
**LAND ADJACENT TO 1 TYN Y MWD,
ABERGWYNGREGYN**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT (G2032)

GAT Report No. 741



Prepared for Town and Country Planning Services (Conway)

August 2008

By
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Cover: Aber motte from rear of 1 Tyn y Mwd

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LAND ADJACENT TO 1 TYN Y MWD ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological assessment was carried out in advance of proposed development of a single dwelling on land adjacent to 1 Tyn y Mwd, Abergwyngregyn. The assessment was a requirement of the application for planning consent and involved a site visit and desktop documentary search. The assessment identified potential for the survival of underground archaeological features from the medieval and later periods. The evaluation of the site by trial trenching was recommended as the most appropriate way of evaluating the archaeological potential.

2. INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) was asked by Town and Country Planning Services (Conway) to carry out an archaeological assessment on land adjoining the east side of 1 Tyn y Mwd, Abergwyngregyn at NGR SH 6562 7272 (Fig. 1). The assessment was required by the Snowdonia National Park Authority (SNP) as a pre-determination condition of a planning application for a single new dwelling. A design brief for an archaeological assessment was prepared by SNP.

The brief identified the proposed development area as one of high archaeological potential. Abergwyngregyn was formerly the site of a court of the medieval princes of Gwynedd, and a motte and adjoining hall may indicate the site of the court. The motte (a scheduled ancient monument, C007) lies adjacent to the study area. In addition, the proposed development lies alongside a road where medieval structures are likely.

Acknowledgements

Thanks for useful comments are due to David Longley (GAT), David Hopewell (GAT) and John Griffith Roberts (SNP). Adele Thackray (GAT) is thanked for her help on the field visit.

3. PROJECT BRIEF AND SPECIFICATION

The work was carried out according to a brief supplied by the Snowdonia National Park Authority (Appendix 3) and according to accepted guidelines for such work (IFA 2001). The basic requirement was for a field visit and desktop study. The potential for the presence and survival of and value of any archaeological and palaeo-environmental remains were to be assessed. Recommendations for further work or for

methods to mitigate the effects of construction were to be stated and are contained in this report

The proposed site plan by Town and Country Planning Services (Conway) showed a single new dwelling, north-south in the middle of the plot, set back a little way from the existing road.

4. METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

Desk top study

This comprised the study of documents, maps and photographs in the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record (HER), in the archive of projects at the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, in the Archive of the University of Bangor and the on-line catalogues of the National Library of Wales and of the Gwynedd County Council Archives. The assessment also benefited from a study of documentary resources for Aber, previously undertaken by GAT as part of an assessment of the historic landscape of the Aber Valley (Gwyn 2001), and from a recent assessment undertaken within the garden of the former Aber Hotel (Smith 2008).

The databases of the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record and RCAHMW CARN on-line historic record were also consulted.

Fields in the vicinity of the development were identified on the Tithe map and apportionment for Aber along with their owners, tenants, field names and recorded land usage.

Field Visit

The development area was visited on Thursday 29th May 2008 when the weather was excellent and conditions ideal for a field visit. A descriptive and photographic record was made, and measurements were taken. A second visit was undertaken with the client on Friday 22 August to view the location of the sewer pipe and discuss access issues.

Report

Paper and digital copies of this report will be given to the client (2 copies), to the SNP (3 copies) and to the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record (1 copy). A digital copy of the report on disc together with the assessment archive of papers and photographs will be filed at GAT Historic Environment Record as Project No. G2032.

5. GENERAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Note: this section is, in part, reproduced from a previous study (GAT Report No 715; Smith 2008a) which discusses the same general background.

5.1 Topographic background

The Aber Valley is a deep and steep-sided narrow valley with glacial origins, as shown by the truncated stream valleys that enter it, with waterfalls over steep valley sides. The river has also later worn down through the glacial debris on the valley floor creating a small gorge. At the mouth of the valley, close to the Aber Falls Hotel at 25m OD, the river enters a narrow coastal plain. This is gently sloping, formed of the outwash delta of glacial materials from the mountains around. At its north edge it consists of fine sediments only a few metres above maximum high tide and is eroding into the sea. Three topographic areas are therefore relevant to the development area - the coastal plain, the valley and the uplands around. The proposed development site lies about 30m north of the motte at the mouth of the valley as it opens out into the narrow coastal plain.

5.2 Statutory and Non-Statutory Designations

The site lies within the Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest for Wales No. 30 North Arllechwedd (Cadw 1998), and lies within the Snowdonia National Park.

Within 500m of the proposed development area there are two Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM), Aber motte (C007, PRN 370¹), about 30m to the south of the proposed development, and an enclosure and structures at Pen y Bryn about 180m to the east (C218, PRN 1704). There are fourteen listed buildings within 500m of the development, listed at Grade II unless otherwise stated. Pen y Bryn house (PRN 5886, Grade II*), a barn at Pen y Bryn (PRN 12598, Grade II*), and a cottage east of Pen y Bryn (PRN 11404) all lie to the north-east of the development site on the slopes above the east bank of the Afon Aber. St. Bodfan's rectory (PRN 11458) lies about 200m to the west of the development. Three listed buildings are located about 60m to the south of the development and immediately to the west of the motte, a pair of cottages at Tan-y-Dderwen (PRNs 22,907 and 22911) and Bron Derw (PRN 22912). Further south along Gadlys are six listed cottages, Ddol (PRNs 22904 and 22913), Tyn-y-Buarth (PRN 22905), Fron (PRN 22915), Bryn Hyfryd (PRN 22906) and Bro Dawel (PRN 22914). About 250m south of the development site is Ty'n Ffridd (PRN 81043), an early 19th century labourer's cottage.

5.3 Archaeological and Historical background

The proposed development site lies on the west side of the river channel at the northern edge of the village at the junction between the valley and the coastal plain. The Gwynedd Historic Environment record shows 17 features within about 500m of the proposed development (Fig. 1 and Appendix 1) but the wider area has numerous recorded features. The upland to the south and the valley floor were well used in the

¹ PRN = Primary Reference Number – the unique identifying number used within the Historic Environment Record.

prehistoric period as shown by the presence of several cairns of Bronze Age type on the hill-tops and ridges as well as remains of settlements and fields. Some of the latter in the uplands may be of the Bronze Age, but most are likely to be of the Iron Age, continuing into the Roman period. These later settlements were probably associated with a hillfort, Maes-y-Gaer to the south-east, overlooking the entrance to the valley and the first indication of a territorial focus at Aber.

The Gwynedd Historic Environment Record shows that, in contrast to the uplands, the coastal plain has relatively few recorded prehistoric remains. The better-drained uplands were probably traversed by trackways and cleared and settled at an earlier period than the lowlands. Nevertheless there are some finds from the plain in this area including a Neolithic stone axe (PRN 7478), an Early Bronze Age stone axe-hammer (PRN 4071) and two mounds of burnt stone (PRNs 927 and 4092), thought to represent cooking places of the 2nd millennium BC, the nearest 550m to the east.

There is some evidence that the plain was settled and farmed in the Iron Age and Roman period indicating that most remains of such settlement have been removed by subsequent centuries of clearance and ploughing. For instance, some earthworks of roundhouses survive at Wern Newydd (PRN 257), 2km to the north-east and remains of a probable settlement enclosure have been seen on aerial photographs of crop marks in fields near Tal-y-Bont 1.5km to the west (PRN 12728).

The settlements on the coastal plain would almost certainly have continued in use during the Roman period, when agricultural settlements in the area generally seem to have flourished. At this time a road was created along the landward edge of the coastal plain, connecting the Roman forts at Caerhun and Caernarfon. Its position has been identified by the discovery of a Roman milestone (PRN 368) at Madryn Farm 1km to the north-east of Aber and by traces seen on aerial photographs as crop marks in fields near Madryn Farm to the east, as well as to the west near to Tal-y-Bont (Hopewell 2007, 7). The alignment shown by these cropmarks suggest that close to Aber the Roman road lay on a similar line to the later turnpike road and so has been removed or overlain by it and probably crossed the river at a similar place (Hopewell 2007, Map 4).

Possibly the earliest settlement at Aber itself is indicated by the church of St Bodfan on a rise in ground 300m to the west of the proposed development (Fig. 1, 1628). The original church was demolished and rebuilt but it lies within a sub-circular enclosure (or *llan*). Such features can indicate an Early Medieval foundation and the earliest ecclesiastical settlement would have developed around the church (Johnstone 1995).

It was control of the crossing point at the junction of the coastal road and another taking the upland route through the valleys that was the key to Aber's importance and the reason why a small castle on a mound or motte was built there, possibly during a campaign by the Norman Earl of Chester during an unsuccessful attempt to subjugate Gwynedd between 1081-1090. Later, when Gruffudd ap Cynan re-asserted the independence of Gwynedd and established administrative control he made Aber the *llys* or court of the commote of Arllechwedd Uchaf. The hall that was built there became one of the favourite residences of the princes of Gwynedd. The valley was a sheltered place and its position facing the priory at Penmon may also have made it attractive. The earliest antiquarian description was by Leland in the 1530's who stated

‘The moode in the parish of Aber otherwise Llan Boduan, wher Tussog Lluelin uab Gerwerd Trundoon had a castle or palace on a hill by the church, whereof yet parte stondith’. Excavations in 1993 to the south of the motte revealed the foundations of a hall close to the castle mound of Ty’n y Mwd, associated with pottery of the 13th-14th and 15th century, a ring-brooch of 13th-14th century style and a coin of 1335-43 (Johnstone 1994, 1995, 1997 and 2000; Longley 1997, Fig. 8). A topographic survey and three dimensional terrain model of the motte in advance of consolidation works was carried out on the motte in 2004 (Davidson and Victoroff 2005).

The hall of the *llys* lay close to the motte and within a curvilinear enclosure believed to be the bailey or castle yard, probably defined by the roads to the west (Figs.1,2,4). The village grew up around the west side of this bailey enclosure. In the late 13th century 24 families were recorded as living there (Lewis 1912, 175). After the death of Llywelyn the Manor of Aber passed through various hands and although still maintained for some time the hall eventually fell into decay. However, the village continued and in 1339 was granted the right to hold a weekly market and a fair three times a year (*ibid*). It seems to have flourished because of its position on the crossroads at the junction of the valley and coastal road and the route from the coastal road across the Lavan Sands for the ferry across to Anglesey, which was the chief route across the Straits until the opening of Telford's bridge in 1826. This route was also a droving route, which took the valley road over the hills and may have therefore been associated with the Aber fairs.

The coastal road originally crossed the Aber River by a bridge 40m north of the study area, and close to the Aber Falls Hotel, but a new bridge was built in about 1839 a little to the north with a new length of road, which then bypassed the village on that side (UB BH/6895, Fig. 3).

In 1610 the manor was acquired by the Thomas family of Coed Helen, and it passed into the hands of the Bulkeley Estate of Baron Hill (Anglesey) in 1689, and then in the late 19th century it was purchased by the Penrhyn estate (Johnstone 2000, 170; Baron Hill Ms 4726-8; Penrhyn Ms 1180). The Tithe map of 1848 (Fig. 4) shows that the area now occupied by the development area (field no. 18) had a building along the street frontage, no earlier estate maps have been located.

In the 1860 parts of Abergwyngregyn were developed as an estate village by the Douglas-Pennant's of Penrhyn. The nine listed cottages within the village along Gadlys and Tyn Y Mwd were built in the picturesque ‘vernacular revival’ Penrhyn estate style (PRNs 22907, 22911, 22912, 22904, 22913, 22905, 22915, 22906 and 22914). This was an important element in making Aber an attractive place for the increasing numbers of visitors travelling through on their way to Aber falls.

6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

6.1 Results of Site Visit

The development plot lies to the north of 1 Tyn y Mwd on the street frontage (Plate 1). It is in two sections, to the west lies a garden plot, and to the east an agricultural shed. The garden, used until recently by the occupiers of 1 Tyn y Mwd, is separated

from the house by a path and low wall, with a small gate through the wall (Plate 2). The garden consists of an area 12.1m north-south along the street frontage, and 15m east west. It is enclosed by irregular rubble built stone walls with cock and hen capping. The wall fronting the street has been recently rebuilt. The east wall, which also forms the west wall of the agricultural shed, is a mixture of quarried stone, large beach pebbles, and contains quarry tiles and other 19th century material in its make up and can be suggested to be of that date (Plate 4). A former entrance into the field to the east can be seen in the south east corner of the wall, which was blocked up by the building of the agricultural shed. This shed (Plate 5) was built in the mid 20th century and is to be demolished as part of the proposed development.

Within the garden a north-south ridge was observed, along with two less substantial ones running east-west (Plate 3). It was difficult to characterise these, and probably they represent divisions and paths within the garden, but it is possible they are indicative of surviving deposits relating to earlier buildings along the street frontage, noted on the tithe map of 1848, and shown on a postcard dated 1887 (Fig. 6). The plot has been used as a herb garden and five fruit trees were noted.

A substantial service trench for sewerage runs west-east along the south edge of the garden plot, and immediately north of the wall separating the garden from 1 Ty'n y Mwd (Plate 2). It continues through the east wall, across the shed, and into the field beyond (Fig 9). According to the owner of the property the pipe was buried to a good depth (perhaps 2m or more) and all archaeology will have been destroyed along the line of the trench.

The east part of the development area is now occupied by an open fronted agricultural building, which extends the development area some 13m east of the garden wall (Plate 6). The western wall of this building is superimposed on the boundary wall described above, and the building is of 20th century breeze block construction.

The field east of the agricultural building is bounded on the south by the motte and the edge of the scheduled area, and on the north by a steep break of slope above the mill leat (the tail race) below. The break of slope appears to have been caused by former flooding, or perhaps even a more southerly alignment, of the Afon Aber. The sewer trench mentioned above runs through the south part of the shed, and into the field beyond. A manhole lies in the field east of the building. A linear feature curving round from the south and apparently running through the shed is visible on an aerial photograph (Fig 7). The feature may be the sewer trench, which is visible on the ground as a slight depression, but it is difficult to be certain, and it may represent an earlier boundary, perhaps relating to the outer edge of the medieval bailey.

6.2 Previous archaeological work

Three excavations have been undertaken in the past that help assess the potential of this study.

Evaluation excavations were undertaken in 2008 in the garden of the Aber Falls Hotel (Smith 2008b). Two trenches were excavated. Trench 1, located to the south of the garden, revealed that modern topsoil lay directly over orange sub-soil, interpreted as glacial clay, with rounded boulders *in situ*. There were no features or finds apart

from those of the 19th and 20th century. Trench 2 was located further to the north, where there were several buried horizons. The uppermost was made-ground to level up the area for a tennis court, now destroyed. Below lay the pre-tennis court agricultural soil and subsoil, and below again lay the glacial clay.

The excavation to the south of the motte at Ty'n y Mwd revealed evidence for a single course of foundations of a medieval hall house, which can possibly be associated with the *llys* at Aber (Johnstone 1994, 3). The building had been robbed to foundation level and only these footings remained, with no surviving floors and there were no subsoil features, with the subsoil of the valley floor being very stony, with small boulders (Fig. 8). The building can probably be interpreted as a three unit, winged hall house. Medieval pottery was found which dated the site to the 13th and 14th centuries. It is possible that further structures associated with the medieval *llys* at Aber could exist in the area of the motte under investigation to the north, though unless they lie partially terraced into a slope, these are also likely to be truncated by subsequent robbing and ploughing.

Several areas were investigated by GAT in advance of construction of the A55 north of Aber (Kelly 1994). One area investigated (Area A) lay on the north side of the old road. An initial surface collection proved unproductive. This was followed by geophysical survey which identified a number of potential anomalies. Fifteen trenches, each about 20m by 1m, were excavated to investigate these. The agricultural ploughed topsoil was removed by machine and the rest cleaned by hand. This showed that all the geophysical anomalies were either natural periglacial features, post-medieval drains or other services, and no other features or finds were identified (*ibid.* 4).

6.3 Aerial Photography

An aerial photograph of the area (Fig. 7) shows a possible linear feature to the northeast of the motte, which might indicate the survival of an enclosure ditch for the castle bailey, though it lies close to the line of the sewer pipe, and may reflect construction of the pipeline. Earlier vertical RAF 1946 aerial photographs held at the National Monuments Record in Aberystwyth, which pre-dated the sewer installation, did not show this features, nor any others of relevance.

6.4 Bore Hole Data and Geomorphology

No bore hole data is available from this site. The excavations undertaken to date (see 6.2 above) suggest the geomorphology is likely to consist of deep disturbed topsoils overlying boulder clay, probably with significant quantities of boulders within the matrix.

6.5 Environmental Potential and Faunal Remains

Recent excavations in the vicinity (Kelly 1994, Johnstone 1994, Smith 2008b) did not find deposits with good potential for the survival of environmental evidence. The study area is not significantly different from the areas already investigated, and because of this, and because of previous disturbance both from the former existence

of a cottage and use of the site as a garden, it is believed the environmental potential will be limited.

6.6 Artefactual Potential

Artefacts recovered are likely to consist mainly of 19th and 20th century material, although it is possible that medieval and post-medieval artefacts could be encountered.

6.7 General Archaeological Potential

In terms of prehistoric activity, any places close to water courses are frequently the site of prehistoric settlement or of cooking activity. The possibility of such activity in this area is supported by the discovery of two such sites in the vicinity, PRN 927 (Kelly 1994) and PRN 4092 (White 1972).

River crossing or bridging points are also places where the focussing of routes creates likely conditions for activity and this would be so here for the Roman and Medieval periods. Evidence of such activity is usually limited to chance finds of single objects or occasionally caches of coins instance.

The location of a medieval settlement here has already been established (above 5.3) The old east-west road adjoins a triangle of land between two roads entering the valley and it has been suggested that this area might originally have been a village green, and perhaps the site of the weekly market (Smith 2008, 8). Tyn y Mwd lies on the east side of this triangle, and might be expected to lie within the nucleated settlement, though there is no clear evidence for this.

An account of 1333 AD records that 11 Flemish weavers were living in the village suggesting a shortage of skilled labour (Gwyn 2001, 3.2.4.2). However, there is a clear possibility that the village would have shrunk in the later medieval period, as happened widely across Britain after the Black Death but there were no property boundaries marked on the north side of the old road at the time of the Tithe Map. The village would also have benefited from passing and probably increasing traffic. Parish births and deaths registers show that the population of the village was about the same between 1682 to 1731 as it was in the 19th century, although it rose somewhat in the middle before falling again (Owen 1953, 81). There is, then, no clear evidence to indicate that there was more extensive settlement in the medieval period, although, on comparative evidence, it is likely. It was probably not until the opening of the railway, which caused the end of the Beaumaris Ferry and of cattle droving that the village became more of a backwater, although benefiting somewhat from its popularity as a scenic area for early tourism.

6.3 Potential for survival within the study area

The potential for the former existence of medieval archaeological remains at 1 Tyn y Mwd is high. Its location close to the motte to the north, and within the possible bailey strongly suggests that it lies within an area of former nucleated medieval settlement, with the likely presence of buildings and other structures.

The 1848 tithe map of the parish of Aber shows buildings along the street frontage in the area of development (Fig. 4), so there is the possibility of finding post-medieval structural remains also. These are possibly the cottages noted on a photograph held by a local resident (Fig. 6) and dated to the late 1880s showing single storey stone-built cottages lying along the road adjacent to the application area.

However, though the potential for the existence of former settlement is high, conditions are not particularly favourable for archaeological survival. This suggests that whilst there is a significant likelihood of the identification of archaeological sites in this area they might well be truncated. This risk of truncation on the site of 1 Tyn y Mwd is made more likely owing to the former presence of 19th century buildings on the plot, and its more recent use as a garden.

7. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

- Prehistoric cooking activity close to water courses is a fairly frequent occurrence and any evidence that might have been present here would have been greatly affected by heavy use in more recent times. However, these activities leave quite widespread evidence in the form of spread of burnt stone which could be identified during evaluation.
- Use of the bridge and road from Roman times onward would also have been affected by later use and unlikely to leave any recordable traces.
- There is strong potential for the presence of medieval structures in the development area which, if present, would still be identifiable, despite modern interference such as the sewerage trench, as features such as wall footings, drains or rubbish pits.
- There is a high probability of post-medieval remains along the street frontage.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- The visual setting of the motte will be slightly affected, particularly the view from the south and east, both in terms of the infilling of a vacant plot and the removal of an agricultural building. However the proposed development is at a similar scale to the surrounding properties, and this should cause minimal impact upon the Scheduled Ancient Monument. In terms of the development lying within the *Register of Outstanding Landscape of Historic Interest* No. 30, it will not cause significant loss of historic meaning either to the landscape itself or the capacity to understand it (Cadw 2007, 12).
- The plot of land is made up of very disturbed ground with significant quantities of rubble, and ephemeral remains of modern sub-divisions into areas of garden and fruit trees. This area does not seem particularly suitable for geophysical survey. It is possible that it could be carried out to the rear of the open fronted shed on the east side of the plot behind 1 Tyn y Mwd,

however the area available would be very small, and it is partially disturbed by the sewer trench. This method is therefore not recommended.

- The possibility of the survival of features relating to medieval and later buildings can only be confirmed by actually testing the presence of any archaeological remains by a programme of field evaluation. It is therefore suggested that three evaluation trenches should be excavated within the area of the proposed development (Fig. 9). These would comprise about 15% of the total area, and would be best positioned so as to sample the area as evenly as possible. It is recommended that two should be placed within the garden plot west of the agricultural building, one behind the property boundary wall along Ty'n y Mwd, as medieval and later buildings may exist along this frontage, which would be 6m by 2m, and one at right angles to that trench about 1m inside northern property boundary, 12m by 2m. These would avoid the east-west sewer trench and the fruit trees which are to be replanted. The third trench should be located north-south within the agricultural building to the east, also 6m by 2m, to test especially for the survival of archaeological evidence of outlying structures and possible enclosure ditches associated with Aber motte. The presence of known underground services have been taken into account, therefore the trenches have been placed to avoid the east-west sewerage trench. Access to the garden will be through the front garden wall (rebuilt at the time of the sewerage trench excavation), and across the field to the agricultural building to the rear of the property for the third trench.
- The results would provide allow a valid and conclusive assessment to be made. It would enable the possible presence of a possible bailey ditch enclosure to be investigated, and for the possible presence of post-medieval buildings along the street frontage.

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Pictures

- Aber, Anon, c. 1880. On line Archives, Gwynedd County Council Archives XS/1491/50.
- Aber, Rowlandson, c. 1797. On line Archives, National Library of Wales Archives PD 9371.
- Postcard of Cottages on Ty'n y Mwd in about 1887. Private Collection

Photographs

- Aerial photographs courtesy coll. Mr D. Longley.
- Aerial photographs in coll. of RCAHMW. Copies in GAT Roman Roads in North-West Wales, Project G1632 survey archive.

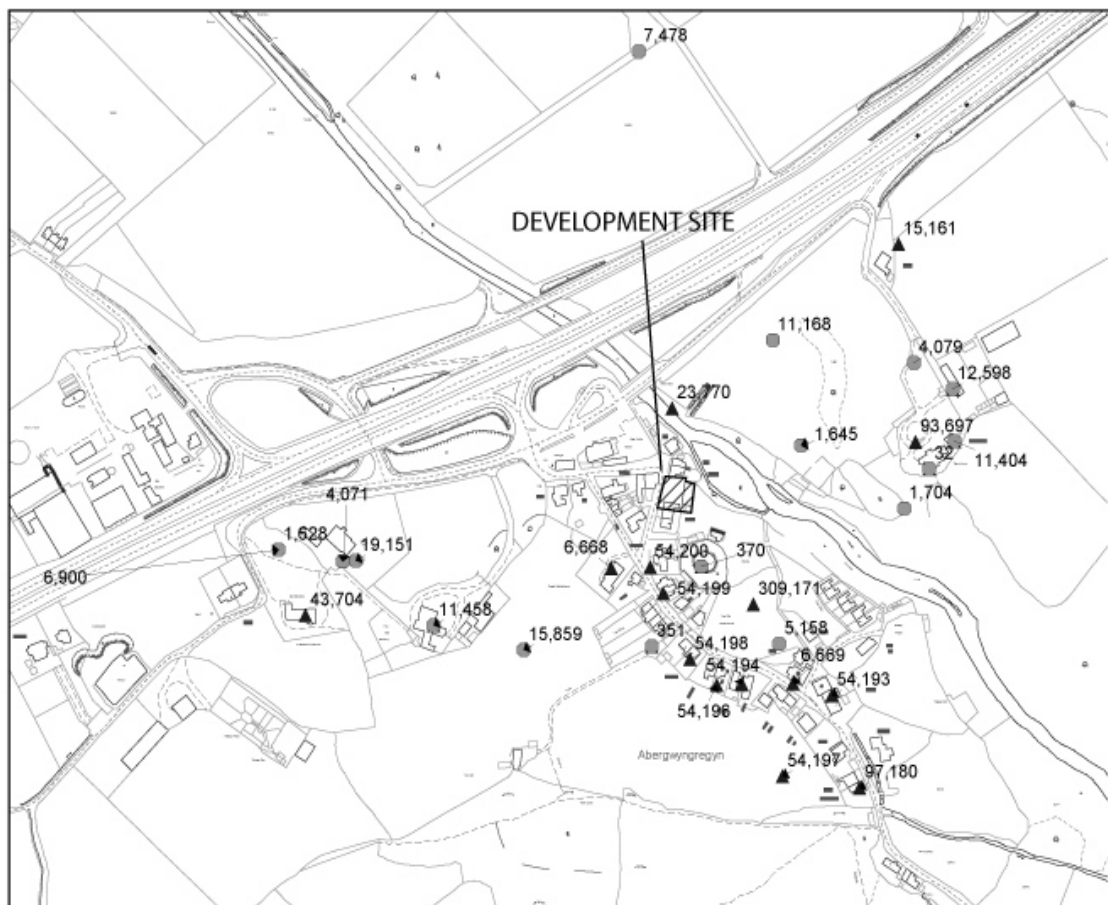


Fig.1 The location of the development site and of all recorded archaeological and historic features within 500m. Scale 1:5000
Based on OS 1:10,000 scale maps.
© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100020895.

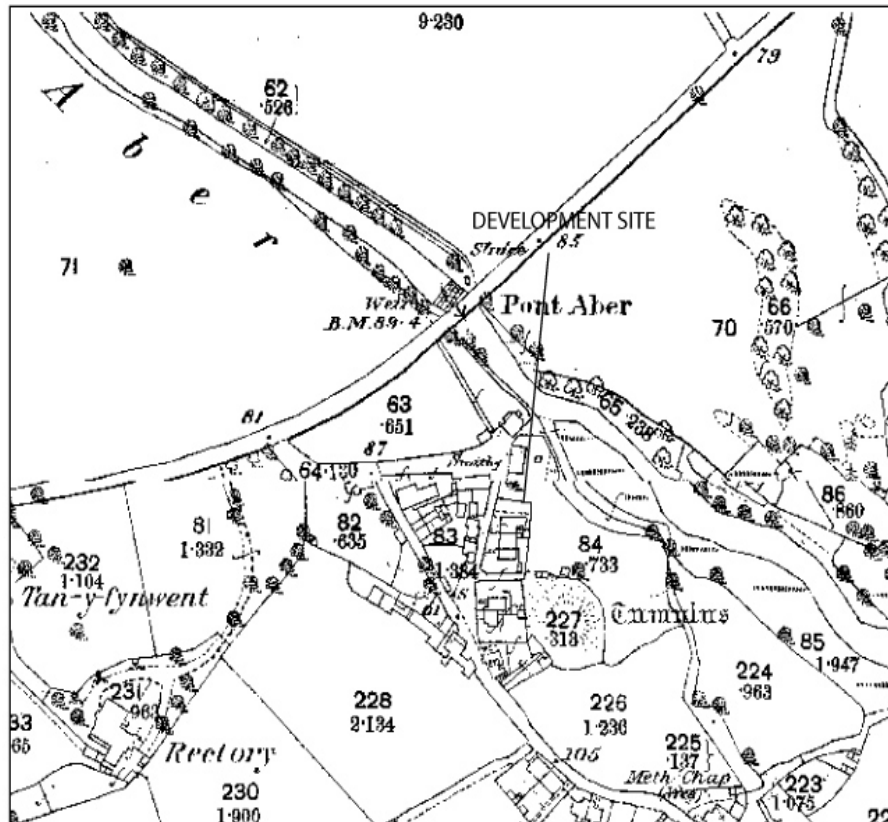


Fig.2 Ordnance Survey First Edition 1:2500 map 1889
(Annotated, Not to scale)



Fig. 3 Drawing of Penmaenmawr headland from Aber church hill by Rowlandson, 1797,
showing the pre-turnpike road, bridge and smithy in the right foreground.
The site of the development is to the right of the group of people in the right foreground
(National Library of Wales PD 9371)

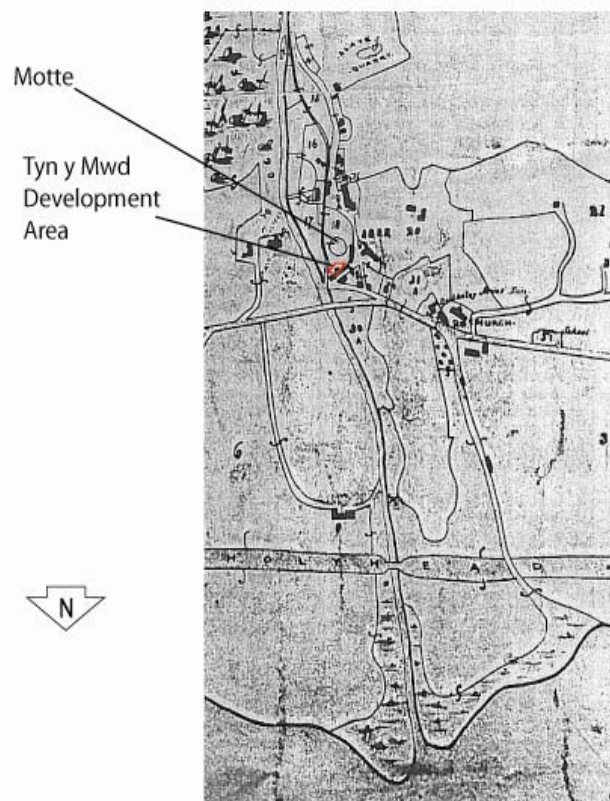


Fig.4 Tithe map for the parish of Aber, 1848 (Annotated), after construction of the new bridge and showing the line of the new railway



Fig.5 Ordnance Survey First Edition 1 inch to 1 mile map, 1860's (Enlarged, not to scale)

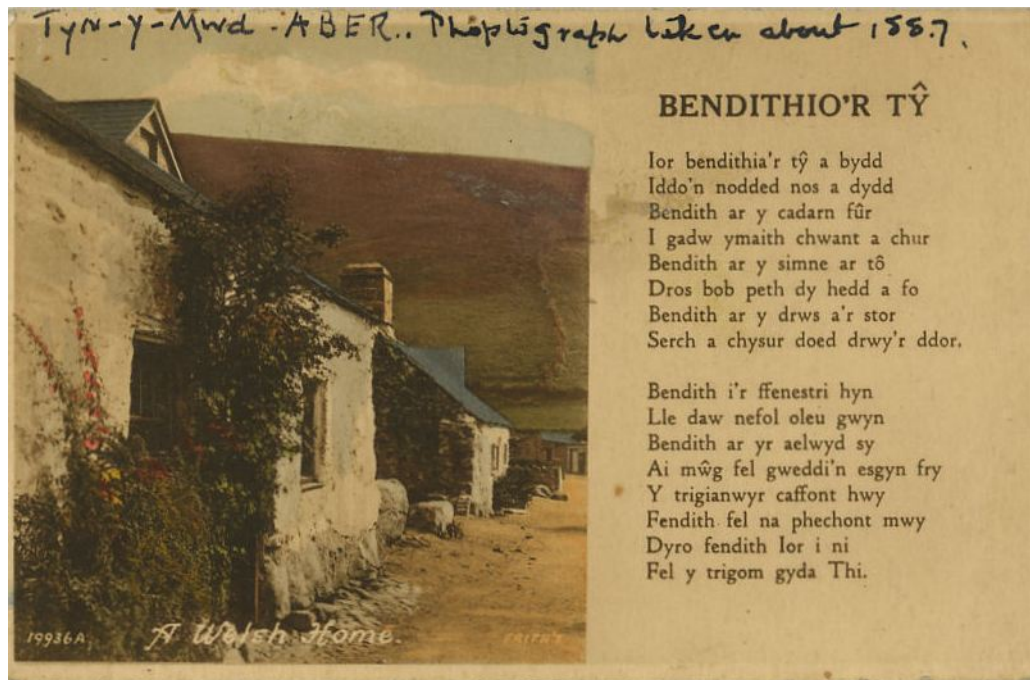


Fig. 6 A postcard showing cottages on Tyn y Mwd in about 1887. *From the collection of Hywel Thomas. The annotation was carried out by the owner's grandfather.*



Fig. 7 An aerial photograph of Aber taken from the southwest showing the development area on the left of the image. A possible linear feature or ditch is shown to the right of the agricultural shed, to the northeast of the motte, which could represent a bailey enclosure. Red marks indicate possible line. *From the collection of D. Longley*

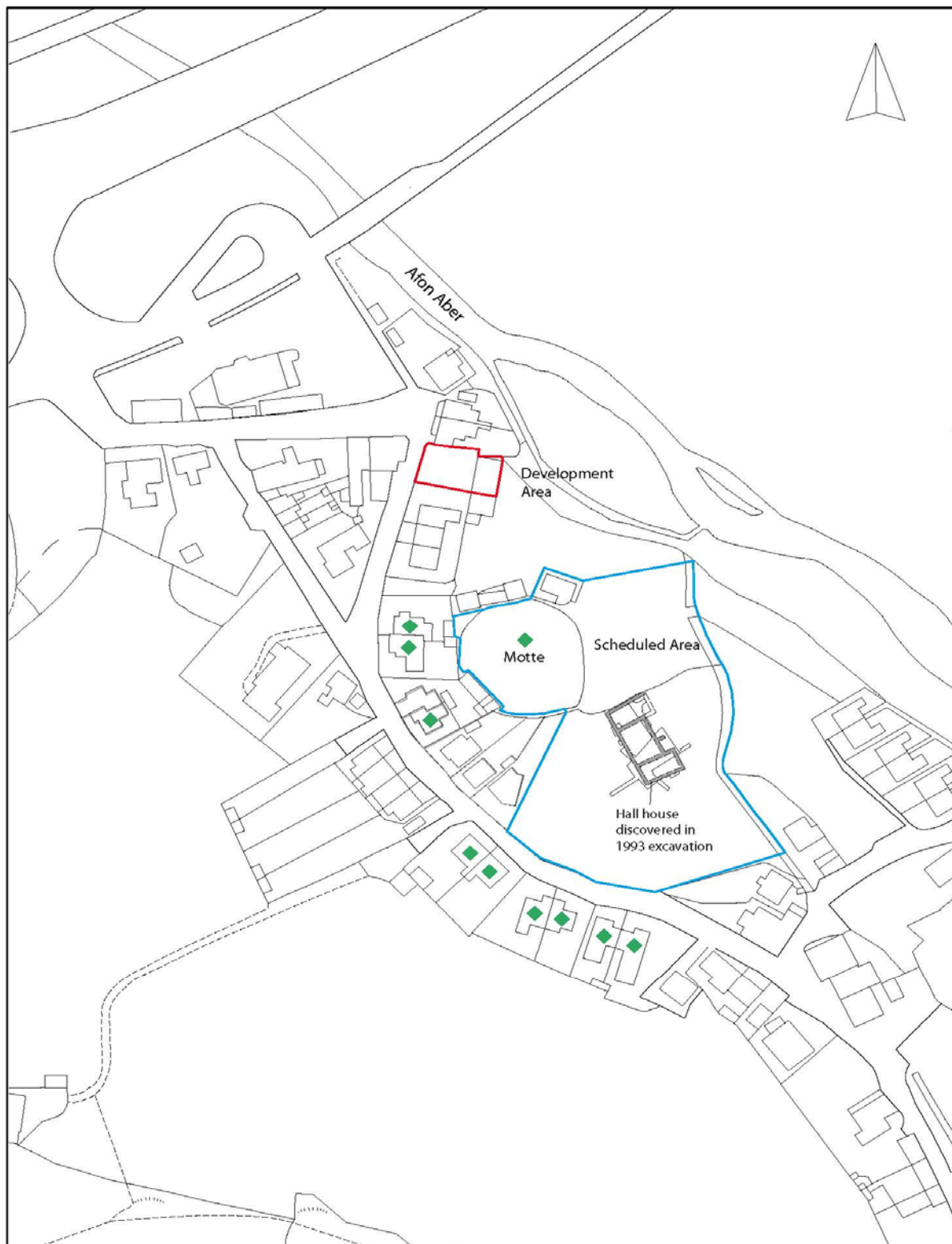


Fig. 8 Plan showing development area (outlined in red), the motte Scheduled Ancient Monument area (C007, outlined in blue) and Listed Buildings (green diamonds). 1:1,500

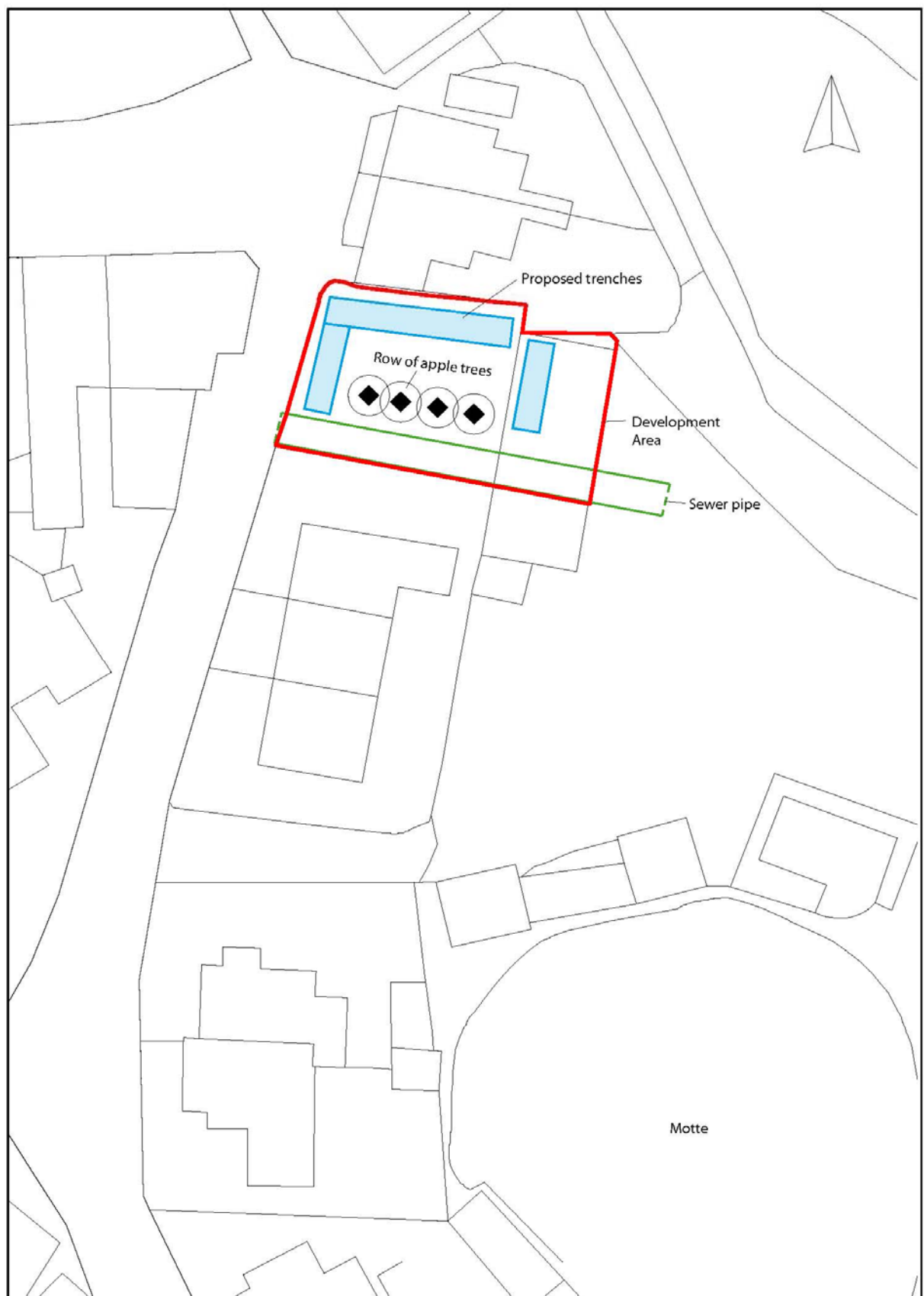


Fig. 9 Suggested layout of proposed evaluation trenches (blue), avoiding apple trees and sewer pipe (green). 1:375



Plate 1 The development area from the south



Plate 2 1 Tyn Y Mwd from the north, showing plot boundary wall to the south



Plate 3 North-south ridge within garden plot at 1 Tyn y Mwd



Plate 4 Eastern property boundary showing quarry tile



Plate 5 View of outbuilding (centre), and 20th century shed to right at 1 Tyn y Mwd



Plate 6 View from motte of development area showing shed and agricultural building

APPENDIX 1

List of archaeological and Historic features within 500m of the proposed development area recorded in the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record

PRN	SITE NAME	NGR	STAT NO	SITE STAT	GLOSSARY SITE TYPE	PERIOD
370	Motte, Pen Y Mwd, Aber	SH65647266	C007	SAM	Motte	Medieval
1628	Church, Abergwyngregyn	SH65317268			Church	Early-Medieval
1645	Building Foundations, Near Pen Y Bryn	SH65727275			Building	Medieval
1704	Enclosure & Assoc. Structures, Pen Y Bryn	SH65807270	C218	SAM	Enclosure	Medieval
4071	Axe Hammer - Findspot, College Farm, Aber	SH65367267			Findspot	Prehistoric
4079	Urn Burial - Findspot, Pen Y Bryn Manor	SH65817281A			Burial	Prehistoric
5158	Excavation - Pen Y Mwd, Aber	SH65707260C			House	Medieval
5886	Pen Y Bryn House, Aber	SH65827273	GII*	LB	House	Medieval
6813	Aber Medieval Township	SH65607260			Township	Medieval
6900	Aber Parish Church	SH65317268			Church	Modern
7478	Graig Lwyd Axe - Findspot, Henfaes, Aber	SH65607305			Findspot	Prehistoric
11168	Toll Road, Pen Y Bryn Farm, Aber	SH65707283			Toll Road	Post-Medieval
11404	Pen-Y-Bryn Cott., E. of Penybryn	SH65847275	GII	LB	House	Post-Medieval
11458	St. Bodfan's Rectory	SH65437262	GII	LB	Building	Post-Medieval
12598	Pen-Y-Bryn, Barn, Aber	SH65847279	GII	LB	Outbuilding	Post-Medieval
15859	Abergwyngregyn - Landscape	SH65507260			Landscape	Multi-period
19151	The Bull's Head, Aber	SH65377267			Coaching Inn	Post-Medieval

APPENDIX 2

List of archaeological and Historic features within 500m of the proposed development area recorded in the RCAHMW CARN Historic Environment Record

NPRN	NAME	NGR	TYPE	PERIOD	STATUS
32	Pen-Y-Bryn	SH65827273	House	Post Medieval	
351	Ty'n-Y-Mwd	SH656726	House	Post Medieval	
6668	Bethlehem Chapel (Welsh Calvinistic Methodist; Aber), Abergwyngregyn	SH65577266	Chapel	Post Medieval	
6669	Soar Methodist Chapel (Wesleyan), Abergwyngregyn	SH65717257	Chapel	Post Medieval	
15161	Pen-Y-Bryn	SH658729	Settlement	Medieval?	
16707	Pen-Y-Bryn Cottage East of Penybryn House	SH65847275	Dwelling	Post Medieval	LB II
16824	St. Bodfan's Rectory	SH65437262	House	Post Medieval?	LB II
23770	Bridge Abutments	SH65627278	Bridge	Post Medieval?	
31424	Pen-Y-Bryn, Barn, Aber	SH65847279	Outbuilding	Post Medieval?	LB II
43704	St Bodfari's Church; St Bodfan's Church, Aber	SH65337263	Church	Post Medieval	
54193	Mill, Aber	SH65747256	Corn Mill	Post Medieval	
54194	Bryn Hyfrid And Bro Dawel, Aber	SH65677257	Dwelling	Post Medieval	LB II
54196	Fron And Ty'n-Y-Buarth, Aber	SH65657257	Dwelling	Post Medieval	LB II
54197	Cottages Opposite Capel Soar	SH657725	Dwelling	Post Medieval	
54198	Ddol and Ddol Cottage, Aber	SH65637259	Dwelling	Post Medieval	LB II
54199	Pair of Cottages to South West of Pen-Y-Mwd, Aber	SH65617264	Dwelling	Post Medieval	LB II
54200	Tan-Y-Dderwen, Aber	SH65607266	Dwelling	Post Medieval	LB II
93697	Enclosure & Associated Structures At Pen-Y-Bryn, A	SH65817275	Enclosure	Unknown	SAM
95692	Aber Castle Mound	SH656726	Motte	Medieval	SAM
97180	Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, Aber	SH65767249	Chapel	Post Medieval	
302903	Pen-Y-Mwd	SH65647266	Motte	Medieval	SAM
309171	Pen Y Mwd House;Aber, Llys	SH65687263	House	Medieval	

APPENDIX 3

DESIGN BRIEF FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority

Site: Land adjacent to 1 Tyn y Mwd, Abergwyngregyn

Agent: Town and Country Planning Services (Conway)

Date: 28 April 2008

National Grid Reference: 265619, 372719

Planning Application: NP/3/10/105

This design brief is only valid for six months after the above date. After this period the Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority, should be contacted.

It is recommended that the contractor appointed to carry out the archaeological assessment visits the site of the proposed development and consults the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER) for north-west Wales before completing their specification. The Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority cannot guarantee the inclusion of all relevant information in the design brief.

1.0 Site Description

- 1.1. The site is currently mostly open ground (an agricultural building is located at the east side of the plot) and is shown as such on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition six inch to the mile map (published 1891).
- 1.2. The village of Abergwyngregyn is located on the coastal plateau of the north Gwynedd coast, on the west bank of the *Afon* (River) Aber at the mouth of a steep sided valley which runs south eastwards into the Carneddau mountains.

2.0 Archaeological Background

- 2.1. Abergwyngregyn is famous as the site of one of the *llysoedd* (courts) of the *Tywysogion* (Princes) of Gwynedd in the medieval period. A motte (the basal mound of an earth and timber castle) dating to the Norman campaigns in north Wales, lies less than 30m to the south-east of the application area. The motte is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (monument number C007). Excavation in the field immediately to the south of the motte by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust in 1992 and 1993 revealed the site of a winged hall house dating to the fourteenth century AD in its final form but with earlier phases (Johnstone, N. '*Llys* and *maerdref* : the royal courts of the princes of Gwynedd', *Studia Celtica*, 34 (2000), 167-210). The presence of this structure provides a strong candidate for the location of the *llys*, although this question is the subject of continuing debate. The property known as Pen y Bryn (on a hillside to the east of and overlooking the present day village) is another possible location.

- 2.2. The village retained its importance for sometime after the Edwardian conquest of 1282 and in 1338 was granted a charter to hold annual fairs and a weekly market (it is possible that the charter formalised arrangements for fairs and possibly a market dating from before the conquest).
- 2.3. There are four key reasons why the application area is of high potential.
- 2.4. Firstly, the application plot runs along a road which is likely to have ancient origins as part of the core of the medieval village. It may therefore be expected that medieval buildings, including, street frontages were located here.
- 2.5. Secondly, the proximity of the plot to the motte mound. The extent of any possible bailey, or outer enclosure, associated with the motte is not known. This remains a key unresolved question and leaves open the possibility that ancillary structures relating to the motte complex may have been sited within the application area.
- 2.6. Thirdly, whilst uncertainty remains over the location of the *llys*, the known presence of the winged hall house in the field to the south of the motte indicates the presence of significant medieval remains in the vicinity. The presence of features associated with the *llys* complex within the application area remains a possibility.
- 2.7. Fourthly, whilst the plot is shown as open ground on the first edition 6" to the mile Ordnance Survey map (published 1891), a photograph held by a local resident and dated to the late 1880s appears to show single storey stone-built cottages lying along the road adjacent to the application area (both where Tyn y Mwd is located today and on the area of the current application plot).
- 2.8. A recent pre-determination archaeological assessment and evaluation conducted to the east of the Aber Falls Hotel indicated the archaeological potential of that site to be negligible (as a result of localised ground disturbance), but may provide useful comparative historical and geomorphological information (Smith 2008).

Documentation:

- Butler, L.A.S. 1962. A long hut group in the Aber Valley. *Transactions of the Caernarfonshire Historical Society* 23: 25-36.
- Gwyn, D. 2001. Assessment of historical documentary resources. In Gwyn, D., Roberts, J.G. and Thompson, D. Coedydd Aber NNR: Historic Landscape Resource Management Survey. Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, report 419: 2-6.
- Johnstone, N. 1995. *Llys and Maerdref*. Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, report 167.
- Johnstone, N. 1997. An investigation into the location of the royal courts of thirteenth-century Gwynedd. In N. Edwards (ed.) *Landscape and Settlement in Medieval Wales*: 55-69. Oxford.
- Johnstone, N. 2000. *Llys and Maerdref: the royal courts of the princes of Gwynedd*. *Studia Celtica* 34: 167-210.
- Jones-Pierce, T. 1962. Aber Gwyn Gregyn. *Transactions of the Caernarfonshire Historical Society* 23: 37-43.
- Longley, D. 1997. The royal courts of the Welsh princes in Gwynedd, AD 400-1283. In N. Edwards (ed.) *Landscape and Settlement in Medieval Wales*: 41-54. Oxford.

Owen, T.J. 1953. The records of the parish of Aber. *Transactions of the Caernarfonshire Historical Society* 14: 74-93.

Smith, G. 2008. Aber Falls Tavern, archaeological assessment and evaluation [precise title not known at time of writing]. Gwynedd Archaeological Trust [project number not known at time of writing].

3.0 The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

- 3.1 The proposed development comprises an outline application for construction of one detached dwelling including demolition of livestock building and lean-to shed, and revised access arrangements.
- 3.2 This is a design brief for an **archaeological assessment** to be undertaken according to guidelines set out in Welsh national planning guidance (*Planning Policy Guidance Wales 2002*) and Welsh Office Circular 60/96 (*Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology*). The assessment will comprise a **desk-based study** and **field visit**.
- 3.3 The object of this programme of archaeological works is to make full and effective use of existing information in establishing the archaeological significance of the site to assess the impact of the development proposals on surviving monuments or remains
- 3.4 Following desk-based assessments field evaluation work may also be required in order to establish the presence or absence of remains, their extent, nature, quality and character before determining any necessary mitigation strategy. Where required, mitigation may entail preservation *in situ*, or archaeological excavation, or a combination of the two. The need for a field evaluation will be determined by the Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority on the basis of the assessment.
- 3.5 This *design brief* should be used by the archaeological contractor as the basis for the preparation of a detailed written archaeological *specification*. **The specification must be submitted to the Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority for approval before the work commences.**

4.0 Desk-based assessment detail

- 4.1 The assessment must consider the following:
 - a) The nature, extent and degree of survival of archaeological sites, structures, deposits and landscapes within the study area through the development of an **archaeological deposit model**. This deposit model should reflect accurately the state of current knowledge and provide a research framework for further work if necessary. [See 4.3 below for further details]
 - b) The **history of the site**. [See section 4.4 below for further details]
 - c) The potential impact of any proposed development on the **setting of known sites of archaeological importance**. [See section 4.5 below for further details]
 - d) A **methodology for non-intrusive survey and intrusive evaluation** to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. [See section 4.6-4.8 below for further details]

- 4.3 The **archaeological deposit model** will involve the following areas of research:
- a) Collation and assessment of all relevant information held in the HER, including listed building records.
 - b) Assessment of all available excavation report and archives including unpublished and unprocessed material effecting the site and its setting.
 - c) Assessment of all extant aerial photographic (AP) evidence and, where relevant, a re-plotting of archaeological and topographic information by a suitably qualified specialist at an appropriate scale. Many of the main archaeological aerial photographic records can be consulted at the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW), Aberystwyth. However, the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), Bangor, also holds AP collections including 1940s Luftwaffe photographs, and these may be equally suited to the requirements of the desk-based study. It is the understanding of the Archaeologist (SNPA) that Gwynedd Archaeological Trust hold aerial photographs showing features that might be associated with the motte in the surrounding fields (David Longley, pers. comm.); these should be evaluated as part of this assessment.
 - d) Assessment of records held at the RCAHMW and University of Bangor, if appropriate.
 - e) Assessment of the environmental potential of the archaeological deposits through existing data or by inference.
 - f) Assessment of the faunal potential of the archaeological deposits through existing data or by inference.
 - g) Assessment of the artefactual potential of the archaeological deposits through existing data or by inference.
 - h) Assessment of all available geotechnical information for the area including the results of test pits and boreholes.
 - i) Assessment of the present topography and landuse of the area through maps and site visits.
- 4.4 **Historical research** will involve the following:
- a) Analysis of relevant maps and plans. Copies of the relevant section of all historic maps and plans must be included in the final report to allow full map regression for the site. Cartographic evidence is held at the County Record Offices, including Tithe Maps, Enclosure Act Plans, Estate Maps and all editions of the Ordnance Survey (place and field-name evidence from these sources should be considered).
 - b) An analysis of relevant historical documents (e.g. county histories, local and national journals and antiquarian sources) held in museums, libraries or other archives, in particular local history and archives libraries.
- 4.5 When considering the **issue of setting** for scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings (or sites immediately adjacent to them) and other sites of national and/or regional significance, the HER should be consulted to determine if the development falls within any designated landscape areas, such as World Heritage Sites and landscape character areas. Of particular importance are the *Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in*

Wales, the Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales, published by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments in 1998 and 2001 respectively.

- 4.6 The **evaluation methodology** must consider the use of the following techniques as appropriate:
- a) Building recording.
 - b) Ground survey within the core area.
 - c) Geophysical survey - the use of common geophysical survey techniques should be considered, particularly magnetometry and resistivity, and a justification given of the preferred technique or combination of techniques proposed.
 - d) A programme of intrusive work to investigate the deposit model in more detail. Intrusive methods of field evaluation include the following techniques: augering, hand-excavated test pits, hand-excavated trenches, machine-stripped and manually excavated test pits, machine-stripped and manually excavated trenches.
- 4.5 The evaluation methodology should aim to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. Investigation of an adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened should be proposed.
- 4.6 The evaluation should carefully consider the potential for artefactual and environmental information and provide an assessment of the viability (for further study) of such information.

5.0 Results

- 5.0 The results must be presented in a report and should be detailed and laid out in such a way that data and supporting text are readily cross-referenced. **The Regional HER Officer (based at Gwynedd Archaeological Trust) should be contacted to ensure that any sites or monuments not previously recorded in the HER are given a Primary Recognition Number (PRN) and that data structure is compatible with the HER.** The historical development of the site must be presented in phased maps and plans comprising clearly, the outline of the site.
- 5.1 The deposit model should be presented graphically in plan and, where appropriate, in profile and at a scale that is commensurate with subsequent use as a working document.
- 5.2 Within the report an attempt should be made to indicate areas of greater or lesser archaeological significance and the sites should be ranked in level of overall archaeological importance (locally, regionally and nationally).
- 5.3 All relevant aerial photographs, re-plots and historic maps must be included and be fully referenced.
- 5.4 The report should specifically include the following:
- a) a copy of the design brief
 - b) a location plan
 - c) all located sites plotted on an appropriately scaled plan of the development

- d) a gazetteer of all located sites with full dimensional and descriptive detail **including grid reference and period.**

6.0 General requirements

- 6.1 The archaeological assessment must be undertaken by an appropriately qualified individual or organisation, fully experienced in work of this character.
- 6.2 Details, including the name, qualifications and experience of the project director and all other key project personnel (including specialist staff) should be communicated to the Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority.
- 6.3 All written work should be attributed to an author(s).
- 6.4 Contractors and subcontractors are expected to conform to standard professional guidelines. The following are of particular relevance in this instance:-
- English Heritage's 1991 Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2).
 - The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1985 (revised 2006) Code of Conduct.
 - The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1990 (revised 2002) Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.
 - The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2001) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.
 - The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2001) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation.
 - The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1995 (revised 2001) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation.
 - The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1996 (revised 2001) Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures.
 - The Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001 Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials.
 - Museum and Galleries Commission 1994 Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections.
 - Richards, J. & Robinson, D. 2000. Digital Archives from Excavation and Fieldwork: *Guide to Good Practice*. Second Edition. The Archaeology Data Service Guide to Good Practice. Oxbow Books.
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/goodguides/excavation/>
 - United Kingdom Institute for Conservation 1990 Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for long-term storage.
- 6.5 Many people in North Wales speak Welsh as their first language, and many of the archive and documentary references are in Welsh. Contractors should therefore give due consideration to their ability to understand and converse in Welsh.

- 6.6 Any changes to the specifications that the archaeological contractor may wish to make after approval should be communicated to the Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority and approved.
- 6.7 The involvement of the Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority should be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.
- 6.8 A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project should be prepared in accordance with standard guidance. All plans, photographs and descriptions should be labelled, cross-referenced and lodged in an appropriate place (to be agreed with the Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority) within six months of the completion of the project.
- 6.9 Three copies of the bound report must be sent to the Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority (address as below), and a further copy sent to the HER Archaeologist, at the curatorial division of Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, who will deposit the copy in the Regional HER. A copy of the digital archive on compact disk (such as photographs, plans, text files, databases and spreadsheets) arising out of the project, ideally, together with a copy of the complete report in PDF format, should be provided to the Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority.

7.0 Glossary of terms

- 7.1 *Archaeological Contractor*
A professionally qualified individual or an organisation containing professionally qualified archaeological staff, able to offer an appropriate and satisfactory treatment of the archaeological resource, retained by the developer to carry out archaeological work either prior to the submission of a planning application or as a requirement of the planning process.
- 7.2 *Archaeological Curator*
A person, or organisation, responsible for the conservation and management of archaeological evidence by virtue of official or statutory duties. In the Snowdonia National Park, the archaeological advisor to the Planning Authority is the Snowdonia National Park Authority's Archaeologist. The Archaeologist works to the Welsh Archaeological Trust's Curators' Code of Practice.
- 7.3 *Archive*
An ordered collection of all documents and artefacts from an archaeological project, which at the conclusion of the work should be deposited at a public repository, such as the local museum.
- 7.4 *Assessment*
A desk-based archaeological assessment (also known as a *desk-top assessment*) is a detailed consideration of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area or site (land-based, intertidal or underwater). It comprises the collation of existing written and graphic information in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource in a local, regional or national context as appropriate.
- 7.5 *Brief*
The Association of County Archaeological Officers (1993) defines a *brief* as an outline framework of the planning and archaeological situation which has

to be addressed, together with an indication of the scope of works that will be required.

7.6 *Evaluation*

A limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site; and, if present, defines their character and extent, relative quality and preservation. It enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context, as appropriate. The programme of work will result in the preparation of a report and archive.

7.7 *Regional Historic Environment Record (HER)*

A documentary record of known sites in a given area. In north-west Wales the Regional HER is maintained by the curatorial division of the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.

7.8 *Specification*

The Association of County Archaeological Officers (1993) defines a *specification* as a schedule of works outlined in sufficient detail to be quantifiable, implemented and monitored.

7.9 *Watching brief*

A formal programme of observation during non-archaeological excavation works in order to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains which may be present, in accordance with the Archaeological Standards.

8.0 Further information

8.1 This document outlines best practice expected of an archaeological assessment but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. If requirements of the brief cannot be met they should only be excluded or altered after gaining written approval of the Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority.

8.2 Further details or clarification of any aspects of the brief may be obtained from the Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority.

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Fax. 01766 771211

9.0 Archaeological desk-based assessment detail

9.1 The purpose of the **archaeological desk-based assessment** is to make a detailed consideration of the known or potential archaeological resource within the proposed development site. It will consist of the following:

- j) Collation and assessment of all relevant information held in the Regional HER, including listed building records.

- k) Assessment of all available excavation reports and archives including unpublished and unprocessed material effecting the site and its setting.
- l) Assessment of all extant aerial photographic (AP) evidence and, where relevant, a re-plotting of archaeological and topographic information by a suitably qualified specialist at an appropriate scale. Many of the main archaeological aerial photographic records can be consulted at the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW), Aberystwyth. However, the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), Bangor, also holds AP collections including 1940s Luftwaffe photographs, and these may be equally suited to the requirements of the desktop study.
- m) Assessment of records held at the RCAHMW and University of Bangor, if appropriate.
- n) Assessment of the environmental potential of the archaeological deposits through existing data or by inference.
- o) Assessment of the faunal potential of the archaeological deposits through existing data or by inference.
- p) Assessment of the artefactual potential of the archaeological deposits through existing data or by inference.
- q) Assessment of all available geotechnical information for the area including the results of test pits and boreholes.
- r) Assessment of the present topography and land use of the area through maps and site visits.
- s) Analysis of relevant maps and plans. Copies of the relevant section of all historic maps and plans must be included in the final report to allow full map regression for the site. Cartographic evidence is held at the County Record Offices, including Tithe Maps, Enclosure Act Plans, Estate Maps and all editions of the Ordnance Survey (place and field-name evidence from these sources should be considered).
- t) Analysis of the historical documents (e.g. county histories, local and national journals and antiquarian sources) held in museums, libraries or other archives, in particular local history and archives library.

10.0 Archaeological field evaluation detail

10.1 The purpose of the **archaeological evaluation** is to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development, in order to make an assessment of their importance, leading to one or more of the following:

- the formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research;
- the formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the archaeological resource.

Or, in the case of demonstrated absence of archaeological remains or archaeological potential, no further archaeological requirements.

10.2 A representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened should be studied.

- 5.3 Non-destructive methods of field evaluation should be considered, although the effectiveness of any technique should be established before undertaking work over the whole area. Survey techniques include geophysical survey, remote sensing, geochemical survey, earthwork survey and field scanning. The techniques adopted should be chosen in the light of:-
- local topography, geomorphology and geology,
 - size of the plot area,
 - comparison with recent work carried out in similar conditions.
- 5.4 The proportion of the proposal area subject to destructive methods of field evaluation will be agreed by the Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority in the light of the assessment. Pending the findings of the assessment, it is considered likely that this should consist of a minimum of 15 square metres of the area where archaeological remains are potentially threatened by the proposed development. Potentially sensitive ground disturbance is taken to include landscaping, excavation for services and other ancillary works, as well as excavation for foundations.
- 5.5 Destructive methods of field evaluation include the following techniques: augering, hand-excavated test pits, hand-excavated trenches, machine-stripped and manually excavated test pits, machine-stripped and manually excavated trenches. The sampling strategy should be devised in the light of:-
- local topography,
 - any non-destructive field evaluation results,
 - and recent research on archaeological decision-making processes and sampling strategies (see Hey, G. & Lacey, M. 2001. *Evaluation of Archaeological Decision-making Processes and Sampling Strategies*. Oxford: Kent County Council).
- 5.6 The evaluation should carefully consider any artefactual and environmental information and provide an assessment of the viability (for further study) of such information. It will be particularly important to provide an indication of the relative importance of such material for any subsequent decision making regarding mitigation strategies.
- 5.7 All aspects of the evaluation shall be conducted in accordance with Institute of Field Archaeologists guidance (see general requirements below). The controlled use of metal detectors on site as part of the evaluation strategy to aid the recovery of artefacts is encouraged. Recording will comprise appropriate plans, sections and/or elevations and photographs.
- 5.8 Both black-and-white and colour photography should be used where appropriate.
- 5.9 If utilising digital technology, high resolution images (preferably in tiff. format) must be produced. These should be presented within the report as a hard copy and a compact disc must be included as an archive to accompany the report.

11.0 Results

- 11.1 The results must be presented in a report and should be detailed and laid out in such a way that data and supporting text are readily cross-referenced. The Regional HER Archaeologist should be contacted to ensure that any sites or monuments not previously recorded in the HER are given a Primary Recognition Number (PRN) and that data structure is compatible with the HER. The historical development of the site must be presented in phased maps and plans comprising clearly, the outline of the site.
- 11.2 A deposit model should be presented graphically in plan and, where appropriate, in profile and at a scale that is commensurate with subsequent use as a working document.
- 11.3 Within the report an attempt should be made to indicate areas of greater or lesser archaeological significance and the sites should be ranked in level of overall archaeological importance (locally, regionally and nationally).
- 11.4 All relevant aerial photographs, re-plots and historic maps must be included and be fully referenced.
- 11.5 The archaeological contractor must ensure that sufficient resource is made available for a post-excavation programme to result in an archive report.
- 11.6 The report should specifically include the following:

- a copy of the design brief
- a location plan
- all located sites plotted on an appropriately scaled plan of the development
- a gazetteer of all located sites, including full dimensional and descriptive detail
- a full bibliography of sources consulted.
- a drawn, written and photographic record of any archaeological structures and deposits that may be revealed.
- preparation of full archive report.
- an archive compact disc

12.0 General requirements

- 12.1 The archaeological assessment and evaluation must be undertaken by an appropriately qualified individual or organisation, fully experienced in work of this character.
- 12.2 Details, including the name, qualifications and experience of the project director and all other key project personnel (including specialist staff) should be communicated to the Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority.
- 12.3 All written work should be attributed to an author(s).
- 12.4 Contractors and subcontractors are expected to conform to standard professional guidelines. The following are of particular relevance in this instance:-
- English Heritage's 1991 Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2).
 - The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1985 (revised 2006) Code of Conduct.

- The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1990 (revised 2002) Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.
- The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2001) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.
- The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2001) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation.
- The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1995 (revised 2001) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation.
- The Institute of Field Archaeologists 1996 (revised 2001) Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures.
- The Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001 Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials.
- Museum and Galleries Commission 1994 Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections.
- Richards, J. & Robinson, D. 2000. Digital Archives from Excavation and Fieldwork: *Guide to Good Practice*. Second Edition. The Archaeology Data Service Guide to Good Practice. Oxbow Books.
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/goodguides/excavation/>
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation 1990 Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for long-term storage.

- 12.5 Many people in North Wales speak Welsh as their first language, and many of the archive and documentary references are in Welsh. Contractors should therefore give due consideration to their ability to understand and converse in Welsh.
- 12.6 Care must be taken in the siting of offices and other support structures in order to minimise the impact on the environment. Extreme care must also be taken in the structure and maintenance of spoil heaps for the same reasons and to facilitate a high quality reinstatement. This is particularly important in relation to pasture land.
- 12.7 The archaeological contractor must satisfy themselves that all constraints to groundworks have been identified, including the siting of live services, Tree Preservation Orders and public footpaths. The Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority bears no responsibility for the inclusion or exclusion of such information within this brief.
- 12.8 Any changes to the specifications that the archaeological contractor may wish to make after approval should be communicated to the Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority and approved.
- 12.9 Human remains must be left *in situ*, covered and protected when discovered. No further investigation should normally be permitted and the Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority and the local Coroner must be informed immediately. If removal is essential it can only be taken place under appropriate Home Office and environmental health regulations.
- 12.10 Arrangements for the long-term storage and deposition of all artefacts must be agreed with the landowner and the Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority before the commencement of investigation.

- 12.11 The involvement of the Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority should be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.
- 12.12 A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project should be prepared in accordance with standard guidance. All plans, photographs and descriptions should be labelled, cross-referenced and lodged in an appropriate place (to be agreed with the Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority) within six months of the completion of the project.
- 12.13 Three copies of the bound report must be sent to the Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority (address as below), and a further copy sent to the HER Archaeologist, at the curatorial division of Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, who will deposit the copy in the Regional HER.

13.0 Curatorial monitoring

- 13.1 The project will be monitored by The Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority to ensure the fulfilment of the brief and specifications. The Archaeologist will normally inspect site works and review the progress of excavation reports and archive preparation. The archaeological contractor must inform the Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority in writing of the proposed start dates for the project.

14.0 Glossary of terms

- 14.1 *Archaeological Contractor*
A professionally qualified individual or an organisation containing professionally qualified archaeological staff, able to offer an appropriate and satisfactory treatment of the archaeological resource, retained by the developer to carry out archaeological work either prior to the submission of a planning application or as a requirement of the planning process.
- 14.2 *Archaeological Curator*
A person, or organisation, responsible for the conservation and management of archaeological evidence by virtue of official or statutory duties. In north-west Wales the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authorities is the development control archaeologist, who works to the Welsh Archaeological Trust's Curators' Code of Practice.
- 14.3 *Archive*
An ordered collection of all documents and artefacts from an archaeological project, which at the conclusion of the work should be deposited at a public repository, such as the local museum.
- 14.4 *Assessment*
A desk-based archaeological assessment (also known as a *desk-top assessment*) is a detailed consideration of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area or site (land-based, intertidal or underwater). It comprises the collation of existing written and graphic information in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource in a local, regional or national context as appropriate.
- 14.5 *Brief*
The Association of County Archaeological Officers (1993) defines a *brief* as

an outline framework of the planning and archaeological situation which has to be addressed, together with an indication of the scope of works that will be required.

14.6 *Evaluation*

A limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site; and, if present, defines their character and extent, relative quality and preservation. It enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context, as appropriate. The programme of work will result in the preparation of a report and archive.

14.7 *Regional Historic Environment Record (HER)*

A documentary record of known sites in a given area. In north-west Wales the Regional HER is maintained by the curatorial division of the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.

14.8 *Specification*

The Association of County Archaeological Officers (1993) defines a *specification* as a schedule of works outlined in sufficient detail to be quantifiable, implemented and monitored.

14.9 *Watching brief*

A formal programme of observation during non-archaeological excavation works in order to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains which may be present, in accordance with the Archaeological Standards.

15.0 Further information

15.1 This document outlines best practice expected of an archaeological assessment but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. If requirements of the brief cannot be met they should only be excluded or altered after gaining written approval of the Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority.

15.2 Further details or clarification of any aspects of the brief may be obtained from the Archaeologist, Snowdonia National Park Authority.

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