might be expected as hillforts appear to have been strategically located to command good views over the surrounding landscape.

The settlement at Castellor was first noted by Rowlands in 1766, who suggests that it was the site of a former Roman garrison, though he admits to never having visited it (Rowlands 1766, 107). Castellor is one of the few hut circle settlements to have been excavated, though not by archaeologists. Prichard (1871) records the destruction of large parts of the settlement in the early 19th century by the then occupier of the land, a Mr Robert Williams. The site, which at the time of his visit still contained at least 'ten or a dozen widely dispersed hut foundations' (Figure 06) had been cleared by Mr Williams who told Prichard that he had removed between 16 and 20 houses from the site. All of the removed structures had stone flagged floors and walls made from large orthostatic stones externally with a stone and earth inside face. An unspecified number of 'rudely formed graves', possibly cist burials, also appear to have been removed from the site. A number of artefacts, all of which are thought to date to the Romano-British period, were recovered during and following the clearance. These include quernstones, stone mortars, unspecified coins and a pair of 'gold' (or possibly bronze) tweezers. Up to three copper ingots or cakes were also found there, one of which is now in the National Museum in Cardiff. Prichard also notes that a paved road, leading from the farmstead at Tai Croesion to the southeast, crossed the site before exiting on its northern side and crossing the Afon Crigyll via a bridge. He suggests that the road then ran from the western bank of the river in a straight line to the hillfort at Caer Helen (GAT HER PRN 2517).

Prichard's written description and discussion of the site are complemented by a stylised plan of the settlement as it appeared in 1867 (Figure 06). The plan also shows the broad location of the 16 – 20 hut circles removed by Mr Robert Williams in the northeastern corner of the settlement. Earthworks are also shown to the east of the scheduled area and the plan is annotated to say that many huts had formerly been located in the field further to the east. Two illustrations of copper cakes are also included as plates. No further significant artistic depictions or historic or literary references that may contribute to our understanding and appreciation of the Castellor settlement have been identified.

The Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088) report states that the site is designated as nationally important for its potential to enhance knowledge of later prehistoric domestic construction practices. Despite the destruction of much of the site, it still retains significant archaeological potential. It is believed that there is a strong probability that structural evidence has survived, together with internal and external floor surfaces and occupation deposits.

(Additional Sources: Cadw Scheduled Monument Full Report AN088; GAT HER Records PRNs 2520 and 1539; RCAHMW Records NPRNs 303306, 308122 and 308123)

3.2.1.3 What (if anything) survives of the historic surroundings of the Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088) (Figure 04)

The Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088) is located in an area rich in archaeological remains and it would have been constructed and occupied in a landscape with visible evidence of earlier occupation. The earliest surviving elements of the landscape that may have been familiar to the occupants of the Castellor settlement are Neolithic Chambered tombs. Excavated examples in Britain and Ireland suggest that they were constructed and used from approximately 4000 – 3000 BC. The possible example within the scheduled area of the Castellor settlement has been discussed in section 3.1.2.1. The Ty Newydd Burial Chamber (Scheduled Monument AN013; GAT HER PRN 3030) is located 2.3km to the southeast of Castellor; the Presaddfed Burial Chamber (Scheduled Monument AN010; GAT HER PRN 2049) lies 4.6km to the north. A slight rise in a field 3.5km to the northeast of Castellor marks the site of the former Llechylched Burial Chamber (GAT HER PRN 3500), the chamber itself having been cleared away in the 19th century.

Three other possible chambered tombs are located within 5km of the settlement. One example at Bryngwran (GAT HER PRN 3502) lies 2.5km to the northeast, another (GAT HER PRN 3031) is located in wet marshy ground, 1.9km to the southwest near Pentre-traeth.

A tomb recorded in 19th century sources is also thought to have originally stood at Llanfaelog (GAT HER PRN 3035), though no trace of it can be seen today. The DTM viewshed model suggests that the Ty Newydd Burial Chamber and the possible example at Bryngwran would have potentially been visible from the Castellor settlement, the others not (Figure 02; Figure 04).

The most numerous type of earlier settlement site in the area are burnt mounds, mounds of heat shattered stone usually accompanied by a hearth and a 'trough' or pit, thought to have been used to hold water. Dating evidence from excavated examples in North Wales suggest that they were predominately in use during the Bronze Age (2500 – 1000 BC) though earlier examples have been identified. At least 27 burnt mounds are recorded within 5km of the Castellor Hut Group on the Gwynedd HER. Most of these sites were discovered during the construction of the A55 road that runs to the north of the monument during the late 1990s and have consequently been destroyed (GAT HER PRNs 31811-31820, 31822-31830). Two examples (GAT HER PRNs 7612, 31831) straddle the A5 at Cae'r Glaw, 4.1km to the east of the Castellor settlement; two more have been identified at Cefn Gwyn (GAT HER PRNs 31798, 31802) 4.5 km to the northeast; and a cluster of four (GAT HER PRNs 7613, 7614, 7616 and 7617) have also been identified to the east of Rhydydefaid, 4.83km to the northeast of the settlement.

A programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching within the proposed development areas that targeted anomalies identified during an earlier geophysical survey was undertaken by GAT in November 2020 (Reilly 2021). The trial trenching identified a further four probable examples of burnt mounds. A circular anomaly that corresponded with a grassed over raised area, 250m to the east of the Castellor settlement in Area 3, Field D (Trench 3D.1; GAT HER PRN 91514; Figure 07), was demonstrated to be the remains of a burnt mound. Another example was identified in Area 3, Field E, 360m to the southeast of Castellor (Trench 3E.8; GAT HER PRN 91515; Figure 07). In Area 4 Field D, 500m to the northeast of the settlement, a substantial subcircular geophysical survey anomaly, with associated ditch like anomalies radiating from it, was identified just to the west of St Ulched's church (GAT HER PRN 2525). This also appears to be the remains of a burnt mound (Trench 4D.4; GAT HER PRN 91534). A further possible example was located in the same area in another trench just to the south (Trench 4D.2). The burnt mounds in Area 3 and 4 would have been relatively prominent landscape features and all would have potentially been visible from Castellor (Figure 02; Figure 04).

In addition to the evidence for Bronze Age settlement, Bronze Age ceremonial features are also located in the landscape around Castellor. Two such features were identified during the trial trenching programme. They were found in separate trenches, both of which were located in the central and western part of Area 5, 0.9km to the northeast of the settlement: a possible ring ditch and a possible buried standing stone. The DTM viewshed suggests that no part of Area 5 would have been visible from Castellor (Figure 02; Figure 04). The site of another possible Bronze Age standing stone known from 19th century sources (GAT HER PRN 3034) is recorded on the Gwynedd HER 1.3km to the southeast of the Castellor settlement at Perth lor, though the exact location is not known and no stone appears to exist in the locality.

Bronze Age funerary monuments have also been identified in the landscape surrounding the Castellor settlement. A heavily disturbed round barrow (GAT HER PRN 2084; RCAHMS WPRN 302324) consisting of a 20m diameter clay covered cairn of stones with a rough kerb is located in woodland at Treiorwerth, Presaddfed, 4.5km to the northeast of Castellor. At least 12 cremation burials had been inserted into the cairn, most of them within pottery urns. Romano-British pottery is also reported as being recovered from the site in the 19th century and the barrow had also been reused in the later, early medieval period when three long cist graves were inserted into it. Though the DTM viewshed model suggests intervisibility between the two sites, the 4.5km distance between Castellor and the Treiorwerth barrow probably meant that in practice that visibility was limited (Figure 02; Figure 04). Another Bronze Age cremation urn burial (GAT HER PRN 2523) is also recorded on the Gwynedd HER, 1.3km to the north-northeast of Castellor. It is only known from a 19th century description however and though it can be broadly located from its description, its exact findspot is unknown. In theory, the site may have been potentially visible from the Castellor settlement, particularly if it was originally covered by a now ploughed out mound as is often the case (Figure 02; Figure 04). The site of another possible round barrow (GAT HER PRN 2521) is also recorded 2.2km to the southwest of the settlement, though its authenticity is disputed and it may have been a natural feature. Its location is now within the RAF Valley airfield and the site appears to have been levelled.

Castellor was an agricultural settlement, and though field systems associated with the settlement would have been located on ground immediately adjacent to its former boundaries, the only known potential traces of such features are located within and beyond the scheduled area in the eastern field. No clear evidence of nearby early field systems was identified during the recent geophysical survey of Area 3 to the south and southeast (McGuinness and Reilly 2020). Similarly, the recent programme of trial trenching did not identify any definite evidence for contemporary field systems in Area 3 (Reilly 2021; Figure

07). Four of the trenches did, however, reveal evidence for ditches that appear to predate the available 19th century mapping for the area: trenches 3A.6 (GAT HER PRN 91511), 3B.4 (GAT HER PRN 91512), 3B.7 (GAT HER PRN 91513) and 3F.4 (GAT HER PRN 91516). The feature in Trench 3A.6 appears to correlate with a small discreet area of magnetic disturbance identified during the geophysical survey, however, no linear geophysical anomaly was identified there. The ditch in 3B.4 does correspond with a short north-south aligned linear geophysical anomaly of uncertain origin. The ditch in 3B.7 appears to be the short east-west aligned part of the northeastern corner of a large possible rectilinear enclosure revealed during the geophysical survey. The north-south aligned part of it was not identified within the same trench however and nor were any ditches encountered in trench 3B.2 which targetted the possible enclosure's southeastern corner. The ditch in 3F.4 appears to be the short east-west aligned anomaly that the trench was sited to target.

The four identified possible early ditch portions are distributed across a wide area, and it is not possible, based on the geophysical survey and trial trenching results, to resolve the features into a coherent field system. Unfortunately, the ditches in trenches 3B.7 and 3F.4 could not be excavated before the trenches filled with groundwater, and no diagnostic artefacts were recovered from the excavated portions of the ditches in 3A.6 and 3B.4. The lack of post-medieval pottery in the two excavated examples may suggest a relatively early date for the features, however, it is equally possible that all four of the ditches post-date the settlement at Castellor.

One other similar settlement thought to be broadly contemporary with Castellor was located nearby. A small prehistoric unenclosed hut circle settlement was discovered during works in advance of the A55 road scheme in the late 1990s. The Melin y Plas Hut Circle Settlement (GAT HER PRN 9945) lies 1.4km to the northwest of the Castellor Hut Group, 400m to the northeast of Area 4 and 200m to the north of Area 5. The settlement was located on a glacial sand and gravel ridge and was within sight of the settlement at Castellor. In contrast to the Castellor settlement, the roundhouses are thought to have been of wooden post-built construction and least three definite roundhouses defined by curvilinear gullies were identified, although two further possible roundhouses were also present. The main roundhouses were situated very close together and they are not all contemporary, demonstrating a sequence of construction and occupation at the site. The artefactual and radiocarbon-dating evidence revealed that occupation spanned the later Iron Age (1st century BC) to the late-Roman period. Following the abandonment of the settlement, the site was reoccupied in the early medieval period when a platform for crop-processing was created which may have been connected with an adjoining ditched field system which appears to

have been in use from the 7th to the 11th centuries AD. The settlement was completely destroyed by the construction of the road.

The Gwynedd HER contains records of 13 hillforts on Anglesey. The nearest probable example to the settlement at Castellor is the ploughed out remains of a probable Iron Age hilltop enclosure to the north of Llyn Traffwll at Caer Helen, Bodedern (GAT HER PRN 2517), 1.9km to the northwest of Castellor and intervisible with the settlement (Figure 02; Figure 04). The site comprises the remains of a rectangular univallate ditch encircling a low hill, the summit of which is now occupied by a radio mast. It has never been excavated but chance finds recovered from the site include a decorated spindle-whorl. Traces of a nearby fieldsystem, possibly prehistoric lynchets (GAT HER PRN 5749) associated with the hillfort, have also been identified on aerial photographs. The Y Werthyr Hillfort, Bryngwran (Scheduled Monument AN042; GAT HER PRN 3505) is an oval-shaped bivallate enclosure situated on a low knoll, 4.1 km to the northeast of the Castellor settlement. Though limited rescue excavations were carried out at the hillfort in the 1960s and 1970s, they failed to find any evidence of structures and the only find was an unstratified Romano-British bronze-iron harness terret (ring). A geophysical survey conducted by GAT in 2007 did, however, reveal a scatter of anomalies along the inside of the eastern ramparts that could indicate hearths and roundhouses. Another possible prehistoric or Iron Age defended enclosure (GAT HER PRN 29436), identified from aerial photographs, is located at Clegir Gwynion, 4.1km to the northeast of Castellor. The only hillfort or possible hillfort potentially visible from the Castellor settlement is the closest example at Caer Helen (Figure 02; Figure 04), intervening topography obscures views from Castellor to the other known examples in the vicinity.

The Castellor Hut Group may well have been occupied when elements of the Llyn Cerrig Bach Hoard (GAT HER PRN 2518; RCAHMW NPRN 401097) were deposited, approximately 2.9km to the west of the settlement. The hoard, a votive deposit of Iron Age metalwork was discovered in 1942 during the construction of a new runway at Valley. Buried in peat at the edge of the lake, over 180 iron and copper artefacts were recovered, including eleven swords, eight spearheads and parts of a parade shield. Pieces of equipment from several chariots were also present, both the harnesses and parts of the vehicles. Up to twenty-two chariots can be recognised from the wheels discovered, but this might indicate the offering of wheels alone. Some items were locally manufactured, a few came from Ireland but many originated from southern England; a possible sign of trade, plunder captured from war or suggestive that the lake was more than a shrine of local importance. Some of the swords are types current in the 2nd century BC, others are of later designs, but

nothing later than AD 60 can be identified. This suggests that the lake developed its importance in the latter half of the Iron Age, and it was the Roman invasion of Anglesey in AD 60 that put a stop to the votive deposits. The Llyn Cerrig Bach Hoard is considered to be one of the most important collections of La Tene metalwork discovered in the British Isles and all but four of the artefacts are now in the collection of the National Museum of Wales. Though the Castellor settlement has good views over the marshes to the west, the DTM viewshed suggests that Llyn Cerrig Bach is not visible from the hut circle settlement at Castellor for topographic reasons (Figure 02; Figure 04).

(Sources: Cadw Scheduled Monument Full Reports AN013 and AN042; GAT HER Records PRNs 1539, 2049, 2084, 2517-8; 2521, 2523, 2525, 3030, 3031, 3034-5, 3500, 3505, 5749, 7613-4, 7616-7, 9945, 29436, 31798, 31802, 31811-31820 and 31822-31830; RCAHMW Records NPRNs 302324 and 401097).

3.2.1.4 The contribution of setting to the significance of the Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088)

As a Scheduled Monument, the Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088) is a historic asset of national importance and its significance is assessed to be **high**.

The Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument is significant for its **evidential** value as a rare type of archaeological site with significant potential to enhance our knowledge and understanding of later prehistoric settlement and domestic construction practices. It is also possible that further evidence survives within its immediate landscape setting, in particular in the fields to the east of the scheduled area. Castellor is of high **historical** value as it illustrates a rare example of a late prehistoric agricultural settlement and was also occupied during the nationally important and historically documented Roman invasion of North Wales and the Roman conquest of the British Isles. Castellor's **aesthetic** value derives from its location in a pleasant, predominantly Post-medieval, agricultural fieldscape on the edge of an expanse of wetland, a landscape that has changed little since at least the 19th Century. Its **communal** value is high because of its potential origin in the Celtic Iron Age and the importance that a sense of Celtic identity plays in shaping modern concepts of Welsh national identity.

The primary contribution of setting to the significance of the Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088) is to its aesthetic value and its illustrative historical value.

3.2.2 Viewpoints

The 11 viewpoints listed in Table 3.2 have been identified as those from which the impact of the proposed development on the setting of the potentially impacted historic asset should be assessed (Figure 08).

Viewpoint		Reason
01	Views south-southeast over the fieldscape from the Castellor scheduled area towards the Ty Newydd Burial Chamber (GAT HER PRN 3030)	Historic viewpoint / modern visitor viewpoint
02	View southeast from the southeastern corner of the Castellor scheduled area along the route of the former paved road towards Tai Croesion	Historic viewpoint
03	View southeast from the Castellor scheduled area towards the burnt mounds in Area 3	Historic viewpoint
04	View northeast from the Castellor scheduled area to the burnt mounds in Area 4, the former hut circle settlement at Melin y Plas (GAT HER PRN 9945) and the possible chambered tomb at Bryngwran (GAT HER PRN 3502)	Historic viewpoint
05	View north-northeast from the Castellor scheduled area to the location of the Urn Burial (GAT HER PRN 2523)	Historic viewpoint
06	View northwest from the Castellor scheduled area towards the Caer Helen Hillfort (GAT HER PRN 2517)	Historic viewpoint
07	View southwest along the trackway from Gwaenfynydd towards the scheduled area	Historic viewpoint / Modern visitor viewpoint
08	View north-northeast from fields in Area 3 towards the scheduled monument	Modern visitor viewpoint
09	View north-northwest from fields in Area 3 towards the scheduled monument	Modern visitor viewpoint

Viewpoint		Reason
10	View northwest from fields in Area 3 towards the scheduled monument	Historic viewpoint / Modern visitor viewpoint
11	View southwest from St. Ulched's Church (GAT HER PRN 2525) towards the Castellor scheduled monument	Historic viewpoint / Modern visitor viewpoint
12	View southeast towards Castellor from the Caer Helen Hillfort (GAT HER PRN 2517)	Historic viewpoint

Table 3.2 Assessment viewpoints

3.3 Stage 3: Evaluate the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance.

3.3.1 Field assessment

Field visits were undertaken in February 2021 in order to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on the setting of The Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088), in particular the impact on the 12 key viewpoints identified in Stage 2 (sec 3.2.2). Fifty three digital photographs (Nikon D3100; 4608 x 3072 px; G2658_SA_001 - G2658_SA_053) were taken in dry sunny conditions. The results of the assessment of the key viewpoints are detailed below.

3.3.1.1 Viewpoint 01: View south-southeast over the fieldscape from the Castellor scheduled area towards the Ty Newydd Burial Chamber (GAT HER PRN 3030) (Plate 04; Figure 08)

Though the DTM model viewshed (Figure 04) suggested that views of the Ty Newydd Burial Chamber (GAT HER PRN 3030) may be available from the southern part of the scheduled area, long-distance views to the monument from this location are obscured by a combination of topography and vegetation. Once constructed, close-range views of the proposed development in Area 3 (the area visible in Plate 03 as the fields behind the hedge line in the middle ground of the photo) will heavily negatively impact views in this direction. The edges of the development will be partially screened by existing vegetation along the field boundaries, however, it will still dominate the middle ground of what were previously views over a rural fieldscape.

3.3.1.2 Viewpoint 02: View southeast from the southeastern corner of the Castellor scheduled area along the route of the former paved road towards Tai Croesion (Plate 05; Figure 08)

No trace of the paved road that crossed the site and ran southeast to Tai Croesion in 1867 is evident on the ground today. Views in this direction from the southeast corner of the Scheduled Monument will clearly be negatively impacted by the proximity and extent of the proposed development in Area 3 (the fields behind the hedge line in the middle ground of Plate 04).

3.3.1.3 Viewpoint 03: View southeast from the Castellor scheduled area towards the burnt mounds in Area 3 (Plate 06; Figure 08)

The proposed development in Area 3 will be visible in southeast views from the scheduled area towards the burnt mounds in Area 3 Fields E and D identified during the trial trenching programme. The mounds themselves are difficult to discern due to existing vegetation along the field boundaries in Area 3, the same vegetation will provide partial screening of the development once constructed. The development will be constructed over the mounds and cover much of the central right part of the middle ground in the view depicted in Plate 05.

3.3.1.4 Viewpoint 04: View northeast from the Castellor scheduled area to the burnt mounds in Area 4, the former hut circle settlement at Melin y Plas (GAT HER PRN 9945) and the possible chambered tomb at Bryngwran (GAT HER PRN 3502) (Plate 07; Figure 08)

Distant northeast views from the northeastern part of the scheduled area are limited by topography and vegetation. It is not possible to identify the locations of either the former hut circle settlement at Melin y Plas (GAT HER PRN 9945) or the possible chambered tomb at Bryngwran (GAT HER PRN 3502). The upper stories of the buildings at Plas Llechylched Farm are just visible over the hedgerow on the horizon in the centre of the view. The location of the burnt mounds in Area 4 is indicated by a stand of trees at the former St. Ulched's Church (GAT HER PRN 2525), located on the horizon just to the left of Plas Llechylched. It is possible that glimpses of parts of the development in Area 4 to the southwest of Plas Llechylched Farm may be just visible from this location, however, given the distance and the screening effect of the local topography and existing field boundaries, it is unlikely that the proposed development will be noticeable in views from here. The DTM (Figure 02) and DSM (Figure 03) viewsheds indicate that more of the western and southern side of the development in Area 4 will be visible in the middle ground of northeast facing views from more elevated locations in the northern part of the scheduled area, however, though existing deciduous trees and vegetation along field boundaries will provide a screening effect.

3.3.1.5 Viewpoint 05: View north-northeast from the Castellor scheduled area to the location of the Urn Burial (GAT HER PRN 2523) (Plate 08; Figure 08)

The Urn Burial site (GAT HER PRN 2523) is not visible in views from the northern edge of the scheduled area due to intervening topography and vegetation in the foreground. Views of Area 4 from this location are not available for the same reason and the existing view from

here will not be impacted by the proposed development. As was discussed in relation to Viewpoint 4 above, the viewsheds indicate that views north-northeast from more elevated positions on the northern side of the scheduled area will include views of the western and southern sides of Area 4. The visible parts of Area 4, located between 500m and 1.1km away to the northeast will appear on the left-hand side in the middle ground of views in this direction from elevated positions within the north of the scheduled area, albeit partially screened by deciduous trees and vegetation along existing boundaries.

3.3.1.6 Viewpoint 06: View northwest from the Castellor scheduled area towards the Caer Helen Hillfort (GAT HER PRN 2517) (Plate 09; Figure 08)

Viewpoint 6 was selected as it represents an important historical view from the settlement towards the Caer Helen Hillfort, 1.9km to the northwest (GAT HER PRN 2517). The hillfort is currently obscured in northwest-facing views over the marshland from this location by a stand of trees approximately 300m away on the western side of the Afon Crigyll. Views of the hillfort are available from other locations within the scheduled area, however (see Plate 03 where it is visible on the horizon as a low hill with a radio transmitter on top, between the stand of trees mentioned above and the farmstead at Bryn y Gwynt). No parts of the proposed development appear in available views towards Caer Helen however and the development will have no impact on them.

3.3.1.7 Viewpoint 07: View southwest along the trackway from Gwaenfynydd towards the scheduled area (Plate 10; Figure 08)

A modern visitor to the Castellor settlement approaches the site along the trackway from Gwaenfynydd, a route also marked on Prichard's 1867 plan as 'Farm Road' (Figure 06). Hedges and trees line the sides of the trackway at the assessed location and restrict views towards the monument from it; the only part of the scheduled area clearly visible from it is the low lying southeastern corner of the settlement at the western end of the trackway, though glimpses of the higher central part of the scheduled area are occasionally available. The hedges also serve to partially screen views of development Area 3 to the south of the track though it will still be glimpsed from locations along the route. Though the proposed development will not block or obstruct any available views of the monument here, a visitor will be aware of the development in the fields in Area 3 to the south which would negatively impact the sense of approach to the monument.

3.3.1.8 Viewpoint 08: View north-northeast from fields in Area 3 towards the scheduled monument (Plate 11; Figure 08)

Viewpoints on the southern sides of the fields in Area 3 to the immediate south of the scheduled area currently provide the clearest and most comprehensive views of the northern side of the Castellor settlement (see also Plate 01). The east-west aligned panel arrays that will be constructed here will block the currently available ground-level views.

3.3.1.9 Viewpoint 09: View north-northwest from fields in Area 3 towards the scheduled monument (Plate 12; Figure 08)

Viewpoint 9, located on the higher, southeastern side of the field in Area 03 to the northeast of Tai Croesion Newydd, currently offers clear views across the fields in Area 03 and over the river valley to the southern and eastern sides of the Castellor settlement. As with Viewpoint 08, views of the scheduled monument from this location will be blocked by the proposed development's panel arrays once constructed.

3.3.1.10 Viewpoint 10: View northwest from fields in Area 3 towards the scheduled monument (Plate 13; Figure 08)

Views of the scheduled monument from Viewpoint 10, located in the northeastern corner of Area 03, are largely restricted by topography and vegetation along intervening field boundaries. Given that the viewpoint is situated within one of the proposed development's deployment areas, any available glimpsed partial views will be blocked once the arrays are constructed.

3.3.1.11 Viewpoint 11: View southwest from St. Ulched's Church (GAT HER PRN 2525) towards the Castellor scheduled monument (Plate 14; Figure 08)

Views towards the Castellor scheduled monument from Viewpoint 11 at the site of St. Ulched's Church (GAT HER PRN 2525) are obscured by the nature of the local topography; the rising ground in the agricultural field to the southwest forms most of the horizon. The proposed development will not appear in views from this location and will therefore have no impact on views from Viewpoint 11.

**3.3.1.12 Viewpoint 12: View southeast towards Castellor from the Caer Helen Hillfort
(GAT HER PRN 2517) (Plate 15; Figure 08)**

The site of the former Iron Age hillfort at Caer Helen (GAT HER PRN 2517), 1.9km to the northwest of the settlement at Castellor, offers extensive panoramic views across the surrounding low lying, predominately rural, landscape. The northwestern edge of the broadly contemporary Castellor settlement can just be seen in the background of south-east facing views from here. The proposed development will not obscure or block the view from the hillfort towards the settlement. DSM and DTM viewsheds constructed for the hillfort (not included in the figures for this report) indicate that the proposed development will be visible in these views: Area 4 and the northern part of Area 5 will appear in the background of views, to the left of the settlement; Area 3 will appear behind the settlement and slightly to the right. The scale of the available views, the distance of the proposed development from the viewpoint and the screening effect of vegetation along the existing field boundaries suggest that the development will not dominate the views from here however and can be absorbed into the existing panorama with little impact on its key characteristics.

3.3.2 Assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the setting of the Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088)

Area 3 of the proposed development lies immediately to the south and southeast of the Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088). In the short term, the construction phase of the development in Area 03 will create close-range views of construction activity from the southern side of the monument. The works, the presence of construction equipment and the movement of construction vehicles will temporarily introduce prominent and incongruous features into southern and southeastern views from the monument reducing scenic quality and increasing ambient noise levels experienced there.

The DSM and DTM viewsheds suggested that during the operational phase, though partially screened by existing vegetation, the density, scale and proximity of the proposed development over 14ha of fields in Area 3 will dominate the southern side of the monument and disrupt views over, and from, the fields that form Castellor's immediate setting to its south and southeast. Field visits confirmed these findings. The only currently available historic views that the proposed development will disrupt are to features that are located within Area 3: the presumably historically earlier burnt mounds on the eastern side of Area 3 and the route of the undated former paved road to Tai Croesion. The development in Area 4 will only be visible in northeast facing views from more elevated positions on the northern side of the monument, and the visual impact of the development in Area 4 will be further mitigated by distance and the screening effect of existing trees and hedgerows. The views from Castellor to the broadly contemporary Caer Helen Hillfort will not be impacted; views from the hillfort to the settlement are unlikely to be affected to any significant degree.

The Castellor settlement was a late prehistoric agricultural settlement. It sits on the eastern side of a natural wetland with agricultural fields to its immediate north, south and east. The existing built environment within the immediate setting of the monument consists of dispersed farmsteads set within that fieldscape, a landscape that serves as a visual reminder of Castellor's historical landscape context. Modern development is evident in the wider setting, the settlement at Llanfihangel yn Nhowyn is visible across the wetlands 1.7km to the northwest and the hum of vehicles and noise of aircraft are a regular reminder of the proximity of the A55 1.2km to the north and RAF Valley 2km to the southwest.

Whilst modern development in the surrounding landscape is noticeable, the proposed development in Area 3 will bring modern development to the edge of the scheduled area, introducing incongruous elements into the southern parts of its immediate setting, negatively

impacting its previously rural, relatively isolated character and sense of place, and changing the way that the monument is experienced and appreciated.

It should be noted however that the visual changes to the setting of the Castellor Scheduled Monument introduced by the proposed development are reversible: ground disturbance is minimal and the solar panels used have a lifespan of 40 years, after which they can be removed and the land returned to agricultural use.

Once operational, the proposed development will not significantly increase ambient noise levels experienced at the monument; the panels do not generate any noise and staff will only be present to conduct routine inspections/maintenance by light goods vehicle approximately once a month. Nor will it increase ambient light levels in the vicinity of the monument, the CCTV cameras located around the perimeter of the proposed development will use invisible infra-red lighting.

Overall, the impact of the proposed development on the setting of Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088) has been assessed to be **negative**, and the magnitude of this impact **moderate**, as the visibility, density, scale and proximity of the proposed development in Area 3 will result in considerable changes to the setting of the historic asset that significantly modify the setting, affecting the character of the historic asset and negatively impacting its illustrative historical and aesthetic heritage values. The impact on the setting is reversible however and limited in duration by the lifespan of the development, currently estimated at approximately 40 years.

3.3.3 Summary of impacts

The assessed impact of the proposed development on the setting of the potentially affected historic asset is summarised in Table 3.3 below.

Historic Asset	Impact	Magnitude
Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088)	Negative	Moderate

Table 3.3 Summary of the impacts of the proposed development on the potentially affected historic asset

3.4 Stage 4: If necessary, consider options to mitigate or improve the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance

The guidance *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Cadw 2017) states that ‘depending on the level of impact, mitigation measures to reduce the negative impact of the proposals should be considered’ (Cadw 2017, sec 4.4). Current mitigation measures included in the design of the proposed development and relevant to this setting assessment include the retention of existing field boundary vegetation, in the form of native hedgerows and trees, around and within development areas, and the reinstatement of impacted traditional drystone wall field boundaries. The existing vegetation will be managed to an appropriate height to provide visual screening and also to enhance landscape and ecological structure. Such measures lessen the visual impact of the more distant elements of the proposed development in Area 4 on the Castellor Hut Group. They will have little effect on the assessed magnitude of the impact of the proposed development in Area 3 however due to the visibility, density, scale, and close proximity of the development and its impact on the monument’s historically rural and relatively isolated setting. Following the implementation of the currently proposed mitigation measures, the impact of the proposed development on the setting of the Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088) will remain **negative**, and the magnitude of that impact will remain **moderate** as the development will still result in considerable changes to its setting.

The assessed impact of the proposed development on the setting of the potentially affected historic asset taking into account proposed mitigation measures is summarised in Table 3.4 below.

Historic Asset	Impact	Magnitude
Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088)	Negative	Moderate

Table 3.4 Summary of the impact of the proposed development on the potentially affected historic asset in light of proposed mitigation

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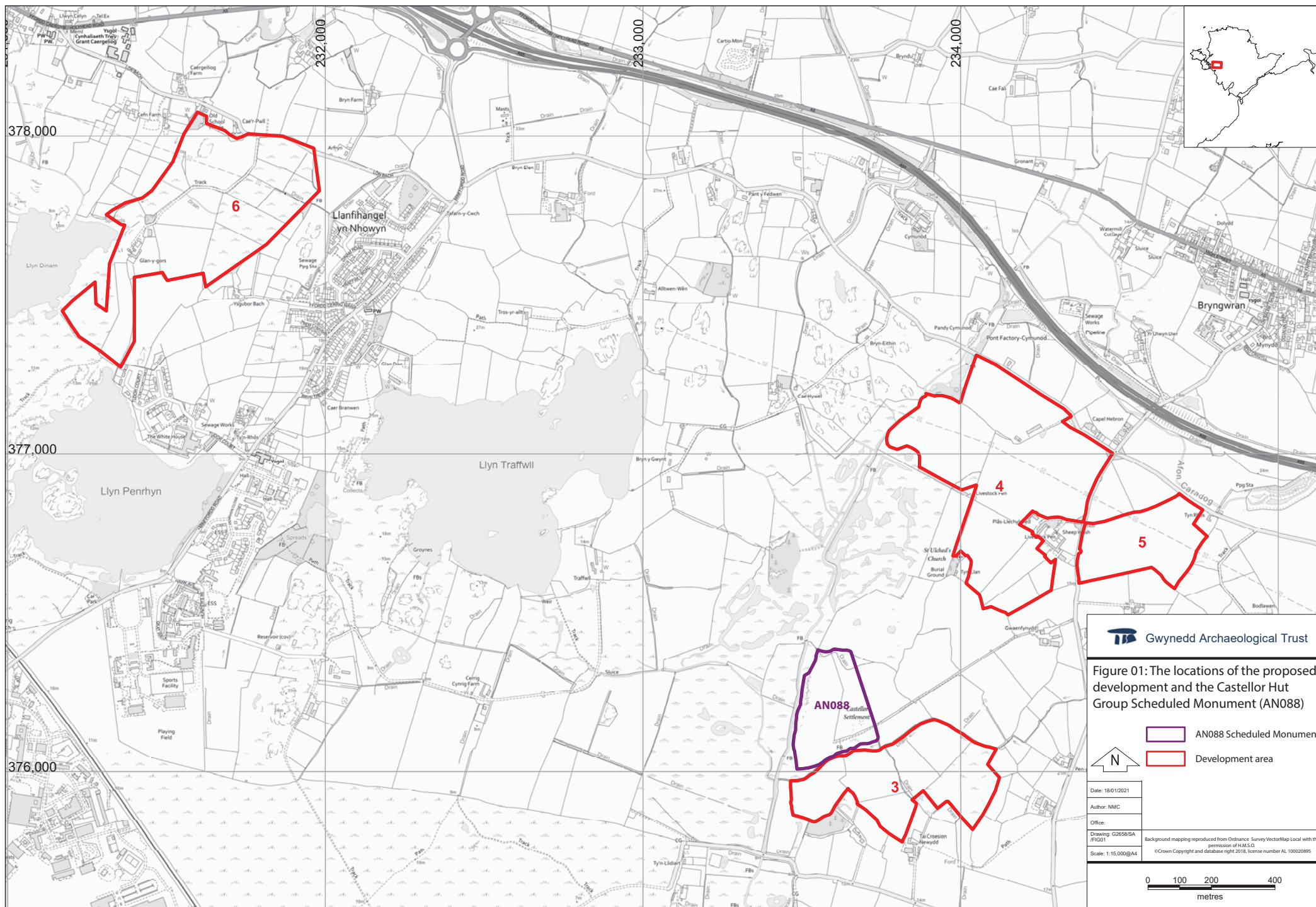
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FIGURES



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Figure 01: The locations of the proposed development and the Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088)

-  AN088 Scheduled Monument
-  Development area



Date: 18/01/2021

Author: NMC

Office:

Drawing: G2658/SA

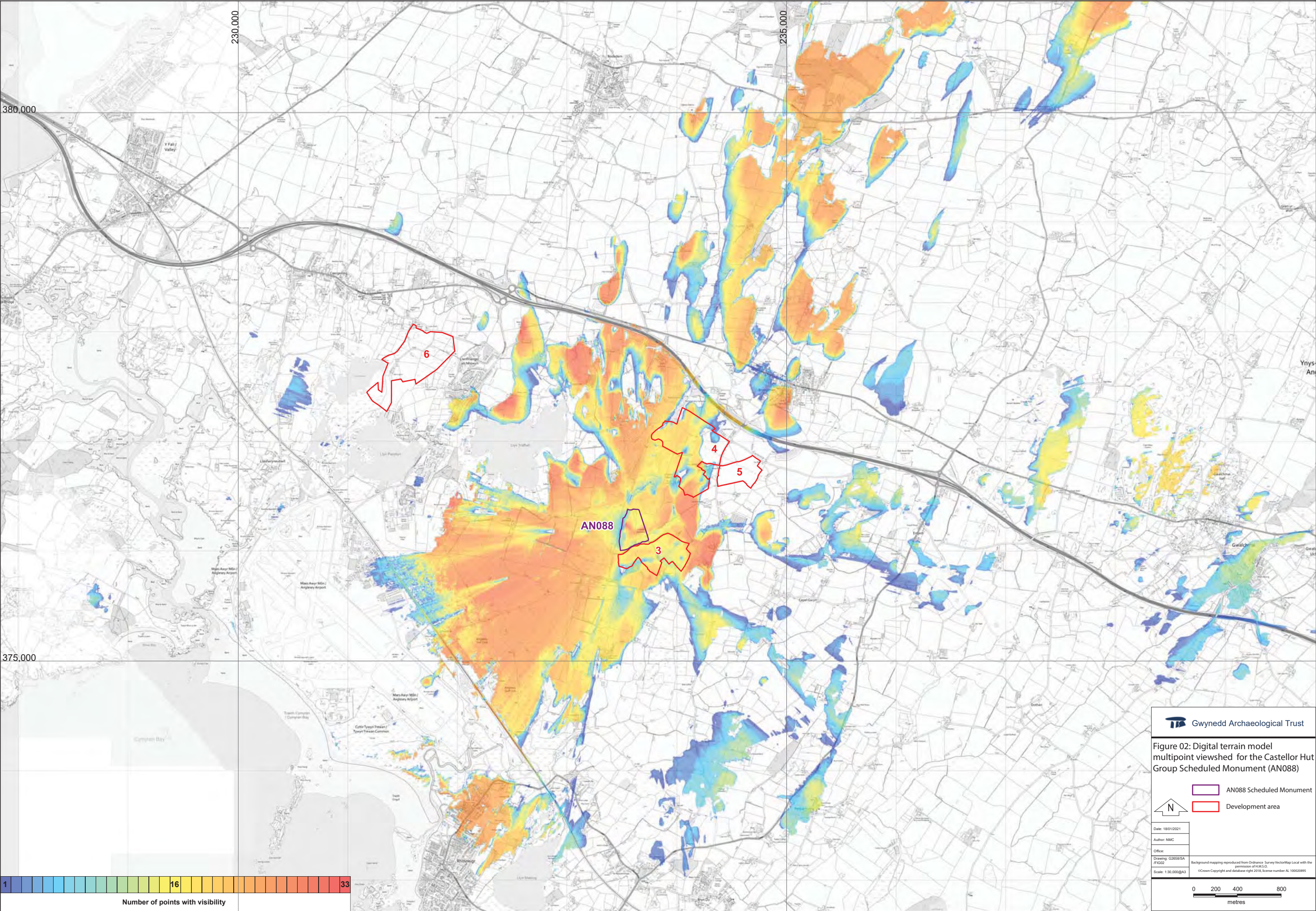
FIG01

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
 Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

Figure 02: Digital terrain model
multipoint viewshed for the Castellor Hut
Group Scheduled Monument (AN088)

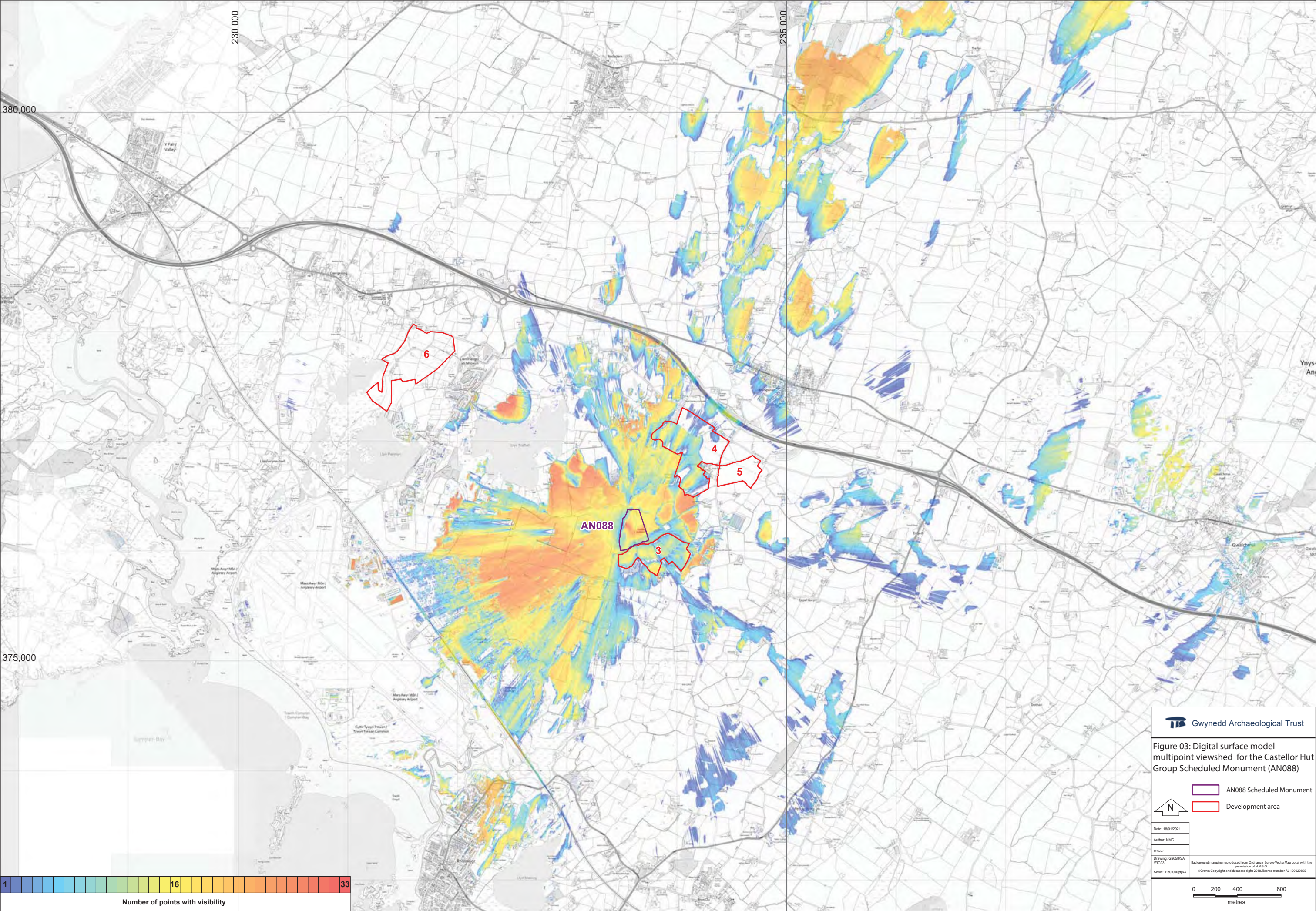
 AN088 Scheduled Monument
 Development area

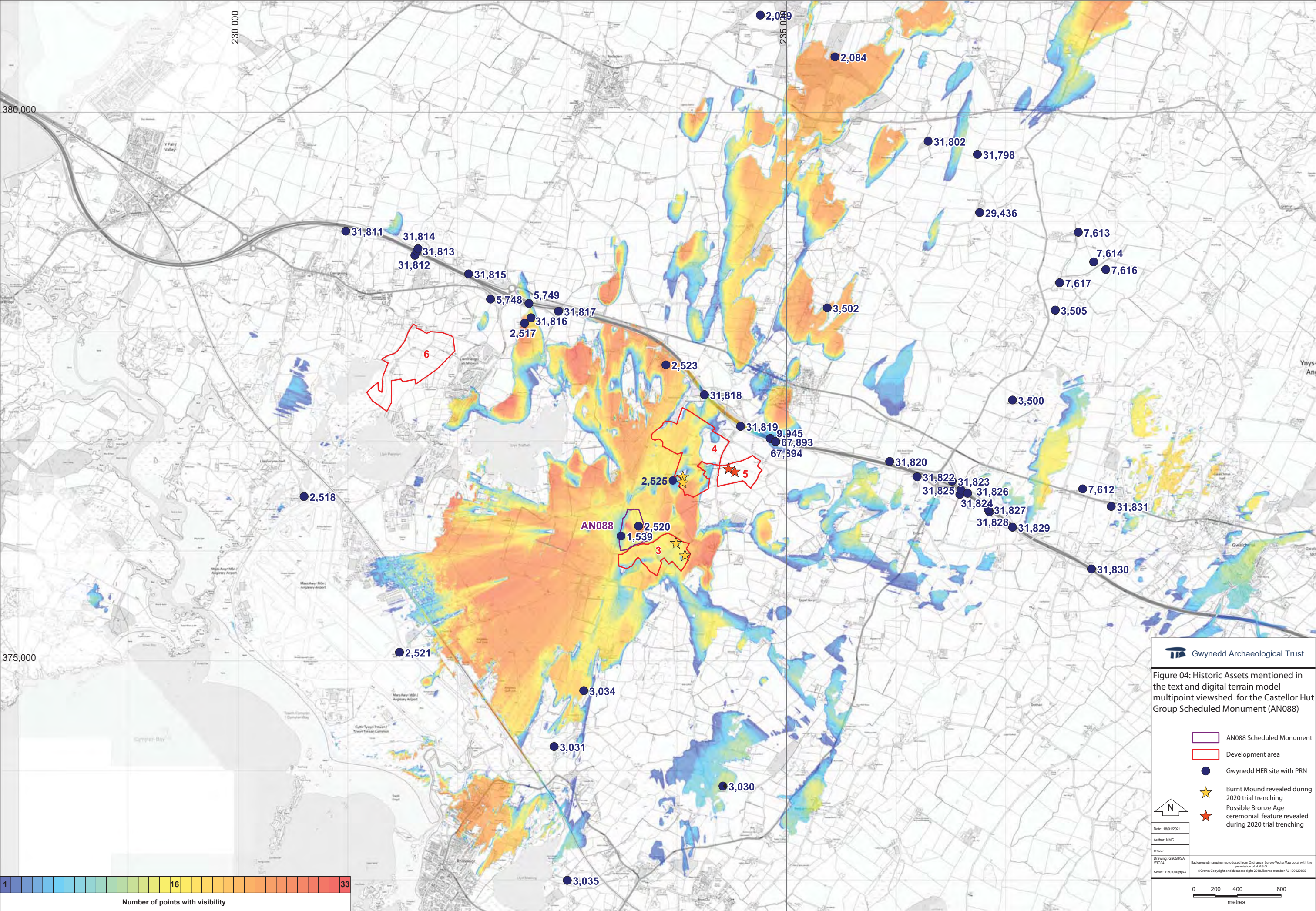


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Author: NMC
Office:
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0 200 400 800
metres





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Figure 04: Historic Assets mentioned in the text and digital terrain model multipoint viewshed for the Castellor Hut Group Scheduled Monument (AN088)

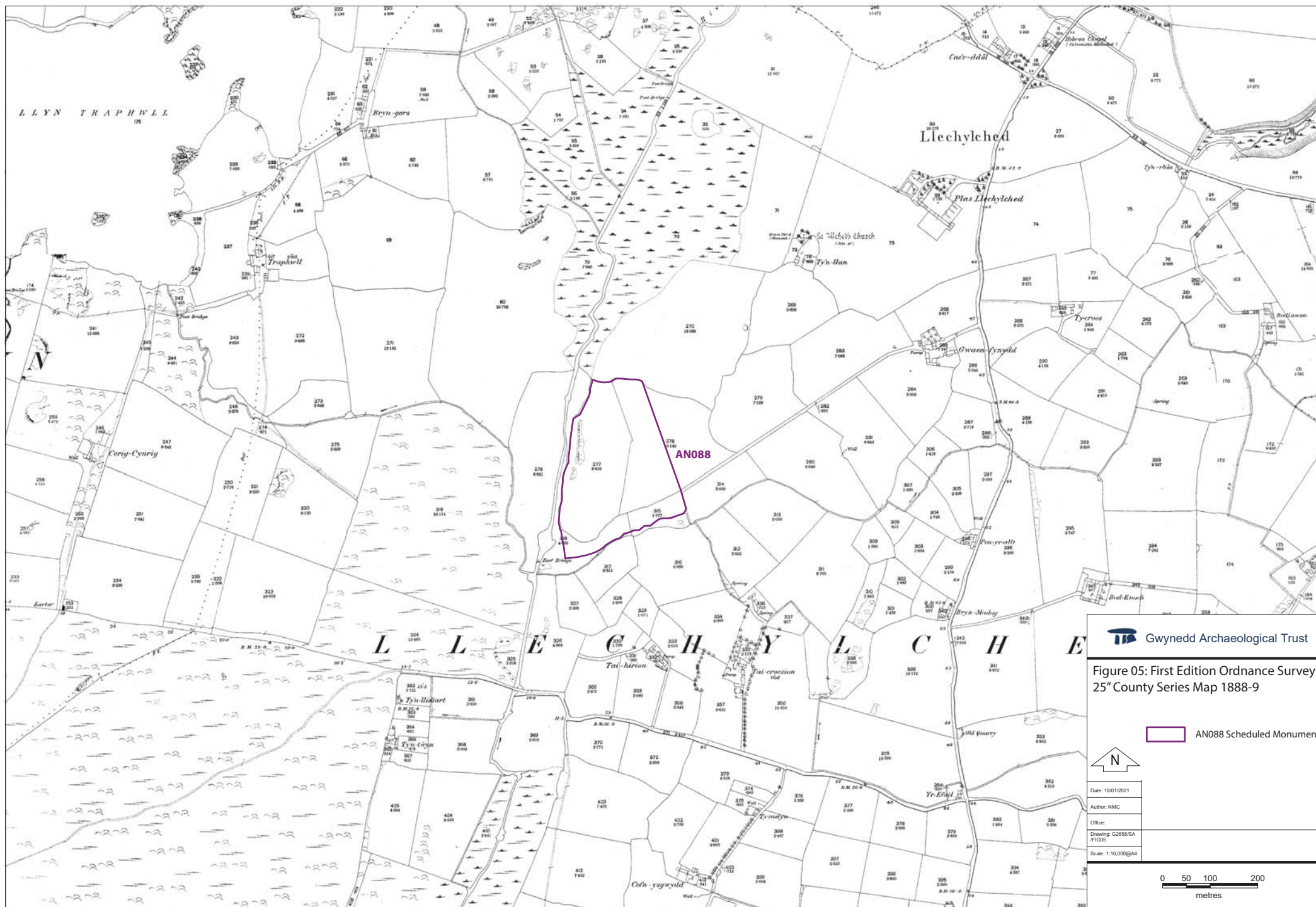
- AN088 Scheduled Monument
- Development area
- Gwynedd HER site with PRN
- Burnt Mound revealed during 2020 trial trenching
- Possible Bronze Age ceremonial feature revealed during 2020 trial trenching

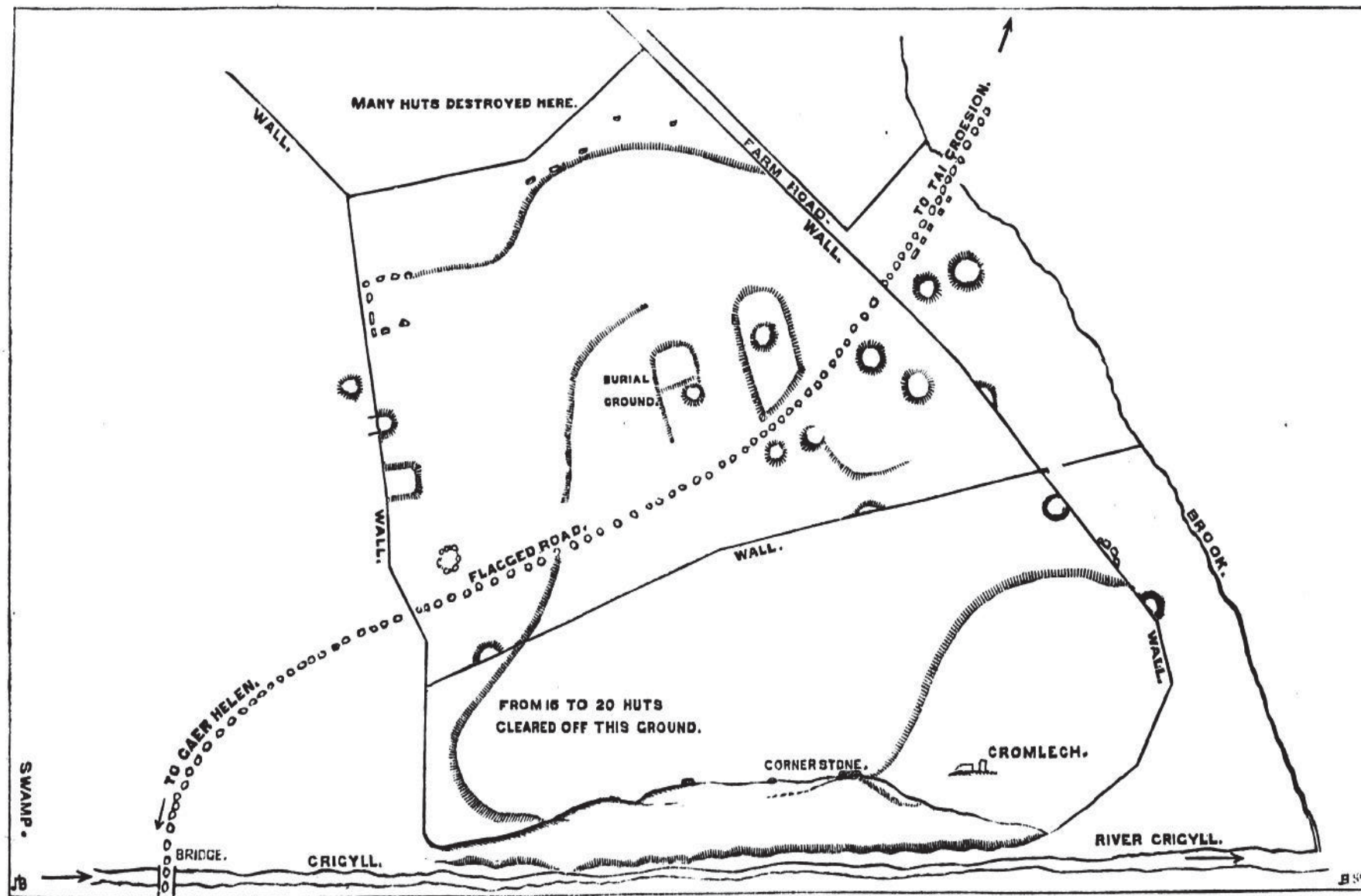


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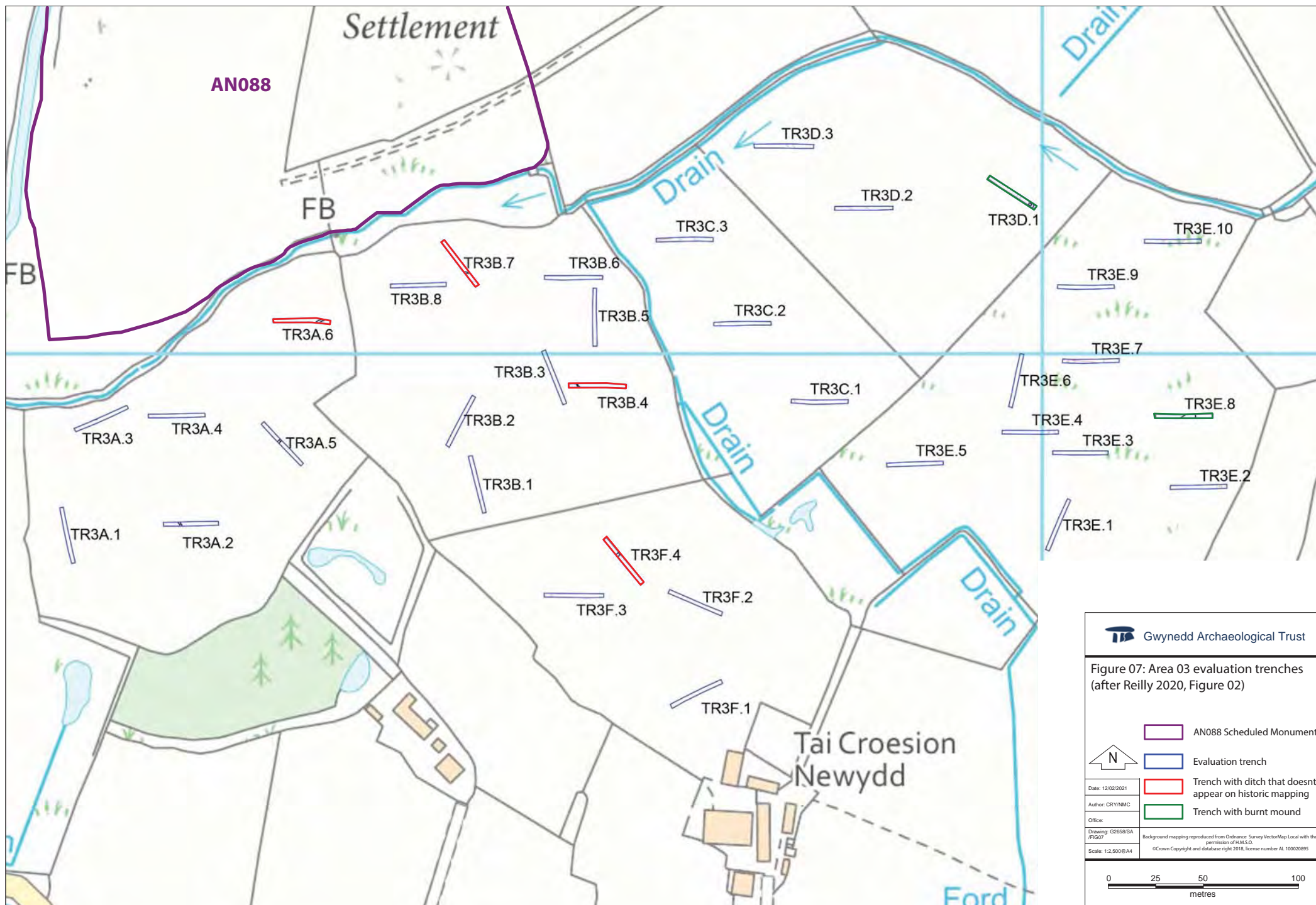
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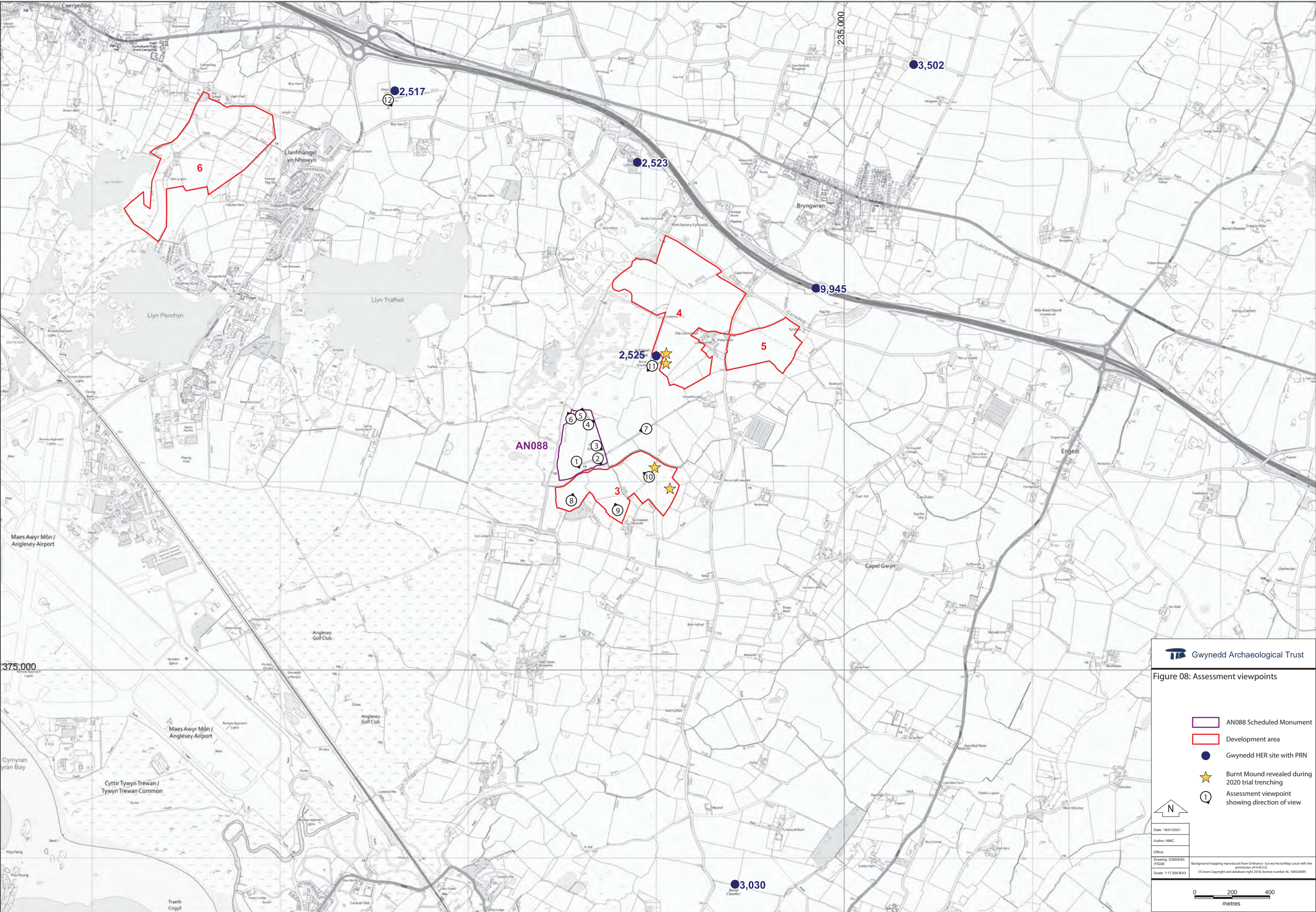
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CASTELLOR ON THE CRIGYLL, AS SURVEYED IN 1867.










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Figure 08: Assessment viewpoints


 AN088 Scheduled Monument

 Development area

 Gwynedd HER site with PRN

 Burnt Mound revealed during 2020 trial trenching

 Assessment viewpoint showing direction of view



Date: 18/01/2021

Author: NMC

Office:

Drawing: G2658/SA /P1028

Scale: 1:17,500 @A3

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200

400

metres

PLATES



Plate 01: Panoramic view of Castellor scheduled monument from the western side of Area 3 to the south, viewed from the south-southwest (archive refs: G2658_SA_030-G2658_SA_032).



Plate 02: Roundhouse remains in the northeast corner of the Castellor scheduled area , viewed from the west (archive ref: G2658_SA_017).



Plate 03: View over marshland from the western side of the Castellor scheduled area, viewed from the southeast (archive ref: G2658_SA_028).



Plate 04: Viewpoint 1, view south-southeast over the fieldscape from the Castellor scheduled area towards the Ty Newydd Burial Chamber (GAT HER PRN 3030), viewed from the north-northwest (archive ref: G2658_SA_001).



Plate 05: Viewpoint 2, view southeast from the southeastern corner of the Castellor scheduled area along the route of the former paved road towards Tai Croesion, viewed from the northwest (archive ref: G2658_SA_039).



Plate 06: Viewpoint 3, view southeast from the Castellor scheduled area towards the burnt mounds in Area 3, viewed from the northwest (archive ref: G2658_SA_022).



Plate 07: Viewpoint 4, view northeast from the Castellor scheduled area to the burnt mounds in Area 4, the former hut circle settlement at Melin y Plas (GAT HER PRN 9945) and the possible chambered tomb at Bryngwran (GAT HER PRN 3502), viewed from the southwest (archive ref: G2658_SA_013).



Plate 08: Viewpoint 5, view north-northeast from the Castellor scheduled area to the location of the Urn Burial (GAT HER PRN 2523), viewed from the south-southwest (archive ref: G2658_SA_009).



Plate 09: Viewpoint 6, view northwest from the Castellor scheduled area towards the Caer Helen Hillfort (GAT HER PRN 2517), viewed from the southeast (archive ref: G2658_SA_005).



Plate 10: Viewpoint 7, view west-southwest along the trackway from Gwaenfynydd towards the Castellor scheduled area, viewed from the east-northeast (archive ref: G2658_SA_043).



Plate 11: Viewpoint 8, view north-northeast from fields in Area 3 towards the Castellor scheduled monument, viewed from the south-southwest (archive ref: G2658_SA_029).



Plate 12: Viewpoint 9, view north-northwest from fields in Area 3 towards the Castellor scheduled monument, viewed from the south-southeast (archive ref: G2658_SA_049).



Plate 13: Viewpoint 10, view northwest from fields in Area 3 towards the Castellor scheduled monument, viewed from the southeast (archive ref: G2658_SA_033).



Plate 14: Viewpoint 11, view southwest from St. Ulched's Church (GAT HER PRN 2525) towards the Castellor scheduled monument, viewed from the northeast (archive ref: G2658_SA_045).



Plate 15: Viewpoint 12, view southeast towards Castellor from the Caer Helen Hillfort (GAT HER PRN 2517), viewed from the northwest (Castellor location indicated by red arrow) (archive ref: G2658_SA_050).



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