

A497 ABERERCH TO LLANYSTUMDWY

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

REPORT NO. 224

**Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust**

A497 ABERERCH TO LLANYSTYMDWY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Archaeological Assessment (G1429)

Exhibit PPM 40381

prepared for Hyder Environmental

September 1996

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Report No. 224

1. INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd County Council Highways and Transport Department is proposing to widen and improve approximately seven kilometres of the A497, running from Abererch to Llanystumdwy in the south of Llyn.

The proposed route broadly follows the existing A497 but where necessary it runs on an improved alignment. The extent of the area of interest is a strip 500m wide centred on the proposed route.

The proposals are to be accompanied by an Environmental Assessment, which is being prepared by Hyder Environmental. Gwynedd Archaeological Trust was contracted by Hyder Environmental to undertake an archaeological assessment of the route, to be presented as part of the Environmental Statement.

2. ASSESSMENT BRIEF

A report was requested from Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, assessing the likely archaeological impact of the plans and suggesting mitigatory measures.

Although an initial desk-survey and field search had been carried out in 1993, the work needed to be updated and revised. The basic requirement was for a desk-top survey and field search of the corridor of interest in order to assess the impact of the proposals on the archaeological and heritage features within the road corridor and close enough to it to be affected. The importance and condition of known archaeological remains were to be assessed and areas of archaeological potential and new sites identified. Measures to mitigate the effects of the road scheme on the archaeological resource were to be suggested.

In addition, the assessment was to be carried out in accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Volume 11, Section 3, Part 2, Cultural Heritage, June 1993 (incorporating amendment number 1, August 1994).

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust's proposals for fulfilling these requirements were accepted by Hyder Environmental. The main aims were:

- a) to identify and record the cultural heritage of the area to be affected by the proposals
- b) to evaluate the importance of what was identified (both as a cultural landscape and as the individual items which make up that landscape)
- c) to propose ways in which damage to the cultural heritage can be avoided or minimised.

This was to be achieved through a desk-top study and initial fieldwork, followed by additional fieldwork where identified as appropriate.

3. METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

3.1 Desk-top Study

Consultation of maps, computer records, written records and reference works, which make up the Sites and Monuments Record, was undertaken at the Trust. Records (including early Ordnance Survey maps, tithe maps and schedules and reference works - see bibliography) were also consulted in the library and the archives of the University College of North Wales, Bangor, and the County archives at Caernarfon. Aerial photographs were inspected at the offices of Gwynedd County Council and the Countryside Council for Wales.

3.2 Field Search

The initial field work was undertaken during the week 26-30 July 1993 by two members of Trust staff. Conditions were generally good for fieldwalking, most of the land being under pasture and the weather mainly dry.

The route was again walked during the week 15-19 September 1996, when the preferred line was examined in detail, and the condition of the sites outside the line was recorded. Light and visibility were good and the whole of the proposed route was walked.

Wherever possible, farmers were consulted in case they held any information pertaining to their land.

Sites identified were marked on 1:10,000 maps as accurately as possible without surveying. Forms were filled in assessing each site, and detailed notes made of the more important.

3.3 Report

All information, including field names where available, was transferred onto maps at a scale of 1:1,000 for ease of reference. The sites were then assessed and allocated to the categories listed below; further investigation may result in sites being moved into different categories.

The criteria used for allocating sites to categories are based on those used by the Secretary of State when considering ancient monuments for scheduling; these are set out in Annexe 3 to Planning Policy Guidance 16 (Wales): Archaeology and Planning.

3.4 Categories

The following categories were used to define the importance of the archaeological resource.

Category A - Sites of national importance.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings and sites of schedulable or listable quality, *i.e.* those which would meet the requirements for scheduling (ancient monuments) or listing (buildings) or both.

Sites which are scheduled or listed have legal protection, and it is recommended that all Category A sites remain preserved and protected *in situ*.

Category B - Sites of regional or county importance.

Sites which would not fulfil the criteria for scheduling or listing, but which are nevertheless of particular importance within the region.

Preservation *in situ* is the preferred option for Category B sites, but if damage or destruction cannot be avoided, appropriate detailed recording might be an acceptable alternative.

Category C - Sites of district or local importance.

Sites which are not of sufficient importance to justify a recommendation for preservation if threatened.

Category C sites nevertheless merit adequate recording in advance of damage or destruction.

Category D - Minor and damaged sites.

Sites which are of minor importance or so badly damaged that too little remains to justify their inclusion in a higher category.

For Category D sites, rapid recording, either in advance or during destruction, should be sufficient.

Category E - Sites needing further investigation.

Sites whose importance is as yet undetermined and which will require further work before they can be allocated to categories A - D are temporarily placed in this category, with specific recommendations for further evaluation. By the end of the assessment there should be no sites remaining in this category.

3.5 Definition of Impact

The impact is defined as *none, slight, likely, considerable* or *unknown* as follows:

None:

There is no construction impact on this particular site.

Slight:

This has generally been used where the impact is marginal and would not by the nature of the site cause irreversible damage to the remainder of the feature, *e.g.* part of a trackway or field bank.

Possible:

In some instances the site in question would not fall within the area to be directly affected by the proposed pipeline, but would fall within the construction area and therefore may, subject to its nature, be removed or damaged.

Considerable:

The total removal of a feature or its partial removal which would effectively destroy the remainder of the site.

Unknown:

This is used when the location of the site is unknown, but thought to be in the vicinity of the proposed road.

3.6 Definition of Mitigatory Recommendations

The alignment of the proposed improvement avoids as far as possible sites of archaeological interest. Where a site is affected, mitigation measures will be included in accordance with current Welsh Office Highways Directorate policies for rescue archaeology.

For the purposes of this report the mitigation and rescue archaeology proposals as suggested by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust have been summarised as:

None:

No impact so no requirement for mitigation measures.

Detailed recording:

Detailed recording requires a photographic record, surveying and the production of a measured drawing prior to the commencement of the works on site.

Archaeological excavation works may also be required depending upon the particular feature and the extent and effect of the impact. Some of the sites would require dismantling by hand, to provide a detailed record of the method of construction and in the case of a listed structure, the salvage of materials for re-use and re-building.

Basic Recording:

Recording by photograph and description requires a photographic record and written description, and limited measured survey where applicable.

Watching brief:

At the commencement of the improvement works on site, all sites affected by the works would need to be observed at relevant stages of construction.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Introduction

Archive material consulted during the desk-top study provided dating evidence for known sites and maps of successive dates allowed an appreciation of the development of the landscape. The Ordnance Survey coverage of the area is good.

4.2 The Archaeological Background

4.2.1 Topography

The area is mainly low-lying coastal farmland, the chief topographical features being connected with the several rivers and streams which meander across it towards the sea. It is clear that these have changed their courses through time, leaving river cliffs some way from the present course, and abandoned meanders. The drainage pattern is further complicated by many man-made drains and watercourses.

With the exception of the areas now occupied by Butlins holiday camp and Broom Hall and its park, the landscape consists of small farms, each with its complex of outbuildings, the

fields being mainly under improved pasture, although there is an appreciable acreage of arable land south of the road in the eastern half of the corridor.

4.2.2 Prehistoric (up to 48AD)

No settlement or burial sites are known from the prehistoric period within or near the corridor of interest, but finds which probably date to this period suggest that the area was settled. Two holed stones, possibly loom weights, were found at different times near Penbryn Neuadd (Site 6 in Gazetteer) and in the park at Broom Hall a polished stone axe and two axe-hammers were found. None of these finds is securely dated but all are of prehistoric type - the polished stone axe of Neolithic date, the axe-hammers possibly Bronze Age. The loom weights could be from any early period.

4.2.3 Roman (48AD - 400AD)

Finds or sites of the Romano-British period are at present scanty, but there are many hut groups of the period known in Lly^n and Eifionydd, which suggests that the whole area was extensively settled.

4.2.4 Medieval and Early Modern (400AD - 1800AD)

Settlement of the area during the Medieval period is well documented, but limited physical evidence exists. Medieval sites in the area which survive include the remains of a settlement within the township of Botacho, located recently in Broom Hall park, Penarth Fawr Medieval house and Tomen Fawr ring-work. Of these, only the last is within the corridor of interest, but all have a bearing on the Medieval settlement of the area.

Tomen Fawr now stands in isolation, all the surrounding fields having been repeatedly ploughed over a long period of time. The field name *Cae Carreg* (stony field) suggests that features associated with the castle mound once existed but have been ploughed out. The mound itself is a good example of a Norman ring-work, later re-used by the Welsh princes and eventually serving as the centre for the township of Ffridd Lwyd. The township was later given to the Cistercians and became a grange of Aberconwy Abbey, but came back to the Crown through an exchange. Traces of a possible rectangular structure survive within the ring-work, and small depressions in the grass may indicate the positions of gateposts.

Following his conquest of Wales in the late thirteenth century, Edward I made a tour of the various castles and townships in Gwynedd. On the night of 9 August 1284 he stayed at *Penaghen* on his way from Pwllheli to Caernarfon. This name can be identified with the modern Pen Ychain, a farm and headland south-east of Butlins holiday camp - of interest because it is some distance from Tomen Fawr and in the next township. There must therefore have been a house or castle in Pen Ychain township which could accommodate the royal retinue.

No Medieval buildings survive within the corridor of interest, but Bont Fechan, at the extreme eastern end, probably dates from early in the seventeenth century. It is listed Grade II and is well preserved, having been widened and reconstructed in 1780 and further repaired in 1889.

4.2.5 Industrial and Modern period (1800 to date)

The development corridor proposed for the new road broadly follows the alignment of a road turnpiked in 1777, though a road from Criccieth to Pwllheli existed long before this date, and one building of particular interest is the old toll cottage (38 in Gazetteer) which is listed Grade II. Houses and farms in various states of repair dating from the eighteenth century onwards are found throughout the corridor of interest. The road itself was re-aligned between Hen Efail and the entrance to Broom Hall between 1900 and 1918, and a bypass to the south of Abererch was constructed in 1928. The railway from Machynlleth to Pwllheli was opened throughout in 1867 and the Afonwen to Caernarfon line was working from 1866.

4.2.6 Conclusion

The surviving sites of archaeological and historical interest largely date from the Modern and Industrial periods, but the area has most probably been settled throughout prehistory and the potential exists for the discovery of sites relating to these early periods.

4.3 Existing statutory protection

Both the old Toll House (38 in the Gazetteer) and the seventeenth century bridge known as Bont Fechan (42) are listed Grade II.

4.4 Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites

This section enumerates those sites which are near enough to the development corridor to be affected by its construction and includes a number which are situated by the road but outside the immediate stretch which is to be improved. The recommendations are in two parts; where the works require evaluation before full mitigatory measures can be outlined, the recommendations are for further evaluation, the results of which will allow further mitigation measures to be recommended. Where the information is considered sufficient, mitigatory measures are suggested. The recommendations will only apply if the site is to be disturbed by the proposed construction.

1 Roadsign SH39423632

PCN 31101

Category D Impact: Possible

A cast-iron roadsign, pointing to Abererch, lettered *Caernarvonshire CC*, possibly dating from the construction of the 1928 by-pass.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Preservation in situ

2 Dwelling SH39613633

PCN 31102

Category C Impact: Considerable

A small derelict single-room cottage of nineteenth century construction, with a chimney in the north gable.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Detailed recording

3 Track, south of Cemlyn SH39753631

PEN 31103

Category D Impact: Slight

Shown on the Abererch tithe map of 1840 as a road to the Morfa, leaving the turnpike road near the house known as Yr Odyn. The ground drops steeply away to the south and the track is revetted.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording

4 Dwelling at Cemlyn SH39763635

PEN 31104

Category C Impact: Considerable

This dwelling is an unremarkable two-storey structure typical of the late nineteenth century. It does not appear on the 1888 ordnance survey but does on the survey of 1900.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording

5 Track, south-east of Cemlyn SH39773633

PEN 31105

Category D Impact: Slight

A short length of track, walled on both sides, leading to the house and probably of similar age.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording

6 Findspot, near Penbryn Neuadd SH39723646

PEN 31106

Category E Impact: Unknown

Two perforated stones, possibly loom weights and probably prehistoric in date, were found here at different times. One was complete, the other broken; the complete one is now lost.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: None

7 Bridge SH39903643

PEN 31106

Category C Impact: None

A reinforced concrete bridge, probably dating from the road's construction in 1928.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording.

8 Ford SH39913633

PEN 31107

Category D Impact: Slight

A ford on the Afon Ddu, with possible traces of a bridge abutment on the east bank

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording.

9 Large hollow west of Bodriala centred on SH40103645

PEN 31108

Category E Impact: Considerable

This is shown on the tithe map and appears on the engineers' plans for the road improvements; it takes the form of most of three sides of a sub-square shape, the longest side being about 150 m long. Water lies in part of it and it is very thickly overgrown, and thus difficult to appreciate on the ground. It is most likely to be an abandoned curve of the river, and appears to be shown as such on the Abererch tithe map, though the possibility of its having been a moat cannot be completely ruled out.

Recommendations for further assessment: Geophysical survey and trial excavation.

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Appropriate mitigatory recommendations will be made following further assessment.

10 Track, Bodriala SH40093639

PRN 31109

Category D Impact: Slight

A track leading away from Bodriala to the south-west, walled on both sides. This is typical of many farm tracks in the area but is not a particularly good example. Bodriala appears on the Abererch tithe map of 1840.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording

11 Track, south-west of Efail-bach SH40433650

PRN 31110

Category D Impact: Slight

Another short length of walled track, not very well preserved.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording

12 Enclosure, south-west of Efail-bach SH40453643

PRN 31111

Category D Impact: Slight

A small walled enclosure, shown as woods or orchard on the tithe map. It now contains a few trees but appears to be waste ground.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording

13 Bank SH40453637

PRN 3734

Category E Impact: Considerable

A low, wide bank which runs more or less along the line where a field boundary might once have been. However, no such boundary appears on the tithe map, and the bank has the appearance of a track. It could even be part of an old road, but if so it had fallen out of use by 1840, when the tithe map was drawn up.

Recommendations for further assessment: A trial trench across the bank would confirm its status as an archaeological feature

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: The site will be reclassified following further evaluation.

14 Track, south of Gorwel SH40653635

PRN 31112

Category D Impact: Considerable

The first part of the track leading to Glan y Morfa; this is revetted above and below and has already been damaged, probably by machinery used for boreholes.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording

15 House, south of Gorwel SH40653634

PRN 5728

Category B Impact: Considerable

This dwelling is shown on the Abererch tithe map of 1840. It appears to be of older construction than the nineteenth century, however. It is a small house, derelict, and in a very fragile condition, but still with most of its structural features discernible. There is an unusual gable entry to the upper floor by the fireplace.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Detailed recording

16 Possible track, Glan y Morfa SH40903632

PRN 3113

Category D Impact: Slight

An overgrown gate from the road appears to have tracks leading away from it to east and west, with some stone revetting on the downhill side. Long disused and overgrown, an EDM survey would probably be required to follow their routes. Glan y Morfa is shown on the 1819 Ordnance Survey 2" manuscript map.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording.

17 Tan yr Allt SH41203639

PRN 3114

Category B Impact: Possible

An eighteenth-century, two-storey house.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: The house should be preserved in situ.

18 Enclosed wood SH41383643

PRN 3115

Category D Impact: Possible

A small, walled, triangular enclosure containing old trees, marked as *coed* on the tithe map.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording

19 Earthworks, south-east of Tanclogwyn SH41703656

PRN 5735

Category E Impact: Considerable

An area of earthworks which may possibly include house platforms from the Medieval period. Part of the area is damp but the earthworks seem too confused to be all connected with drainage. There are scattered large boulders, some of which appear to form lines.

Recommendations for further assessment: A geophysical survey and trial excavations should be carried out at this site to determine the nature and extent of any possible archaeological features.

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: The site will be reclassified following further evaluation.

20 Track, Glan Morfa SH41883662

PRN 3116

Category D Impact: Slight

The walled entrance track to Glan Morfa; a fine example. Glan Morfa is shown on the 1819 Ordnance Survey manuscript map.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording

21 Demesne wall SH40043672

PRN 3117

Category D Impact: Slight

A nineteenth century demesne wall of quarried stone, surviving up to 3m high, part of the Broom Hall estate.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording

22 Hollow way, north-east of Glan Morfa SH42003667 to 42113671 Category C

PRN 5729

Impact: Slight

A track or old road, ploughed out in the field immediately east of Glan Morfa but clearly visible as a hollow way alongside a natural scarp in the north-east corner of this field; it is difficult to trace where it crosses the stream but again clearly visible, as a slighter hollow, in the field east of the stream. Possibly Medieval or early Post-Medieval in date.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Detailed recording and excavation

23 Hut circles, near Pont Llwyn-Gwyn SH42793688

PRN 5730

Category E Impact: None

Two circular banks in a low-lying, marshy area beside the stream appear to be hut circles, of Romano-British or possibly earlier date. One has already been damaged, being bisected by a gas pipeline, and the whole area has been very much churned up, probably by boreholing machinery.

Recommendations for further assessment: None if there is to be no impact; otherwise geophysical survey and trial excavation should be undertaken in the immediate vicinity of these features to establish their nature and extent.

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: To be decided dependent on result of the assessment

24 Brynybachau chapel SH43143698

PRN 3118

Category C Impact: Possible

A Calvinistic Methodist chapel facing the road, with a keeper's house to the rear. A plaque on the chapel front gives the date 1850; the building is cement-veneered.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Detailed recording

25 Garreg Lwyd cottages SH43183699

PRN 3119

Category C Impact: Possible

A row of four two-storey dwellings, one room wide, built out of quarried stone.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording

26 Track, Tyddyn Berth SH43613729

PRN 3120

Category D Impact: Slight

A walled farm track. Tyddyn Berth appears on the 1819 map.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording

27 Earthworks, south-east of Tyddyn Berth SH43753732

PRN 5733

Category E Impact: Slight

A large area of substantial earthworks. These appear too massive and too confused in plan to be connected with drainage, and only a small area of the field to the west of them is wet. They may, therefore, represent settlement remains, perhaps from the Medieval period.

Recommendations for further assessment: A geophysical survey and a trial excavation should be undertaken in the area of these features to determine their nature and extent.

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: The site will be reclassified following further evaluation.

28 Railway embankment SH43803740

PRN 31121

Category C Impact: Slight

The railway connecting the Machynlleth to Pwllheli line with Caernarfon via Afonwen, operational from 1866 to 1964, ran along a substantial embankment in this low-lying area. The embankment is fenced off and well overgrown with scrub, hence inaccessible, but it is unlikely that there would be anything to note at this stage.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording

29 Afonwen cottages SH43853754

PRN 31122

Category C Impact: None

A row of five two-storey dwellings and a shop, of nineteenth century date.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Detailed recording

30 Dwellings at Penbont SH43883756

PRN 31123

Category C Impact: None

Two semi-detached two-storey dwellings of nineteenth century construction.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Detailed recording.

31 Pont Ffridd Lwyd SH43893757

PRN 31124

Category C Impact: Possible

A single-arch humped stone bridge over the Afon Wen.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Detailed recording

32 Melin Ffridd Lwyd/Afonwen laundry SH43903761

PRN 31125

Category C Impact: Slight

Afonwen Services, formerly Afonwen Steam Laundry, consisting of modern flat-roofed industrial buildings grouped around a nineteenth century industrial building, probably a woollen mill.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording

33 Circular hollow, south of Tanyralit SH44143766

PRN 31126

Category D Impact: Considerable

A circular depression in an arable field of uncertain character and purpose. It is most likely of natural origin.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Watching brief/Basic recording

34 Bank, north-west of Afonwen Farm SH44383765

PRN 31127

Category E Impact: Slight

A low, wide bank with dips either side, which runs parallel with the road for a short distance in a field of recently re-seeded grass north-west of Afonwen Farm. It is most likely to be an old road or track, or possibly a shingle bank, but should be definitely identified.

Recommendations for further assessment: A trial excavation should be carried out at this site.

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: The site will be reclassified following further evaluation.

35 Track, Afonwen Farm SH44553771

PRN 31128

Category D Impact: Slight

A walled farm track, leading to Afonwen Farm, which is shown on the 1819 map.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording

36 Dwelling, Ty'n Lôn SH44673777

PRN 31129

Category C Impact: None

A two-storey dwelling of nineteenth century construction.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording.

37 Tynffridd SH45273783

PRN 31130

Category C Impact: None

A dwelling of uncertain age, but shown on maps of the 1880s.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording

38 Toll House, Grade II listed SH45323785

PRN 11368
(2002-0-16P)

Category A Impact: Possible

A single-storey toll house, with a loggia porch supported on monolithic square-hewn uprights, and many other original features.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: The building should be preserved in situ.

39 Area of interest surrounding Tomen Fawr SH45443768

PRN 5728

Category E Impact: Possible

The northern part of this area of interest, which is roughly centred on the ring-work, SH45443768, will be affected by the proposed road works. The area was identified as being likely to contain evidence of activity associated with the ring-work, but it has been subjected to repeated ploughing and is still in arable cultivation.

Recommendations for further assessment: Geophysical survey and trial excavation.

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: The site will be reclassified following further evaluation.

40 Track, north of Bont Fechan Farm SH46173797

PRN 31131

Category C Impact: None

A track running alongside the river and disappearing under the modern bridge. The large trees growing out of its wall suggest that it is of considerable antiquity.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording.

41 Hen Gapel SH46283807 3808

PRN 5738
(2002-0-16P)

Category C Impact: None

A house of unusual construction, whose name (old chapel) is suggestive. The name appears on maps from the 1880s but the building may be shown earlier.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Detailed recording.

42 Bont Fechan, Grade II listed SH46313804

Pen 31/32

Category A Impact: None

An early seventeenth century bridge, renovated in 1780 and 1889, remaining in good repair. Details of work in the immediate area have not been supplied, but the bridge should not be damaged.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Preserve in situ.

Areas of unknown archaeological potential *Category E*

Previous results from similar projects have shown that many sites can only be detected by excavation. In this instance, the results from the assessment would suggest there would be little benefit from carrying out further evaluation in areas of unknown archaeological potential. However, it is recommended that a watching brief is maintained during the early stages of construction.

4.5 Sites of interest within the road corridor but unlikely to be affected by present plans

Penbryn Neuadd (house) SH39703645

Bodriala (farm) SH40153645

Efail bach (house) SH40523649

Gorwel (house) SH40633640

Part of Broom Hall park, East and West Lodges SH41603672

Tanclogwyn (house) SH41633660

Glan Morfa (farm; particularly barn) SH41863650

Llymgwyn (farm) SH42353692

Pont Llwyn Gwyn (bridge) SH42703679

Tyddyn Berth (farm; also entrance track) SH43603735

Lôn Goed (road with plantations of trees either side) starts SH43953765

Tanyrallt (house) SH44113769

Hen Efail (farm) SH44973789

Tomen Fawr (medieval ring-work) SH37944544

Glanllynau (farm) SH45553765

Bont Fechan Farm (nursery) SH46103793

5. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Further assessment work

This section summarises the work which is recommended to evaluate those archaeological remains whose status and extent are not yet established, *i.e.* sites in Category E. They will be reclassified and suitable mitigatory measures suggested following evaluation.

Category E

6.	Findspot	none
9.	Hollow	watching brief
13.	Bank	trial excavation
19.	Earthworks	geophysical survey and trial excavation

23.	Hut circles	geophysical survey and trial excavation
27.	Earthworks	geophysical survey and trial excavation
34.	Bank	trial excavation
39.	Area at Tomen Fawr	watching brief

5.2. Mitigatory measures

This section lists the remaining sites according to category. The categorisation attempts to quantify the importance of the archaeological resource, as suggested in the *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges* Volume 11, Section 3, Part 2.

Category A

38.	Toll House	preservation <i>in situ</i>
42.	Bont Fechan	preservation <i>in situ</i>

Category B

15.	House	detailed recording
17.	Tan yr Allt	preservation <i>in situ</i>

Category C

2.	Dwelling	basic recording
4.	Cemlyn	basic recording
7.	Bridge	basic recording
22.	Hollow way	detailed recording and excavation
24.	Chapel	detailed recording
25.	Cottages	basic recording
28.	Railway embankment	basic recording
29.	Cottages	detailed recording
30.	Dwellings	detailed recording
31.	Bridge	detailed recording
32.	Mill	basic recording
36.	Dwelling	basic recording
37.	Tynffridd	basic recording
40.	Track	basic recording
41.	Hen Gapel	detailed recording

Category D

1.	Roadsign	preservation <i>in situ</i>
3.	Track	basic recording
5.	Track	basic recording
8.	Ford	basic recording
10.	Track	basic recording
11.	Track	basic recording
12.	Small enclosure	basic recording
14.	Track	basic recording
16.	Possible track	basic recording
18.	Wood	basic recording
20.	Track	basic recording
21.	Demesne wall	basic recording
26.	Track	basic recording

33.	Circular depression	basic recording
35.	Track	basic recording

A continuous watching brief should be maintained along the whole route during relevant stages of the work.

6. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

An initial archaeological assessment was carried out along the line of the proposed road, consisting of a desktop study and field walkover. The assessment was carried out in accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Volume 11, Section 3, Part 2, Cultural Heritage, June 1993 (incorporating amendment number 1, August 1994).

The desktop study included examination of those records which make up the Gwynedd Sites and Monuments Record, held at Gwynedd Archaeological Trust. In addition, maps and archives were examined at the County Archives at Caernarfon, in the archives of the University of Wales, Bangor. Aerial photographs were examined at the offices of the Countryside Council for Wales in Bangor.

The field walk involved two persons walking the entire route of the proposed new alignment, when sites discovered from the desktop study were examined and the location of additional sites noted, and a written description made of each. All of the sites were allocated to one of five categories (ranging from A to E) and mitigation proposals were made for each.

A total of 42 sites were recorded, some of which lie just off the proposed route, but which were included because of their importance or because they lie immediately against the proposed road corridor. Sites and find spots identified within the route corridor range from early prehistory to the Modern and Industrial period.

2 sites were allocated to Category A (*i.e.* national importance).

2 sites were allocated to Category B (regional importance).

15 sites were allocated to Category C (local importance).

15 sites were allocated to Category D (minor or damaged sites).

8 sites were allocated to Category E (sites needing further investigation).

Potentially the most significant sites are the possible iron age/Romano-British hut circles at Pont Llwyn Gwyn (23) and the earthwork features at Tanclogwyn (19) and Tyddyn Berth (27) which may throw light on medieval settlement in the area.

Geophysical survey and trial excavation will be required to identify the full extent and nature of the hut circle site at Pont Llwyn Gwyn (23), the earthworks at Tanclogwyn (19) and Tyddyn Berth (27) and to investigate the possibility of Medieval activity in the vicinity

of Tomen Fawr (39). Proposals for detailed recording, as appropriate, which may include excavation, can then be prepared if preservation *in situ* is not possible.

Further assessment by trial excavation is required of the two banks (13, 34) to assess their significance before mitigatory measures can be recommended.

There remains the possibility of further discoveries once ground-disturbance commences. It is imperative, therefore, that an adequate watching brief be maintained during the ground disturbance and that provision be made for the adequate recording of any sites which are identified at this late stage in the development. In particular the vicinity of the findspots of two probably prehistoric stone implements near Penbryn Neuadd (6); the hollow feature west of Bodriala (9) and the walled enclosure (12) will need to be observed.

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9.3 Cartographical sources

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9.4 Photographs

Aerial photographs held by the Countryside Council for Wales
Aerial photographs held by Gwynedd County Council

