
Fferm Glanllynnau, Chwillog: Storage Yard Extension



Archaeological Assessment 2007

GAT Project No. G1956

Report No. 686

August 2007

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Prepared for Mr. H. M. Parry

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By

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FFERM GLANLLYNNAU, CHWILOG

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY

An archaeological assessment has been carried out prior to a proposed development at Glanllynau Farm, Chwillog, Gwynedd. The proposal involves the extension of an existing yard for the storage of green waste.

The proposed site is located c.150m to the east of Tomen Fawr medieval ringwork (CN031) and a recent archaeological excavation undertaken as part of the A497 Road Improvement Scheme has also identified an Early Bronze Age burial site and a Middle to Late Bronze Age c.600m and c.650m respectively to the west of the site.

The available map evidence suggests that the current field boundaries surrounding the Tomen Fawr medieval ringwork and Glanllynau Farm have been in place since at least the early nineteenth century. The area surrounding Glanllynau Farm has recently been altered, however, with an extension to the existing yard built to accommodate the current green waste depot. An access road has also recently been built for vehicles to enter the depot from the main road. The proposed development involves an extension of the green waste depot, to the west of the access road.

An evaluation trench located to the northeast of Tomen Fawr during the Road Improvement Scheme in 2004 identified a potential field boundary/drainage ditch within the same field as the proposed development. The orientation of the ditch suggested it continued outside of the proposed development and no further activity was identified within this field at this stage or during the subsequent watching brief of the road scheme.

Due to the potential for prehistoric and/or medieval activity within the proposed development area, an archaeological strip and map is recommended.

1. INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) has been asked by Mr. H. M. Parry of Glanllynau Farm to undertake an archaeological assessment in advance of the development of a storage yard for green waste (centred on NGR SH4560137662). This plot of land comprises an area of approximately 1.5 hectares, located on the south coast of the Llŷn Peninsula, c.4.0km west of Criccieth on the A497.

An archaeological assessment has been requested in advance of planning determination by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS). The assessment has been requested due to the close proximity of a medieval defensive site, Tomen Fawr ringwork, c.150m to the west of the proposed site. The ringwork is recognised as a site of national significance and has been designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No. CN031).

A programme of archaeological evaluation and excavation was undertaken in advance of the A497 Road Improvement Scheme and an associated gas pipeline realignment, between October 2004 and August 2005, within close proximity to the current proposed development (GAT Reports 624 and 625). A total of ninety-nine trenches were opened along the road scheme and six archaeological sites were identified. A Middle to Late Bronze Age domestic site and an Early Bronze

Age ring ditch containing two cremation burials were identified in close proximity to the current proposed development. Both sites were located in land belonging to Glanllynau Farm: the Middle to Late Bronze Age domestic site was located c.600m west of the proposed development and the ring ditch was located c.650m west of the proposed development (GAT Report 625).

A total of four evaluation trenches were opened to the north of Tomen Fawr and Glanllynau Farm during the road improvement scheme. The archaeological activity was limited to a 1.5m wide ditch within Trench 89, located c.50m to the northeast of Tomen Fawr, which was identified as either a drainage ditch or redundant field boundary ditch (*ibid.*: 53). Trench 98 was located to the northwest of Glanllynau Farm over a geophysics signal identified as “magnetic disturbance” in Stratascan Report No. 1899. This signal was found to be evidence for extensive topsoil dumping and spreading on the field. The topsoil contained a variety of plastic rubbish indicative of recent activity.

A subsequent watching brief of this area, conducted during the groundworks phase of the scheme, recorded a large area of glacial sands and gravels but no archaeological activity (*ibid.*: 59). A photographic record was made of this area as part of the archive.

A magnetometer survey along the route of the A497 road improvement scheme was undertaken in August 2004 (Stratascan Report No. 1899 *Geophysical Report: A497 Abererch to Llanystumdwy, Gwynedd*). This comprised magnetic scanning of the soil along a 30m wide strip following the centre line of the scheme.

2. SPECIFICATION AND PROJECT DESIGN

A brief has been prepared by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS; reference D1151). The brief states that the programme of archaeological works to mitigate the impact of the development will comprise a desk based assessment (D1151; para. 4.2):

The assessment is to consider the following:

- The nature, extent and survival of archaeological sites, structures, deposits and landscapes within the proposed development.
- The history of the site.
- The potential impact of any proposed development on the *setting* of known sites of archaeological importance.
- A methodology for non-intrusive survey and/or intrusive evaluation to determine the location, extent, date, character.

The project has been undertaken according to guidelines specified in *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994, rev.1999). The basic requirement was for a desktop survey and field search of the proposed area, in order to assess the impact of the proposals on the archaeological features within the area concerned. The importance and condition of known archaeological remains were to be assessed, and areas of archaeological potential and new sites to be identified. Measures to mitigate the effects of the improvement work on the archaeological resource were to be suggested.

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust's proposals for fulfilling these requirements were, briefly, as follows:

- a) *to identify and record the cultural heritage of the area to be affected;*
- 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.*

A full archaeological assessment usually comprises 6 phases:

- 1) *Desk-top study*
- 2) *Field Search*
- 3) *Interim Draft Report*
- 4) *Detailed Field Evaluation*
- 5) *Final Draft Report*
- 6) *Final Report*

This assessment has covered the work required under 1, 2 and 3, with recommendations for field evaluation if it is required.

3 METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

3.1 Desk-top Study

This involved consultation of maps, computer records, written records and reference works, which make up the Historic Environment Record (HER), located at Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT), Bangor. The archives held by the Gwynedd Archives, Caernarfon, were also consulted, and so were the Penrhyn manuscripts at Bangor University Archives. Secondary sources, as listed in section 6 below, were consulted to provide background information.

3.2 Field Visit

The field visit was carried out on 7th August 2007. The aim of the field survey was to inspect the development area and to assess the impact of the development on the historic landscape. The present condition of the site was recorded and the results are given below.

3.3 Report

The available information was synthesised to give a summary of the archaeological and historic background and of the assessment and recommendations, as set out below. The separate features, their evaluation and recommendations are listed separately, and a summary of the overall assessment of the area is given at the end.

The criteria used for assessing the value of features was based upon those used by the Secretary of State for Wales when considering sites for protection as scheduled ancient monuments, as set out in the Welsh Office circular 60/96. The definitions of categories used for impact, field evaluation and mitigation are set out below.

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 usually be no sites remaining in this category. In this case several areas of unknown potential have been allocated to this category. These require environmental sampling which should be carried out during the pipeline works.

3.3.2 Definition of Impact

The impact of the development on each site was 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 proposed development, 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 road.

3.4 Definition of Mitigatory Recommendations

None:

No impact so no requirement for mitigatory measures.

Detailed recording:

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

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

Basic recording:

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

Watching brief:

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

Avoidance:

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

Reinstatement:

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

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Topographic Description

The geology of the proposed development is mostly Ordovician sedimentary rocks with igneous intrusions, such as that forming the Penychain peninsula to the southwest (Bassett & Davies 1977, 19). Grey slates and mudstones of the

Tremadoc series underlie the area, with the most intrusive rocks being rhyolites (Smith & George 1961, 28; Roberts 1979).

The soils comprise mainly typical brown earths with a concentration of alluvial gley soils at the southwestern end of the scheme (1:250,000 Soil Map Series: Sheet 2, Wales).

The proposed development lies on the periphery of the coastal plain overlooking Cardigan Bay and comprises a large trapezoidal field, currently used for maize cultivation that belongs to Glanllynau Farm. To the immediate west of this field is Tomen Fawr medieval ringwork, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (CN031). The surrounding area comprises mainly enclosed, undulating farmland located on a plateau sloping towards the sea. Within this area are a number of river valleys, bridged by the current A497.

4.2 Previous Archaeological work within the area

A programme of archaeological work, including evaluation, excavation and watching brief, was conducted in advance of, and during, the construction of the A497 Road Improvement Scheme between Abererch and Llanystumdwy and an associated gas pipeline realignment scheme (GAT Reports 625 and 624 respectively). A total of ninety-nine evaluation trenches were opened across the 6.5km length of the scheme. Evidence for archaeological activity within these was mainly limited to post-medieval agricultural activity. Six of the trenches contained archaeology of greater significance, however, including evidence for Romano-British domestic activity identified at the western end of the scheme; Early to Late Bronze Age burnt mound and funerary activity within the central and eastern portions of the scheme (including a possible burnt mound site c.320m to the west of the current proposed development). The Late Bronze Age site included a fragmented vessel made from coarse pottery buried in a small pit. An Early Bronze Age funerary site was excavated towards the eastern end of the scheme, northeast of Afon wen Farm and c.400m from the proposed development. The site incorporated a large enclosure ditch forming a ring barrow, at the centre of which were two burial pits each containing a cremation urn. Part of an early 19th century turnpike route was also investigated during the excavation phase, revealing a well-built cambered road running between Glan Morfa Farm and Llwyngwyn Farm near the centre of the road improvement scheme. The archaeological watching brief followed on from the excavation phase and was conducted across the entire length of the road scheme but no further activity was identified during this phase. This project was conducted in tandem with the diversion and realignment of a high-pressure gas main. Both schemes utilised a similar route and large portions of the pipeline cut through land developed for the road improvement.

4.2.1 Geophysical survey

A magnetometer survey along the whole of the route was undertaken in August 2004 (Stratascan Report No. 1899 *Geophysical Report: A497 Abererch to Llanystumdwy, Gwynedd*). This comprised magnetic scanning of the soil along a 30m wide strip following the centre line of the easement forming the road improvement area. This identified a number of possible archaeological features are areas of archaeological potential, which were then targeted during the subsequent trial trenching. The area to the north of the proposed development was surveyed and a series of parallel linear anomalies, thought to be agricultural in origin, were identified (*ibid.*: 18). A series of “strong magnetic responses” within the large trapezoidal shaped field that includes the current proposed development were thought to indicate the spreading of waste material (*ibid.*). This was confirmed during the evaluation phase of the Road Improvement Scheme: the three evaluation trenches (Trenches 89, 97 and 98) revealed that the area

had been subject to modern waste dumping, with the “original” topsoil covered by a thick deposit of “modern” topsoil full of waste material.

4.2.2 Aerial Photographs

A series of aerial photographs were inspected at RCHAMW of the proposed development area. The photographs were taken by RAF sortie on 14th August 1945 (Sortie Number 106G/UK/664; Frame Numbers: 3291, 3292 and 4214 to 4216 and 4296). No features were visible within the proposed development area.

4.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

4.3.1 Prehistoric

Sites within the local vicinity:

Early Bronze Age Burial Site (PRN19659)

The site was located in an enclosed field to the east of Afon Wen farm, c.650m west of the current proposed development. It comprised a circular enclosure ditch c.28m diameter, in the centre of which were found traces of a small cairn covering two human cremations urns. The urns were found in inter-cutting pits at the centre of a circular ditch, c. 25m in diameter, covered with a small remnant spread of stone. Both pots contained a substantial quantity of bone, but no grave goods. Radiocarbon dates recovered from the site range from CAL BC 2190 to CAL BC1530 (Beta-210121 to 210124), indicating an Early Bronze Age date.

Bryn Bachau Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age Burnt Mound

Evidence of burnt mound activity was identified near Bryn Bachau Chapel c.2.5km west of the proposed development, in the form of a burnt stone spread and associated pits.

The burnt mound covered an area c.25m² in size (Figure 6) and was located to the east of a former stream. The burnt stone defining the “mound” lay in a shallow cut terrace or platform and was deposited on top of a linear spread of identified as a glacial deposit, similar to that identified in Trench 66 to the west. A sample of charcoal was sent for radiocarbon dating. Three pits were found at the southern end of the trench, south of the burnt stone spread. Two of the pits contained burnt stone, whilst the largest pit contained a charcoal-rich fill and a number of larger unburnt stones. They were identified as pits or troughs associated with the burnt mound. Two radiocarbon samples were sent for dating: the first was from a discrete deposit on the surface of the burnt stone mound. This produced a date at 2 sigma of CAL BC 2550 to BC 2540 and CAL BC 2490 to BC 2140 (Beta-204432). The second was from the primary fill of pit 402 at the southern side of the burnt mound. This produced a date at 2 sigma of CAL BC 2580 to BC 1910 (Beta-204434).

Llwyngwyn Farm Late Bronze Age Domestic Activity

This site was located in an evaluation trench located south of Llwyngwyn farmhouse during the road improvement scheme, c.2.4km west of the current proposed development. Two small pits were identified within the trench that contained numerous fragments of coarse pottery. The pottery appeared to come from a single vessel that had been broken prior to its inclusion in the pits, rather than the result of later activity. The provenance of the vessel was not fully understood but it was interpreted as a redundant domestic vessel rather than a ritual vessel evident of funerary activity. Charcoal from the fill of one of the two pits containing the pottery fragments was sent for radiocarbon dating (2 Sigma calibration; Beta-204431). This produced a date of CAL BC 1360 to 1360 and CAL

BC 1320 to 970. This provided a date range from the Middle to Late Bronze Age that matched the stylistic attribution of the pottery.

Glanllynau Middle to Late Bronze Age Domestic Feature

This site was located towards the eastern end of the road scheme in a field belonging to Glanllynau Farm c.600m to the northwest of the proposed study area. The trench was opened during the evaluation phase of the A497 road improvement scheme and was located in response to an apparent pit alignment identified on the geophysics survey (Donaldson, KT Geophysical Survey Report: Abererch to Llanystumdwy, Gwynedd, Stratascan Report Job Ref. 1899, August 2004). The majority of the alignment was outside the road scheme. A large pit was identified in the trench, c.2.0m across. It was filled with a brown/black silt rich in sub-rounded heat fractured stones. There were no signs of extraneous burning around the pit, suggesting the feature may have been dug as a refuse pit for the stones. The pit was cut into a stone-rich grey silt layer. On the eastern side of the pit the grey silt was charcoal-flecked, but not on the western side; suggesting the eastern side was the main focus for associated activity. The trench was subsequently extended eastwards, c.6m and the grey silt layer was investigated further. Charcoal from the lower layer in the pit produced a radiocarbon date of CAL BC 1280 to BC 970 (Beta-204433). The possible date range falls mainly within the Middle to Late Bronze Age period.

Findspots

A collection of worked flint (PRN 6787) found on the eroding headland of Penychain is probably the remains of nomadic hunters or fishers of the Mesolithic period, dating from the 6th to 5th millennia BC. Mean sea-level at that time was some 5 to 10m below the present and such headlands may have provided a prominent position with views over a coastal plain with rich food resources. A polished stone axe of Neolithic date and two axe hammers of Bronze Age date have been found in the grounds of Broom Hall (PRN 2272). The stone axe can be dated to the fourth or fifth millennia BC while the axe hammers are of the early second millennium BC.

Two perforated stones, possibly loom weights, were found separately near Penbryn Neuadd (PRN 2263), south of Abererch. Also a spindle-whorl was found between Pont Llwyngwyn and Afon Wen Farm (PRN 19627). These could be of the later first millennium BC or even from the Roman period and most probably indicate domestic settlement and activity nearby. There is one area of known settlement of this period, consisting of two round houses just to the north of the road near Pont Llwyngwyn. The absence of more widespread evidence for occupation in this area during the later prehistoric and Roman period, despite the fact that it has some quite good farmland, is likely to be because any remains have been obscured by clearance for agriculture and subsequent ploughing.

4.3.2 Roman

Gwinllan Glan Morfa Late Iron Age/Romano-British Settlement Area

This site was originally identified in evaluation Trench 40 during the A497 Road Improvement Scheme, c.3.6km west of the current proposed development. The site comprised a small circular stone-built structure with a central clay hearth surrounded by a cobbled surface. A layer of charcoal atop the cobbled surface was submitted for radiocarbon dating and produced a calibrated date of CAL 50 BC to CAL AD 110 at 2-sigma (Beta-204430), indicative of Late Iron Age/Early Roman activity

Late Iron Age/Romano-British Transient Occupation Area, northeast of Glan Morfa Bach

This site was originally identified during the evaluation phase of the road improvement scheme and was located at the edge of a flood plain, c.5.3km west of the proposed current development. Three small hearths were identified and charcoal from one of the hearths produced a radiocarbon date of CAL AD 70 to AD 380 at 2 sigma (Beta-205207) indicative of Late Iron Age/Early Roman activity

4.3.3. Medieval

There are known medieval settlements at Bothach, Penarth, Chwillog and Penychain (GAT Report 625). Archaeological sites of this period include the earthworks of the possible township of Bothach (PRN 1825), located within Broom Hall Park; Tomen Fawr ring-work (PRN 1329), a defensive site of probable Norman date c.150m to the west of the proposed development, and the medieval hall house at Penarth Fawr dating from the mid-15th century (RCAHMW 1960, 112-4). The proposed development is historically part of Llanystumdwy parish.

The Tomen Fawr ringwork now stands in isolation;. The Tomen itself is a Norman ring-work defensive enclosure, later reused by the Welsh Princes and eventually serving as the centre of the township of Ffriddlwyd (GAT Report 625). The township was later given to the Cistercians and became a grange of the Aberconwy Abbey, but returned to the Crown through an exchange. Traces of a possible rectangular structure survive within the ringwork and small depressions in the grass may indicate the positions of gateposts. No associated fieldwork systems have been identified within the surrounding area.

Documentary evidence refers to Edward I staying in this area on his way to Pwllheli following the Edwardian Conquest of North Wales. The most likely location would have been the township of Penychain, now represented by a farm and headland southeast of Haven Holiday Park several kilometres to the west of the proposed development area. A sizeable house or hall would have been required for the royal retinue, but no evidence for this has yet been discovered. One possible explanation suggested was that such a building might have been lost to coastal erosion (*ibid*). However, the building is more likely to have been on the higher land above the marshy coastal fringe and so its remains may lie under an existing dwelling such as Penychain farm.

Penychain was a bond township, becoming crown land soon after the Edwardian Conquest in the late 13th century. In 1590 there were 91 people living in 16 dwellings in Penychain (*ibid*). By 1784, the township belonged to Sir Thomas Wynn, the first Baron Newborough of Glynllifon, and the numerous small holdings were rationalised into larger farms; a single farm called Penychain included much of the original demesne land (*ibid*).

4.3.4 Post-Medieval

The proposed development area lies within the parish of Llanystumdwy and, during the nineteenth century, it was part of the Glynllifon Estate of Lord Newborough.

Archival references to Glanllynau Farm date from at least the eighteenth century: a reference is made to an "Evan Owen of Glanllyna" (sic) attending the Borough Court of Nefyn in September 1769, for example (TCHS XIX: 91). The John Evans Map of North Wales (1795) includes Glanllyniau (sic) Farm, visible in its present location. There are references to a plan of the buildings at Glanllynau in 1802 (GAS XD2A/1139), whilst the First Edition 1" Ordnance Survey Map of the area, dated to 1838, shows a similar layout to the current Farm. The 1839 Tithe

Map and the 25" First to Third Edition Ordnance Survey maps (1889 to 1917), also show similar information. Moreover, the Tithe and 25" Ordnance Survey Maps show the same field boundaries that are currently in place, suggesting that they were established by at least the early nineteenth century.

Within the general area, there have been relatively few changes since the 18th century and some of the early buildings survive along with the general layout of the fields and roads. The A497 is approximately along the line of a route that has been used since at least the 12th century and was improved in 1803 by the Porthdinllaen Turnpike Trust (GAT Report 625). John Evans' map of North Wales of 1795 shows the main road here on the same line as the present route. Minor improvements have taken place along the road; between 1839 and 1889 (*i.e.* between the publication of the parish tithe maps and the First Edition 25" Ordnance Survey Map), the A497 appears to have been straightened.

The general pattern of settlement, consisting of scattered farmhouses and cottages dating from the 18th century or later, is little altered from that shown on the map produced to accompany the Llanystumdwy Tithe Apportionment of 1844. This slow rate of change is, in part, due to the lack of raw materials for industrial development, though small-scale industries were developed, with, for example lignite quarried at Bryn Bachau farm east of Pont Llwyngwyn. A lease for 31 years to search for 'coal, stones, ores and minerals' there and on two other farms in the area had been granted by Lord Newborough in 1839 (*ibid*). In 1862 the lease was re-assigned to Trustees of the Bulkeley Coal Iron Stone and Fireclay Co. for 'fields called Caepwllglo and Werglodd Pwll y glo, part of a farm called Brynbechau' (*ibid*). The coal was used to fuel a small brickworks. There was also a corn mill by the river at Afon Wen at the time of the 1889 Ordnance Survey, later developed into a large commercial laundry. The development around Afon Wen was encouraged by the construction of the Caernarvonshire branch of the London and North Western Railway in 1867. This crossed the route of the road at Afon Wen by means of an embankment and bridge but the latter was dismantled after the line was closed in 1967.

The presence of the railway also influenced the construction in 1939 of an extensive naval training camp, HMS Glendower, south of Afon Wen, housing 8,000 recruits, who must have had a considerable impact on such a quiet rural area. The camp was built for the military by Billy Butlin with other ideas in mind and after the war it was turned into a holiday camp and is now the Haven Holiday Park.

Within the proposed development area, an inspection of the Llanystumdwy Tithe Map and the available Ordnance Survey Map evidence.

4.4 Archaeological features within close proximity to the Development Area

Feature 1: Tomen Fawr (PRN1329; NGR SH45433767).

Category: A Scheduled Ancient Monument

Impact: None

A ring motte without bailey, defended by a ditch on all sides except the south, where the natural slope was scarped to produce the same effect and the material used to emphasise the bank encircling the top. The interior, 12.0m in diameter, has been partly filled in by the collapse of the bank. A slight causeway on the northwest is probably a later insertion, the original entrance having been a timber bridge, a good position for this being the southeast where the outside level is higher. Traces of a possible rectangular structure in the middle of this ringwork and hints of postholes for a gateway and/or palisade along the south edge can be seen as hollows in the grass. The north of the interior is overgrown with gorse, broom and bramble. The top of the bank is between 2.0 and 4.0m above the interior, although this diminishes to 0.5m on the south edge, where part of the bank may have collapsed outward. The encircling ditch is best preserved on the

north and the east where it is 4.0m below the crest of the bank. On the north the ditch has been partly been filled in, although it is still visible. On the south the site is defended by the natural slope, although this has been dug into to create material for the bank, which resulted in the line of the ditch being continued round the monument. There are no obvious archaeological features outside the line of the ditch, although the field below the slope to the south of the site does contain a number of amorphous.

Recommendations for further assessment: None

Recommendations for mitigatory measures: None

5 IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Impact

5.1.1 Designated Sites and Areas within the local area:

Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)

- CN031: A ring motte without bailey, defended by a ditch on all sides except the south, where the natural slope was scarped to produce the same effect and the material used to emphasise the bank encircling the top. The area is currently surrounded by a fence and is located c.150m from the proposed development area.

Listed Buildings

Grade I

- There are no Listed Buildings (Grade I) within the development area

Grade II

- There are no Listed Buildings (Grade II) within the development area

Landscape Register of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales

The development area is not located within the Landscape Register of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales or the Landscape Register of Special Historic Interest in Wales (ICOMOS, CADW and CCW, 1998).

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

The GLANLLYNNAU A GLANNAU PEN-YCHAIN I GRICIETH SSSI is located to the immediate south of the proposed study area and covers an area of 143.19ha (SSSI ID: 326).

5.1.2 The Development Proposal:

The development proposal involves the expansion of an existing storage yard for green waste. The existing yard is attached to Glanllynau Farm and is a large rectangular area to the south of the farm outbuildings, accessed from the A497 by a purpose built road. The green waste brought to the farm is treated and turned into compost for use as a fertiliser or sold for road landscaping work. The proposed expansion is a rectangular shaped plot of land c.1.5 ha in size, located to the immediate east of the existing yard. The area will be stripped and reduced in height and landscaped. It will be accessed from the existing storage yard road.

5.1.3 Impact

- The proposed development plan involves the extension of the existing storage yard into two neighbouring fields (Figure 1). The area is currently used for maize crops and pasture/general storage. The area under cultivation comprises imported topsoil covering the original topsoil and both deposits and any underlying subsoil/glacial deposits will be removed to create a level surface for the proposed yard.
- The pasture/general storage area, located to the south of the maize crops, is situated at a significantly lower level than the cultivated field. The cultivated field will be reduced in height to accommodate this and also to facilitate access to the existing access road. A series of batter slopes will then be created to join the reduced area to the raised cultivated area.
- In terms of the potential impact of the proposed development on the *setting* of known sites of archaeological importance, the closest archaeological site is the Tomen Fawr medieval ringwork, c.150m to the west. The extension of the green waste storage yard will see a reduction of the current ground level to match the existing height of the yard; it does not appear that any structures will be built and as such, the development does not impinge on the visual setting of the Tomen.

5.2 Recommendations

- Prehistoric and Medieval archaeological features have been identified within the surrounding area: Early to Late Bronze Age activity between 600 and 650 metres to the northwest of Glanllynau Farm and Tomen Fawr medieval ringwork, c.150m to the west. The potential still remains for similar activity within the proposed development scheme. In particular, due to the close proximity of the medieval ringwork, redundant field systems and habitation would be suspected within the immediate vicinity.
- The evaluation programme and subsequent watching brief of the Road Improvement Scheme to the north of the proposed development (GAT Report 624) identified archaeological activity within the same field as the proposed development: a drainage ditch/former field boundary was identified in Trench 89 c.200m to the northwest. The orientation of the ditch was north-south and its projected extent would continue outside of the proposed development. The watching brief of the area to the north of Glanllynau Farm and the proposed development did not identify any archaeological activity.
- Due to the potential for prehistoric and/or medieval activity within the proposed development area, an archaeological strip and map is recommended. The existing development area has already been partially stripped of topsoil, however the presence of weeds, and the unevenness of the surface makes it impossible to identify any archaeological features. It is therefore recommended that the existing surface is carefully graded back by a toothless ditching bucket under the guidance of an archaeologist. The part which still contains topsoil should be stripped back at the same time so that on completion the whole development area will have been examined for the presence of archaeology.

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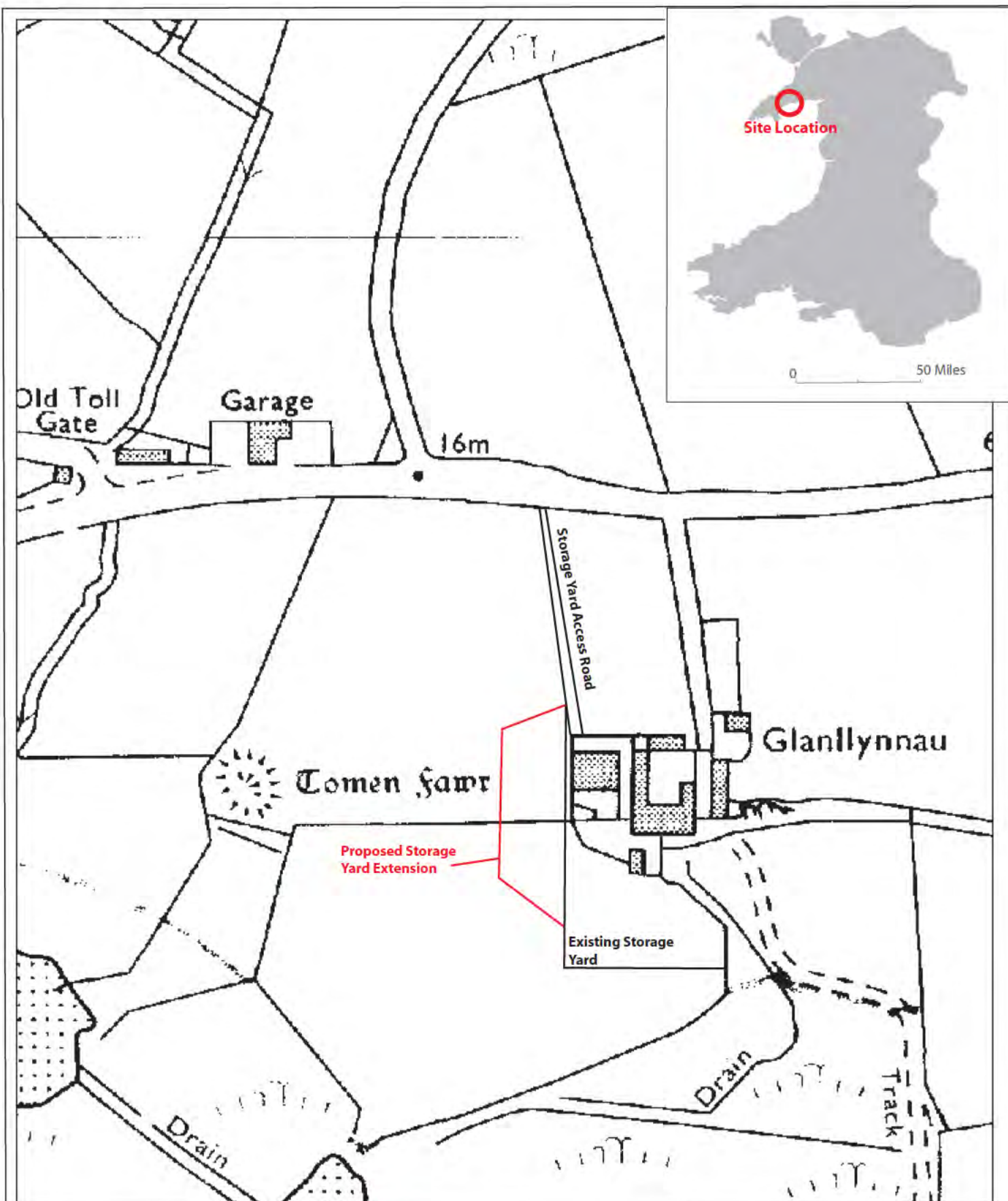
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Note: Proposed Development is Highlighted in RED

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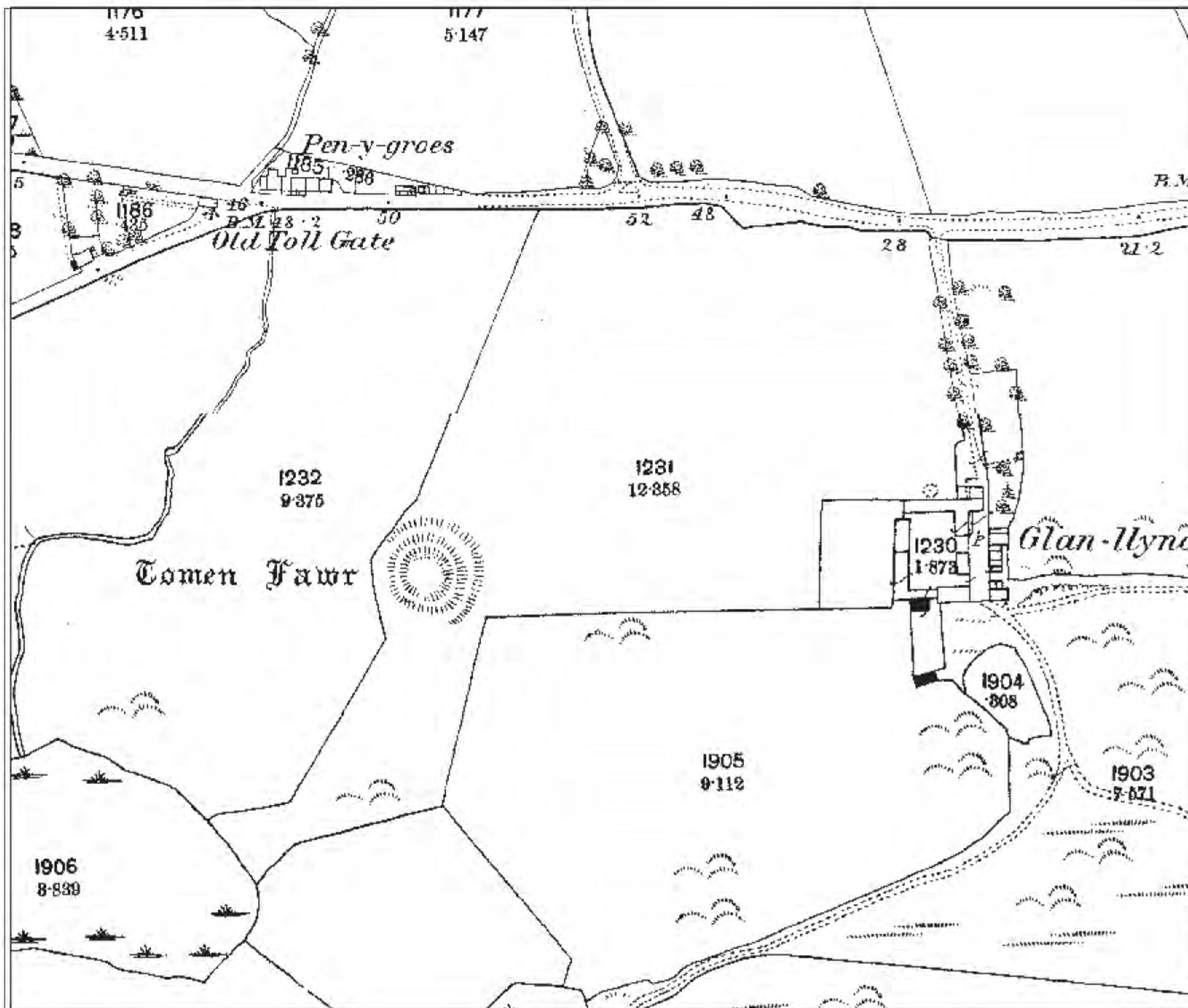


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Figure 1: Proposed Development Area

Scale: 1:2500 at A4



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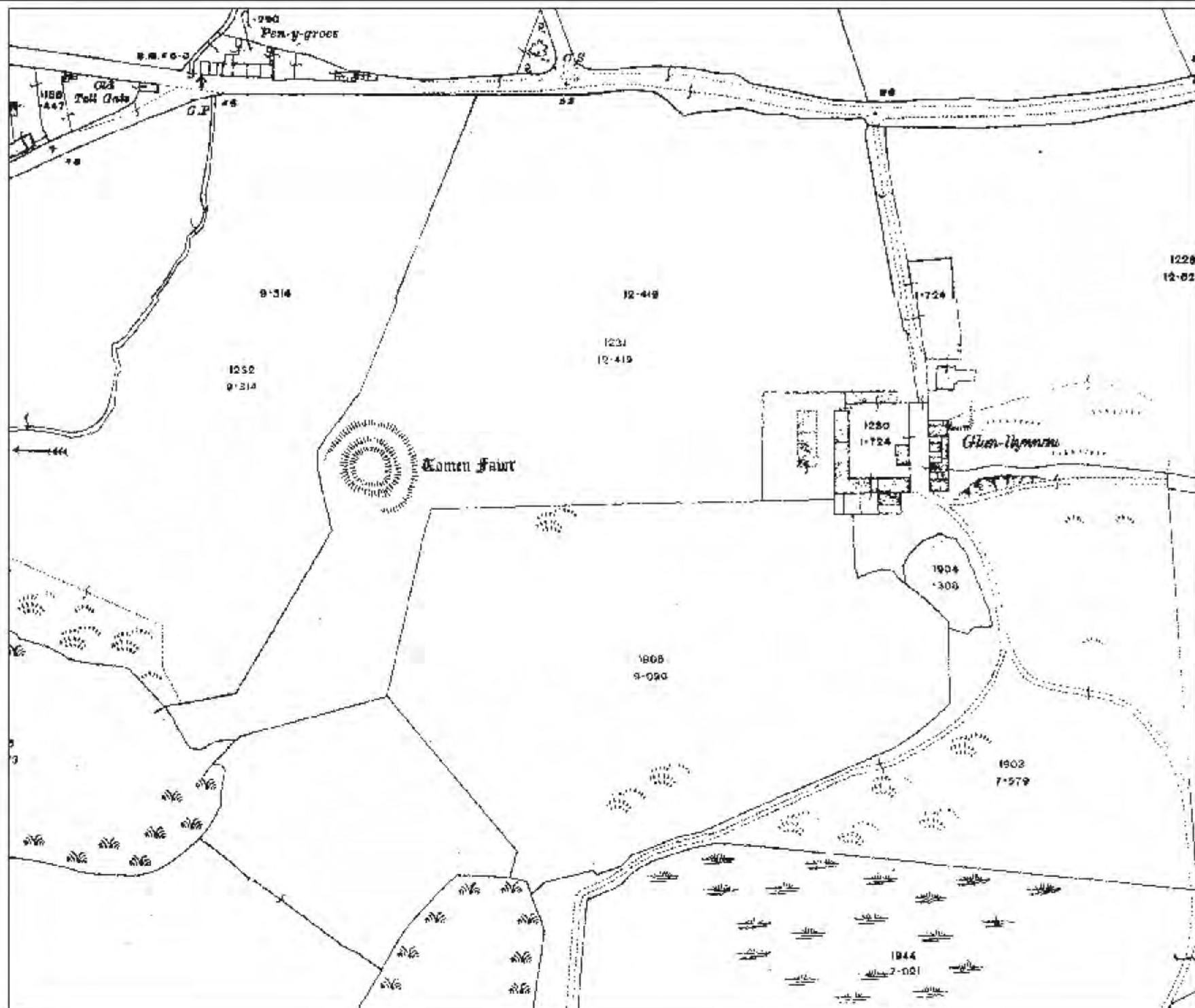


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Figure 2: 1889 25" 1st Edition
Ordnance Survey Map

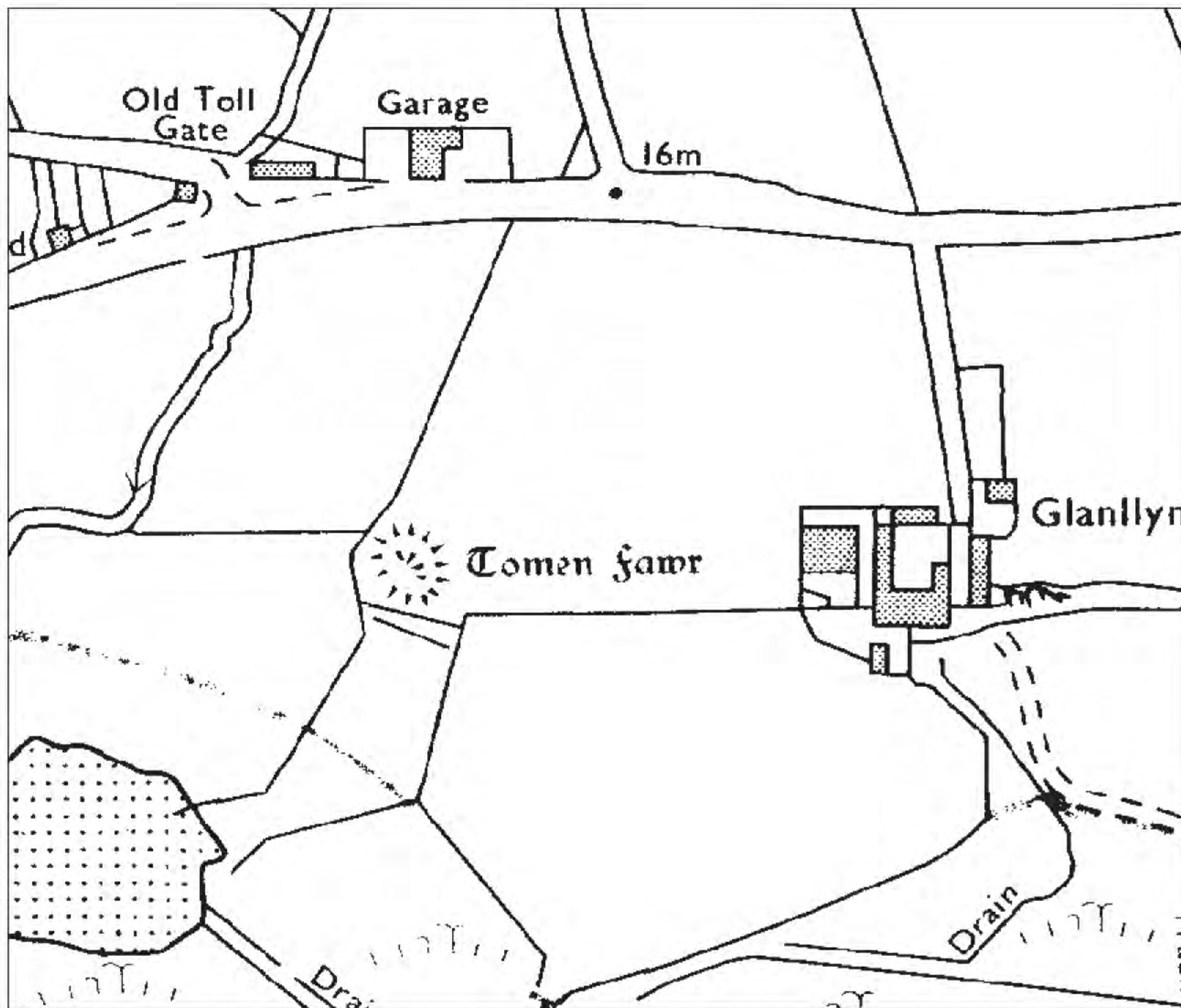
Scale: 1:2500 at A4



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**Figure 3: 1917 25" 3rd Edition
 Ordnance Survey Map**

Scale: 1:2500 at A4



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Figure 4: 1982 10k County Series
Ordnance Survey Map

Scale: 1:2500 at A4



Plate 1: View North of Access Road and Proposed Storage Yard Area



Plate 2: View South of Existing Storage Yard and Proposed Storage Yard Area

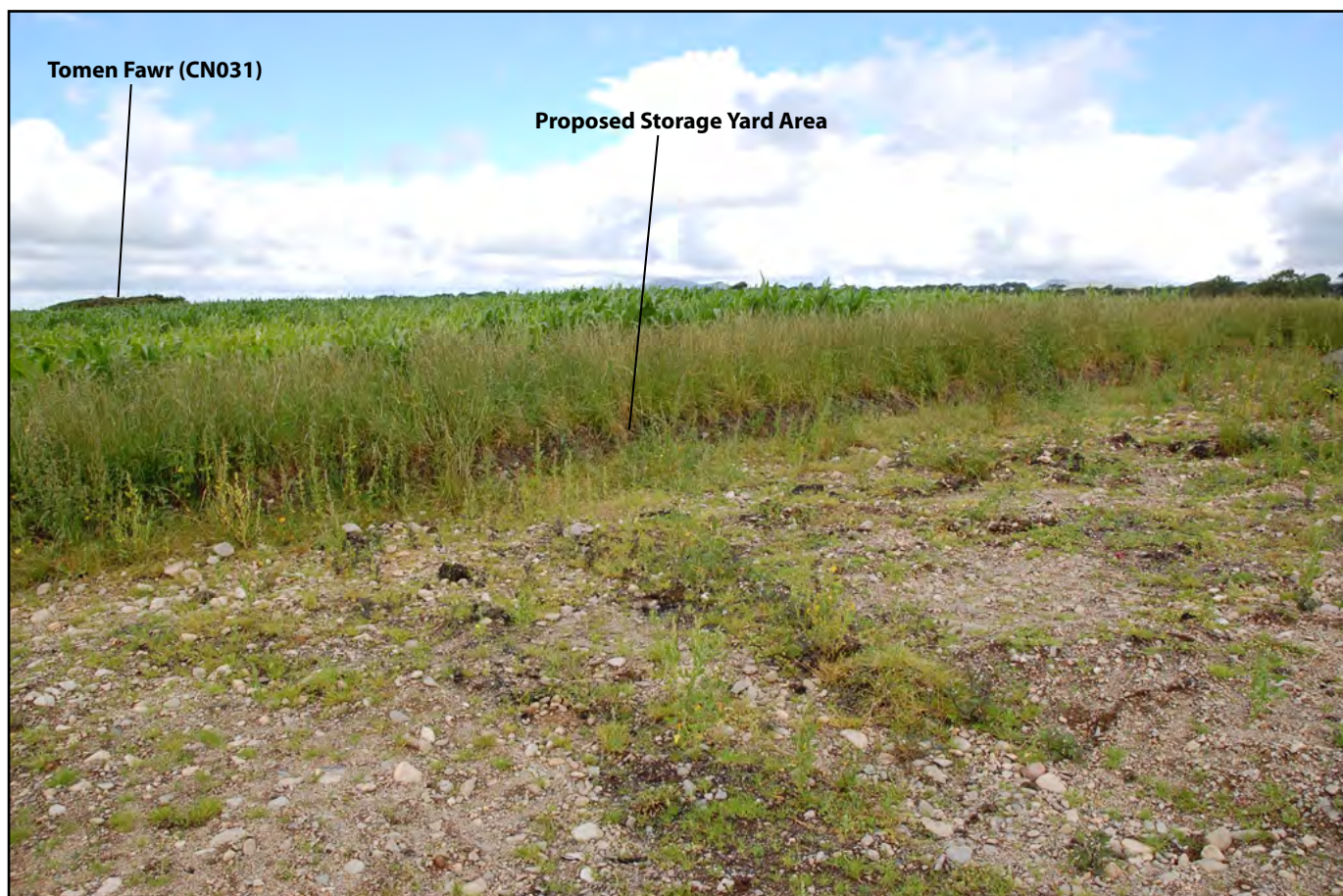


Plate 3: View West of Proposed Storage Yard Area (Note that it has already been partially stripped)

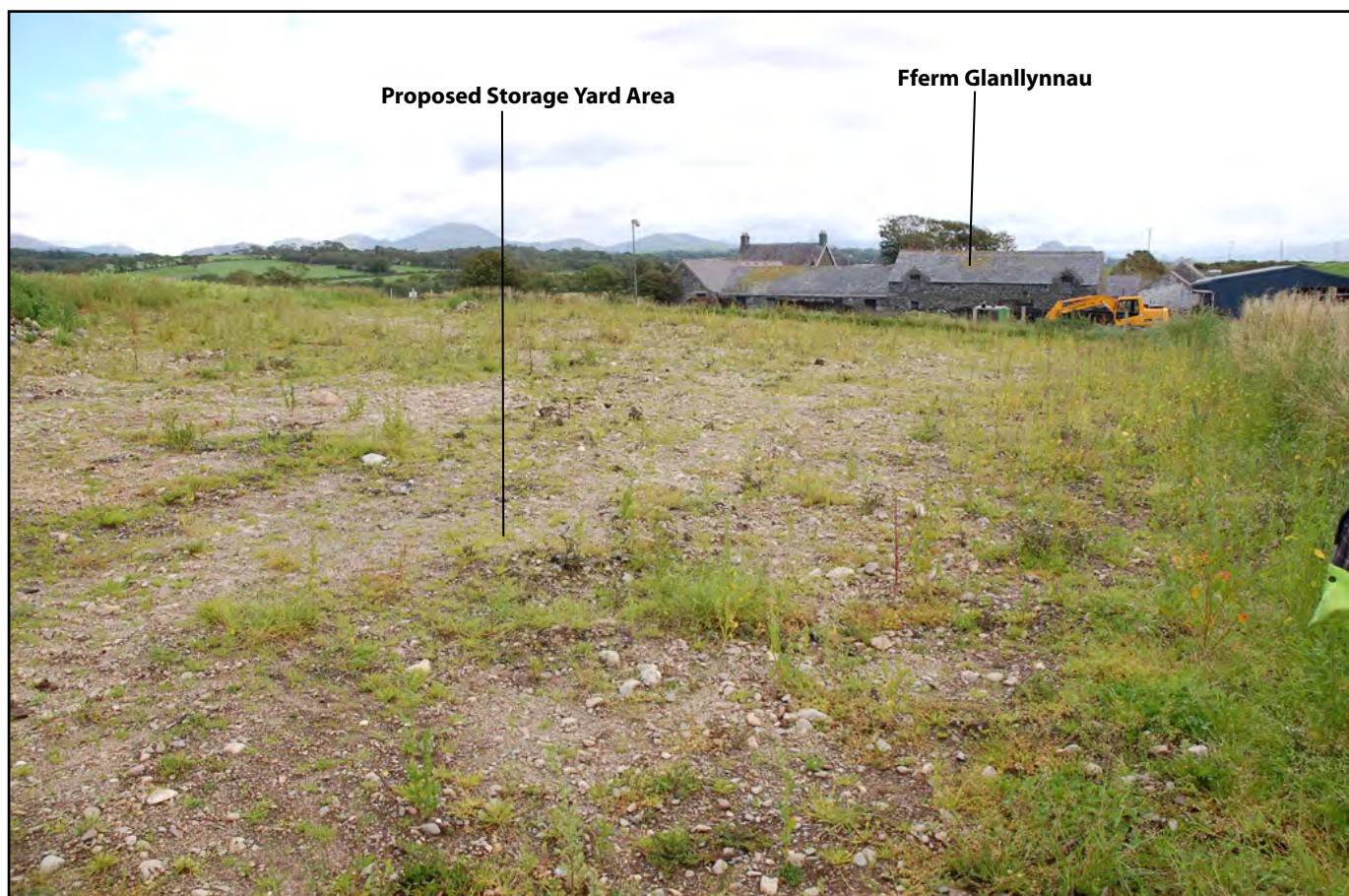


Plate 4: View East of Proposed Storage Yard Area (Note that it has already been partially stripped)



Plate 5: Close-up of Proposed Storage Yard Area Partially Stripped



Plate 6: Close-up of Proposed Storage Yard Area Partially Stripped



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