

TY MAWR TO LLYN CYNWCH PUMPING MAIN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
AND WATCHING BRIEF (G1450)

Report No. 235

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd  
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

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prepared for Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water

November 1996

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### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND WATCHING BRIEF (G1450)**

#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water proposed to lay a new pumping main between Ty Mawr (SH74851919) and Llyn Cynwch (SH73752056) near Dolgellau, Meirionydd, to be used to pump water from the Afon Wnion to Llyn Cynwch. The new main will replace and lie alongside an existing pipeline for approximately two thirds of its length.

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (Contracts Section) were contracted to carry out an assessment and watching brief on the scheme following the acceptance of a project design and costings, by the client.

The actual route of the pipeline is at variance with the original proposal and an estimated 750 metres of the route affects previously undisturbed ground. This stretch lies between Ty Mawr and Coed-y-moch (SH74211942), north of the modern road.

#### **2.0 METHODOLOGY**

A single visit was made to the site on Thursday 14th November. The first priority was to assess the nature of any features of archaeological integrity that might be encountered along the pipeline route and any associated points of access thereto. The actual route was confirmed on site by the Resident Engineer for Welsh Water, Mr Ray Throupe. The revised route was accordingly walked for its entire length.

#### **3.0 RESULTS**

East of Coed-y-moch the route runs along the base of a hanging valley slope, traversing undisturbed ground. The turf and topsoil were stripped within the easement for the entire length of this section during the visit. Orange subsoil and shattered bedrock was exposed between a depth of 50mm and 200mm from the modern ground surface. Where the pipeline lay alongside the drystone boundary wall north of the road, and especially where this was breached by a gateway, an irregular spread of small sub-angular stone (1) suggested some deliberate attempt to create hard standing from field clearance, or possibly a track bounded by the wall itself. This was not visible beyond SH744519035 where the scattered footings of an earlier drystone boundary wall (2) turn north-west, hinting at the orientation of an associated trackway, not now visible on the surface. Location (3) was a marshy depression with extruding sharp, angular boulders and may have been the site of a small stone quarry. Locations (4) and (5) on slightly higher ground indicate where drystone walls have been breached within the easement.

North and west of Coed-y-moch the route reverts to that of an existing water pipeline. This established route has crossed a number of earlier features, mainly drystone

boundary walls but including a metalled track (10) at SH 73792040 and an enclosed (drover's?) road (7) at SH73952002. Where this had occurred all features had been carefully and sympathetically reinstated, but there was no opportunity to record the features. Feature (8) is a mortared stone archway at SH73982006 defining the east end of the enclosed section of the drover's road. It lies between the route of the pipeline and the contractors compound at SH74012008 and is in a fragile and dangerous condition. The contractors were asked to avoid damaging this feature, and all due care should be taken to avoid damaging this structure during the contract.

Two derelict agricultural buildings were noted in close proximity to the pipeline route, a hay loft / barn (6) at SH73931949, and a *beudy* (9) at SH73852019, but they will not be affected by the route.

#### **4.0 SUMMARY**

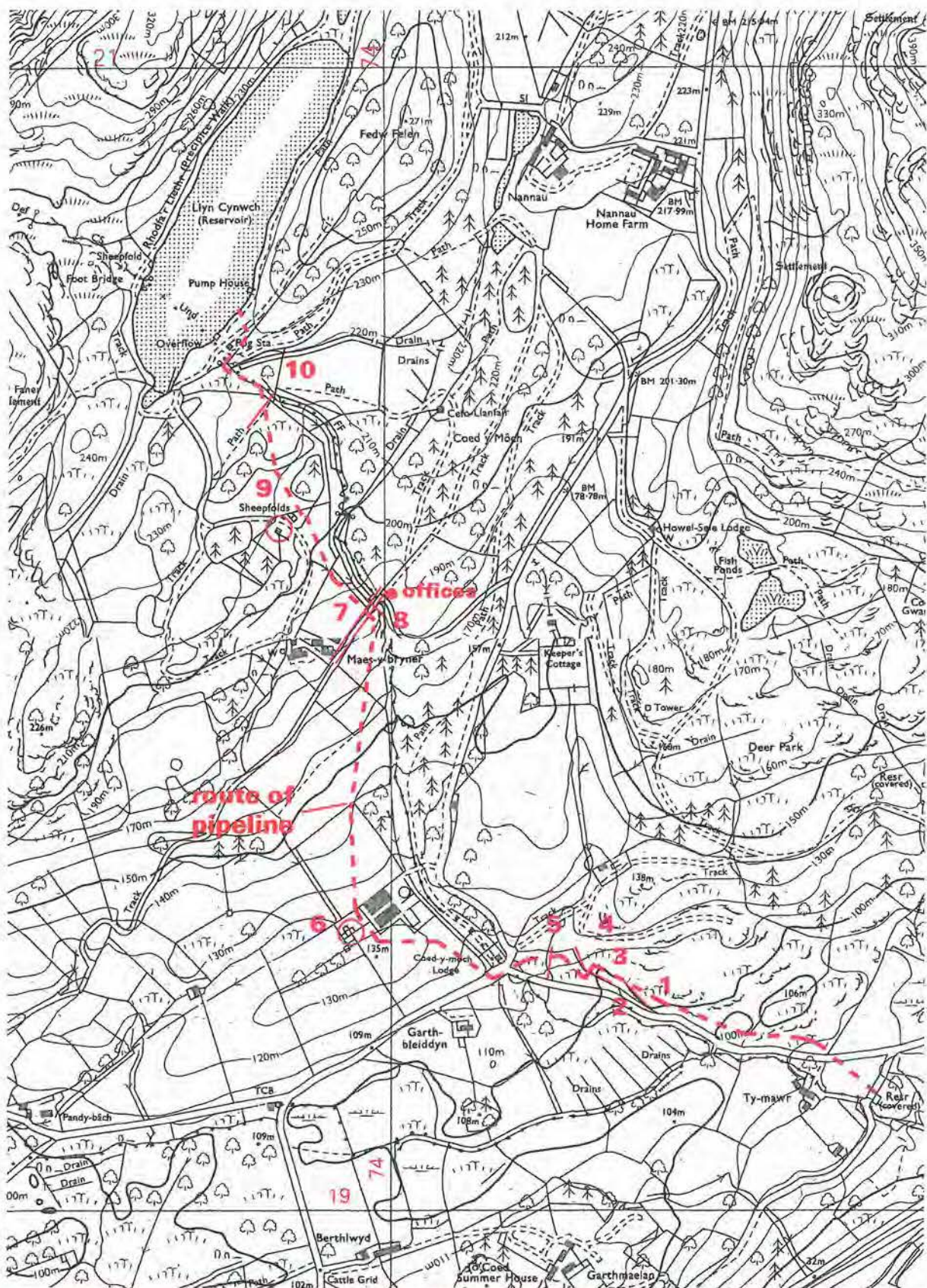
There was no evidence of any substantial extant archaeological features within the immediate area of the pipeline easement, with the exception of those agricultural features noted above.

No sub-surface archaeological features were recognised within the area east of Coedy-moch that had been topsoil stripped other than the spread of stone (1) in proximity to the boundary wall.

Elsewhere along the route the presence of an existing pipeline precludes the likelihood for any survival of sub-surface features.

Because of the scarcity of archaeological remains visible along the route, it was decided that no further archaeological work needed to be carried out, and the scheme will not be monitored further.





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Ty Mawr to Llyn Cynwch - Distribution of features of archaeological interest along route of new pumping main.

**YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL  
GWYNEDD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST 01248 352535**



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL *GWYNEDD* ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Craig Beuno - Ffordd y Garth - Bangor - Gwynedd - LL57 2RT. Phone (01248) 352535 : Ffacs/Fax (01248) 370925