

Hotpoint Site & Esgyryn, Llandudno Junction

Archaeological Assessment (G1654)

Report No. 398

Prepared for Chapman Warren

by

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust

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Llandudno Junction**
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1 Introduction

The Welsh Development Agency has asked Chapman Warren to undertake an Environmental Assessment of the site of the former Hotpoint factory and an adjoining area of farm land. There are no known archaeological sites within this study area, although there is good potential for prehistoric remains on the green field site at Esgyryn. Therefore, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (Contracts Section) has been asked by Chapman Warren to carry out an archaeological assessment of the green field site (area E).

2 The Assessment Brief

The aims of the assessment are:

- to identify and record the cultural heritage of the area;
- to evaluate the importance of what has been identified;
- and to recommend ways in which impact upon the cultural heritage can be avoided or minimised.

3 Methods and techniques

3.1 Desk-top Study

This involved consultation of maps, computer records, at the regional Sites and Monuments Record at Bangor (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust) and the County archives at Caernarfon. Aerial photographs were also examined at the Countryside Council for Wales, Bangor.

3.2 Field Search

This was undertaken on 17th November 2000, when all of the green field area was walked. This area (area E on plan) consisted of a series of enclosed fields, all of which have been improved. Mature hedges and field ditches defined the fields. Weather conditions dull with intermittent rain showers.

Sites identified were marked on copies of the 1:10,000 OS map as accurately as possible without surveying. A written description of each site was made and the importance of each site evaluated. All the identified sites were also photographed.

3.3 Report

All available information was collated, and transferred onto a map. The sites were then assessed and allocated to the categories listed below. These are intended to give an idea of the importance of the site and the level of response likely to be required; descriptions of the sites and specific recommendations for further assessment or mitigatory measures, as appropriate, are given in the relevant sections of this report.

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 *Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology*, Welsh Office Circular 60/96.

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 of 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 placed in this category, with specific recommendations for further assessment.

3.5 Definition of Impact

The impact has been defined as none, slight, likely, considerable or unknown as follows:

None:

There is no construction impact on this particular site. Sites identified as of particular importance are, where possible, avoided by the improvement proposals. Such sites have been identified in the tables.

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.* a track or field boundary.

Likely:

In some instances the site in question would not fall within the direct line of the proposed development but could be affected by construction works 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 development.

3.6 Definition of Mitigatory Recommendations

None:

No impact so no requirement for mitigatory measures.

Detailed recording:

Requiring a photographic record, surveying and the production of a measure drawing prior to commencement of works.

Archaeological excavation may also be required depending on the particular feature and the extent and effect of the impact.

Basic recording:

Requiring a photographic record and full description prior to commencement of works.

Watching brief:

Requiring observation of particular identified features or areas during works in their vicinity. This may be supplemented by detailed or basic recording of exposed layers, structures or sections.

Avoidance:

Features that may be affected directly by the scheme, or during the construction of the scheme, should be avoided. Occasionally a minor change to the proposed route of the pipeline is recommended, but more usually it refers to the need for care to be taken during construction of the pipeline to avoid accidental damage to a site. This is often best achieved by clearly marking sites prior to the start of work.

Reinstatement:

The feature should be re-instated with archaeological advice and supervision.

4 Archaeological and historical background

4.1 The existing archaeological record

There are no recorded archaeological sites within the assessment area, but there are two recorded archaeological sites within 1km of the area:

PRN 1640 – Stone carving – 'Celtic Head' near Pabo (early medieval) (SH 80897894)

PRN 7891 – Romano-British? brooch fragment – Findspot, SE of Pydew (SH 81267890)

Directly to the south of the survey area was the location of Sarn Mynach, which was said to have been a causeway built across the wet valley bottom of the Afon Ganol by the monks at Aberconwy Abbey. A causeway at this location was first mentioned in the 1530's by John Leland as a *made causey over a marsch often overflowen*. It was first referred to by name in 1777 and the place name Pen y Sarn survived into the twentieth century as a small farm south of survey area E. This formed the main eastern approach to the Conwy ferry located between Deganwy and Llandudno Junction.

Once the road reached dryer ground on the northern side of the valley it forked into two roads, one running towards the ferry and one (Narrow Lane) towards Llanrhos and onto the Creuddyn Peninsular. Sarn Mynach was clearly an important routeway into Caernarvonshire via the ferry at Conwy and into the interior of the Creuddyn Peninsular.

The 1840 Tithe map and accompanying schedule for the parish of Llangwstennin includes the survey area (area E). Within area E and immediately around it the map depicts a number of long narrow fields which almost certainly reflect the surviving field shapes of medieval strip fields. This is confirmed by a number of field names from the Tithe Schedule. For example, the terms *talar* (headland), *dryll* (portion) and *quillet* are all names associated with medieval strip fields. Also the ownership of the fields recorded on the Tithe schedule is mixed, reflecting the mixed nature of medieval field ownership. Other field names of interest include *weirglodd* or meadow, *Cae ty hwny ir afon* of field of the house beyond the river and *Talar Aur* or golden headland, perhaps reflecting the agricultural fertility that the area was renowned for.

A field called *Cae fynnon* or field of the well is located in the area of the well which now lies beneath the modern housing estate. A field called *Cae pwll* of field of the pool also falls within the survey area. Examination of OS maps shows the location of the farms of Waen-fynydd and Bryn-derw from 1888. Development of the area began between 1901 and 1913 when a house called *The Hermitage* was built near the well at Cae Ffynnon. By 1937 this house has been renamed *Cae Ffynnon* and has since been surrounded by a housing estate.

The settlement of Llandudno Junction developed following the construction and opening of the branch line of the LNWR to Llandudno in 1858. The site of the old Hotpoint factory remained a green field site until the Second World War, when a factory was constructed for Ratcliffe Engineering to build parts for the Mosquito aeroplane. After the War the works continued as a light engineering firm manufacturing machinery involved in the production of glass. In the 1950's the site was bought by Hotpoint for the production of washing machines and gradually expanded.

4.1 Preliminary topographic survey

The majority of the assessment area E consists of south facing, rolling improved pasture, divided by mature, and in places, very deep hedges on low stone walls. The A470 dual carriageway defines the eastern boundary of the area and Narrow Lane and a housing estate forms the western boundary. Modern structures and features associated with the Hotpoint factory are found on the southern boundary of the assessment area.

4.2 The archaeological survey

All features of human activity are recorded except those deriving from current land-use. The features are number in sequence and their locations are shown on the accompanying map.

1 Remains of field boundary, Waen-fynydd SH 80387823C
Category D Impact: Considerable

A low (0.1m high), barely visible, linear ridge. It runs in a north-west to south-east direction from one upstanding field boundary to another. It is marked on the Tithe map and on all the OS maps including the 1:10560 1964 edition. Therefore, it must have been removed after this date.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Basic recording

2 Ditch, south of Waen-fynydd SH 80487822C
Category D Impact: Considerable

The remains of a ditch, running in an east to west direction, across the bottom of the field. It is 1m wide and 0.6m deep with a low bank on the southern side. It no longer appears to be in use.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Basic recording

3 Remains of a field boundary, south of Waen-fynydd SH 80427823C
Category D Impact: Considerable

A low ridge (0.1m high), running in a south-south-east to north-north-west direction. This field boundary is not represented on any of the OS maps or the Tithe map. However, the adjacent field is called *Dryll Gwain fynydd* on the Tithe map and this ridge probably represents the remains of a medieval strip field boundary.

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Basic recording

Category D Impact: Considerable

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: Basic recording

5.1 Site specific

Category A – National Importance

Nil

Category B – Regional Importance

Nil

Category C – Local Importance

Nii

Category D – Minor of damaged sites

1, 2, 3 & 4

Basic recording

The proposed development of the green field site (area E) would result in the destruction of the all the features identified during the assessment. However, as the recorded features are off minor importance and have been recorded on a basic level as part of the assessment phase, no further mitigation is required for these four features.

5.2 Area proposals

No significant archaeological sites were identified during this assessment phase, however the highly improved nature of the land within area E severely prohibits the identification of archaeological remains by a normal walkover survey. The survival of relict medieval strip fields, its south-facing aspect and its location near an important communication route indicates that the area does hold sub-surface archaeological potential. It is therefore recommended that a general watching brief is carried out during any construction in area E.

6 Bibliography

6.1 Unpublished Sources

Gwynedd Sites and Monuments Record, Bangor
Gwynedd Archives, Caernarfon

6.2 Maps

Tithe Map (Llangwstennin Parish) 1840

Ordnance Survey maps:

1:2,500 V. 6 1889
1:2,500 V. 6 1900
1:2,500 V. 6 1913
1:2,500 V. 6 1937
1:10560 First Edition 1888
1:10560 Second Edition 1901
1:10560 1964 edition

6.2 Published Sources

Bingley W, 1814 *North Wales*. Bristol

Davies H R, 1966 *The Conwy and the Menai Ferries*

Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd, 1998 *Ganol Sewerage Improvements – Desk top study and archaeological survey*

Hyde Hall E, 1952 *A Description of Caernarvonshire (1809-1811)*

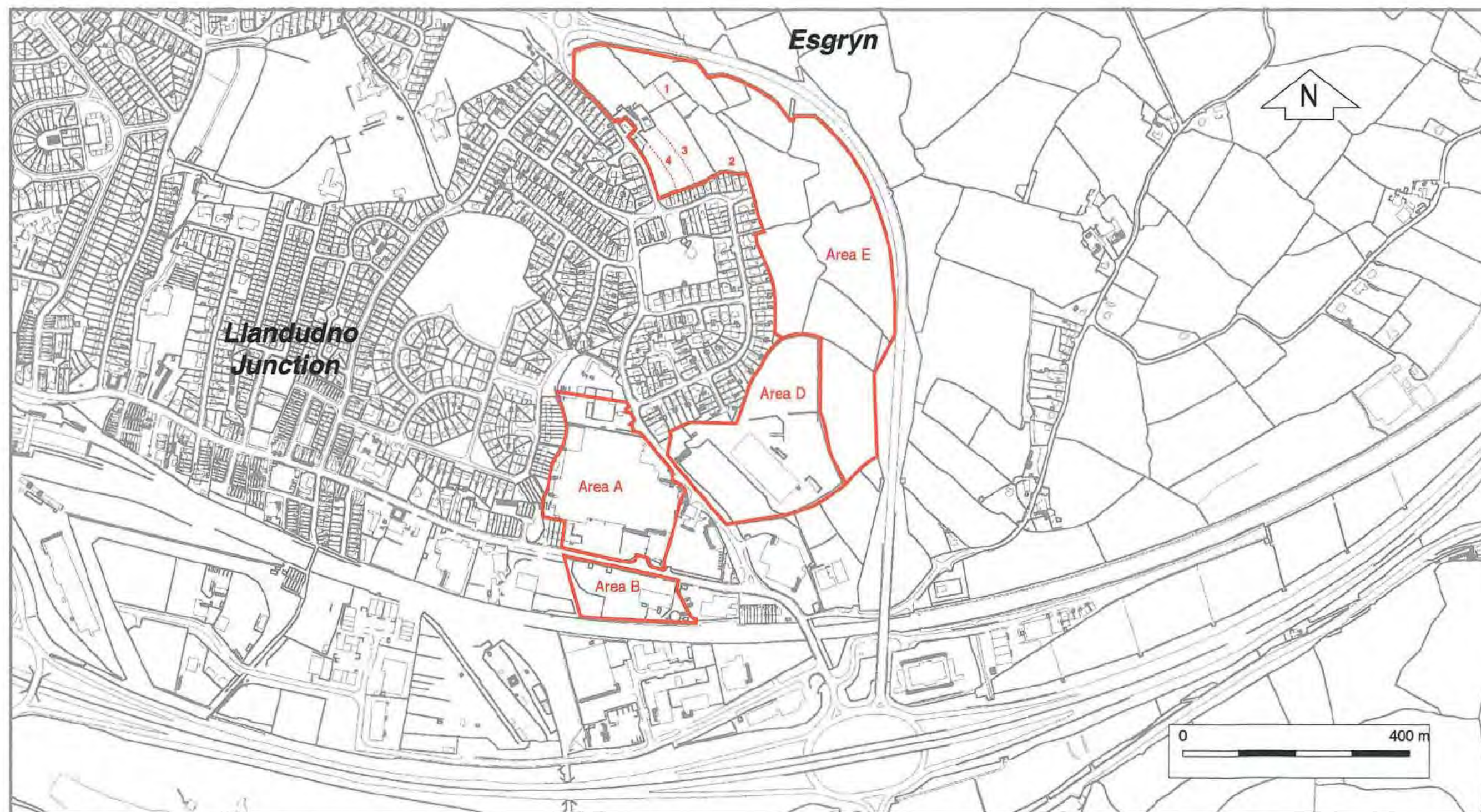
Pennant T, 1883 *A Tour in Wales*


6.3 Aerial Photographs

Line 5 165 92 Print 227 from the Countryside Commission for Wales

7 Non-Technical Summary

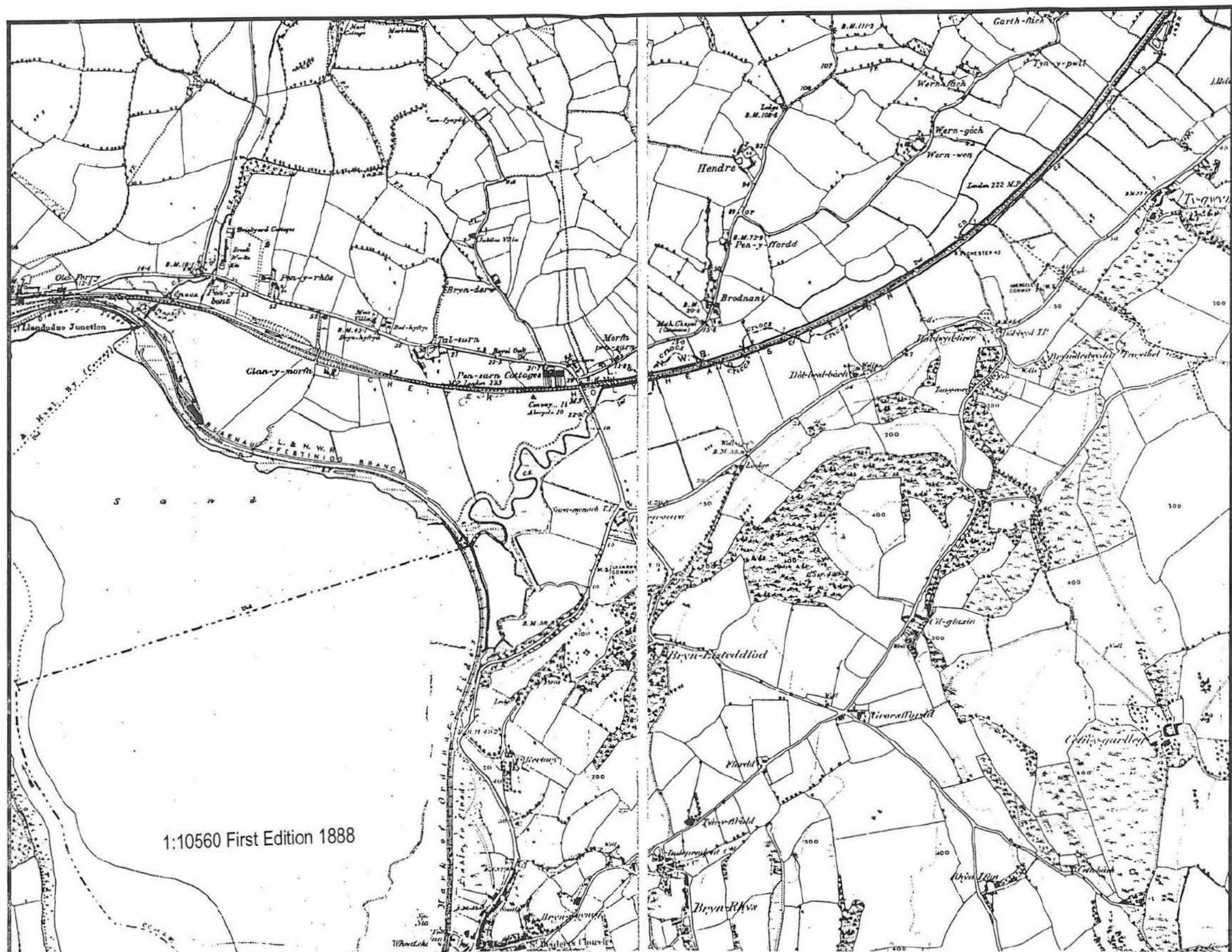
A desktop study and a field walkover on the green field site (area E) identified four features associated with probable relict medieval fields. The area is situated on south facing ground and is located near an important communication route and the potential for archaeological remains from the prehistoric and medieval periods is good. It is therefore recommended that a general watching brief on the green field area (area E) is carried out during construction works.

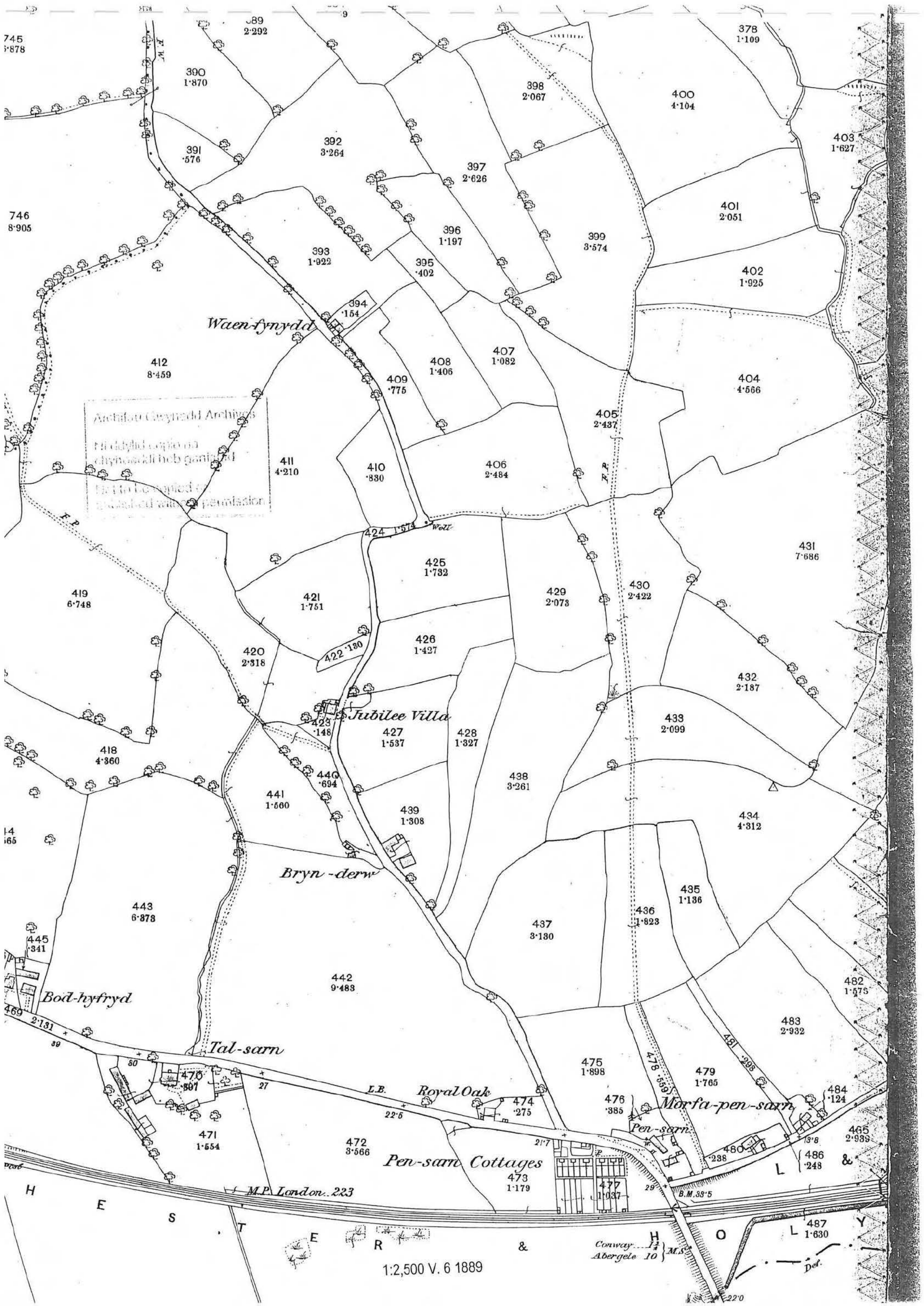


Title: <i>Hotpoint Site and Esgryn, Llandudno Junction.</i>		
 Gwynedd Archaeological Trust <small>01248 352535 01248 379925 email: gat@gneab.co.uk Craig Beuno : Ffordd y Garth : Bangor : LL57 2RT</small>	Client:	
	R P S CHAPMAN WARREN PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT	
	Scales:	08/12/00
	n/a	LAD
	Drawing number	1 of 1
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Tithe Map (Llangwstennin Parish) 1840





745
8'878

746
8'905

389
2'292

378
1'109

390
1'870

398
2'067

400
4'104

391
5'76

392
3'264

397
2'626

403
1'627

401
2'051

393
1'922

396
1'197

399
3'574

402
1'925

Waen-fynydd

394
1'54

395
4'02

412
8'459

408
1'406

407
1'082

404
4'566

Archifau Gwynedd Archives
Middylid copio o'r
chynwedd heb ganiatáu
Deddf o'r 1910
Deddf o'r 1910

411
4'210

410
8'80

406
2'484

405
2'437

409
7'75

424
1'514

425
1'782

429
2'078

430
2'422

431
7'686

419
6'748

421
1'751

420
2'318

422
1'30

426
1'427

432
2'187

Jubilee Villa

427
1'537

428
1'327

433
2'099

418
4'360

441
1'500

440
6'94

439
1'308

438
3'261

434
4'312

Bryn-derw

443
6'878

442
9'483

435
1'136

436
1'823

437
3'180

Bod-hyfyd

445
3'41

Tal-sarn

470
8'01

L.B.

Royal Oak

474
2'75

475
1'898

479
1'765

476
3'85

Morfa-pen-sarn

483
2'932

482
1'575

469
2'131

80

27

Pen-sarn Cottages

473
1'179

477
1'037

480
2'38

484
1'24

485
2'939

486
2'48

H

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Conway
Abergele 10

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487
1'630

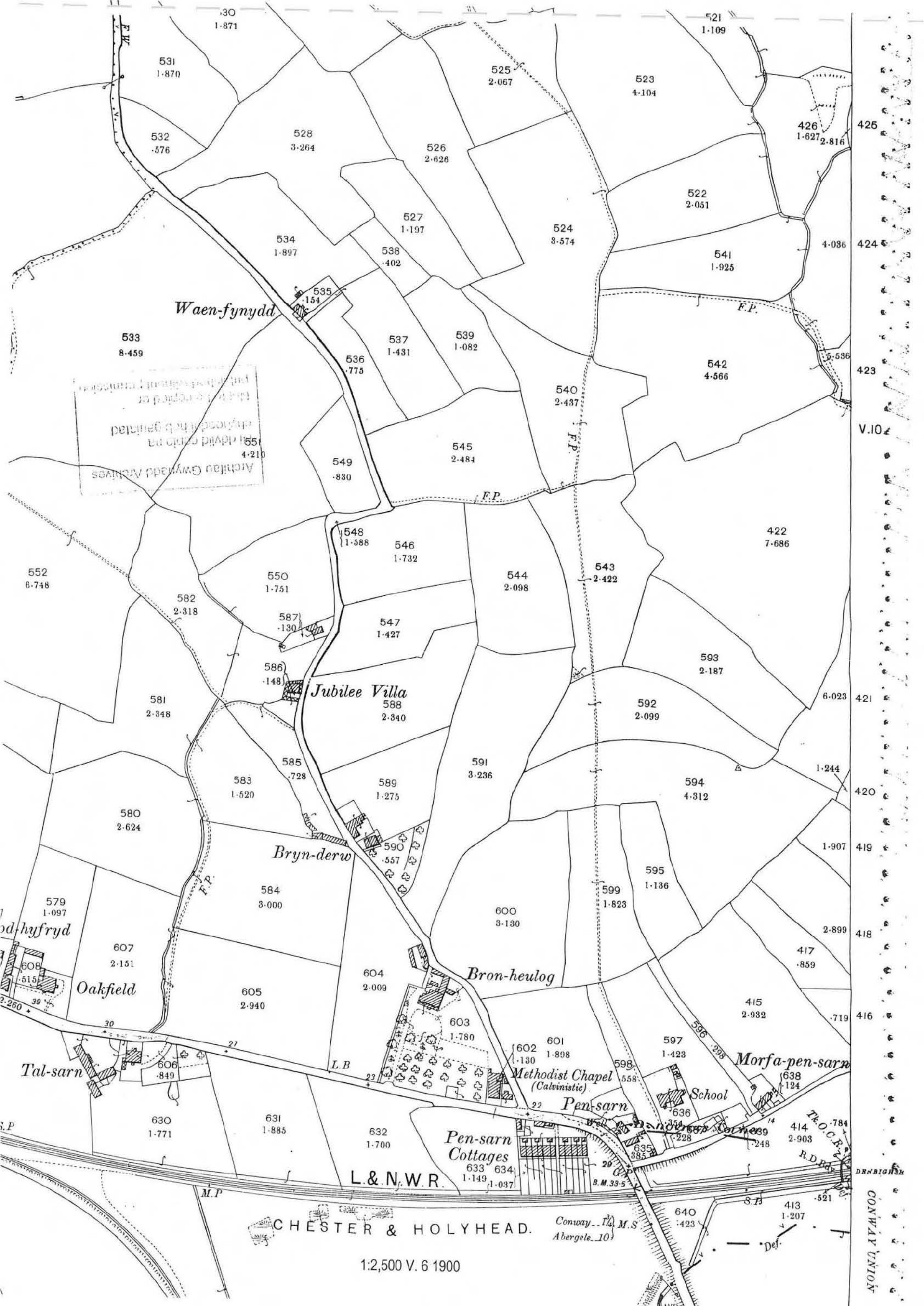
Y

1:2,500 V. 6 1889

M.S.

Def.

22'0



Waen-fynydd

Jubilee Villa

Bryn-derw

Bron-heulog

Oakfield

Tal-sarn

Pen-sarn Cottages

Methodist Chapel
(Calvinistic)

School

Morfa-pen-sarn

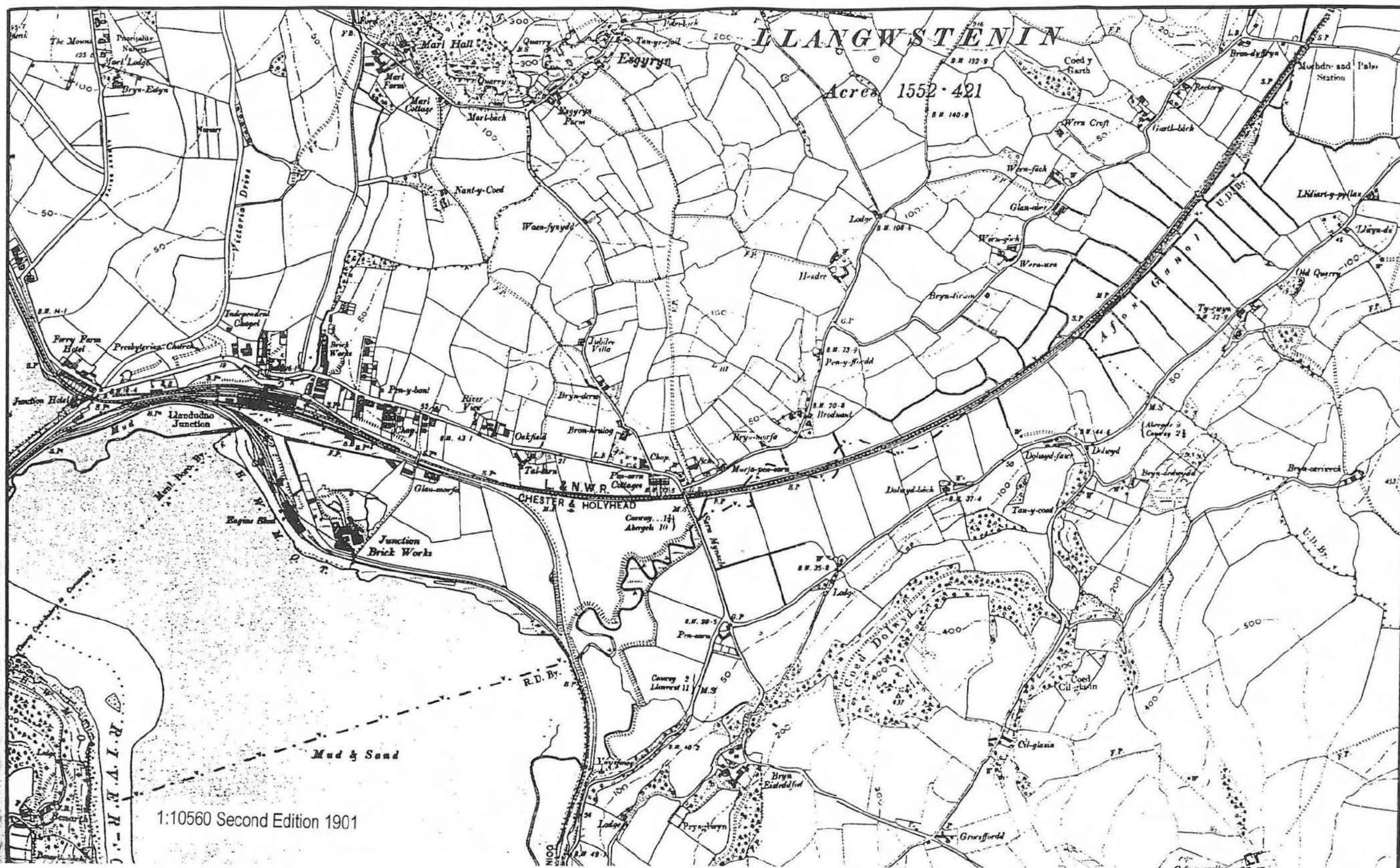
L.&N.W.R.

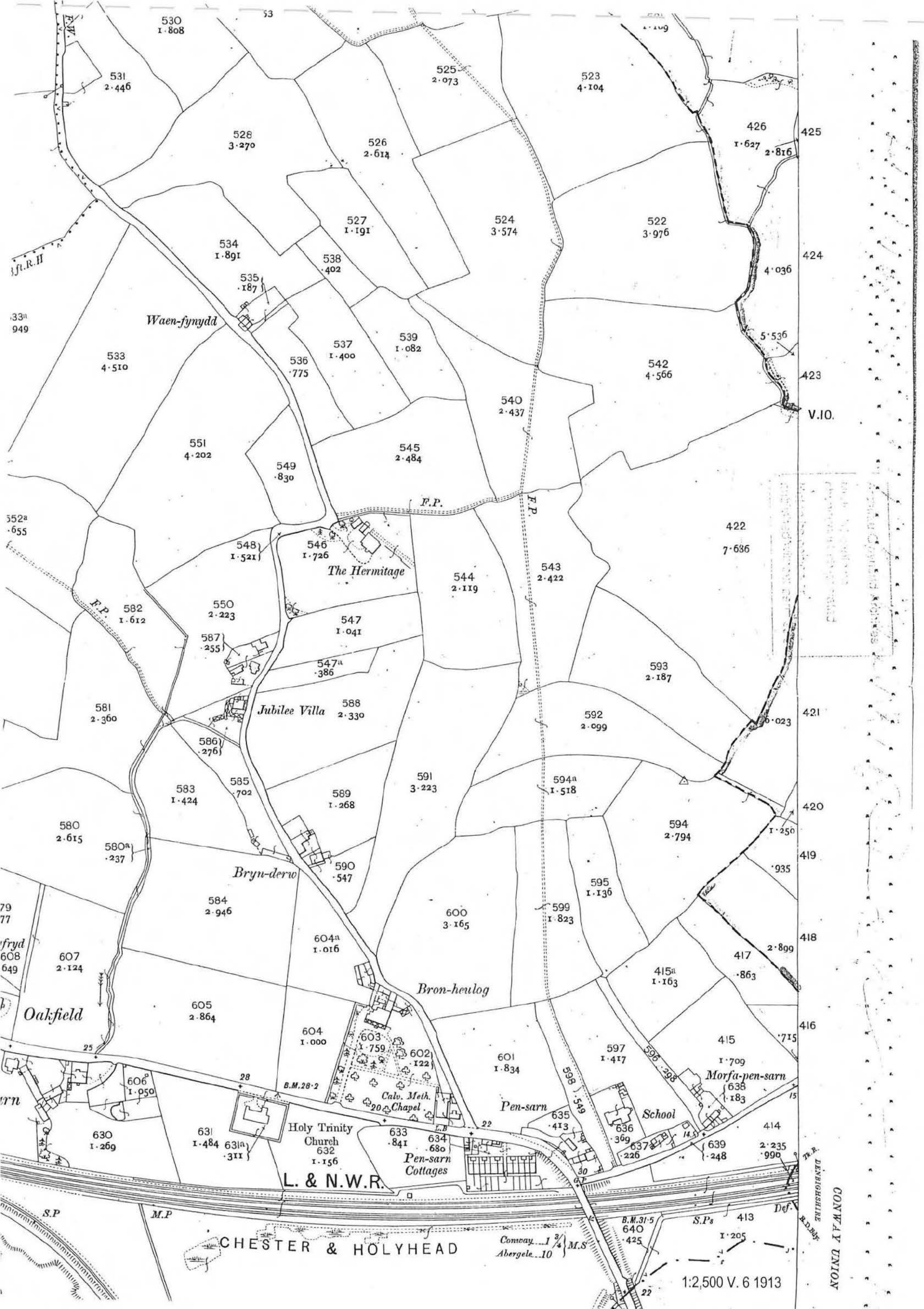
CHESTER & HOLYHEAD.

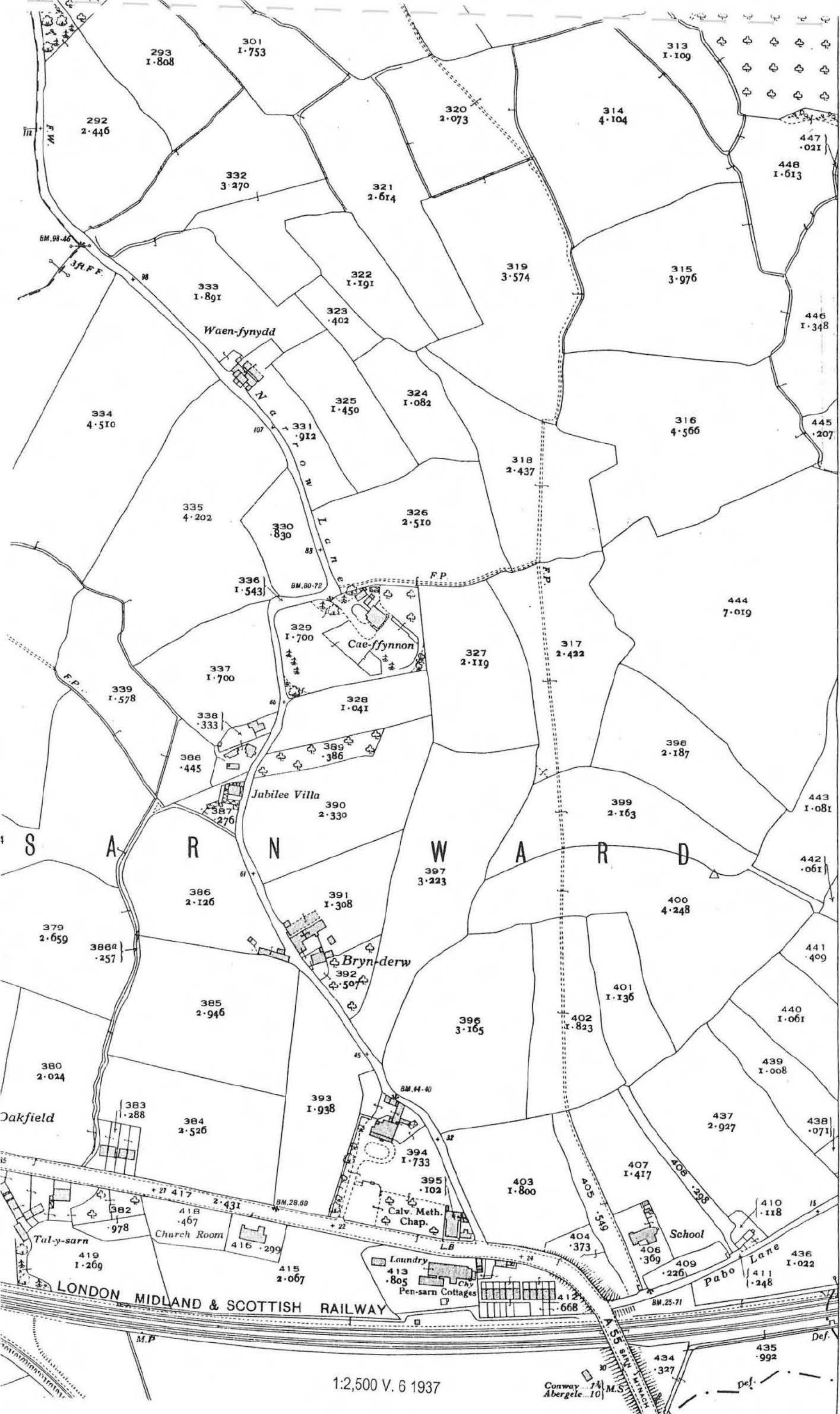
1:2,500 V. 6 1900

Conway - 1 1/4 M.S.
Abergele 10

CONWAY UNION

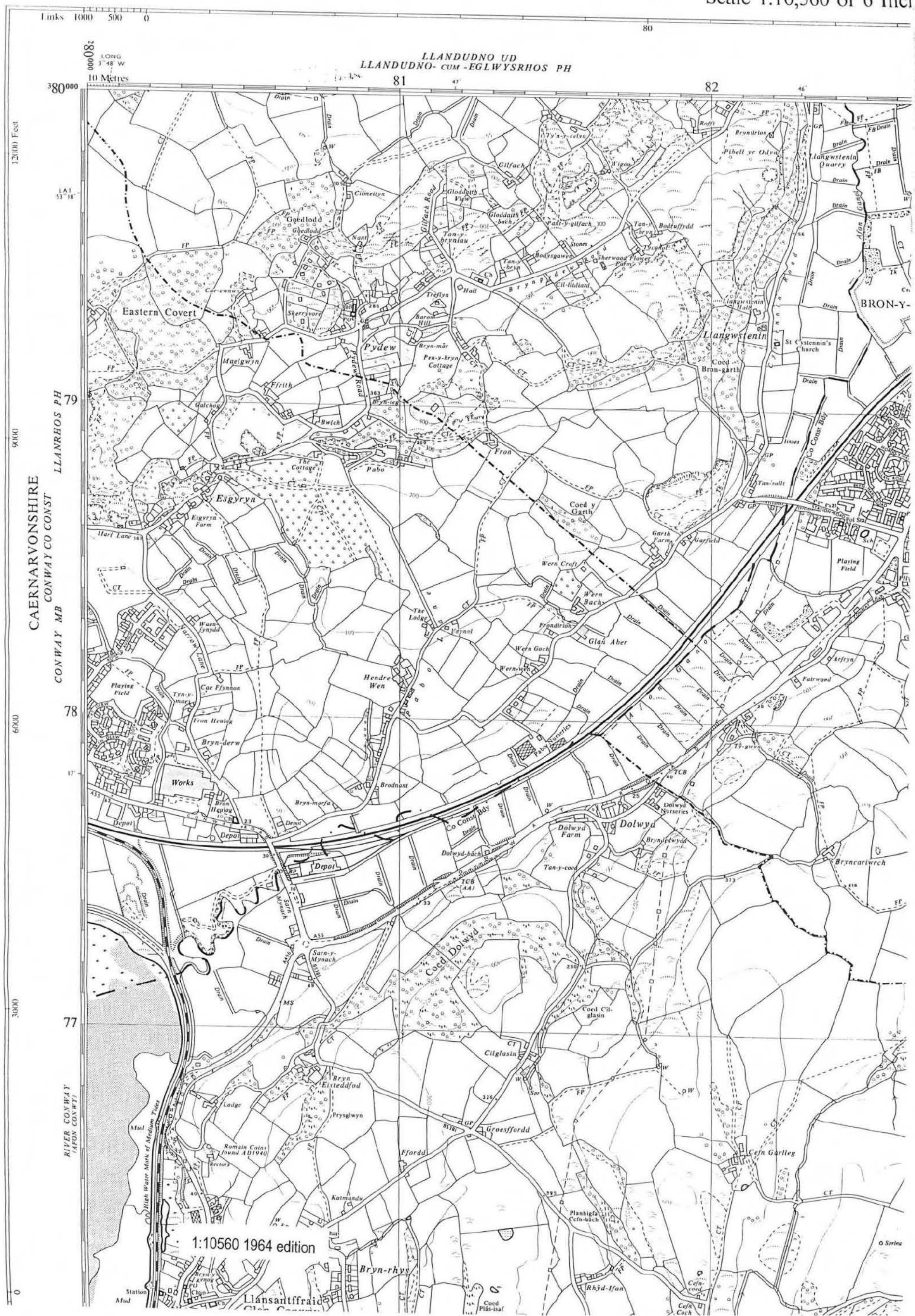






1:2,500 V. 6 1937

Conway
Abergele



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