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# Nos 15/17 Llewelyn Street Aberffraw

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Prepared for Bodorgan Properties (CI) Ltd  
by  
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**Nos 15-17 Llewelyn Street, Aberffraw**

*Event PEN 40687*

**Archaeological Assessment (G1875)**

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## Nos 15-17 Llewelyn Street, Aberffraw

### Archaeological Assessment

#### Summary

This assessment considers the significance of and impact upon the archaeology within an area proposed for development at nos 15-17 Llewelyn Street, Aberffraw.

Aberffraw was at the centre of an important royal estate of the Princes of Gwynedd in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. There are traditional and circumstantial associations which suggest that the importance of Aberffraw as a major royal centre might have originated in the earlier Middle Ages. Excavations in 1974 and 1978 identified a sequence of bank and ditch earthworks which have been interpreted as a possible Roman fort succeeded by an Early Medieval defensive enclosure in the area of the present village.

The *maerdref* of Aberffraw became English Crown Land after the conquest of Gwynedd in 1283. In Aberffraw, as elsewhere, these lands were leased to major landholders and, from the seventeenth century, sold. Aberffraw had developed as a village by this time, probably at the core of the Medieval bond hamlet of 'Maerdref' adjacent to the *llys*, the ruins of which could still be identified at the south-west edge of the village, close to the church, in the early eighteenth century. By the end of the eighteenth century the shape of the village can be discerned, centred on its square, now known as Bodorgan Square. Around forty properties, each with houses, cottages and gardens can be identified at this time. During the nineteenth century the village grew, filling-in between the existing premises, particularly in the area of Church Street, Bangor Street, Chapel Street and Llywelyn Street. During the late twentieth century the village expanded further with new housing north of St. Beuno's church and to the south of the village into the area of Fron, itself part of the adjacent Medieval hamlet of 'Garddau'.

The proposed development lies between Chapel Street and Llywelyn Street, about 50 m. north of the square. The archaeological implications of the proposed development are assessed and mitigatory recommendations are proposed.

## **Introduction**

It is proposed that a development should take place in respect of an area of approximately 800 square metres at nos 15-17 Llewelyn Street, Aberffraw. The proposals include plans to demolish the buildings and structures at the site and construct five terraced houses fronting Llewelyn Street with gardens and car parking to the rear.

An archaeological assessment has been requested to assess the level of impact of the proposals upon any archaeological remains that may exist upon the site. Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (Contracts Section) has been asked by Meyrick Estate Management, to undertake the archaeological assessment. A detailed brief has been prepared for this work, by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service. The assessment has been conducted to a level specified in Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994, rev. 1999).

## **Assessment brief**

The requirement is for a desk-top survey and field visit in order to assess the impact of the proposals on the archaeological and heritage features within the proposed development area and close enough to it to be affected.

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust's proposals for fulfilling these requirements are as follows:

- a) to identify and record the cultural heritage of the area to be affected by the proposals;
- b) to evaluate the importance of what was identified (both as a cultural landscape and as the individual items which make up that landscape); and
- c) to recommend ways in which damage to the cultural heritage can be avoided or minimised.

It is possible that certain features will not be capable of being assessed by a desktop and field visit, and that subsequent field evaluation may be necessary in the form of trial excavation or geophysical survey. This report will contain recommendations for any field evaluation required.

## **Methods and Techniques**

### **Desk-top Study**

Maps, computer records, written records and reference works, which make up the Historic Environment Record at Gwynedd Archaeological Trust were consulted. Records (including early Ordnance Survey maps, tithe maps and schedules, estate maps, leases and rentals and reference works and secondary sources) were also consulted in the library and the archives of the University of Wales, Bangor, and the County archives at Llangefni.

I am grateful to the staff of the County and University Archives at Llangefni and Bangor for access to relevant documents.

### **Field Search**

This was undertaken on 2 August, 2004, when the site was walked.

### **Report**

All available information was collated. The site was 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, for ease of reference. A descriptions of the site and specific recommendations for further evaluation or mitigatory measures, as appropriate, are given in the relevant section of this report.

In some cases, further investigation may result in sites being moved into different categories. 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 Annex 3 to Welsh Office Circular 60/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology.

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 fulfill 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 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 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.

### **Impact**

The following terms define the levels of direct impact used within this report upon the archaeological resource, and upon each of the archaeological sites:

None: There will be no impact upon the feature.

Negligible: This is used where the impact is marginal, and would not by the nature of the site cause irreversible damage to the remainder of the feature, for example a linear feature such as a wall, or a large silt deposit which is only being marginally disturbed.

Moderate: This is used when impact would affect less than half the feature concerned, and the remainder would retain its intrinsic archaeological value.

Considerable: The total removal of a feature or its partial removal which would effectively destroy the remainder of the site.

### **Existing statutory protection**

The part of Aberffraw within the area subject to the current development proposal is within a Conservation Area. The area is also within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

#### *Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings*

There is one scheduled Ancient Monument within or adjacent to the area of development.

*PRN 3004 Pont Aberffraw.* A single-arched 18th century humpbacked bridge over the Afon Ffraw. Also Listed Grade II, Built 1731 by Sir Arthur Owen. NGR 235580 368950

There are several listed buildings within Aberffraw. Two stand close enough for the visual impact of the proposed development to be a consideration. These are:

*Aberffraw Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, Grade II No. 20961*

Slightly set back from the W side of Chapel Street, with an enclosed yard to front (N). The chapel house and earlier schoolroom range is directly N of the chapel. The third of the Calvinistic Methodist



chapels on the site, the first was built in 1785, the second in 1822. This building was erected in 1861 and restored in 1905. Listed as a well-preserved example of a simple mid C19 chapel, which forms part of a group with the adjacent chapel house and schoolroom range. NGR 235430 369010

*Aberffraw Calvinistic Methodist Schoolroom and Chapel House, Grade II No.5723*

PRN 11655  
With entrances leading directly onto W side of Chapel Street, the schoolroom lies directly N of the adjacent Calvinistic Methodist Chapel (the chapel house abutting the S end of the schoolroom range). Dating from the latter part of C18; possibly the first Calvinistic Methodist chapel of 1772, or the rebuilt structure of 1785. Included as a significant structural element of a complete surviving group formed by the schoolrooms and stables, chapel house and adjacent Calvinistic Methodist chapel. Two-storey range housing a full-length schoolroom over stables and coach house. Built of rubble masonry, pebble-dashed rendered; modern slate roof. NGR 235430 369040

**Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record**

*Watching briefs and excavations*

PRN 929 Watching Brief gas pipeline (Gat 1055) Occasional traces of 19th century ditches/ boundaries. NGR 235500 369000

PRN 1785 Excavation site (1987), Eagles, Aberffraw, Post-Medieval NGR 235450 368880

PRN 2845 Excavation site (White, 1979), NGR 235440 368980

PRN 3016 Excavation site (White, 1973), NGR 235400 368930

PRN 3021 Excavation site (White 1974, Site D), NGR 235460 368990

PRN 3022 Excavation site (White, 1974, Site C), Aberffraw Excavation Roman NGR 235470 369020

PRN 4330 Excavation site (White, 1974, Site B). NGR 235450 368920

PRN 5197 Watching Brief, Pendref, NGR 235350 368830

*Roman*

PRN 886 Roman Coin - Findspot, discovered near the old ford in 1992 NGR 235500 368900

*Medieval*

PRN 3009 St Beuno's Church, Aberffraw. Medieval NGR 235360 368790

PRN 3010 Cross Shaft - Site Of, Aberffraw Church Yard. Lost NGR 235320 368760

PRN 3011 Ffynnon Bryn Fendigaid Holy Well. A low rectangular roof building now occupies this site. No longer any trace of a well within the structure. NGR 236030 369130

PRN 3012 Capel Beuno - site of, Medieval NGR 235440 368870

PRN 3013 Ffynnon Beuno Holy Well. Now disused, well house demolished, well filled and capped under new road layout. NGR 235530 369070

PRN 3015 Stone Heads - Findspot, Bodorgan Square. Two Weathered Sculptured Stones found at Bryn Awel, 31, Bodorgan Square. Possibly C13th. NGR 235430 368900

PRN 5552 Medieval ditch, 40 Church Street, Aberffraw. NGR 235420 368890

PRN 6604 Carved stone head - findspot Medieval NGR 236520 381000

PRN 7235 Ford. Medieval NGR 235570 368970

PRN 7888 Site of Ilys. Medieval. Location of the Ilys is noted on a late 18th century estate map NGR 238300 369000

PRN 15600 Field System Medieval? NGR 235054 368602

*Post-Medieval*

PRN 3004 Pont Aberffraw . A single-arched 18th century bridge over the Afon Ffraw. Listed Grade II Built 1731. Humpbacked. Rubble. Segmental Arch. Long Approaches With Rough Parapets. NGR 235580 368950

PRN 7628 Gilead Chapel Post-Medieval NGR 235510 368910

PRN 15595 Enclosure Post-Medieval? NGR 235071 368755

## Historical context

The development area is a rectangular plot, 800 sq. m. in area lying on the west side of Llywelyn Street and backing on to Chapel Street in the village of Aberffraw at National Grid reference 235455 369011 (centred). Aberffraw lies on the west bank of the Afon Ffraw, close to its estuary on the south-west coast of Anglesey. The village itself is compact and small, with a total area of 10.9 ha. Centred on a village square of long-standing. The ground rises gently from the river and continues to rise beyond the village to the south-west to the low hill of Bryn Llywelyn at 42 OD. The development area lies 80m. north of Bodorgan Square and 100m west of the river at 10 m. OD.

Aberffraw is a location with a long history.

### Prehistory

Mesolithic flints are known from the headland of Penrhyn, to the south of the village, overlain by a kerbed burial cairn of the late 3rd millennium BC. No evidence of prehistoric activity has been recovered from the area of the village itself, however.

### Romano-British period

An un-associated Roman coin is reported to have been found south-east of Bodorgan Square (PRN 886). More significantly, in 1973, excavations west of Bodorgan Square uncovered a sequence of substantial banks and ditches. Further excavations in 1978, on the site of a former smithy on Chapel Street revealed comparable evidence and it has been argued that both discoveries relate to the same sequence of banks and ditches. The earliest ditch was V-profiled, up to 6 m. wide and 2.5 m. deep. A steep-sided clearing slot or ankle-breaker was recorded at its base. After becoming choked with silt the ditch was re-cut to a shallower U-profile, 1.7 m. deep. The evidence for accompanying banks is slighter due to later truncation. Nevertheless, an interpretation of the sequence has been proposed which suggests that the phase I, V-profiled ditch was flanked by a clay rampart (at least at its base) around 5 m. wide with a berm 1.5 m. wide between the bank and the ditch. These together would represent a barrier of defensible proportions. Three sherds of possibly Roman pottery were found in un-associated contexts during the 1973 excavations. On the evidence of the scale and profile of the ditch it has been suggested that the bank and ditch might represent the presence of a Roman auxiliary fort. The second phase of the sequence, represented by the re-cut ditch and a rampart built of quarried material from the phase I rampart and faced with stone, is thought to date to the post-Roman period (White and Longley, 1995).

### Early Middle Ages (AD 400-1100)

Aberffraw was considered to be a place of special significance during the Middle Ages. Thirteenth-century manuscripts record the Bardic tradition's recognition of Aberffraw as one of the three chief thrones of the island of Britain (Bromwich, 1978, 229). The thirteenth-century manuscript redaction of an earlier oral tale, represented by the second branch of the Mabinogi, places one of the most significant events of the tale, the Wedding Feast of Branwen, at Aberffraw. The presence of Llangadwaladr, 2.8 km. Distant, of the grave marker of Cadfan, King of Gwynedd (died circa 625) is circumstantial corroboration of the importance of Aberffraw at an early date.

By the thirteenth century it is clear that Aberffraw was a major royal residence of the Gwynedd Dynasty. Tangible evidence of an earlier period is less certainly identifiable. The phase II bank and ditch, superimposed on the defences of a possible Roman auxiliary fort, described above, may represent the emergence of a royal presence at Aberffraw in the Early Middle Ages. This bank and ditch enclosure has been located to the west of Bodorgan Square (aligned south-west to north-east) and to the north of Bodorgan Square on Chapel Street, where it would seem to be turning west-east.

### Middle Ages (AD 1100-1500)

Aberffraw, by the thirteenth century at least, was regarded as one of the principal royal residences of the kingdom of Gwynedd. Llywelyn ap Iorwerth (the Great) styled himself Prince of Aberffraw and Lord of Snowdon during the 1230s. On the death of Llywelyn ap Gruffydd (the Last) in 1282, Gruffydd ap yr Ynad Goch lamented the king as 'the Oak Door of Aberffraw'. Aberffraw had its mansion and appurtenances (the *llys*) at the heart of a large sprawling estate (the *maerdref*). Here there were communities who occupied land under free and bond tenures. The king's bondmen occupied land under a particularly restrictive tenure '*tir cyfrif*' – register land, characteristic of estate workers of the lord's desmesne. These communities of bondmen and their families lived in seven hamlets extending from Trecastell in the north west to Cefntreffraw in the east and Treberfedd, Trefri and Dinllwydan across the dunes to the south. The remaining two hamlets Maerdref and Garddau (gardens) lay at the core of the estate alongside the Ffraw. Tyddyn yr Hwrdd, Seler Mill lands and houses in Aberffraw



village are all identified in 1746 land tax assessments within 'Llawr y Dref'. Elizabethan and Jacobean litigation recorded in the Proceedings of the Court of Augmentation and in Exchequer Proceedings in the later sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, identifies Llawr y Dref and, possible, Henllys lands with the hamlet of Maerdref. The small hamlet of Garddau is to be equated with the area of Fron, south of St. Beuno's church.

The houses, as opposed to the agricultural quillies or garden plots of *tir cyfrif* bond tenants, are likely to have clustered as nucleations within the hamlet boundaries. This, in contrast to free and *tir gwelyog* (inheritable land) tenure is a product of the tenure itself. There may, therefore, have been a small village community on the banks of the Ffraw within the hamlet of Maerdref during the Age of the Princes. Several property boundary ditches of probable medieval date have been found during the course of limited excavations throughout the village (White and Longley, 1995).

The *llys*, or mansion house at the centre of the estate, is thought to have stood towards the south-western edge of the present village, close to the church, which was already in place by the twelfth century.

In 1283 Edward I conquered Gwynedd and established a new administration based on his Exchequer at Caernarfon. The royal lands of Llywelyn ap Gruffydd became English Crown property which, of course, included the *llys* and the *maerdref* of Aberffraw. The area of the present village of Aberffraw, falling within the lands of the hamlet of Maerdref, became Crown land.

### **Sixteenth century to present day**

During the later part of the thirteenth century, notwithstanding the English wars, the population of north Wales, in common with England, was reaching a peak (Williams Jones 1976, xlii-xliii). The fourteenth-century is a story of decline. Climatic change, crop failure in the years 1315-17, famine, livestock epidemics and the Black Death from 1348, proved a relentless and debilitating combination which bred social unrest and rebellion during the latter part of the century; a process which culminated in the Glyndwr uprising in 1400. Land values were depressed and the 'deserted bond vills became a battleground for rival gentry families hungry for land' (Williams-Jones, 1976, Ivii).

By the seventeenth century, crown lands, including the former lands of the Welsh Prince, were sold off. The process was described by Rowlands, in the early eighteenth century, 'All villein and native tenements were claimed and seized by the Kings of England as of their own right in fee simple; and were let our under that name by the King's collectors whoever they might be for a term of life or years, a price being payed down according to ancient custom. Now through necessity or neglect of some monarchs almost all lands of this kind which are legally styled royal (King's lands) have been commonly granted and ultimately sold to the chief men of our county, especially to those who by their wealth had any influence at court; so that it is hardly possible, at the present day, to distinguish amidst the common mass, what might be a villeinage from a freehold. Indeed in the present state of conducting matters they have all become freeholds indiscriminately' (Rowlands, 1847, 9). Transactions in the property market including the purchase of the now-available crown lands led to the creation of a number of large estates and consolidated farms.

A Crown survey of 1608 allows an assessment of the extent to which consolidation of holdings had progressed across the royal lands of Aberffraw before the sale of Crown lands later in the seventeenth-century. In Garddau and Maerdref, fifty percent of the land was in the hands of four major landholders whereas fourteen tenants held considerably less than one acre. In 1608, thirty of the thirty-seven tenants were householders occupying twenty-nine dwelling houses, five cottages, five tofts, five 'cubacula' or rooms and fourteen other buildings as well as various barns and outbuildings. Almost one half of the householders must have been town dwellers in Aberffraw itself. Even during the Age of the Princes there must have been a sizeable nucleated community at the ford on the Ffraw now represented by the Old Bridge and in the restricted area of the hamlet of Garddau with its fourteen 'gardens'. Each garden probably represented an individual holding, no more than an acre in extent. Here, too, would be found the *llys* and St. Beuno's church. A short distance to the north stood the clafdy or leper house.

Certain fields and locations may be identified among or adjacent to lands of named tenants. During the reign of Elizabeth I and James I various proceedings were initiated concerning disputes between those who considered themselves to be 'ancient tenants' of the Crown lands and the new leaseholders of these lands (Jones 1939; Jeffreys Jones 1955). In 1614, for example, certain lands were the

subject of a dispute between Tristram Bulkley and Rowland Owen on the one hand and William Owen on the other (Jeffreys Jones 1955, 144/81/11 Jac 1). The principal locational indicators which may be derived from these documents are as follows:

- A dwelling house in the occupation of Agnes ferch John and another building with one toft of arable, and a parcel of arable land bordering on the ditch of the mill of Seler from the east side (PRO LR2/205, 53)
- Various references to a dwelling house, buildings and parcels of arable land in or near Maes y Maerdref, (PRO LR2/205, 51, 52, 54).
- A parcel of arable land lying on the eastern side of the church of Aberffraw (PRO LR2/205, 52)
- Various parcels of arable land in the occupation of Tristram Bulkley near Maes y Pumhigain, tir y pulle, tir mayn(r) yar, Gwaen y naid, Cae Clorach and tir nam(n) pedair deigen (PRO LR2/205, 54)
- A close of arable called Cae Saith Ugain, another close of arable land called Y Kladd-duy and another close called Ynys y Main, all in the occupation of William Owen (PRO LR2/205, 54).
- Two gardens (totalling two roods and ten perches – just over half an acre) 'in the occupation of Owen Wood where that chief house of the manor used to be but which has been entirely ruinous as far back in time as anyone can remember' (PRO LR2/205, 51).
- In 1593 Henllys could be described as a parcel of the manor of Aberffraw and in 1599 a certain close was described as 'in Henllys, a parcel in the hamlet of Maerdref' (Jones 1939, 58/34 (I) 41 Eliz).
- In the same proceedings Perorsyne (Pen yr Orsedd) was similarly described as a parcel in the hamlet of Maerdref.

With reference to estate surveys of the late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-centuries and to the Tithe Apportionment of 1845, some of these locations can be mapped. In other instances the general location can be suggested, for example, the precise location of Agnes ferch John's holdings which border the ditch of Seler Mill are not specified but the watercourses of Seler Mill are mapped and are of limited length. Similarly Hugh ap Richard ap Robert's holding next to the church of Aberffraw locates at least part of Maerdref and Garddau near St. Beuno's church. Again, eighteenth-century sources considered the site of the llys to have been at the south-western extremity of the town immediately north of the church (White and Longley 1995). Owen Wood's two gardens stood on the site of its ruins.

Hugh ap Richard ap Roberts' 0.5 acre parcel of arable lying on the east side of the church would seem to fall within the area described in the eighteenth- and nineteenth-centuries as Fron.

In the 1770s the village was mapped. This map was reproduced virtually unchanged in 1811 and copied again around 1827. The accompanying schedule for the town is identical in both the 1811 and 1827 manifestations so the map and schedule can only be confidently use for the late decades of the eighteenth century. Forty-three properties - houses, cottages, gardens and yards are represented, occupying the core area of present day Aberffraw centred on the square. Properties are present along the lane from the Prince Llywelyn Inn to the square. This became Chapel Lane (now known as Chapel Street) after the first Calvinistic Methodist Chapel was built in 1772. There are also houses along Llewelyn Street and also along Church Street as far as the church and south-east of the square. The greatest concentration of buildings, however, is to be found around Bodorgan Square and to the south of the lane (Bridge Street) leading towards the bridge over the Ffraw (built in 1731, previously a ford). Significantly, however, to the north of the church, the 1770 map carried a legend which read 'Here anciently stood the palace of the Princes of the Welsh blood of which nothing remains, the stones have been removed for making hedges and for building houses about thirty years ago.'

The proposed development area shows no houses on it on the 1770s plan. However, the schedule accompanying the 1810 plan identifies the plot as 'Hugh Essex's widow - a Cottage floor [that is, part of a cottage] and a garden at a distance.' The adjacent plot to the south, which similarly plans no structure, is described as 'O. Williams - A house called Tyn y Grisau and a garden.' To the north, across the road, William Owen had the ground floor of a cottage, Daniel Williams had a house and a garden and Richard Thomas had a house called 'Lôn' (that is, 'Lane') and a garden. This Lane came to be known as Chapel Lane and is now known as Chapel Street

Structures are pencilled in on the street frontage of the plot immediately south of the proposed development area on the plan of 1810 and are clearly represented, in outline, on the plan of 1827. The plots between Llewelyn Street and Chapel Street were, therefore, being developed, to some extent in the eighteenth century and during the first half of the nineteenth century.

The Tithe Assessment Survey of 1845 does not help in elucidating the pattern of development. Quillets in Fron, in the hands of Lord Dinorben, are separately listed, as is the Prince Llywelyn Inn, in the hands of Owen Fuller Meyrick. Aberffraw town, however, is listed as one entry, of just over 22 acres, in the hands of Lord Dinorben, the second largest landowner in the parish of Aberffraw after Owen Meyrick. However, the National Census returns for 1841 to 1881 assist in gauging the scale of development. In 1841, nine properties were accounted for on Chapel Street, housing fifty individuals. Llewelyn Street is not recorded. The first record of Llewelyn Street by this name occurs in 1861 where fourteen properties are numbered, housing 49 individuals. Together, Chapel Street and Llewelyn Street accounted for 25 houses and 87 individuals.

By 1900 the pattern of housing development had filled out along Llewelyn Street and Chapel Street and particularly along Church Street and Bangor Street at the south end of the village. It was after the Second World War, however, that real expansion, beyond the traditional confines of the village, took place. New housing was erected to the north-west of St. Beuno's church, unfortunately on the traditional site of the Medieval *llys*, and to the south, on the allotment gardens which had once comprised part of Fron.

## The area under assessment

### Category

*Present buildings:* C local importance

*Impact:* considerable

*Development site:* E uncertain, further investigation, see recommendations

*Impact:* considerable

*Nos 15-19, Llewelyn Street, Aberffraw*  
*SH 35456901C*  
*LL63 5BQ*

The proposed development area, as described above is a rectangular plot of 800 sq. m. The area is on generally level or levelled ground, falling slightly from west to east. The plot is bounded by Llewelyn Street to the east, Chapel Street to the west and a short transverse road leading to the Chapel on the north side. For most of the twentieth century, structures occupied the greater part of the proposed development area although there were open yards between the structures. Now buildings have been cleared from the Chapel Street frontage, leaving only those structures flanking Llewelyn Street and that portion of Chapel Street to the north. These surviving buildings comprise two large blocks separated by a small wall space on the Llewelyn Street frontage. Both structures are of two storeys, of random rubble construction with brick chimney stacks. The external front faces are rendered over the stone with either smooth rendering or pebbledash. The external faces of the buildings have a commercial appearance with large, wide, ground floor windows to the southern block and, on the northern façade, wide doors, subsequently blocked. Signs on the walls identify the southern block as having lately been in use as a butchers shop and the structure on the corner of Llewelyn Street, and the street to the Chapel, as a Fish and Chip shop. The southern block has a low, two-storey, projection extending perpendicular to the rear face of the building. There is no chimney and the ridge of the roof is no taller than the eaves of the house. A pent-roofed structure once stood adjacent but has now been removed.

The northern building has an L-shaped ground plan as it turns to flank the road approaching the chapel on Chapel Street, comprising, at one time, three individual premises. The building has three sets of chimney stacks. There are street-facing doors at the south end of the Llywelyn Street frontage, at the east end of the north-facing frontage and, again, two-thirds along the same frontage. There is a single storey extension at its west end. The building has a chimney stack at the west end and two windows flanking an original, but now reduced, wide doorway. There is a slate step and a cobbled pavement which continues under the tarmac of the adjacent eastern structure. The walls are of clay-bonded random rubble, coated on the external face with pebbledash. All the windows and doors of these structures are boarded and most surfaces are obscured by relatively recent treatments such as pebbledash.

Several leases were let in Aberffraw from the 1830s onwards and this seems to be a period of development, infilling the pattern already established by the eighteenth century. The surviving structures within the proposed development area were probably built around the middle of the nineteenth century, perhaps in the decade after 1850.



## Recommendations

### *Recommendation 1: the present buildings*

The present buildings are of local significance but have been modified from their original appearance and show signs of deterioration. When houses and outbuildings fronting Chapel Street and Llewelyn Street, to the south of the present development proposal, were scheduled for demolition in 1979, as being beyond economic repair, the buildings were recorded in plan and elevation in order that replacements be constructed in character and in sympathy with the local context. Should the development proceed it is recommended that consideration be given to achieving a similar solution, if at all possible. Consideration should also be given to the visual impact on the Grade II listed buildings, the Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, schoolroom and Chapel House.

### *Recommendation 2: the development site*

Evidence for a substantial and significant defensive bank and ditch enclosure has been identified within 35 m. of the proposed development. The alignment and extent of the enclosure has been postulated but not demonstrated. Confirmation of the character and function of the enclosure as Roman fort or Early Medieval *llys*, and any activity associated with these features, has potential of national importance.

Medieval boundary ditches have been located in the immediate vicinity of the development area and elsewhere in Aberffraw. Identification of such features would contribute to an understanding of the layout of this particularly important Medieval settlement. Consideration should be given to the implementation of a programme of archaeological work to assess the potential for the recovery of information, bearing in mind the scale of previous development and construction on the site and for excavation and recording as appropriate.

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### *Anglesey County Record Office*

Land Tax Assessment, Aberffraw : WQT/1/1 (1746), (1793)  
Tithe Apportionment 1845. Aberffraw; Newborough

### *University of Wales, Bangor, Archives*

Llys Dulas MS. 53, map 12  
Bodorgan MS. 1579

### *Public Record Office, Kew*

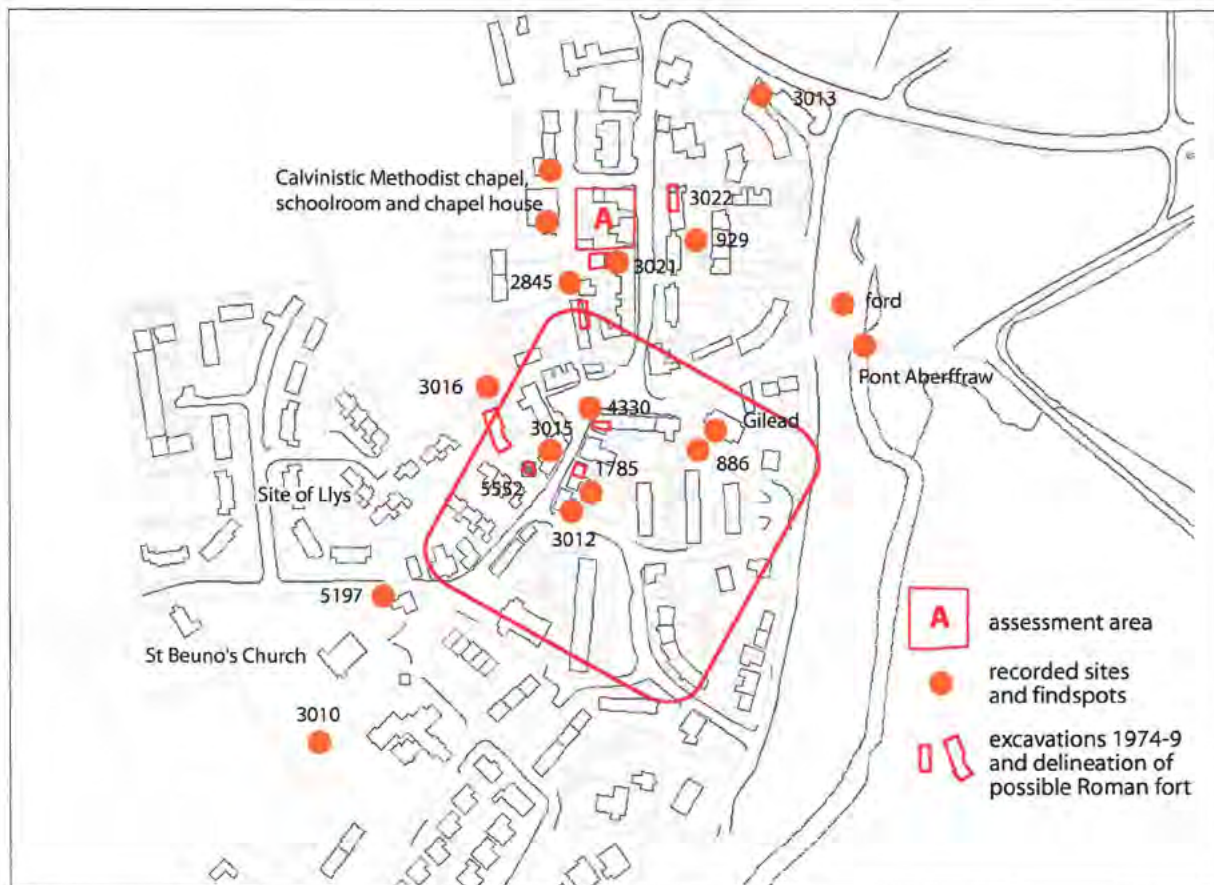
Land Revenue: Survey of Crown Lands in North Wales, 1608, LR2/205

### *Maps*

Llys Dulas Estate Aberffraw 1810  
Bodorgan Estate, Aberffraw 1827  
Tithe survey Aberffraw 1845  
OS 1:2500 Anglesey XXI.3 1900  
OS 1:10560 Anglesey XXI NE 1926







#### Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record

(sites not plotted on the map are in the immediate vicinity but beyond the limit of the town)

##### Watching briefs and excavations

PRN 929 Watching Brief gas pipeline (Gat 1055) Occasional traces of 19th century ditches/boundaries. NGR 235500 369000  
 PRN 1785 Excavation site (1987), Eagles, Aberffraw, Post-Medieval NGR 235450 368880  
 PRN 2845 Excavation site (White, 1979), NGR 235440 368980  
 PRN 3016 Excavation site (White, 1973), NGR 235400 368930  
 PRN 3021 Excavation site (White 1974, Site D), NGR 235460 368990  
 PRN 3022 Excavation site (White, 1974, Site C), Aberffraw Excavation Roman NGR 235470 369020  
 PRN 4330 Excavation site (White, 1974, Site B). NGR 235450 368920  
 PRN 5197 Watching Brief, Pendref, NGR 235350 368830

##### Roman

PRN 886 Roman Coin - Findspot, discovered near the old ford in 1992 NGR 235500 368900

##### Medieval

PRN 3009 St Beuno's Church, Aberffraw. Medieval NGR 235360 368790  
 PRN 3010 Cross Shaft - Site Of, Aberffraw Church Yard. Lost NGR 235320 368760  
 PRN 3011 Ffynnon Bryn Fendigaid Holy Well. A low rectangular roof building now occupies this site. No longer any trace of a well within the structure. NGR 236030 369130  
 PRN 3012 Capel Beuno - site of, Medieval NGR 235440 368870  
 PRN 3013 Ffynnon Beuno Holy Well. Now disused, well house demolished, well filled and capped under new road layout. NGR 235530 369070  
 PRN 3015 Stone Heads - Findspot, Bodorgan Square. Two Weathered Sculptured Stones found at Bryn Awel, 31, Bodorgan Square. Possibly C13th. NGR 235430 368900  
 PRN 5552 Medieval ditch, 40 Church Street, Aberffraw. NGR 235420 368890  
 PRN 6604 Carved stone head - findspot Medieval NGR 236520 381000  
 PRN 7235 Ford. Medieval NGR 235570 368970  
 PRN 7888 Site of llys. Medieval. Location of the llys is noted on a late 18th century estate map NGR 238300 369000  
 PRN 15600 Field System Medieval? NGR 235054 368602

##### Post-Medieval

PRN 3004 Pont Aberffraw . A single-arched 18th century bridge over the Afon Ffraw. Listed Grade II Built 1731. Humpbacked. Rubble. Segmental Arch. Long Approaches With Rough Parapets. NGR 235580 368950  
 PRN 7628 Gilead Chapel Post-Medieval NGR 235510 368910  
 PRN 15595 Enclosure Post-Medieval? NGR 235071 368755

Fig. 1 Aberffraw sites and findspots

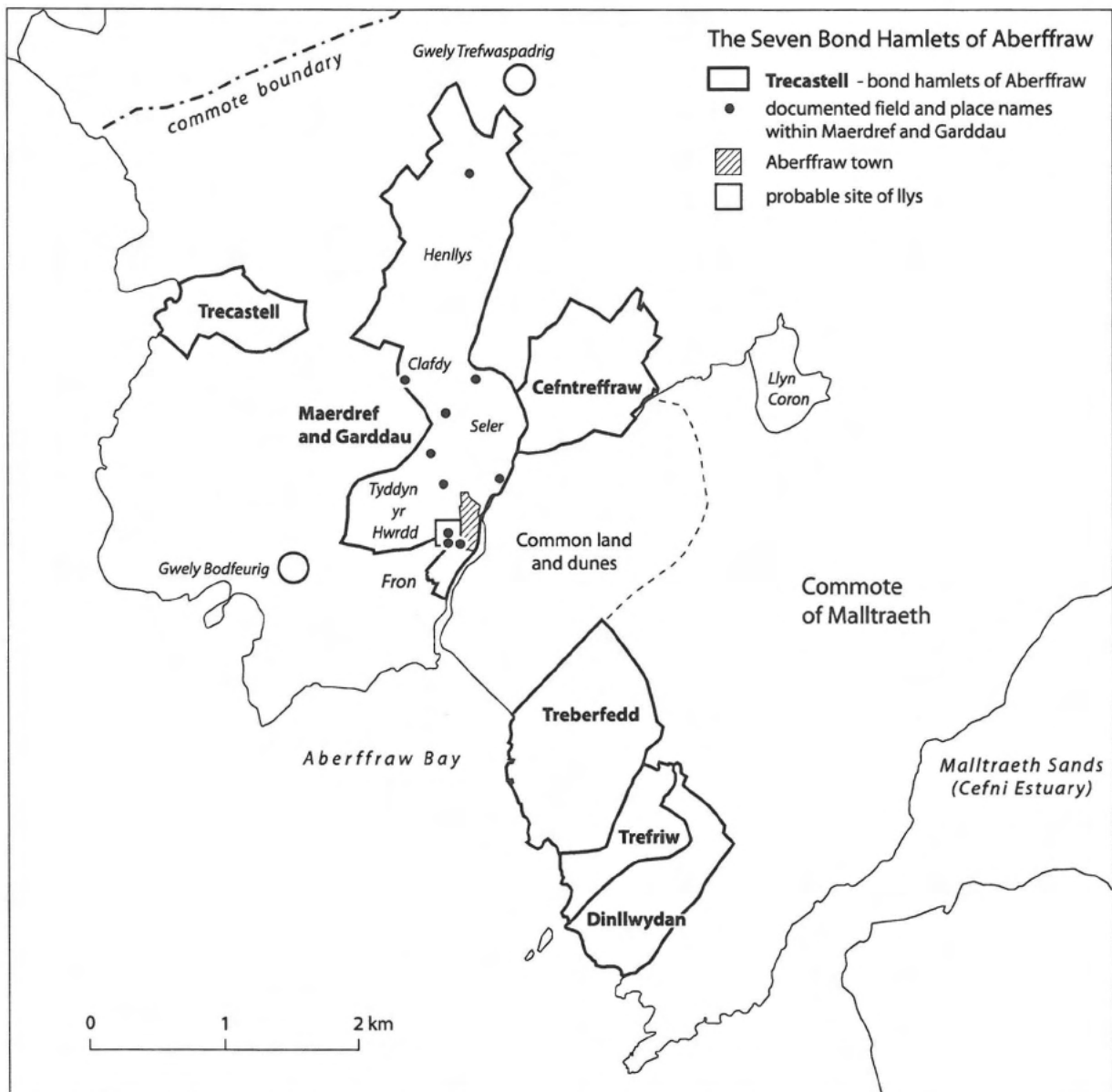
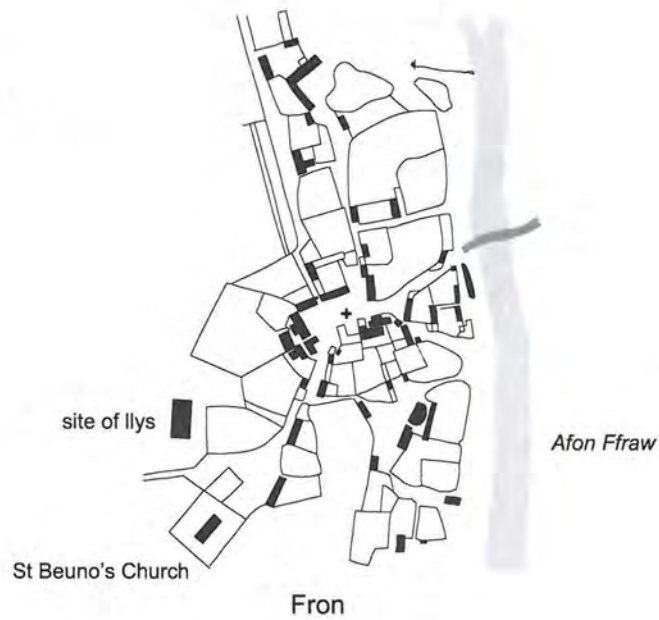


Fig. 2 Medieval Aberffraw

Aberffraw town c. 1800



Aberffraw town late 20th century  
with extent of 18th century  
development overlain



Fig. 3 Aberffraw development from 18th to 21st century

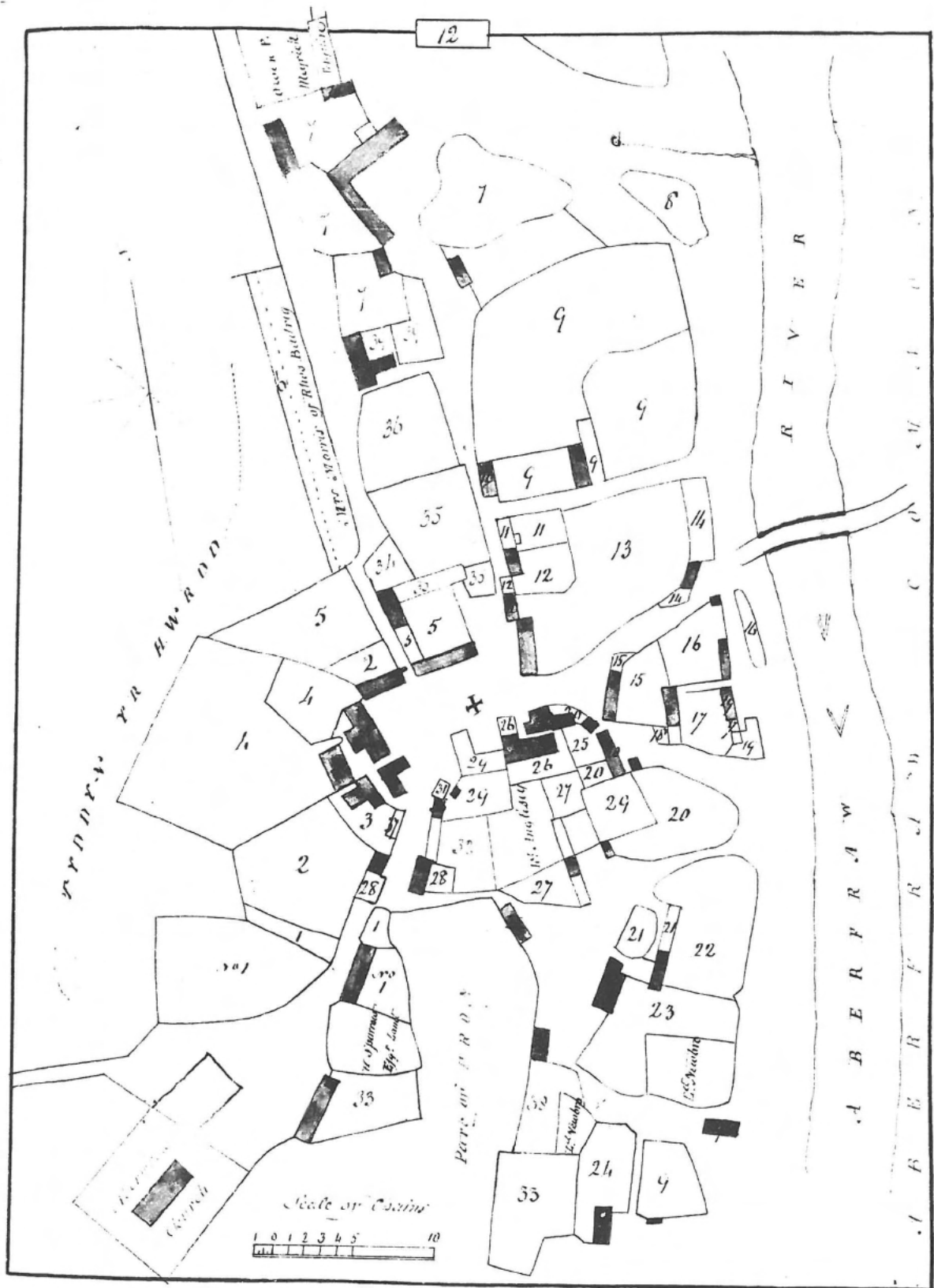


Fig. 4 Aberffraw 1810

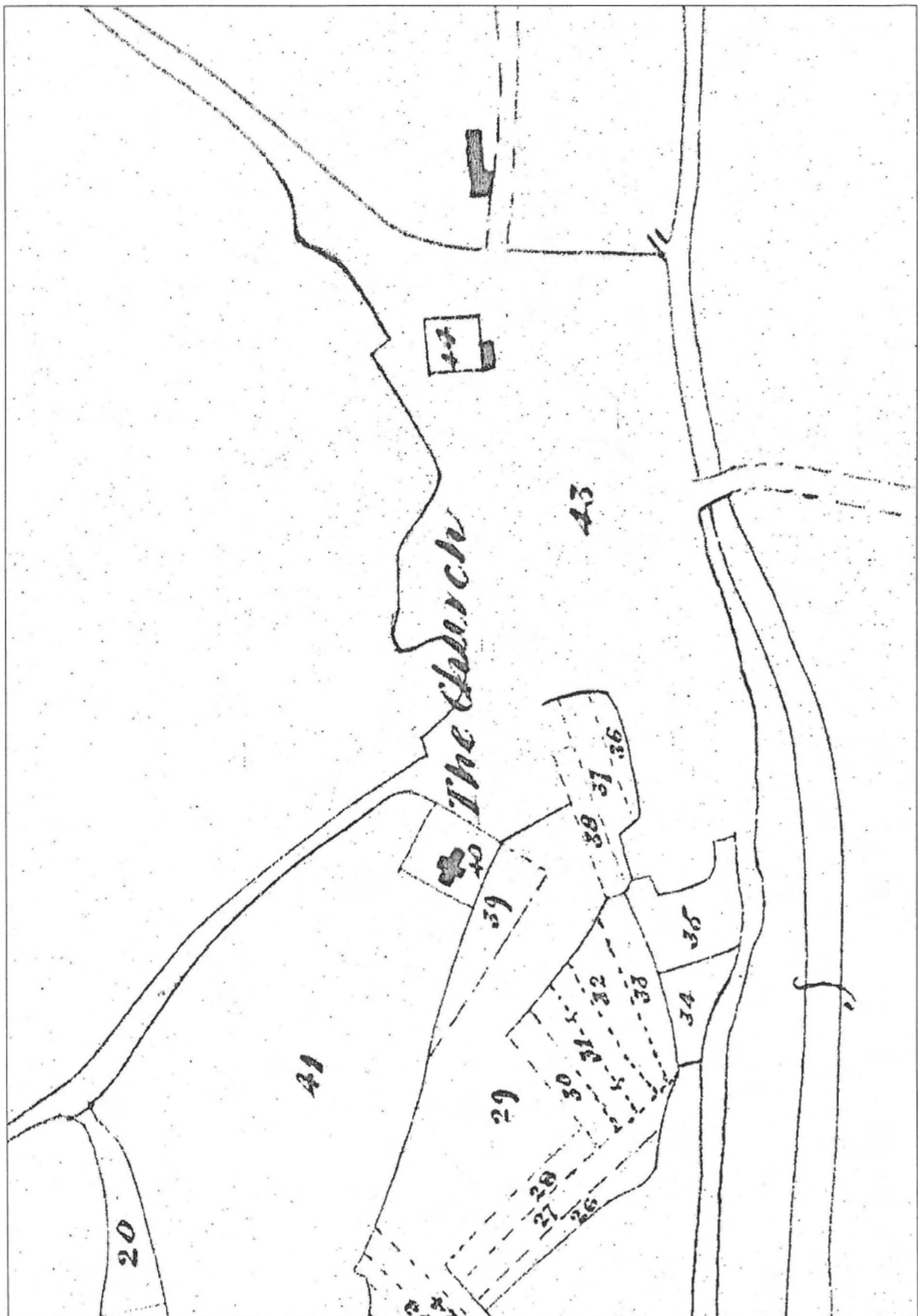


Fig. 5 Aberffraw 1845 (Tithe Map)



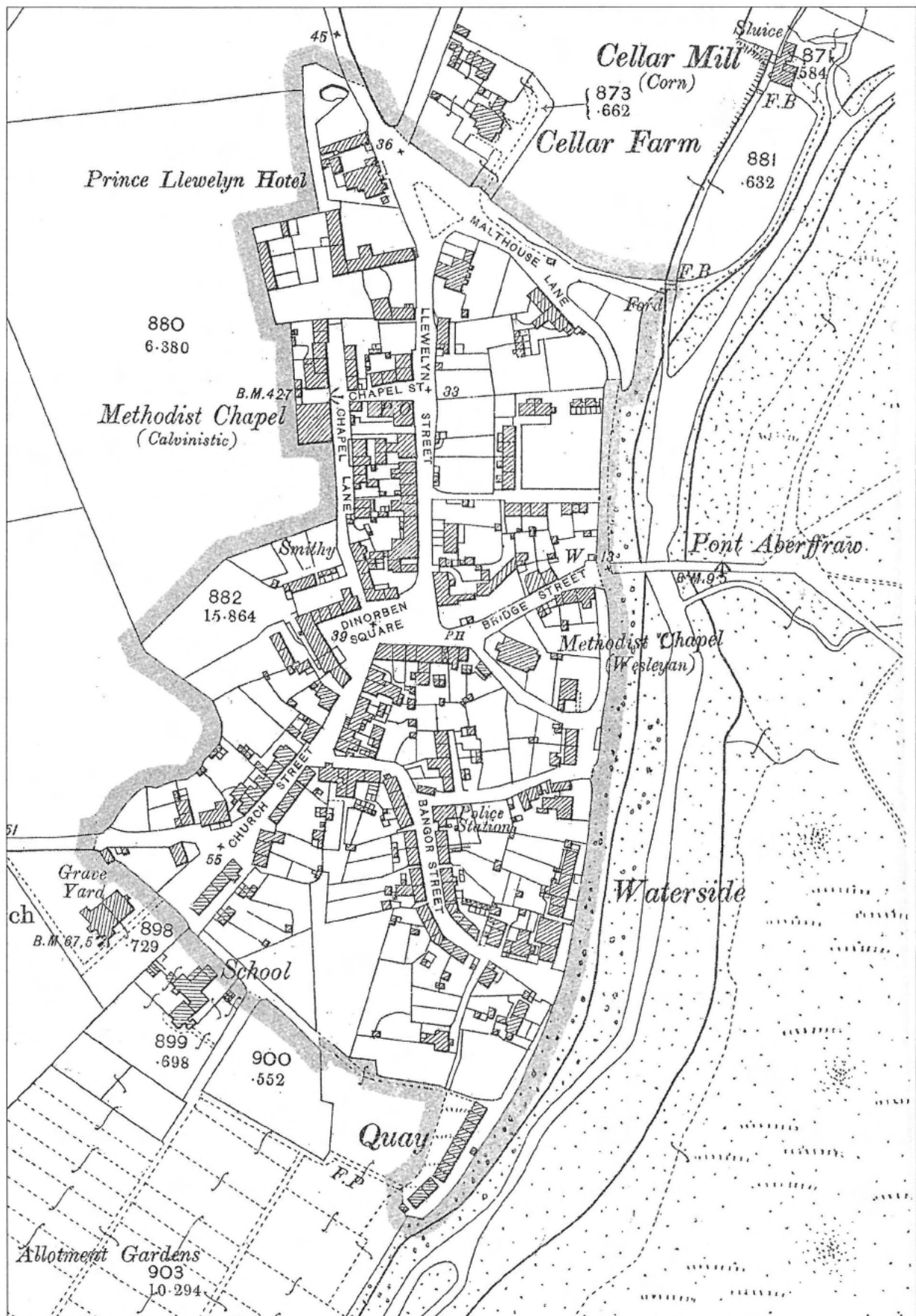


Fig. 6 Aberffraw 1900

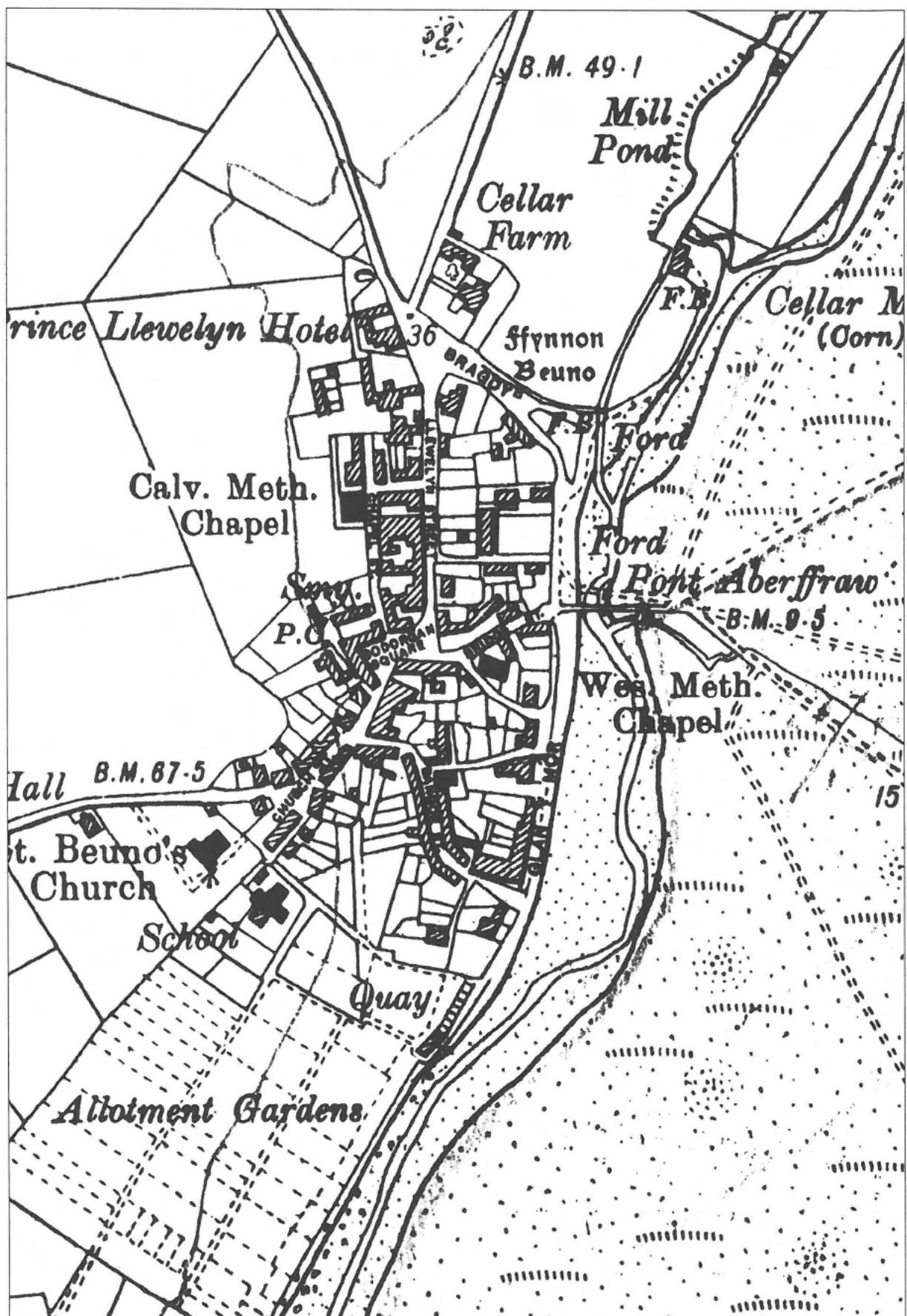


Fig. 7 Aberffraw 1926



Fig. 8 Buildings on Llewelyn Street from south east



Fig. 9 Buildings on Llewelyn Street from north east





Fig. 10 Rear view of buildings on Llewelyn Street from north west



Fig. 11 Rear view of southern building on Llewelyn Street from north west







