

Ffos y Castell, Caernarfon / Castle Ditch, Caernarfon

Briff Gwyllo Archeolegol /
Archaeological Watching Brief



Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

Ffos y Castell, Caernarfon / Castle Ditch, Caernarfon

Briff Gwyllo Archeolegol / Archaeological Watching Brief

Yr Amgylchedd Hanesyddol yn Cofnodi Prif Gyfeirnod /
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Ysgrifenydd gan / Written by: Jessie Baumgardner & Carolina Ferreira




Delwedd clawr blaen: Golwg cyn cychwyn ar waith daear ar gyfer cysylltiad cebl trydanol ag adeilad Gray Thomas (G2775_001) /
Front Cover image: Pre-commencement view of groundworks for electrical cable connection to Gray Thomas building (G2775_001)

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CRYNHODEB ANHECHNEGOL

Comisiynwyd Ymddiriedolaeth Archeolegol Gwynedd gan SP Energy Networks – Ardal Gogledd Cymru i ymgymryd â briff gwyllo y tu allan i eiddo yn 9 i 11 Castle Ditch, Caernarfon yn ystod gwaith ar gyfer cynllun uniad cebl. Lleolwyd ardal y gweithfeydd gyferbyn â Safle Treftadaeth y Byd Castell Caernarfon ac o fewn ardal gadwraeth Tref Caernarfon ac roeddent uwchben islawr a oedd yn ymestyn o dan y palmant. Roedd gweithgarwch archeolegol yn gyfyngedig yn bennaf i ddyddodion tir modern a wnaed ac aflonyddu, sy'n gysylltiedig â'r palmant, y ffordd a'r llwybr cebl presennol. Ni chafodd unrhyw arteffactau eu hadfer, ac ni amharwyd ar yr islawr. Roedd yr islawr yn cynnwys dau le tân, popty ystod a grisiau carreg wedi darfod yn ogystal â waliau cerrig wedi'u rendro a'u hamlygu .

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust was commissioned by SP Energy Networks – North Wales District to undertake a watching brief outside a property at 9 to 11 Castle Ditch, Caernarfon during works for a cable jointing scheme. The works area was located opposite the World Heritage Site of Caernarfon Castle and within the conservation area of Caernarfon Town and were above a basement that extended under the pavement. Archaeological activity was mostly limited to modern made and disturbed ground deposits, associated with the pavement, road and existing cable route. No artefacts were recovered, and the basement was not disturbed. The basement included two fireplaces, a range cooker and a defunct stone staircase as well as rendered and exposed stone walls.

1 INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) was commissioned by *SP Energy Networks – North Wales District* (SPEN) to undertake a watching brief at 9 to 11 Castle Ditch, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, (NGR SH 47819 62719; post code LL55 2AU; Figure 01). The groundworks consisted of exposing two existing underground low voltage electric cables to disconnect and another track in the middle to connect a larger electric cable and were located immediately adjacent to the World Heritage Site of Caernarfon Castle and within the conservation area of Caernarfon Town (cf. Figure 02).

The watching brief was undertaken between the 9th May and 26th June 2023. The watching brief was monitored by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service and undertaken in accordance with an approved written scheme of investigation ([Appendix I](#)). In line with the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) requirements, the HER was contacted at the onset of the project to ensure that any data arising was formatted in a manner suitable for accession; the HER Event Primary Reference Number for this project was 46614. The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the following guidance:

- Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) Version 2 (The Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2022);
- Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020);
- Standard and Guidance for The Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020);
- Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991);
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide (Historic England, 2015); and
- Guidelines for digital archives (Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales, 2015).

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.

1.1 Aims and Objectives

The key aims and objectives are to:

- establish the date and nature of any archaeological remains identified and assess their implications for understanding the historical development of Caernarfon in conjunction with the known archaeological record for the local area;
- to place the results in context (if applicable), with reference made to *A Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales Version 03, Final Refresh Document* (March 2017); and
- if no additional archaeological activity is identified, establish why this may be the case.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Caernarfon is a royal town in Gwynedd, northwest Wales and is the traditional county town of the historic county of Caernarfonshire. It is situated on the southern shore of the Menai Strait, opposite Ynys Môn.

The earliest period of occupation within the town was the Roman fort of Segontium (NPRN 93511). It was founded along with a series of other forts and road network with the conquest of Wales by the governor of Britannia, Cnaeus Julius Agricola in AD 77. Archaeological excavations have shown that the fort was occupied until about AD 394 and was the subject of repeated rebuilding from AD 140. It accommodated a regiment of auxiliary infantry of up to 1,000 soldiers.

In the medieval period, Caernarfon was a Welsh town with a port and court (PRN 5042) of Gwynedd. This settlement made way for Edward I's royal borough, which included the medieval town of Caernarfon (NPRN 33011), which was enclosed by town walls (NPRN 93527) and dominated by the Caernarfon Castle (NPRN 95318). The town and castle were built following the English conquest of Gwynedd in the late 13th century. Construction commenced on the town walls and castle in 1283. The first phase of the town walls were completed by 1285, being of rubble-stone construction. The wall comprises two gatehouses and eight round towers and has survived almost to its original full extent.

The site of Caernarfon Castle was already occupied by a motte and bailey castle, most likely built by Hugh of Avranches around 1090 as part of the Norman invasion of Wales. Construction of the Edwardian castle started in 1283 and was still incomplete by about 1330 when major work ended. The banded stone towers of the castle were stylised to replicate the walls of Constantinople. The site is long and narrow consisting of seven great polygonal towers, two turrets and two great twin towered gates, all joined by massive curtain walls tracing a rough figure of eight. The castle is divided into an upper and a lower ward, with the Great Hall and kitchens built against the inner face of the curtain wall. Accommodation was provided within the gatehouses and towers. Although Edward II was born at Caernarfon, and it remained the official capital of north Wales, it was never used as a base for a ruling Prince of Wales and its political importance diminished. It remained garrisoned, however, and withstood two sieges during the Glyndwr rebellion in the 15th century. It was again held by the Royalists during the Civil War, this time withstanding three separate sieges. The castle was abandoned following the Civil War being extensively refurbished and restored from the mid-19th century.

At the location of the groundworks and watching brief, No. 9-10, and No. 11 Castle Ditch (PRN 80282 & 80283, respectively) are Grade II listed, early 19th century 3 storey terrace houses with a large slate roof.

The character of Caernarfon remained rural until the 19th century prime location in proximity to the slate quarries of north Wales contributed to the development of its harbour. Slate Quay (NPRN 34153), Caernarfon was constructed along the northern bank of the Afon Seiont during the early 19th century. It was the port of shipment of slates from the Dyffryn Nantlle quarries. Access from the quarries to the harbour was better facilitated by the construction of the 3'6" gauge Nantlle Railway in 1828 and this was replaced by standard gauge rails in 1871.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive (CIfA, 2020).

As detailed on the SPEN scheme drawing (Figure 01), the works were located at NGR SH47826270 and comprised labour works and jointing works; GAT was only present for the former, which were completed for SPEN by *O'Connor Utilities Ltd* (OCU). The labour works were designated Locations 1, 2 and 3, between properties 9 and 11 Castle Ditch Road. Location 1 comprised a joint bay within Castle Ditch Road, Location 2 a cablehead within the building and Location 3 was along existing power line between two jointing bays. The watching brief monitored the following groundworks (with reference to Figure 01):

- Location 1 to Location 2 – excavate, backfill and reinstate 3m track in modular footpath. Install 6m of 35mm (3) CNE service cable through customer installed duct to service position. This was designated Trench A by GAT.
- Location 1 and Location 3 – excavate, backfill and reinstate joint bay in modular footpath. This was designated Trench B by GAT

The labour works and watching brief were undertaken on the 9th of May 2023 and the 23rd of June 2023.

3.2 Fieldwork Methodology

All attendances and photographs were recorded using GAT pro-formas and included stratigraphic composition and depth. Photographic images were taken using a digital SLR (Nikon D3100) camera set to maximum resolution (4,608 x 3,072) in RAW format and archived in TIFF format using Adobe Photoshop. A total of thirty-six photographic images were taken (archive reference numbers G2775_01 to G2775_36; cf. [Appendix II](#) for the photographic metadata).

3.3 Data Management Plan

The fieldwork data has been used as the basis for the physical and digital dataset archives and used to compile the project report. The physical archive has been stored in a designated project folder and the location confirmed in the Trust project database; the digital dataset has been stored on a dedicated Trust server, with the location confirmed in the Trust project database via a specific hyperlink. There is no de-selected digital data.

External datasets for the regional HER and RCAHMW are as follows:

- HER: digital report (PDF format) and Event PRN summary (Microsoft Excel format); the report and dataset have been prepared in accordance with the required standards set out in *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)* (Version 2); and
- RCAHMW: a digital report (PDF format) and digital archive dataset have been prepared in accordance with the *RCAHMW Guidelines for Digital Archives Version 1*. The dataset includes:
 - Photographic metadata (Microsoft Access);
 - Photographic archive (TIFF format);
 - Project Information form (Microsoft Excel);
 - File Information form (Microsoft Excel) – Microsoft Word report text final;
 - File Information form (Microsoft Excel) – Photographic metadata (general);
 - File Information form (Microsoft Excel) – Adobe PDF report final; and
 - File Information form (Microsoft Excel) - Photographic metadata (detail).

3.4 Selection Strategy

As defined in *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer, and deposition of archaeological archives* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020) section 3.3.1, a project specific selection strategy and data management plan should be prepared. In support of this, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist (CIfA), have stated that it is “widely accepted that not all the records and materials collected or created during the course of an Archaeological Project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials constitute the Working Project Archive which will be subject to Selection, in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation”. The aim of selection is to ensure that all the elements retained from the Working Project Archive for inclusion in the Archaeological Archive are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support “future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities”. Selection should be “focused on selecting what is to be retained to support these future needs, rather than deciding what can be dispersed” and can be qualified by a selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, agreed by all parties (including client and/or landowner), which will be applied to a Working Project Archive prior to its transfer into curatorial care as the Archaeological Archive.

The selection strategy has taken into account:

- The aims and objectives of the project.
- The brief and/or Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)).
- The Collecting Institution’s collection policy and/or deposition guidelines.
- Local and regional research frameworks.
- Relevant thematic or period specific research frameworks.
- The project’s Data Management Plan (DMP).
- Internal recording and reporting policies.
- Material-specific guidance documents.

The project specific selection strategy is reproduced as [Appendix III](#).

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction-

An initial site visit was undertaken on May 9th 2023, with GAT present along with SPEN and OCU representatives where it was decided that work should be postponed until June 23rd. Pre-commencement photographs of the labour work area (Locations 1 to 3) were taken by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (cf. Plates 1 to 3), and the cellar for Nos. 9 to 11 that continued beneath the footpath (cf. Figure 03) was inspected. , where it was observed that the cellar may be impacted by the labour works. It was agreed by SPEN and OCU to postpone work until a decision was reached as to a more suitable approach.

It was agreed to locate the excavation where the cellar was expected to be lower and where the cable could be bent it up into the property without impacting the cellar.

The labour work comprised two trenches, which excavated by hand and with a small machine excavator fitted with a 6-inch toothless bucket. Trench A ran perpendicular to the pavement, between two property doors, whilst Trench B ran perpendicular to Trench A and parallel to the road.

Each individual context was given a unique identifying number. Context numbers within round brackets (e.g. (01)) represent layers, deposits, and fills.

4.2 Trench A

Size:

2.92m long x 0.62m wide x 0.45m deep

Description:

Trench A was located across the pavement that ran outside the front elevation of Nos. 9 to 11 Castle Ditch (cf. Figure 03). The aim of the trench was to install a jointing cable between the existing powerline in the road and the property. The outline of the trench was demarcated by OCU using yellow spray paint; a disc cutting saw was then used to loosen the joints between the paving slabs (cf. Plate 4) and a hand shovel to remove the concrete slabs which were then placed over to the side (cf. Plate 5). The trench was then dug to the limit of excavation using a machine excavator (cf. Plates 6 to 9).

Beneath the paving was a fill of pinkish-grey gritty material (01) that was likely a levelling layer for the slabs; this was followed by a layer of yellowish-brown silty sand (02) with occasional small stones and brick fragments at approximately 160 mm depth to 450 mm (limit of excavation). At the northern end of the trench, against the building, was a black deposit (03) with brick debris that may have been association with structural foundations.

No artefacts were recovered.

4.3 Trench B

Size:

1.93m long x 1.26m wide x 1.10m deep

Description:

Trench B was situated on the road adjacent to the pavement and opposite Trench A (cf. Figure 03). The outline of the trench was demarcated by OCU using yellow spray paint; a disc cutting saw was then used to score the outline of the trench, with a machine excavator fitted with a hydraulic pecker used to break through the tarmac (depth: 0.10m; Context 04; cf. Plate 10); a 6-inch toothless bucket was then used to excavate down to the required depth of 1.10 m.

Below the tarmac was a 0.10m thick made ground deposit of greyish brown gritty silty sand with small frequent angular stones (05), followed by a thick made ground deposit (06) of yellowish-brown sand, similar to (02) in Trench A, with inclusions of cobbles, fragments of brick, small pebbles and pieces of slate; the electric cable was found within this deposit, which continued to the limit of excavation (cf. Plates 10 & 11).

No artefacts were recovered.

4.4 Basement

The basement of Nos. 9 to 11 Castle Ditch was visited and recorded by GAT due to the possibility that access was required into the basement as part of the scheme. As detailed in Figure 03, the basement extended beyond the front of the building underneath the pavement. (cf. Plates 12 to 15).

The basement was observed in a dilapidated state: several ceiling panels were falling off, the paint on the walls was peeling, and there was equipment and rubbish scattered around the floor; much of the original rendering on the stone walls is exposed.

There was a small fireplace located in the east facing elevation that measured 0.90m high and 1.0m across; it was made of cast iron, set within a brown tile backing with a possible stone border. The decorated grate was dislodged, leaning against the front of the fireplace. The fireplace was at the bottom of modern wooden stairs that were the current entrance into the basement.

There was a large cast iron range in the west facing elevation set within a green lintelled inglenook. There was a shelf on top of the lintel and a detached Belfast sink and iron bathtub in front of the range.

The original stairs leading to the ground level were non-functional, terminating at a wooden floor. There is also a boarded-up nine-panelled sash window painted yellow.

The basement was not disturbed by the labour works.

5 CONCLUSION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust was commissioned by *SP Energy Networks – North Wales District* to undertake a watching brief at 9 to 11 Castle Ditch, Caernarfon during works for a cable jointing scheme. The works area was located opposite the World Heritage Site of Caernarfon Castle and within the conservation area of Caernarfon Town and included two trenches outside 9 to 11 Castle Ditch, with one within the road along the existing cable route and one leading from this across the pavement to the property. The property included a basement that extended under the pavement and there was a possibility that it would be exposed during the works along with other structural and archaeological activity. The trenching did not affect the basement and archaeological activity was mostly limited to made and disturbed ground deposits, associated with the pavement, road and existing cable route; a deposit close to the property foundation may have been associated with structural activity but the trench was too confined to examine further. No artefacts were recovered.

The basement was visited during works and a photographic record completed. The basement contained a cast iron fireplace, an inglenook fireplace with a range cooker and sundry items including a metal bathtub; both a defunct stone staircase and a modern wooden staircase were visible, along with a sash window, wooden wall panelling and partitions, as well as rendered and exposed stone walls.

The results confirmed that the targeted areas were characterised by modern deposits and disturbance from the existing cabling, pavement and road surface.

6 SOURCES CONSULTED

1. A Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales, Current Research Framework Documents 2017 (<https://archaeoleg.org.uk/documents2017.html>).
2. Brunning, R and Watson, J 2010, Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the Recording, Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood (3rd edition).
3. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief.
4. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020, Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer, and deposition of archaeological archives.
5. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020, Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains.
6. English Heritage, 1991, Management of Archaeological Projects.
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9. Historic England, 2012, Waterlogged Organic Artefacts Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation.
10. Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales, 2015, Guidelines for digital archives.
11. The Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2020, Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) Version 2.
12. Watkinson, D and Neal, V, 2001, First aid for finds (3rd edition).

TN-C-S EARTHING

PRE VET REQUIRED

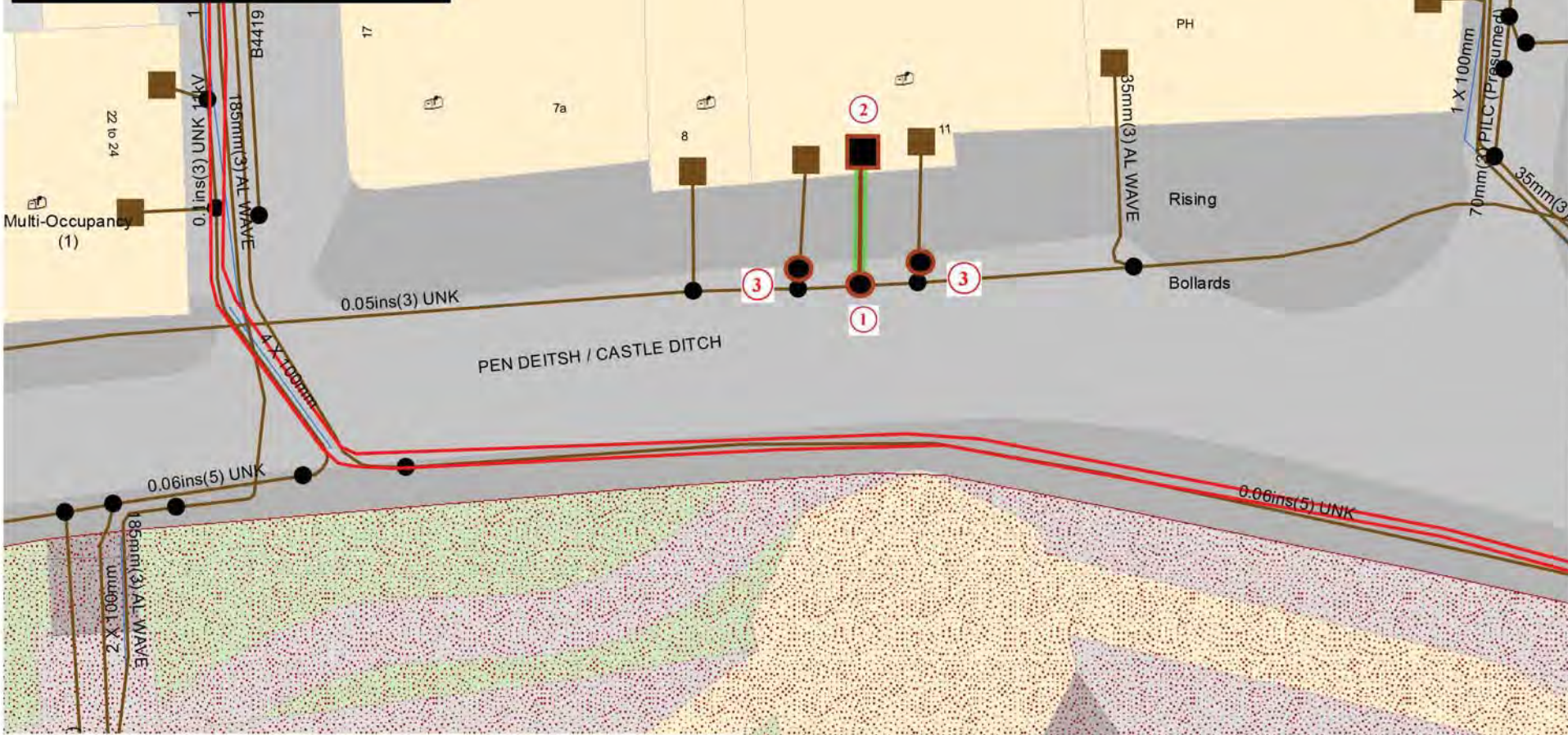
DESKTOP ASSESSMENT

SITE VISIT
CARRIED OUT

SPEN EXCAVATION

247827 / 362709

NETWORK CHECK
CARRIED OUT



Key

SP Excavations

LV Underground Cable

LV Overhead Cable

HV Underground Cable

HV Overhead Cable

SP Installed Ducting

SP Jointing Work

SP Cablehead

617705220 - Domestic Conversion - 9-11, Castle Ditch, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 2AU

Customer Works

- Provide continual and uninterrupted access.
- Ensure you have arranged for a meter to be installed by an Energy Supplier
- Ensure you have an approved Electrician to connect your supply, when required.
- Provide and install a suitable fireproof backboard (excludes MDF). (3ph 700x700mm). The backboard should be 12mm thick and be wooden material
- Install a 100mm red electrical duct from new meter position at approx 450mm below finished ground level to outwith building line adj to existing service cable position (in one continuous length)

SPEN Labour Works:

Location 1 and Location 3:

Excavate, backfill and reinstate jointbay in modular footpath.

Location 1 to Location 2:

Excavate, backfill and reinstate 3m track in modular footpath.
Install 6m of 35mm (3) CNE service cable through Customer installed duct to service position.

SPEN Jointing Works:

Location 2:

Supply and Install 100A Three phase Cablehead.
Reposition existing meter to Location 2.

Location 1:

Make off LV Service Breech Joint onto 0.05ins (3) UNK cable.

Location 3:

Make off 2 x pot ends of existing single phase service cables.

Complete and return a cable record update.

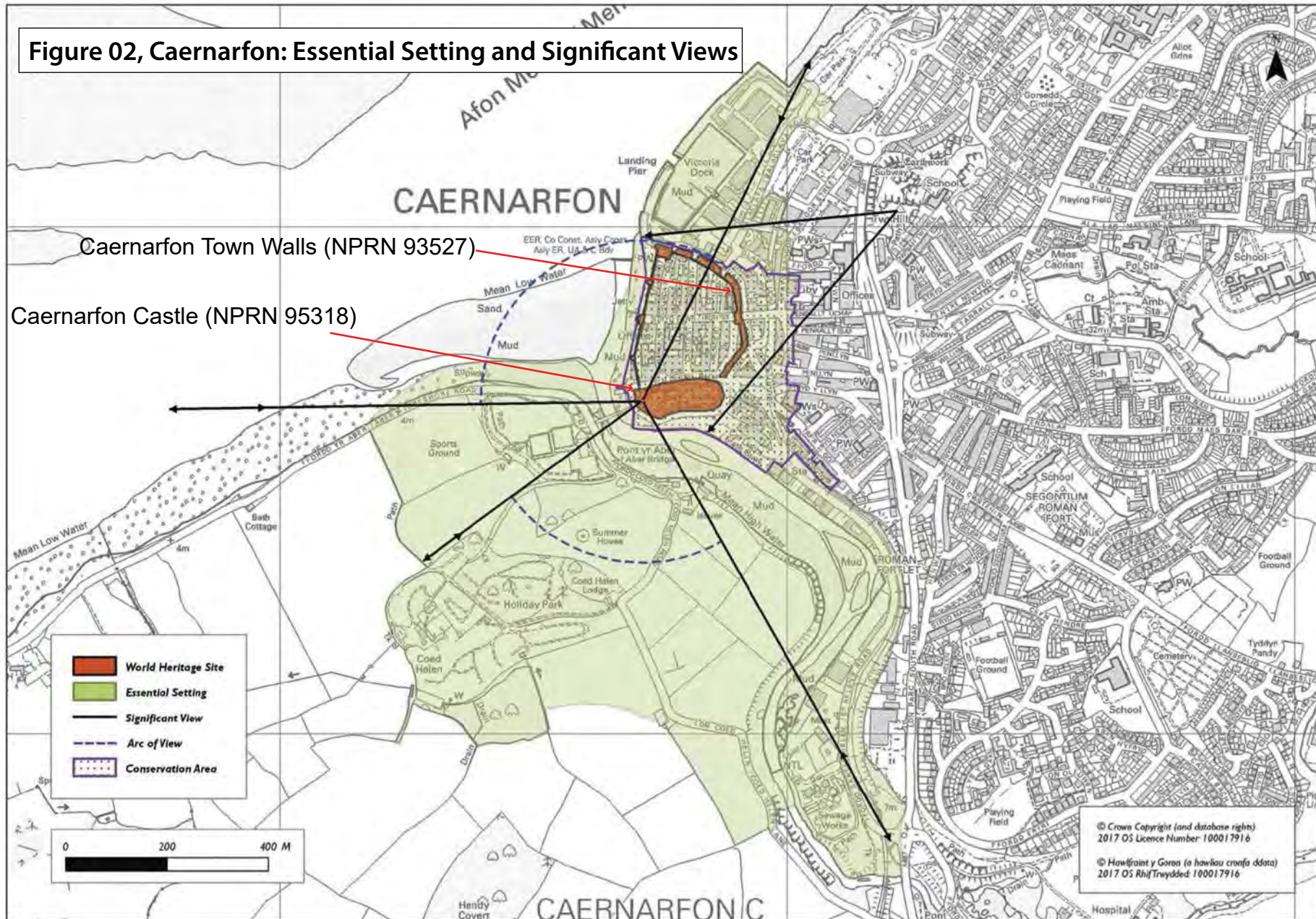
Notes : After payment you will be contacted by a Delivery Coordinator to discuss time scales and any requirements. At this stage a site visit can be arranged to discuss works, This supply position is not to scale and can be altered to suit the project



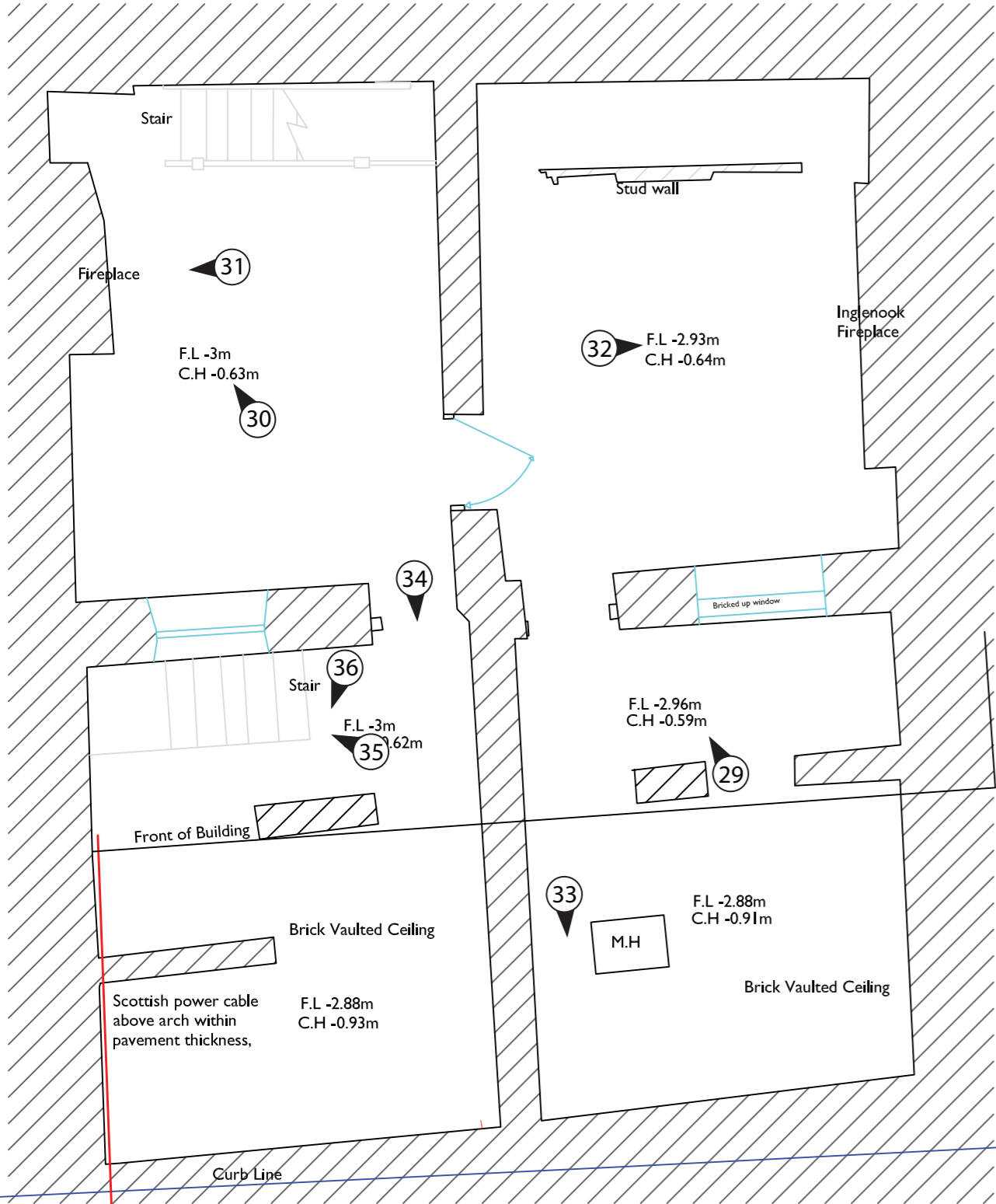
Information about apparatus given on this drawing is indicative only as the original depths and lines of cables and pipes may have been changed by persons unknown. Normally electricity cables are laid in trenches between 450mm and 1m deep, but cellars or structures such as bridges may prevent cables and pipes being laid at these standard depths. Also, the depth may be above or below the standard due to regrading of the surface or other work after the cables are laid. Where known, non-standard depths are indicated. Any interference with, or damage to, ScottishPower apparatus may result in serious accident. Health and Safety Executive booklet HSG47 provides information on the avoidance of danger from underground services. Authorities and contractors will be held liable both for the full cost of repairs to ScottishPower apparatus and all claims made against ScottishPower by Third parties as a result of interference or damage. In the event of an emergency or should you require further assistance contact 0800-092-9290 (ScottishPower area) or 0800-001-5400 (SP Manweb area).
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Scale: 1 : 250
Date: 09/12/2021
Produced by: Lucy Carberry
Produced for: Eleri Gray Thomas
X Coord: 247,843 Y Coord: 362,714

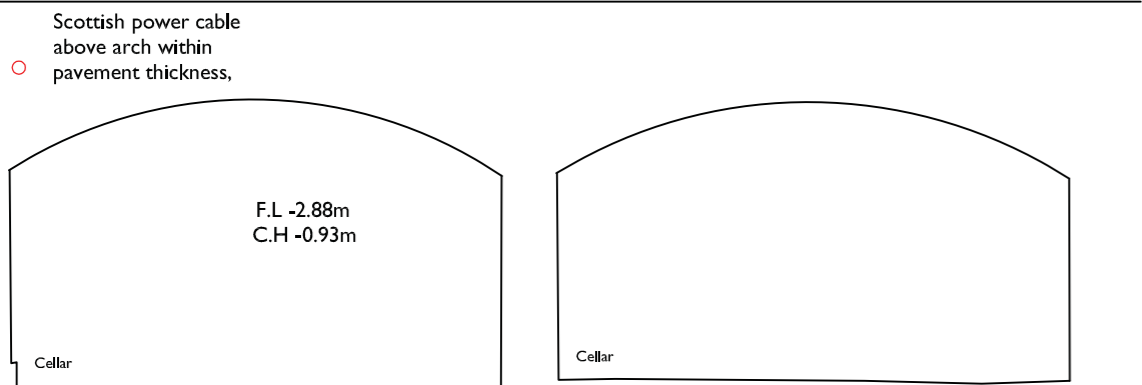
Figure 02, Caernarfon: Essential Setting and Significant Views



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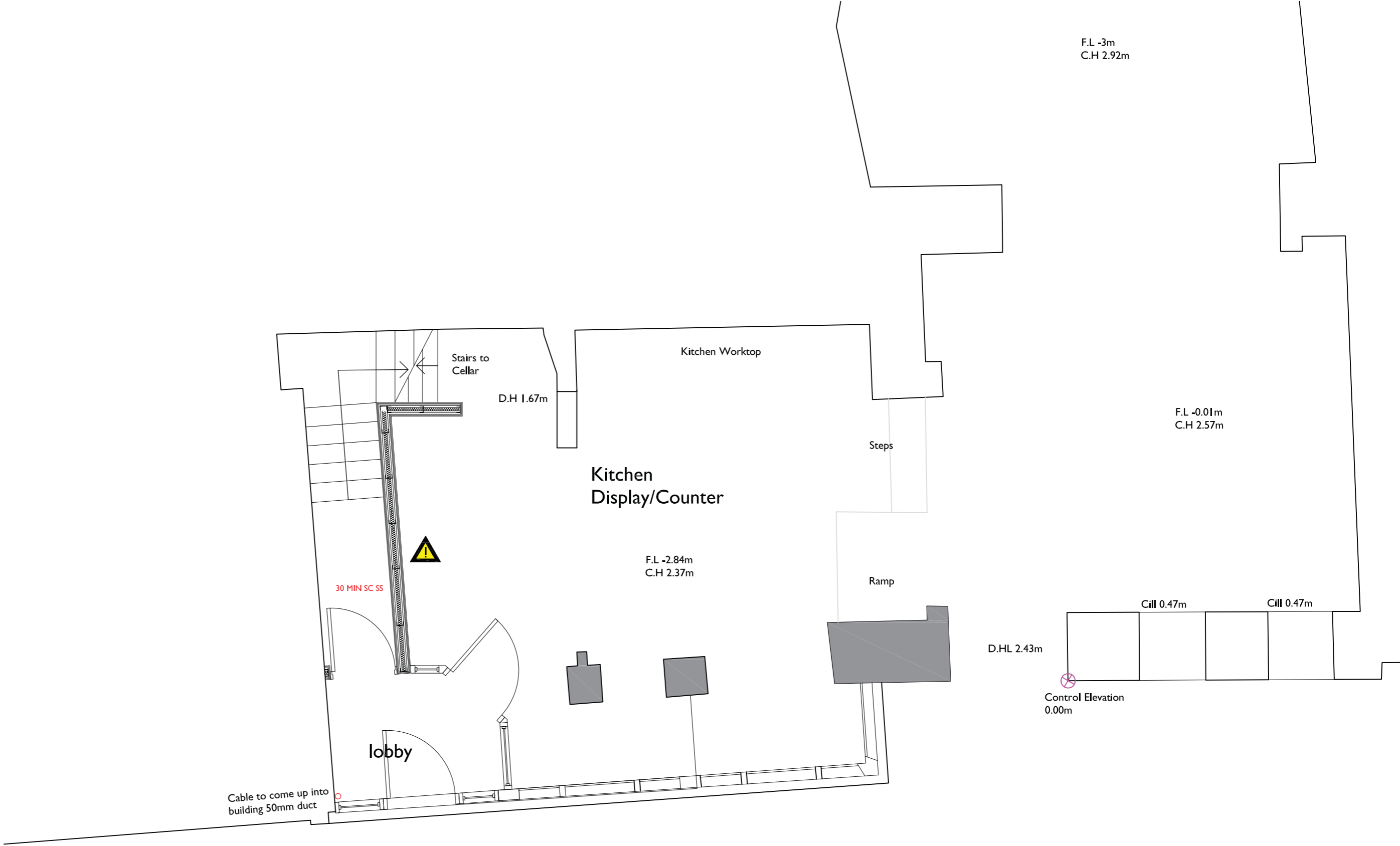
BASEMENT PLAN



BASEMENT SECTION

Front of Building

Curb Line



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

KEY

Use to warn of significant design hazards and site risks

Use to avoid or prevent a particular risk.

Use to encourage a particular action

Use to convey some relevant CDM information

- SD - SMOKE DETECTOR
- HD - HEAT DETECTOR
- CO - CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR

Peidiwch a chymryd mesurïadau graddfa oddi ar y dyluniad hwn
Os yn amau - gofynnwch
Do not scale from this drawing
If in doubt - ask

Mae'r dyluniad hwn yn hawffraint Penseiri Russell-Hughes ac ni
chaniateir ei gopïo neu ei atgynhyrchu heb ganiatad

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Newidïadau - Amendments

Cynllun - Job
9 - 11 PEN DEITCH,
CAERNARFON
Dyluniad - Drawing
PROPOSED POWER SUPPLY

Rhif Dyluniad - Drawing No.
2813:20:5
Graddfa - Scale
1:50 A2
Dyddiad - Date
Oct 2020

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Plate 1: Pre-commencement view of groundworks for electrical cable connection to Nos. 9 to 11 Castle Ditch - scale not used; view from WSW (archive reference: G2775_01).



Plate 2: Pre-commencement view of groundworks for electrical cable connection to Nos. 9 to 11 Castle Ditch - scale not used; view from ENE (archive reference: G2775_03).



Plate 3: Pre-commencement view of groundworks for electrical cable connection to Nos. 9 to 11 Castle Ditch - scale not used; view from WSW (archive reference: G2775_04).



Plate 4: Working shot of work in progress showing cutting of concrete slabs in Trench A using a circular saw - scale not used; view from W (archive reference: G2775_08).



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Plate 6: View of made ground beneath concrete slabs in Trench A - scale 1x1m; view from S (archive reference: G2775_13).

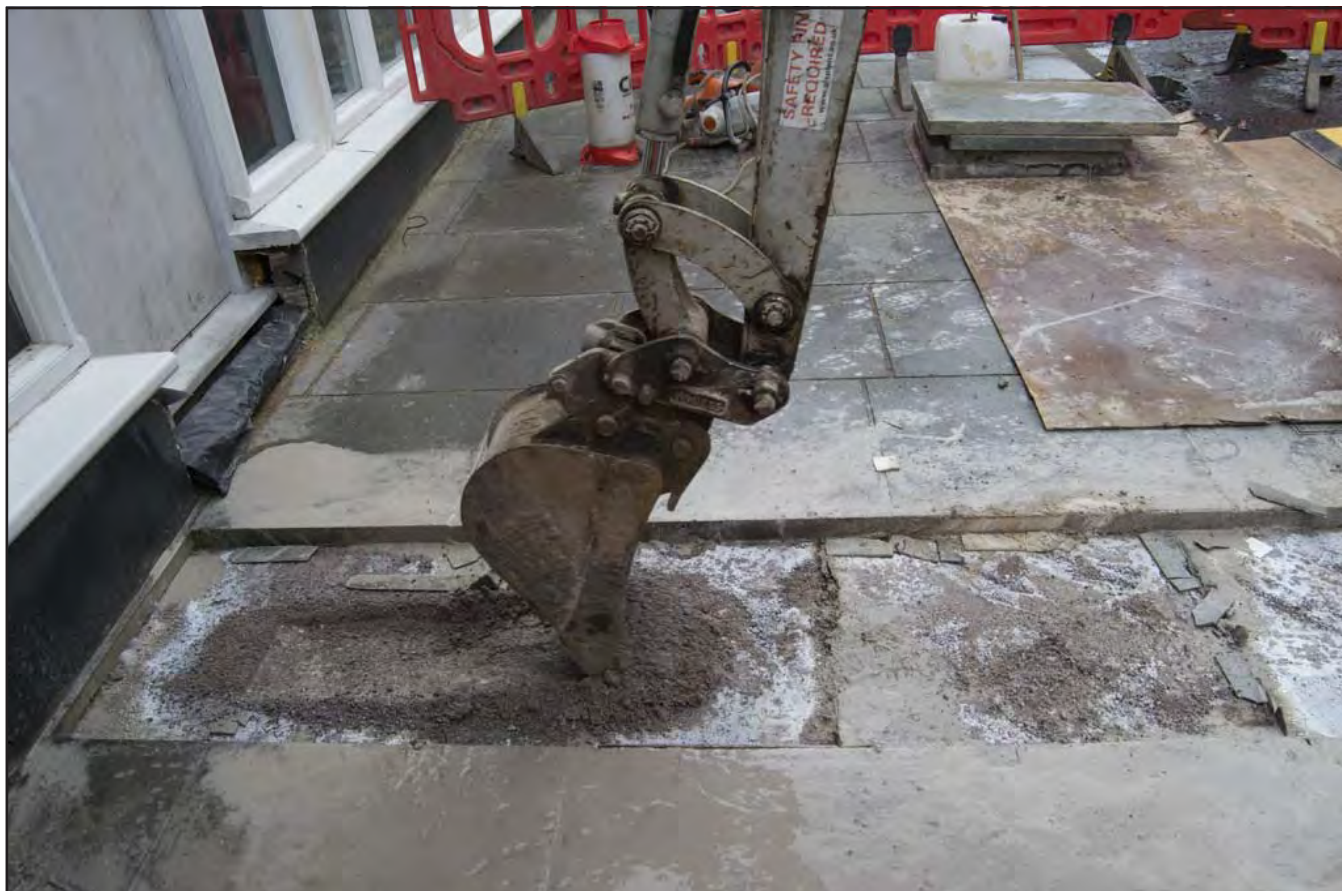


Plate 7: Working shot of excavation of made ground in Trench A using excavator - scale 1x1m; view from W (archive reference: G2775_15).



Plate 8: View of Trench A excavated to 450mm depth through pavement adjacent to Nos. 9 to 11 Castle Ditch - scale 1x1m; view from W (archive reference: G2775_17).



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Plate 10: Working shot of road surface broken down by machine as part of Trench B route - scale not used; view from ENE (archive reference: G2775_22).



Plate 11: North facing section of Trench B excavated to 1.10m depth, showing existing electric main - scale 1x1m; view from N (archive reference: G2775_26).



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Plate 13: View of room with blocked up window showing steps and original fireplace - scale 1x1m; view from SE (archive reference: G2775_30).



Plate 14: View of fireplace in room with blocked up window - scale 1x1m; view from E (archive reference: G2775_31).

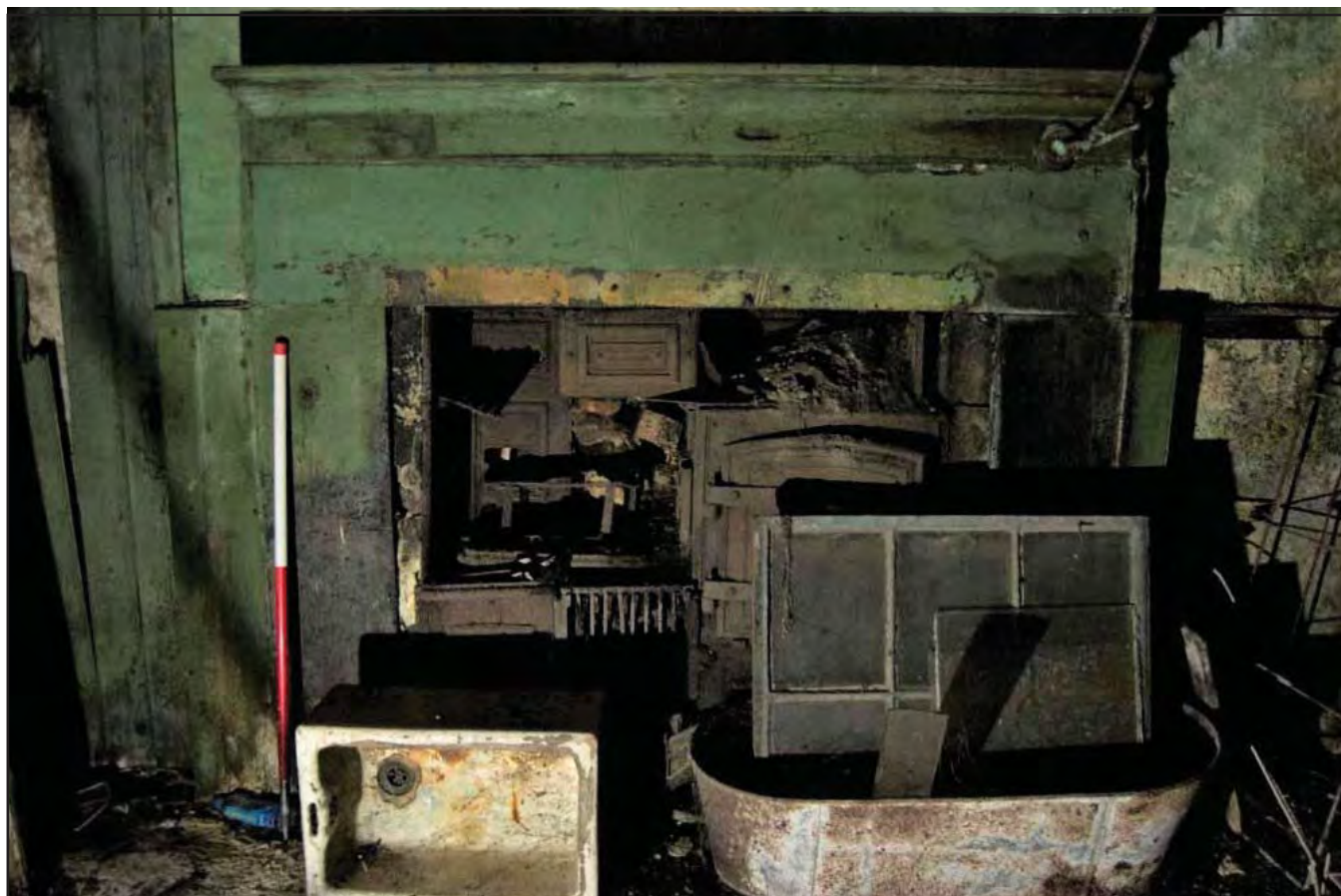


Plate 15: View of green range in second room - scale 1x1m; view from W (archive reference: G2775_32).

APPENDIX I

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Written Scheme of Investigation

CASTLE DITCH, CAERNARFON (G2775)

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR
WATCHING BRIEF

Prepared for

SP Energy Networks – North Wales District

March 2023



Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

Approvals Table				
	Role	Printed Name	Signature	Date
Originated by	Document Author	Stuart Reilly	Stuart Reilly	29.03.2023
Reviewed by	Document Reviewer	John Roberts	J. Roberts	29.03.2023
Approved by	Principal Archaeologist	John Roberts	J. Roberts	29.03.2023

Revision History			
Rev No.	Summary of Changes	Ref Section	Purpose of Issue

All GAT staff should sign their copy to confirm the project specification is read and understood and retain a copy of the specification for the duration of their involvement with the project. On completion, the specification should be retained with the project archive:

Name

Signature

Date

Castle Ditch, Caernarfon (G2775)

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR A WATCHING BRIEF

Prepared for *SP Energy Networks – North Wales District*, March 2023

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1 INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) has been commissioned by *SP Energy Networks – North Wales District* to undertake a watching brief at 9-11 Castle Ditch, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, (NGR SH 47819 62719; post code LL55 2AU; Figure 01). The groundworks will consist of exposing two existing underground low voltage electric cables to disconnect and another track in the middle to connect a larger electric cable.

The groundworks will be conducted along Castle Ditch, which is immediately adjacent to the World Heritage Site of Caernarfon Castle (NPRN 95318) and is within the conservation area of Caernarfon Town (PRN 3188); see Figure 02.

The watching brief will be undertaken on the 9th and 10th May 2023. It will be completed in accordance with the following guidance:

- Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) Version 2 (The Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2020);
- Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020);
- Standard and Guidance for The Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020);
- Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991);
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide (Historic England, 2015); and
- Guidelines for digital archives (Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales, 2015).

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.

1.1 Aims and Objectives

The key aims and objectives are to:

- establish the date and nature of any archaeological remains identified and assess their implications for understanding the historical development of Caernarfon in conjunction with the known archaeological record for the local area;
- to place the results in context (if applicable), with reference made to *A Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales Version 03, Final Refresh Document* (March 2017); and
- if no additional archaeological activity is identified, establish why this may be the case.

1.2 Monitoring Arrangements

The archaeological mitigation will be monitored by the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS); the content of this WSI and all subsequent reporting by GAT must be approved by GAPS prior to final issue.

1.3 Historic Environment Record

In line with the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record (HER) requirements, the HER will be contacted at the onset of the project to ensure that any data arising is formatted in a manner suitable for accession to the HER and follows the guidance set out in *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)* (The Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2018). The HER will be informed of the project start date, location including grid reference, estimated timescale for the work, and further relevant information associated with the project.

The GAT HER Enquiry Number for this project is GATHER1829 and the Event Primary Reference Number is 46614. The GAT HER will also be responsible for supplying Primary Reference Numbers (PRN) for any new assets identified and recorded.

Prior to submission of data to the HER on completion of the project, a bilingual event summary document will be prepared in *Microsoft Word* based on the format defined in section 4.2 of *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)* (Version 1.1).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Caernarfon is a royal town in Gwynedd, northwest Wales and is the traditional county town of the historic county of Caernarfonshire. It is situated on the southern shore of the Menai Strait, opposite Ynys Môn.

The earliest period of occupation within the town was the Roman fort of Segontium (NPRN 93511). It was founded along with a series of other forts and road network with the conquest of Wales by the governor of Britannia, Cnaeus Julius Agricola in AD 77. Archaeological excavations have shown that the fort was occupied until about AD 394 and was the subject of repeated rebuilding from AD 140. It accommodated a regiment of auxiliary infantry of up to 1,000 soldiers.

In the medieval period, Caernarfon was a Welsh town with a port and court (PRN 5042) of Gwynedd. This settlement made way for Edward I's royal borough, which included the medieval town of Caernarfon (NPRN 33011), which was enclosed by town walls (NPRN 93527) and dominated by the Caernarfon Castle (NPRN 95318). The town and castle were built following the English conquest of Gwynedd in the late 13th century. Construction commenced on the town walls and castle in 1283. The first phase of the town walls were completed by 1285, being of rubble-stone construction. The wall comprises two gatehouses and eight round towers and has survived almost to its original full extent.

The site of Caernarfon Castle was already occupied by a motte and bailey castle, most likely built by Hugh of Avranches around 1090 as part of the Norman invasion of Wales. Construction of the Edwardian castle started in 1283 and was still incomplete by about 1330 when major work ended. The banded stone towers of the castle were stylised to replicate the walls of Constantinople. The site is long and narrow consisting of seven great polygonal towers, two turrets and two great twin towered gates, all joined by massive curtain walls tracing a rough figure of eight. The castle is divided into an upper and a lower ward, with the Great Hall and kitchens built against the inner face of the curtain wall. Accommodation was provided within the gatehouses and towers. Although Edward II was born at Caernarfon, and it remained the official capital of north Wales, it was never used as a base for a ruling Prince of Wales and its political importance diminished. It remained garrisoned, however, and withstood two sieges during the Glyndwr rebellion in the 15th century. It was again held by the Royalists during the Civil War, this time withstanding three separate sieges. The castle was abandoned following the Civil War being extensively refurbished and restored from the mid-19th century.

At the location of the groundworks and watching brief, No. 9-10, and No. 11 Castle Ditch (PRN 80282 & 80283, respectively) are Grade II listed, early 19th century 3 storey terrace houses with mainly a large slate roof.

The character of Caernarfon remained rural until the 19th century prime location in proximity to the slate quarries of north Wales contributed to the development of its harbour. Slate Quay (NPRN 34153), Caernarfon was constructed along the northern bank of the Afon Seiont during the early 19th century. It was the port of shipment of slates from the Dyffryn Nantlle quarries. Access from the quarries to the harbour was better facilitated by the construction of the 3'6" gauge Nantlle Railway in 1828 and this was replaced by standard gauge rails in 1871.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive (CIfA, 2020).

The watching brief will monitor the following SP Energy Networks – North Wales District groundworks (with reference to Figure 01):

- Location 1 and Location 3 – excavate, backfill and reinstate joint bay in modular footpath.
- Location 1 to Location 2 – excavate, backfill and reinstate 3m track in modular footpath. Install 6m of 35mm (3) CNE service cable through customer installed duct to service position.

3.2 Fieldwork Methodology

- A photographic record will detail the site before, during and after the groundworks;
- The watching brief will monitor the groundworks as far as the glacial horizon, archaeological horizon or limit of excavation, whichever is encountered first. *The project archaeologist will be afforded sufficient time and opportunity to investigate any archaeological activity, or suspected archaeological activity, encountered;*
- All attendances and photographs will be recorded using GAT pro-formas (cf. Appendices [I](#) and [II](#)). The records will include topsoil and subsoil depths, as well as the composition of the glacial horizon. All encountered subsurface features will be recorded on GAT pro-formas with detailed notations and will be recorded photographically with an appropriate scale, located via GPS and a measured survey completed, either hand drawn or using a Trimble R8 GPS unit;
- Photographic images will be taken using a digital SLR camera set to maximum resolution in RAW format; a photographic record will be maintained on site using GAT pro-formas and digitised in *Microsoft Access* as part of the fieldwork archive and dissemination process. Photographic images will be archived in TIFF format using Adobe Photoshop; the archive numbering system will start from **G2775_001**. A photographic ID board will be used to record site code, image orientation and any relevant context numbers; scale bars of appropriate size and quantity will be used, both for general images and for individual features/feature groups.
- Any archaeological features/deposits/structures encountered will be manually cleaned and examined to determine extent, function, date and relationship to adjacent activity. The following excavation strategy will generally apply: 50% sample of each sub-circular feature, 25% sample of each linear feature (terminal ends and intersection points with other features will be prioritised). However, if discrete features are identified within the confines of the duct trench, these will be 100% excavated. Any features that comprise a spread of material rather than a cut feature, will be completed in quadrants (if fully extant) or 100% excavated if present as a discrete spread;
- Any required sections and plans to be drawn at a minimum 1:10 scale using GAT A4, A3 or A2 pro-forma permatrace (whichever is appropriate to the size/scale of the drawing); section datums will be recorded.

Should dateable artefacts, human remains and/or ecofacts be recovered, an **interim fieldwork report** will be submitted summarising the results of the mitigation, along with recommendations for a post-excavation assessment and analysis (in line with the MAP2 process). *Additional*

time, resourcing and costs will be required to undertake any post-excavation programme of works.

3.3 Human Remains

Whilst human remains are not expected, if any human remains are identified that cannot be preserved in situ, any excavation will take place under appropriate regulations and with due regard for health and safety issues. In order to excavate human remains, a Ministry of Justice licence is required under Section 25 of the Burials Act 1857 for the removal of any body or remains of any body from any place of burial. In accordance with the Ministry of Justice licence, recovered remains will be reburied once the investigation and/or assessment/analysis are complete.

Non-fragmented skeletal remains will be excavated using wooden tools and collected and stored in polyethylene bags (with appropriate references for context, grave number, et al) and placed in a lidded cardboard archive box (note: separate boxes for each grave) and stored in a suitable manner within GAT premises. If significant quantities of human remains are encountered, a human osteologist should be contacted and appointed to advise the team during the fieldwork. The osteologist will be an external appointment: Dr. Genevieve Tellier | Tel: 01286 238827 | email: northwalesosteology@outlook.com who will assist in devising the excavation, recording and sampling strategy for features containing human remains. The osteologist should also help to ensure that adequate post-excavation processing of human remains is carried out so that the material is in a fit state for assessment during the post-excavation stage. For inhumations, this will involve washing, drying, marking and packing.

If human remains are recovered that are deemed suitable for further assessment/analysis, this will be completed in accordance with the osteologist's requirements and with *Human Bones from Archaeological Sites Guidelines for producing assessment documents and analytical reports* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2017).

If human remains are recovered that are deemed suitable for further assessment/analysis, this will be completed in accordance with the osteologist's requirements and with *The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project (Historic England, 2018)*.

3.4 Ecofacts

Should any archaeological features and/or sealed deposits be identified that are deemed suitable for assessment and analysis, bulk ecofact samples will be taken by the GAT Project Archaeologist team using 10 litre sampling buckets. The deposits will be assessed and analysed for plant species and charcoal, with the results used to inform agrarian practices and wood fuel use, as well as possibly dating. Initial assessment would be completed by the GAT Project Archaeologist team using wet sieving, with the subsequent species identification assessment completed by an ecofact specialist (Jackaline Robertson | AOC Archaeology | telephone: 0208 843 7380). Any deposits deemed suitable for dating will be submitted to a laboratory specialising in radiocarbon dating (e.g., SUERC).

Any ecofact assessment/analysis proposals will require additional resourcing and cost and will only be undertaken further to agreement with GAPS and the client.

Any ecofact samples taken from human burials will be recovered in accordance with the appointed osteologist's guidance.

3.5 Artefacts

Diagnostic artefacts will be retained for further examination and identification; pottery sherds of 19th and 20th century date will be examined, noted and discarded on site. Any artefacts recovered will be treated according to guidelines issued by the UK Institute of Conservation (Watkinson and Neal 2001) in particular the advice provided within First Aid for Finds (Rescue 1999) and Historic England.

Any waterlogged artefacts (e.g. wood or leather) that are to be recovered for post-excavation assessment and analysis will be processed in accordance with Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (English Heritage, 2011) and specifically in accordance with Brunning and Watson (2010) for waterlogged wood and Historic England (2012) for waterlogged leather. In such cases an external specialist will be contacted to agree an appropriate sampling and recovery strategy via Lucy Whittingham | Project Manager (post-excavation) | AOC Archaeology | telephone: 0208 843 7380 | email: lucy.whittingham@aocarchaeology.com).

Any specialist assessment/analysis proposals will require additional resourcing and cost and will only be undertaken further to agreement with GAPS and the client.

All finds of treasure must be reported to the coroner for the district within fourteen days of discovery or identification of the items. Items declared Treasure Trove become the property of the Crown, on whose behalf the Portable Antiquities Scheme acts as advisor on technical matters and may be the recipient body for the objects.

The Treasure Valuation Committee, based at the British Museum, and informed by the Portable Antiquities Scheme, will decide whether they or any other museum may wish to acquire the object. If no museum wishes to acquire the object, then the Secretary of State will be able to disclaim it. When this happens, the coroner will notify the occupier and landowner that he intends to return the object to the finder after 28 days unless he receives no objection. If the coroner receives an objection, the find will be retained until the dispute has been settled.

GAT will contact the landowner for agreement regarding the transfer of artefacts, initially to GAT and subsequently to the relevant museum (Storiell, Ffordd Gwynedd Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 1DT). A GAT produced pro-forma will be issued to the landowner where they are given the option to donate the finds or to record that they want them returning to them once analysis and assessment has been completed. Artefacts to be donated will then be transferred to Storiell.

3.6 Working Project Archive

Following the completion of the fieldwork, a working project archive will be created based on following task list;

1. Pro-formas: all cross referenced and complete;
2. Photographic Metadata: completed in *Microsoft Access* and cross-referenced with all pro-formas;
3. Survey data: downloaded using a Computer Aided Design package;
4. Sections (if relevant): all cross referenced and complete;
5. Plans (if relevant): all cross referenced and complete;
6. Artefacts (if relevant): quantified and identified; register completed;
7. Ecofacts (if relevant): quantified and register completed;
8. Context register (if relevant): quantified and register completed.

All relevant site archive data will be added to a digital project register specific to this project, which will be prepared in *Microsoft Excel*.

The site archive data will then be processed, final illustrations will be compiled and a report will be produced which will detail and synthesise the results.

3.7 Data Management Plan

The physical archive will be stored in a designated project folder and the location confirmed in the Trust project database; the digital dataset will be stored on a dedicated Trust server, with the location confirmed in the Trust project database via a specific hyperlink. External datasets for the HER and RCAHMW are as defined in the dissemination strategy below. De-selected digital data will be confirmed in an updated Selection Strategy document appended to the final report.

3.8 Reporting

Should extensive archaeology, including dateable artefacts, human remains and/or ecofacts be recovered, an **interim report** will be submitted first summarising the results of the mitigation and providing recommendations for post-excavation assessment and analysis in line with the Historic England MAP2 process. Further to the completion of the post-excavation assessment and analysis, a **final report** will be prepared that will include the following:

1. Non-technical summary (Welsh and English);
2. Introduction;
3. Background;
4. Methodology;
5. Results;
6. Conclusion;
7. List of sources consulted;
8. Figures; to include
 - a. General location plan;
 - b. Detailed location plans specific to targeted area – to each include location of archaeological features (if applicable);
 - c. Plans and sections of archaeological features (if applicable).
9. Appendix I – approved GAT written scheme of investigation
10. Appendix II – photographic register
11. Appendix III – GAT selection strategy
12. Appendix IV - context register (if applicable)
13. Appendix V – drawing register (if applicable)
14. Appendix VI - artefact register (if applicable)
15. Appendix VII – ecofact register (if applicable)
16. Appendix VIII – specialist reporting (if applicable)

The schedule for reporting will be determined by the scale and complexity of any archaeology encountered (or lack thereof), but a fieldwork or interim report will provisionally be submitted within one month of fieldwork completion. All parties will subsequently be informed in of the expected submission date for the final report and archive.

3.9 Dissemination

On final approval, the following dissemination and archiving of the report and digital dataset will apply:

- A digital report(s) will be provided to the client, and GAPS (draft report then final report);
- A digital report will be provided to the regional Historic Environment Record; this will be submitted within one month of final report completion, along with a digital dataset comprising an Event PRN summary. The report and dataset will be submitted in accordance with the required standards set out in *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)* (Version 1.1); and
- A digital report and digital archive dataset will be provided to Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments, Wales within one month of final report completion; the dataset will be compiled in accordance with the *RCAHMMW Guidelines for Digital Archives Version 1* and include:
 - Photographic metadata (Microsoft Access);
 - Photographic archive (TIFF format);
 - Project Information form (Excel);
 - File Information form (Excel) – Microsoft Word report text final;
 - File Information form (Excel) – Photographic metadata (general);
 - File Information form (Excel) – Adobe PDF report final; and
 - File Information form (Excel) - Photographic metadata (detail).

3.10 Selection Strategy

As defined in *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020) section 3.3.1, a project specific selection strategy and data management plan should be prepared. In support of this, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist (CIfA), have stated that it is “widely accepted that not all the records and materials collected or created during the course of an Archaeological Project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials constitute the Working Project Archive which will be subject to Selection, in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation”. The aim of selection is to ensure that all the elements retained from the Working Project Archive for inclusion in the Archaeological Archive are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support “future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities”. Selection should be “focused on selecting what is to be retained to support these future needs, rather than deciding what can be dispersed” and can be qualified by a selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, agreed by all parties (including GAPS, client and/or landowner), which will be applied to a Working Project Archive prior to its transfer into curatorial care as the Archaeological Archive.

The selection strategy will be summarised in [Appendix III](#) and finalised for the final report; the strategy will take into account:

- The aims and objectives of the project.
- The brief and/or Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)).
- The Collecting Institution’s collection policy and/or deposition guidelines.
- Local and regional research frameworks.
- Relevant thematic or period specific research frameworks.
- The project’s Data Management Plan (DMP).
- Internal recording and reporting policies.
- Material-specific guidance documents.

4 PERSONNEL

The project will be managed by John Roberts, Principal Archaeologist GAT Contracts Section with attendances on-site undertaken by a GAT Project Archaeologists. For the watching brief, a minimum of 1 No Project Archaeologist will be present, with additional Project Archaeologists deployed if required.

The Project Archaeologists will be responsible for following:

- All archaeological watching brief duties on site;
- Client liaison;
- GAPS liaison, with regular updates;
- specialist liaison (if relevant);
- completing all on site pro-formas and the fieldwork archive itemised above, including the digital project register;
- for submitting a draft final report (or interim report) for project manager review and approval, to then be submitted as per the arrangements defined above;
- sourcing Primary Reference Numbers (PRN) from the GAT HER for any new features identified;
- completing an event summary and creating or updating PRN data, dependent on result;
- GAT HER and RCAHMW archive submission.

5 HEALTH AND SAFETY

The GAT Project Archaeologist(s) will be CSCS certified. Copies of the site specific risk assessment will be supplied to the client prior to the start of the field survey. All GAT staff attending will be issued with required personal safety equipment, including high visibility jacket, steel toe-capped boots and hard hat.

6 SOCIAL MEDIA

One of the key aims in the GAT mission statement is to improve the understanding, conservation and promotion of the historic environment in our area and inform and educate the wider public. To help achieve this, GAT maintains an active social media presence and seeks all opportunities to promote our projects and results. With permission, GAT would like the opportunity to promote our work on this scheme through our social media platforms. This could include social media postings during our attendance on site as well as any postings to highlight results. In all instances, approval will be sought from client prior to any postings.

7 INSURANCE

7.1 Public/Products Liability

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

INSURER Ecclesiastical Insurance Office Plc.

POLICY TYPE Public Liability

POLICY NUMBER 24765101CHC/UN/000375

EXPIRY DATE 21/06/2023

7.2 Employers Liability

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

The cover has been issued on the insurers standard policy form and is subject to their usual terms and conditions. A copy of the policy wording is available on request.

INSURER Ecclesiastical Insurance Office Plc.

POLICY TYPE Employers Liability

POLICY NUMBER 24765101 CHC / UN/000375

EXPIRY DATE 21/06/2023

7.3 Professional Indemnity

Limit of Indemnity- £5,000,000 in respect of each and every claim

INSURER Hiscox Insurance Company Limited

POLICY TYPE Professional Indemnity

POLICY NUMBER PL-PSC10002389775/00

EXPIRY DATE 22/07/2023

8 SOURCES CONSULTED

1. A Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales, Current Research Framework Documents 2017 (<https://archaeoleg.org.uk/documents2017.html>).
2. Brunning, R and Watson, J 2010, Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the Recording, Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood (3rd edition).
3. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief.
4. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020, Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.
5. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020, Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains.
6. English Heritage, 1991, Management of Archaeological Projects.
7. English Heritage, 2011, Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation.
8. English Heritage, 2015, Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE).
9. Historic England, 2012, Waterlogged Organic Artefacts Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation.
10. Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales, 2015, Guidelines for digital archives.
11. The Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2020, Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) Version 2.
12. Watkinson, D and Neal, V, 2001, First aid for finds (3rd edition).

FIGURE 01

Reproduction of SPEN Design Drawing 617705220

CUSTOMER DETAILS:

Peter Fox
07836334954

TN-C-S EARTHING**PRE VET REQUIRED****DESKTOP ASSESSMENT**

SITE VISIT
CARRIED OUT

SPEN EXCAVATION

247827 / 362709

NETWORK CHECK
CARRIED OUT

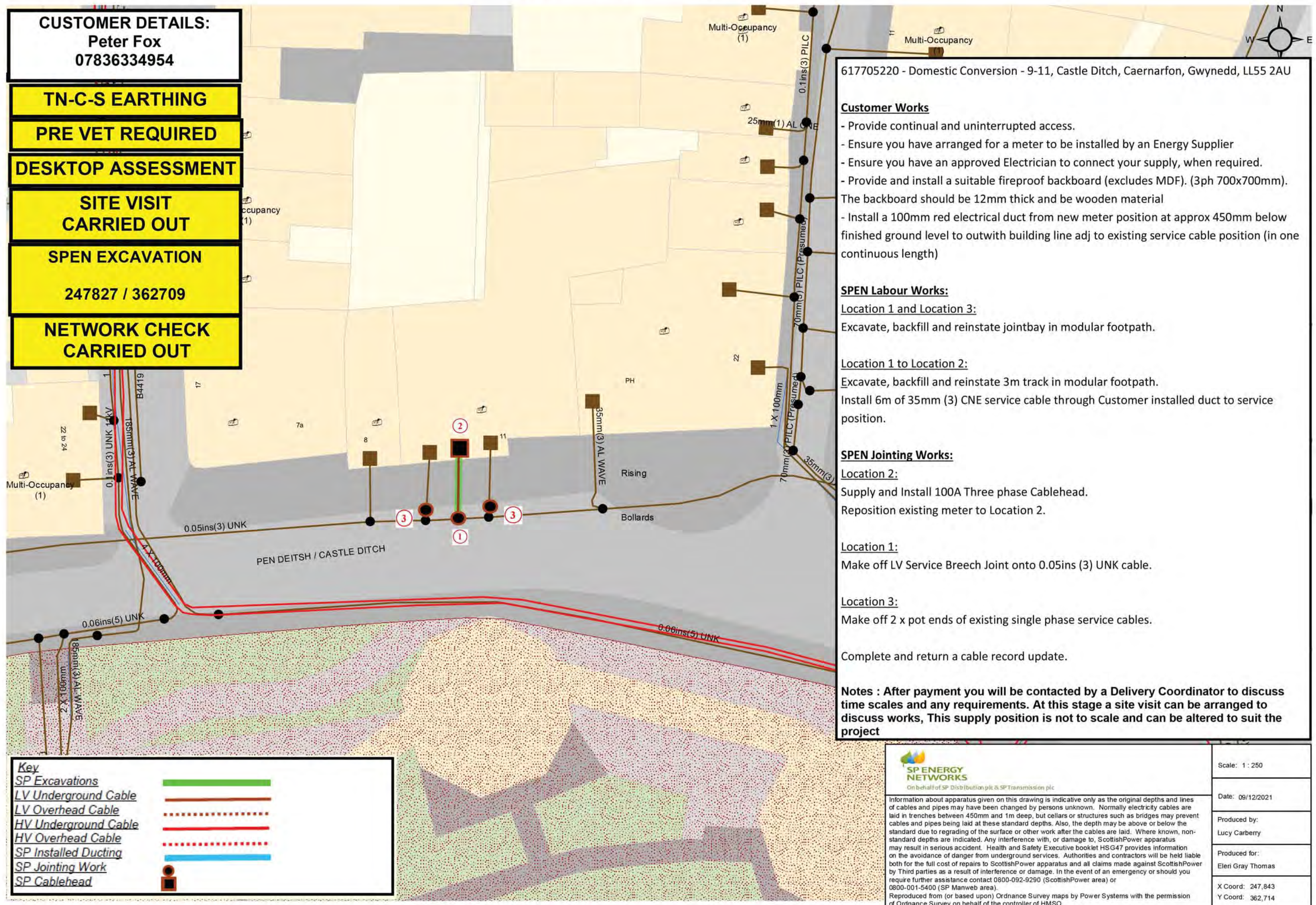
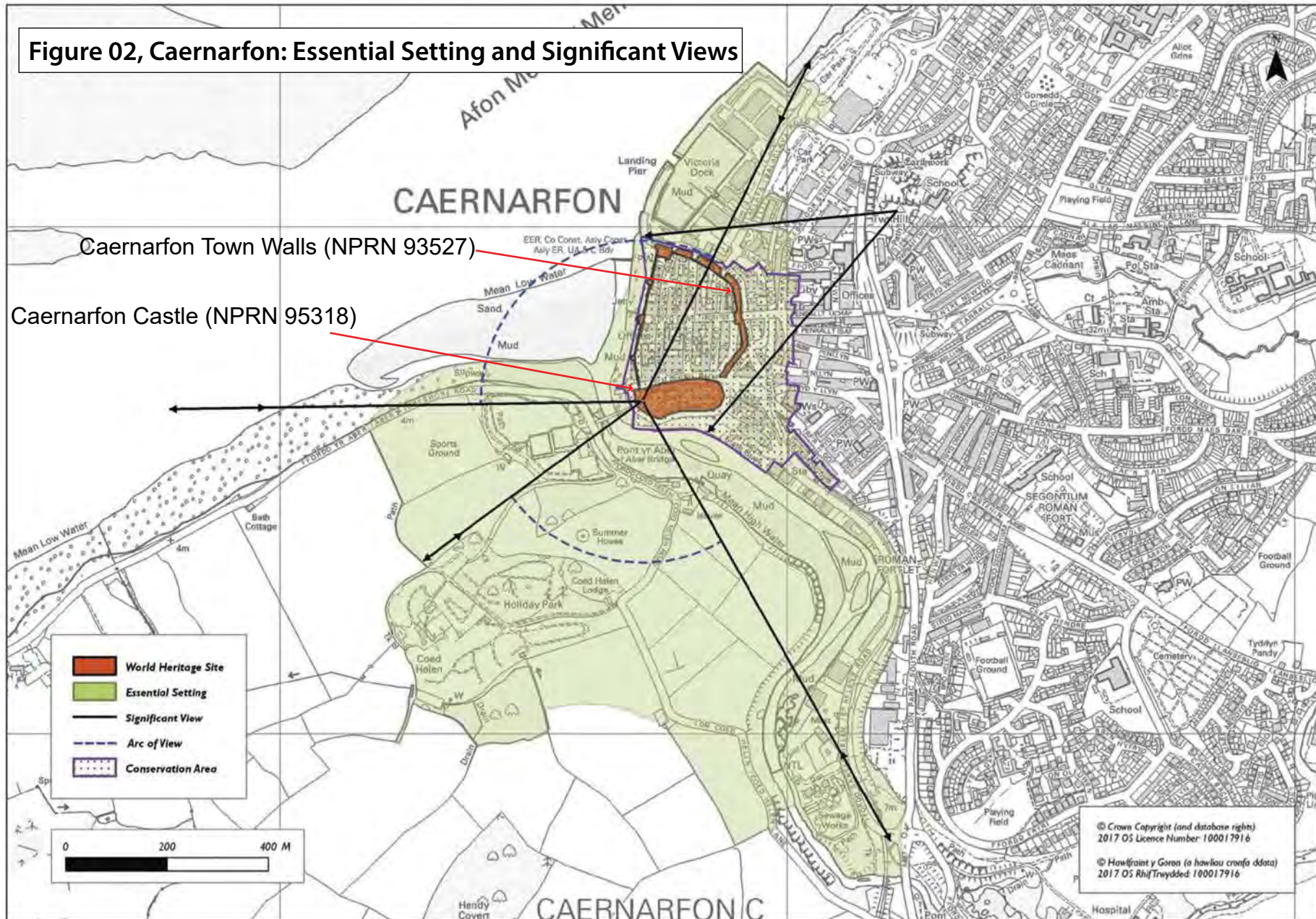


FIGURE 02

Caernarfon: Essential Setting and Significant Views

Figure 02, Caernarfon: Essential Setting and Significant Views



APPENDIX I

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Watching Brief Pro-Forma

YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL GWYNEDD ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST		
WATCHING BRIEF DAY RECORD		Date
Project name	Project number	Compiler
Location		
Description		
Times of travelling and on-site		
Drawn record details		
Photographic record details		

APPENDIX II

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Photographic Metadata Pro-Forma



Digital Photographic Record Project code and name:

Include main context numbers for each shot, drawing numbers for sections and any other relevant numbers for cross referencing.

Delete any unwanted photos **immediately** from the camera.

Regularly upload photographs to computer.

[illegible]

APPENDIX III

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Selection Strategy

G2775_Castle_Ditch_Caernarfon

29/03/2023 v1.0

Selection Strategy

Project Information

Project Management

Project Manager	John Roberts john.roberts@heneb.co.uk	
Archaeological Archive Manager	John Roberts john.roberts@heneb.co.uk	
Organisation	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	
Stakeholders		Date Contacted
Collecting Institution(s)	GAT Historic Environment Record	29/02/2023
	RCAHMW	On completion of Project Archive
Project Lead / Project Assurance	Tom Fildes, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	tbc
Landowner / Developer	SPEN	09/03/2023

Resources

Resources required

Describe the resources required to implement this Selection Strategy, particularly if unusual resources are required.

No unusual resources required outside of GAT normal operating equipment and personnel.

Context

Describe below the context of this Selection Strategy. You should refer to:

- The aims and objectives of the project;
- Local Authority guidance (including the brief);
- Research Frameworks;
- The repository collection development policy and/or deposition policy;
- Material-specific guidance documents.

Note: This section may be copied from your Project Design/WSI to ensure all Stakeholders receive this

context information.

The full aims and objectives of this project are detailed in the project specific WSI.

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) has been commissioned by *SP Energy Networks – North Wales District* to undertake a watching brief at 9-11 Castle Ditch, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, (NGR SH 47819 62719; post code LL55 2AU; Figure 01). The groundworks will consist of exposing two existing underground low voltage electric cables to disconnect and another track in the middle to connect a larger electric cable. The groundworks will be conducted along Castle Ditch, which is immediately adjacent to the World Heritage Site of Caernarfon Castle (NPRN 95318) and is within the conservation area of Caernarfon Town (PRN 3188); see Figure 02.

The watching brief will be undertaken on the 9th and 10th May 2023.

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust. 2023. Castle Ditch, Caernarfon: Written Scheme of Investigation for Watching Brief. Project (G2775).

1 – Digital Data

Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Digital Data Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Collections Curator).

John Roberts (GAT Principal Archaeologist)

Selection

Location of Data Management Plan (DMP)

Selection of digital data elements should be considered in your project's DMP. For the purpose of the Selection Strategy, you can either copy the selection section of your DMP below, or attach it as an appendix to this document. Please indicate here if the DMP is attached.

All digital data will be collected, stored and selected in lines with the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) Data Management Plan located on GAT's servers (available on request).

The selection strategy in your DMP should:

- 1.1 Define what digital data will be selected for inclusion in the archaeological archive, how this will be done, and why. Do not forget to consider that specialists may have digital data that should be included in the archaeological archive.
- 1.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (i.e. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 1.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. digital repository deposition requirements) and specialist advice sought.
- 1.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

Following the completion of the fieldwork, a working project archive will be created based on following task list;

1. Pro-formas: all cross referenced and complete;
2. Photographic Metadata: completed in *Microsoft Access* and cross-referenced with all pro-formas.

All relevant site archive data will be added to a digital project register specific to this project, which has been prepared in *Microsoft Excel*.

This forms the basis for the physical and digital dataset archives. Information from these will be used to compile the project report. The physical archive will be stored in a designated project folder and the location confirmed in the Trust project database; the digital dataset will be stored on a dedicated Trust server, with the location confirmed in the Trust project database via a specific hyperlink. External datasets for the HER and RCAHMW are as defined in the dissemination strategy below. De-selected digital data has been confirmed in an updated digital management plan appended to the final report.

De-Selected Digital Data

The procedure for dealing with De-selected digital data and what specialist advice informed this process should be recorded in your DMP. Please copy this information here or attach your DMP as an appendix to this document.

There is no de-selected data.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

2 – Documents

Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Documents Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

John Roberts – Principal Archaeologist, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust;
Sean Derby – Historic Environment Record, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust;
Helen Rowe - Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for the Documents elements of the archaeological archive. To do this you must:

- 2.1 Define which documents will be selected for inclusion in the archaeological archive, how this will be done, and why. Do not forget to consider that specialists may have documents that should be included in the archaeological archive.
- 2.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 2.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. digital repository deposition requirements) and specialist advice sought.
- 2.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

- A digital report will be provided to the regional Historic Environment Record, along with a digital dataset comprising an Event PRN summary. The report and dataset will be submitted in accordance with the required standards set out in *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)* (Version 1.1); and
- A digital report and digital archive dataset will be provided to Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments, Wales (final report only), in accordance with the *RCAHMW Guidelines for Digital Archives Version 1*. The dataset was prepared in the format required by RCAHMW and included:
 - Photographic metadata (Microsoft Access);
 - Photographic archive (TIFF format);
 - Project Information form (Excel);
 - File Information form (Excel) – Microsoft Word report text final;
 - File Information form (Excel) – Photographic metadata (general);
 - File Information form (Excel) – Adobe PDF report final; and
 - File Information form (Excel) - Photographic metadata (detail).

De-Selected Documents

Describe the procedure for dealing with De-selected material and what specialist advice has informed this procedure.

It is envisaged that the material de-selected from inclusion in the preserved archive has been duplicates or reproductions created during the analysis phase of the project. De-selected material will therefore either be retained to supplement GAT's research files or recycled.

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Note: This step should be completed for each material component of the archaeological archive. Copy this table for the various materials as required, providing the 'Material Type' and a section identifier (eg. '3.1') for each.

Material type	None	Section 3.	
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Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Materials Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for each material type and or object type. To do this you must:

- 3.1 State the Selection Strategy you are applying to each category of material, how this was done, and why.
- 3.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 3.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. thematic, period, and regional, Research Frameworks, repository deposition policies) and specialist advice sought.
- 3.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

The Materials Selection Template may be useful in structuring this section.

Uncollected Material

If you are practising selection in the field, describe the process that was applied. To do this you must:

- Detail how you will characterise, quantify and record all uncollected material on site.
- Explain how you will dispose of, or re-distribute, uncollected material.

None

De-Selected Material

Describe what you will do with the de-selected material. All processed material should have been adequately recorded before de-selection.

N/A

Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

Materials Selection Template

This table may be inserted into Section 3 of the main [Selection Strategy Template](#) to help present differing selection strategies for different material types

Find Type	Selection Strategy	Stakeholders	Review Points

APPENDIX II

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Photographic Metadata Pro-Forma

PHOTO RECORD NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	CONTEXT NUMBER (S)	VIEW FROM	SCALE(S)	CREATOR	DATE	PLATE
G2775_01	Pre-commencement view of groundworks for electrical cable connection to Gray Thomas building		WSW	Not Used	Carolina Ferreira	09/05/2023	1
G2775_02	Pre-commencement view of groundworks for electrical cable connection to Gray Thomas building		ENE	Not Used	Carolina Ferreira	09/05/2023	
G2775_03	Pre-commencement view of groundworks for electrical cable connection to Gray Thomas building		ENE	Not Used	Carolina Ferreira	09/05/2023	2
G2775_04	Pre-commencement view of groundworks for electrical cable connection to Gray Thomas building		WSW	Not Used	Carolina Ferreira	09/05/2023	3
G2775_05	Pre-commencement view of groundworks for electrical cable connection to Gray Thomas building		ENE	Not Used	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	
G2775_06	Pre-commencement view of groundworks for electrical cable connection to Gray Thomas building		N	Not Used	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	
G2775_07	Working shot of work in progress showing cutting of concrete slabs in Trench A using a steel saw		WNW	Not Used	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	
G2775_08	Working shot of work in progress showing cutting of concrete slabs in Trench A using a steel saw		W	Not Used	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	4
G2775_09	General view of site, work in progress		W	Not Used	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	
G2775_10	View of removal of concrete pavement slabs in Trench A by shovel and hand		W	Not Used	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	5
G2775_11	View of removal of concrete pavement slabs in Trench A by shovel and hand		W	Not Used	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	
G2775_12	View of removal of concrete pavement slabs in Trench A by shovel and hand		WNW	Not Used	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	
G2775_13	View of made ground beneath concrete slabs in Trench A	(01)	S	1x1m	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	6
G2775_14	View of made ground beneath concrete slabs in Trench A	(01)	W	1x1m	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	

PHOTO RECORD NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	CONTEXT NUMBER (S)	VIEW FROM	SCALE(S)	CREATOR	DATE	PLATE
G2775_15	Working shot of excavation of made ground in Trench A using excavator	(01), (02)	W	1x1m	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	7
G2775_16	Working shot of excavation of made ground in Trench A at approximate 400mm depth	(01), (02), [03^]	W	Not Used	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	
G2775_17	View of Trench A excavated to 450mm depth through pavement adjacent to Gray Thomas building	(01), (02), [03^]	W	1x1m	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	8
G2775_18	Close up view of south facing section showing foundation of Gray Thomas building	[03^]	W	1x1m	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	9
G2775_19	Working shot of excavation of Trench B through tarmac road using steel saw	(04)	N	Not Used	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	
G2775_20	Working shot of excavation of Trench B through tarmac road using steel saw	(04)	E	Not Used	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	
G2775_21	Working shot of road surface being cut using steel saw as part of Trench B route	(04)	ENE	Not Used	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	
G2775_22	Working shot of road surface broken down by machine as part of Trench B route	(04)	ENE	Not Used	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	10
G2775_23	Working shot of clean-up of rubble debris in Trench B using excavator	(04)	N	Not Used	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	
G2775_24	East facing section of Trench B excavated to 1.10m depth, showing existing electric main	(04), (05), (06)	E	1x1m	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	
G2775_25	South facing section of Trench B excavated to 1.10m depth, showing existing electric main	(04), (05), (06)	S	1x1m	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	
G2775_26	North facing section of Trench B excavated to 1.10m depth, showing existing electric main	(04), (05), (06)	N	1x1m	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	11
G2775_27	West facing section of Trench B excavated to 1.10m depth, showing existing electric main	(04), (05), (06)	W	Not Used	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	
G2775_28	End of day shot of working area post-excavation of trenches A and B		E	Not Used	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	

PHOTO RECORD NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	CONTEXT NUMBER (S)	VIEW FROM	SCALE(S)	CREATOR	DATE	PLATE
G2775_29	View of room with blocked up window		NW	1x1m	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	12
G2775_30	View of room with blocked up window showing steps and original fireplace		SE	1x1m	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	13
G2775_31	View of fireplace in room with blocked up window		E	1x1m	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	14
G2775_32	View of green range in second room		W	1x1m	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	15
G2775_33	View of room with toilet to the left-hand side		NNW	1x1m	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	
G2775_34	View of corridor leading from room with blocked up window to original outdoor area and stairs leading up to original ground level		NNW	1x1m	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	
G2775_35	View of stairs leading up to original ground level		SSE	1x1m	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	
G2775_36	View of window and water tap in original outside area		N	1x1m	Carolina Ferreira	23/06/2023	

APPENDIX III

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Selection Strategy Final

G2775_Castle_Ditch_Caernarfon

07/07/2023 v2.0

Selection Strategy

Project Information

Project Management

Project Manager	John Roberts john.roberts @heneb.co.uk	
Archaeological Archive Manager	John Roberts john.roberts @heneb.co.uk	
Organisation	Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	
Stakeholders		Date Contacted
Collecting Institution(s)	GAT Historic Environment Record	29/02/2023
	RCAHMW	On completion of Project Archive
Project Lead / Project Assurance	Tom Fildes, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust	14/04/2023
Landowner / Developer	SPEN	09/03/2023

Resources

Resources required

Describe the resources required to implement this Selection Strategy, particularly if unusual resources are required.

No unusual resources required outside of GAT normal operating equipment and personnel.

Context

The full aims and objectives of this project are detailed in the project specific WSI.

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) has been commissioned by *SP Energy Networks – North Wales District* to undertake a watching brief at 9-11 Castle Ditch, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, (NGR SH 47819 62719; post code LL55 2AU; Figure 01). The groundworks will consist of exposing two existing underground low voltage electric cables to disconnect and another track in the middle to connect a larger electric cable. The groundworks has been conducted along Castle Ditch, which is immediately adjacent to the World Heritage Site of Caernarfon Castle (NPRN 95318) and is within the conservation area of Caernarfon Town (PRN 3188); see Figure 02.

The watching brief has been undertaken on the 9th and 10th May 2023.

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust. 2023. Castle Ditch, Caernarfon: Written Scheme of Investigation for Watching Brief. Project (G2775).

1 – Digital Data

Stakeholders

John Roberts (GAT Principal Archaeologist)

Selection

All digital data has been collected, stored and selected in lines with the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) Data Management Plan located on GAT's servers (available on request).

Following the completion of the fieldwork, a working project archive has been created based on following task list;

1. Pro-formas: all cross referenced and complete;
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De-Selected Digital Data

There is no de-selected data.

2 – Documents

Stakeholders

John Roberts – Principal Archaeologist, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust;
Sean Derby – Historic Environment Record, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust;
Helen Rowe - Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales

Selection

- A digital report has been provided to the regional Historic Environment Record, along with a digital dataset comprising an Event PRN summary. The report and dataset has been submitted in accordance with the required standards set out in *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)* (Version 1.1); and
- A digital report and digital archive dataset has been provided to Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments, Wales (final report only), in accordance with the *RCAHMW Guidelines for Digital Archives Version 1*. The dataset was prepared in the format required by RCAHMW and included:
 - Photographic metadata (Microsoft Access);
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 - Project Information form (Excel);
 - File Information form (Excel) – Microsoft Word report text final;
 - File Information form (Excel) – Photographic metadata (general);
 - File Information form (Excel) – Adobe PDF report final; and
 - File Information form (Excel) - Photographic metadata (detail).

De-Selected Documents

It is envisaged that the material de-selected from inclusion in the preserved archive has been duplicates or reproductions created during the analysis phase of the project. De-selected material will therefore either be retained to supplement GAT's research files or recycled.



Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd

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