

A55 BRYNGWRAN TO HOLYHEAD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE ROUTE No 2

Report No. 243a

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

A55 BRYNGWRAN TO HOLYHEAD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT (G1459-2)  
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prepared for W. S. Atkins

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### ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

#### PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE ROUTE No 2

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report contains the results of an archaeological assessment carried out on alternative route 2 of the proposed A55 across Anglesey. An archaeological assessment has already been carried out for the published route (GAT Report No's 195 and 204), and the alignment of the alternative route differs in specific areas only. Therefore only the additional sites to be affected are included in this report. If the impact upon a site previously catalogued has changed then this will also be noted.

#### 2.0 METHODOLOGY

The assessment has taken the form of a desk-top study with no field research. Information has been collated from the Gwynedd Sites and Monuments Record, archive records held by Anglesey and Gwynedd Archives Services and the University of Wales, Bangor, and two series of aerial photographs, one vertical and one oblique. Although there are no known sites of significance on this route, a full evaluation has not been carried out, and the lack of known sites should not be taken to mean that no archaeology will be affected.

#### 3.0 RESULTS

##### 3.1 Route alignment

Alternative Route No 2 differs from the published route by running south of Caegeiliog and Valley, and then crossing on the south side of the Stanley Embankment, where it re-joins the published route. The east section only of the published route is affected; the impact upon the west section remains the same.

The desk-top study of this alternate route identified an additional six sites of archaeological interest, mostly farmsteads of post-medieval date, which lie on or close to the proposed line.

Sites 6 to 13 of the published route would not be affected by this route. However, the six additional sites which have been identified are numbered 34 to 39. Where the impact on sites 1 to 5 and sites 14 to 26 has changed from the published route it is noted below.

##### 3.2 Site gazetteer

The sites listed in this study are described in sequence from east to west. The site numbers adhere to those given for the published route; additional sites are numbered from 35 onwards.

#### 4. Caer Elen enclosure SH32617808

##### *Category B Impact: Slight*

The ploughed out remains of an enclosure which once encircled, or lay on the east side of, the low hill, the summit of which is now occupied by a radio mast. Some traces were still visible in 1970, and slight traces are visible on aerial photographs. The age of the enclosure is not known, but it is assumed to be Iron Age and possibly Roman (c. 500 BC to 350 AD). This alignment takes the road slightly closer to the likely location of the site than the published route. A stone axe was found in the vicinity of the fort, but the exact location is not known.

**Recommendation for further assessment:** Carry out additional evaluation fieldwork along the line of the route.

**Recommendation for mitigatory measures:** None.

#### 5. Possible field system N. of Caer Elen SH 32657826

##### *Category E Impact: Slight*

Very faint lines visible on the flank of the hill crowned by the radio mast and the Caer Elen earthwork. They may be ploughed-down remains of lynchets, representing a Prehistoric or later field system.

**Recommendation for further assessment:** A trial trench across the one of the potential lynchets would confirm its status as an archaeological feature.

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

**35. Bryn Farm SH 32137812**

*Category: C Impact: Slight*

This farm is called Bryn-prydd-dir on the Llanfihangel Nhowyn Parish map c1841, Bryn-prudd-der on the 25 inch OS map of 1924 (Anglesey Sheet XII:13) and Pen bryn on the 1 inch OS map of 1841 (Holyhead and Bangor Sheet 78).

*Recommendation for further assessment: Carry out additional evaluation fieldwork to ascertain status of and impact upon site.*

*Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Detailed recording.*

**36. Gwaelod-mawr SH 31927827**

*Category: C Impact: Slight*

This farm is called Gwaelod Fawr on the Llanfihangel Nhowyn Parish tithe map c1841 and just Gwaelod on the 1 inch OS map of 1841 (Holyhead and Bangor Sheet 78).

*Recommendation for further assessment: Carry out additional evaluation fieldwork to ascertain status of and impact upon site.*

*Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Detailed recording.*

**37. Cae'r Odyn SH 31337815**

*Category: C Impact: Slight*

A group of three fields marked on the 1848 tithe map as "Cae'r Odyn". This implies the existence of a kiln (Odyn = kiln), probably a lime kiln, although possibly for corn, in the vicinity. The fields lie just north of Cae'r-geiliog farm, which on the tithe map appears to form part of Cefn Cae'r geiliog holding to the south.

*Recommendation for further assessment: Carry out additional evaluation fieldwork to ascertain status of and impact upon site.*

*Carry out additional archive work to see if a location can be established for the possible hillfort implied in the name "Caergeiliog" (Caer=fort).*

*Recommendation for mitigatory measures: To be decided.*

**38. Tynmerddyn SH 31287818**

*Category: D/E Impact: Considerable*

A former farmstead shown on the Bodedern tithe map of c1848 and shown as Ty'n y guirddyn on the 1 inch OS map of 1841 (Holyhead & Bangor Sheet 78). No longer marked on modern maps.

*Recommendation for further assessment: Carry out additional evaluation fieldwork to ascertain status of site.*

*Recommendation for mitigatory measures: To be decided.*

**39. Building associated with Ty Mawr SH 30107841**

*Category: C Impact: Slight*

A building shown on the Penrhos Estate map of Ty Mawr c1769 (UCNW Penrhos II 773). It is not marked on any later maps, nor is it visible on aerial photographs.

*Recommendation for further assessment: Probably just off the line of the route, but it is recommended that a field visit is carried out to ascertain the status of the site.*

*Recommendation for mitigatory measures: To be decided.*

**40. Ty'n y Coed Bach with associated well SH 30217858**

*Category: C Impact: Considerable*

Shown on the 1 inch OS map of 1841 (Holyhead & Bangor Sheet 78) and also on the 25 inch OS map of 1924 (Anglesey Sheet XII:9) and the c1841 tithe map of Llanfair y Neubwll parish. A small-holding associated with Pencaledog farm. It is now derelict, but buildings remain to eaves height.

*Recommendation for further assessment: Carry out additional evaluation fieldwork to ascertain status of site.*

*Recommendation for mitigatory measures: To be decided.*

**14. Field barn north west of Ty Mawr. SH30117871**

*Category: C Impact: Considerable*

A field barn, now disused, is situated within a kink in the field boundary, as shown on fig. 2. It is marked on the tithe map of c. 1840 as two structures with an associated yard, and is on part of the land owned by Pen-caledog farm. It is now on land owned by Ty Mawr farm, and was in use into the middle years of this century. Named as Ty'n y Coed on the OS map of 1841 (Holyhead and Bangor Sheet 78).

*Recommendation for further assessment: None.*

*Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Detailed recording if the site is to be disturbed.*

**15. Well and associated windmill base, Ty Mawr SH29807859**

*Category: D Impact: Slight/None*

A stone walled enclosure at the base of a rock outcrop encloses a well, now contained within a concrete cylinder. Above the well, on top of the rock outcrop, is another stone walled enclosure which once housed an American style wind engine used to drive a pump for pumping water from the well.

*Recommendation for further assessment: None.*

*Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Photographic survey and written description.*

**16. Remains of revetted track/field wall NW of Ty Mawr SH29787864**

*Category D Impact: Considerable*

The remains of drystone walling are visible close to the base of a rock outcrop, running in an east-west direction. They appear to form the outer edge of a revetted track which skirts the base of the outcrop, although they could be the remains of a fieldwall.

**Recommendation for further assessment:** *None.*

**Recommendation for mitigatory measures:** *Photographic survey and written description.*

**17. Field barn NW of Ty Mawr SH29597862**

*Category D Impact: Considerable*

The remains of a stone built field barn with associated enclosures. The barn and enclosures are not marked on any of the maps examined, and appear to be of early 20th century date. Certainly corrugated iron once roofed the shed, although this does not date its construction.

**Recommendation for further assessment:** *None.*

**Recommendation for mitigatory measures:** *Detailed recording.*

#### **4.0 SUMMARY**

A desk-top study has been carried out for this route. No sites of significant archaeological importance will be affected by the proposed alignment, although a number of sites of post-medieval date have been identified as lying on or close to the route.

Of the twelve sites noted above only five will be directly affected by the route. The other seven all lie just off the route and will, at most, only be slightly affected. The five sites consist of four deserted farmsteads (sites 38, 40, 14, all considered to be of local interest, and one linear feature (probable early track). Further evaluation work and detailed recording is recommended for the four farmsteads, and basic recording for the track.

The change in route has not significantly altered the impact upon the known archaeology from that of the published route. It does, however, run slightly closer to the fort at Caer Elen, although still not directly over the supposed site. A number of former and existing farmsteads considered to be of local interest (Class C) have been identified, although of these only sites 38, 40 and 14 will be directly affected.



HOLYHEAD RURAL C

Anglesea (Môn) 27

YNYS MÔN - ISLE OF ANGLESEY DISTRICT

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Ltd.

LLANYNGHEDL C

LONG 4° 34' W 29

ANGLESEY CO CONST



LAT 53° 17'

79

78

18



clay pit or quarry

lay ap

land

CONVERSION  
SCALE

Metres - Feet

1:5000  
1:15000

6000

5000

4000

3000

2000

1000

