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# Conservation Area Appraisal: **Nantmor**

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GAT Project No. 2155  
Report No. 926  
February 2011

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# Nantmor, Gwynedd

## Conservation Area Appraisal

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Report No. 926

Prepared for  
the  
Snowdonia National Park Authority

February 2011

By  
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**NANTMOR**

**CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL**

**Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Report No. 926**

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>Page</b>
1. Introduction	3
2. Methodology	3
3. The Planning Background	4
4. The Physical Setting	4
5. Historical Development	5
6. Present Settlement Character: A Summary	6
7. Archaeological Resource	8
8. Statement of Significance	8
9. Management Recommendations	9
10. Bibliography	9

**Appendix 1** The Planning Process

**Appendix 2** List of Sites by PRN

## **FIGURES**

**Fig. 1** Nantmor Conservation Area Character Appraisal. Principal Sites

**Fig. 2** Location of Sites

**Fig. 3** Ordnance Survey County Series, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition map of 1900

**Fig. 4** Sale Catalogue of the Hafod Garregog Estate 1920 (GAS XM/4170/108)

## **PLATES**

**Plate 1** Aerial photograph of Nantmor taken 1946 (WAG RAF 106GUK 1473 frame 3220; 7 May 1946)

**Plate 2** Aerial photograph of Nantmor taken 1973 (WAG OS 73/028 frame 330; 23 March 1973)

**Plate 3** Capel Peniel, Ty Capel and telephone kiosk (PRN's 31865, 31866, 12688)

**Plate 4** Capel Peniel with Glan Merion and Ty'r Ysgol beyond

**Plate 5** Peniel Terrace (PRN 31867)

**Plate 6** Ty Capel and Bron y Graig (PRN 31866)

**Plate 7** Ty'r Ysgol and Yr Hen Ysgol

**Plate 8** Brynffynon Terrace

**Plate 9** The single storey terrace at Arfryn

**Plate 10** Bron Merion and Hafod

**Plate 11:** Glasfryn and Gwylfa - Glasfryn (to left) is aligned on the old road, and close to the site of Gelli Ynn Uchaf

**Plate 12:** The new WHR station

**Plate 13:** Gelli Ynn Isaf

**Plate 14:** Hirka with the barns beyond below Bryn y Bont

## NANTMOR: CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL

### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 General introduction

This report contains the results of an appraisal of the Conservation Area of Nantmor (Fig. 1) undertaken by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust on behalf of Snowdonia National Park Authority.

The aim of the appraisal is to describe and explain the historic character of the settlement in order to inform and support positive conservation and regeneration programmes. This will help improve the quality of planning advice, and contribute to local interpretation strategies. The survey will define the distinctive historical character of Nantmor, and identify the variety of character within it. The aims of the survey are based upon the understanding that the variety of character identified during the survey is fundamental to local distinctiveness and pride of place, and these are to be seen as assets within the process of regeneration.

#### 1.2 Acknowledgements

Mr Gwilym Jones, Snowdonia National Park Authority, instigated the project, and generously provided help and information to aid the project. Dr Nia Powell generously shared her deep knowledge of the village and the wider area.

### 2. METHODOLOGY

#### 2.1 Introduction

A brief was provided by Snowdonia National Park Authority. The methodology employed to answer the brief is based upon that developed by Cadw following initial urban characterization projects undertaken by Welsh Archaeological Trusts. These in turn were based upon a methodology developed in England for urban characterization and assessment, but also include English Heritage guidelines for Conservation Area Appraisal.<sup>1</sup>

The following methods were used to achieve the stated aims.

##### *Data collection*

This phase included the collection of data from regional and national historic environment records, including those kept at Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, RCAHMW, Cadw and National Museums and Galleries of Wales. Archive records were obtained from Gwynedd Archives, University of Wales, Bangor and National Library of Wales. The records were entered onto a database that was compatible with the regional Historic Environment Record, and their location identified through a geographical information system (MapInfo). Additional records and information sources were identified from historic maps, prints and photographs, and literature sources, including early antiquarian works.

##### *Characterisation*

The characterisation process combined the understanding gained from the desk-based phase with comprehensive fieldwork and a visual assessment of the surviving historic fabric. The development of the topography of the settlement was noted, and phases of historic change identified. Distinctive architectural forms, materials and significant elements of town and streetscapes were recorded. This process allowed the identification of areas of distinctive character, and these formed the basis of the character areas presented in this report.

#### 2.2 Bibliographic sources

A list of works consulted, combined with bibliographic references is given at the end of this report.

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<sup>1</sup> English Heritage 2006

The principal studies of the medieval development of the hamlet and parish are by Colin Gresham.<sup>2</sup> Descriptions of specific structures are provided by the Listed Building descriptions<sup>3</sup> and the Gwynedd volume of *Buildings of Wales* series.<sup>4</sup>

Contemporary descriptions of Nantmor are rare, though D E Jenkins gives a good account at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>5</sup>

### **2.3 Previous archaeological work**

No known previous archaeological work has been undertaken at Nantmor.

## **3. THE PLANNING BACKGROUND**

### **3.1 Introduction**

Details of the planning process and how it affects management of the conservation area can be found in Appendix 1.

### **3.2 Statutory protection**

There are no scheduled ancient monuments within the Conservation Area, and none lie immediately adjacent. There are seven listed buildings within the area, all centred around Capel Peniel, including the chapel, chapel house, Peniel terrace and the telephone box.

## **4. THE PHYSICAL SETTING**

### **4.1 Extent of Area**

The extent of the area included within this study is shown on figure 1. It includes the conservation area and adjacent areas.

### **4.2 Landscape and Setting**

Nantmor (usually pronounced without the ‘t’) takes its name from the Afon Nantmor, which flows into the Afon Glaslyn. The village, however, does not lie within the valley, and in fact lies closer to the Afon Glaslyn than the Afon Nantmor. The name, from medieval times at least, referred to a larger area of land known as Nanmor Deudraeth (see 5.2 below) which included the relatively fertile valley of the Afon Nantmor, where lie the estate centres of Dolfriog and Hafod Garregog. The present village dates from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and is located close to the northernmost point of the former tidal estuary of Traeth Mawr. The Traeth was tidal up to Nantmor before the construction of the cob at Porthmadog by William Madocks in 1810/11. This location explains why the village, despite being well inland in a mountainous area, lies at a height of only 20m OD. To the west of the village the Afon Glaslyn emerges from the narrow confines of the Glaslyn gorge, the land rising on the east side of the gorge to over 300m, dropping down again to Cwm Bychan, and then rising back up to Moel y Dyniewyd. It is this raised rocky plateau, lying between the Afon Nanmor and Afon Glaslyn, which forms the northern backdrop to the village. To the south lies the open landscape of the drained and reclaimed Traeth Mawr, and west across the Afon Glaslyn lies the 780m high Moel Hebog and outliers. The land is generally rocky, and, with the exception of the reclaimed Traeth Mawr, not particularly suited to arable farming. Copper mines were operational in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, particularly in Cwm Bychan and west of the Afon Glaslyn. Slate was also quarried on a small scale in the vicinity.

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<sup>2</sup> Gresham 1969; 1978.

<sup>3</sup> Cadw

<sup>4</sup> Haslam, Orbach, Voelcker 2009

<sup>5</sup> Jenkins 1899.

Beddgelert, some 2.5km to the north, was the parish centre, where lay the church and nearest settlement of any size. The road south from Beddgelert lay on the west bank of the Afon Glaslyn. Where the river met the tidal estuary was a fishery of medieval origin and the small harbour of Aberglaslyn. The road to Nantmor crossed over Pont Aberglaslyn just to the north of the estuary. This was an early route to Maentwrog and Ffestiniog, which crossed the Nantmor valley and Bwlch Croesor, and by running inland avoided the Glaslyn and Dwyrdd estuaries. It was not, however, a route to be taken lightly – Pennant says that from Cwm Croesor ‘being then desirous of getting by the nearest road to Pont Aber Glas Llyn, in our descent we met with such narrowness of path, such short turnings and horrible precipices, that our poor beasts, with much reason, trembled in ever limb; and, in fact, had a wonderful escape in getting safe to the bottom’.<sup>6</sup> By the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century when the village was founded the new turnpike road had been constructed to the south on the line of the present A4085, and a toll house built at Gelli Ynn by the junction with the older road. This effectively marginalized the former road, which, beyond the Nantmor valley, now only exists as a series of interlinked footpaths.

## 5. HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

### 5.1 Prehistoric and medieval origins

Up to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the area lay close to the tidal limits of Traeth Mawr. Flints and a prehistoric mace head have been found close by the chapel, and evidence from Ynysfawr and other former islands within the Traeth reveal traces of settlements that utilized the coastal resources. Evidence suggests that much of the shoreline and the adjacent marginal areas were still heavily tree covered, and the earlier settlements are likely to have lain on the better soils west of Cwm Caeth and alongside Afon Nantmor, where traces of late prehistoric settlement can be found.

In medieval times, from at least the 13<sup>th</sup> century when records start, Nanmor Deudraeth<sup>7</sup> was a subdivision of Beddgelert parish, and referred to as a hamlet. The term ‘hamlet’ does not, in this instance, refer to a nucleated settlement, but simply as the sub-division of a larger area. The parish is unusual in that it straddles commotal boundaries, and lies within the commotes of Gwryfai, Eifionydd and Ardudwy. The southern part of the parish known as Nanmor Deudraeth lay within Ardudwy, with links firmly to the south. Colin Gresham has examined this anomaly in some detail, and suggests that in the 12<sup>th</sup> century the hamlet may have formed an outlying part of Llanfair *juxta* Harlech parish, which was served by priests from Beddgelert. The hamlet was subsequently transferred to Beddgelert, as it lay adjacent to that parish, though in a different commote. Further confusion was caused by the division of the parish of Beddgelert between the counties of Caernarfonshire and Merionethshire in 1284 when Nanmor was placed in Merionethshire, though it was transferred to Caernarfonshire in 1895.<sup>8</sup>

Medieval documentation, though not mentioning Nanmor in detail, reveal this was not Crown land, but free land belonging to the descendants of Collwyn ap Tangno, a dominant patriarch within Eifionydd and north Ardudwy, whose descendants can be traced through many of the principal estates in the immediate post-medieval period. The earliest settlements appear to be within the better agricultural land of the Nantmor valley, though Gresham draws attention to a probable medieval settlement north of Hendref on slightly better agricultural land immediately east of the village.<sup>9</sup>

Dafydd Nanmor (fl 1450-90), a medieval Welsh poet of significance, came from Nanmor Deudraeth, and is usually associated with the house of Cae Dafydd in the Nantmor valley. He was exiled from Gwynedd c. 1453 after addressing poems to a married woman, Gwen of Ddol (possibly Dolfriog). Rhys Goch Eryri (fl

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<sup>6</sup> Pennant 1781, 129.

<sup>7</sup> The spelling Nanmor will be used here for the medieval hamlet, and Nantmor for the village.

<sup>8</sup> Gresham 1969; 1978.

<sup>9</sup> Gresham 1978; RCAHMW 1960, 24; PRN 1463. The site was initially thought to be a Roman fort, but is now considered to be a medieval settlement.

1385-48) was another Welsh poet associated with the area, and is thought to have lived at Hafod Garegog.<sup>10</sup>

### 5.3 The growth of the village

The area occupied by the present village of Nantmor lay, at the time of the tithe survey of 1839, on the holdings of Gelli Ynn and Cwm Caeth. Gelli Ynn is recorded as in the ownership of William Madocks, though it may previously have been owned by William Wynn of Wern, Penmorfa, who reputedly constructed embankments in the area to keep back the sea.<sup>11</sup> Wynn is thought to have obtained the land from the Anwyl estate of Parc, though firm evidence is lacking.<sup>12</sup> A sale catalogue of 1920 (Fig. 4) shows that the Priestly family of Trefan, who had inherited Hafod Garegog in Nantmor, made substantial purchases in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, because by 1920 they held Gelli Ynn, Cwm Caeth and surrounding farms (two small parcels on reclaimed land were still part of the Tremadoc estate).<sup>13</sup>

The origins of the village of Nantmor are relatively obscure, though almost entirely 19<sup>th</sup> century on land belonging to the Priestly's of Trefan and Hafod Garregog (Fig. 3). The village was established above the turnpike road on the old road which led over to the Nantmor valley, past the houses of Hendref and Garddllyged-y-dydd. Jenkins, describing the village at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, records a row of houses called Bryntirion, the school and school house, and the chapel and chapel house. Capel Peniel (Calvanistic Methodist) was first built in 1821, and this inevitably formed one focus of the village. The other early focus was at Bryntirion. Small terraces were built to house an expanding population engaged in mining and quarrying. Copper mines lay close by in Cwm Bychan and the Glaslyn gorge, and a slate quarry operated north of Cwm Caeth. Within the village a shop and post office were established, and other industries carried out there included a cobblers shop, bakery and saw pit.<sup>14</sup> Glan Meirion was built initially as an inn, though never functioned as such, and took over the role of shop and post office. Capel Peniel was rebuilt in its present form in 1868. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century a second chapel, Capel Cedron (Independent) was built behind Peniel terrace.

The Welsh Highland Railway, long in gestation, and originally at Nantmor part of the Portmadoc, Beddgelert and South Snowdon Railway, was partly constructed in 1915 when the First World War stopped further work. Construction was restarted after the war, and the line was finally opened in 1923, with a small station at Nantmor. The railway was never entirely successful as a commercial venture, and was closed in 1937. Most of the track was lifted in 1941. It is now re-open with a refurbished station as part of the newly formed Welsh Highland Railway Ltd (Plate 12). These developments are shown on 20<sup>th</sup> century aerial photographs of the area (Plates 1 and 2).

## 6. PRESENT SETTLEMENT CHARACTER: A SUMMARY

### 6.1 The topographic development of the settlement

Evidence for the origin of the settlement is sparse, but it developed within a triangle of land either side a small tributary of the Afon Glaslyn, and east of the farm called Gelli Ynn. According to the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1" OS map of c. 1830 the first buildings, of which one was the early chapel, developed by the junction in the road with the farm of Cwm Caeth. This lay on land east of the tributary, and on the farm of Cwm Caeth. The settlement subsequently expanded to occupy the triangle of which the south side is the road through the village; the north-west boundary was determined by the tree-covered cliffs which form a diagonal line from Bryn Tirion towards Cwm Caeth; and the east side was largely determined by the road to Cwm Caeth farm. West of this triangle lay the farm of Gelli Ynn, which by 1889 had subdivided into Gelli Yn Isaf and Gelli Yn Uchaf. The village has subsequently spread west to occupy this area.

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<sup>10</sup> Stephens 1998, 149 and 635.

<sup>11</sup> Jenkins 1899, 335; Gresham 1978, 117.

<sup>12</sup> Gresham 1978, 117.

<sup>13</sup> GAS X SC\810

<sup>14</sup> *Pers comm* Nia Powell

The small settlement, as shown on the OS map of 1889, lay either side of the stream. On the east side was the chapel, chapel house, the terrace at Peniel and the shop (Glan Meirion). On the west side of the stream was the school, school house and terrace of Brynffynon. To the west again, following a small gap crossed by a footpath, lay the terrace of Bryntirion and the houses of Cefn and Bron Meirion.

The sale of Hafod Garregog in 1920 freed up land for further development on Gelli'r Yn land, whilst the construction of the railway forced a change in the road alignment at Gelli'r Yn Uchaf. This eventually led to the construction of the demolition of Gelli'r Yn Uchaf and construction of the houses which currently line the north side of the road west of Bryntirion, many of these overlying the earlier road. Further development took place to the south of the road, either side the railway, in the 1970's (Plate 2), leading to the present houses of Bryn y Bont, Gelli'r Ynn Uchaf, Craig Fach and Hirka (Plate 14). Infill has also occurred at the east end of the village, where the council constructed houses at Llwyn Onn and Hafan in the open space north of the school. The 19<sup>th</sup> century settlement boundaries have been extended with the construction of Awel y Grug to the south, Argraig and Y Wenllys to the east, and Craig y Dderwen and Cilfynydd to the north, alongside the track to Cwm Caeth.

## **6.2 Building types**

All the buildings, with the exception of Capel Peniel (Plates 3 and 4) and Capel Cedron, are now of residential use. Glan Meirion, the former post-office, is one of the few detached pre-1900 buildings. The majority of the other early houses are two-storey terraces, each of three houses. The terrace at Arfryn (Plate 9) is single-storey. No farm buildings remain at Gelli Yn, though a group of corrugated-iron buildings lie close to the road at Bryn y Bont, in the south-west corner of the Area (Plate 14). These are currently used for growing mushrooms.

## **6.3 The character of building**

### *6.3.1 Wall materials and finishes*

The earlier buildings are all of stone, of rubble masonry, usually roughly coursed. The majority of stone, particularly the squared quoins and lintels, is of dark grey rock, and derived from the cliffs which form the north edge of the village. The same stone, but in smaller sizes, makes up the majority of the rubble walling, though walls also have examples of brown stones intermixed with the grey. One of the earliest buildings, Gelli'r Yn Isaf (Plate 13), does not have prominent quoins, and is constructed of much smaller stone, with more brown mixed with the grey. The small terrace at Arfryn (Plate 9) has massive lintels almost forming a continuous line across the building. This is matched by similar large stones in the base of the wall.

Typically the house fronts are constructed with larger blocks more regularly coursed than the sides or back, as at Bron Meirion (Plate 10). The chapel west front is sneaked, of squared dark grey blocks, though the south wall facing the road is rendered and painted white. This matches Glan Meirion opposite, which is also white render and ashlar marked. The central chimney of the terrace at Peniel (Plate 5) is a rare example of the use of brick.

### *6.3.2 Roofs*

The roofs are all of slate, the earlier perhaps from local quarries, though all are thin relatively modern slates, of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century or later. Many of the roofs, as is typical of this area, overhang the eaves. The purlins supporting them project through the gable end to the edge of the roof. The roof at Ty Capel (Plate 6) is an exception, where the roof finishes at the eaves. Ty'r Ysgol (Plate 7) has gabled front windows, with modern decorative bargeboards. The terrace at Brynffynon (Plate 8) also has gabled dormers over the principal upper windows.

Low stone chimneys are a feature of nearly all houses, usually with projecting concrete or rendered caps.

### *6.3.3 Architectural detail*

Small-pane sash windows are dominant in the group around the chapel, in particular at Ty Capel, Bron y Graig and Peniel Terrace (Plate 6). Elsewhere the windows have either been replaced, or are four-pane sash windows, as at Glan Meirion (Plate 4). Peniel chapel has tall simple round-arched windows.

## **7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE**

The archaeological potential within the Conservation Area can be considered medium to low. Prehistoric finds have been recovered from here, which may indicate the presence of buried archaeology, however much of the area has already been disturbed by development, and it would be fortunate to find in tact remains within the remaining undeveloped areas. The largest such areas are the wooded slopes between the village and the present main road, but the slope here is likely to be too great for settlement.

There is no known development prior to the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the exception of the farm at Gelli Ynn and possibly Bron Meirion, so very little potential exists for medieval or early-modern archaeology.

There may be some potential for discovery closer to the former tidal limits, particularly where waterlogged soils might preserve wooden remains. These would lie largely outside the Conservation Area, to the west of the A4085 road.

## **8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Nantmor is a small settlement of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, with subsequent development through to the later 20<sup>th</sup> century. Though rural in context, its origins are found within the industrialisation of the surrounding countryside, and the small terraces of houses, the chapel and school reflect these origins. The village lies within the wooded and rocky Snowdonia landscape, and yet close to sea level at the head of the reclaimed estuary of Traeth Mawr.

The nucleus of the village by 1900 was primarily focused on the chapel, chapel house and former school and school house. The two former, with the terrace at Peniel and the adjacent telephone box are Listed Buildings. Glan Meirion (former post office) contributes to this setting, as does the terrace at Brynffynon, though here the pebble-dash on the centre house, and the re-roofing of the east end tends to detract. The open space around the west front of the chapel is important – this area includes the road junction to Cwm Caeth, but the space created by this is, especially with the post box and telephone kiosk, plays the role of a village green. The lower part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century village consists of the small western group of houses made up of the single-storey terrace of Arfryn, and the houses of Bron Meirion (including Hafod) and Bryn Tirion (formerly Cefn). Below and west of Brintirion the farm of Gelli'r Yn Uchaf has gone, and the village has spread down the hill to the road. The modernised 18<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse at Gelli'r Yn Isaf lies end on to the road, with a later detached farmhouse to the west. On the main A4085 the former toll house, Tynpeg Bach, with its early 20<sup>th</sup> century neighbour Tywyn, marks the westernmost point of the conservation area, and the present western limits of development.

The key significant elements within the Conservation Area are:

- The 19<sup>th</sup> century grouping of buildings alongside and opposite the chapel
- The open space in front of the chapel,
- The bridge over the stream and footpath alongside the schoolhouse
- The grouping of 19<sup>th</sup> century houses at Bryntirion
- The woods of Coed Gelli'r Yn to the south of the village road.

## **9. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

The full extent of the village and the majority of the associated woods of Coed Gelli'r Ynn are included within the current conservation area boundary. However, the south-west corner of the wood, between the

railway and road, is excluded, though it forms a natural part of the original wood and it would be logical to include this corner also.

The copper workings in Cwm Bychan formerly provided work for the inhabitants of Nantmor, and the farm of Ty Cwm Bychan was always associated with the village. Consideration should therefore be given to including the National Trust carpark at the bottom of Cwm Bychan within the area, and possibly also including Pen y Groes, an 18<sup>th</sup> century house and home of Richard Owen (Glaslyn, 1831 - 1909) between 1877 and 1902. Owen was a poet and prose writer, who contributed several essays on the social life of Snowdonia.

## **10. LIST OF SOURCES CONSULTED**

### **10.1 Manuscript collections**

#### *10.1.1 National Library of Wales*

Brogyntyn Collection  
Dolfriog Collection

#### *10.1.2 University of Wales, Bangor*

Mostyn Mss

#### *10.1.3 Gwynedd Archives – Caernarfon*

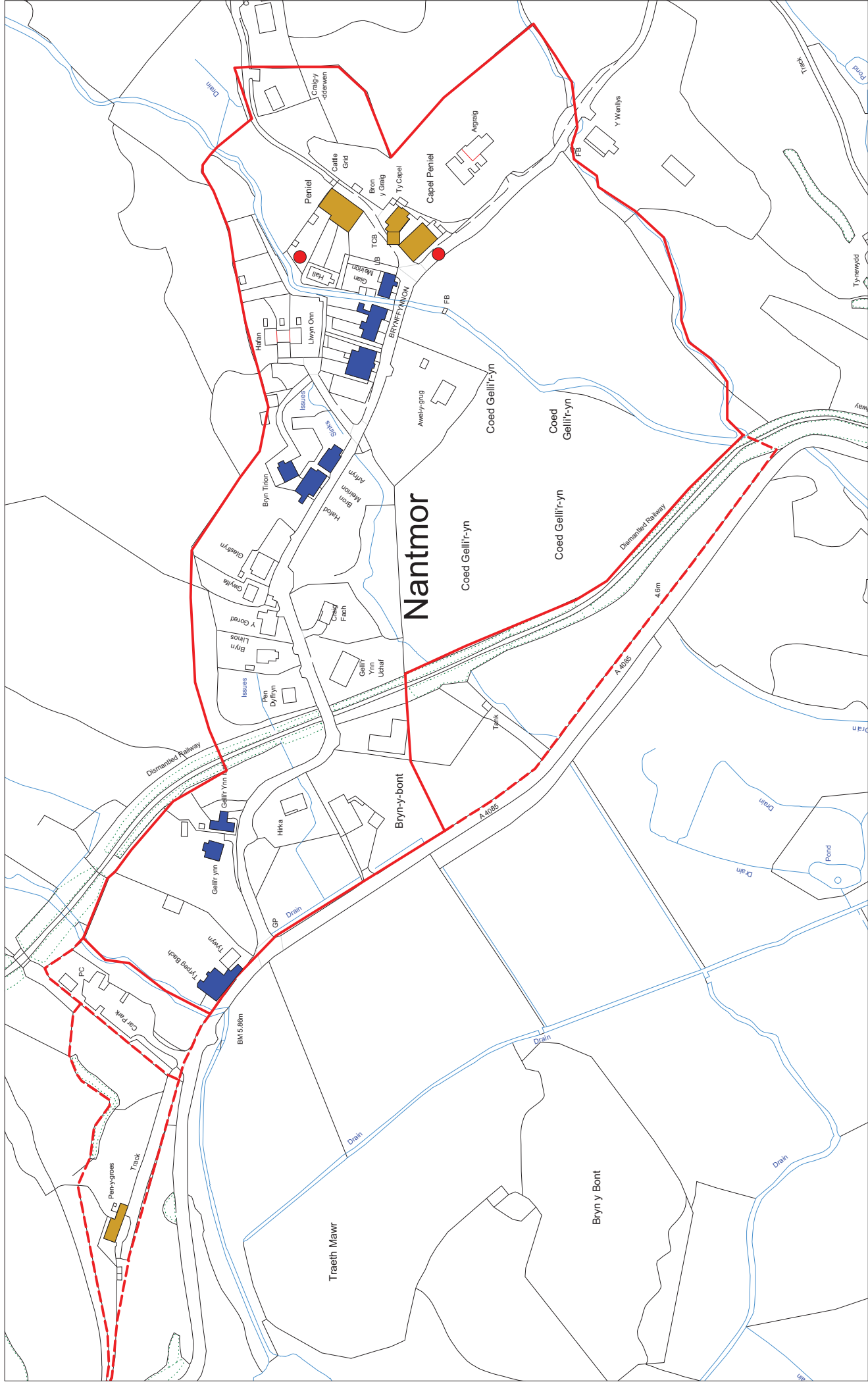
Tithe Map of Dolbenmaen (1839)  
Gelli Yn collection

#### *10.1.4 Ordnance Survey*

1” first edition c. 1830  
25” County Series 1889, 1900, 1913

### **10.2 Published sources**

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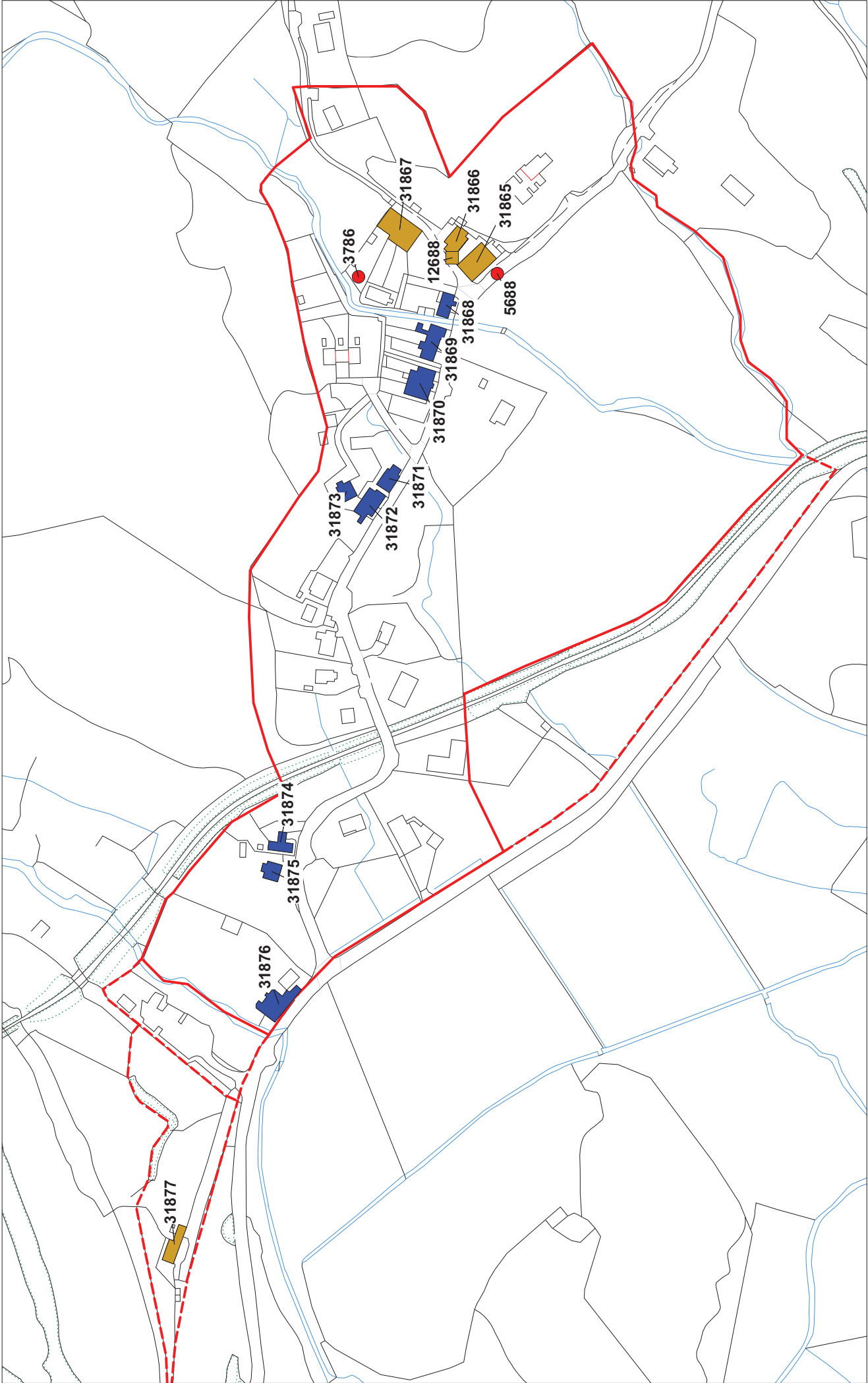


Nantmor Conservation Area  
Character Appraisal  
Figure 1 Location of Area

Scale: 1:25000

- Conservation area boundary
- Proposed conservation area extension

- Listed building
- Building of local note

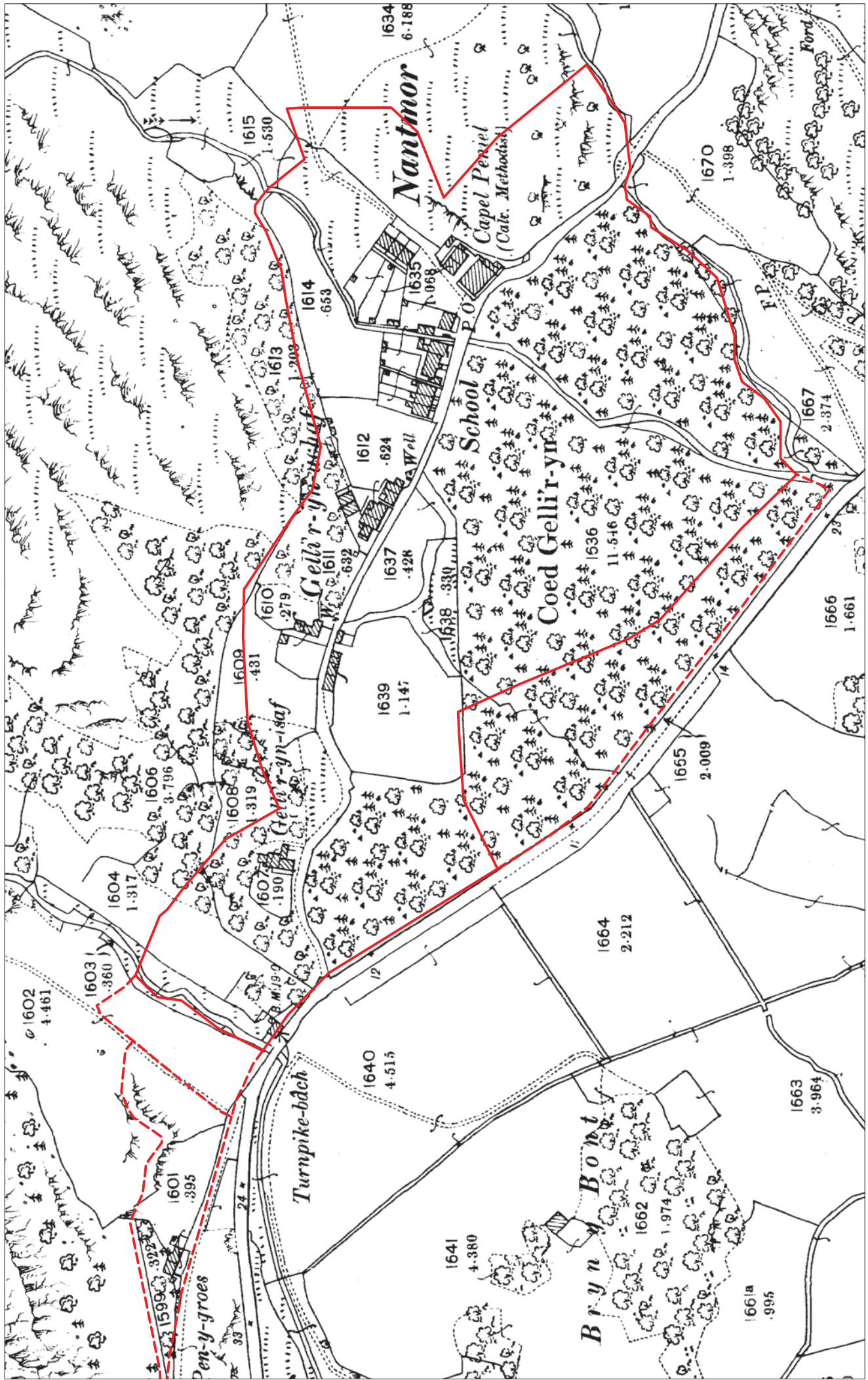


Nantmor Conservation Area  
Character Appraisal  
Figure 2 Location of Sites

Scale: 1:25000

— Conservation area boundary  
- - - Proposed conservation area extension

■ Listed building  
■ Building of local note



— Conservation area boundary  
 - - - Proposed conservation area extension

Scale: 1:25000



Nantmor Conservation Area  
 Character Appraisal  
 Figure 3 OS County Series 1900

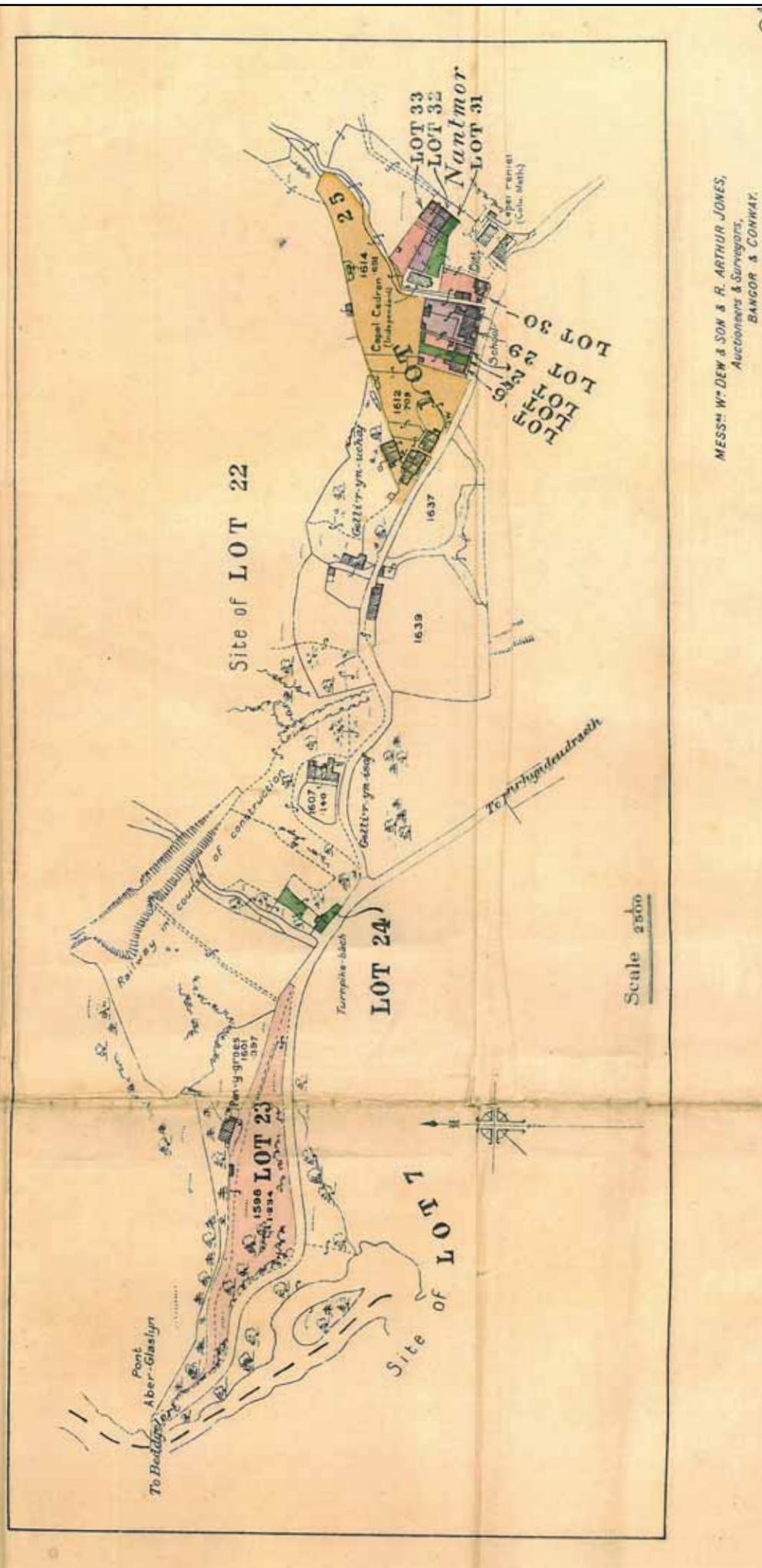


Figure 4: Sale Catalogue of the Hafod Garregog Estate 1920 (GAS XM/4170/108)



**Plate 1: Aerial photograph of Nantmor taken 1946 (WAG RAF 106GUK 1473 frame 3220; 7 May 1946)**



**Plate 2: Aerial photograph of Nantmor taken 1973 (WAG OS 73/028 frame 330; 23 March 1973)**



**Plate 3: Peniel Chapel, Ty Capel and telephone kiosk (PRN's 31865, 31866, 12688)**



**Plate 4: Capel Peniel with Glan Merion and Ty'r Ysgol beyond**



**Plate 5: Peniel Terrace (PRN 31867)**



**Plate 6: Ty Capel and Bron y Graig (PRN 31866)**



**Plate 7: Ty'r Ysgol and Yr Hen Ysgol**



**Plate 8: Brynffynon Terrace**



**Plate 9: The single storey terrace at Arfryn**



**Plate 10: Bron Merion and Hafod**



**Plate 11: Glasfryn and Gwylfa - Glasfryn (to left) is aligned on the old road, and close to the site of Gelli Ynn Uchaf**



**Plate 12: The new WHR station**



**Plate 13: Gelli Ynn Isaf**



**Plate 14: Hirka with the barns beyond below Bryn y Bont**

## APPENDIX I

### THE PLANNING PROCESS

#### Current legislation

The local Planning authorities are recognised and identified as having the key role in protecting our archaeological heritage. Government advice and planning case law clearly establish archaeology as a 'material consideration' in the planning authorities' assessment and determination of a planning application. This is seen both in national and regional policy documents and guidelines.

The protection of the vulnerable historic environment falls into two broad categories: Statutory protection and non-statutory protection.

Statutory protection is provided by the following Acts and Orders:

- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, as amended by the National Heritage Act 1983
- The Town and Country Planning Act 1990
- The Planning and Compensation Act 1991
- Statutory Instrument 1199, the Town and Country Planning (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1988
- Statutory Instrument 1995 No. 419, The Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

Designations arising from these Acts and Orders are Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.

Non-statutory protection is provided by national policies and guidelines contained within:

- Planning Policy Wales, March 2002
- Welsh Office Circular 60/96, Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology, December 1996
- Welsh Office Circular 61/96, Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas, December 1996.

The key document in Wales which expands on the legislative background and provides detailed guidance on the handling of archaeology within the planning process is Welsh Office Circular 60/96 - *Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology (1996)*. This Welsh Assembly guidance expands on Planning Policy Wales (March 2002), Chapter 6 'Conserving the Historic Environment'; particularly paragraphs 6.5.1 to 6.5.6 (see Appendix I for extracts from 60/96).

#### Local Plan Policies

The town lies entirely within the Snowdonia National Park. Current regional and local plan policies are defined in *Gwynedd Structure Plan* (adopted 1993) and *Eryri Local Plan* (adopted 1999). The plan can be consulted in the offices of the National Park, or online at [http://www.eryri-npa.co.uk/images/eryri\\_local\\_plan/elp\\_english.pdf](http://www.eryri-npa.co.uk/images/eryri_local_plan/elp_english.pdf). Policies concerning archaeology, including historic towns, are given in section 5, policies AR 1-4. Policies concerning the built heritage, including listed buildings and conservation areas, are given section 6, policies TA 1-12.

## **Conservation Areas in Dolbenmaen**

The 1990 Town and Country Planning Act defines a conservation area as ‘an area of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance’.

## **Heritage and Local Planning Context**

Advice on the management of the archaeological heritage is provided by the National Park Archaeologist, who, together with the Park’s building conservation and planning officers contribute to the decision making processes to inform on the likely impact of development on the historic environment and how best to mitigate the impact. Advice on Conservation Areas and the Built Heritage is given by the National Park Planning Department through their Building Conservation Officer.

Archaeology is the process by which we can understand past societies through their material remains. These archaeological remains are a finite and non-renewable resource. They are vulnerable to modern development and can, in a short space of time, be entirely destroyed by modern machinery and building methods.

The level of archaeological response is guided by the nature of the archaeological remains and the significance of the impact. Archaeological mitigation is usually imposed through planning conditions, and a relevant programme of archaeological works is advised by the National Park archaeologist. On occasion a programme of assessment and evaluation may be required prior to the determination of a planning application, so that the appropriate mitigation can be advised.

## **Regional Historic Environment Record**

The regional Historic Environment Record (HER) is a database of archaeological sites and finds with details of interventions (surveys, excavations, previous work etc) and references. It consists of both a computerised record and a paper record, and is maintained at the offices of the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust in Bangor. The digital record combines database and GIS functionality, and forms the key component of the planning and archaeology decision making process. The experience and knowledge of the development control archaeologists is used to interpret the record, and provide relevant advice to the planning officers.

## **Other relevant strategic documents**

### Historic Landscape Characterisation

Harlech falls within the ‘Ardudwy’ Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (HLW GW2). The contents and significance of this area are described as follows.

‘A large, exceptionally archaeologically rich and well-studied landscape situated on the western flanks of the Rhinog Mountains, containing extensive relict evidence of recurrent land use and settlement from prehistoric to recent times.’<sup>15</sup>

## **Extracts from Welsh Office Circular 60/96**

*Archaeological remains are a finite, and non-renewable resource, in many cases highly fragile and vulnerable to damage and destruction.* [Paragraph 3]

*Archaeological remains are part of our cultural heritage, not least in terms of the information they provide about the past, valuable both for their own sake, and for their role in education leisure and tourism.* [Paragraph 3]

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<sup>15</sup> CCW, Cadw and Icomos, 1998, 100

*The key to the future of the great majority of archaeological sites and historic landscapes lies with local authorities, acting within the framework set by central government, in their various capacities as planning, highways, education and recreational authorities. [Paragraph 7]*

*Local planning authorities should expect developers to provide the results of such appraisals, assessments and/or evaluations as part of their applications for sites where there is good reason to believe there are remains of archaeological importance. [Paragraph 14]*

*Authorities will need to consider refusing permission for proposals which are inadequately documented. [Paragraph 14]*

*When planning applications are made without prior discussion with the local planning authorities, the authorities should seek to identify those applications which have archaeological implications, and to assess their likely impact by consulting the local authority Archaeological Officer, National Park Archaeologist or regional Welsh Archaeological Trust. [Paragraph 15]*

*In the case of a development proposal that is likely to affect the site of a scheduled ancient monument, planning authorities are required to consult the Secretary of State (Cadw). [Paragraph 15]*

*Where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings, are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation in situ i.e. a presumption against proposals which would involve significant alteration or cause damage, or which would have a significant impact on the setting of visible remains. [Paragraph 17]*

*It may be possible to preserve important archaeological remains where developers prepare sympathetic designs using, for example, foundations which avoid disturbing the remains altogether or minimise damage by raising ground levels under a proposed new structure or by careful siting of landscaped or open areas. [Paragraph 17]*

*Archaeological investigations such as excavation and recording should be carried out before development commences, working to a project brief prepared by the planning authority (with reference to their archaeological advisers). [Paragraph 20]*

*It is open to the local planning authority to impose conditions designed to protect a monument. [Paragraph 22]*

## APPENDIX 2: LIST OF SITES BY PRN

### **3786 STONE TOOL (MACE) – FINDSPOT, NR NANTMOR CHAPEL**

Assessment of Importance: E

Site Status Reference:

Easting: 260100

Northing: 346030

### **5688 FLINTS FINDSOT, NANTMOR**

Assessment of Importance: E

Site Status Reference:

Easting: 260100

Northing: 346100

### **12688 PENIEL CHAPEL TELEPHONE BOX**

Assessment of Importance: A

Site Status Reference: LB II (4614)

K6 type square kiok of cast-iron construction to the standard design of Giles Gilbert Scott.

Easting: 260108

Northing: 346052

### **31865 PENIEL CHAPEL, NANTMOR**

Assessment of Importance: A

Site Status Reference: LB II (4614)

Large Victorian chapel dated 1868, though originally built in 1829. West front of snecked masonry – dark grey quarried blocks. Remaining walls of rubble masonry, rendered on the south. Tall arched windows to end and side. Later residential building at east end. Chapel converted to residential use.

Easting: 260106

Northing: 346038

### **31866 TY CAPEL AND BRON Y GRAIG, NANTMOR**

Assessment of Importance: A

Site Status Reference: LB II (20946 and 20947)

Mid-19<sup>th</sup> century terrace of two adjacent to Capel Peniel. Two storey, stone rubble construction and continuous slate roof, stone end and centre stacks. 12 pane sash windows. Presumably built as chapel house? Style suggests earlier than 1868 which is date of chapel.

Easting: 260108

Northing: 346052

### **31867 PENIEL TERRACE, NANTMOR**

Assessment of Importance: A

Site Status Reference: LB II (20954, 20955, 20956)

Mid 19<sup>th</sup> century terrace of 3 two-storey cottages set back behind low rubble forecourt walls. Of rubble construction under a continuous slate roof with plain end chimneys and a brick central chimney. 12 pane sash windows downstairs, 9 pane sash windows on upper floor.

Easting: 260108

Northing: 346052

### **31868 GLANMEIRION, NANTMOR**

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

Late 19<sup>th</sup> century two-storey house with front central porch. Former shop and post-office. Slate roof with overhanging eaves and gable stacks. Rendered and ashlar scribed. Four-pane sash windows. Front right corner of building is angled – possibly for door into the shop.

Easting: 260084

Northing: 346056

**31869 YR HEN YSGOL AND TY'R YSGOL, NANTMOR**

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

Late 19<sup>th</sup> century school and adjoining (on left) school house. The school has now been converted into two houses. Walls of uncoursed rubble masonry, with some larger squared blocks, and longer quoins at the left corner. Slate roof with single stack on left. Centre portion of front wall raised with long catslide dormer. Long mono-pitch porch over the two doors. Adjoining on left is the former school house, single fronted, two storey with two gabled dormers, now with decorated bargeboards. Slate roof with gable stacks. Walls pebble-dashed. Front porch over door to left. Low wall fronting garden alongside road, surmounted by iron railings.

Easting: 260084

Northing: 346056

**31870 BRYNFFYNON TERRACE, NANTMOR**

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

Late 19<sup>th</sup> century two-storey terrace of three. Single fronted with gabled dormer above primary window. Slate roof with end gable stacks and one left of centre. They may have been a pair initially, with the left one added later, as the masonry to the left is of a different nature (mid-grey colour, of roughly coursed rubble) to the right end of terrace (darker grey with larger blocks interspersed with light mortar). The centre terrace is pebble-dashed.

Easting: 260084

Northing: 346056

**31871 ARFRYN, NANTMOR**

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

Mid 19<sup>th</sup>-century single-storey terrace of two double-fronted houses. Uncoursed rubble walls with large boulders forming the lower course, and large slabs forming the door and window lintels in a single horizontal line. The two doors now blocked and windows inserted. Slate roof with end and centre stacks. Modern 9-pane windows in the right, and smaller four pane windows to left. Rear wing and extension to right.

Easting: 260084

Northing: 346056

**31872 BRON MEIRION AND HAFOD, NANTMOR**

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

Mid-19<sup>th</sup> century two-storey range of three. To right is a double fronted house with front central gabled porch, slate roof with end gable stacks. To left is single fronted house, uncoursed rubble walls. To left again and set back is a double fronted house of uncoursed rubble.

Easting: 260084

Northing: 346056

**31874 GELLI'R YNN ISAF, NANTMOR**

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

Single-storey L-shaped house of 18<sup>th</sup> century origin. Modernised with new vertical windows in gable facing road. Part roughly coursed rubble, part pebble-dashed. Slate roof.

Easting: 260084

Northing: 346056

**31875      GELLI'R YNN, NANTMOR**

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

Early 20<sup>th</sup> century two-storey double fronted house, modernized. Slate roof with end gable stacks and three gabled dormer windows to front.

Easting: 260084

Northing: 346056

**31876      TYRPEG BACH**

Assessment of Importance: B

Site Status Reference:

Early 19<sup>th</sup> century former turnpike house. Enlarged and modernized, of two storeys. Roughly coursed rubble walls, slate roof with two stone stacks to left and centre.

Easting: 260084

Northing: 346056



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH  
ARCHAEOLEGOL  
GWYNEDD



GWYNEDD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
TRUST

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