
Cae`r Eglwys, Llanengan. Water Mains Renewal Sceme: Ground Investigation Programme



Archaeological Watching Brief

GAT Project No. 2146

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CAE'R EGLWYS, LLANENGAN WATER MAINS
RENEWAL SCHEME: GI PROGRAMME

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF (G2146)

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Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
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Cae`r Eglwys, Llanengan. Water Mains Renewal Scheme: Ground Investigation Programme

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**CAE'R EGLWYS, LLANENGAN WATER MAINS RENEWAL SCHEME:ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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CAE'R EGLWYS, LLANENGAN WATER MAINS RENEWAL SCHEME: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF – Ground Investigation Programme

Summary

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) was commissioned by Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water to complete an archaeological watching brief during ground investigation (GI) works associated with the proposed water mains renewal scheme on a local road between Abersoch and Llanengan. The GI works included 22 test holes excavated to identify the existing mains. The watching brief monitored seven test holes within the scheme, targeting an area of greater archaeological potential, based on potential medieval activity.

No archaeological activity was identified within the confines of the monitored test holes: the test holes contained evidence for the existing water mains, including the pipe and localised ground disturbance. Shallow bedrock was identified within several examples.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) was asked by *Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water* to complete an archaeological watching brief during ground investigation (GI) works in advance of a water mains renewal programme at Cae'r Eglwys, Llanengan, Gwynedd (between NGR **SH30732800** and **SH29822735**). The GI investigation area was located along and parallel to a local road linking Abersoch to Llanengan (total length 1.20km), as indicated on client drawings **NP0900237/Drawing 101 (Iss. A)** & **NP0900237/Drawing 102 (Iss. A)**.

The GI works comprised:

- Test Holes TH1 to TH21

A mitigation brief was not prepared for this work by **Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Services (GAPS)**, but GAPS recommended an archaeological watching brief on Test Holes **TH10 to TH16** to target an area of potential medieval activity.

Reference was also made, during the course of the project, to the guidelines specified in *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (Institute for Archaeologists, 1994, rev. 2001).

2.0 BACKGROUND

According to email correspondence from GAPS, "The landscape (appeared) medieval in origin and there appears to be a linear earthwork in the field containing TH10-TH12. The name Cae'r Eglwys may simply denote that the land was formerly ecclesiastical property but without going into detailed desk-based research, and given the proximity of the later prehistoric hillfort at Pen-y-Gaer to the north (approx 520m away), there was sufficient evidence to suggest potential buried archaeology here." As a result the watching brief targeted this specific area and the immediate environs.

The existing water main was established in 1959.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1. Ground Investigation Works

- All attended test holes were excavated using a 1.5 tonne 360° crawler excavator with a 0.45m wide flat ditching bucket. The length of all the test holes varied between 1.50m and 3.50m. The depth of the test holes were dependant on the water main being observed. All GI works were completed by *Daniels* on behalf of *Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water*

3.2 Archaeological Watching Brief

- A photographic record was maintained throughout, using a digital SLR camera set to maximum resolution.

- Notations were made of all subsurface deposits on individual watching brief record sheets.
- The archive is held by GAT under project number **G2146**.

4.0 RESULTS

The location of the individual test holes are listed in figures 01 and 02. The test holes were positioned on an east-west alignment from TH10 to TH16.

Each test hole is described separately.

TH10 (plates 01 and 02)

Size: 2.40m x 0.45m x 1.10m Orientation N-S

Description

Thin band of dark greyish brown topsoil within a marshy area, underlain by a mid brownish grey sandy silt with a moderate amount of stone, total depth of these upper layers was 0.35m. Below which was a lighter orangey grey natural with a frequent amount of stone, of which was both pebble and cobble sized. The water main was discovered at the southern end of the test hole at a depth of 1.0m.

TH11 (plates 03 and 04)

Size: 1.80m x 0.45m x 1.00m Orientation N-S

Description

The topsoil was a mid greyish brown sandy silt, friable and containing occasional sub-angular stone with a depth of 0.20m. The subsoil had a depth of 0.18m and was a mid orangey brown, clayey sandy silt containing moderate sub-angular stone. The natural was similar to the subsoil, although slightly lighter and firmer in compaction.

TH12 (plates 05 and 06)

Size: 2.50m x 0.45m x 0.90m Orientation N-S

Description

A mid greyish brown sandy silt topsoil with a moderate amount of pebble and cobble sized stone inclusions, reaching a depth of 0.25m. The subsoil was a mid greyish brown sandy silt, firmly compacted and contained the occasional stones of similar size to the above topsoil, and had a depth of 0.12m. The natural was a light orangey brown silt-sand with occasional stone.

TH13 (plates 07 and 08)

Size: 3.20m x 0.45m x 1.00m Orientation N-S

Description

A mid greyish brown sandy silt topsoil with a moderate amount of pebble sized stone inclusions, reaching a depth of 0.10m. The subsoil was a mid greyish brown sandy silt, firmly compacted and contained a moderate amount of stones of similar size to the above topsoil, and had a depth of 0.25m. The natural was a light orangey brown silt-sand with occasional stone.

TH14 (plates 09 and 10)

Size: 2.50m x 0.45m x 0.95m Orientation E-W

Description

The topsoil was a greyish brown sandy silt containing frequent amount of sub-angular shale stone, with a depth of 0.20m. Below which was a lighter greyish brown sandy silt with very frequent shale stone with a depth of 0.10m. The existing water main was cut into the bedrock.

TH15 (plates 11 and 12)

Size: 2.00m x 0.45m x 1.00m Orientation E-W

Description

Thin layer of topsoil, which was a mid greyish brown sandy silt with a depth of 0.20m and containing frequent shale stone. The subsoil was a mid brownish grey sandy silt, again with frequent shale stone and slightly lighter than the topsoil and firmer. The natural was an orange-brown silt sand, very firm and contained frequent sub-angular and shale stone.

TH16 (plates 13 and 14)

Size: 2.00m x 0.45m x 1.00m Orientation E-W

Description

A much degraded topsoil with a depth of 0.10m, mid grey-brown sandy silt. The subsoil was a light brown-grey sand-silt with frequent small shale stone. Natural was a mid orangey brown silt-sand with occasional to frequent shale stone.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

A total of seven trial holes were monitored. No archaeological activity was identified within the confines of any example. The GI route followed closely the alignment of the existing main (established in 1959). The extent of disturbed ground associated with the establishment of the existing main varied between 0.50m to 1.20m either side of the main being. No examples of prehistoric or medieval archaeological activity were identified.

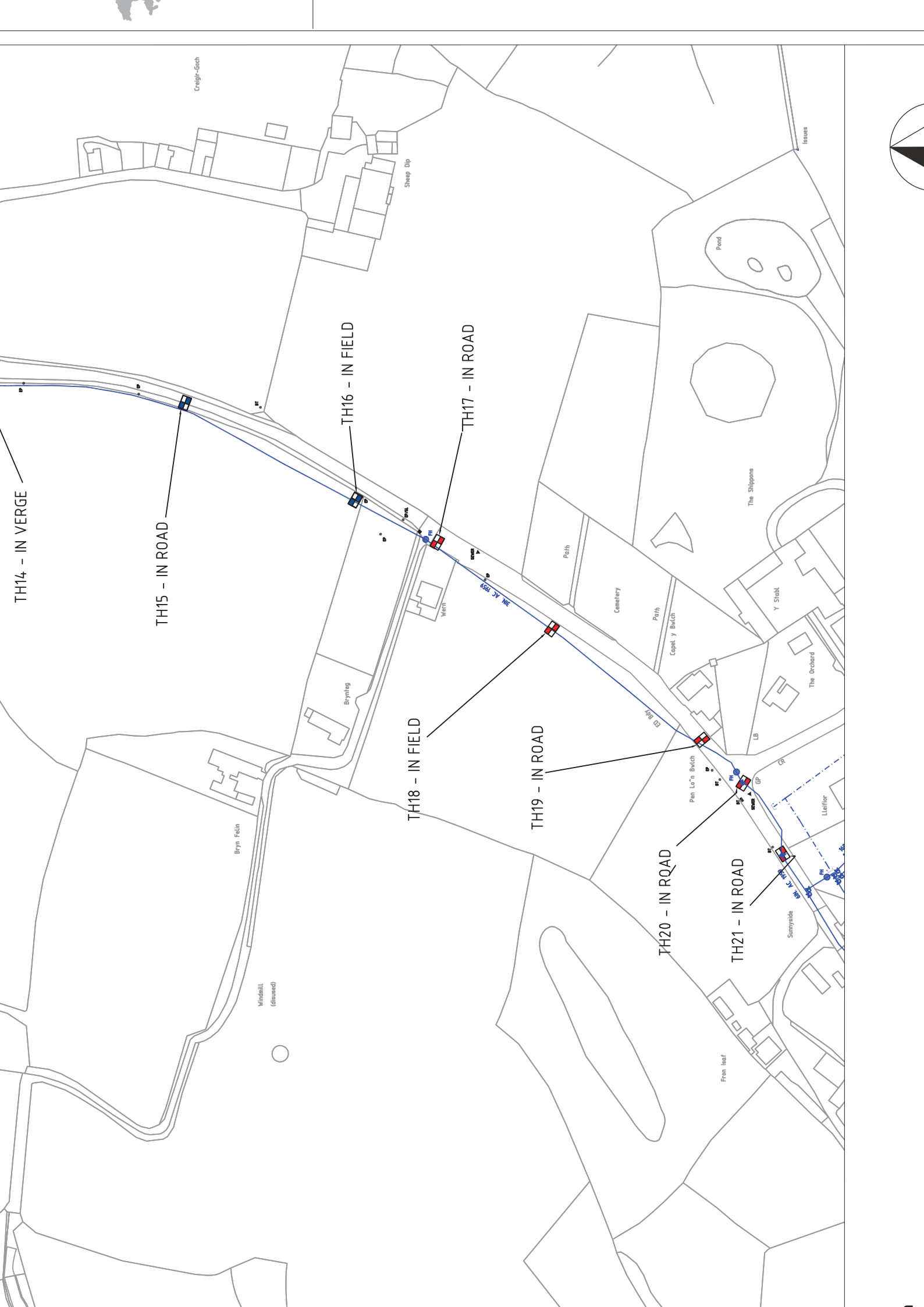
This information may assist in the understanding of exposed stratigraphy during any future archaeological mitigation phases.

6.0 SOURCES

Historic Environment Record, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Craig Beuno, Garth Road, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2RT

NP0900237/Drawing 101 (Iss. A) & NP0900237/Drawing 102 (Iss. A)





TH14 - IN VERGE

TH15 - IN ROAD

TH16 - IN FIELD

TH17 - IN ROAD

TH18 - IN FIELD

TH19 - IN ROAD

TH20 - IN ROAD

TH21 - IN ROAD

Craigie-Gach

Sheep Dip

Bryn Felin

Windmill
(disused)

Brynies

Wern

Path

Cemetery

Path

Capel y Bwlch

The Shippons

Y Stabl

The Orchard

LB

Pen Lŷ'n Bwlch

CR

Sunnyside

Lleifor

Fren Isaf





Plate 01 - Location of TH10 within the marshy area, the minor Abersoch to Llanengan road is the other side of the hedge.



Plate 02 - Excavated test hole showing the water main (blue paint) cut into the natural ground.



Plate 03 - Location of TH11, to the SW of TH10, the minor road is behind the hedge at the left hand side.



Plate 04 - Post excavated section of TH11 with the water main next to the ranging pole.



Plate 05 - Location of TH12 near entrance to Clegir Uchaf Farm..



Plate 06 - Excavated section of TH11 with exposed water main.



Plate 07 - Location of TH13 inside the caravan park, the Abersoch to Llanengan road is behind the hedge to the left.



Plate 08 - East facing section of TH13 showing the bpainted water main and natural surface to the right.



Plate 09 - Location of TH14 at the bentrance to Cae`r Eglwys Farm at the left hand side of the road..



Plate 10 - Post excavated section of TH14 showing the cut into the bedrock. .



Plate 011 - Location of TH15 with the Abersoch to Llanengan road the other side of the tree.



Plate 12 - Excavated section of TH15, water mains at base of trench.



Plate 13 - Location of TH16 at the southern end of Cae'r Eglwys field.



Plate 14 - Excavated section of TH16, north facing with natural ground surface at the right side.

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