

# RECORDING HISTORIC FARMSTEADS

Llŷn Peninsula 2023 - 2024

Asesiad Wrth Ddesg / Desk Based Assessment



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd  
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

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### Asesiad Wrth Ddesg/Desk Based Assessment 2023-2024

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## **CRYNODEB ANNHECHNEGOL**

*Mae'r prosiect hwn yn rhan o fenter Cymru gyfan sydd wedi'i dylunio i greu set o bolygonau GIS o adeiladau fferm traddodiadol sydd wedi goroesi er mwyn cynhyrchu data ar gyfer cynlluniau amaeth-amgylcheddol nawr ac yn y dyfodol. Mae ail elfen o'r prosiect wedi cynhyrchu cofnod o gymeriad y ffermydd sy'n cynnwys yr adeiladau traddodiadol gan ddilyn y dull a osodwyd mewn dogfen ganllaw a gynhyrchwyd gan English Heritage. Dyfeisiwyd methodoleg gyffredinol gan Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys mewn astudiaeth beilot flaenorol, ac yn ddiweddarach cafodd hyn ei gymhwyso i dde Ynys Môn, y Carneddau, Ardudwy a de Meirionnydd mewn prosiectau blaenorol. Y llynedd, mae'r prosiect wedi canolbwyntio'n llwyr ar nodweddu ffermydd yn yr ardaloedd sy'n weddill o dan Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd, gan gynnwys gogledd Ynys Môn a gorllewin Meirionnydd. Roedd yr arolwg eleni yn canolbwyntio ar nodweddu ffermydd ar benrhyn Llŷn. Roedd mwyafrif y ffermydd yn cydymffurfio â chynlluniau cwrt rhydd neu gynlluniau cwrt rheolaidd, gyda thyddynnod fel arfer yn gynlluniau cwrt llinol neu rydd. Roedd hyn ynghyd â chyfran uchel o'r ffermydd allanol cysylltiedig yn cynnwys un adeilad gydag iard cysylltiedig a oedd yn tueddu i gael ei lleoli ger y ffermydd/tyddyn neu ar brif lwybr.*

## **NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

*This project forms part of a pan-Wales initiative designed to create a set of GIS polygons of surviving traditional farm buildings in order to produce data for current and future agri-environmental schemes. A second element of the project was to produce a record of the character of the farmsteads containing the traditional buildings following the approach laid out in a guidance document produced by English Heritage. An overall methodology had been devised by Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in a previous pilot study, and this was later applied to southern Anglesey, the Carneddau, Ardudwy and south Meirionnydd in previous projects. Last year, the project has focused solely on the characterisation of farmsteads in the remaining areas covered by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, including northern Anglesey and western Meirionnydd. This year's survey focused on the characterisation of farmsteads on the Llŷn peninsula. The majority of farmsteads conformed to either loose courtyard plans or regular courtyard plans, with smallholdings typically linear or loose courtyard plans. This was along with a high proportion of associated outfarms consisting of one building with an accompanying yard that tended to be located adjacent to the farmstead/smallholding or on a main routeway.*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

This years project is the latest phase of a programme that was designed with the principal aim of producing GIS polygons of traditional farmsteads and farm buildings in order to inform future land management schemes. A program of polygonisation of historic features in farmland and woodland for the Glastir land management scheme had previously been carried out by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts.

A large proportion of farms retain traditional farm buildings; a category defined as buildings that were constructed before the end of the First World War. The current project aims to record the farmsteads that contain traditional farm buildings to create a register of traditional farmsteads.

Traditional farmsteads and farm buildings are an acknowledged deficit within the Historic Environment record and are generally considered to be at risk as farming practices evolve and diversify. The creation of this comprehensive dataset will influence Heritage Management work, Historic Environment Record enquiries and Development Control decision making.

A pilot project was carried out by Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in 2015/16 which examined an area in Radnorshire (CPAT Report No 1359). This allowed an efficient methodology for the recording of historic farm buildings to be formulated. The project was continued in Wrexham (CPAT Report No 1501) in 2016/17, North Ardudwy (GAT report No 1422) in 2017/18, South Anglesey (GAT report No 1478) in 2018/19, the Carneddau (GAT report 1502) in 2019/2020, Ardudwy (GAT report No 1585) in 2020/21, and South Meirionnydd (GAT report 1621) in 2021/22.

A second element was added to the project in the form of a study of the character of farmsteads following the Welsh Farmstead Mapping Programme, a manual that sets out the guidelines for recording the character of farmsteads. This methodology was developed and adapted from the National Farmsteads Character Statement by English Heritage (now Historic England). The character statement aims to “provide a consistent understanding of farmstead character at a landscape level, through recording the distribution, plan-type and degree of change seen between historic mapping and the present” (Lake 2014 and Lake and Edwards 2017).

The aim of last year’s survey (2022 – 2023) was to polygonise the remaining areas of Anglesey and Meirionnydd that had not been covered in previous years. In order to speed up the process it was decided to focus exclusively on the characterisation of farmsteads containing historic farm buildings, and not the individual farm buildings themselves. The project continued to adhere to the characterisation guidelines set out in the Historic Farmsteads manual (Lake and Edwards, 2017). This

methodology has also been used in this year's survey (2023 – 2024) which focuses solely on the historic farmsteads on the Llŷn peninsula, Gwynedd.

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## 3 METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Introduction

Pilot projects were carried out by Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in 2015/16 and 2016/17. The rest of the Welsh Archaeological Trusts (WATs), including GAT, started work on the project in 2017/18 in the form of limited pilot projects designed to develop and implement a consistent methodology for the identification and recording of historic farm buildings and farmsteads across Wales. A meeting was held in the CPAT offices before the project commenced. Abi McCulloch and Chris Martin described the methodology that they had developed for the polygonisation of buildings and Jeremy Lake, who had previously worked on the English Heritage farmstead characterisation project, presented a manual for recording historic farmstead character (Welsh Farmstead Mapping Programme, Lake and Edwards 2017). It was recognised that the characterisation element was potentially the most time-consuming element of the project so this was streamlined and 14 different fields were identified as the core features that should be recorded. Jeremy Lake subsequently visited all of the WAT offices in order to provide guidance for the characterisation project.

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust agreed to carry out a pilot project covering an area of Northern Ardudwy in 2018. The methodology established by CPAT and Jeremy Lake was used and CPAT provided a template MapInfo Table for the characterisation process. It was, however, necessary to add an additional 18 fields of metadata to conform to Gwynedd Historic Environment's spatial data standards. All digitisation was carried out using MapInfo desktop geographic information system (GIS) and one table was produced for supply to the HER, G2496\_HF\_Llyn\_2023, containing the farmstead characterisation data.

The methodology established in the pilot project has been adopted by GAT for subsequent phases of the project. Different parts of the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust area have been covered in each phase: North Ardudwy (GAT report No 1422) in 2017/18; South Anglesey (GAT report No 1478) in 2018/19; the Carneddau (GAT report 1502) in 2019/2020; Ardudwy (GAT report No 1585) in 2020/21; South Meirionnydd (GAT report 1621) in 2021/22; and North Anglesey and West Meirionnydd (GAT Report 1657) in 2022/23. In 2022/23, in order to speed up the process, a decision was made to focus exclusively on the characterisation of farmsteads containing historic farm buildings, and not the individual farm buildings themselves. The 2023-24 phase of the project continues this methodology and focuses on the GIS mapping and characterisation of historic farmsteads on the Llŷn Peninsula, Gwynedd.



### 3.2 Farmstead Characterisation

The data was derived from Epoch GIS registered versions of the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition (1900-1901) 25" to the mile maps for Caernarvonshire. The 2nd edition maps were used because they are the closest to the end of the First World War cut-off point for the designation of traditional farm buildings by Glastir. These were examined in MapInfo GIS along with modern Ordnance Survey mapping and recent Next Perspectives Aerial photographic coverage to establish the extent of their survival.

The farmstead characterisation data was added to a MapInfo table. The extent of each farmstead (sub-classified as either a 'farmstead', 'smallholding' or 'outfarm' according to the guidance in the Welsh Farmstead Mapping Programme (Lake and Edwards, 2017)) was defined by a single polygon drawn around the buildings and yards. Each farmstead was assigned a new Gwynedd HER PRN if required and data fields relating to layout and condition as defined in Table 1 below were manually completed. Additional metadata fields were added to the table to conform to Gwynedd Historic Environment Records spatial data standards. The rest of the standard HER data fields were then filled in for each entry. NGRs and X-Y coordinates were extracted automatically from MapInfo. Other politico-geographic data was derived from existing MapInfo tables along with spatial correspondences to Cadw's listed buildings database.

<b>PRN</b>	Unique No.	Unique reference number to fit with any existing data sets
<b>Site Name</b>	Modern Name (historic name)	Modern farm name with historic name (if different) recorded in brackets
<b>Classification</b>  <b>Primary Attribute</b>	FARMSTEAD  SMALLHOLDING   OUTFARM	Defined as a site with farmhouse and associated working buildings and areas for the working of a farm  Sites that are, by their form, associated with areas of industrial activity or located within areas of small fields (often encroachment onto common) are likely to have been smallholdings  Defined as a site (outfarm) or individual building range (field barn) remote from the farmstead
<b>PLAN TYPE</b>	This results from combination of Primary and Secondary Plan Attributes e.g. LC3 = Loose Courtyard with buildings to 3 sides of yard; RCmy = Regular Courtyard multi-yard plan	

<b>Plan Type Primary Attribute</b>	DISP	Dispersed
	LC	Loose Courtyard
	LIN	Linear
	LP	L-plan (attached house)
	PAR	Parallel
	RC	Regular Courtyard
	ROW	Row Plan
	SING	Single building (use for field barns etc. where there is no yard)
	UNC	Uncertain
<b>Plan Type Secondary Attribute</b>	1, 2, 3, 4	No. of sides to loose courtyard formed by <i>working</i> agricultural buildings
	L3 or L4	Yard with an L-plan range plus detached buildings to the third and/or fourth side of the yard (may be used with LC or RC dependent on overall character)
	L	Regular Courtyard L-plan
	u	Regular Courtyard U-plan
	e	Regular Courtyard E-plan
	ful	Full Regular Courtyard plan
	cl	Cluster (Used with DISP)
	dw	Driftway (Used with DISP)
	my	Multi-yard (Used with DISP or RC)
	cov	Covered yard forms an element of farmstead
	d	Additional detached elements to main plan
	y	Presence of small second yard with one main yard evident
<b>Tertiary Attribute</b>	Codes as per Secondary Attribute table e.g. LC1d = Loose Courtyard with building to one side of yard with additional detached buildings; DISPmyL = Dispersed multi-yard group including a prominent Regular L-plan within it	

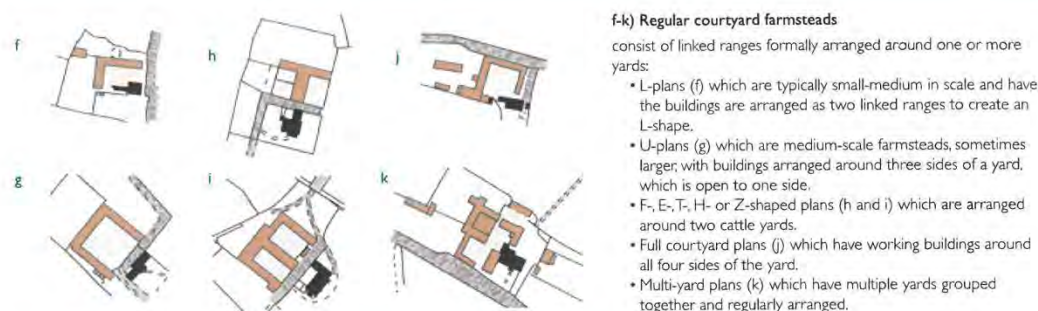
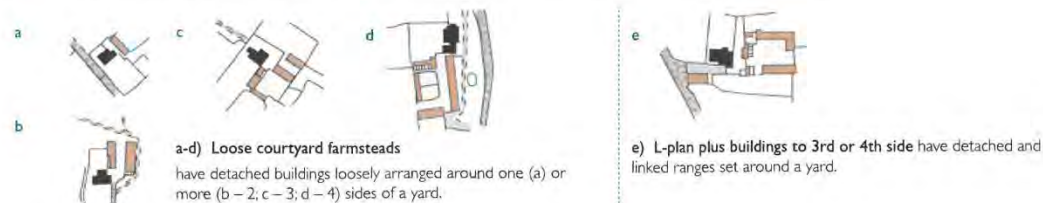
<b>Survival</b>	EXT	Extant – no apparent alteration
	ALT	Partial Loss – less than 50% change
	ALTS	Significant Loss – more than 50% alteration
	DEM	Site remains but no OS 2nd edition buildings legible
	HOUS	Farmhouse only survives
	LOST	No evident trace of farmstead/outfarm site
<b>Sheds</b>	SITE	Large modern sheds on site of historic farmstead – may have destroyed historic buildings or may obscure them
	SIDE	Large modern sheds to side of historic farmstead – suggests farmstead probably still in agricultural use
<b>Farmhouse Position</b>	ATT	Attached to agricultural range
	DET	Detached
	UNC	Uncertain (cannot identify which is farmhouse)
<b>Confidence</b>	H	High
	M	Medium
	L	Low
<b>Area</b>	Rapid polygonal capture of the area of the farmstead, capable of analysis after an area mapping project has completed	
<b>Notes</b>	Free text field to add notes relating to the character or identification of a record or confidence score	

Table 1: Farmstead characterisation GIS table attribute fields

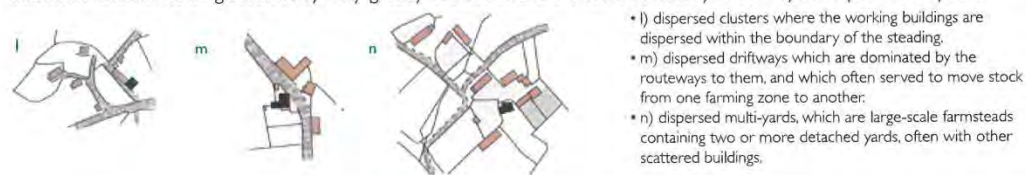
The majority of the fields describe variations in the layout of the farm. The characterisation of the farmsteads utilises the classifications for farmstead types set out in the National Farmsteads Character Statement (Lake 2014, 10; see over).

**Courtyard plans** are the most common forms of farmstead layout, where the working buildings are arranged around one or more yards. The largest courtyard farms are found on high-status sites, estate farms and in the arable vales, wolds and downlands of England, and the smallest in stock-rearing and dairying areas. Cattle yards either developed as areas for treading straw from the threshing barn into manure, or – especially in upland areas – an area for moving cattle and storing the manure. They may have scatters of other farm buildings relating to routes and tracks, usually cart sheds and other ancillary buildings.

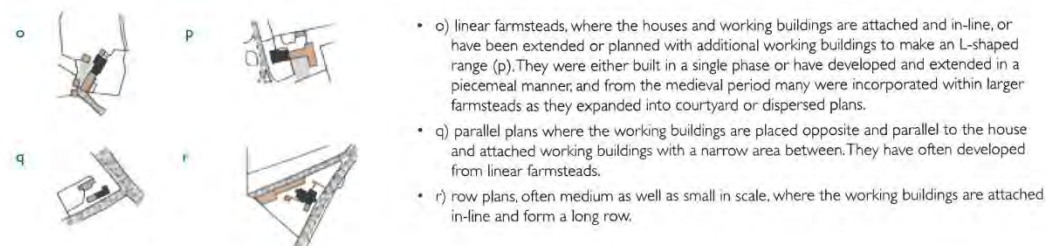
KEY	
	farmhouse
	working building
	yard
	route/way



**Dispersed plans** have no focal yard area and the working buildings are dispersed along a routeway or within the boundary of the farmstead. They are concentrated in upland and wood pasture landscapes including areas close to common land for holding stock. They vary greatly in scale and are often bisected by routeways and public footpaths.



**Linear and other farmstead types** are most closely associated with upland and common-edge farmsteads.



### Typical farmstead plans (after Lake 2014, 10)

Once completed, the farmstead characterisation GIS table was submitted to the Historic Environment Record at Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.

## 4 RESULTS

This year's survey is focused on the Llŷn peninsula Gwynedd and involved the characterisation of the historic farmsteads depicted on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition (1900-1901) 25" to the mile maps that lie within the Llŷn peninsula study area boundary (Figure 01). A total of 703.4 square kilometres of historic mapping was assessed and 1,620 farmsteads were characterised and polygonised in GIS. The farmstead classification sub-categories comprised 1,110 farmsteads, 174 smallholdings and 336 outfarms.

### 4.1 Study area

The Llŷn peninsula stretches approximately 50 km into the Irish Sea from the northwest corner of the Welsh coast southwest of Ynys Mon. At its widest point, it is 15km wide. Volcanic mountains and high hills, most notably Yr Eifl which rise to over 500m above sea level on the northern side of the peninsula, form a prominent backdrop in views from the coastal lowlands that surround them.

The landscape is predominately rural in nature and is characterised by geometric and occasionally irregularly shaped fields set within a network of hedgerows or 'cloddiau' hedgebank in the lowlands, with stone-walled and fenced marginal land and open mountainous uplands. Several small nucleated village-scale settlements lie along the coast, set in sheltered headlands or at the mouths of rivers. Formerly exclusively fishing villages, settlements such as Nefyn, on the north coast and Aberdaron, Llanbedrog and Abersoch on the south are now popular tourist destinations. In the interior, the settlement pattern is predominately dispersed farms and cottages with a scattering of small nucleated settlements clustered around churches (NRW 2014). Pwllheli and Criccieth, with its medieval coastal castle, are the two largest urbanised settlements. They are located on the south coast and are both former medieval settlements which developed as tourist towns following the construction of the Cambrian railway along the southern coast in the 1860s.

In the uplands, prehistoric field systems and relict settlement and funerary archaeology survive. The agricultural landscape elsewhere is a palimpsest reflecting the changes in land ownership and farming practice from the medieval period onwards.

During the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, the medieval agricultural landscape was predominantly one of extensive unenclosed arable strip fields with cattle ranches in areas which gave access to uncultivated upland pastures (hafodydd). The settlement pattern consisted of more substantial houses in the townships with a more dispersed pattern of smaller buildings on the encroachments and boundaries of upland or uncultivated grazing, with temporary structures associated with cattle management and dairying on the hafodydd or friddoedd (summer pasture lands). During the 16<sup>th</sup>

century the strip fields began to be enclosed to create irregular fields, which would in some cases go on to form the basis of consolidated estates, though unenclosed strips of land persisted into the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The large estates continued to expand their holdings during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, examples include the Vaynol Estate, the Griffith's of Cefnamwlch, the Edwards of Nanhoron and the merging of estates such as Boduan Estate, that passed by marriage to Glynllifon and the Newboroughs.

The early post medieval period also saw attempts to improve agricultural inefficiencies which carried on into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Fields were widened to accommodate the increase in cattle-rearing and dairy farming, and holdings and individual tenancies were consolidated into one or more large farms. The present-day character of the farming landscape on the Llŷn peninsula, based upon sheep and cattle farming with dairying on pockets of better pasture, is as a result of these improvements.

## 4.2 Attribute analysis and distribution

### 4.2.1 Farmsteads

The most frequent plan type for farmsteads is the loose courtyard plan (46.7%) i.e. with detached buildings arranged around one or more sides of a yard (Figure 02). Of these, 50.3 % have working buildings on one side, 40.3% have buildings on two sides, 8.9% on three sides, and 0.6% on four sides. The majority of farmsteads (56.8%) have detached elements, and 10% of farmsteads have an additional yard.

Regular courtyard plans account for 19.5% of the farmsteads within the study area (Figure 03). 54.6% are L-shaped, 16.2% are L-shaped with additional elements to the 3rd side of the yard, 6.5% with additional elements to the 3rd and 4th side of the yard. 7.9% are multi-yard farms. 51% of regular courtyard plans have an additional yard. A prominent trend is the additional yard in the L range courtyard plans (19.9%).

7.9% are multiple courtyards and 2.8% are full courtyards. Other types of regular courtyards are U-shape (6.0%), Z-shape (3.7%) and T-shape (1.4%), with rare occurrence of F-shape (<1%). The majority of these farmsteads (73.1%) have detached elements to the main yard, of these, only 3 (11.5%) farmsteads have an additional regular courtyard or loose courtyard yard.

Linear farmyard plans make up 13.4% of farmsteads (Figure 04). Of these the majority (68.5%) have additional detached elements to the farmstead. A common trend is the addition of a loose courtyard or regular courtyard yard which makes up 16.1% of the tertiary attribute.

Dispersed farmyard plans account for 12.1% of farmsteads i.e. farms with no focal yard (Figure 05). Of these, 45.5% have multiple working yards, 31.3% are dispersed driftways dominated by the routeways to them, and 23.1% are dispersed clusters with the buildings spread around the boundary of the farm. A regular occurrence is the loose courtyard yard plan type as the main tertiary element in the multi-yard and driftway plan types.

L-plans constitute 7.2% of farmsteads (Figure 06). A great proportion of these (57.5%) have additional detached elements. Less common (30%) is the presence of a loose courtyard or regular courtyard yard noted as a tertiary attribute.

Other farmstead layouts have been recorded although all are uncommon. These are covered plans (0.8%; Figure 07) and 'other' plan types (0.2%; Figure 08).

A little more than half of farmsteads (52.2%) measure between 0.10 – 0.20 hectares in size, with 22.4% of farmsteads measuring less than 0.10 hectares. 20.1% measure between 0.20 – 0.30 hectares, with a minority (7.3%) of farmsteads measuring either between 0.30 – 0.40 or greater than 0.40 hectares.

#### **4.2.2 Smallholdings**

The Linear plan is the most common farmyard plan for smallholdings, comprising of 37.9% of total smallholdings. Of these, 59.1% of linear plan types have tertiary detached elements, with rare occurrence of an additional loose courtyard yard (4.5%).

Loose courtyards make up 36.2% of smallholdings. 63.5% have working buildings on one side, 31.7% have buildings on two sides, 4.8% on three sides, but none on four sides. The majority of loose courtyard smallholdings (41.3%) have detached elements, and 3.2% of smallholdings have an additional loose courtyard or regular courtyard yard.

13.2% of smallholdings have been characterised as L-plan, in which the house and farm buildings are attached to form a L shape. Of these, 69.6% have tertiary detached farm buildings.

Regular courtyard plans account for 6.3% of smallholdings within the study area. The most frequent type is the L-plan (54.5%), with additional elements to the 3rd side of the yard 9.1%. A high number of regular courtyard L-plan smallholdings have detached elements (45.5%). Multiple courtyards make up 18.2% and 9.1% are full courtyard.

Dispersed farmyard plans make up 4.6% of smallholdings and are the least common plan type. Of these, 62.5% are dispersed clusters with the buildings spread around the boundary of the farm, 25% have multiple working yards and 12.5% are dispersed driftways dominated by the routeways to them. A regular occurrence is the loose courtyard yard plan type as the main tertiary element in the multi-yard and driftway plan types.

A very small number (1.7%) of smallholdings have been identified as a single building attached to a yard, with access to an outfarm.

A high number (60.9%) of smallholdings measure less than 0.10 hectares, 32.2% are between 0.10 – 0.20 hectares, 8% between 0.20 – 0.30 hectares, 1.7% between 0.30 – 0.40 hectares and even less (0.6%) are greater than 0.40 hectares in size.



#### **4.2.3 Outfarms**

There is a total of 336 (20.7%) outfarms i.e. a building or a range of buildings remote from the main farmstead (Figure 09). These mostly (82.4%) comprise of a single building with or without a yard. Outfarms with two or more working buildings set around a yard make up 15.2% and are limited to either regular courtyard L-plan or loose courtyard plan. An interesting trend is occurrence of outfarms with dispersed multi-yards (1.9%) and a covered yard (0.3%).

The majority (86.3%) of outfarms measure less than 0.10 hectares in size, 9.5% measure between 0.10 – 0.20 hectares, 2.1% between 0.20 – 0.30 hectares, 1.7% between 0.30 – 0.40 hectares, with no outfarms measuring greater than 0.40 hectares in size.

The distribution of farmsteads and smallholdings on the Llŷn peninsula is concentrated in the low-lying coastal areas, the lower areas of the Aberdaron and Botwnnog plateaus and on lower upland slopes of mountains such as Mynydd Rhiw and Mynydd Nefyn, with little to no presence on marginal land and uplands of Garn Fadryn, Yr Eifl, Bwlch Mawr and Bryniau Ystumcegig. Outfarms are more commonly found on the eastern uplands around Cwm Pennant valley towards Snowdonia National Park.

### **4.3 Survival and condition**

Survival and condition of farmsteads, smallholdings and outfarms were determined from mapping and aerial photographic evidence.

In general, the survival of farmsteads and smallholdings shown on the 25" map is relatively high with 24% of farmsteads and smallholdings intact with no significant loss of structures, 47.6% with less than 50% alteration and 11.1% that have more than 50% alteration. In some cases (6.6%), the farmhouse is the only surviving element. Lost farmsteads and smallholdings account for 5.1% as seen on aerial photographs as full or partial ruin. Only 4.8% of farmsteads have been demolished, often replaced by either a new farm or residential property.

Many smallholdings (41%) have faced less than 50% alteration, with less than 20% remaining fully intact. Compared to farmsteads, quite a high number of smallholdings have been demolished or lost (10%). A significant number of smallholdings have been converted into new residential properties (12%).

A total of 9.7% of farmsteads and smallholdings have been converted to housing or holiday lets on the Llŷn peninsula i.e. a working building that is now a house or a holiday let or the full property is now a holiday let. Of this amount, 3.3% accounts for farmsteads and smallholdings have been converted into residential properties with little to no original farm buildings remaining, and less than 2.5% have been turned into caravan park sites. Lastly, a very low percentage (0.4%) of farmsteads and smallholdings have been converted into holiday lets.

Intact outfarms account for 26.8%, 7.4% with less than 50% alteration, and 3.5% that have more than 50% alteration. A significant amount (36.9%) of outfarms have been demolished, with a slightly lower number (17.9%) of outfarms that have been lost and, are from aerial photographic evidence, in different states of ruin.

## **5 DISCUSSION**

### **5.1 The digitisation process**

This year's survey (2023-2024) followed a methodology first established in 2017-2018 to ensure an efficient workflow and make sure that outcomes were compatible with the Gwynedd HER. The 2023-2024 survey focused on the characterisation of historic farmsteads on the Llŷn peninsula.

As has been previously said, farmstead characterisation is more complex and time consuming than the digitisation of individual buildings, this is due to the manual process. The input table contains 35 fields but 12 of these fields require manual input and the process requires reference to aerial photography, existing records from Gwynedd HER, Cadw listed buildings and RCAHMW. The categorisation process requires confirmation of the current status and condition of the buildings, the identification of the farmhouse, and the allocation of the plan to one of 8 basic plan types and 18 sub-plan types.

The main categories of farmstead plans as defined in the Historic Farmsteads manual (Lake and Edwards, 2017) proved to be readily identifiable although smaller more irregular farmsteads could sometimes be interpreted in more than one way. It was in many cases possible to reliably identify secondary and tertiary attributes such as multi-yards, drift-ways, clusters and numbers of buildings around courtyards. Some of the other attributes appear to require more subjective judgement and could be regarded as being on a continuum of loose courtyard plans.

## 5.2 Conclusions

Farmsteads on the Llŷn peninsula are typically either Loose Courtyard or Regular Courtyard in plan, whereas smallholdings are either typically Linear or Loose Courtyard in plan. A high proportion of associated outfarms consist of one building with an accompanying yard and less commonly two or more buildings set around a yard. These outfarms tend to be located adjacent to the farmstead/smallholding or on a main routeway.

On average, farmsteads tend to be larger in size than smallholdings. Farmsteads measure between 0.20 – 0.30 (52.2%) whereas the majority (60.9%) of smallholdings measure less than 0.10 hectares. Very few (1.7%) smallholdings are greater than 0.40 hectares in size, in contrast to farmsteads (7.3%). The majority (86.3%) of outfarms measure less than 0.10 hectares in size.

A small number of estate farms were recorded, these include several located in the parishes of Aberdaron, Llanbedrog and Llannor (PRN 101384, 102333, 101527, 101961, 62815), all dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and belonging to Meillionydd, Plas-yn-Rhiw, Vaynol, and Glynllifon estates. The size of these farms measured on average 0.17 hectares and were either Regular Courtyard or Dispersed plan types. The majority of the farms (80%) are either extant or have less than 50% alteration and include new sheds, with the minority (20%) surviving less than 50%. Some of the largest farmsteads are the home farms of mansions built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, these include Trallwyn Hall in Llannor (PRN 102119) and Broome Hall, Llanystumdwy (PRN 100980).

Numerous farmsteads and smallholdings on the Llŷn peninsula are dated to the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century, many of which are still in use. The overall survival of farmsteads and smallholdings is high (71.6%), this is based on 50% or less alterations done to the farm buildings. A low amount (9.7%) of farmsteads and smallholdings have been converted to holiday cottages and caravan parks, of which are mainly found along the coast, with a high concentration in Llanengan.

More than half of the outfarms recorded have either been left to ruin or since demolished and replaced by large modern sheds, with a low number of outfarms still intact (26.8%).

The distribution of farmsteads and smallholdings on the Llŷn peninsula is concentrated on the low-lying coastal areas, on the inland lower areas such as on the Aberdaron and Botwnnog plateaus and on the lower upland slopes of mountains such as Mynydd Rhiw and Mynydd Nefyn, with little to no presence on marginal land and uplands at Garn Fadryn, Yr Eifl, Bwlch Mawr and Bryniau Ystumcegig. Outfarms are more commonly found on the eastern uplands around Cwm Pennant valley towards Snowdonia National Park.

The overall distribution and character of farmsteads on the Llŷn peninsula is a reflection of centuries of consolidation of holdings and individual tenancies into one or more large farms, as well as the long-standing practice of cattle-rearing and dairying and the use of the hafoddyd and frideodd that date back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, with origins to prehistory.

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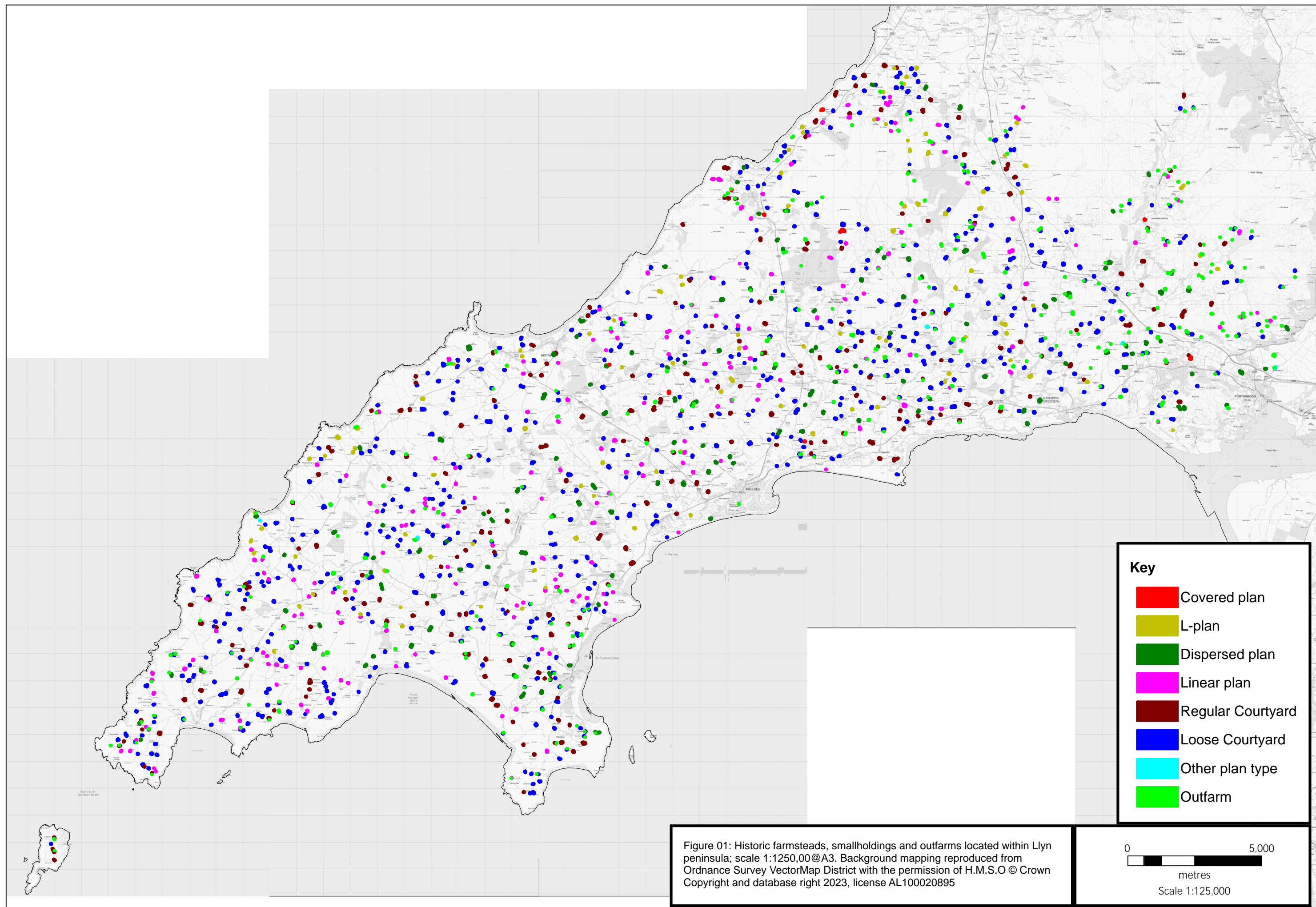
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## FIGURES







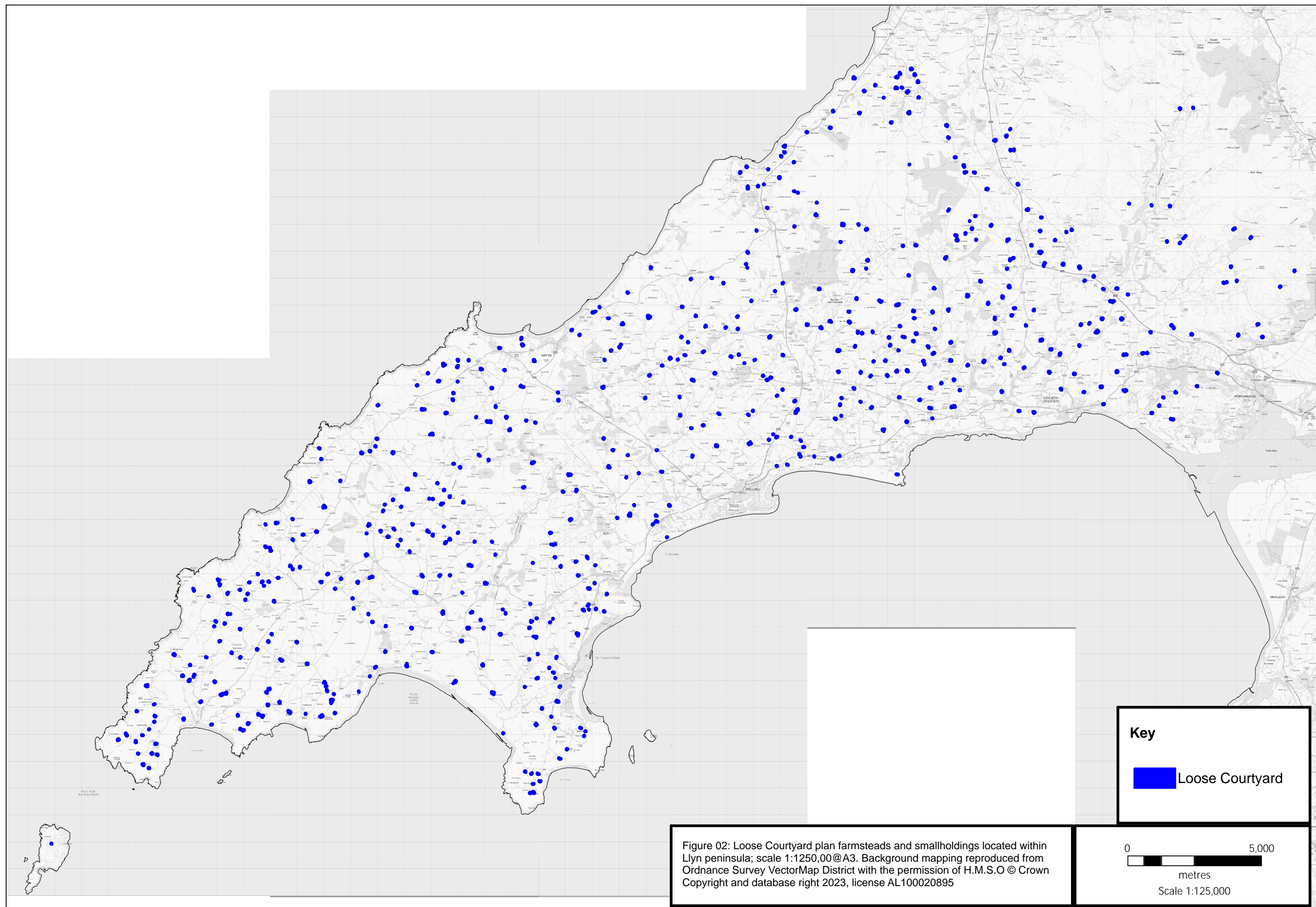


Figure 02: Loose Courtyard plan farmsteads and smallholdings located within Llyn peninsula; scale 1:1250,00@A3. Background mapping reproduced from Ordnance Survey VectorMap District with the permission of H.M.S.O © Crown Copyright and database right 2023, license AL100020895

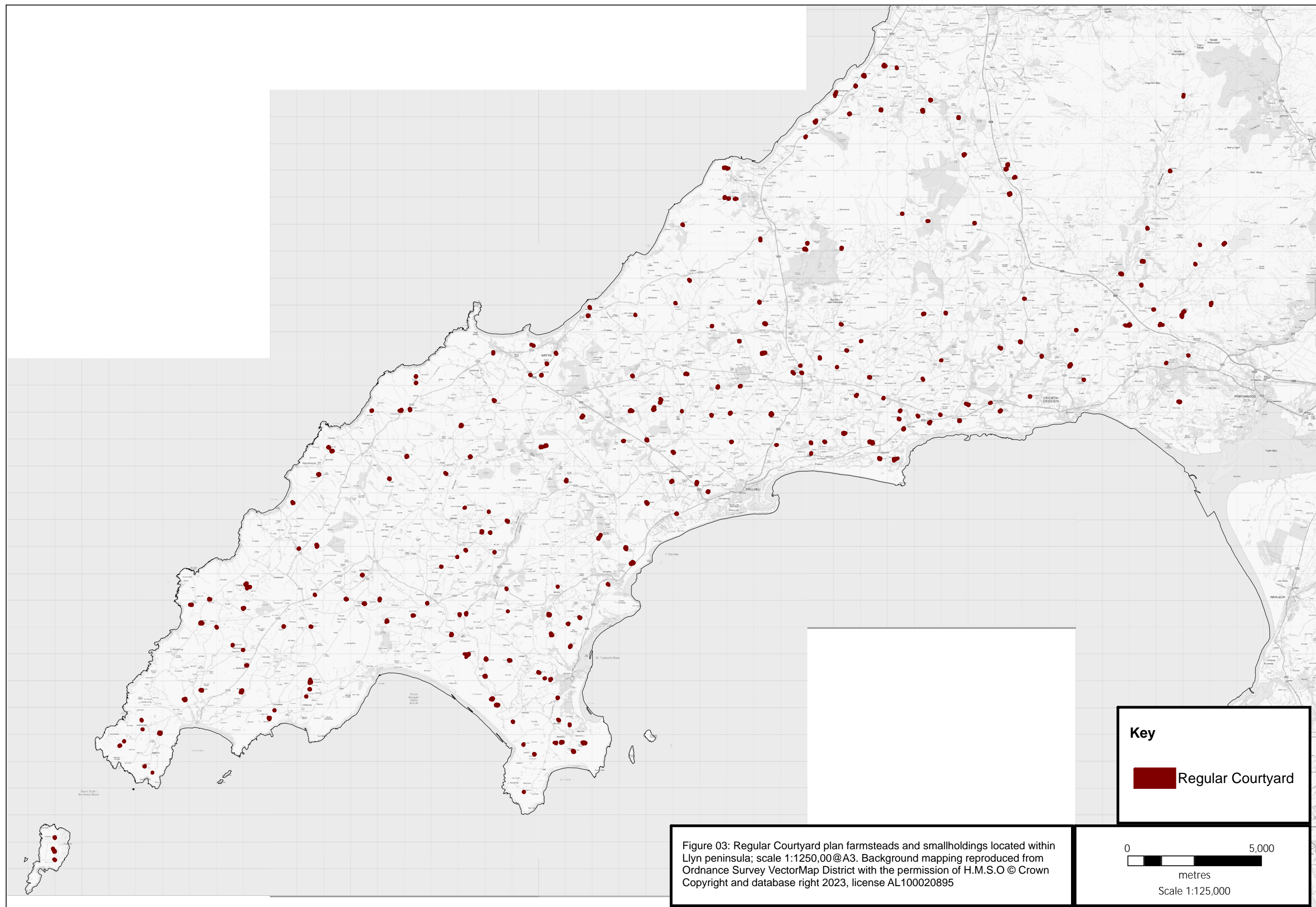


Figure 03: Regular Courtyard plan farmsteads and smallholdings located within Llyn peninsula; scale 1:1250,00@A3. Background mapping reproduced from Ordnance Survey VectorMap District with the permission of H.M.S.O. © Crown Copyright and database right 2023, license AL100020895

**Key**

Regular Courtyard

0 5,000  
metres  
Scale 1:125,000



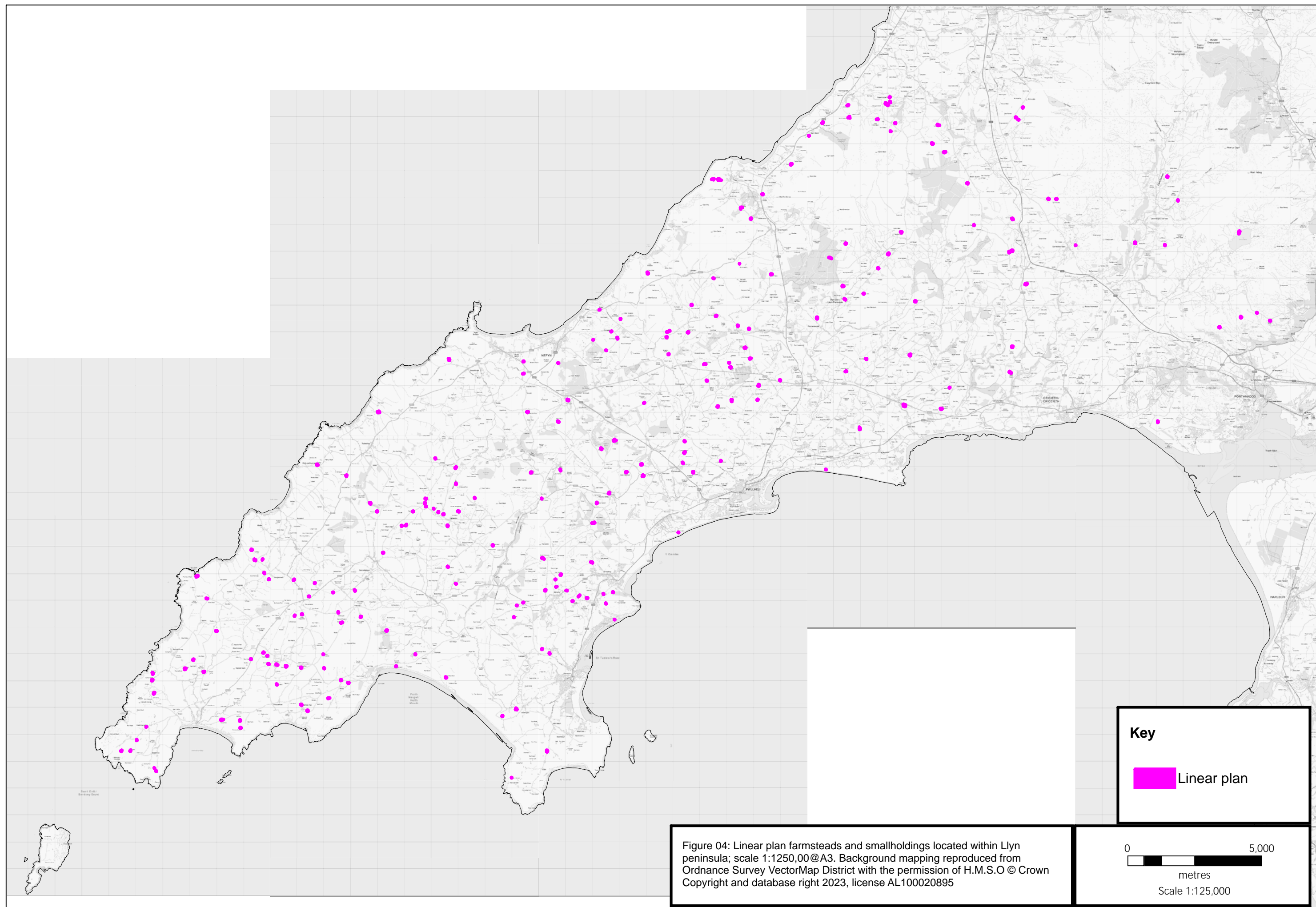
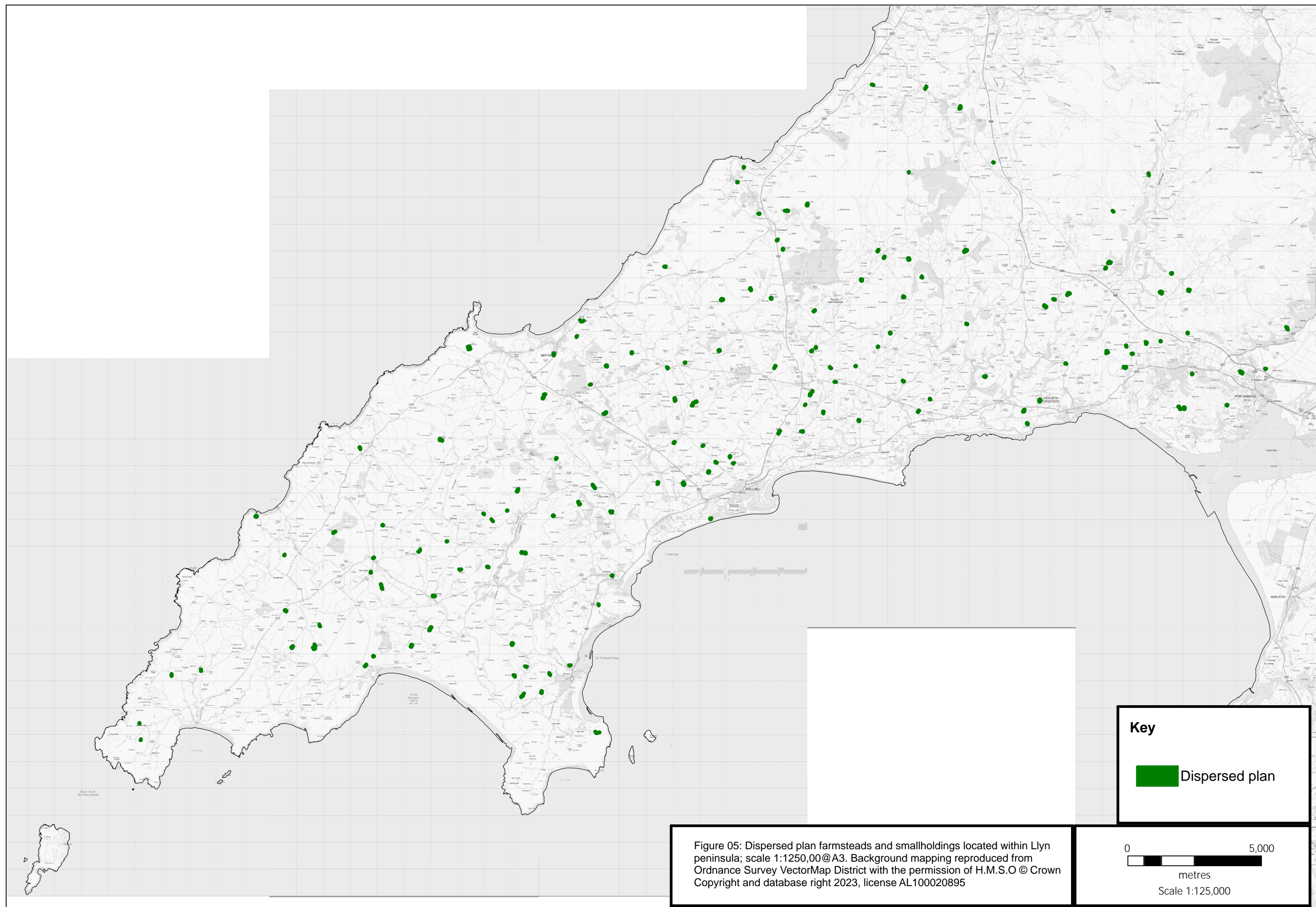


Figure 04: Linear plan farmsteads and smallholdings located within Llyn peninsula; scale 1:1250,00@A3. Background mapping reproduced from Ordnance Survey VectorMap District with the permission of H.M.S.O © Crown Copyright and database right 2023, license AL100020895

Key

Linear plan

0 5,000  
metres  
Scale 1:125,000



**Key**

 Dispersed plan

0 5,000  
metres  
Scale 1:125,000

Figure 05: Dispersed plan farmsteads and smallholdings located within Llyn peninsula; scale 1:1250,00@A3. Background mapping reproduced from Ordnance Survey VectorMap District with the permission of H.M.S.O © Crown Copyright and database right 2023, license AL100020895



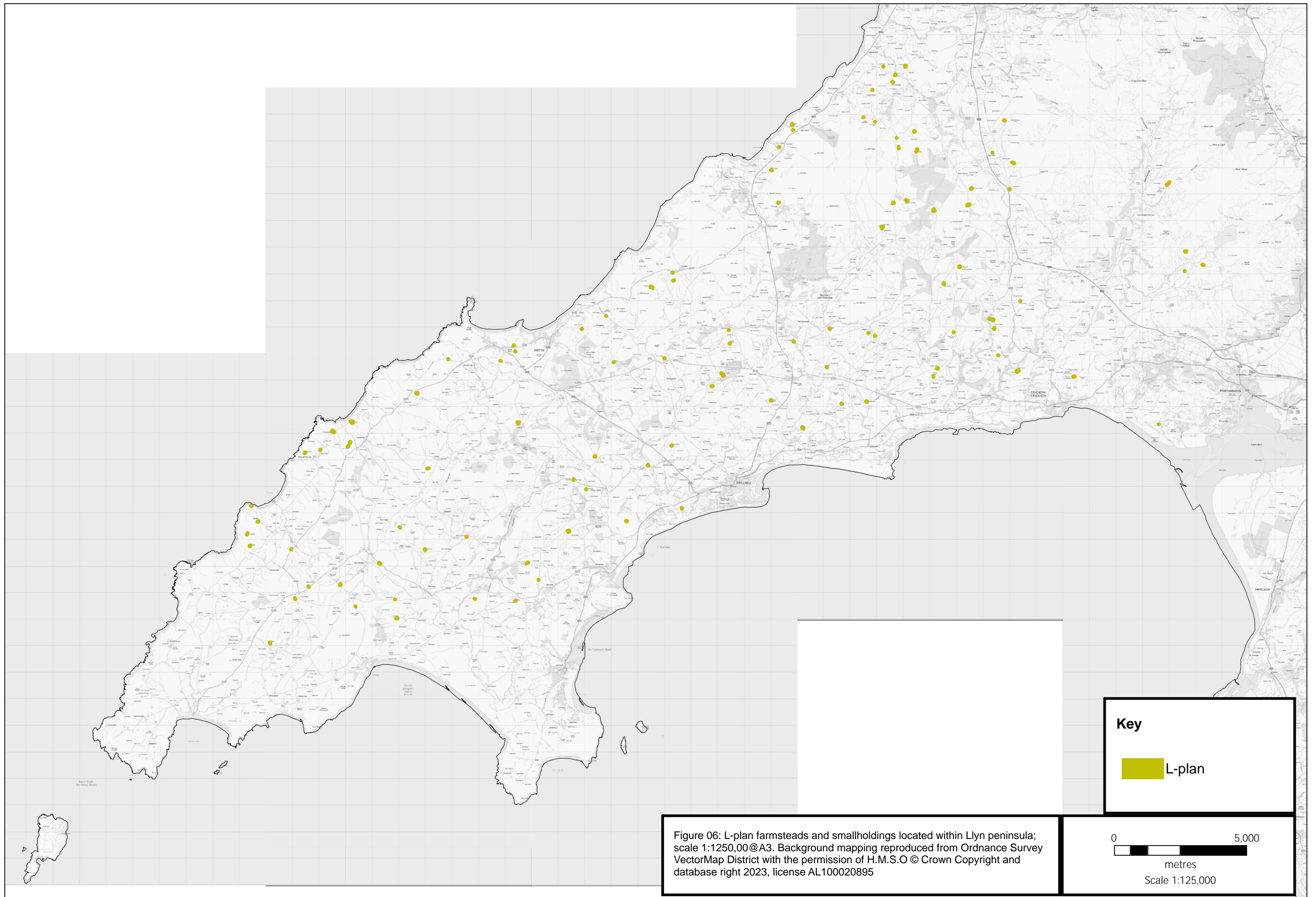




Figure 06: L-plan farmsteads and smallholdings located within Llyn peninsula; scale 1:1250,00@A3. Background mapping reproduced from Ordnance Survey VectorMap District with the permission of H.M.S.O © Crown Copyright and database right 2023, license AL100020895

**Key**

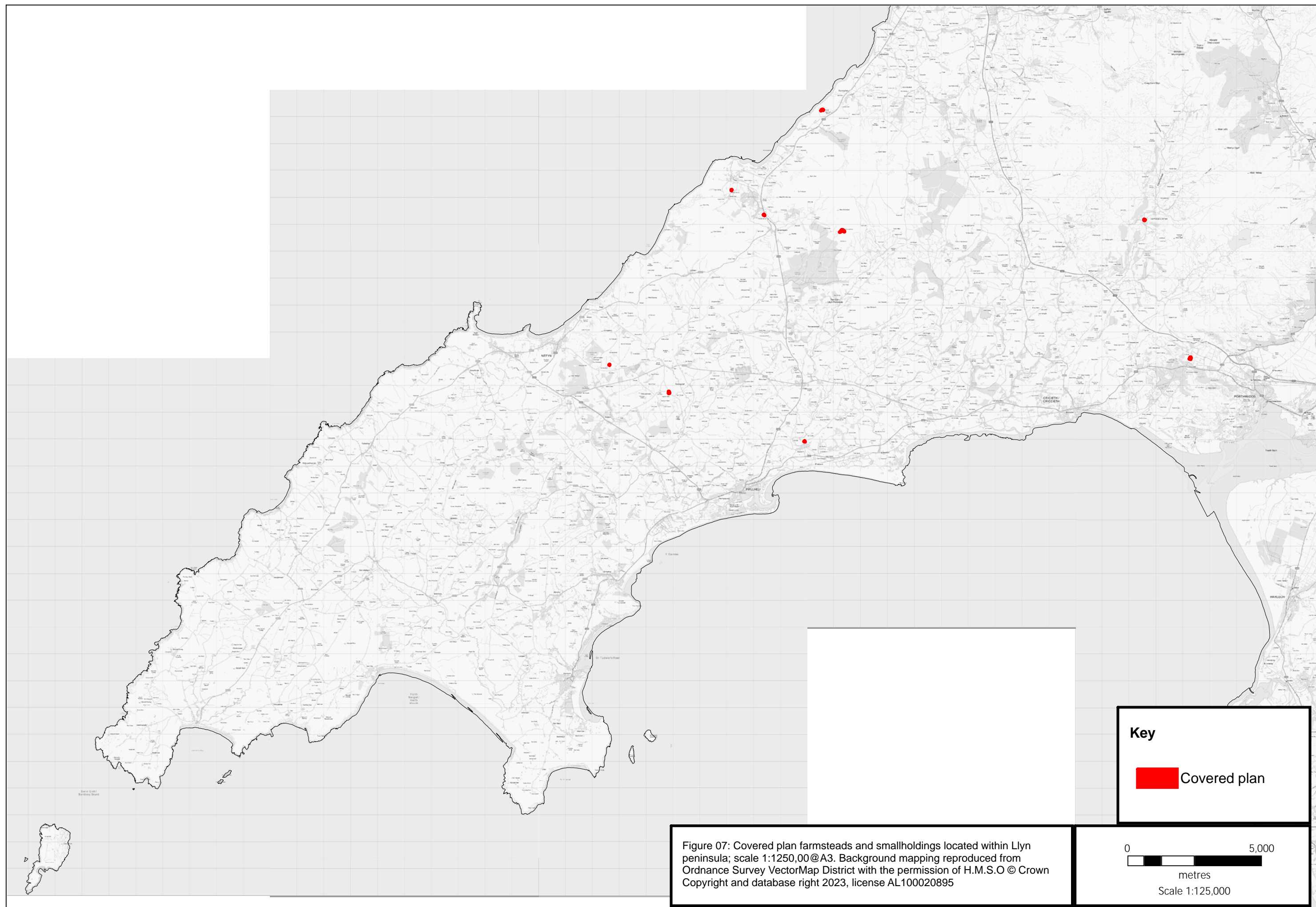
 L-plan

0 5,000




metres

Scale 1:125,000



**Key**

 Covered plan

0  5,000

metres

Scale 1:125,000

Figure 07: Covered plan farmsteads and smallholdings located within Llyn peninsula; scale 1:1250,00@A3. Background mapping reproduced from Ordnance Survey VectorMap District with the permission of H.M.S.O © Crown Copyright and database right 2023, license AL100020895



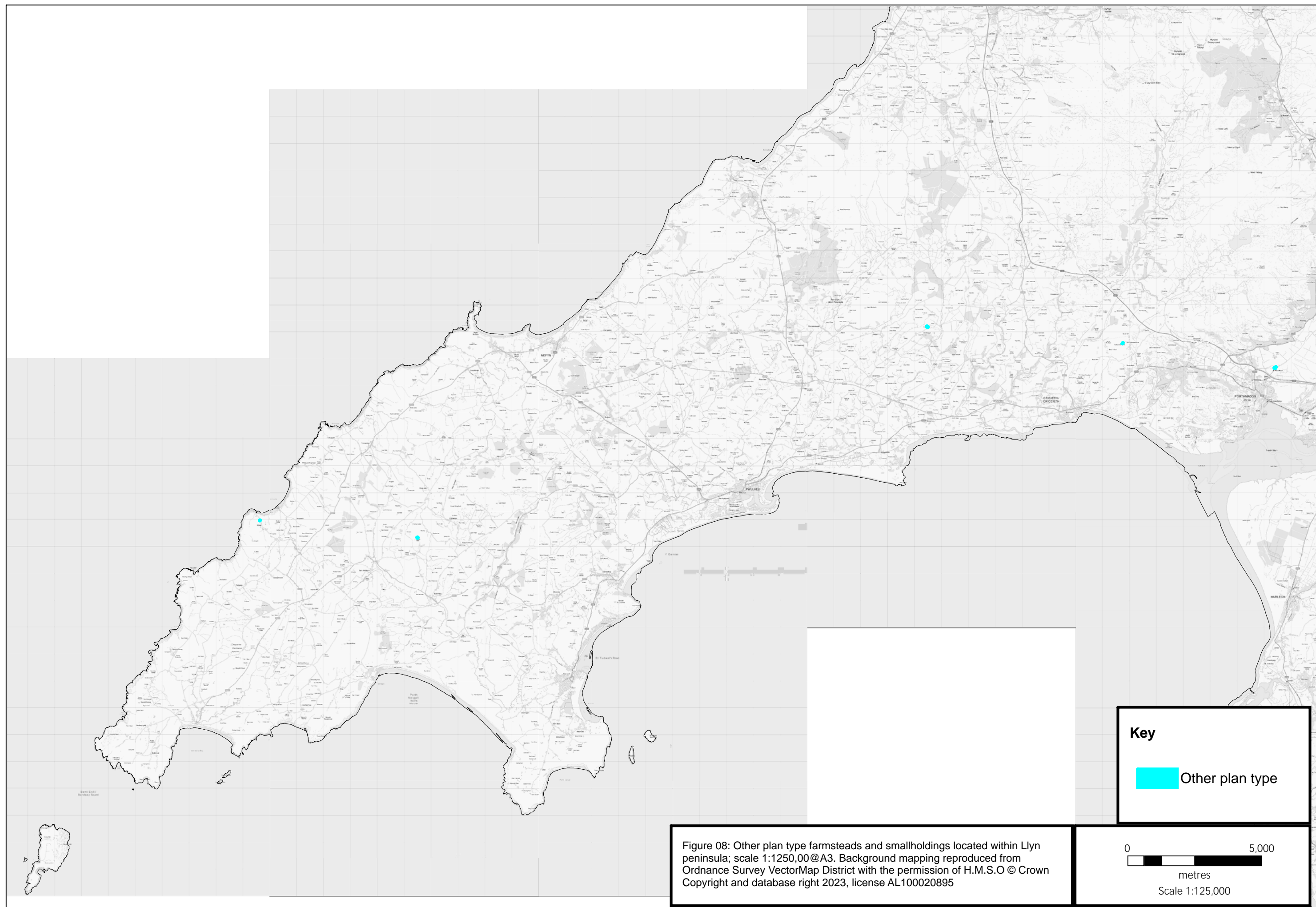




Figure 08: Other plan type farmsteads and smallholdings located within Llyn peninsula; scale 1:1250,00@A3. Background mapping reproduced from Ordnance Survey VectorMap District with the permission of H.M.S.O © Crown Copyright and database right 2023, license AL100020895

**Key**

 Other plan type

0 5,000



metres

Scale 1:125,000



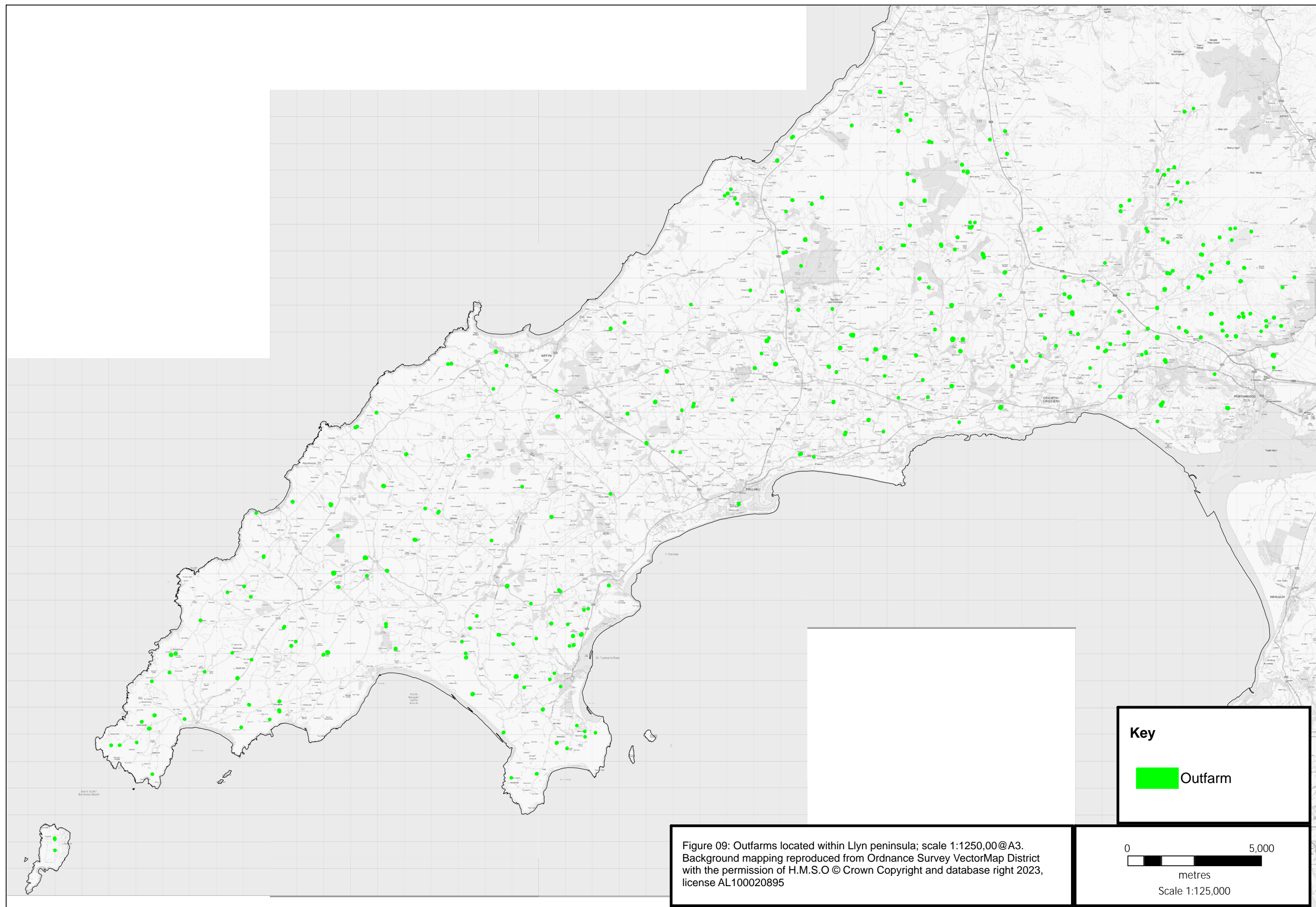


Figure 09: Outfarms located within Llyn peninsula; scale 1:1250,00@A3.  
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