

# Castell Aberlleiniog (AN020), Llangoed, Ynys Môn

Cloddïad Archeolegol Cymunedol 2024  
Community Archaeological Excavation 2024



Archaeoleg Gwynedd  
**Heneb**  
Gwynedd Archaeology



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## CASTELL ABERLLEINIOG (AN020), LLANGOED, YNYS MÔN, COMMUNITY EXCAVATION 2024

CRYNHODEB ANHECHNEGOL.....	6
NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY.....	7
1 INTRODUCTION.....	8
1.1 Aims and Objectives .....	10
1.2 Monitoring Arrangements.....	11
1.3 Historic Environment Record.....	11
1.4 Acknowledgements .....	11
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	12
3 METHODOLOGY .....	15
3.1 Introduction.....	15
3.2 Fieldwork Methodology.....	17
3.3 Selection Policy, Data Processing and Archiving.....	19
3.4 Community Engagement.....	20
4 RESULTS .....	21
4.1 Trench TR01.....	23
4.2 Test Pit TP01 .....	26
4.3 Test Pit TP02 .....	27
4.4 Test Pit TP03 .....	28
4.5 Test Pit TP04 .....	29
4.6 Test Pit TP05 .....	30
4.7 Test Pit TP06 .....	31
5 DISCUSSION.....	32
5.1 Geophysical Survey Anomaly 2, linear feature originally thought to be part of bailey enclosure .....	32



5.2	Geophysical Survey Anomaly 10, location of possible structural remains on eastern side of bailey, potentially entrance road or buildings.....	33
5.3	Previously unknown archaeological features.....	33
5.4	General.....	34
6	CONCLUSION.....	35
7	SOURCES CONSULTED .....	36

PLATES

FIGURES

APPENDIX I

Conditional Scheduled Monument Consent AN020 SMC24-058

APPENDIX II

Reproduction of Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology photographic record metadata

APPENDIX III

Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology Selection Strategy

## **FIGURES**

Figure 01: The location of Castell Aberlleiniog (SM AN020).

Figure 02: Castell Aberlleiniog 2008 gradiometer survey on the southern side of the AN020 scheduled area interpretative plan (after Hopewell 2008, Fig. 2)

Figure 03: Archaeological trench and trial pit locations on southern side of the AN020 scheduled area overlaid against 2008 geophysical survey interpretative plan.

Figure 04: Excavated trench and trial pit locations on southern side of AN020 scheduled area.

Figure 05: Plan and sections from trench TR01.

Figure 06: Plan and section of test pit TP01.

Figure 07: Plan and sections of test pit TP04.

## **PLATES**

Plate 01: Trench TR01 prior to southern extension, viewed from the northeast (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_033).

Plate 02: Post-ex photo of trench TR01, viewed from the northeast (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_035).

Plate 03: Post-ex photo of TR01 showing southwest-facing baulk section and sondage, viewed from the southwest (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_056).

Plate 04: Section view of linear hollow [TR01-08] in TR01, viewed from the southeast (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_074).

Plate 05: Pre-ex shot of pit [TR01-06] in base of linear hollow [TR01-08] in the southwest part of TR01 prior to extension, viewed from the southwest (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_014).

Plate 06: Photo showing southwest facing section through feature [TR01-06], viewed from the southwest (scale 1x0.3m; archive ref: E49136\_019).

Plate 07: Pre-ex shot of pit [TR01-04] in the northeast end of TR01, viewed from the northeast (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_011).

Plate 08: Southeast facing section through pit [TR01-04] in the northeast end of TR01, viewed from the southeast (scale 1x0.3m; archive ref: E49136\_012).

Plate 09: Post-ex photo of west facing section of TP01 showing step in natural [TP01-05] and gravelly deposit (TP01-04), viewed from the west (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_023).

Plate 10: Post-ex photo of east facing section of TP01 showing step in natural [TP01-05], viewed from the east (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_025).

Plate 11: South-facing section in TP02, post-ex showing depth of natural clay deposit (TP02-03) in sondage, viewed from the south (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_018).

Plate 12: West-facing section in TP02, post-ex showing depth of natural clay deposit (TP02-03) in sondage, viewed from the west (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_015).

Plate 13: Post-ex photo of west-facing section TP03, viewed from the west (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_027).

Plate 14: Post-ex photo of east-facing section TP03, viewed from the east (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_029).

Plate 15: TP04 post-ex plan view showing pit [TP04-04], viewed from the south (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_046).

Plate 16: East-facing section in TP04 showing pit [TP04-04], viewed from the east (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_050).

Plate 17: TP05 post-ex, west-facing section, viewed from the west (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_068).

Plate 18: TP05 post-ex, east-facing section, viewed from the east (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_070).

Plate 19: TP06 Post-ex, south-facing section, viewed from the south (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_075).

Plate 20: TP06 Post-ex, north-facing section, viewed from the north (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_077).

## **CRYNHODEB ANHECHNEGOL**

Gofynnodd Menter Môn i Archaeoleg Heneb Gwynedd ymgymryd â chloddiaid archeolegol cymunedol ar Heneb Gofrestredig Castell Aberlleiniog, castell mwnt a beili canoloesol yn Llangoed, Ynys Môn. Cloddiwyd un ffos fechan a chwe phwll prawf yn y beili i ymchwilio i ddau anghysondeb archeolegol posibl a mannau gwag a nodwyd mewn arolwg geoffisegol cynharach. Cynhaliwyd y cloddiaid rhwng 4 a 11 Tachwedd 2024.

Nodwyd un o anomaleddau'r arolwg geoffisegol a dargedwyd fel llwybr heb ddyddiad a oedd yn rhedeg yn gyfochrog â ffin dde-orllewin y beili. Ni nodwyd yr anghysondeb arall a dargedwyd yn unrhyw un o'r tri phwll prawf a osodwyd drosto a chredir iddo gael ei achosi gan amrywiad magnetig lleol yn yr uwchbridd a'r isbridd.

Nodwyd hefyd dri phwll anhysbys a heb eu dyddio hyd yma, dwy enghraifft fas a chornel nodwedd fwy sylweddol, sy'n dangos y gall nodweddion y tu hwnt i'r rhai a ganfuwyd gan yr arolwg geoffisegol oroesi o fewn ardal y beili. Nodwyd nodwedd archeolegol bosibl arall o fewn un o'r pyllau prawf, o bosibl ymyl ogleddol llwybr arall sy'n rhedeg o'r dwyrain i'r gorllewin, fodd bynnag byddai angen rhagor o waith cloddio i sefydlu a yw'n darddiad archeolegol neu naturiol.

## **NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology was asked by Menter Môn to undertake a community archaeological excavation at the Castell Aberlleiniog Scheduled Monument, a medieval motte and bailey castle at Llangoed, Ynys Môn. One small trench and six test pits were dug in the bailey to investigate two potential archaeological anomalies and blank areas identified in an earlier geophysical survey. The excavation was undertaken between the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

One of the targeted geophysical survey anomalies was identified as an undated pathway that ran parallel with the southwestern boundary of the bailey. The other targeted anomaly was not identified in any of the three test pits that were sited over it and it is thought to have been caused by localised magnetic variation in the topsoil and subsoil.

Three previously unknown and as yet undated pits, two shallow examples and the corner of a more substantial feature, were also identified, demonstrating that features beyond those detected by the geophysical survey may survive within the bailey area. Another possible archaeological feature was identified within one of the test pits, possibly the northern edge of another east-west aligned pathway, however further excavation work would be required to establish whether it is archaeological or natural in origin.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology (HGA) was asked by Menter Môn to undertake a community archaeological excavation at Castell Aberlleiniog, Tros yr Afon, Llangoed, Ynys Môn, LL58 8AT (Scheduled Monument AN020; HGA HER PRN 2570; RCAHMW NPRN 58448; NGR SH6163979298; Figure 01). The scope of the community excavation was devised by HGA in response to an invitation from Menter Môn to formulate and conduct a scheme of archaeological works at the site that involves and educates the local community and may provide information that can be included in future management plans and interpretive materials for the monument.

Castell Aberlleiniog is the remains of a medieval motte and bailey castle located on the left bank of the Afon Lleiniog. It is believed to originally date to the 11<sup>th</sup> century AD, but the site was re-fortified in the 17th century and it also contains later additions. It is a Scheduled Monument (AN020) and is afforded statutory protection from unauthorised damage, repair or alteration under Section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Following a site visit in October 2024 to discuss the scope of the proposed community excavation with representatives from Menter Môn, Welsh Government (Cadw) and HGA present, HGA applied to Cadw for Scheduled Monument Consent for the works.

Conditional Scheduled Monument Consent was granted on 29th October 2024 (Cadw ref. AN020 SMC24-058; Appendix I). The community excavation was undertaken in November 2024 in accordance with the conditions set out in the Scheduled Monument Consent and the following guidance:

- Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) Version 2 (The Welsh Archaeological Trusts 2022);
- Standard for Archaeological Excavation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2023);
- Universal Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2023);
- Standard for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2023);
- Universal Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2023);
- Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020);

- Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991);
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide (Historic England 2015); and
- Guidelines for Digital Archives (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, 2015).

*Heneb is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).*



## 1.1 Aims and Objectives

The key aims and objectives were to:

- Attempt to enhance the significance of the monument both by generating a better understanding of its evidential value by establishing the nature, degree of survival and date of any archaeological remains identified in its bailey area; and to assess their implications for understanding the historical development of the site
- use any knowledge gained to contribute to future management plans and interpretative materials for the site;
- place the results into their context with the known local archaeological record, to generate an enhanced understanding of Medieval and Post-medieval activities within the local area;
- place the results into their regional archaeological context with reference made to *A Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales Version 03, Final Refresh Document* (March 2017);
- to engage with local communities to improve their understanding and appreciation of the monument, and to encourage them to participate in archaeological excavations at the site, enhancing its local communal value; and
- if no additional archaeological activity is identified, to establish why this may be the case.

## 1.2 Monitoring Arrangements

The community excavations will be monitored by the HGA Principal Archaeologist, Menter Môn and Cadw. The content of this report and any subsequent reporting by HGA have been approved by the HGA Principal Archaeologist, Menter Môn and Cadw prior to final issue. The HGA Principal Archaeologist, Menter Môn and Cadw were kept informed of the project timetable and subsequent progress and findings.

## 1.3 Historic Environment Record

In line with the HGA Historic Environment Record (HER) requirements, the HER was contacted at the onset of the project to ensure that any data arising is formatted in a manner suitable for accession to the HER and complies with the guidance set out in *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records* (HERs) (The Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2022). In line with this guidance, all submitted reporting includes the equivalent of a non-technical summary in Welsh and English and copies of short bilingual summaries of the works have been supplied. The HGA HER Event Primary Reference Number (PRN) for the project is 49136.

## 1.4 Acknowledgements

HGA would like to thank the following for their contribution and support:

The HGA Project Archaeologists Jessie Baumgardner, Stuart Murphy, Neil McGuinness and Outreach Archaeologist Erin Lloyd; HGA project manager Principal Archaeologist John Roberts; Menter Môn, who commissioned the work and in particular Joseff Davies and Rebecca Pritchard for ensuring the project ran smoothly and keeping the supplies of mince pies, biscuits and milk flowing; Ashley Batten, Cadw Regional Inspector of Ancient Monuments North Wales and Nicola Smith Cadw Casework Manager, for advice and assistance with the Scheduled Monument Consent application; and Glyn O Evans Ltd for supplying the welfare facilities.

The work could not have been completed without the efforts of the local volunteer archaeologists who undertook the bulk of the excavation work. Thanks are due to all who participated.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**



**Aerial view of Castell Aberlleiniog, viewed from the east-northeast (February 2024).**

Castell Aberlleiniog is recorded in the HGA regional HER as HGA PRN 2570. It is described there as a motte and bailey castle standing on the left bank of the Afon Lleiniog (Figure 01). It is thought to have originally been built by Hugh of Avranches, the Norman Earl of Chester, between 1088 and 1090. The motte is described as a large, flat-topped artificial mound upon which would have stood a timber castle, with a small bailey on its southern side between the motte and the ravine. The bailey, an enclosed area which may have been the location of ancillary buildings, is defined by the slight remains of a ditch and bank with two terminal mounds adjoining the ditch around the motte. The motte now holds the remains of a later square stone keep. The HER states that the development of the site can be divided into four phases: the first is the 11th-century Norman motte and bailey, the second is 17th-century re-fortification during the Civil War, followed by the addition of a stone fort or folly between 1701 and 1770. Partial repairs and reconstruction of the fort probably belong to the period from

c.1840 to World War II when the north tower was used as an observation post. Excavations in 2004 revealed extensive evidence for Civil War occupation of the site (Morgan 2009).

In 2008, the former Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT), now HGA, was commissioned by Menter Môn to undertake a geophysical (magnetometer) survey at Castell Aberlleiniog (Hopewell 2008; Figure 02). The geophysical survey area encompassed the majority of the suspected castle bailey located on the southern side of the scheduled area to the south of the motte. The defences of the bailey, possibly spread by later activity, were thought to have been detected (labelled on Figure 02 as anomalies 1 and 2), with a possible entrance in the southeastern corner. (Figure 02, anomaly 3). Though there were no clear archaeological anomalies within the bailey, a line of patches of increased noise on its eastern side (Figure 02, anomaly 10) may represent structural remains, perhaps the footings of buildings or a road leading to the entrance. The report stated that the results around the edge of the ditch were mostly masked by disturbance from modern ferrous material objects, which were also encountered in other parts of the survey area. No further anomalies of potential archaeology origin could be identified. The report concluded that while no definite structural remains were identified in the enclosed area, it does not prove that there is no extant archaeology because not all features can be detected by the gradiometer (Hopewell 2008, 3).

In 2015, Timothy Morgan Archaeological Illustration were commissioned by Menter Môn to undertake archaeological recording of repair and conservation work at Castell Aberlleiniog (HGA Event PRN 44655; Morgan 2015). The report stated that the primary aims of the project were to stabilise the existing features of the east tower and the adjoining length of the southeast curtain wall and to recreate the outline of the lost outer arc of the tower. In both cases, as well as in the dismantling and rebuilding of the jamb of the entrance through the southeast curtain wall and various repair and repainting work on the buttresses and north tower, the intentions were to enable them to inhibit progressive deterioration and the demands of visitor access. The aims of the watching brief was to provide on-site assistance to the contractor and architect in the interpretation of those features and to gather as much information as possible on the stratigraphy and character of the east tower through a scaled digital and drawn record of the clearance of vegetation and tumble. The report states that the 2015 project was the final part in the extensive programme of consolidation and reinterpretation of Castell Aberlleiniog undertaken by Menter Môn since 2004. The report concluded that the objectives of the work were carried out as agreed and enabled infilling of the eroded paths ascending the rampart within the southeast entrance in order to support the terminals of the curtain walls. Excavation was confined to the removal of vegetation and

topsoil in order to partially expose these features for recording purposes. The report states that no finds or other datable material were encountered except for unstratified fragments of roof slate and oyster shell, with a single modern coin, in the turf and topsoil (Morgan 2015).

In 2023 GAT was commissioned by Menter Môn to undertake an archaeological watching brief during further repair and conservation work at Castell Aberlleiniog (Oattes 2023). The repair and conservation works were located along two paths close to the castle that were in poor condition due to heavy use; the existing surface layers of soil and leaf litter were reduced to a mean depth of 50mm and were replaced by a deposit of crushed stone atop sheep fleece geotextile. No archaeological activity was identified within the confines of the monitored work.

### 3 METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Introduction

The bailey area on the southern side of the monument had recently been cleared of undergrowth by Menter Môn as part of management and maintenance works. The programme of evaluation/excavation involved the hand digging of 1 small (3x1m) trench (TR01) and 6 (1x1m) trial pits (TP01-TP06) in the bailey in order to test the results of the 2008 geophysical survey (Hopewell 2008; Figure 01; Figure 02; Figure 03; Figure 04). The excavations were originally scheduled to be completed over 5 days beginning on Monday 4th November 2024 with all excavated interventions backfilled by the end of Friday 6th November 2024. The excavation of trench TR01 and 3 three trial pits (TP01-TP03) commenced on the first day of fieldwork. The other 3 trial pits (TP04-TP06) were contingency trial pits to be excavated and recorded should resources and time allow. Following discussions with representatives of Menter Môn and Cadw, the excavation period was extended by one day until Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November to enable a 1m extension to TR01 (originally proposed as a 2x1m trench) and the completion of the excavation and backfilling of the 3 contingency trial pits (TP04-TP06). The details of the individual trenches/trial pits are given in Table 3.1 below.

Trench / Trial Pit Number	Size (m)	Orientation	OSGB centre point (m E/N)	Rationale
TR01	3x1	NNE-SSW	261629.81 / 379249.87	Located over part of anomaly 02, linear feature thought to be part of bailey enclosure
TP01	1x1	N-S	261644.37 / 379248.75	Located over part of anomaly 10, location of possible structural remains on eastern side of bailey, potentially entrance road or buildings
TP02	1x1	N-S	261644.98 / 379254.98	Located over part of anomaly 10, location of possible structural remains, potentially entrance road or buildings

Trench / Trial Pit Number	Size (m)	Orientation	OSGB centre point (m E/N)	Rationale
TP03	1x1	N-S	261646.70 / 379260.68	Located over part of anomaly 10, location of possible structural remains, potentially entrance road or buildings
TP04	1x1	N-S	261624.76 / 379258.02	Contingency – located within the central part of the bailey to test a blank area on the geophysical survey
TP05	1x1	N-S	261626.54 / 379262.48	Contingency – located within the central part of the bailey to test a blank area on the geophysical survey
TP06	1x1	N-S	261618.60 / 379265.38	Contingency – located within the western part of the bailey to test a blank area on the geophysical survey

Table 3.1: Trench and trial pit details

To achieve the aims and objectives of the project set out in Sec 1.1, the key agreed deliverables were:

- the completion of a targeted programme of small-scale archaeological excavation;
- the provision of an outreach programme including bilingual pre- and post-investigation talks (see Sec 3.4);
- the recruitment, organisation, management and training of a team of up to 30 volunteers drawn from the local community (see Sec 3.4); and
- the completion of an industry-standard fieldwork report and subsequent post-excavation final report if an archaeological post-excavation programme is required.



### **3.2 Fieldwork Methodology**

The excavation of the trench and trial pits was managed and supervised by 2 HGA archaeologists supported by volunteers. The Outreach Archaeologist also attended site on excavation days in order to assist with the supervision and training of volunteers. Hand tools, kneeling mats and protective gloves for volunteers were provided by HGA.

A mobile welfare unit with tool storage facilities was provisioned 150m to the northeast of the scheduled area, at the northwestern end of the access track that leads towards Castell Aberlleiniog from the road between Traeth Aberlleiniog and Penmon. Car parking for HGA staff and volunteers was at the Castell Aberlleiniog Car Park in Llangoed, 600m to the northwest of the monument, and the Traeth Lleiniog car park, 450m to the southwest. No vehicular access was permitted to the excavation area or the wider scheduled area.

Fieldwork was completed in accordance with the Cadw and Menter Môn approved WSI, Conditional Scheduled Monument Consent (Cadw ref. AN020 SMC24-058; Appendix X), industry standards and the HGA Field Manual.

- The locations and extents of the interventions were staked out by HGA archaeologists prior to the beginning of the excavation using a high-precision Trimble R8s GNSS GPS receiver (>1cm accuracy). The Trimble R8s unit was also used for all subsequent digital surveying. All survey data were collected and recorded with reference to the EPSG:27700 OSGB 1936 / British National Grid projection using the OSTN15/OSGM15 transformation.
- The excavation of the trench and trial pits was conducted with hand tools and continued vertically to whichever of the following levels was reached first: an archaeological horizon, the glacial horizon, or the safe vertical limit of unshored excavation (1.2m). Excavated material was stockpiled adjacent to the interventions on plastic sheeting.
- Any archaeological features/deposits/structures encountered in the interventions were manually cleaned and examined to attempt to determine extent, function, date and relationship to adjacent activity. The following excavation strategy applied: 100% sampling of the parts of each feature exposed within the limits of the archaeological intervention. Any deposits that comprised a spread of material rather than a cut feature were sampled in half section to determine depth. Structural remains (if they were encountered) were to be cleaned and recorded but not excavated.



- Bulk soil samples (each up to 10 litres in volume) were recovered from all 4 identified archaeological features for potential future environmental analysis subject to agreement between the HGA Principal Archaeologist, Menter Môn and Cadw.
- All archaeological interventions were recorded with a written record on HGA Trench proformas. These records include topsoil and subsoil depths, as well as the composition of the glacial horizon. All encountered subsurface archaeological features were recorded with a written record on HGA context proformas and recorded photographically with an appropriate scale.
- A total of 82 photographic images were taken using a Nikon D3100 digital SLR camera set to maximum resolution (4608 × 3072 pixels, 14.2 effective megapixels) in RAW format (archive refs E49136\_001 - E49136\_082). A written index of the photographic record was maintained on-site using HGA photographic metadata proformas. Scale bars of appropriate size and quantity were used, both for general images and for individual interventions and archaeological features.
- A measured survey of all interventions and archaeological features revealed was completed using either the Trimble R8s GNSS GPS receiver or a hand-drawn measured record. Any required hand-drawn sections and plans of features or deposits were drawn at a maximum 1:10 scale using HGA A3 pro-forma permatrace sheets; section datums and ground surface levels were also recorded where appropriate.
- Once recording was completed, the interventions were carefully backfilled by hand.

### **3.3 Selection Policy, Data Processing and Archiving**

All material selected for archiving has been done so in line with the HGA Data Management Plan and the Project Specific Selection Strategy (Appendix III).

Following the completion of fieldwork, the written and drawn records were checked for completeness and prepared for archiving. Both paper (including hand-drawn plans, sections and written records) and digital archives (photographs, transcriptions of handwritten registers, and survey data) have been compiled. The paper archive has also been scanned and digitized in .pdf format to form part of the digital archive.

Photographic images taken with the Nikon D3100 camera were converted from RAW to full-resolution TIFF format using Adobe Photoshop CS6 (archive refs E49136\_001 - E49136\_082). The written record of metadata for the photographs has been digitised using Microsoft Excel 2010 (reproduced as Appendix II).

Survey data was downloaded and processed using QGIS 3.18.2 and used to prepare the figures in the report in combination with digitized copies of the hand-drawn plans. Survey data has been archived in AutoCAD .dxf format and as a comma separated values (.csv) file (EPSG:27700 OSGB 1936 / British National Grid).

The digital archive, including this report, will be deposited with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMMW). Deposition will be completed in accordance with the RCAHMMW Guidelines for Digital Archives (RCAHMMW 2015).

The paper archive resulting from the fieldwork is stored at the HGA offices in Bangor.

This report provides a description of the work undertaken at Castell Aberlleiniog, conclusions drawn from that work and further recommendations, in line with the HGA HER requirements. Paper and digital copies of this report will be supplied to the HGA HER.

### **3.4 Community Engagement**

One of the key aims of the project was to involve the local community in the archaeological investigation. The HGA Outreach Archaeologist, in conjunction and consultation with representatives from Menter Môn, acted as volunteer coordinator to advertise the fieldwork opportunities and to deliver a bilingual pre-investigation talk at the Llangoed Village Hall on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024.

Thirty-two people attended the event which focused on a discussion of the history and significance of Castell Aberlleiniog and the surrounding area, and advertised the upcoming community excavation and the potential for attendees to get involved. Thirteen volunteers from the local community actively participated in the excavation.

A bi-lingual post-investigation talk, highlighting the results of the archaeological investigation and the significance of its findings is also planned. The date of the second talk is yet to be confirmed.

## 4 RESULTS

A total of 7 archaeological interventions were excavated as part of the 2024 community excavation programme at Castell Aberlleiniog. Two, the trench TR01 and the test pit TP04, contained definite archaeological features. A third, test pit TP01, contained a feature which may also be the result of human activity. The other 4 test pits (TP02, TP03, TP05 and TP06) contained no features of archaeological interest.

Only one of the interventions, trench TR01, successfully identified the geophysical survey anomaly that it targeted: Anomaly 02, a northwest-southeast aligned linear hollow or pathway. The cause of Anomaly 10, originally thought to potentially be the remains of an entrance road or buildings was not identified in any of the three test pits that targeted it: TP01, TP02 and TP03.

Previously unknown archaeological features were identified in both trench TR01, test pit TP04 and possibly test pit TP01. Two small shallow pits were identified in TR01 whilst a third, deeper example was encountered in test pit TP04. A shallow step in the natural glacial clay ground surface in test pit TP01 may be anthropogenic or may be natural.

A summary of the results of the excavation programme is shown in Table 4.1 below.

<b>Trench / Trial Pit Number</b>	<b>Rationale / Target</b>	<b>Archaeology encountered</b>	<b>Target identified</b>
TR01	Located over part of Anomaly 02, linear feature thought to be part of bailey enclosure	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
TP01	Located over part of Anomaly 10, location of possible structural remains on eastern side of bailey, potentially entrance road or buildings	Possible	No
TP02	Located over part of Anomaly 10, location of possible structural remains on eastern side of bailey, potentially entrance road or buildings	No	No
TP03	Located over part of Anomaly 10, location of possible structural remains on eastern side of bailey, potentially entrance road or buildings	No	No
TP04	located within the central part of the bailey to test a blank area on the geophysical survey	<b>Yes</b>	N/A

<b>Trench / Trial Pit Number</b>	<b>Rationale / Target</b>	<b>Archaeology encountered</b>	<b>Target identified</b>
TP05	Located within the central part of the bailey to test a blank area on the geophysical survey	No	N/A
TP06	Located within the western part of the bailey to test a blank area on the geophysical survey	No	N/A

**Table 4.1 Results summary**

Detailed descriptions of each intervention are listed overleaf. Unless stated otherwise, cut features revealed in the bases of the interventions were cut into the underlying natural drift geology and sealed by subsoil.

#### **4.1 Trench TR01**

TR01 (centred on NGR SH 6162979249) was placed in the central southern part of the bailey, on ground that sloped gently from northeast to southwest. It was located to investigate geophysical survey Anomaly 2, a linear anomaly thought to be part of the bailey enclosure (Hopewell 2008; Figure 02; Figure 03; Figure 04).

The trench was orientated northeast-southwest. It initially measured 2x1m but was subsequently extended 1m to the southwest making it 3x1m. The trench was dug to a maximum depth of 0.65m in a 0.55x0.50m sondage in its northeastern corner which was excavated to test the depth of the glacial natural deposits (TR01-03) within it. Elsewhere along its length it was generally 0.22–0.35m deep (Plates 01-03; Figure 5.1; Figure 5.2).

The topsoil (TR01-01) was 0.05m deep and consisted of a friable mid-brown silty sand with abundant small roots (Plate 03; Figure 5.2). The subsoil (TR01-02) below was 0.20m deep and consisted of a mid-orangey brown sandy clayey silt with moderate (up to 4cm diameter) tree roots from a mature tree located to the south of the trench, occasional sherds of post-medieval pottery, and occasional-moderate small and medium-sized sub-rounded and sub-angular stones (2-5cm long). The natural glacial horizon (TR01-03) was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.22m and consisted of a plastic orangey-brown silty clay with occasional-moderate small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones (2-5cm long) and occasional larger sub-angular cobbles up to 20cm long. The soil horizons in the trench were noticeably drier and lighter in texture than those encountered elsewhere in the test pits.

The trench contained three archaeological features (Figure 05.1) including one, linear cut feature [TR01-08] (Plate 02; Plate 04; Figure 05.2), which appears to represent the geophysical survey Anomaly 02 that the trench targeted.

Linear cut feature **[TR01-08]** was cut into the natural glacial horizon (TR01-03) and ran southeast-northwest across the centre of the trench, continuing beyond its southeastern and northwestern baulks. It was parallel-sided and 1.16m wide. Its gently sloping sides broke gradually to an irregular but flattish shallow base just 0.11m deep. It was filled with (TR01-09), a mid-orangey-brown clayey silt containing moderate sub-rounded stones (2-5cm) and roots, which was almost indistinguishable from the subsoil (TR01-02) above it. No finds were associated with the fill.

The similarities between the fill (TR01-09) of cut [TR01-08] and the subsoil (TR01-02) in the trench lends weight to the interpretation of the cut as a shallow linear hollow, perhaps a track or pathway which has been worn into the natural glacial substrate by heavy traffic and over

which soil horizons had formed once the trackway had gone out of use. The way that Anomaly 02 appears offset from the presumed location of any former defensive feature along the southern edge of the bailey curves into the suspected bailey entranceway. A 10-litre bulk environmental sample <04> was recovered from (TR01-09) however, the possibility that the fill is actually part of the subsoil horizon with a high likelihood of both residual and intrusive material incorporated into it, means that the sample is unlikely to yield any conclusive information to help date the feature.

A second cut archaeological feature, shallow pit **[TR01-06]**, was identified in the base of linear cut feature [TR01-08] following the excavation of fill (TR01-09) (Plates 05-06; Figure 05.1; Figure 05.4). Pit [TR01-06] was cut down into the natural glacial horizon (TR01-03), 0.28m wide and 0.26m long and sub-circular in plan with steep sides that broke sharply to a sloping base 0.11m deep on its deeper, southeastern side. The pit was filled with (TR01-07) a friable light orangey brown silty clay with generally occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded stones 1-5cm long which became gradually more concentrated towards the base where they presented almost as a stoney lense.

It was initially thought that [TR01-06] may be a posthole within a palisade trench [TR01-08]. However, the fill and depth of pit [TR01-06] and the profile and depth of linear feature [TR01-08] do not really support this interpretation and [TR01-06] is perhaps more realistically interpreted as the base of a small shallow pit probably truncated by later linear cut feature [TR01-08].

No finds were associated with the pit and it is currently of unknown date. A 5-litre bulk environmental sample <02> was recovered from fill (TR01-07). Once processed and analysed, it may provide material that can be used to provide a date for the feature and possibly help to interpret the function of the pit.

A second shallow pit **[TR01-04]** was identified at the northeastern end of TR01 (Plates 07-08; Figure 05.1; Figure 05.3). The pit [TR01-04] was again cut through the natural glacial horizon (TR01-03). It was irregular in plan, 0.30m long and 0.21m wide, with steep straightish sides that broke gradually to a flattish base 0.09m deep. The pit was filled with (TR01-05), a friable mid-orangey brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and sub-angular and sub-rounded stones 2-5cm long.

No finds were associated with pit [TR01-04] and it is currently of unknown function and date. A 5 litre bulk environmental sample <01> was recovered from fill (TR01-05). Once processed

and analysed, it may provide material that can be used to provide a date for the feature and possibly help to interpret the function of the pit.



## **4.2 Test Pit TP01**

Test Pit TP01 was located on the eastern side of the bailey area on ground that sloped gently from northeast to southwest. It was one of three test pits (TP01-TP03) located there to target Anomaly 10 which had been interpreted as possible structural remains in the 2008 geophysical survey (Hopewell 2008; Figure 02; Figure 03; Figure 04).

The test pit was orientated north-south and measured 1x1m. It was dug to a maximum depth of 0.49m (Figure 6.1; Figure 6.2; Plates 09-10).

The topsoil (TP01-01) was 0.09m deep and consisted of mid-greyish-brown sandy clay with abundant shrub roots and frequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones (1-4cm long) and occasional sherds of post-medieval pottery. The subsoil (TP01-02) below was 0.39m deep and consisted of a mid-orangey-brown sandy clay with moderate small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones (1-5cm long) and occasional sherds of post-medieval pottery and fragments of coke. The natural glacial horizon (TP01-03) was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.48m and consisted of mid-brownish-orange silty clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones (2-5cm long).

At first Test Pit TP01 appeared to contain no archaeological remains. However, when it was being cleaned before being recorded, the excavators noted that there was a clear step down in the natural glacial clay (TP01-03) around halfway across the pit (Plates 09-10; Figure 6.1; Figure 6.2). The step **[TP01-05]** produced a drop in the natural ground surface level of around 0.08m between the higher, northern side of the pit, and the lower southern side. It was aligned east-west and was more gently sloping to the east, steeper to the west. A small concentrated deposit of sub-angular and sub-rounded pebbles (2-3cm long) **(TP01-04)** was also identified pressed into the step on the eastern side of the pit. The deposit, around 0.20m wide and 0.19m long, appeared to be embedded within the sloping ground surface at the eastern side of the step and ran into and beyond the eastern baulk section of the test pit.

Whilst it is possible that the step **[TP01-05]** is a natural phenomenon, it is also possible that it represents the eroded northern edge of a former east-west aligned track or path in this location. Such a feature is not consistent with the appearance of the parts of the generally north-south aligned Anomaly 10 identified in this location during the geophysical survey, and if it is archaeological in origin, it represents a previously unknown archaeological feature of unknown date. The step, overlain by subsoil (TP01-02), did not contain a distinct fill and therefore no environmental bulk sample was collected from the feature.

### **4.3 Test Pit TP02**

Test Pit TP02 was located to the north of TP01 on the eastern side of the bailey area, on ground that again sloped gently from northeast to southwest. It was the second of the three test pits (TP01-TP03) located there to target Anomaly 10 which had been interpreted as possible structural remains in the 2008 geophysical survey (Hopewell 2008; Figure 02; Figure 03; Figure 04).

The test pit was orientated north-south and measured 1x1m. It was dug to a maximum depth of 0.62m in a sondage on its northern side, while its southern half was excavated to a depth of 0.35m, the level of the natural ground surface (Plates 11-12).

The topsoil (TP02-01) was 0.12m deep and consisted of mid-greyish-brown silty clay with abundant shrub roots. The subsoil (TP02-02) below was 0.20m deep and consisted of a mid-greyish-brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones (2-5cm long) and very occasional sherds of post-medieval pottery. The natural glacial horizon (TP02-03) was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.30m and consisted of an extremely clean mid-orangey-brown clay deposit with no inclusions.

Given the appearance of the natural glacial clay deposit (TP03-03), a 0.5x1m sondage was dug in the northern half of the test pit to test whether the deposit was indeed natural in origin, or whether it was a deliberately laid clay surface. The sondage established that the glacial clay deposit was 0.32m deep and overlay a deposit of natural glacial boulder clay, a compact lighter orangey-brown clay with moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded pebbles (2-5cm long). Deposit (TP03-03) was as clean and inclusionless throughout its depth as its surface suggested. Its homogeneity and depth suggested that it was indeed a natural deposit and did not result from anthropogenic activity.

No significant finds were recovered from Test Pit TP02 and no archaeological features were identified within it.

#### **4.4 Test Pit TP03**

Test Pit TP03 was located to the north of TP02 on the eastern side of the bailey area on a gentle northeast to southwest slope. It was the third of the three test pits (TP01-TP03) located to target Anomaly 10 which had been interpreted as possible structural remains in the 2008 geophysical survey (Hopewell 2008; Figure 02; Figure 03; Figure 04).

The test pit was orientated north-south and measured 1x1m. It was dug to a maximum depth of 0.47m (Plates 13-14).

The topsoil (TP03-01) was 0.07m deep and consisted of mid-greyish-brown silty clay with abundant shrub roots. The subsoil (TP03-02) below was 0.40m deep and consisted of a mid-reddish-brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones (2-5cm long) and sub-rounded cobbles (5-15cm) with frequent shrub roots and occasional larger tree roots. Occasional small flecks of charcoal were noted within the deposit and a small sherd of post-medieval Buckley Ware pottery and a small fragment of post-medieval white salt-glazed pottery were recovered from it during excavation. The natural glacial horizon (TP03-03) was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.47m and consisted of a mid-orangey-brown clay deposit with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded stone inclusions.

No significant finds were recovered from Test Pit TP03 and no archaeological features were identified within it.

#### **4.5 Test Pit TP04**

Test Pit TP04 was located on the northeast to southwest sloping ground within the central part of the bailey and was one of the three contingency test pits (TP04-TP06) sited to test blank areas on the geophysical survey (Hopewell 2008; Figure 02; Figure 03; Figure 04).

The test pit was orientated north-south and measured 1x1m. It was dug to a maximum depth of 0.63m (Plates 15-16; Figure 07.1; Figure 07.2; Figure 07.3).

The topsoil (TP04-01) was 0.10m deep and consisted of a soft mid-greyish-brown silty clay with abundant shrub roots and occasional small sub-rounded stones (up to 4cm long). The subsoil (TP04-02) below was 0.22m deep and consisted of a soft mid-brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones (up to 5cm long) with frequent shrub roots and occasional larger tree roots. A single small sherd of Victorian pottery was recovered from the interface between subsoil (TP04-02) and the natural glacial ground surface (TP04-03) below it. Glacial deposit (TP04-03) was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.23m below the level of the current ground surface. It consisted of a firm pinkish-grey clay with moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded stones and small cobbles (3-10cm long). A large sub-rounded limestone boulder (visible length 44cm) was also embedded in the natural clay in the northeast corner of the test pit.

Test Pit TP04 contained one archaeological feature, no indication of which appeared on the 2008 geophysical survey. Part of an apparently sub-circular cut feature **[TP04-04]** was exposed in the northwest corner of the test pit cut into natural glacial clay deposit (TP04-03) (Figure 07.1; Figure 07.2; Figure 07.3). Its visible portion was at least 0.30m long and 0.30m wide with steep, generally concave, tapered sides that broke abruptly to a flattish base 0.33m deep. The base of the feature was cut into a deposit of hard dark grey boulder clay (TP04-06) which underlay natural glacial clay deposit (TP04-03) above. It was filled with (TP04-05), a soft, slightly sandy, silty clay with occasional small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones (2-5cm long).

The function of cut feature [TP04-04] is unclear, but it seems more likely to be part of a sub-circular pit than the end of a linear feature which would presumably be more likely to have been picked up on the geophysical survey.

No finds were recovered from the fill (TP04-05) of cut feature [TP04-04] and it is of unknown date. A 10-litre bulk environmental sample <03> was recovered from fill (TP04-05). Once processed and analysed, it may provide material that can be used to provide a date for the feature and possibly help to interpret the function of the feature.

#### **4.6 Test Pit TP05**

Test Pit TP05 was located just to the north of TP04 within the central part of the bailey on ground that sloped gently from northeast to southwest. It was the second of the three contingency test pits (TP04-TP06) sited to test blank areas on the geophysical survey (Hopewell 2008; Figure 02; Figure 03; Figure 04).

The test pit was orientated north-south and measured 1x1m. It was dug to a maximum depth of 0.28m (Plates 17-18).

The topsoil (TP05-01) was 0.07m deep and consisted of a soft mid-greyish-brown clay with moderate shrub roots. The subsoil (TP05-02) below was 0.20m deep and consisted of a mid-brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones (2-5cm long) with frequent shrub roots. Two fragments of orange brick or tile were identified in it. The natural glacial horizon (TP05-03), a firm pinkish-grey clay with moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded stones and small cobbles (3-10cm long), was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.25m.

No significant finds were recovered from Test Pit TP05 and no archaeological features were identified within it.

#### **4.7 Test Pit TP06**

Test Pit TP06 was located within the central western part of the bailey and was the third of the contingency test pits (TP04-TP06) that were sited to test blank areas on the geophysical survey (Hopewell 2008; Figure 02; Figure 03; Figure 04).

The test pit was orientated north-south and measured 1x1m. It was dug to a maximum depth of 0.27m (Plates 19-20).

The topsoil (TP06-01) was 0.12m deep and consisted of mid-greyish-brown silty clay with abundant shrub roots. Occasional small fragments of post-medieval pottery, pieces of coal, and part of a modern shotgun cartridge, were identified within the deposit. The subsoil (TP06-02) below was 0.15m deep and consisted of a mid-greyish-brown slightly sandy clay with occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones (2-5cm long) and moderate shrub roots. No finds were recovered from the subsoil (TP06-02). The natural glacial horizon (TP03-03) was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.27m and consisted of a firm mid-orangey-brown clay deposit with moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded stone inclusions (2-6cm long).

No significant finds were recovered from Test Pit TP06 and no archaeological features were identified within it.

## **5 DISCUSSION**

### **5.1 Geophysical Survey Anomaly 2, linear feature originally thought to be part of bailey enclosure**

Traces of what appears to be a 1.16m wide northwest-southeast aligned linear path or trackway [TR01-08], consistent with the appearance of geophysical survey Anomaly 2, were encountered within trench TR01 (Sec 4.1; Plates 02; Plate 04; Figure 05.1; Figure 05.2).

Trench TR01 was also sited within Anomaly 01, the diffuse 8m to 9m wide anomaly that runs around the south, west and eastern sides of the bailey and was thought to probably indicate the remains of a ploughed out or landscaped out defensive bank (Figure 03; Hopewell 2008, 2). The soils within TR01 were noticeably lighter in texture and more silty than the heavier clay-rich soils encountered in the test pits. There were no indications in the trench of any buried soils covered by redeposited bank material, and this may be due to the complete incorporation of any former bank material into the subsoil here, altering the soil's physical and magnetic properties and causing Anomaly 01.

The date of [TR01-08] is unclear. The similarity of the fill (TR01-09) of [TR01-08] and the subsoil (TR01-02) above, and the lack of any visible cut through the subsoil, suggest that the pathway predates the ploughing out/landscaping of any former bank nearby. Anomaly 02 appears to run offset but parallel with the southern edge of the bailey along most of its length, but turns southwards through the levelled bank material Anomaly 1, exiting the survey area approximately 9m to the west of the location of the entrance through the former bank (Anomaly 03) proposed by Hopewell (2008,2) (Figure 03). If the pathway was indeed in use while any former bank was extant (which could still possibly be long after the bank ceased to fulfil its original defensive purpose), the bank's original location along the southern edge of the bailey where [TR01-08] exits would presumably have to have been beyond the limits of the geophysical survey here. The path would either have to terminate against the base of the former bank, or run up to its top (with all traces of the path removed from the bank's surface when the bank was levelled). The environmental bulk sample <04> collected from fill (TR01-09) is unlikely to yield securely datable material for the creation or use of the path. Fill (TR01-09) appears to be part of the subsoil, not a sealed deposit, and the likelihood that the sample will incorporate residual carbonised material is high.

## **5.2 Geophysical Survey Anomaly 10, location of possible structural remains on eastern side of bailey, potentially entrance road or buildings**

No traces of archaeological features commensurate with potential structural remains in a generally north-south alignment on the eastern side of the bailey were identified in Test Pits TP01, TP02 or TP03. It seems likely that the areas of slight magnetic noise picked up during the survey were caused by localised magnetic variation in the topsoil and subsoil.

## **5.3 Previously unknown archaeological features**

Three previously unknown archaeological features were identified in trench TR01 and test pit TP04. In addition, a previously unknown possible archaeological feature was identified in TP01.

Two small shallow pits of unknown date and function, [TR01-04] (Sec 4.1; Plates 07-08; Figure 05.1; Figure 05.3) and [TR01-06] (Sec 4.1; Plates 05-06; Figure 05.1; Figure 05.4), were identified in trench TR01. Neither pit contained any post-medieval pottery so may be relatively early features. Both appear to predate the levelling of any former defensive bank as no traces of them were visible in the subsoil. It also seems likely that [TR01-06] predates the pathway [TR01-08], it was revealed following the excavation of the pathway and was not visibly cut through its fill. The bulk environmental samples <01> and <02> recovered from the two TR01 pits may provide material that can be used to provide a date for the features and possibly help to interpret their function once they are processed and analysed.

What appears to be a third, more substantial, previously unknown pit [TP04-04] was identified in the northwest corner of test pit TP04 in the central part of the bailey area (Sec 4.5; Plates 15-16; Figure 07.1; Figure 07.2; Figure 07.3). The feature is of unknown function and date, though the lack of post-medieval pottery in its fill may suggest that it is relatively early. Though the pit appears isolated, it is possible that associated but currently unknown, relatively substantial archaeological features may survive in the vicinity, outside of the confines of the test pit. The bulk environmental sample <03> recovered from its fill may provide material that can be used to provide a date for the feature and possibly help to interpret the function of the pit once it is processed and analysed.

Another possible archaeological feature was identified in test pit TP01. Possible cut [TP01-05] may be the remains of the northern side of an east-west aligned path or trackway on the eastern side of the bailey (Plates 09-10; Figure 6.1; Figure 6.2), a small portion of which may have been intentionally metalled with pebbles (TP01-04). It is orientated at right angles to the



previously interpreted possible road surface geophysical survey Anomaly 10 and is not thought to be part of it. Further work to the south of test pit TP01 to locate the other side of the track would be required to demonstrate that [TP01-05] is a real feature and not just a natural step in the underlying glacial deposits.

#### **5.4 General**

A Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales Northwest Wales – Medieval (2003, 2-3) states that "No excavation and little survey work has been undertaken on mottes. Therefore the date of construction of many of them is unknown, and thus arguments as to who built them and subsequently used them have little chronological basis." and suggests that "Excavation at selected mottes will result in a better understanding of their chronological development ...more informed knowledge from excavation will give a clearer understanding of the role of mottes as defensive and administrative sites.

The community excavations offered the potential to enhance the significance of the monument both by generating a better understanding of its evidential value by establishing the nature, degree of survival and date of any archaeological remains identified in its bailey area; and to enhance understanding the historical development of the site.

Unfortunately, the limited nature of both the excavations and the new evidence uncovered, means that the new knowledge gained about the monument has not been as significant as had been hoped. The works have however provided a useful opportunity to ground truth the results of the 2008 geophysical survey and have conclusively demonstrated the potential for further previously unknown archaeological remains to survive within the bailey.

## **6 CONCLUSION**

The community excavations in the bailey at Castell Aberlleiniog have established the existence of archaeological remains relating to one of the two targeted magnetic anomalies identified during the 2008 geophysical survey. Anomaly 02, targeted in trench TR01, appears to be a former path or track that ran along the southwestern side of the bailey. The track is of unknown date. No remains associated with the other targeted anomaly, Anomaly 10, the possible remains of an entrance road or buildings, were identified in any of the three test pits (TP01, TP02 and TP03) that targeted it. This anomaly is likely to have been caused by localised magnetic variation in the topsoil and subsoil on the eastern side of the bailey.

The excavation programme has also demonstrated the potential for previously unknown archaeological remains to survive within the bailey and three definite examples have been identified. Two shallow pits were identified in trench TR01 along with part of a more substantial pit in test pit TP04. All three are of unknown date but environmental bulk samples recovered from them have the potential to establish a date for the features. A step in the natural glacial ground surface in test pit TP01 may also be archaeological and represent the northern side of an east-west aligned path or track on the eastern side of the bailey. Further work would be required to establish whether it is an anthropogenic feature or a natural phenomenon.

One of the key aims of the project was to engage with local communities to improve their understanding and appreciation of the monument. Thirty-two people attended a pre-commencement talk given at Llangoed Village Hall and thirteen local volunteers actively participated in the excavation work. Thanks are due to all of the participants, and also to colleagues from both HGA and Menter Môn who contributed to the successful delivery of this important part of the project.

## 7 SOURCES CONSULTED

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## PLATES





Plate 01: Trench TR01 prior to southern extension, viewed from the northeast (scale 1x1m; archive ref. E49136\_033).



Plate 02: Post-ex photo of trench TR01 extended, viewed from the northeast (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_035).





Plate 03: Post-ex photo of TR01 showing southwest facing baulk section and sondage, viewed from the southwest (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_056).



Plate 04: Section view of hollow [TR01-08] in TR01, viewed from the southeast (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_074).





Plate 05: Pre-ex shot of pit [TR01-06] in base of linear hollow [TR01-08] in southwest part of TR01 prior to extension, viewed from the southwest (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_014).



Plate 06: Photo showing southwest facing section through feature [TR01-06], viewed from the southwest (scale 1x0.3m; archive ref: E49136\_019).





Plate 07: Pre-ex shot of pit [TR01-04] in northeast end of TR01, viewed from the northeast (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_011).



Plate 08: Southeast facing section through pit [TR01-04] in the northeast end of TR01, viewed from the southeast (scale 1x0.3m; archive ref: E49136\_012).





Plate 09: Post-ex photo of west facing section of TP01 showing step in natural [TP01-05] and gravelly deposit (TP01-04), viewed from the west (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_023).



Plate 10: Post-ex photo of east facing section of TP01 showing step in natural [TP01-05], viewed from the east (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_025).





Plate 11: South facing section in TP02, post-ex showing depth of natural clay deposit (TP02-03) in sondage, viewed from the south (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_018).



Plate 12: West facing section in TP02, post-ex showing depth of natural clay deposit (TP02-03) in sondage, viewed from the west (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_015).





Plate 13: Post-ex photo of west facing section TP03, viewed from the west (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_027).



Plate 14: Post-ex photo of east facing section TP03, viewed from the east (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_029).





Plate 15: TP04 post-ex plan view showing pit [TP04-04], viewed from the south (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_046).



Plate 16: East facing section in TP04 showing pit [TP04-04], viewed from the east (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_050).





Plate 17: TP05 post-ex, west facing section, viewed from the west (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_068).



Plate 18: TP05 post-ex, east facing section, viewed from the east (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_070).





Plate 19: TP06 Post-ex, south facing section, viewed from the south (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_075).



Plate 20: TP06 Post-ex, north facing section, viewed from the north (scale 1x1m; archive ref: E49136\_077).

## FIGURES



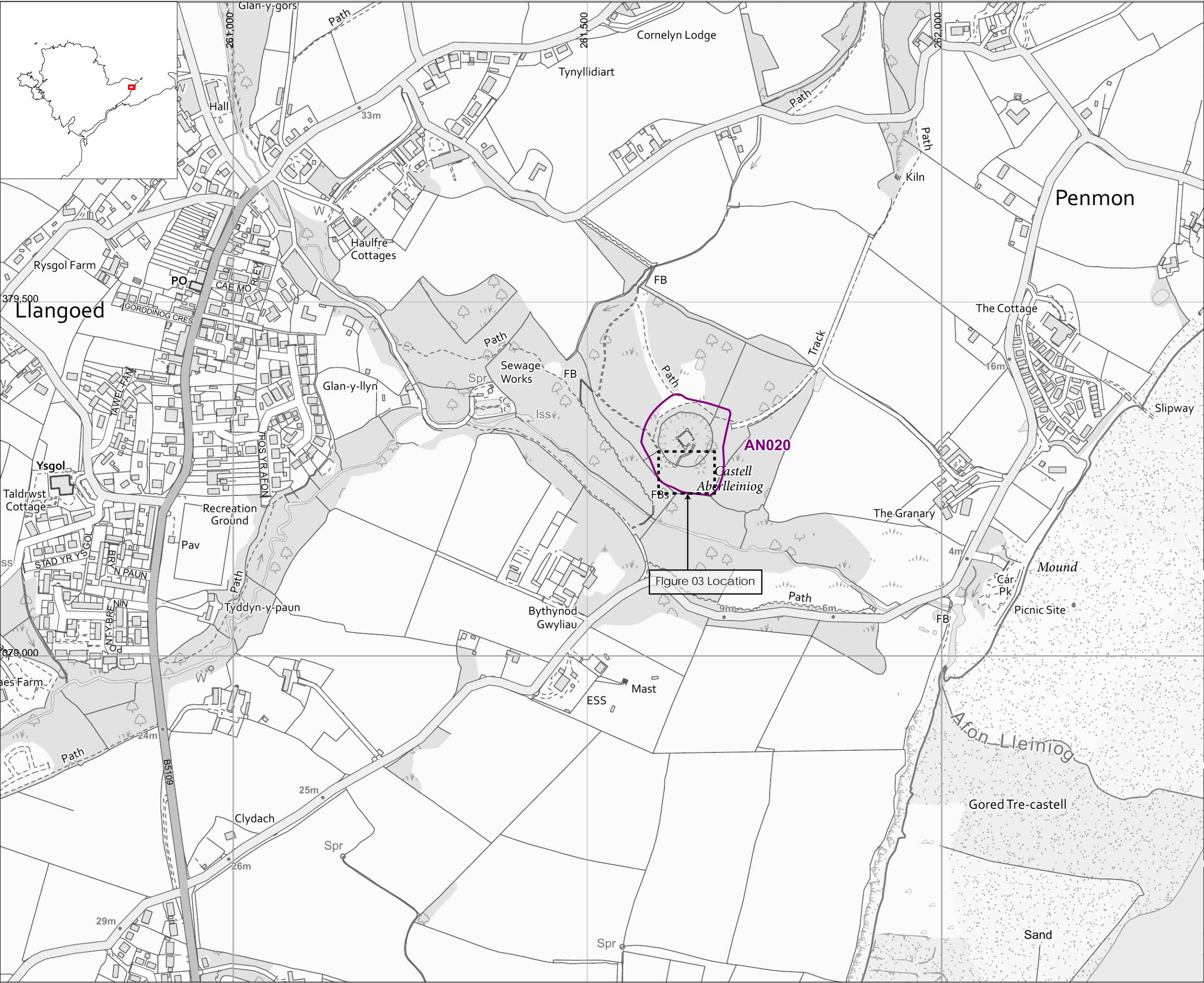
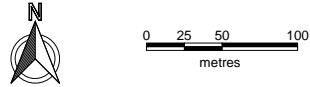


Figure 01: The location of Castell Aberlleiniog (SM AN020).

 Castell Aberlleiniog scheduled area (SM AN020)

Co-ordinate System OSGB 1936 / British National Grid EPSG:27700.  
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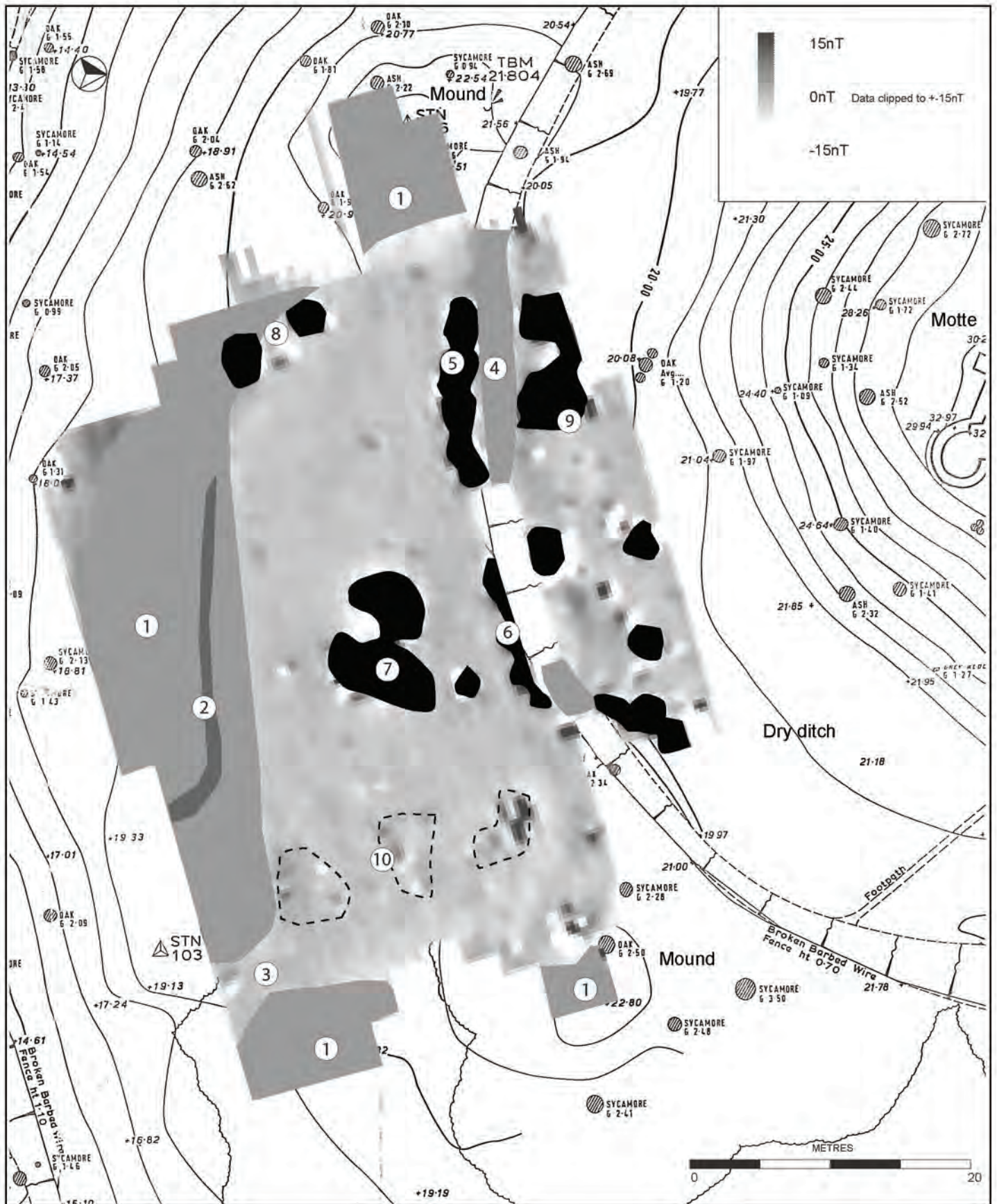


Figure 02: Castell Aberlleiniog 2008 gradiometer survey on the southern side of the AN020 scheduled area interpretative plan (after Hopewell 2008, Fig. 2)



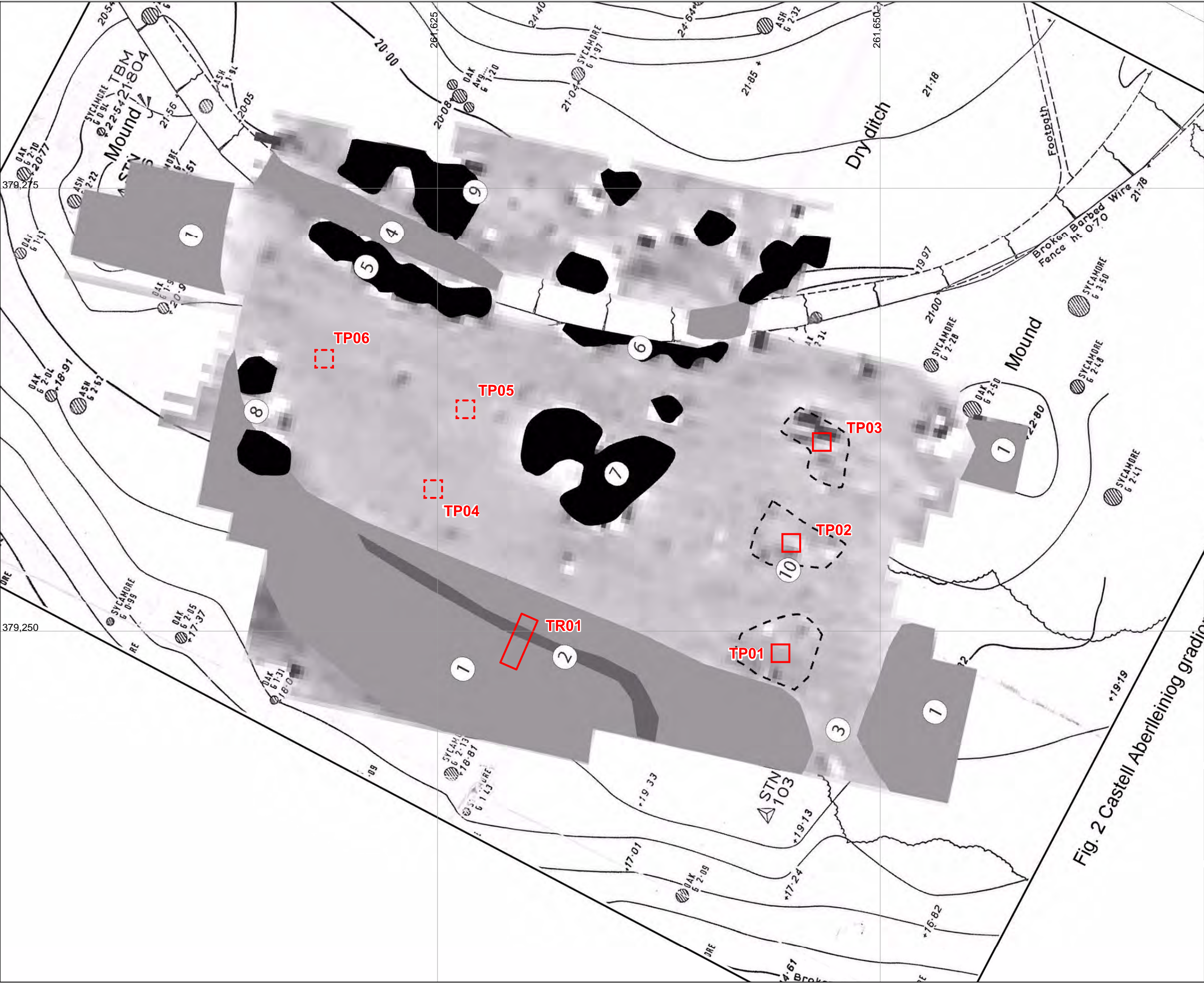
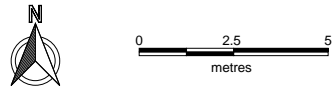


Figure 03: Trench and trial pit locations on southern side of the AN020 scheduled area overlaid against 2008 geophysical survey interpretative plan.

- Trench (TR1) and trial pits (TP01-03)
- Contingency trial pits (TP04-06)

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CLIENT:  
Menter Môn

SITE:  
Castell Aberlleiniog (AN020),  
Llangoed, Ynys Môn

SCALE AT A3: 1:200	DATE: 07/10/24	DRAWN: NMC	CHECKED: JR
PROJECT NO: HD24-082	DRAWING NO: CA/REP/03	REVISION: A	

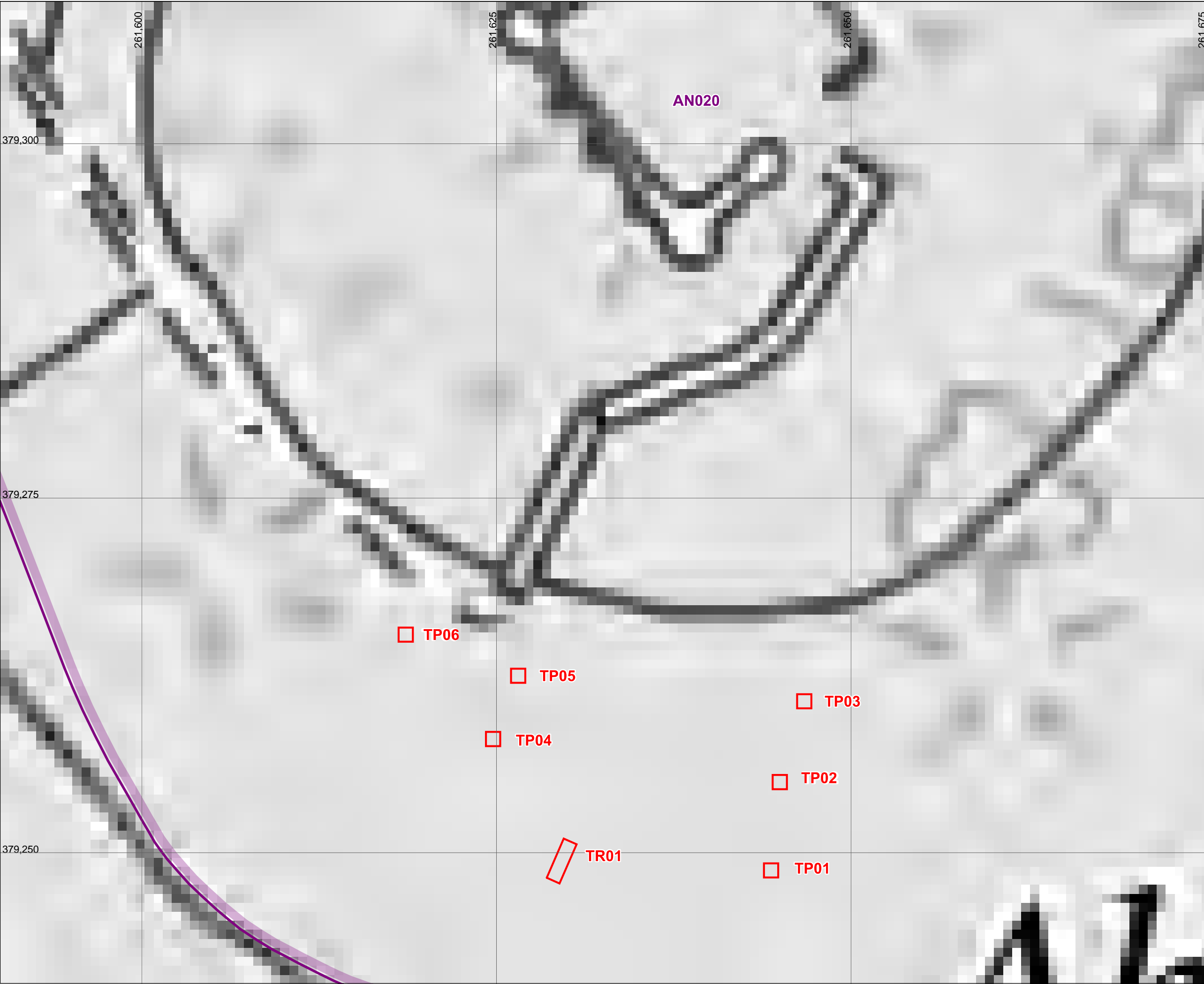


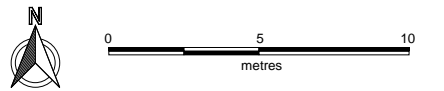


Figure 04: Excavated trench and trial pit locations on southern side of AN020 scheduled area.

-  Trench (TR1) and trial pits (TP01-06)
-  Edge of AN020 scheduled area

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SCALE AT A3: 1:250	DATE: 18/11/24	DRAWN: NMC	CHECKED: JR
PROJECT NO: HD24-082	DRAWING NO: CA/REP/04	REVISION: A	



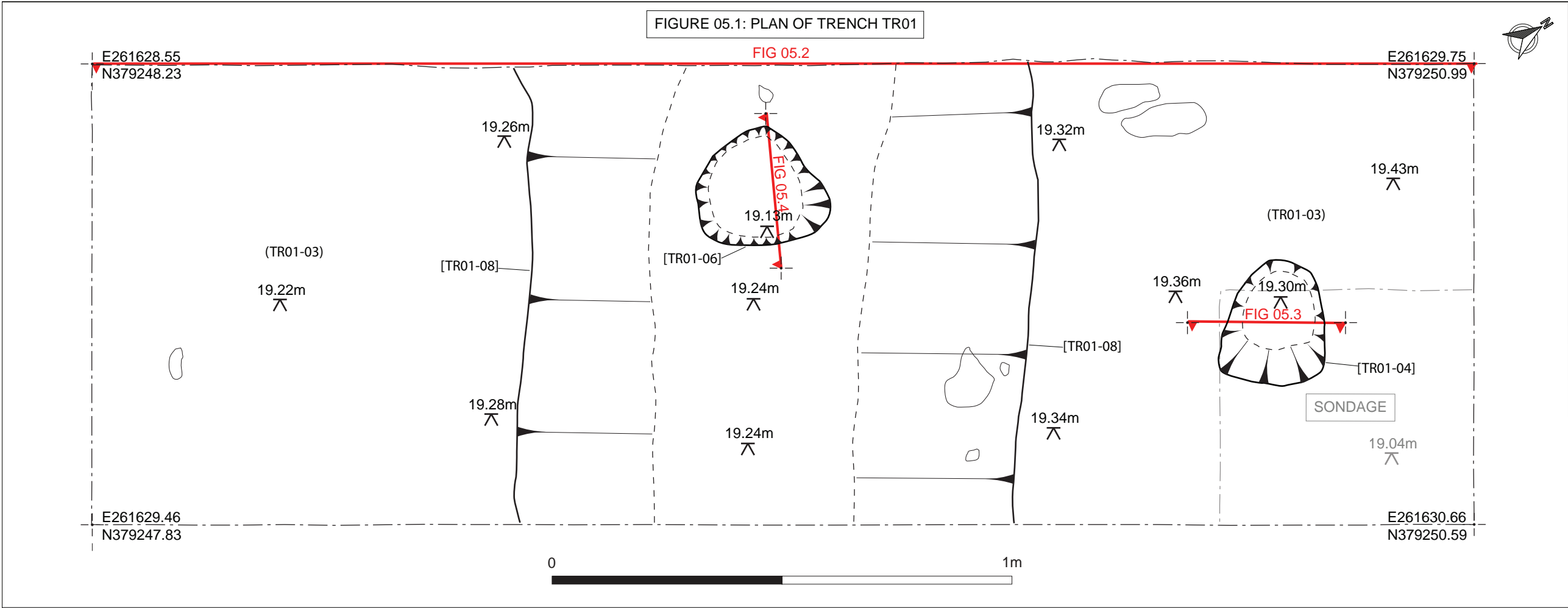
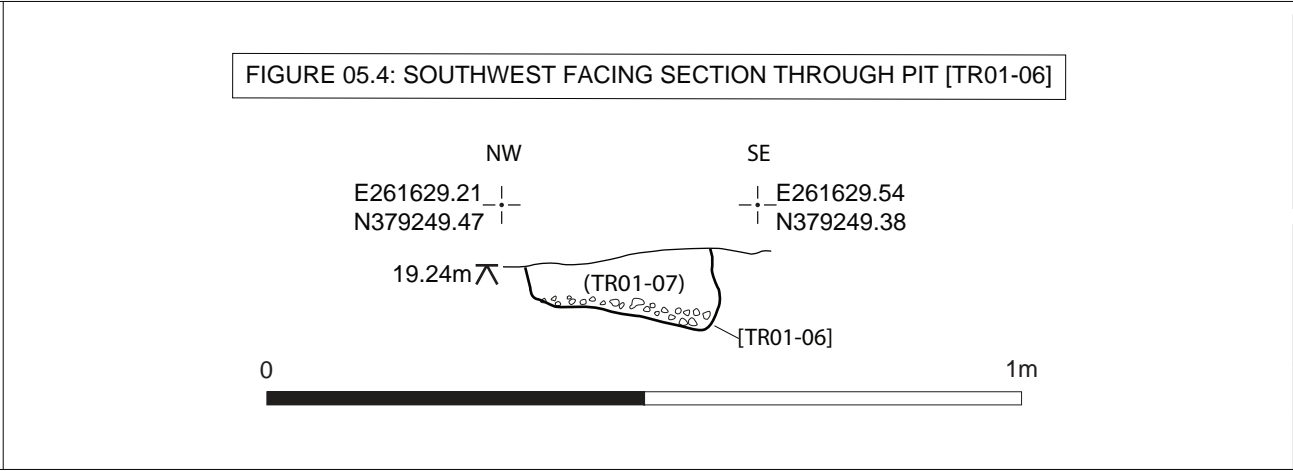
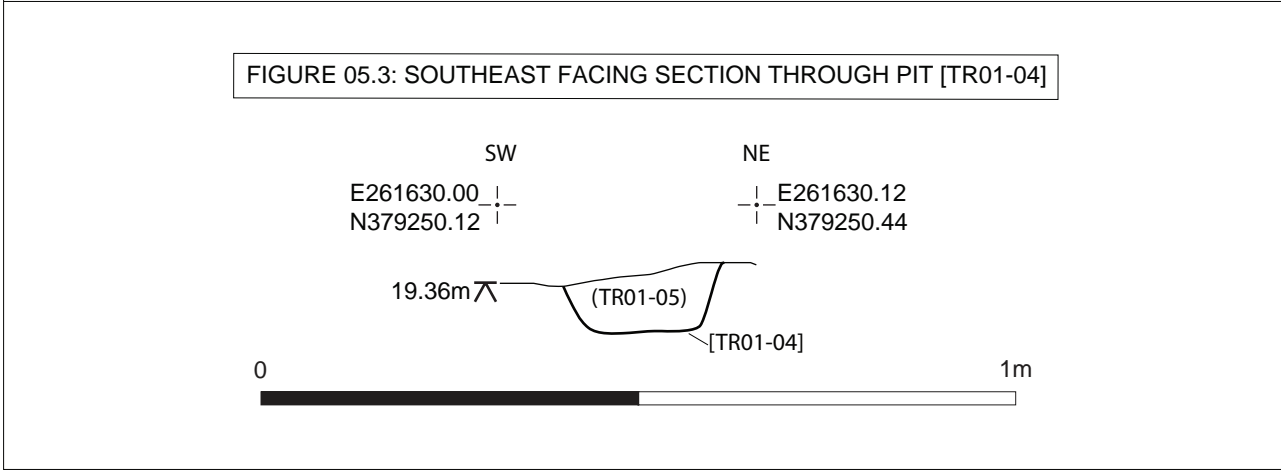
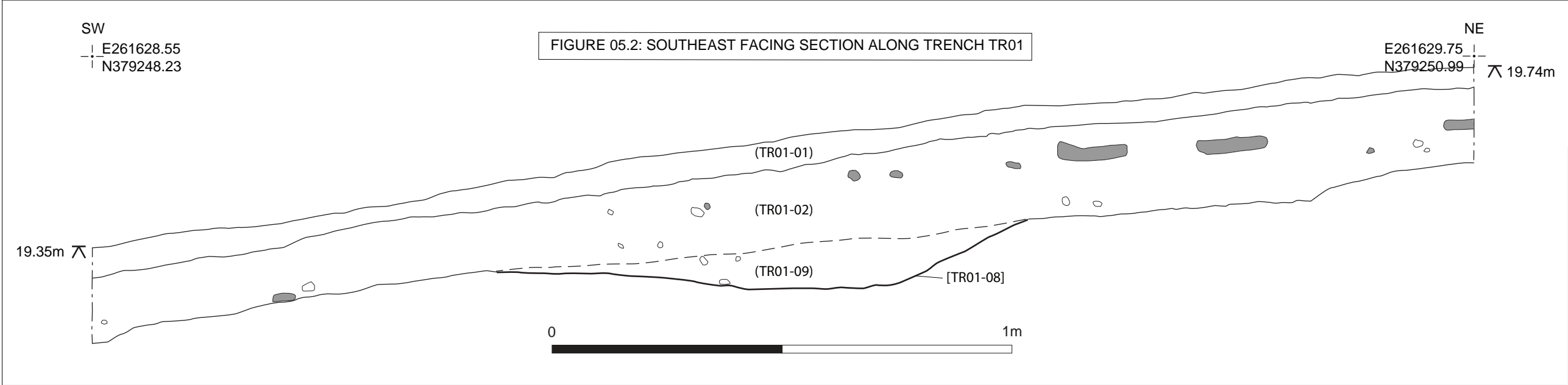


Figure 05: Plan and sections from trench TR01.

Section location and orientation

Tree root

Co-ordinate System OSGB 1936 / British National Grid EPSG:27700.  
Heights in m AOD



Archaeoleg Gwynedd  
**Heneb**  
Gwynedd Archaeology

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SCALE AT A3: 1:10	DATE: 15/11/24	DRAWN: NMC	CHECKED: JR
PROJECT NO: HD24-082	DRAWING NO: CA/REP/05	REVISION: A	

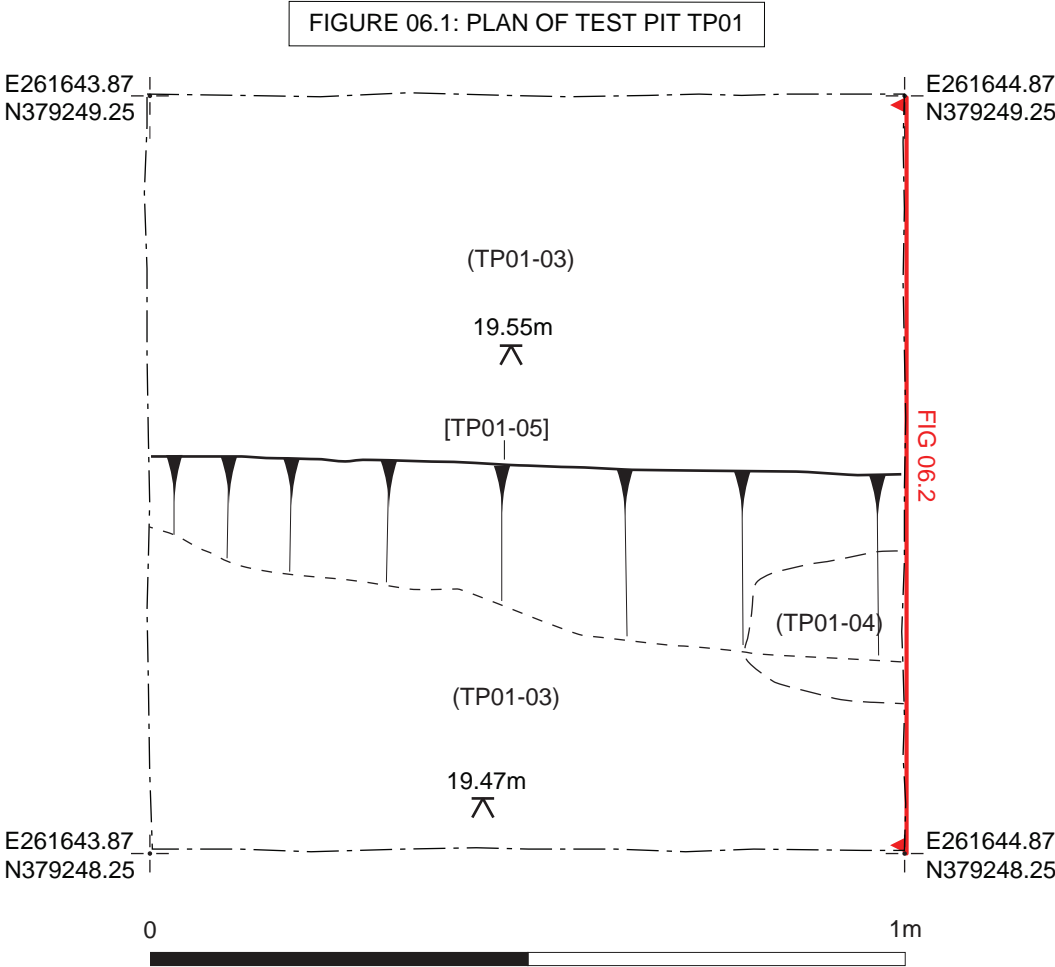
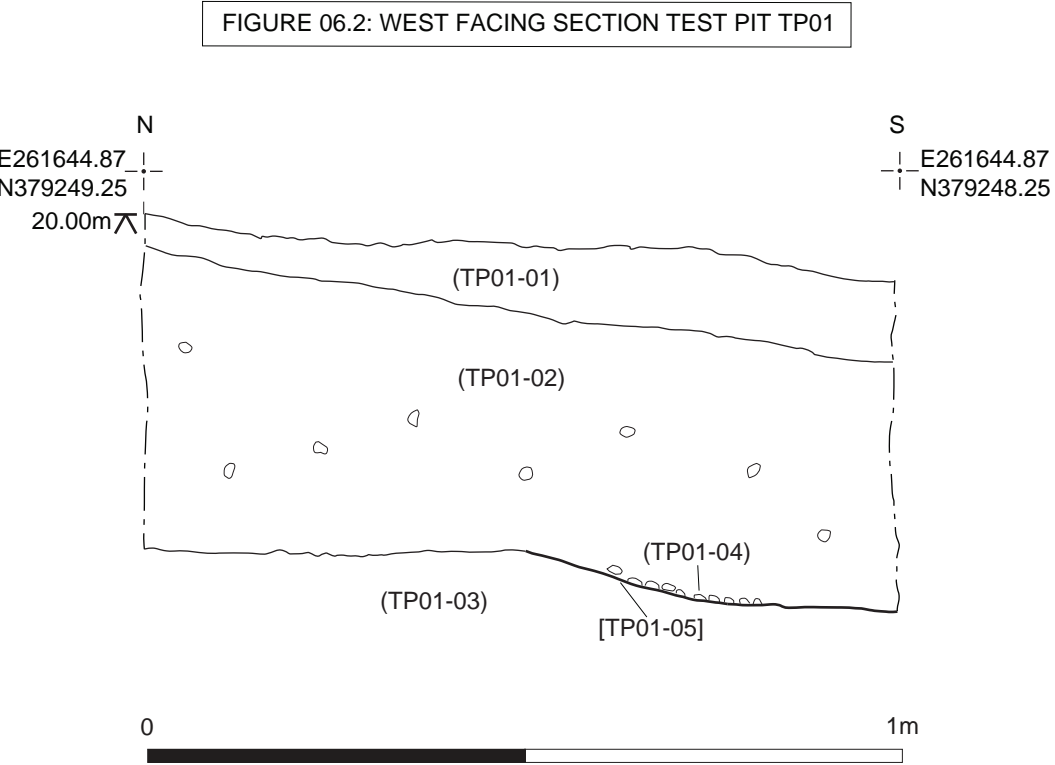


Figure 06: Plan and section of test pit TP01.

Section location and orientation

Co-ordinate System OSGB 1936 / British National Grid EPSG:27700.  
Heights in m AOD



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SCALE AT A3: 1:10	DATE: 15/11/24	DRAWN: NMC	CHECKED: JR
PROJECT NO: HD24-082	DRAWING NO: CA/REP/06	REVISION: A	

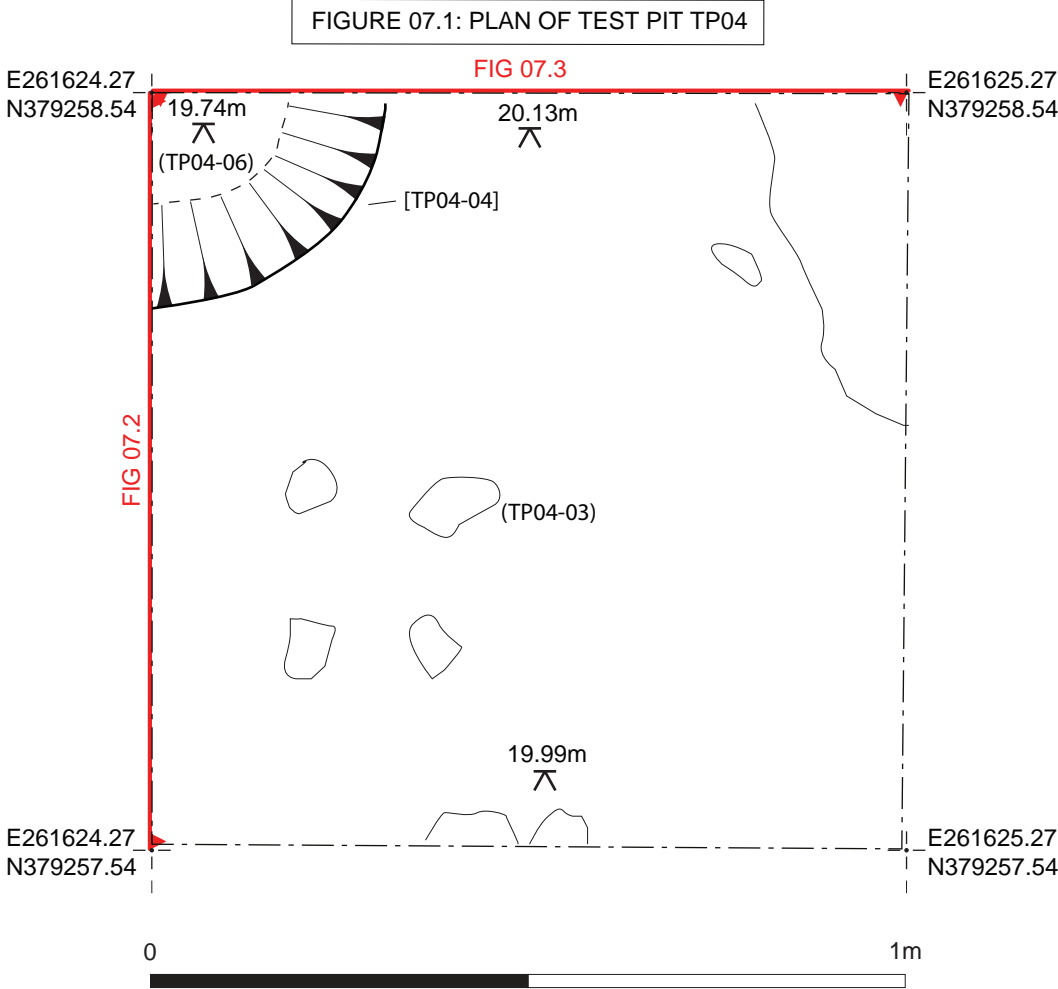


Figure 07: Plan and sections of test pit TP04.

Section location and orientation

Co-ordinate System OSGB 1936 / British National Grid EPSG:27700.  
Heights in m AOD

FIGURE 07.2: EAST FACING SECTION TEST PIT TP04

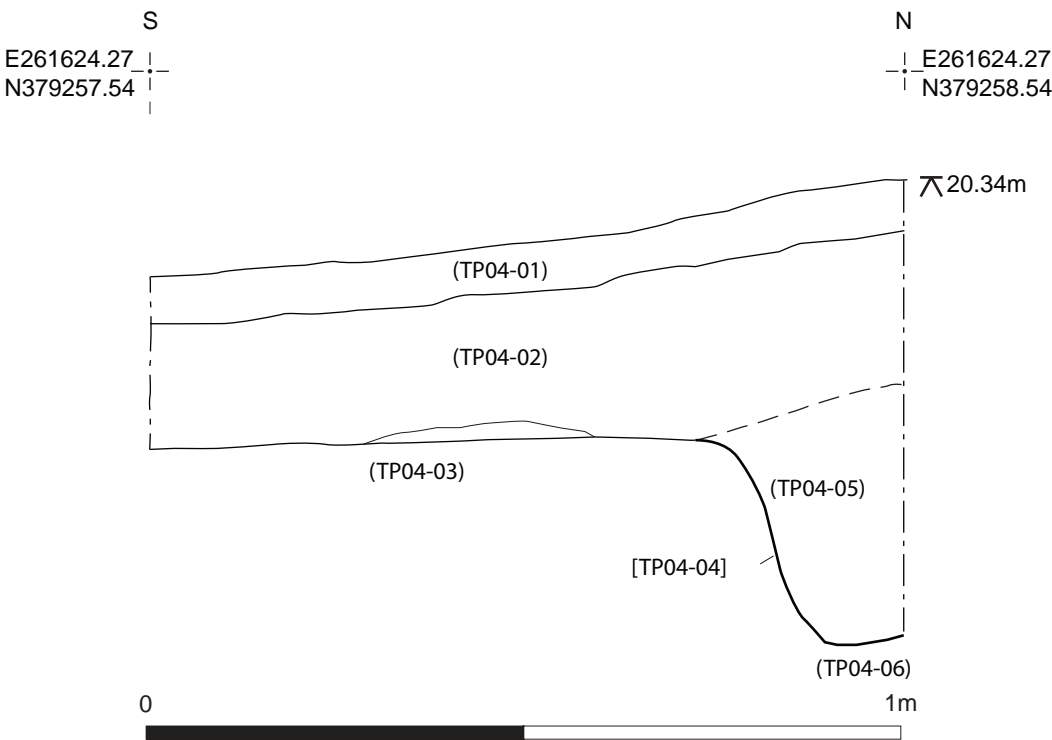
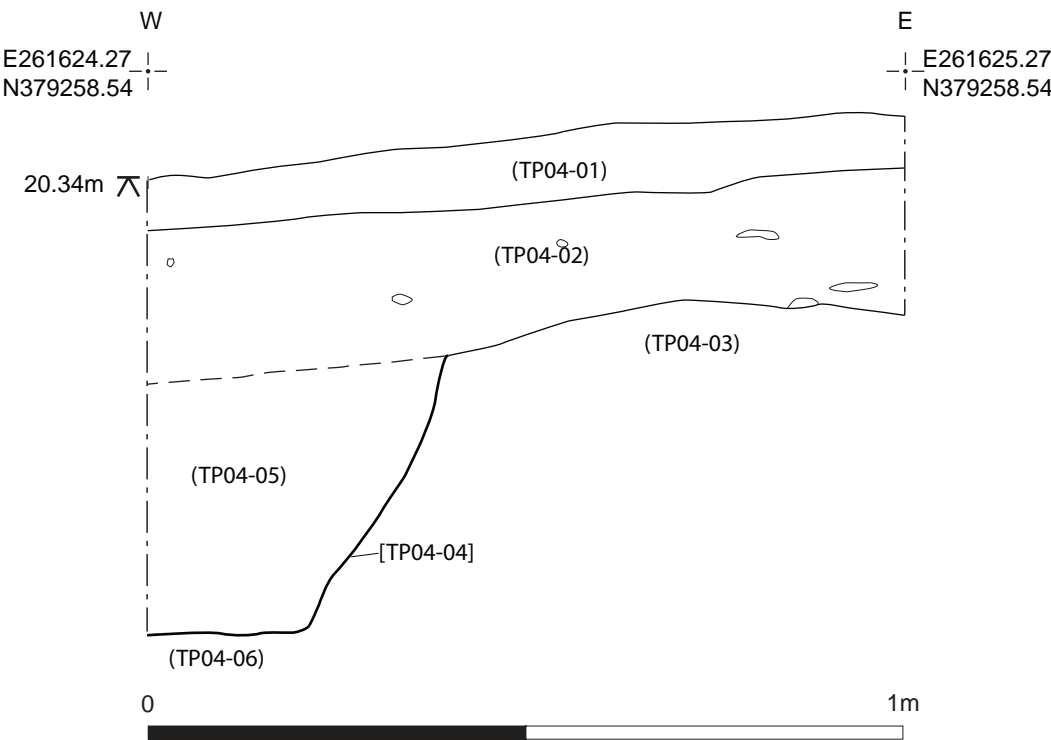


FIGURE 07.3: SOUTH FACING SECTION TEST PIT TP04



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SCALE AT A3: 1:10	DATE: 15/11/24	DRAWN: NMC	CHECKED: JR
PROJECT NO: HD24-082	DRAWING NO: CA/REP/07	REVISION:	A

## **APPENDIX I**

**Conditional Scheduled Monument Consent AN020 SMC24-058**

Neil McGuinness  
Heneb: Gwynedd Archaeology

Sent by email

Eich cyfeirnod  
Your reference

Ein cyfeirnod  
Our reference

Dyddiad  
Date

Llinell uniongyrchol  
Direct line

Ebost  
Email:

AN020 SMC24-058

29 October 2024

03000 256007

[scheduledmonuments@gov.wales](mailto:scheduledmonuments@gov.wales)

Dear Neil McGuinness,

## ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979 APPLICATION FOR SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT

**AN020 Castell Aberlleiniog Ref: AN020 SMC24-058**

### 1. Introduction

1.1 Thank you for your application of 9 October 2024 to Cadw for scheduled monument consent to carry out excavation / community evaluation at the above scheduled monument.

1.2 Cadw is a Department within the Welsh Government that undertakes the statutory functions of the Welsh Ministers in determining applications for scheduled monument consent.

1.3 Each application for scheduled monument consent is considered on its own merits in accordance with *Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales* ([Conservation Principles](#)) and Annex A of *Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment* ([TAN 24](#)). In particular, TAN 24 explains that the main purpose of scheduling is to ensure the preservation of ancient monuments and, when considering an application for scheduled monument consent, there is a presumption against proposals which would involve significant alteration or cause damage, or which would have a significant impact on the setting of remains.

### 2 Assessment

2.1. Your application and supporting documentation has been assessed by our Regional Inspector of Ancient Monuments who has recommended that conditional scheduled monument consent should be approved. The reasons for the Inspector's conclusions are set out in **Annex A** of this letter.

2.2. I have carefully considered the impact of the proposed development on the scheduled monument and its setting in light of the advice that I have received from our Regional Inspector of Ancient Monuments. I have no reason to disagree with the



advice of our Regional Inspector and am satisfied that his recommendation is consistent with the objectives of Conservation Principles and TAN 24.

### 3. Decision

3.1. Accordingly, I hereby approve conditional scheduled monument consent for the proposed works as outlined in section 1.1.

3.2. In reaching this decision, I have taken into account the requirement of sections 3 and 5 of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. I consider that this decision is in accordance with the Act's sustainable development principle through its contribution towards the Welsh Ministers' well-being objective of *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language*.

3.3. Any development control issues associated with wider development will be a matter for any application for planning permission. It is the responsibility of the applicant to establish whether any further approval or consents are required for the proposed development.

### 4. Conditions

4.1. The following conditions are intended to protect the monument from damage or significant alteration as set out in TAN 24: *The Historic Environment* and to ensure that details of the project are archived.

- a) The applicant shall provide Cadw with reasonable advance notice of commencement of works on site and will afford access at all reasonable times to any Cadw official or archaeologist nominated by Cadw to monitor progress of the works.
- b) The approved works shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the application form, plans and documents as listed below. No variations are permitted unless they have been authorised in advance in writing by Cadw.

Number	Document / plan	Reference Number (if applicable)	Date
1	SMC application form signed by Neil McGuinness, Heneb: Gwynedd Archaeology		October 2024
2	Written Scheme of Investigation: Castell Aberlleiniog (HD24-082)	Historic Environment Record Event Primary Reference Number 49136	October 2024
3	Supplementary Form for Excavations		October 2024

- c) Cadw shall be invited to attend a site meeting within the first 5 days of commencement of the project to review the programme.

- d) Any historic or archaeological features not previously identified which are revealed when carrying out the works shall be retained in situ and reported to Cadw within two working days. Works shall be halted in the area/part of the site affected until provision has been made for retention and/or recording of the feature by a suitably qualified archaeologist in accordance with details submitted to and approved in writing in advance by Cadw.

## **5. Compliance**

5.1. Where a condition requires approval or any contact with Cadw you are advised to contact Ashley Batten by email [scheduledmonuments@gov.wales](mailto:scheduledmonuments@gov.wales).

5.2. When all work has been completed and the conditions have been discharged, please complete and return the 'completion notice' at **Annex B** to Cadw. Section 2(6) of the 1979 Act provides that non-compliance with a condition attached to a grant of scheduled monument consent shall be an offence.

5.3. By virtue of Section 4 of the 1979 Act, if no works to which this consent relates are executed or started within 5 years from the date of this letter, the consent shall cease to have effect at the end of that period (unless it is revoked in the meantime).

5.4. This letter does not convey any approval or consent required under any enactment, bylaw, order or regulation other than Section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. It is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain any such approval or consent where necessary.

## **6. Mechanism for Challenge**

6.1 Section 55 of the 1979 Act explains that if you are aggrieved by the decision given in this letter, you may challenge its validity by applying to the High Court within six weeks from the date of my decision. Furthermore, the legislation explains that the grounds on which an application may be made to the Court are;

- a) that my decision is not within the powers of the Act (i.e. that I have exceeded the powers available under the Act); and
- b) that any of the relevant requirements set out in the Act have not been complied with and that your interest has been substantially prejudiced by the failure to comply.

The 'relevant requirements' mentioned above are defined in Section 55 of the 1979 Act and it is advisable to seek legal advice before taking any action.

6.2. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

6.3 Finally, please note that your personal data is managed in compliance with the [General Data Protection Regulations](#).

Yours sincerely,

Nichola Smith  
Historic Environment Branch  
under authority of Jack Sargeant MS - Minister for Culture, Skills and Social  
Partnership

## ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979 APPLICATION FOR SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT

### INSPECTOR'S ADVICE

#### 1. Policy Context

- 1.1 An application for scheduled monument consent (SMC) is considered on its own merits in accordance with *Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales* ([Conservation Principles](#)) and Annex A of *Technical Advice Note 24: [The Historic Environment \(TAN 24\)](#)*. In particular, TAN 24 explains that the main purpose of scheduling is to ensure the preservation of ancient monuments and, when considering an application for SMC, there is a presumption against proposals which would involve significant alteration or cause damage, or which would have a significant impact on the setting of remains. Therefore, applicants are expected to demonstrate that no practicable alternative route or location, avoiding the scheduled area, exists and that the need to undertake works outweighs the presumption in favour of the protection of the scheduled monument.
- 1.2 The Welsh Government's six principles for sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales are also used as a guide when considering applications for scheduled monument consent. These are:
- Historic assets will be managed to sustain their values.
  - Understanding the significance of historic assets is vital.
  - The historic environment is a shared resource.
  - Everyone will be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment.
  - Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent.
  - Documenting and learning from decisions is essential.

#### 2. AN020 Castell Aberlleiniog

The monument comprises the remains of a motte and bailey castle with a later stone keep. The motte is thought to have been built by Robert of Rhuddlan, a cousin of Hugh of Avranches, Earl of Chester in 1088-90. The stone keep or fort was first constructed in the 17<sup>th</sup> century when the site was refortified during the Civil War. Later additions and alterations were made during the 18<sup>th</sup> century as part of its transition to becoming a folly.

The stone structure on top of the motte is about 18m square with a tower at each corner, although the east tower no longer exists. The walls remain to a height of 2-3 m and are about 0.75 m wide. Each length of walling is supported by three small buttresses. The entrance was probably on the SE side where there is now a 2 m wide gap. The north tower has been rebuilt and now stands about 4.5m high and is lit by 5 rectangular loops.

The motte is surrounded by a dry ditch 11m wide and between 1 and 2 m deep. The top of the motte stands about 8m above the level of the ditch, and its diameter across the top is 28m.

To the SE side of the defensive ditch lies a levelled area c.30m SW-NE by c.20m transversely which is defined by distinctive earth mounds at the E and W ends. Geophysical survey in 2008 identified a number of anomalies suggesting that this area could have acted as a bailey to the motte. However, none of these features were tested using intrusive archaeological techniques and no evidence of earthworks relating to them on the site.

### 3. The Application

- 3.1 This application for scheduled monument consent involves a community evaluation/excavation. Volunteers, under the supervision of professional archaeologists, will hand dig a small (2x1m) trench (TR01) over the remains of the bailey bank/ditch and up to 6 (1x1m) trial pits (TP01-TP06) in the interior of the bailey in order to test the results of the 2008 geophysical survey, in particular the anomalies interpreted as possible structural remains on the eastern side of the enclosure. The excavation of trench TR01 and three trial pits (TP01-TP03) will commence on the first day of fieldwork. The other three trial pits (TP04-TP06) are contingency trial pits to be excavated and recorded should resources and time allow. The interventions will be excavated to an archaeological horizon, the glacial horizon, or the safe vertical limit of unshored excavation (1.2m).

### 4. Assessment

- 4.1 The proposed evaluation excavation is very limited in scope and unlikely to cause any significant harm to the monument. The bailey area has been impacted by tree roots and vegetation growth in recent years and the excavation has the potential to illicit useful information relating to the impact of ongoing tree growth that will inform future management at the site.

The evaluation will test the results of the 2008 geophysical survey and will allow the interpretation of the features within the bailey. If in situ remains and deposits are encountered, the results will enhance the **evidential value** of the site, although any archaeological intervention to investigate in situ remains or deposits will have to remain minimal due to the nature of this excavation.

If the excavation fails to illicit conclusive archaeological results or provide important management information, there will remain a significant opportunity to engage the public. The programme includes provision for volunteer involvement, visits by local school children and dissemination of the results to the wider community, thereby enhancing the **communal value** of the site.

### 5. Recommendation

5.1 I recommend that scheduled monument consent is granted, subject to the following conditions:

**6. Proposed Conditions**

Conditions must meet the following criteria:

- Necessary
- Relevant under the legislation (Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as amended by the Historic Environment Act (Wales) 2016)
- Relevant to the development to be permitted
- Enforceable
- Precise
- Reasonable in all other respects

6.1 The applicant shall provide Cadw with reasonable advance notice of commencement of works on site and will afford access at all reasonable times to any Cadw official or archaeologist nominated by Cadw to monitor progress of the works.

6.2 The approved works shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the application form, plans and documents as listed below. No variations are permitted unless they have been authorised in advance in writing by Cadw.

Number	Document / plan	Reference Number (if applicable)	Date
1	SMC application form signed by Neil McGuinness, Heneb: Gwynedd Archaeology		October 2024
2	Written Scheme of Investigation: Castell Aberlleiniog (HD24-082)	Historic Environment Record Event Primary Reference Number 49136	October 2024
3	Supplementary Form for Excavations		October 2024

6.14 Cadw shall be invited to attend a site meeting within the first 5 days of commencement of the project to review the programme.

6.16 Any historic or archaeological features not previously identified which are revealed when carrying out the works shall be retained *in situ* and reported to Cadw within two working days. Works shall be halted in the area/part of the site affected until provision has been made for retention and/or recording of the feature by a suitably qualified archaeologist in accordance with details submitted to and approved in writing in advance by Cadw.

Name of Inspector: Ashley Batten

Date: 25/10/2024

**Annex B**

**COMPLETION NOTICE**

**Name of Monument: Castell Aberlleiniog**

**Monument Number: AN020**

**Ref: AN020 SMC24-058**

Conditions	Date	Signature
Start of works		
Cadw invited to site meeting (within 5 days of works)		
Completion of works on site		

Applicant Name:

Signature:

When all work has been completed and the conditions have been discharged, please complete and return this completion notice to Cadw at [scheduledmonuments@gov.wales](mailto:scheduledmonuments@gov.wales)

## **APPENDIX II**

### **Reproduction of Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology photographic record metadata**



Archive reference	Trench / Test Pit	Description	Contexts	View from	Scale (s)	Originating person	Date	Report Plate
E49136_001	TP04	Pre-ex photograph of TP04	(TP04-01)	S	-	Jessie Baumgardner	04/11/2024	-
E49136_002	TP01	Pre-ex photograph of TP01	(TP01-01)	W	-	Jessie Baumgardner	04/11/2024	-
E49136_003	TP03	Pre-ex photograph of TP03	(TP03-01)	W	-	Jessie Baumgardner	04/11/2024	-
E49136_004	TP02	Pre-ex photograph of TP02	(TP02-01)	W	-	Jessie Baumgardner	04/11/2024	-
E49136_005	TR01	Pre-ex photograph of TR01	(TR01-01)	E	-	Jessie Baumgardner	04/11/2024	-
E49136_006	TP01	TP01 under excavation by Erin	(TP01-01), (TP01-02)	N	-	Jessie Baumgardner	05/11/2024	-
E49136_007	TP02	TP02 under excavation by Janet and Jeff	(TP02-01), (TP02-02)	S	-	Jessie Baumgardner	05/11/2024	-
E49136_008	TP03	TP03 under excavation	(TP03-01), (TP03-02)	N	-	Jessie Baumgardner	05/11/2024	-
E49136_009	TP01	TR01 under excavation	(TR01-01), (TR01-02)	NN E	-	Jessie Baumgardner	05/11/2024	-
E49136_010	TR01	TR01 under excavation	(TR01-01), (TR01-02)	NE	1x1m	Neil McGuinness	05/11/2024	-
E49136_011	TR01	Pre-ex shot of pit [TR01-04] in northeast end of TR01	(TR01-01), (TR01-02), (TR01-03), [TR01-04], (TR01-05)	NE	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	06/11/2024	07
E49136_012	TR01	SE facing section through pit [TR01-04] in NE end of TR01	(TR01-03), [TR01-04], (TR01-05)	SE	1x0.3m	Stuart Murphy	06/11/2024	08

Archive reference	Trench / Test Pit	Description	Contexts	View from	Scale (s)	Originating person	Date	Report Plate
E49136_013	TR01	Post-ex shot of pit [TR01-04] in NE end of TR01	(TR01-03), [TR01-04]	SE	1x0.3m	Stuart Murphy	06/11/2024	-
E49136_014	TR01	Pre-ex shot of pit [TR01-06] in base of linear hollow [TR01-08] in southwest part of TR01 prior to extension	(TR01-03), [TR01-06], (TR01-07), [TR01-08]	SW	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	06/11/2024	05
E49136_015	TP02	W facing section in TP02, post-ex showing depth of natural clay deposit (TP02-03) in sondage	(TP02-01), (TP02-02), (TP02-03)	W	1x1m	Neil McGuinness	06/11/2024	12
E49136_016	TP02	N facing section in TP02, post-ex showing depth of natural clay deposit (TP02-03) in sondage	(TP02-01), (TP02-02), (TP02-03)	N	1x1m	Neil McGuinness	06/11/2024	-
E49136_017	TP02	E facing section in TP02, post-ex showing depth of natural clay deposit (TP02-03) in sondage	(TP02-01), (TP02-02), (TP02-03)	E	1x1m	Neil McGuinness	06/11/2024	-
E49136_018	TP02	S facing section in TP02, post-ex showing depth of natural clay deposit (TP02-03) in sondage	(TP02-01), (TP02-02), (TP02-03)	S	1x1m	Neil McGuinness	06/11/2024	11
E49136_019	TR01	Photo showing southwest facing section though feature [TR01-06]	(TR01-03), [TR01-06], (TR01-07)	SW	1x0.3m	Stuart Murphy	06/11/2024	06
E49136_020	TR01	Post-ex photo of feature [TR01-06]	(TR01-03), [TR01-06]	SW	1x0.3m	Stuart Murphy	06/11/2024	-
E49136_021	TP04	Pre-excavation of test pit TP04	(TP04-01)	S	1x1m	Erin Lloyd	06/11/2024	-

Archive reference	Trench / Test Pit	Description	Contexts	View from	Scale (s)	Originating person	Date	Report Plate
E49136_022	TP01	Post-ex photo of east facing section of TP01 showing step in natural [TP01-05] and gravelly deposit (TP01-04)	(TP01-01), (TP01-02), (TP01-03), (TP01-04), [TP01-05]	S	1x1m	Louise Ingham	06/11/2024	-
E49136_023	TP01	Post-ex photo of west facing section of TP01 showing step in natural [TP01-05] and gravelly deposit (TP01-04)	(TP01-01), (TP01-02), (TP01-03), (TP01-04), [TP01-05]	W	1x1m	Louise Ingham	06/11/2024	09
E49136_024	TP01	Post-ex photo of north facing section of TP01 showing step in natural [TP01-05] and gravelly deposit (TP01-04)	(TP01-01), (TP01-02), (TP01-03), (TP01-04), [TP01-05]	N	1x1m	Louise Ingham	06/11/2024	-
E49136_025	TP01	Post-ex photo of east facing section of TP01 showing step in natural [TP01-05]	(TP01-01), (TP01-02), (TP01-03), [TP01-05]	E	1x1m	Louise Ingham	06/11/2024	10
E49136_026	TP03	Post-ex photo of south facing section TP03	(TP03-01), (TP03-02), (TP03-03)	S	1x1m	Louise Ingham	06/11/2024	-
E49136_027	TP03	Post-ex photo of west facing section TP03	(TP03-01), (TP03-02), (TP03-03)	W	1x1m	Louise Ingham	06/11/2024	13
E49136_028	TP03	Post-ex photo of north facing section TP03	(TP03-01), (TP03-02), (TP03-03)	N	1x1m	Louise Ingham	06/11/2024	-
E49136_029	TP03	Post-ex photo of east facing section TP03	(TP03-01), (TP03-02), (TP03-03)	E	1x1m	Louise Ingham	06/11/2024	14
E49136_030	TP03	Post-ex photo of east facing section TP03	(TP03-01), (TP03-02), (TP03-03)	E	1x1m	Louise Ingham	06/11/2024	-

Archive reference	Trench / Test Pit	Description	Contexts	View from	Scale (s)	Originating person	Date	Report Plate
E49136_031	TP01	Close-up of gravelly deposit (TP01-04)	(TP01-04)	E	-	Louise Ingham	06/11/2024	-
E49136_032	TP01	Close-up of gravelly deposit (TP01-04)	(TP01-04)	E	1x0.3m	Louise Ingham	06/11/2024	-
E49136_033	TR01	Trench 01 prior to southern extension	(TR01-03), [TR01-06], [TR01-08]	NE	1x1m	Malcom New	07/11/2024	01
E49136_034	TR01	Trench 01 prior to southern extension	(TR01-03), [TR01-06], [TR01-08]	SW	1x1m	Malcom New	06/11/2024	-
E49136_035	TR01	Post-ex photo of trench 01	(TR01-03), [TR01-06], [TR01-08]	NE	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	07/11/2024	02
E49136_036	TR01	Post-ex photo of trench 01	(TR01-03), [TR01-06], [TR01-08]	SW	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	07/11/2024	-
E49136_037	TR01	North facing section TR01	(TR01-01), (TR01-02), (TR01-03)	N	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	07/11/2024	-
E49136_038	TR01	East facing section, full photo	(TR01-01), (TR01-02), (TR01-03), [TR01-06], [TR01-08], (TR01-09)	E	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	07/11/2024	-
E49136_039	TR01	Close-up of east facing section in north end of TR01	(TR01-01), (TR01-02), (TR01-03), [TR01-06], [TR01-08], (TR01-09)	E	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	07/11/2024	-
E49136_040	TR01	Close-up of east facing section in south end of TR01	(TR01-01), (TR01-02), (TR01-03), [TR01-06], [TR01-08], (TR01-09)	E	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	07/11/2024	-

Archive reference	Trench / Test Pit	Description	Contexts	View from	Scale (s)	Originating person	Date	Report Plate
E49136_041	TR01	Photo of west facing section TR01	(TR01-01), (TR01-02), (TR01-03), [TR01-08], (TR01-09)	W	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	07/11/2024	-
E49136_042	TR01	Close-up of west facing section TR01 in north end of trench	(TR01-01), (TR01-02), (TR01-03), [TR01-06], [TR01-08], (TR01-09)	W	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	07/11/2024	-
E49136_043	TR01	Close-up of west facing section TR01 in south end of trench	(TR01-01), (TR01-02), (TR01-03), [TR01-06], [TR01-08], (TR01-09)	W	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	07/11/2024	-
E49136_044	TR01	South facing section in TR01	(TR01-01), (TR01-02), (TR01-03)	S	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	07/11/2024	-
E49136_045	TP05	TP05 pre-ex	(TP05-01)	S	1x1m	Neil McGuinness	07/11/2024	-
E49136_046	TP04	TP04 post-ex plan view showing pit [TP04-04]	(TP04-01), (TP04-02), (TP04-03), [TP04-04], (TP04-05)	S	1x1m	George Smith	07/11/2024	15
E49136_047	TP04	North facing section in TP04	(TP04-01), (TP04-02), (TP04-03)	N	1x1m	George Smith	07/11/2024	-
E49136_048	TP04	West facing section in TP04	(TP04-01), (TP04-02), (TP04-03)	W	1x1m	George Smith	07/11/2024	-
E49136_049	TP04	South facing section in TP04 showing pit [TP04-04]	(TP04-01), (TP04-02), (TP04-03), [TP04-04], (TP04-05)	S	1x1m	George Smith	07/11/2024	-
E49136_050	TP04	East facing section in TP04 showing pit [TP04-04]	(TP04-01), (TP04-02), (TP04-03), [TP04-04], (TP04-05)	E	1x1m	George Smith	07/11/2024	16
E49136_051	TP04	South facing section through pit [TP04-04] showing pit [TP04-04]	(TP04-01), (TP04-02), (TP04-03), [TP04-04], (TP04-05)	S	1x0.6 m	George Smith	07/11/2024	-

Archive reference	Trench / Test Pit	Description	Contexts	View from	Scale (s)	Originating person	Date	Report Plate
E49136_052	TP06	TP06 pre-ex	(TP06-01)	S	1x1m	Erin Lloyd	07/11/2024	-
E49136_053	TR01	Post-ex photo of TR01	(TR01-01), (TR01-02), (TR01-03), [TR01-06], [TR01-08], (TR01-09)	N	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	08/11/2024	-
E49136_054	TR01	Post-ex photo of TR01	(TR01-01), (TR01-02), (TR01-03), [TR01-06], [TR01-08], (TR01-09)	S	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	08/11/2024	-
E49136_055	TR01	Post-ex photo of TR01 showing north facing section	(TR01-01), (TR01-02), (TR01-03)	N	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	08/11/2024	-
E49136_056	TR01	Post-ex photo of TR01 showing south facing section	(TR01-01), (TR01-02), (TR01-03)	S	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	08/11/2024	03
E49136_057	TR01	Post-ex photo of TR01 showing east facing section	(TR01-01), (TR01-02), (TR01-03), [TR01-06], [TR01-08], (TR01-09)	E	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	08/11/2024	-
E49136_058	TR01	Post-ex photo of TR01 showing west facing section	(TR01-01), (TR01-02), (TR01-03), [TR01-08], (TR01-09)	W	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	08/11/2024	-
E49136_059	TR01	Close- up of west facing section north end of TR01	(TR01-01), (TR01-02), (TR01-03), [TR01-08], (TR01-09)	W	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	08/11/2024	-
E49136_060	TR01	Close-up of west facing section in south end of TR01	(TR01-01), (TR01-02), (TR01-03), [TR01-06], [TR01-08], (TR01-09)	W	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	08/11/2024	-
E49136_061	TR01	Close-up of east facing section in north end of TR01	(TR01-01), (TR01-02), (TR01-03), [TR01-06], [TR01-08], (TR01-09)	E	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	08/11/2024	-

Archive reference	Trench / Test Pit	Description	Contexts	View from	Scale (s)	Originating person	Date	Report Plate
E49136_062	TR01	Close-up of east facing section in south end of TR01	(TR01-01), (TR01-02), (TR01-03), [TR01-06], [TR01-08], (TR01-09)	E	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	08/11/2024	-
E49136_063	TR01	Photo showing linear feature [TR01-08] in TR01	(TR01-01), (TR01-02), (TR01-03), [TR01-06], [TR01-08], (TR01-09)	S	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	08/11/2024	-
E49136_064	TR01	Photo showing linear feature [TR01-08] in TR01	(TR01-01), (TR01-02), (TR01-03), [TR01-06], [TR01-08], (TR01-09)	N	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	08/11/2024	-
E49136_065	TR01	Photo showing linear feature [TR01-08] in section	(TR01-01), (TR01-02), (TR01-03), [TR01-06], [TR01-08], (TR01-09)	E	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	08/11/2024	-
E49136_066	TR02	Photo showing linear feature [TR01-08] in section	(TR01-01), (TR01-02), (TR01-03), [TR01-06], [TR01-08], (TR01-09)	W	1x1m	Stuart Murphy	08/11/2024	-
E49136_067	TP05	TP05 post-ex, south facing section	(TP05-01), (TP05-02), (TP05-03)	S	1x1m	Erin Lloyd	08/11/2024	-
E49136_068	TP05	TP05 post-ex, west facing section	(TP05-01), (TP05-02), (TP05-03)	W	1x1m	Erin Lloyd	08/11/2024	17
E49136_069	TP05	TP05 post-ex, north facing section	(TP05-01), (TP05-02), (TP05-03)	N	1x1m	Erin Lloyd	08/11/2024	-
E49136_070	TP05	TP05 post-ex, east facing section	(TP05-01), (TP05-02), (TP05-03)	E	1x1m	Erin Lloyd	08/11/2024	18
E49136_071	TP01	TP01 backfilled	-	S	1x1m	Erin Lloyd	08/11/2024	-

Archive reference	Trench / Test Pit	Description	Contexts	View from	Scale (s)	Originating person	Date	Report Plate
E49136_072	TP02	TP02 backfilled	-	S	1x1m	Erin Lloyd	08/11/2024	-
E49136_073	TP03	TP03 backfilled	-	S	1x1m	Erin Lloyd	08/11/2024	-
E49136_074	TR01	Section view of linear hollow [TR01-08] in TR01	(TR01-01), (TR01-02), (TR01-03), [TR01-06], [TR01-08], (TR01-09)	SE	1x1m	Jessie Baumgardner	11/11/2024	04
E49136_075	TP06	TP06 post-ex, south facing section	(TP06-01), (TP06-02), (TP06-03)	S	1x1m	Neil McGuinness	11/11/2024	19
E49136_076	TP06	TP06 post-ex, west facing section	(TP06-01), (TP06-02), (TP06-03)	W	1x1m	Neil McGuinness	11/11/2024	-
E49136_077	TP06	TP06 post-ex, north facing section	(TP06-01), (TP06-02), (TP06-03)	N	1x1m	Neil McGuinness	11/11/2024	20
E49136_078	TP06	TP06 post-ex, east facing section	(TP06-01), (TP06-02), (TP06-03)	E	1x1m	Neil McGuinness	11/11/2024	-
E49136_079	TR01	TR01 backfilled	-	NE	1x1m	Neil McGuinness	11/11/2024	-
E49136_080	TP04	TP04 backfilled	-	S	1x1m	Neil McGuinness	11/11/2024	-
E49136_081	TP05	TP05 backfilled	-	S	1x1m	Neil McGuinness	11/11/2024	-
E49136_082	TP06	TP06 backfilled	-	S	1x1m	Neil McGuinness	11/11/2024	-



## **APPENDIX III**

### **Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology Selection Strategy**

# HD24-082 Castell Aberlleiniog Community Excavation 08/10/2024 v1.0 Selection Strategy

## Project Information

### Project Management

<b>Project Manager</b>	Neil McGuinness neil.mcguinness@heneb.org.uk	
<b>Archaeological Archive Manager</b>	Neil McGuinness neil.mcguinness@heneb.org.uk	
<b>Organisation</b>	Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology	
<b>Stakeholders</b>		<b>Date Contacted</b>
<b>Collecting Institution(s)</b>	Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology Historic Environment Record	08/10/2024
	RCAHMMW	On completion of Project Archive
	Oriel Ynys Môn, Rhosmeirch Llangefni LL77 7TQ	If applicable, post-fieldwork based on artefact recovery
<b>Project Lead / Project Assurance</b>	Cadw: Ashley Batten – Regional Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Archaeology North Wales Ashley.Batten001@gov.wales	
<b>Landowner / Developer</b>	Menter Môn: Joseff Davies joseff@mentermon.com Rebecca Pritchard rebecca@mentermon.com	
<b>Other</b>		

### Resources

#### Resources required

Describe the resources required to implement this Selection Strategy, particularly if unusual resources are required.

No unusual resources required outside of Heneb - the Trust for Welsh Archaeology normal operating equipment and personnel.

## Context

Describe below the context of this Selection Strategy. You should refer to:

- The aims and objectives of the project;
- Local Authority guidance (including the brief);
- Research Frameworks;
- The repository collection development policy and/or deposition policy;
- Material-specific guidance documents.

**Note:** This section may be copied from your Project Design/WSI to ensure all Stakeholders receive this context information.

Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology (HGA) has been asked by Menter Môn to undertake a community archaeological excavation at Castell Aberlleiniog, Tros yr Afon, Llangoed, Ynys Môn LL58 8AT, United Kingdom (HGA HER PRN 2570 ; SM AN020; NGR SH6163979298). The proposed community excavation has been devised by HGA in response to an invitation from Menter Môn to devise and conduct a scheme of archaeological works at the site that involves and educates the local community and provides information that can be included in future management plans and interpretive materials for the site. Castell Aberlleiniog is the remains of a medieval motte and bailey castle located on the left bank of the Afon Lleiniog. It is believed to originally date to the 11th century AD, but the site was re-fortified in the 17th century and it also contains later additions. It is a Scheduled Monument (AN 020) and is afforded statutory protection from unauthorised damage, repair or alteration under Section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Following a site visit in October 2024 to discuss the scope of the proposed community excavation with representatives from Menter Môn, Welsh Government (Cadw) and HGA present, HGA applied to Cadw for Scheduled Monument Consent for the works (application in progress). The hand excavation 1 2x1m trial trench and up to 6 1x1m trial pits is proposed, all located within the bailey area on the southern side of the monument. The works are scheduled to be undertaken over 5 days in November 2024.

The full aims, objectives and a list of the guidance documents used for this project are detailed in the project specific WSI:

Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology. 2024. *Castell Aberlleiniog, Ynys Môn (HD24-082): Written Scheme of Investigation for Community Archaeological Excavation (HGA EPRN 49136)*. Prepared for Menter Môn October 2024

## 1 – Digital Data

### Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Digital Data Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Collections Curator).

Neil McGuinness – Senior Archaeologist, Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology  
Sean Derby – Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology Historic Environment Record;  
Gareth Edwards – Head of Knowledge and Understanding, RCAHMW

### Selection

## Location of Data Management Plan (DMP)

Selection of digital data elements should be considered in your project's DMP. For the purpose of the Selection Strategy, you can either copy the selection section of your DMP below, or attach it as an appendix to this document. Please indicate here if the DMP is attached.

All digital data will be collected, selected and stored in line with the procedures set out in the *Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology DMP* located on Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology's servers (available on request). On completion of the project, elements of the digital archive will also be archived with the Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology Historic Environment Record and RCAHMW.

The selection strategy in your DMP should:

- 1.1 Define what digital data will be selected for inclusion in the archaeological archive, how this will be done, and why. Do not forget to consider that specialists may have digital data that should be included in the archaeological archive.
- 1.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (i.e. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 1.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. digital repository deposition requirements) and specialist advice sought.
- 1.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

1.1 The digital Working Project Archive will include Microsoft .docx and Adobe .pdf versions of the WSI, risk assessments and draft and final reports; Adobe .pdf versions of specialist reports; scanned and digitised paper field record pro-formas and drawings in Adobe.pdf format; digital photographs in .tiff format; illustrations in Adobe .pdf format, digitised site registers, post excavation data and photographic metadata in Microsoft .xlsx format; email correspondence in .eml format; project specific databases in Microsoft .accdb format; raw survey data in Trimble .jxl, and .csv formats; and processed survey data and project specific GIS tables in MapInfo .tab format. The digital dataset will be stored as a digital Archaeological Archive in a project specific folder on the Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology servers. The filesystem location of the digital archive will be recorded in the Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology Project Database.

1.2 The digital Working Project Archive will be reviewed by Neil McGuinness, Senior Archaeologist, Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology following report completion as part of the preserved digital archive compilation process. Duplicate or redundant working data will be marked for de-selection in accordance with the Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology DMP.

1.3 Elements of the digital archive will also be selected and submitted to two external digital repositories according to the specific guidance issued for each..

- Material will be submitted to the Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology Historic Environment Record following the guidance set out in *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) (Version 2)* within one month of final report completion. A digital copy of the final report in Adobe .pdf format will be provided, along with a digital dataset comprising a bilingual Event PRN summary in Microsoft .xlsx format, new/updated PRN information in Microsoft..xlsx format, and any project specific GIS tables in MapInfo .tab format,
- Elements of the digital archive will also be provided to the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales within one month of final report completion. The submitted dataset will be compiled in accordance with the *RCAHMW Guidelines for Digital Archives Version 1*. It will include digital copies of the final report in Microsoft .docx and Adobe .pdf format, along with a digital dataset including the photographic archive in .tiff format (with duplicates removed according to the guidance), photographic metadata in Microsoft .xlsx format and unprocessed survey data in .csv format. The archive will be accompanied by the following metadata files in Microsoft .xlsx format according to the guidance:

- Project Information form;
- File Information form PDF (for archived .pdf files);
- File Information form DOCX (for archived .docx files);
- File Information form XLSX (for archived .xlsx files);
- File Information form TIFF (for archived .tiff files); and
- File Information form CSV (for archived.csv files).

## De-Selected Digital Data

The procedure for dealing with De-selected digital data and what specialist advice informed this process should be recorded in your DMP. Please copy this information here or attach your DMP as an appendix to this document.

It is envisaged that the de-selected material will be retained on the Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology servers for 2 years following the completion of the project at which point they will be reviewed and deleted as necessary in line with the Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology DMP.

## Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

## 2 – Documents

### Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Documents Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Neil McGuinness – Senior Archaeologist, Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology  
Sean Derby – Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology Historic Environment Record

### Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for the Documents elements of the archaeological archive. To do this you must:

- 2.1 Define which documents will be selected for inclusion in the archaeological archive, how this will be done, and why. Do not forget to consider that specialists may have documents that should be included in the archaeological archive.
- 2.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).

- 2.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. digital repository deposition requirements) and specialist advice sought.
- 2.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

2.1 The documentary Working Project Archive includes all documentary material created during the project - field record pro formas, field drawings and sketches, annotated print outs of digital maps and plans, notebooks, etc. All original documentary material will be selected for inclusion in the Preserved Archive.

2.2 The documentary Working Project Archive will be reviewed by Neil McGuinness, Senior Archaeologist, Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology following report completion as part of the documentary Archive Compilation process. Superfluous copies of documents such as duplicates, photocopies of originals and research materials will be removed in accordance with the guidance in *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020). The remaining documents will then be compiled and stored as a preserved documentary Archaeological Archive at the offices of Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology. The physical location of the documentary Archaeological Archive will be recorded in the Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology Project Database.

In addition, a paper copy of the final fieldwork report will be provided to the Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology Historic Environment Record within one month of final report completion.

## De-Selected Documents

Describe the procedure for dealing with De-selected material and what specialist advice has informed this procedure.

It is envisaged that the material de-selected from inclusion in the preserved archive will be duplicates, re-productions or copies of secondary sources created during the research and analysis phases of the project. De-selected material will therefore either be retained to supplement GAT's research files or their raw materials recycled.

## Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

## 3 – Materials

**Note:** This step should be completed for each material component of the archaeological archive. Copy this table for the various materials as required, providing the 'Material Type' and a section identifier (eg. '3.1') for each.

### Material type

Artefacts

### Section 3.

1

### Stakeholders

Name the individual(s) responsible for the Materials Selection decisions (i.e. Archaeological Archive Manager, Project Manager, Repository Representative).

Neil McGuinness – Senior Archaeologist, Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology  
Ashley Batten – Regional Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Archaeology North Wales, Cadw  
Joseff Davies – Menter Môn  
Rebecca Pritchard – Menter Môn  
Ian Jones – Curatorial Officer, Oriel Ynys Môn

### Selection

Describe your Selection Strategy for each material type and or object type. To do this you must:

- 3.1 State the Selection Strategy you are applying to each category of material, how this will be done, and why.
- 3.2 Identify the selection review points during the project (e.g. project planning, data gathering, analysis and reporting and archive compilation).
- 3.3 Reference all relevant standards, policies or guidelines (e.g. thematic, period, and regional, Research Frameworks, repository deposition policies) and specialist advice sought.
- 3.4 Identify any selection decisions that differ from standard guidelines and explain why.

The Materials Selection Template may be useful in structuring this section.

3.1.1 Pottery sherds of 19th and 20th century date have little interpretive value; they will be examined on site by Neil McGuinness Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology Senior Archaeologist and the context from which they were retrieved noted but the sherds will not be retained.

Diagnostic artefacts will be retained for further post-excavation examination and identification. All retained finds will be returned to the Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology offices for examination and cleaning. The finds assemblage will be reviewed once again following cleaning by Neil McGuinness, Senior Archaeologist, Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology. If any further 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> detailed pottery sherds are identified, the material will be recorded before being deselected and the landowner Menter Môn contacted to discuss its return. The remainder of the finds assemblage will be subject to detailed recording, conservation and analysis.

Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology staff will undertake the initial identification, cataloguing and analysis but additional advice may be sought from a wide range of consultants used by the Trust, including National Museums and Galleries of Wales at Cardiff. At all stages the artefacts will be treated according to guidelines issued by the UK Institute of Conservation (Watkinson and Neal 2001) in particular the advice provided within First Aid for Finds (Rescue 1999).

Any waterlogged artefacts (e.g. wood or leather) that are to be recovered for post-excavation assessment and analysis will be processed in accordance with *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (English Heritage, 2011) and specifically in



accordance with Brunning and Watson (2010) for waterlogged wood and Historic England (2012) for waterlogged leather. In such cases an external specialist will be contacted to agree an appropriate sampling and recovery strategy via Lucy Whittingham | Project Manager (post-excavation) | AOC Archaeology | telephone: 0208 843 7380 | email: [lucy.whittingham@aocarchaeology.com](mailto:lucy.whittingham@aocarchaeology.com)).

Environmental bulk sample coarse and fine stone residues will be examined to recover artefacts and ecofacts from them following processing as part of the post-ex phase of the project. Any artefacts of interest or ecofacts identified within the residues will be recorded and incorporated into the project artefact and/or ecofact assemblage. A basic record of the residues will be made (lithology, weight) before they are deselected from the artefact archive and, subject to agreement from the landowner, Menter Môn, returned or discarded to landfill.

3.1.2 Elements of the finds assemblage may be sent to a variety of specialists for further analysis and reporting as part of the post-excavation process. Once returned from specialists, the full finds assemblage will be reviewed and stakeholders (see above) will make selection decisions based on specialists reports and selection recommendations. The selection of artefacts for the Preserved Finds Archive will take place during archive completion.

All finds are the property of the landowner Menter Môn; however, it is Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology policy to recommend that all finds to be archived are donated to an appropriate museum (in this case Oriel Ynys Môn, Rhosmeirch, Llangefni LL77 7TQ), where they can receive specialist treatment and further study.

Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology will contact Menter Môn for agreement regarding the transfer of the Preserved Finds Archive, initially to Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology and subsequently to the relevant museum (Oriel Ynys Môn). A Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology produced pro-forma will be issued to Menter Môn which records the option to either donate the finds to the museum or to have them returned to once analysis and assessment has been completed. If the artefacts are to returned to the landowner they will be recorded, safely packaged and conserved where appropriate before transfer and their location and ownership will be recorded as part of the site archive following the guidance set out in *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020). Any artefacts transferred to Oriel Ynys Môn will be done so in accordance with the museum's guidelines.

3.1.3 The following research frameworks and standards are relevant to the selection of material for inclusion in the Castell Aberlleiniog Preserved Finds Archive: *A Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales Northwest Wales – Medieval* (Davidson 2003); *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020).

## Uncollected Material

If you are practicing selection in the field, describe the process that will be applied. To do this you must:

- Detail how you will characterise, quantify and record all uncollected material on site.
- Explain how you will dispose of, or re-distribute, uncollected material.

Uncollected pottery sherds will be recorded in the field by Neil McGuinness with a written note regarding type and quantity on the respective pro-forma context record. The uncollected material will be left on-site to be incorporated into backfill.

## De-Selected Material

Describe what you will do with the de-selected material. All processed material should have been adequately recorded before de-selection.

All artefacts returned to the Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology office will be assessed and recorded to appropriate standards. De-selected material will be returned to the landowner as agreed by Heneb Gwynedd Archaeology, Cadw and Menter Môn.

## Amendments

Detail any amendments to the above selection strategy here.

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

## Materials Selection Template

This table may be inserted into Section 3 of the main [Selection Strategy Template](#) to help present differing selection strategies for different material types

Find Type	Selection Strategy	Stakeholders	Review Points







Craig Beuno, Ffordd y Garth, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2RT

[www.heneb.org.uk](http://www.heneb.org.uk)

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