

A487 LLANWYNDRA TO SOUTH OF
LLANLLYFNI IMPROVEMENT
ONLINE CORRIDOR OPTION
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Report No. 271

61502

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

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LLANLLYFNI IMPROVEMENT
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Richards

Prepared for
Gwynedd Council

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ONLINE CORRIDOR OPTION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report contains the results of an archaeological assessment carried out on the "Online Corridor Option" of the proposed A487 improvement from Llanwnda to south of Llanllyfni. An archaeological assessment has already been carried out for the published route (GAT Report No 75), and the alignment of the alternative route differs only between Llanwnda and Groeslon. Therefore only sites affected by this option are included in this report. If the impact upon a site previously catalogued has changed then this will also be noted.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

An assessment has been carried out consisting of a desk-top study and observation in the field. Information has been collated from the Gwynedd Sites and Monuments Record, archive records held by the Gwynedd Archive Service and the University of Wales, Bangor. 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 Introduction

This "Online Corridor Option" leaves the proposed route at the roundabout in Llanwnda at SH47595819. It runs along the east side of the existing A487 for about a quarter of a mile and then veers slightly east at SH47625789 to by-pass Dolydd. It rejoins the existing A487 at Bodarfryn at SH47525678 and continues along the A487 until it rejoins the previously proposed route just south west of Llwyn y gwalch at SH47375634.

3.2 Site Gazetteer

This section describes those sites identified during the desk-based study as being on or close to the line of the proposed corridor option. To avoid confusion numbers correspond to those used in the original archaeological assessment where appropriate and continue from number 51 for newly identified features. Features are described as they occur from north to south.

51. Track to Cefn Hendre SH47625761

Category: D Impact: Considerable

This farm and its track are present on the 1840 tithe map of Llanwnda. The road would destroy a section of the farm track. The track has vegetated stone banks on both sides with some large boulders to the north. A slate-lined channel with a slate lintel runs through the bank on the south side. The surface is tarmac with a central grassy strip.

Recommendation for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording during a watching brief.

52. Track to Traian SH47625743

Category: D Impact: Considerable

This farm and its track are present on the 1840 tithe map of Llanwnda. The track, at the point the new road will cross it, has a low stone wall on the north side and a wire fence to the south. The surface is tarmac with a central grassy strip. The original main road at this point followed the western end of the track and then turned south along the eastern boundary of the land adjoining the Old Smithy (XD2A/1649). The line of this road is no longer visible on the ground but may be revealed during construction work.

Recommendation for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording during a watching brief.

53. Bodarfryn SH47525681

Category: D Impact: Considerable

This structure will be demolished if the alternative corridor is adopted. Although it has little archaeological significance in its present form, the site was occupied by a chapel in the 1840's (as shown on the 1849 tithe map of Llandwrog). This chapel replaced one which had been built on the same site in 1789. In 1867 the second chapel was dismantled and re-erected on a new site to the south, where part of it still stands.

Recommendation for further assessment: None.

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording.

54. Bridge SH47475652

Category: C Impact: Considerable

This low bridge over the Afon Llifon is constructed of sandstone voussoirs surmounted by a protruding slate arching. Above this is a sandstone string course with roughly coursed stone parapets above. It has recently been re-pointed.

Recommendation for further assessment: None.

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording.

12. Ty'n Bant, derelict house SH47485647

Category: C Impact: Slight

This small ruined house was probably a farm labourer's cottage. It is shown as belonging to Hafod-y-Coed to the north east on the 1849 tithe map of Llandwrog but is now on land belonging to Llwyn-y-Gwalch. The structure is not directly threatened by the road scheme but part of the old field boundary to the north west would be destroyed. This consists of a stone bank surmounted by trees and a wire fence.

Recommendation for further assessment: None.

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording if the building is to be affected.

13. Roman Coin Hoard, Llwyn-y-Gwalch SH47465636

Category: C Impact: Slight

A hoard of Roman coins was found in the 19th century during the excavation of foundations for a building at Llwyn-y-Gwalch. The coins were originally described by J Foster as five coins of the two Tetrici of 270-3 (Arch Camb 1 1946 p 78). The hoard was subsequently lost, but some coins in the Segontium Museum collection which were transferred there from Caernarfon Public Library, and were not found at Segontium, may contain some of them. Their dates range from 253-272 AD (SMR PRN 1457).

Recommendation for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: None

14. Spring with Stone Surround SH47295628

Category: D Impact: Slight

A spring which rises close to the stream in a field immediately north of Talar-siencyn has some rough stone walling supporting a slate cover.

Recommendation for further assessment: None

Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Basic recording.

15. Talar-siencyn, derelict farm SH47285619

Category: C Impact: Considerable

There is a documentary reference to the holding in 1696 and the farm was still a separate entity on the 1849 tithe map of Llandwrog Parish. It seems to have been amalgamated with Coed Du and Cae Ty to the north at a later date. The ruins of a small cottage, an unidentified building and an outbuilding are all that remains of the original farm buildings. There are old walled enclosures, a walled track and several springs which preserve some of the character of the farm. The road scheme would affect the ruins of the cottage and the unidentified structure but should not disturb the better preserved barn which should be preserved *in situ*. The stone lined track between these two structures would be affected as would the sunken track to the south west which runs between stone banks.

Recommendation for further assessment: None

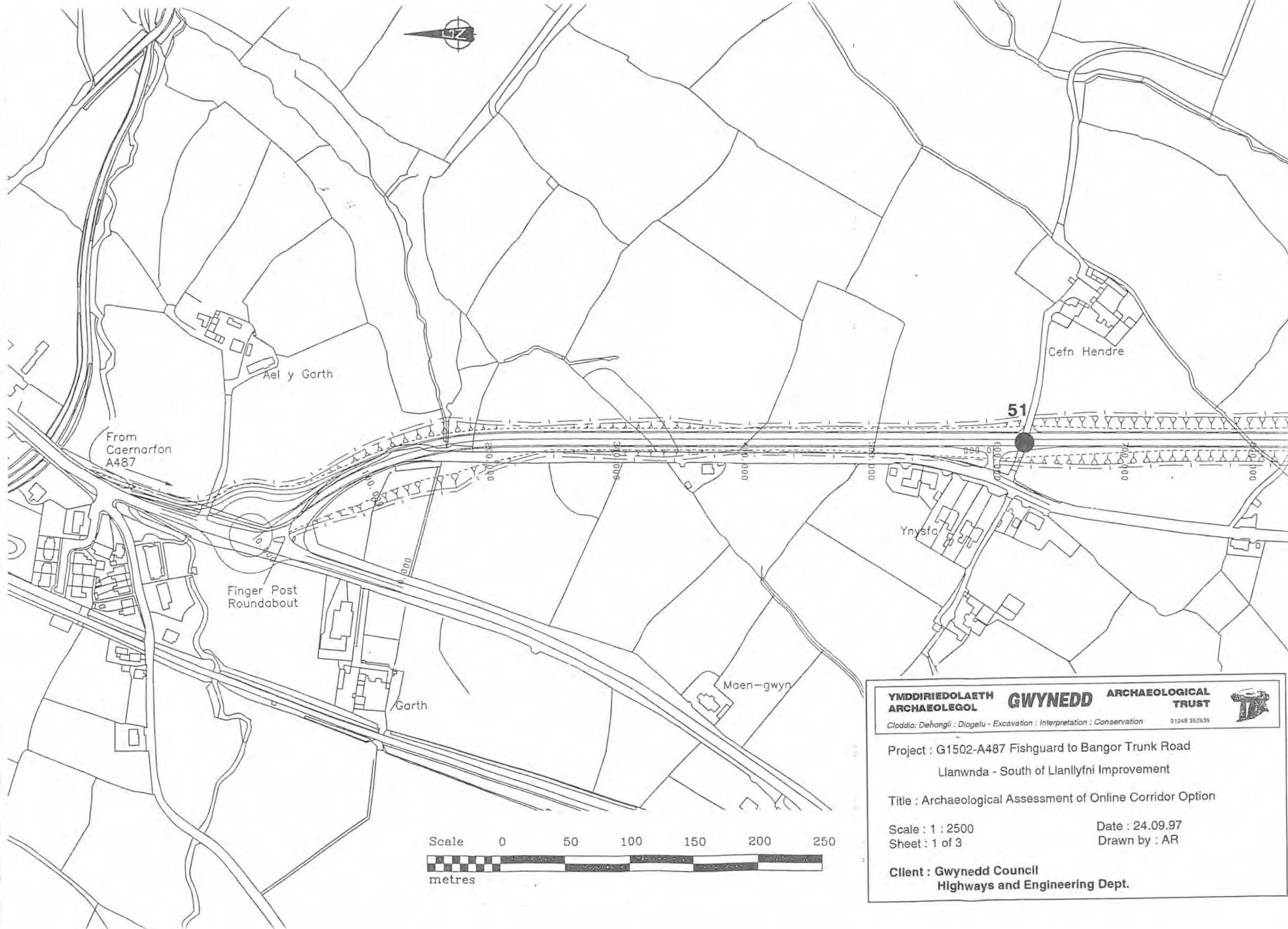
Recommendation for mitigatory measures: Full survey of the upstanding remains, with more detailed documentary research and geophysical survey/ trial trenching to identify earlier features

4.0 SUMMARY

A desk-top study has been carried out on the "Online Corridor Option" followed a limited field research. This has identified a number of sites which will be affected by the alternative route but none are of high archaeological significance. The only site requiring further investigation prior to construction work would be the features at Talar-siencyn. Current evidence would suggest that there is not a significant difference between the two routes of the impact upon the archaeology.

5.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Project : G1502-A487 Fishguard to Bangor Trunk Road

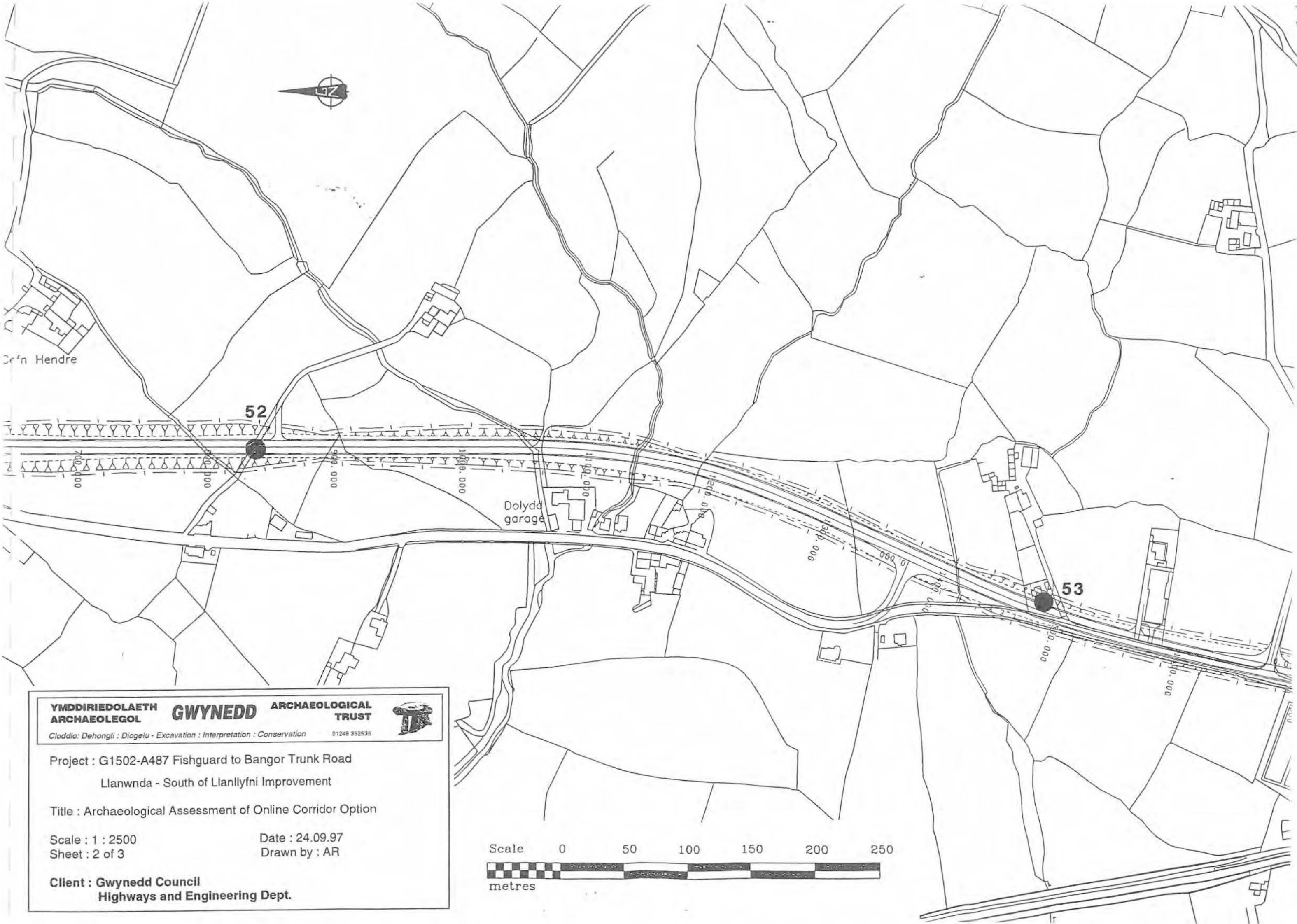
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13

Llwyn y gwalch

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Cemetery

GROESLON

15

Talar Siencyn

14

Rhes Glynllifon

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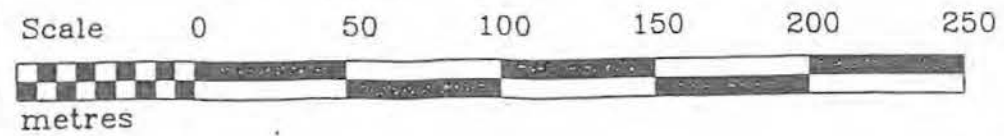
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