

BRYN COWLYD TO GORS WEN
LINK MAIN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Report No. 210

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

TWENTY 40370

**BRYN COWLYD TO GORS WEN
LINK MAIN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING (G1409)**

prepared for Dwr Cymru - Welsh Water

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Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Report No. 210

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF SITES FOR THE BRYN COWLYD TO GORS WEN LINK MAIN (G1409)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water are constructing a new pipeline between the proposed Bryn Cowlyd CWT at SH81306590 and the existing Gors Wen SRV at SH83216148. The pipeline lies within the parishes of Llanrwst, Llanddoged and Maenan, and Eglwysbach in Dyffryn Conwy. An initial archaeological assessment of the line of the proposed route was carried out by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (Contracts) in March/April 1996 and a report (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Report No. 203, **Bryn Cowlyd to Gors Wen Link Main**, Archaeological Assessment G1401) was submitted, outlining the archaeological implications of the proposed scheme. This report identified the archaeological resource in the vicinity of the works, evaluated the importance of that resource, and made recommendations to avoid or lessen the impact of the scheme on the archaeology. These included a watching brief to be undertaken once topsoil stripping had commenced.

1.2 Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (Contracts Section) submitted a Project Design and costing for carrying out the recommended works. These were accepted and the Contracts Section undertook the archaeological monitoring of the pipeline during soil stripping. The field work took place on 23 and 26 April and 1 and 8 May 1996.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The initial archaeological assessment of the proposed pipeline (GAT Report No. 203, **Bryn Cowlyd to Gors Wen Link main**, Archaeological Assessment (G1401) identified eight sites in total, ranging in date from the Prehistoric period to the Post Medieval period. Of the eight sites, one was considered to be of local importance, and three considered to be of category E status (*i.e.*, a site needing further investigation); the remainder were categorised as being minor or damaged sites.

2.2 A list of the sites identified by the initial archaeological assessment (GAT Report No. 203) follows. (For the location of the sites, see the copy of the map from report 203 appended to the present report).

1. Quarry scoops SH79656789C	Category D
2. Area of possible features SH80056731	Category E
3. Rectangular features SH81536544	Category D
4. Low mound SH81756521	Category E
5. Spindle whorls and stone axe SH80--62--A	Category D
6. Cairn (site of) SH82956332	Category C
7. Possible cairn SH82946321	Category E
8. Area of low banks SH83406200	Category D

2.3 The archaeological response recommended in the initial report was restricted to the continuous monitoring of the pipeline during topsoil stripping as part of an archaeological watching brief. It was recommended that the watching brief cover the whole length of the topsoil strip, with particular attention paid to the area around sites 2, 4 and 6.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The length of the corridor was walked once the area had been stripped of topsoil prior to the digging of the pipe trench, and all potential sites were noted. Typically these were visible as areas of burning or stone spreads. These sites were then further examined to ascertain their archaeological potential by a combination of trowelling, hoeing and brushing. Where remains

of archaeological interest were recovered they were recorded using a combination of annotated sketch plans, photography and written description.

4.0 RESULTS

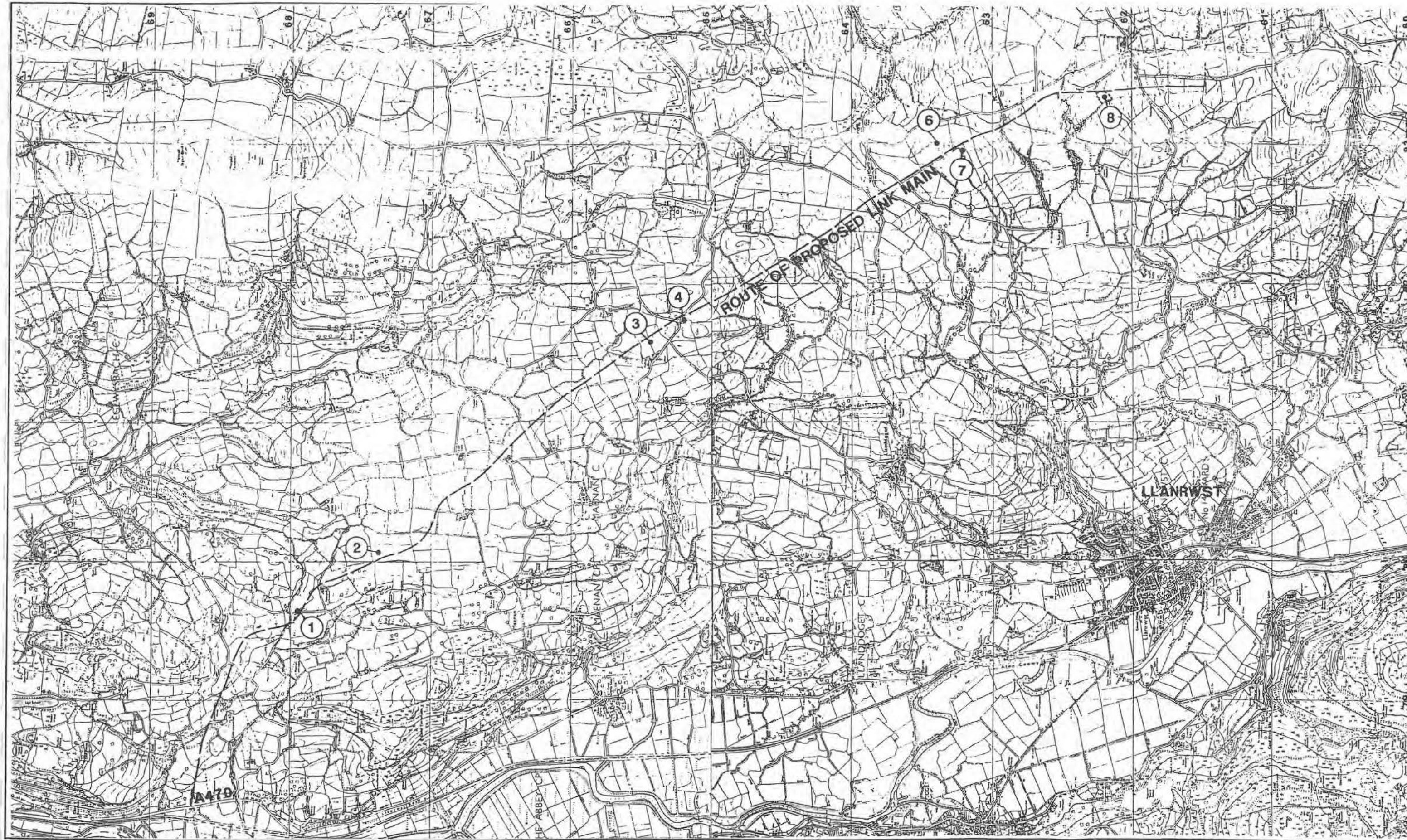
4.1 The watching brief produced no visible features of archaeological interest; sites 2 and 6 were not affected by the topsoil strip and no archaeological features were observed in their vicinity. Site 4 was found to be a natural feature. Site 8 comprises a series of recent drainage features of little archaeological interest, and a low enclosure bank cut roughly at right angles by the pipeline, which remains largely intact.

4.2 The remaining sites described in Report 302, namely 1, 3, 5 and 7, were not affected by the construction of the pipeline..

4.3 No additional finds or features of archaeological interest were noted during the watching brief.


5.0 SUMMARY

5.1 The route of the pipeline running from Bryn Cowlyd SRV to Gors Wen CWT was walked following removal of topsoil. The area of the topsoil strip was found to be devoid of features or finds of archaeological interest. The sites located during the initial archaeological assessment (GAT Report No. 203) were either unaffected by the topsoil strip or considered to be recent agricultural or natural features.



Project name BRYN COWLYD CWT TO GORS-WEN SRV LINK MAIN Archaeological Monitoring
Description LOCATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Project no. G1409	Date April 1996
Scale 1:25000	Key — — — PIPELINE
Client DWR CYMRU/WELSH WATER	

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