
Conwy Valley Flood Alleviation Scheme

Additional trial pits near Trefriw



Watching Brief

GAT Project No. 1877

Report No. 696

October 2007

Dyffryn Conwy Flood Alleviation Scheme

Additional trial pits near Trefriw

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 696

Prepared for the Environment Agency

October 2007

By

Tanya Berks

Conwy Valley Flood Alleviation Scheme

Additional trial pits near Trefriw

Figure List:

Figure 1 - Test pit location map

Plate List:

Plate 1 - Test Pit 360

Plate 2 - Test Pit 361

Plate 3 - Test Pit 362

Plate 4 - Test Pit 364

Plate 5 - Test Pit 365

Plate 6 - Test Pit 366

Plate 7 - Test Pit 367

Plate 8 - Test Pit 368

Archaeological Watching Brief (G1877)

SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological work has been undertaken in advance of the proposed Dyffryn Conwy flood alleviation scheme in Trefriw. The programme involved a watching brief of the geological test pits that were dug in a field to the south of the Plas Meirion Caravan Park in Trefriw. No archaeology of any note was revealed in these test pits and evidence was restricted to glacial and alluvial activity.

1 INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust has been asked by the Environment Agency to undertake an archaeological watching brief during test pit digging in advance of the construction of a proposed flood alleviation scheme within the flood plain of the Conwy Valley between Llanrwst and Trefriw (Figure 1).

2 METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

The watching brief took place on the 24th October 2007. The digging of the test pits was undertaken by *White Young Green Environmental* on behalf of *Halcrow* and *The Environment Agency*. The aims of the watching brief were to monitor the excavation of eight geological test pits located within the flood plain between Llanrwst and Trefriw and to record any archaeological features revealed (Figure 1). An 8-tonne backhoe excavator with a 0.50m wide toothed bucket was used throughout the watching brief.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

A detailed topographical and historical description of the study area is given in GAT Report 618.

3.1 Results of the Archaeological Watching Brief

Identified deposits and features were recorded photographically and by notes and sketches. The archive is held by GAT under the project number (G1877).

Each test pit will be described separately. For their individual locations see Figure 1. The test pits were dug to a standard size of 2.00m x 0.50m (l x w) with a target depth of 2.00m. The depth of the test pits were governed by individual circumstances such as collapse and the intrusion of the water table which would prohibit digging to the full depth.

Test Pit 360

Size: 2.00m x 0.50m x 2.00m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located to the north west of the field (Figure 1). The brown clayey topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.25m; below this was firm friable orange brown sandy clay, c.0.40m in depth. Below this was firm friable brown and grey brown slightly sandy clay, c.1.20m in depth. Within this sandy clay was a band of angular fine to coarse gravel of flint, sandstone and quartz. The remainder of the test pit comprised firm grey brown clayey silt with a thin lenses of orange brown fine and medium sand with a slightly organic odour at c.2.00m in depth. (Plate 1).

Interpretation

The test pit was archaeologically sterile.

Test Pit 361

Size: 2.00m x 0.50m x 1.80m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located to the middle of the field (Figure 1). The brown clayey topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.25m; below this was firm friable orange brown sandy clay, c.0.40m in depth. Below this was firm grey brown locally brown mottled orange brown slightly sand clay silt, c.1.70m in depth. The remainder of the test pit comprised grey brown coarse sand and sub-angular to rounded fine to coarse

gravel with some cobbles of flint, sandstone and quartz at c.1.80m in depth. The test pit was abandoned at 1.80m due to the collapse and intake of water into the test pit. (Plate 2).

Interpretation

The test pit was archaeologically sterile.

Test Pit 362

Size: 2.00m x 0.50m x 1.40m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located to the south west of the field (Figure 1). The brown clayey topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.25m; below this was firm orange brown slightly sandy clay, c.0.40m in depth. Below this was firm orange brown and grey brown clay silt with frequent lenses of orange brown fine sand, c.1.10m in depth. The remainder of the test pit comprised of grey brown and orange brown fine to coarse sand and sub-angular to rounded fine to coarse gravel with some cobbles of flint and quartz and sandstone, c.1.40m in depth. The test pit was abandoned at 1.40m due to the collapse and intake of water into the test pit. (Plate 3).

Interpretation

The test pit was archaeologically sterile.

Test Pit 364

Size: 2.00m x 0.50m x 1.40m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located to the north east of the field adjacent to test pit 360 (Figure 1). The brown clayey topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.20m; below this was firm dark grey mottled orange brown slightly sandy clay, c.1.20m in depth. The remainder of the test pit comprised grey very gravely clay with many fragments of brown decaying vegetation. Gravel is sub-angular to rounded fine to coarse of flint, sandstone and quartz at c.1.40m in depth. A strong organic odour was noted. The test pit was abandoned at 1.40m due to the collapse and intake of water. (Plate 4).

Interpretation

The test pit was archaeologically sterile.

Test Pit 365

Size: 2.00m x 0.50m x 2.00m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located to the north west of the field adjacent to test pit 360 (Figure 1). The brown clayey topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.30m; below this was soft to firm orange brown slightly sandy clay, c.0.40m in depth. Below this was firm grey brown and brown mottled orange clay silt, c.1.40m in depth. The remainder of the test pit comprised firm grey brown clayey silt with fragments of brown decaying vegetation at c.2.00m in depth. A strong organic odour was noted. (Plate 5).

Interpretation

The test pit was archaeologically sterile.

Test Pit 366

Size: 2.00m x 0.50m x 1.80m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located to the middle of the field adjacent to test pit 361 (Figure 1). The brown clayey topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.20m; below this was soft to firm orange brown with patches of slightly sandy clay silt, c.1.40m in depth. The remainder of the test pit comprises firm grey brown clay silt, c.1.80m in depth, with fragments of brown decaying vegetation. The test pit was abandoned at 1.80m due to collapse and intake of water. (Plate 6).

Interpretation

The test pit was archaeologically sterile.

Test Pit 367

Size: 2.00m x 0.50m x 1.50m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located to the south west of the field adjacent to test pit 362 (Figure 1). The brown clayey topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.20m; below this was firm friable orange brown and brown sandy clay, c.1.10m in depth. The remainder of the test pit comprises brown and grey brown fine to coarse sand sub-angular to rounded fine to coarse gravel with some cobbles of flint, sandstone and quartz, c.1.50m in depth. The test pit was abandoned at 1.50 m due to collapse and intake of water. (Plate 7).

Interpretation

The test pit was archaeologically sterile.

Test Pit 368

Size: 2.00m x 0.50m x 2.00m (l x w x d)

Description

The test pit was located to the south of the field adjacent to test pit 361 (Figure 1). The brown clayey topsoil was extant to a depth of 0.20m; below this was firm orange brown slightly sandy clay, c.0.40m. Below this was firm grey brown mottled orange brown clay silt with lenses of orange brown fine sand, c.1.50m in depth. The remainder of the test pit comprises grey brown clayey silt with some fragments of brown decaying vegetation, c.2.00m in depth. A slight organic odour was noted. (Plate 8).

Interpretation

The test pit was archaeologically sterile.

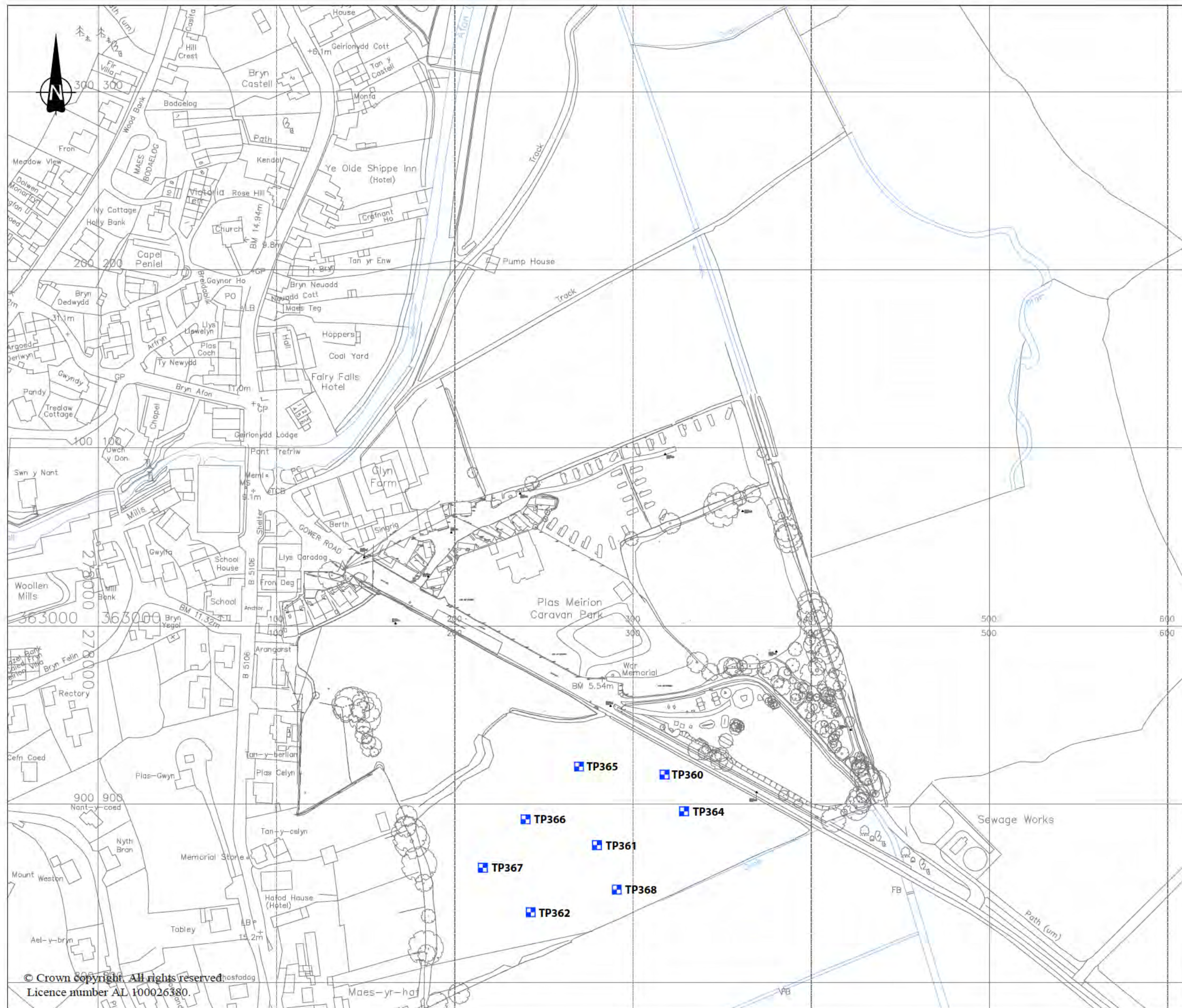
4 CONCLUSION

A total of eight test pits were dug in a field to the south of the Plas Meirion Caravan Park in Trefriw. There was no distinct evidence for archaeological activity within any of them and the information was restricted to geological information regarding the nature of the flood plain activity.

6 REFERENCES AND OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED

GAT Report: 618 Project No. G1877 2005

GAT Report: 622 Project No. G1877 2006



Dyffryn Conwy Flood Alleviation Scheme

Ground Investigation additional trial pits near Trefriw

Scale: 1:2000

Date: 4th October 2007

Figure 1. Location of test pits

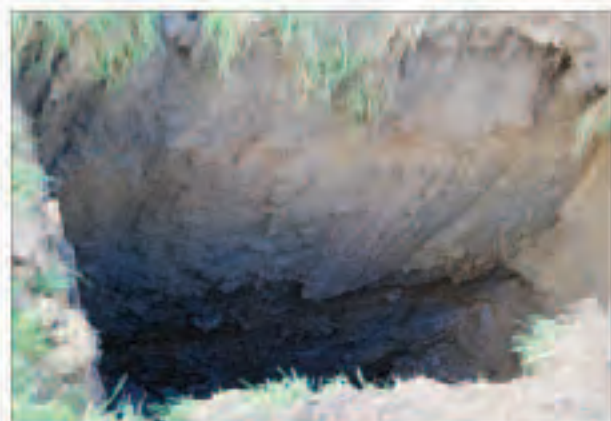


Plate 1. TP360



Plate 2. TP361



Plate 3. TP362



Plate 4. TP364

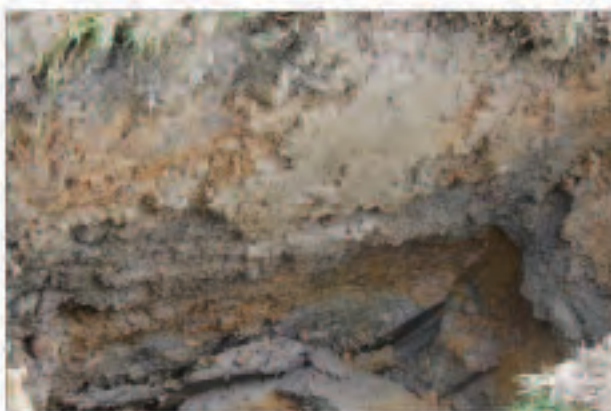


Plate 5. TP365



Plate 6. TP366



Plate 6. TP367



Plate 7. TP368



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH
ARCHAEOLEGOL
GWYNEDD



GWYNEDD
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TRUST

Craig Beuno, Ffordd y Garth, Bangor, Gwynedd. LL57 2RT
Ffon: 01248 352535. Ffacs: 01248 370925. email: gat@heneb.co.uk