
Rhuddlan Bach Quarry: Phase 1

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP/MAP/SAMPLE (G1957)



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REPORT NUMBER **768**

**Prepared for *CMP Ltd.*
by John Roberts**

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Figures and Plates

Figures

Figure 1: Site Location: location of Phases I to IV

Plates

Plate 01: View west of strip/map/sample area prior to strip

Plate 02: View west of strip/map/sample area during strip detailing glacial drift below topsoil.
Note deposit of glacial clay at forefront of image and sub-rounded stones in the centre of the image.
Total excavation depth: 0.35m

Plate 03: View southeast of strip/map/sample detailing glacial drift geology;
the previous strip/map/sample areas can be seen in the background now extant as a quarry face

Plate 04: View northeast of strip/map/sample detailing glacial drift geology/glacial clays

Plate 05: View south of previous strip/map/sample areas monitored by GAT now extant as a
quarry face. Note depth of glacial deposits below topsoil and atop the limestone.

Plate 06: View northwest of current strip/map/sample area, detailing depth of glacial deposits below topsoil
and atop the limestone

RHUDDLAN BACH QUARRY

Archaeological Strip/Map/Sample (G1957)

Summary

This report discusses the results of an archaeological Strip/Map/Sample within the Phase I expansion area at Rhuddlan Bach Quarry, Anglesey (NGR SH485809). The Strip/Map/Sample is the continuation of previous work undertaken at this location by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust.

The Strip/Map/Sample monitored the topsoil removal of the southern portion of Phase I. The stripped area measured 60.0 by 24.0m (Figure 1). No archaeological features were identified and all activity below the topsoil was interpreted as glacial in origin. It was determined that local agricultural use was limited to pasture.

The remainder of Phase I will be stripped at a later date.

1 INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) was commissioned by *CMP Ltd.* to conduct an archaeological strip/map/sample at the Phase 1 extraction area at Rhuddlan Bach Quarry, Anglesey (NGR SH48508090), as detailed in RML Ltd. drawing dated 30/06/2003. This work is being conducted in stages in accordance with requirements of the quarry timetable.

Phase 1 is the first stage of a proposed quarry expansion programme and will be followed by extraction at Phases 2, 3 and 4 (see Figure 1 for the location of the individual Phases). The first stage of the strip/map/sample within Phase I was conducted on the 3rd September 2007 (Roberts, J. 2007. GAT Report **698**), with a second stage completed on the 18th February 2008 (Berks, T. 2008. GAT Report **718**). In both examples, no archaeological activity was identified and the strip/map/sample areas were limited to glacial deposits beneath the topsoil (see Plates 03 and 05 for the location of the previous strip/map/sample stages).

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust conducted an archaeological assessment for a proposed wind farm within the local area (Flook, H. 1994 GAT Report **119**). The report identified eighteen sites of archaeological interest within the local area. The environmental assessment of the proposed development, prepared for C W Parry Ltd. by RML Ltd. (2528/11/Environmental Statement (05/03)) incorporated the information from GAT Report 119 as well as supplementary information from the Historic Environment Record and the National Photographic Unit at the National Monuments Record. The environmental assessment recommended a scheme of archaeological works to mitigate the effects of the development on the archaeology (2528/11/Environmental Statement (05/03): 119).

2 SPECIFICATION AND PROJECT DESIGN

The Environmental Statement (2528/11/Environmental Statement (05/03)) contained recommendations for field evaluation in the form of trial trenches (though with the possibility of geophysical survey) within the proposed extraction area (designated as Phases 1 to 4; see Figure 1), and a building record of the farmstead at Rhuddlan Bach.

The subsequent archaeological design (GAT, July 2007) suggested that the evaluation work be completed in stages, beginning at Phase 1, with initial extraction taking place within the southern half of this area. The design proposed that the area be examined by strip/map/sample, an archaeological technique that required machine stripping under constant archaeological supervision, followed by examination of the exposed area. If complex archaeological remains are found, then a design for undertaking further works is submitted. If no complex archaeological remains are found, then a report would be produced describing the results of the strip, map and sample.

No specific brief has been provided for this work. The basic requirement, as detailed in Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Project Design (July 2007), was for a Strip/Map/Sample within Phase 1, in order to assess the impact of the proposals on the designated area. The importance and condition of known

archaeological remains were to be assessed, and areas of archaeological potential identified. Measures to mitigate the effects of the construction work on the archaeological resource were to be suggested.

The remaining Strip/Map/Sample area within Phase 1 will be completed at a later date, along with Phases 2 to 4.

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

- Strip/Map/Sample
- Report

3 METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

The Strip/Map/Sample was undertaken on the 8th January 2009 and was conducted within the central portion of the Phase I area detailed in the RML Ltd. drawing dated 30/06/2003 (Figure 1; Plate 1), as a continuation of the previous strip/map/sample stages. The stripped area measured 60.0 by 24.0m.

A 25-tonne 360°-tracked excavator was used throughout the Strip/Map/Sample.

The archive is held by GAT under the project number **G1957**.

4 TOPOGRAPHY

The study area lies in a roughly undulating area that has been heavily influenced by glaciation, containing small rounded hills and surrounded by low-lying areas, many of which contain small lakes or marshy bogs. To the northeast are the lakes and marshes of Llyn Cadarn and Cors Goch and to the south is a broken limestone and millstone ridge.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The environmental assessment of the proposed development, prepared for CMP Ltd. by RML Ltd. (2528/11/Environmental Statement (05/03)) stated that the known and identified archaeological features (as listed in GAT Report 119) located close to the proposed quarry extension were either outside the working limits of the proposed quarry, or had already been affected by quarry operations.

These features included:

- PRN1616 Castell Gadarn (NGR SH48688073), a series of collapsed stone walls that included a possible burnt mound. The site is currently buried by quarry waste and is located outside of the extraction area.
- PRN 2192 (NGR SH48708120), a possible hillfort located c.150.0m to the northeast of the proposed quarry. This site is located outside of the extraction area.
- Rhuddlan Bach farmhouse (NGR SH48788850) is close to the operations but is excluded from the area of extraction and is not affected. The farmhouse is derelict with surrounding enclosures and associated agricultural buildings. Parts of the house may be of 17th century date, but has been altered in the 19th century. Many features of interest remain, including a donkey mill and numerous small items of machinery of 19th century date.
- DBA 2: a potential feature within the confines of the proposed quarry extension has been identified (2528/11/Environmental Statement (05/03): 118). The feature is located within the Phase III zone to the east of Phase I (see Figure 1) and is described as an area of wetland that has been subject to previous topsoil stripping and disturbance. It is thought to be a potential location for a burnt mound (2528/11/Environmental Statement (05/03): 118).
- Apart from DBA 2, there is no evidence for the presence of archaeological features in the proposed extension.

6 RESULTS OF THE STRIP/MAP/SAMPLE

The strip/map/sample revealed a thin spread of topsoil (maximum depth: 0.35m; see Plate 02) atop glacial deposits. The glacial activity included Morainic drift (Plate 02) and glacial clays (Plate 04). Large sub-rounded stones were identified within the drift geology deposits (Plate 02). The stones were not distributed in any structural fashion and were interpreted as glacial boulders.

The shallow depth of the topsoil, coupled with the frequency of large glacial stones and boulders, suggested that the area saw limited agricultural use and was used mainly for pasture. Similar results were identified in the two previous strip/map/sample stages.

No archaeological features were identified or recorded and there was no evidence for prehistoric burnt mound activity.

7 SOUCES CONSULTED

Berks, T. 2008. Rhuddlan Bach Quarry: Archaeological strip/map/sample. Gwynedd Archaeological Trust. Report **718**.

IFA. 2001. *Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001 Standard and Guidance for an archaeological Strip/Map/Sample*.

Flook, H. 1994. Proposed Wind Farm, Prysan, Anglesey: Archaeological Assessment. Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Report **119**

Roberts, J. 2007. Rhuddlan Bach Quarry: Archaeological strip/map/sample. Gwynedd Archaeological Trust. Report **698**.

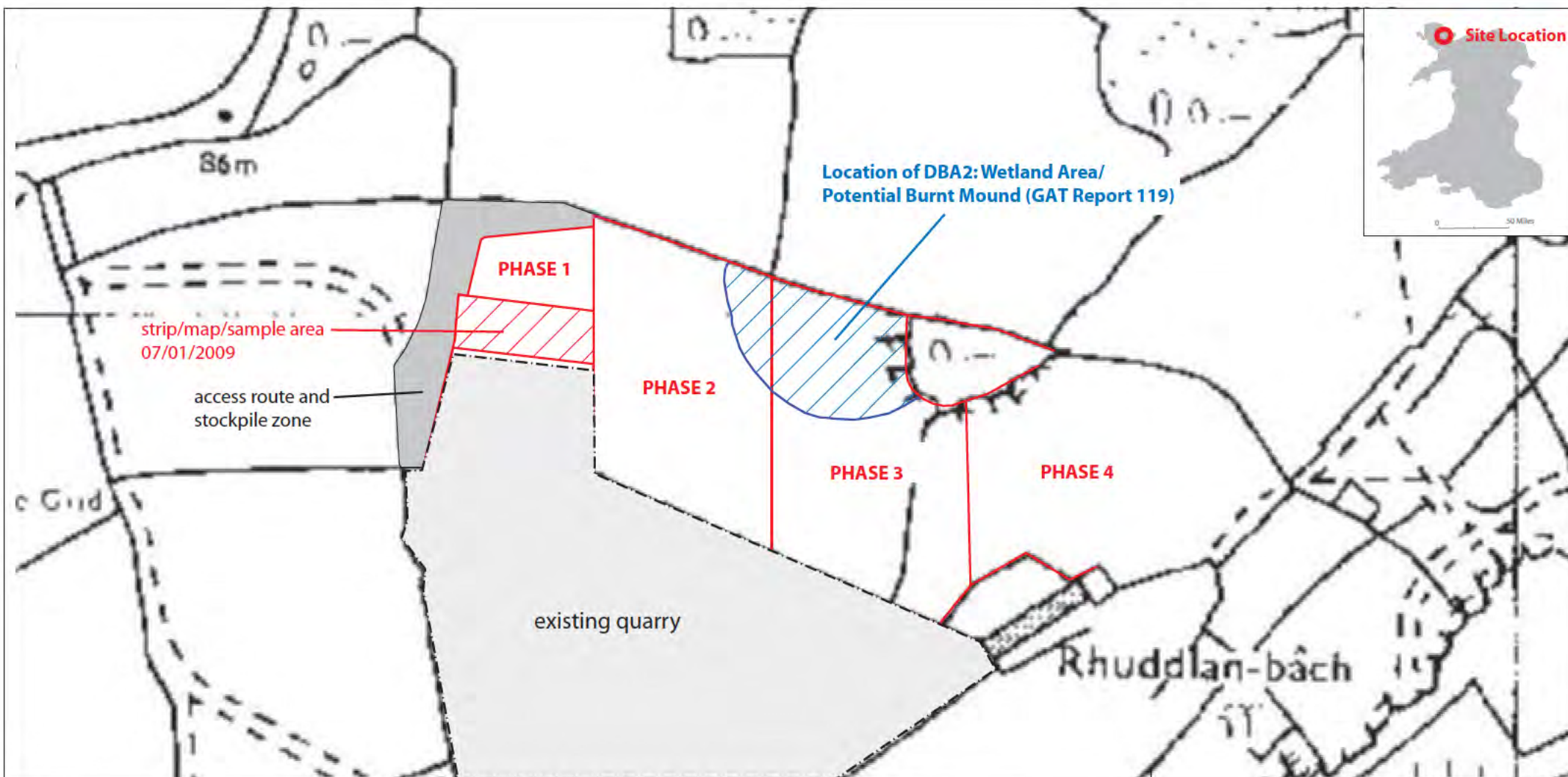




Plate 01: View west of strip/map/sample area prior to strip



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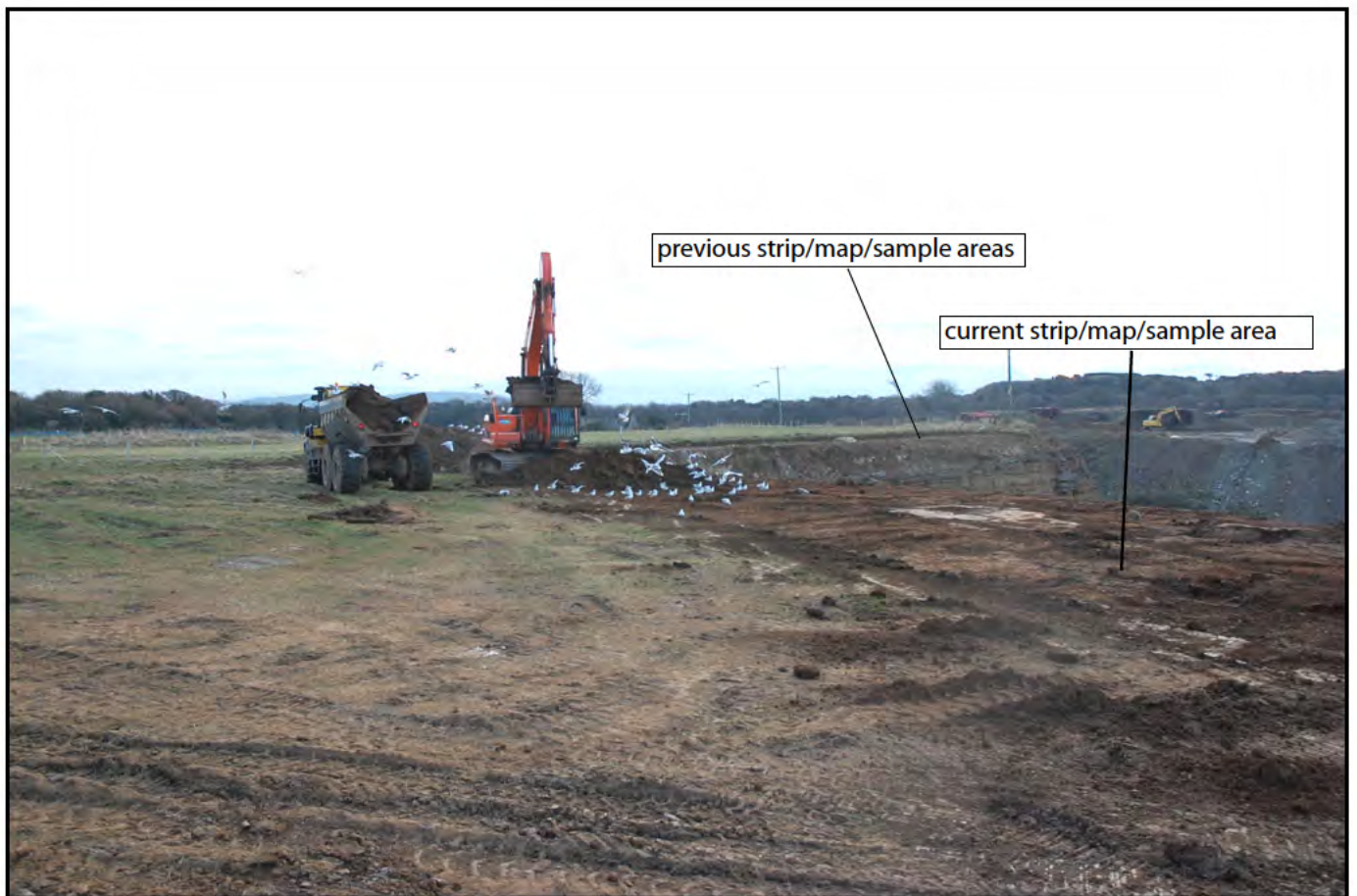


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Plate 05: View south of previous strip/map/sample areas monitored by GAT now extant as a quarry face. Note depth of glacial deposits below topsoil and atop the limestone.



Plate 06: View northwest of current strip/map/sample area, detailing depth of glacial deposits below topsoil and atop the limestone



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