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Proposed housing development at No. 1, Pyllau Road, Llandudno

Archaeological Assessment

GAT Project No. G1777

Report No. 474

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by

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PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT I, PYLLAU ROAD, LLANDUDNO (GAT Project No. G1777)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

CONTENTS

Summary

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Specification and Project Design
- 3. Methods and Techniques
- Archaeological assessment
- 5. Recommendations for mitigatory measures
- 6. Sources

ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 The distribution of all archaeological and historic features and finds on the Great Orme and the location of No. 1, Pyllau Road
- Fig. 2 The distribution of all archaeological and historic features and finds recorded on the Gwynedd SMR within 500m of No. 1, Pyllau Road
- Fig. 3 The Great Orme area in 1795 (John Evans Map of North Wales 1795)
- Fig. 4 The Pyllau Valley in 1831 (Mostyn Estate map 1831)
- Fig. 5 The Pyllau Valley in 1840 (Llandudno tithe map 1840)
- Fig. 6 The Pyllau Valley in 1849 (Mostyn Estate Auction map 1849)
- Fig. 7 Llety'r Filiast Neolithic chambered tomb: results of geophysical survey, 1996.
- Fig. 8 The environs of the Llety'r Filiast Neolithic chambered tomb Pyllau Valley area showing interpretation of surveys and areas of potential
- Fig. 9 No. 1, Pyllau Road: The western area
- Fig. 10 No. 1, Pyllau Road The eastern area
- Fig. 11 No. 1, Pyllau Road, general view from the east. Llety'r Filiast chambered tomb in the background
- Fig. 12 No. 1, Pyllau Road from the south-west: Llety'r Filiast chambered tomb in the foreground

SUMMARY

An archaeological assessment was carried out of two areas of land at the west and east sides of I Pyllau Road. This involved consultation of existing maps and records and a field visit. No visible archaeological features were identified. The western area was assessed as of high archaeological potential because it encompasses the expected structural area of the Neolithic chambered tomb of Llety'r Filiast, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM Cn 005) and lies within an area of intense prehistoric activity associated with the chambered tomb and with the Bronze Age copper mines, just to the west. A second stage of field assessment is recommended for this area before proceeding further. The eastern area was assessed as of low archaeological potential because of comprehensive post-medieval modification. A watching brief is recommended during any initial ground-works here.

The assessment, following the brief, involved only the likelihood of archaeological remains within the physical constraints of the house plots and did not evaluate the archaeological or historical landscape setting although this is considered to be an important factor in this case.

1. INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust was asked to carry out an archaeological assessment of proposed housing development at 1, Pyllau Road, Llandudno (SH 77258296). This comprised an application to construct a single storey dwelling within the grounds of the existing house, which consists of two original houses, 1 and 2, Pyllau Road, modified into a single house. There are therefore two plots of available land, the western, and largest, the garden of the original 1, Pyllau Road and the eastern the garden of the original 2, Pyllau Road. The western plot is rectangular in plan and almost level; the eastern is approximately triangular and lies on a medium steep slope.

2. SPECIFICATION AND PROJECT DESIGN

The main requirement was for desktop research and field search of the proposed development area, to assess the potential for the presence of archaeological or historic features within the area and to assess the likely impact of any development. This would assess the level of potential, the importance of any likely features and identify any particular areas of significance. Measures to mitigate the effects of the construction were to be suggested.

A full archaeological assessment usually consists of the following 6 phases:

- 1. Desk-top research
- 2. Field search
- 3. Interim draft report
- 4. Detailed field evaluation
- 5. Final draft report
- Final report

This assessment has covered the work required under 1, 2 and 3. It is sometimes necessary to undertake a program of field evaluation following the desk-top assessment. This is because, by the nature of archaeology, much of the evidence is below ground and additional fieldwork is required to identify and understand it. The field assessment usually takes the form of geophysical survey and/or trial excavation with measured survey. The present report makes recommendations for any further assessment required.

3. METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

3.1 Desk-top study

This involved consultation of maps, computer records and reference works in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) of the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Bangor, in the Archives Dept. of the University

of Wales, Bangor and in the archives of Llandudno Museum. Secondary sources, such as books and journals were consulted for background material.

All the known archaeological or historical sites on the Great Orme listed in the SMR were plotted to give an idea of the overall level of archaeological activity and these are shown on Fig. 1. Sites within 500m of the study area were individually identified to give an indication of the number, type and period of archaeological and historic sites and finds within the immediate area. These are plotted on Fig. 2 and listed in Appendix 1. There are 156 recorded features or finds within this area, including prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval features and these are summarised by type in Table 1. Those with a protected status are listed in Table 2, where applicable. Some are funerary, some settlement, some agricultural, some industrial and some are extant historic buildings or structures. The majority are Post-Medieval mining or quarrying features or associated structures.

Table 1 Summary list of archaeological and historic features within 500m of 1, Pyllau Road

PERIOD	SITE TYPE	NO.
Prehistoric	Settlement (e.g. hut circle)	9
	Neolithic chambered tomb	1
	Bronze Age? cairn	3
	Bronze Age copper mine	2
	Earthwork, undetermined	2
	Artefact find	4
Medieval	Settlement (e.g. house platform)	2
	Agricultural feature	9
Undetermined	Earthwork feature (e.g. bank)	27
Post-Medieval /Undetermined	Quarry	26
Post-Medieval /Undetermined	Track	5
Post-Medieval /Undetermined	Non-building structural feature	8
Post-Medieval	Mine or associated feature	36
Post-Medieval	Building	9
Post-Medieval	Agricultural feature	2
Post-Medieval	Other industrial, water or transport feature	7
Modern	odern Notable building or feature	

Table 2 List of archaeological and historic features with statutory protected status

PRN	Site name	Period	Site type	Status No.
648	Llety'r Filiast Burial chamber, Great Orme	Prehistoric, Neolithic	Chambered tomb	SAM Cn 005
1694	Great Orme Copper Mine	Prehistoric, Bronze Age	Copper mine	SAM Cn 216
639	Hut circle, Bryniau Poethion, Great Orme	Prehistoric, Iron Age/Romano-British	Round house	SAM Cn 234
11391	Penmynydd Ucha Farmhouse	Post-Medieval	House	Listed GII
11491	Tan Berllan Cottage	Post-Medieval	House	Listed GII
12699	Ty Gwyn Road, Telephone box	Modern	Telephone box	Listed GII

3.2 Field search

The site was visited on 19th February 2003 in the company of the landowner, Mr Parton, who explained the details of the proposed works. The two areas were both clear of vegetation and easily visible, apart form a small area at the south-west, adjoining the chambered tomb where there is a garage. The area around the site was also visited and photographs taken from various viewpoints.

3.3 Report

The available information was collated and an assessment made according to the categories listed below. The categories used for allocating features to categories of importance are based on those used by the Secretary of State when considering ancient monuments for scheduling. These are set out in the Welsh Office Circular 60/96.

3.3.1 Categories of importance

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

Category A - Sites of National Importance.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings of grade II* and above, as well as those that would meet the requirements for scheduling (ancient monuments) or listing (buildings) or both.

Sites that 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.

Grade II listed buildings and 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 that are of minor importance or are 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, the importance of which 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.

3.3.2 Definition of Impact

The impact of development is estimated. The impact is defined as none, slight, unlikely, likely, significant, 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.

Unlikely:

This category indicates sites that fall within the band of interest but are unlikely to be directly affected. This includes sites such as standing and occupied buildings at the margins of the band of interest.

Likely:

Sites towards the edges of the study area, which may not be directly affected, but are likely to be damaged in some way by the construction activity.

Significant:

The partial removal of a site affecting its overall integrity. Sites falling into this category may be linear features such as roads or tramways where the removal of part of the feature could make overall interpretation problematic.

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.

3.3.3 Definition of field evaluation techniques

Field evaluation is necessary to fully understand and assess class E sites and to allow the evaluation of areas of land where there are no visible features but for which there is potential for sites to exist. Two principal techniques can be used for carrying out the evaluation: geophysical survey and trial trenching.

Geophysical survey most often involves the use of a magnetometer, which allows detection of some underground features, depending on their composition and the nature of the subsoil.

Trial trenching allows a representative sample of the development area to be investigated at depth. Trenches of appropriate size can also be excavated to evaluate category E sites. The topsoil is removed by machine and the resulting surface is cleaned by hand, and any features are recorded. Depending on the stratigraphy encountered the machine may be used to remove stratigraphy to deeper levels.

3.3.4 Definition of Mitigatory Recommendations

None:

No impact and therefore no requirement for mitigation measures.

Avoidance:

Where possible, features that may be affected should be avoided. Sometimes this could mean a change in layout or design. More usually it refers to the need for care during construction to avoid accidental damage to a feature. This may be achieved by marking features or areas, for example with warning tape, before work starts, or in sensitive cases carrying out a watching brief.

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 may also be required depending upon the particular feature and the extent and effect of the impact.

Basic Recording:

A photographic record and full description, and limited measured survey where applicable.

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 or structures.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

4.1 Topographic description

The Great Orme consists of a limestone peninsula, the northernmost extent of an exposure that extends in a narrow arc, outcropping to the east on the Little Orme, to the east of Colwyn bay and south to Denbigh and Ruthin. More extensive limestone deposits occur on the east side of the Vale of Clwyd from Prestatyn in the north to beyond Llangollen in the south. The presence of limestone was important in prehistory for several reasons. It is alkaline and produces a light fertile soil, which is well drained. The rock also erodes in fissures, producing caves that provided shelter for the earliest human settlement and later in prehistory, for funerary deposits. The natural fault lines of the limestone were also the subjects of mineralisation by invasion of material from within the earth's core during a period of earth movement and faulting. This produced a series of rich veins of metallic ores, principally lead, zinc and copper.

The Great Orme headland forms an isolated peninsula, similar to that of Ynys Seiriol (Puffin Island) off Anglesey, also of limestone. It has a steep cliffs around most of the coast edge and a steep scarp also around the landward side of the headland suggesting it may once have formed an off-shore island. However, a land connection must have existed through most of the last glacial period, during which sea-levels were as much as 100m below that of the present. As sea-level subsequently rose the Great Orme may have become an island as the deposits of the Llandudno isthmus are all low-lying, below 5m OD, and consist of alluvium. A bore-hole at The Oval, close to the Railway station at Llandudno showed peat deposits at a depth of 8.15 to 9,20m below the present surface. The lower peats were dated to 7635 +/- 52 BP a date that puts it within the Mesolithic period (Whittow 1965). The peat was overlain by estuarine clay, beach deposits and brown sand and beneath them were estuarine clay and glacial till.

Soils produced directly on limestone are generally thin and very well drained and can easily be eroded to bare rock. However, the area here has been subject to glaciation and the retreat of the ice-sheet left deposits of fluvio-glacial silts, gravel and wind-blown silt, There may also be, in pockets within fissures, remnants of geological beds of the marls and sandstones that formerly overlay the limestone.

The limestone is characterised by its bedded nature, resulting in horizontal and vertical cleavage. Where its beds have not been tilted by earth movement it erodes, as here, in fairly horizontal terraces and steep scarps and these are easily visible all round the Orme. At the south-east side these terraces are fairly broad and the areas of more level land were exploited for settlement and agriculture during the post-medieval period. One of these was the present area of study at the Pyllau Valley (Fig. 1).

4.2 Archaeological and historical background

The Great Orme is particularly rich in archaeological and historic remains of most periods (Fig. 1). Its caves and cliffs provided shelter, its soils were attractive to early agriculture, it had minerals and it provided an easily defensible position. By good fortune it was not so attractive for agriculture and settlement in the Post-Medieval period and was used largely for pasture although there are areas of quarrying and mining. During recent times it has also been used mainly for pasture and recreation and as a result many traces of prehistoric and historic activity have been preserved. Similarly, the long established flora of the limestone cliffs and grassland has been preserved and the whole of the coastal strip is protected as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Several of the archaeological features are also protected as Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Of the many recorded archaeological or historic sites or finds on the Great Orme (Fig. 1) the earliest are Kendrick's Cave and Upper Kendrick's Cave, which have produce internationally important finds of Later Upper Palaeolithic date, between 12,000 to 10,000 BP (Davies 1989, 99-101). These and other caves around the Great Orme have also produced evidence of use during the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods (*ibid* 95-8). Within the Pyllau Valley itself are two important features, the Neolithic chambered tomb and the Bronze Age copper mine.

The chambered tomb of Llety'r Filiast lies almost centrally within the level part of the valley floor. It is an unexcavated site, and there have been no recorded finds from it that are likely to belong to its period of use. It has been identified as a chambered tomb of Neolithic date but the visible remains are quite simple and it is not of a readily classifiable type (Grimes 1951, 39). It consists of a rectangular chamber, now partly collapsed, at the east end of a long mound. It has been thought that the mound might be simply a rock outcrop with the tomb built against it. However, observation during digging of post-holes for a new surrounding fence in 1990 suggested that all the mound was a man-made feature (Dutton 1990). Excavated examples of such tombs produce radiocarbon dates within the 4th millennium BC, but because it is not of an easily classifiable type there is a possibility of it falling within the 3rd millennium BC (the Later Neolithic). Such tombs are recognised as having a more ceremonial than funerary function and as such must have been the focal point of such activity for a wide area. Indeed, the nearest similar monuments are in the Conwy Valley at Llansanffraid (PRN 2745) and Maen y Bardd, Rowen (PRN 529). However, there is a possibility that another tomb, now destroyed, once existed on the Great Orme near Wyddfyd (Lowe 1912, 17). Most excavated examples of chambered tombs show re-use in the second millennium BC and so retained some special status over very long periods and can be expected, in consequence, to have been the focus of much funerary or ceremonial activity. These tombs are a rare type of monument and all certainly identified examples are protected, like Llety'r Filiast, as Scheduled Ancient Monuments. The survival of such an early monument in an area subject to considerable later activity is fortunate and suggests that the mound was respected by later inhabitants of the area. For much of its life it lay centrally and prominently within the valley, until the construction of houses by the Mostyn Estate in the 19th century. This later landscape development will be discussed further below.

Within the Pyllau Valley there are also remains of the copper mines that have been shown to have been in use within the period from the Early to Middle Bronze Age, that is within the second millennium BC. However, there were also many more recent workings, starting in the 17th century and continuing until the late 19th century (Dutton 1994, 248, Jones 1999, 18). The mine workings were clearly extensive, even in the prehistoric period. The earliest would have exploited the ores that were naturally exposed at the surface and most easily available. There were also extensive underground workings with several kilometres of known underground passages. The site would have been of exceptional importance in prehistory, providing a raw material source that would have been valuable and traded for long distances. Settlement, as well as processing must have taken place in the vicinity of the mines, possibly within the Pyllau Valley.

In fact, no certain evidence has been found of settlement of the Neolithic or Bronze Age periods but there are a number of cairns that are likely to be of that period, attesting to activity in the area and it is possible that some of the several round house sites known are also of that period.

The copper ore may still have been an important raw material source during the first millennium BC and some of the circular hut settlement probably originates then. Some of the huts have traces of fields attached, so were farming settlements even if they did have some connection with the mines. The presence of the ore as a valuable resource may also explain the presence of a hillfort at Pen y Dinas, half a kilometre to the south-east of Pyllau.

The copper mines were once thought to be mainly Roman workings in origin but there has been no proof. However, excavation has shown that the fort of Pen-y-Dinas and some of the hut circle settlements were occupied during the Roman period. Roman coins were reported to have been found in the 19th century in the mine workings. In addition, two Roman coin hoards have been found on the Orme, one of the second half of the third century from Ty Gwyn Road just east of Pyllau, the other of the fourth century, from near Gogarth Abbey and others, as well as copper ingots of Roman type have been found near the Little Orme. The Roman fort of *Canovium* at Caerhun was an important element in the network of Roman control of Wales in the first century AD. The Conwy estuary would have

been a well-used supply route and settlement in the area would have benefited from the fort's protection.

The Great Orme was well settled in the Later Medieval period, when the area belonged to the Bishop of Bangor and the presence of three townships is recorded in a document of 1306. These were Gogarth. Yr Wyddfyd and Cyngreadwr, all some way from the Pyllau Valley. There are numerous surviving remains of ridge and furrow cultivation from this period and traces of strip fields can be seen in the field patterns preserved in the Tithe map of 1840. Study of aerial photographs and field survey in 1997 also recorded faint evidence of similar remains in the cromlech field, in the Pyllau Valley (Jones 1997).

However, by the eighteenth century much of the area had been abandoned, largely as a result of the changes that took place, including rural depopulation, after the Black Death. The Great Orme was by this time a very small community and cultivation was restricted to a few small enclosures representing smallholdings in the more favourable locations. The first reasonable scale map of the area from the late eighteenth century showed very little settlement, with only a house at Ty'n y coed shown (Fig. 3, Evans 1795).

A map drawn up for the Mostyn Estate in 1839, or earlier (Fig. 4) shows three small enclosures on the south-east side of the Great Orme, called *Pylle*, *Maes y faccerel* and *Rofi*. Maes y faccerel comprised the more level part of the Pyllau Valley, the focus of the present enquiry. Pylle was recorded as of 4 acres, 2 rods, 39 chains. Maes y faccerel of 4 acres, 1 rod, 4 chains and Roft of 2 acres, 2 rods, 30 chains. In 1843 an act was passed permitting the enclosure of 'common' lands in Llandudno and most of the remainder of the Great Orme came under the control of Sir Edward Pryce Lloyd Mostyn.

Under the Mostyn Estate Maes y faccerel in 1839 was tenanted by a William Hughes and the area was divided into two. The larger part, that including the area of 1, Pyllau Road, was listed just as 'House and field' and the rest (the cromlech field) as 'Quillet'. The farmhouse for Maes y faccerel was what is now 3, Pyllau Road. On the tithe map of 1840 Maes y faccerel had been further subdivided into five smaller enclosures and by this time other small enclosures and houses were beginning to be built close by (Fig. 5). One of the new subdivisions of Maes y faccerel was that which has remained to the present day, separating the cromlech field from the area containing the houses of Cromlech Road and 1-2 Pyllau Road.

The eastern of the three enclosures around Pyllau at Roft was soon subdivided and became incorporated into the expanding settlement of Llandudno. Pyllau (Pylle) on the other hand remained as a small farm of which Maes y faccerel was a part. Its survival as a farm is fortunate, considering its proximity to the mine workings, perhaps due to its depth of good soil and because it had no mineral veins. There were, however, workings in the western edge of the area. The chambered tomb also survived, while the eastern field was subdivided for housing, including 1 and 2 Pyllau Road and Cromlech Road, built by the Mostyn Estate to re-house tenants displaced from Llandudno Morfa in the new development of the coastal resort. Much of the Mostyn Estate was sold off in the 1849 to finance development of Llandudno, but Maes y faccerel was retained (Fig. 6).

The names of the Pyllau area fields do not provide any useful archaeological information but oddly, the westernmost enclosure, close to Pyllau Farm was named as *Pylle alias Maes y Gromlech* in the survey of 1839, while the field in which the cromlech itself is marked was just named as Maes y facrell (Fig. 6). On the map of 1849, however, Pylle is marked just as Maes y Gromlech. On another map both enclosures are marked as Maes y facrell but this can be put down to a copyist's error. However, the use of *Gromlech* for the western area can only be assumed to be because the whole area, including both enclosures was originally Pylle/Maes y gromlech, and that Maes y facrell was a new name, given when a separate holding was created there. This may be acceptable because the likely interpretation of the name suggests it is a relatively recent one, based on the shape of the holding, being a pointed oval or fish-shaped in plan, 'like a mackerel'. Roft, to the east probably means simply 'croft' but possibly 'spade-shaped' holding. Pyllau, or Pylle derives from *byl* 'edge or brim', or possibly from *bylch*, 'corner', from the position of the farm on the edge of the valley.

4.3 Assessment of potential

4.3.1 Description of area of enquiry

The area comprises two parts, first, at the west, the garden of 1, Pyllau Road and second, at the east the area that formed the garden of what was 2, Pyllau Road. There are no upstanding features of archaeological interest as might be expected within a house garden that has been heavily used over many years. The assessment must therefore be of the potential for the survival and presence of any buried or subsoil archaeological remains, and, should such features be present, the likelihood of their being damaged by construction.

The western area is almost level, and must have been well used as a garden, as well as being ploughed during its previous use as a part of the field. At the north side of it there are several disused sheep dipping pens, belonging to Pyllau Farm, and these separate the garden of 1, Pyllau Road from that of 3, Pyllau Road. At the south-western corner is a garage shed, is only about 6m from the edge of the mound of the chambered tomb.

The eastern area lies on quite a steep slope and has been landscaped into two more level terraces for use as a garden by cutting into the slope, revetting with stone walls and probably by addition of topsoil.

4.3.2 Assessment of potential for preservation

In terms of likely preservation of buried features it can be said that the western area, because of the deep soil known from previous observations, will probably have good preservation of subsoil features although any land surface associated with the Neolithic tomb can be expected to have been destroyed by post-medieval ploughing (see below). The eastern area, however, has been considerably modified by terracing of the slope and there is very little probability of even subsoil features surviving.

4.3.3 Assessment of the potential for the presence of archaeological features

The two major features close to 1, Pyllau Road that have a close bearing on its potential are the Neolithic chambered tomb and the copper mines. There are also two minor features, which comprise the findspots of a coin and of a shell midden.

The coin (GAT PRN 5456) was found very close to the cromlech by a Rev. Owen Jones, possibly when it was being dug into in the late 19th century in an informal excavation (Anon, 1912, 146). It is known only from a description and was probably of the early Roman republic, around 3rd to 2nd centuries BC (Dally 1912). As a single coin it was probably a chance loss and being a very unusual item was perhaps a modern introduction from a collector and if so has no relevance for the present enquiry.

The shell midden (GAT PRN 13940) was found during digging of footings during building work at 1. Cromlech Road, at about 2 foot depth and consisting mainly of oysters with some cockles (Parry pers. comm.). It is possible that this was a prehistoric shell midden but it is quite likely that was actually a Victorian dump in a rubbish pit, deriving from the existing house. It cannot, therefore be used as reliable evidence for early activity. However, it does demonstrate the considerable depth of soil in the area and this means that there is likely to be good preservation of any buried features.

The earliest and most immediately relevant feature is that of the chambered tomb of Llety'r Filiast, because the mound itself actually abuts the west wall of 1, Pyllau Road. The name translates as 'Lair of the greyhound' deriving from a folk tale. The name occurs elsewhere, as well as in other variations. The tomb probably owes its survival to recognition of its interest, both locally and by antiquaries in the 19th century. It was one of the first archaeological monuments in Caernarvonshire to be protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, in 1921 (SAM no. Cn 005) and seems to have been protected by an iron railing erected by the Mostyn Estate for some years prior to that date. The tomb lay approximately central to the original whole enclosure of Maes y faccerel and was probably designed to dominate the natural 'amphitheatre' provided by the valley floor. Most tombs of this type have a generally southeastern orientation, like Llety'r Filiast, and this has been interpreted as a providing an astronomical viewpoint, perhaps to view the midwinter sunrise. Whatever the reason, the south-east end was the 'entrance' to the tomb, and the area where any associated ceremonial activity would be most likely to be found.

The tomb itself consists of a chamber of about two metres square constructed of four limestone uprights with parts of a capstone. The chamber lies at the south-east end of an oval mound that is about 25m long and 14m wide. The chamber is exposed above ground because of removal of a large part of the south-east end of the mound. From the outline of the mound it seems likely that it once extended somewhat further to the south-east and was probably truncated when the adjoining field boundary was built. It had been thought that much of the mound actually consisted of a natural outcrop (Grimes 1951, 39). However, this has been disputed and recent work suggests that much of the mound is manmade (Dutton 1990).

Other archaeological work has been carried out in the area. In 1994 another watching brief was carried out after a new electricity cable trench had been dug across the cromlech field from the end of Cromlech Road to the west (Smith 1994). A flaked 'waisted pebble' interpreted as a net sinker or weight of probable prehistoric date was found in the excavated soil and is now in the Great Orme Mines museum. The trench showed topsoil of about 0.45m depth in which was evidence of postmedieval use of the field in the form of pottery and coal. The trench reached limestone bedrock at the west side of the field, but the eastern part cut into a fine red-brown, stone-free cohesive silty sub-soil. This was interpreted as possibly loess or brick earth, a wind-blown glacial material, or possibly a fluvio-glacial deposit, Within this, at about the centre of the field was found a feature, probably linear and possibly a ditch, running north to south and about 1.55m wide (Fig. 8). This was excavated to a depth of about 1m below the field surface without a bottom being reached although the silts became less humic lower down. The fill was similar to that of the subsoil but slightly darker and with a few small pebbles about 40 to 60mm long. The feature lies directly on the base of a linear hollow visible on the surface around the mound of the chambered tomb and it was suggested that it might be a natural gully rather than a man-made feature. This feature is of interest because further possible evidence of it was found during other work carried out in 1996, described below. The summary of the watching brief stated that... 'the depth of plough erosion is probably not great, so any prehistoric features such as pits or post-holes, if they exist, should survive.'

In 1996 work was also carried out in the cromlech field as part of a project on the Great Orme being carried out by Jo Jones of Liverpool University (Jones 1997). A geophysical survey was carried out in the cromlech field. A resistivity survey was carried out over most of the field, including part of the mound and a gradiometer survey was carried out over a rather smaller area. The gradiometer survey did not show any relevant features. However, the resistivity survey did show some strong subsoil features (Fig. 7). This was interpreted as showing first, that the mound was much larger than is apparent from the surface remains. Secondly that there was a double ditch surrounding the cromlech mound. Finally, there was also a suggestion of another circular feature, about 20m diameter, overlying the double ditch feature on the north-west side of the mound. Evidence of this latter feature was reported to have also been seen on aerial photographs.

The double ditch feature coincides closely with the possible ditch identified in 1994 (see above). The overall and final interpretation of these features must remain uncertain without trial excavation. It is a possibility that the double ditch surrounding the mound is a natural feature but its regular shape in plan makes it difficult to explain and a quarry ditch for the long cairn would be a reasonable interpretation. It does not accord with natural features in the limestone, which often has circular sink-holes and linear fissures, but not circular outcrops, normally weathering in a blocky, terrace and scarp form. Even if the surrounding 'ditch' were natural, there is the possibility of survival of early weathered deposits in it and the possible positioning of the cromlech cairn over an unusual natural feature is in itself of interest.

During 1996 some excavation was also carried out in the garden of 1, Cromlech Road, as the nearest to the cromlech that permission could be attained. Two trenches were excavated which produced mainly modern material with no features or objects that might be of Neolithic date. However, the excavation did show that the double ditch feature was not present at that point. The excavation was carried to a depth of 1m at which depth a red-brown clay was reached lying over a similar layer with numerous chert inclusions, Augering a further 1m still did not reach bedrock. Most significant was the angle of the deposits encountered, which 'showed a continuation of the profile of the cromlech mound' and 'A reasonable interpretation of these would seem to be that the top layer was the run off from at the mound associated with the dolmen, and the lower layer was part of the mound itself' (Jones 1997). The trench was at the south-east end of the mound, the 'entrance' end and it would be reasonable that there should be a gap in any surrounding quarry ditch at this point.

These various observations are relevant to the potential for archaeological features in the western area of 1, Pyllau Road. The features observed around the mound, if concentric to it, as suggested, must continue into the area of 1, Pyllau Road. Although there is no proof, as yet, that they are man-made rather than natural, the importance of the monument means that they would need investigating and even if natural may preserve deposits relating to the use of the chambered tomb. In addition, such tombs have been shown in several cases elsewhere to have been built over areas of settlement and any such settlement is extremely rare and would have national value. This was the case at Trefignath, Anglesey (Smith and Lynch 1987), and Bryn yr Hen Bobl, Anglesey (Lynch 1969, 118-9), Gwernvale, Breconshire (Lynch 2001, 61) and Ballyglass, Co. Mayo, Ireland (O Nuallain 1972). The area close to such monuments can therefore be said to have high potential for associated archaeological features. This is perhaps particularly so at Llety'r Filiast because of its very confined location.

The other major feature close to 1, Pyllau Road is that of the copper mines. These were extensive and exploited over a long period. Use in the Bronze Age has been proved by a radiocarbon date of 1410-920 BC (HAR-4845, Lewis 1998, 45), and survey and excavation has shown both surface workings and some 6km of underground prehistoric workings (Dutton 1994, 252). Much associated activity can be expected, both settlement and processing sites. There are sites of several round houses not far away uphill from Pyllau that might well belong to contemporary settlement, including one at Bryniau Poethion, which is a scheduled ancient monument. An ore processing site has also been identified on Pentrwyn headland to the north-east, from which a radiocarbon date of 1675-1500 BC has been achieved (Jones 1999). The Pyllau valley itself can also be expected to have been well used, partly because it is so level and provided relatively good shelter. Its better soils would also be likely to have once supported tree cover that would have provided a useful resource. A piece of ore was found in the topsoil in the Cromlech field in 1994 and the excavations in 1996 at 1, Cromlech Road produced a copper fragment from 'small-scale craft casting' and two hammer stones (Jones 1997). The circular feature, about 20m square, noticed on aerial photographs and during the resistivity survey could also be a prehistoric feature such as a ditch enclosing a round house. It is unlikely to be a house in itself because such houses are normally about 6 to 8m in diameter, only exceptional examples, probably of high status, being bigger than 10m diameter.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FIELD EVALUATION AND MITIGATORY MEASURES

1. The western area of 1, Pyllau Road (Fig. 9) has a high potential for archaeological features relevant to the Neolithic chambered tomb and possibly of more recent prehistoric periods. A further stage of assessment by geophysical survey and trial trenching would therefore be appropriate in order to fully understand the archaeology. A further stage of assessment by geophysical survey and trial trenching would there be appropriate. The aim of this phase of the work would be to obtain a full understanding of the nature and extent of any archaeological remains which may exist on the site so that appropriate mitigation recommendations can be made. The method for undertaking this will be decided between the client, Conwy Council and Gwynedd Archaeological trust, and will be partly dependant upon the final design and location of the proposed dwelling. However, we would recommend full geophysical survey, and excavation of the area to be occupied by the foundations of the proposed building.

The above recommendations would, to some extent depend on the final design and position of the structures intended.

2. The eastern area of 1, Pyllau Road (Fig. 10) has a low potential for the presence of archaeological features because of its slope and the extent of previous disturbance.

However, its proximity to the chambered tomb, and the extent of prehistoric activity in the immediate area means that a watching brief during groundwork would be appropriate here.

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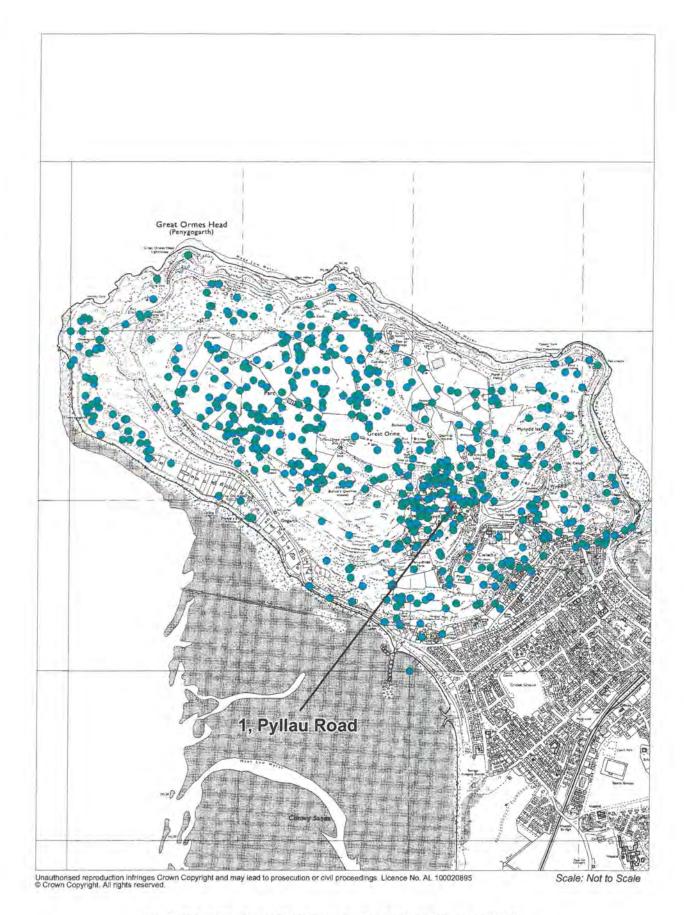


Fig. 1 The distribution of all archaeological and historic features and finds on the Great Orme and the location of 1, Pyllau Road

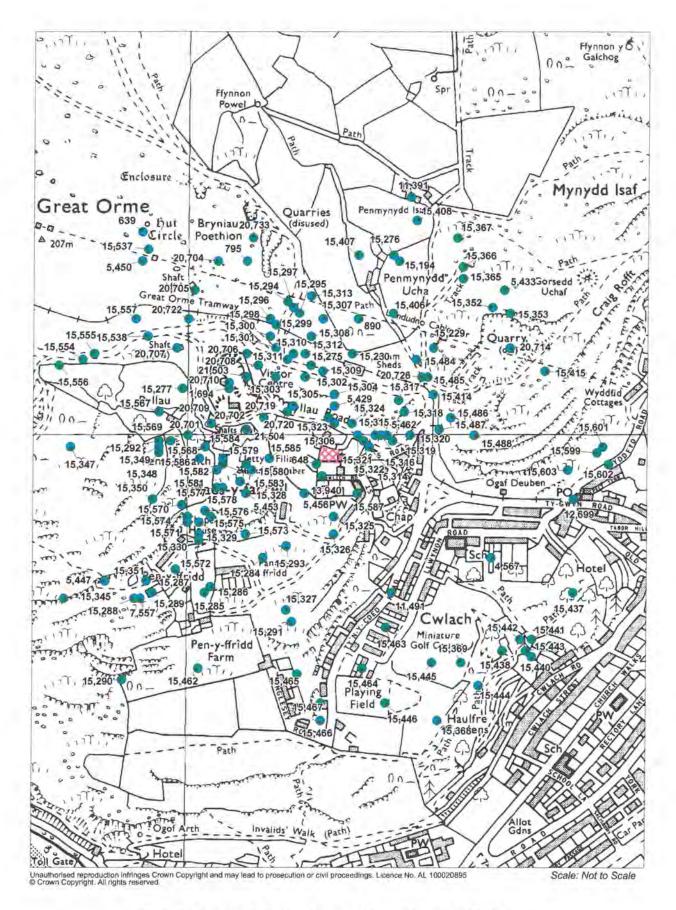


Fig. 2 The location of all archaeological and historic features and finds on the Gwynedd SMR within 500m of 1, Pyllau Road (see Appendix 1)

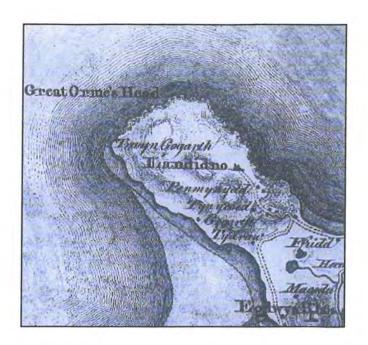


Fig. 3 The Great Orme area in 1795 (John Evans, Map of North Wales)

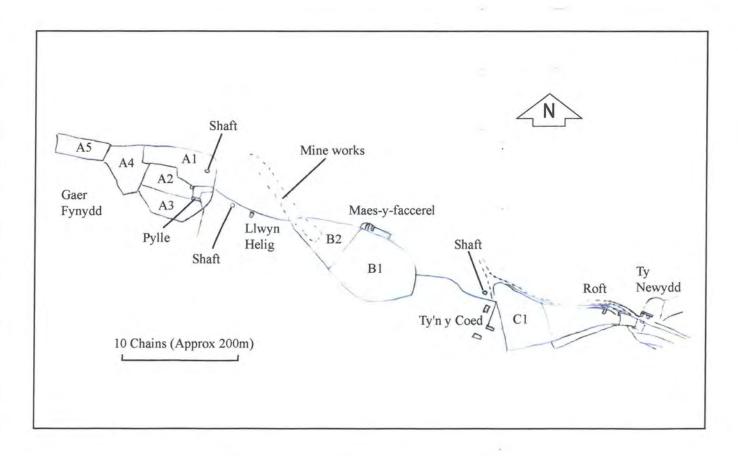


Fig. 4 The Pyllau Valley in 1831 (Mostyn Estate map 1831, or earlier,)

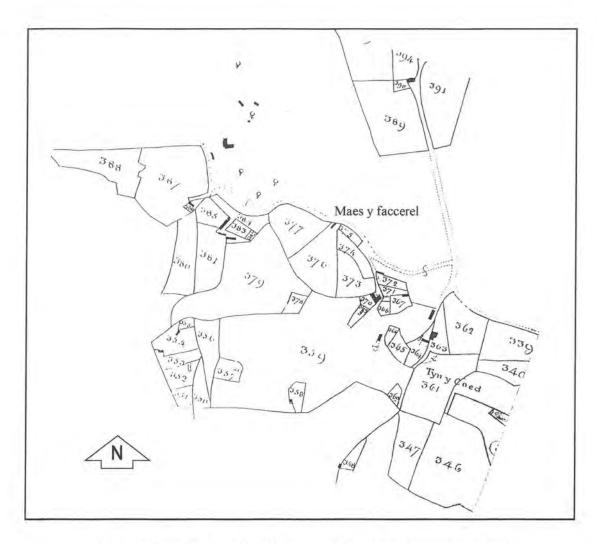


Fig. 5 The Pyllau Valley in 1840 (Llandudno Tithe Apportionment map, 1840)

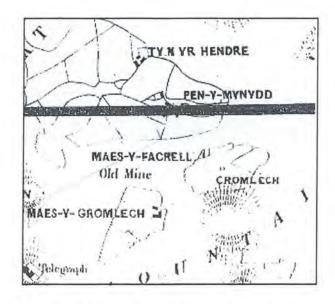


Fig. 6 The Pyllau Valley area in 1849 (Mostyn Estate Auction map 1849)

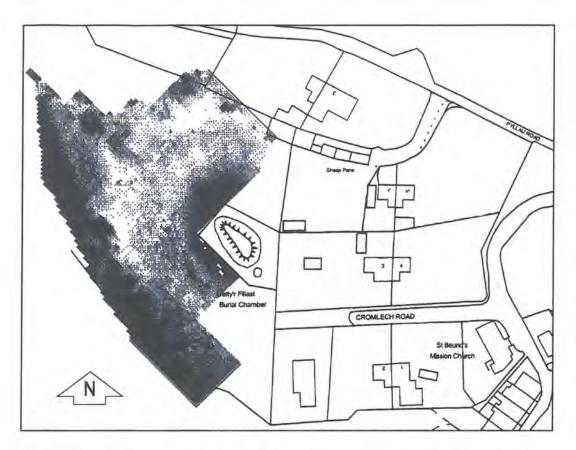


Fig. 7 Llety'r Filiast chambered tomb, results of geophysical survey (Jones 1996): Resistivity Plot. Scale 1:1250.

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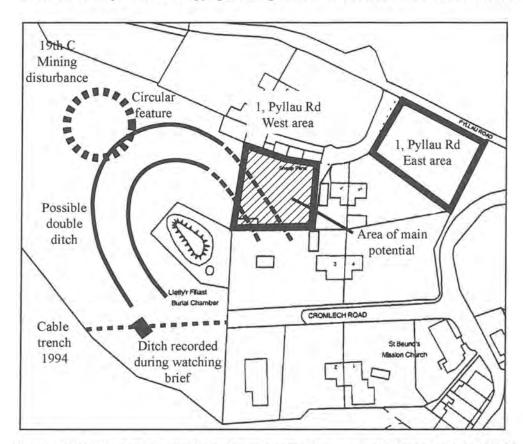


Fig. 8 Llety'r Filiast and proposed development area: Interpretation of features. Scale 1:1250. Based on OS maps. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100020895.



Fig. 9 No. 1, Pyllau Road: The west proposed development area



Fig. 10 $\,$ No. 1, Pyllau Road: The east proposed development area



Fig. 11 No. 1, Pyllau Road: General view from the east. Llety'r Filiast chambered tomb in the background.



Fig. 12 No. 1, Pyllau Road: Llety'r Filiast chambered tomb in the foreground.

 ${\bf Appendix\ 1}$ List of all features and finds on the Gwynedd SMR within 500m of 1, Pyllau Road

PRN	SITENAME	NGR	STATUS	SITETYPE	PERIOD
639	HUT CIRCLE, BRYNIAU POETHION, GREAT ORME	SH76928335	C234	HUT CIRCLE	Romano-British
648	LLETY'R FILIAST BURIAL CHAMBER. GREAT ORME	SH77228295	C005	BURIAL CHAMBER	Prehistoric
795	RIDGE AND FURROW, BRYNIAU POETHION, GT, ORME	SH77108330C		RIDGE AND FURROW	Medieval
890	POSS, HUT CIRCLE, GREAT ORME'S HEAD	SH77298320		HUT CIRCLE	Romano-British
1694	GREAT ORME COPPER MINE	SH77078308	C216	MINE	Prehistoric
4567	GOLD COIN - FINDSPOT, LLWYNFRYN, NR CWLACH	SH77528279		FINDSPOT	Romano-British
5429	HUT CIRCLE N OF PYLLAU ROAD	SH77258305		HUT CIRCLE	Prehistoric
	CAIRNS (2) EDGE OF ROFFT QUARRY, GT. ORME	SH77548325		CAIRN	Prehistoric
5447	BUILDINGD AND ENCLOSURE, GT ORME	SH76868275		BUILDING, ENCLOSURE	Post-Medieval
5450	BANK, BRYNIAU POETHION, GT ORME	SH76928330		EARTHWORK	Undetermined
	FLINT SCRAPER - FINDSPOT, PYLLAU, GT ORME	SH77108290A		FINDSPOT	Prehistoric
	ROMAN COIN - FINDSPOT. NR. LLETY'R FFILIAST	SH77208290A		FINDSPOT	Romano-British
	ENCLOSURE AND STRUCTURES, PYLLAU ROAD, GT. ORME	SH77348300		ENCLOSURE	Undetermined
7557	DRS?. PEN Y FFRIDD. GT ORME	SH76928272		DESERTED RURAL SETTLEMENT	Medieval
11391	PENMYNYDD UCHA FARMOUSE	SH77388341	GII	BUILDING	Post-Medieval
11491	TAN BERLLAN COTTAGE	SH77358273	ĞII	BUILDING	Post-Medieval
12699	TY GWYN ROAD, TELEPHONE BOX	SH77668289		TELEPHONE BOX	Modern
	SHELL MIDDEN, CROMLECH ROAD, GREAT ORME	SH77238293		SHELL MIDDEN	Prehistoric?
15194 9	SHAFT?, S OF PENYMYNYDD ISA	SH77368330		SHAFT	Post-Medieval
15229 (QUARRY, EAST OF PENMYNYDD UCHA	SH77428315		QUARRY	Undetermined
15230 8	SHAFT, PENMYNYDD UCHA	SH77288314		SHAFT	Post-Medieval
15275 (QUARRY, SW OF PENMYNYDD UCHA	SH77218312		QUARRY	Post-Medieval
15276 S	SHAFT?. E OF PENMYNYDD UCHA	SH77358331		SHAFT	Post-Medieval
15277 N	MINE SHAFT. GREAT ORME	SH76998308	3	MINE	Post-Medieval
15284 C	CULTIVATION RIDGES, PANT Y FFRIDD	SH77138279A		CULTIVATION RIDGES	Medieval
15285 L	YNCHET, PEN Y FFRIDD	SH77038273C	- 1	YNCHET	Post-Medieval?
15286. B	ANK. PEN Y FFRIDD	SH77048274C	1	BANK	Medieval
15287 C	OTTAGE GARDENS, PEN Y FFRIDD	SH76988277	(GARDEN	Post-Medieval
	ECTANGULAR STRUCTURE, PEN Y FRIDD	SH76918272	1	BUILDING	Post-Medieval?
15289 G	ARDEN, PEN Y FFRIDD	SH76948273	(GARDEN	Post-Medieval
5290 W	ALL, S OF PEN Y FFRIDD	SH76898258C	1	VALL	Post-Medieval
5291 W	ALL, 'CAER EVE', BRYN GWYNT	SH77188268C	3	VALL	Medieval
5292 Q	UARRY. MAES Y FACRELL	SH76958299	(UARRY	Post-Medieval
	UB-RECTANGULAR DEPRESSION, CYLL ERRACE	SH77178281	I	DEPRESSION	Undetermined
5294 B	ANK, W OF PENMYNYDD UCHA	SH77178323C	E	ANK	Prehistoric?
5295 BI	ELL PIT, W OF PENMYNYDD UCHA	SH77198321	В	ELL PIT	Post-Medieval
5296 BI	ELL PIT. W OF PENMYNYDD UCHA	SH77148320	В	ELL PIT	Post-Medieval
5297 QI	UARRY?. W OF PENMYNYDD	SH77188322	Q	UARRY	Post-Medieval
5298 BI	ELL PIT. W OF PENMYNYDD UCHA	SH77148320	В	ELL PIT	Post-Medieval

15299 CULTIVATION RIDGES, PYLLAU VALLEY	SH77158319A	CULTIVATION RIDGES	Medieval
15300 BANK, PYLLAU VALLEY	SH77148317C	BANK	Medieval
15301 ENCLOSURE, PYLLAU VALLEY	SH77158315A	ENCLOSURE	Undetermined
15302 RECTANGULAR BUILDING?, PYLLAU VALLEY	SH77208310	BUILDING?	Undetermined
15303 BANK, PYLLAU VALLEY	SH77158310	BANK	Undetermined
(5304 LEAT. PYLLAU VALLEY	SH77258307	LEAT	Post-Medieva
[5305 LEAT, PYLLAU VALLEY	SH77188305C	LEAT	Post-Medieva
15306 BANK, PYLLAU VALLEY	SH77258302C	BANK	Post-Medieva
15307 MINING ACTIVITY. SW OF PENMYNYDD UCHA	SH77238320	TRIAL	Post-Medieva
15308 LEAT	SH77218317C	LEAT	Undetermined
15309 BANK, PYLLAU VALLEY	SH77238311C	BANK	Undetermined
15310 BANK, PYLLAU VALLEY	SH77188314C	BANK	Undetermined
15311 MOUND, PYLLAU	SH77178313	MOUND	Undetermined
18312 CULTIVATION RIDGES? PYLLAU	SH77208314	CULTIVATION RIDGES	Medieval
15313 HUT CIRCLE? AND BANK. W OF PENMYNYDD UCHA	SH77218324	BANK	Prehistorie?
15314 SPRING?, PYLLAU ROAD	SH77318298	SPRING	Undetermined
15315 RECTANGULAR STRUCTURE? (REMAINS OF), PYLLAU ROAD	SH77328300	BUILDING	Post-Medieval
15316 STONE CANNON?, PYLLAU ROAD	SH77338300	STONE GUN	Post-Medieval
15317 QUARRIES, N OF ST BEUNO'S ROAD	SH77368306	QUARRY	Post-Medieval
15318 QUARRIES, N OF ST BEUNO'S ROAD	SH77378304	QUARRY	Post-Medieval
15319 QUARRY, N OF ST BEUNO'S ROAD	SH77358299	QUARRY	Undetermined
15320 TRACKWAY, ST BEUNO'S ROAD	SH77388300C	TRACKWAY	Post-Medieval
15321 SUB-CIRCULAR PLATFORM, PYLLAU ROAD	SH77298300	PLATFORM	Undetermined
5322 SUB-CIRCULAR PLATFORM, PYLLAU ROAD	SH77308299	PLATFORM	Undetermined
15323 CURVING BANK. N OF PYLLAU ROAD	SH77248303	BANK	Undetermined
5324 STONE WALL, N OF PYLLAU ROAD	SH77288302	WALL	Post-Medieval
5325 BUILDING?, BRYN EISTEDDFOD	SH77258286	STONE SPREAD	Undetermined
5326 QUARRY, BRYN GWYNT	SH77258283	QUARRY	Undetermined
5327 BRYN GWYNT (SITE OF), GREAT ORME	SH77178270	HOUSE	Post-Medieval
5328 SHAFT, PYLLAU	SH77098292	SHAFT	Post-Medieval
5329 SHAFT, PYLLAU	SH77028285	SHAFT	Post-Medieval
5330 LEAT, PYLLAU	SH77028283C	LEAT	Post-Medieval
5345 BANK, W OF PEN Y FFRIDD	SH76798272	BANK	Undetermined
5347 SUB-CIRCULAR DEPRESSION. BISHOP'S OUARRY	SH76808298	HUT CIRCLE?	Prehistoric?
5348 QUARRY, MAES Y FACRELL	SH76958297	QUARRY	Post-Medieval
5349 TRACKWAY, W OF PYLLAU	SH76958298	TRACKWAY	Post-Medieval
5350 QUARRIES, W OF PYLLAU	SH76948289	QUARRY	Post-Medieval?
5351 QUARRY, PEN Y FFRIDD	SH76938275	QUARRY	Post-Medieval?
5352 CAIRN?, ROFFT QUARRY	SH77528322	CAIRN	Undetermined
5353 CAIRN?. ROFFT QUARRY	SH77558321		Undetermined
5365 BELL PIT?, MYNYDD ISAF	SH77478327	BELL PIT	Post-Medieval
5366 QUARRY, MYNYDD ISAF	SH77478329A		Post-Medieval
5367 LIMEKILN?, MYNYDD ISAF	SH77468334		Post-Medieval
5368 KIOSK (REMAINS OF), CWLACH	SH77438251		Modern
			Undetermined
5369 QUARRY, CWLACH	SH77478261		
5406 HUT CIRCLE (POSS.), PENMYNYDD UCHAF	SH77358321		Prehistoric
5407 FIELD BANK, PENMYNYDD UCHAF	SH77298331		Undetermined
5408 HUT CIRCLE?, PENYMYNYDD ISA	SH77398337		Prehistoric?
5414 TRACKWAY, ROFFT	SH77428307C		Undetermined
5415 FIELD BANK, ROFFT	SH77618311C	BANK	Prehistoric

15437 QUARRIES?, CWLACH	SH77668273	QUARRY	Undetermined
15438 TERRACED AREA, CWLACH	SH77548263	TERRACE	Post-Medieval
15440 DISUSED GARDENS?, CWLACH	SH77598262	TERRACE	Post-Medieval
15441 TRIAL, CWLACH	SH77598265	TRIAL	Post-Medieval
15442 TRACKWAY/DUMP?, CWLACH	SH77578265	MOUND	Undetermined
15443 ANVIL STONE (POSS.), CWLACH	SH77588263	FINDSPOT	Prehistoric?
15444 POSS, TRIAL, HAULFRE GARDENS	SH77508257	TRIAL	Post-Medieval
15445 MINITURE GOLF COURSE, CWLACH	SH77428261A	GOLF COURSE	Modern
15446 CULTIVATION RIDGES, CWLACH	SH77348254A	CULTIVATION RIDGES	Undetermined
15462 MANGANESE MINE, PEN Y FFRIDD	SH77028260	MINE	Post-Medieval
15463 WELL. TYN Y COED	SH77348267	WELL	Undetermined
15464 TYN Y COED SHAFT, CWLACH	SH77308260	SHAFT	Post-Medieval
15465 ANGLESEY TERRACE TRIAL, GREAT OR	RME SH77198259	TRIAL	Post-Medieval
15466 QUARRY, TYN Y COED	SH77238251	QUARRY	Post-Viedieval
15467 QUARRY, TYN Y COED	SH77238254	QUARRY	Post-Medieval
15484 TRIAL?. PENYMYNYDD UCHAF	SH77398313	TRIAL?	Post-Medieval
15485 TRACKWAY, ROFFT QUARRY	SH77418310	TRACKWAY	Post-Medieval
15486 QUARRY, S. ROFFT QUARRY	SH77458303	QUARRY	Post-Medieval?
15487 BANK? KILLEN'S HILL	SH77438301C	BANK?	Undetermined
15488 HUT CIRCLE? CRAIG ROFFT	SH77498300	HUT CIRCLE	Prehistoric
15537 CULTIVATION RIDGES, BRYNIAU POETHION	SH76938332A	CULTIVATION RIDGES	Medieval
15538 CULTIVATION RIDGES, PYLLAU	SH76938317A	CULTIVATION RIDGES	Medieval
15554 OLD GRAVEL PIT, PYLLAU	SH76828313	PIT	Post-Medieval
15555 BRAMMOCK ROD CUTTING, PYLLAU	SH76848314	BANK	Post-Medieval
15556 CULTIVATION RIDGES?, PYLLAU	SH76788312A	CULTIVATION RIDGES	Medieval
15557 PLATFORM, PYLLAU	SH76918320	PLATFORM	Undetermined
15567 BUILDING FOUNDATIONS, PYLLAU	SH76958304	PLATFROM	Undetermined
15568 BUILDING PLATFORM, PYLLAU	SH77038298	PLATFORM	Undetermined
15569 QUARRY, PYLLAU	SH76978299	QUARRY	Undetermined
15570 QUARRY, PYLLAU	SH76998288	QUARRY	Undetermined
15571 SHAFT, PYLLAU	SH77008285	SHAFT	Post-Medieval
15572 WALL. PANT Y FFRIDD	SH77028282	WALL	Undetermined
(5573 WALL, PANT Y FFRIDD	SH77108283	WALL	Undetermined
15574 'L' SHAPED BANK, PYLLAU	SH77008286	BANK	Undetermined
15575 SHAFT, PYLLAU	SH77048286	SHAFT	Post-Medieval
15576 BANK, PYLLAU	SH77038287	BANK	Undetermined
15577 SHAFT, PYLLAU	SH77058291	SHAFT	Post-Medieval
15578 QUARRY?, PYLLAU	SH77068291	QUARRY	Post-Medieval
15579 HOUSE PLATFORM?, PYLLAU	SH77108295	PLATFORM	Undetermined
15580 BANK, PYLLAU	SH77118294C	BANK	Undetermined
15581 TRIAL?, PYLLAU	SH77058294	TRIAL	Post-Medieval
15582 DEPRESSION, PYLLAU	SH77068295	QUARRY?	Post-Medieval
15583 SHAFT?, PYLLAU	SH77068295	SHAFT?	Post-Medieval
15584 MINER'S COTTAGES, PYLLAU	SH77068296	BUILDING	Post-Medieval
15585 SHAFT, MAES Y FACRELL	SH77148296	SHAFT	Post-Medieval
15586 MINE SHAFT, PEN Y GWAITH	SH77028296	MINE	Post-Medieval
15587 STONE CANNON, BRYN GWYNT	SH77298290	STONE GUN	Post-Medieval
15599 TRACKWAY, WYFFID	SH77708297C	TRACKWAY	Undetermined
15601 SMALL SCALE QUARRYING?, WYDDFID	SH77718298A	DEPRESSIONS	Post-Medieval
15602 BUILDING PLATFORM, WYDDFID	SH77728295	PLATFORM	Post-Medieval
15603 QUARRY, TAN Y STAGE			Post-Medieval
12000 YUMAN TAN 1 STACE	SH77658294A	DEFRESSIONS	L'OSE-MEGICVAI

20702	2 NEW MINE, GT.ORME	SH77108301C	MINE	Post-Medieval
20704	ROMAN SHAFT, GT ORME MINES	SH77058330	SHAFT	Post-Medieval
20705	TREWEEKS' SHAFT, GT. ORME MINES	SH77018325	SHAFT	Post-Medieval
20706	HIGHER SHAFT, GT.ORME MINES	SH77108314	SHAFT	Post-Medieval
20707	OWEN'S SHAFT, GT, ORME	SH76988315	SHAFT	Post-Medieval
20708	ENGINE HOUSE (SITE OF) GT. ORME MINES	SH77128312	ENGINE HOUSE	Post-Medieval
20709	PYLLAU SHAFT, GT ORME	SH77048302	SHAFT	Post-Medieval
20710	VIVIAN'S SHAFT, GT ORME	SH77078309	SHAFT	Post-Medieval
20714	ROFFT QUARRY, GT_ORME	SH77558315C	QUARRY	Post-Medieval
20719	WASHING/DRESSING FLOORS (SITE OF), GT.ORME MINES	SH77138303	PROCESSING AREA	Post-Medieval
20720	POWDER HOUSE (POSS, SITE OF), GT ORME MINES	SH77178304	POWDER HOUSE	Post-Medieval
20722	TRAMWAY, GT. ORME	SH77008320C	TRAMWAY	Post-Medieval
20726	LLANDUDNO CABIN LIFT, GT.ORME	SH77408310C	CABLE CAR	Modern
20733	QUARRYING, BRYNIAU POETHION, GT.ORME	SH77118334C	QUARRY	Post-Medieval
21503	LLANDUDNO OLD MINE	SH77108310	COPPER MINE	Prehistoric
21504	LLANDUDNO NEW MINE	SH77108301	COPPER MINE	Post-Medieval

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