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Treetops Country Club, Tyn y Gongl, Benllech, Anglesey LL74 8SF (30C225K/ECON).

April 2021 v1.0



Archaeological Evaluation

Project Code: A0301.1

Report no. 0290

Planning Ref: 30C225K/ECON

Event PRN: 46069





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Archaeological Evaluation

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Project Code: A0301.1
Date: 13/04/2021
Client: Ogwen Bank
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April 2021 v1.0

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1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Comisiynwyd Aeon Archaeology gan Ogwen Bank Caravan Park i gynnal brieff gwerthusiad archaeolegol a'r dir yng y Treetops Country Club, Tyn y Gongl, Benllech, Ynys Mon LL74 8SF. Roedd y gwerthusiad yn cynnwys cloddio pump ffos sydd yn mesur 20m o hyd wrth 1.8m o led ac yn canolbwyntio ar nifer o nodweddion llinellol o oedran anhysbys, fel y nodwyd trwy arolwg geoffisegol. Gellir disgrifio'r holl nodweddion llinellol fel naill ai amrywiadau yn y pridd naturiol neu'n gysylltiedig â'r hen gae chwaraeon.

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Ogwen Bank Caravan Park to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land at Treetops Country Club, Tyn y Gongl, Benllech, Anglesey LL74 8SF.

The evaluation involved the excavation of five trenches measuring 20m in length by 1.8m in width and targeting linear features of unknown age, as identified via geophysical survey.

All of the targeted linear features were attributed to either variations in the natural substrata or associated with the former modern sports pitch.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Ogwen Bank Caravan Park, hereafter the Client, to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land at Treetops Country Club, Tyn y Gongl, Benllech, Anglesey LL74 8SF, hereafter the Site (centred on **NGR SH 50665 82328**) as part of an outline planning application for the siting of 25 holiday chalets together with leisure complex and associated access roads, with some matters reserved (figures 1-3).

Outline planning permission (**30C225K/ECON**) was applied for by the Client on the 15th January 2019 and is awaiting determination. The following pre-determination consultee comments concerning archaeology were made by the Development Control Archaeologist (DCA) at the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS):

Although the application site may have received some landscaping or levelling in the creation of a sports pitch, it cannot be assumed on present evidence that this would have damaged or removed any archaeological deposits that might exist at the site. Accordingly, it is considered that field investigation is necessary in order to determine whether archaeological remains survive at the site, and to inform upon their nature, date and significance, with any implications for the development that they may present.

In the light of these comments and in accordance with Planning Policy Wales (2016) and TAN24: The Historic Environment, an archaeological evaluation of the site should be carried out prior to determination of the planning application. This should initially comprise a geophysical survey of the site, which may need to be followed by a programme of trial trenching in order to adequately characterise the archaeological resource of the site.

A geophysical magnetometer survey was carried out by SUMO Geophysics Ltd in August 2018 (report 13211) and the following is a summary of the results of that survey:

A geophysical survey at Tree Tops Country Club, Benllech, Anglesey detected no anomalies of archaeological interest. A former field boundary was identified, and a number of anomalies of are of uncertain origin but, are likely to be due to agricultural causes or drainage. A pipe was also located.

Due to the uncertainty around the identification of the linear anomalies, it was proposed by the DCA at GAPS that the archaeological resource be investigated via the excavation of five evaluation trial trenches. The results of the archaeological evaluation trenches will determine the requirement, if any, for further mitigatory response.

The location of the test trenches are shown on Figure 04.

The work adhered to the guidelines specified in *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020).

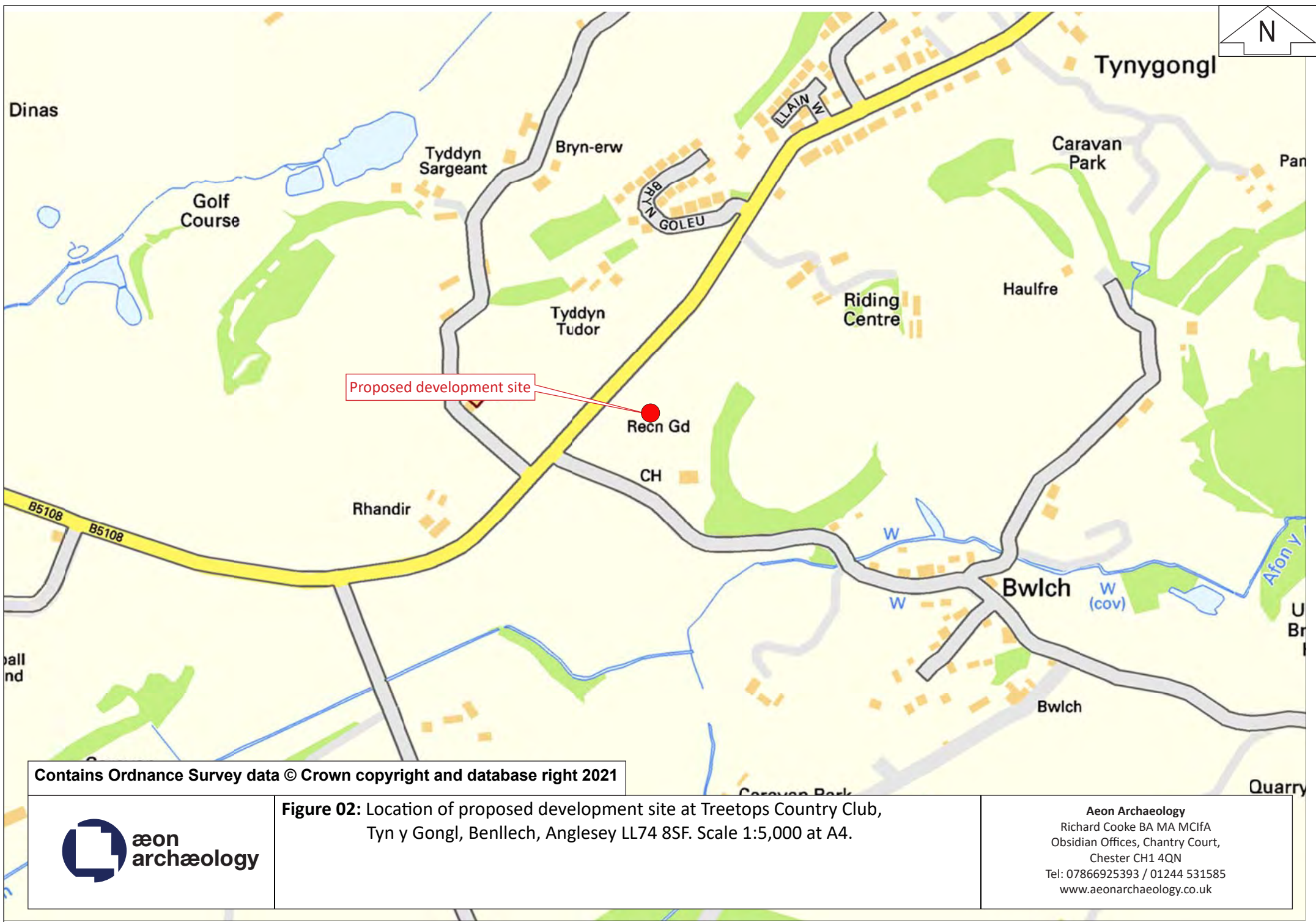
The archaeological evaluation was undertaken using event Primary Reference Number (PRN): 46069.



Figure 01: Location of proposed development site at Treetops Country Club, Tyn y Gongl, Benllech, Anglesey LL74 8SF. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.



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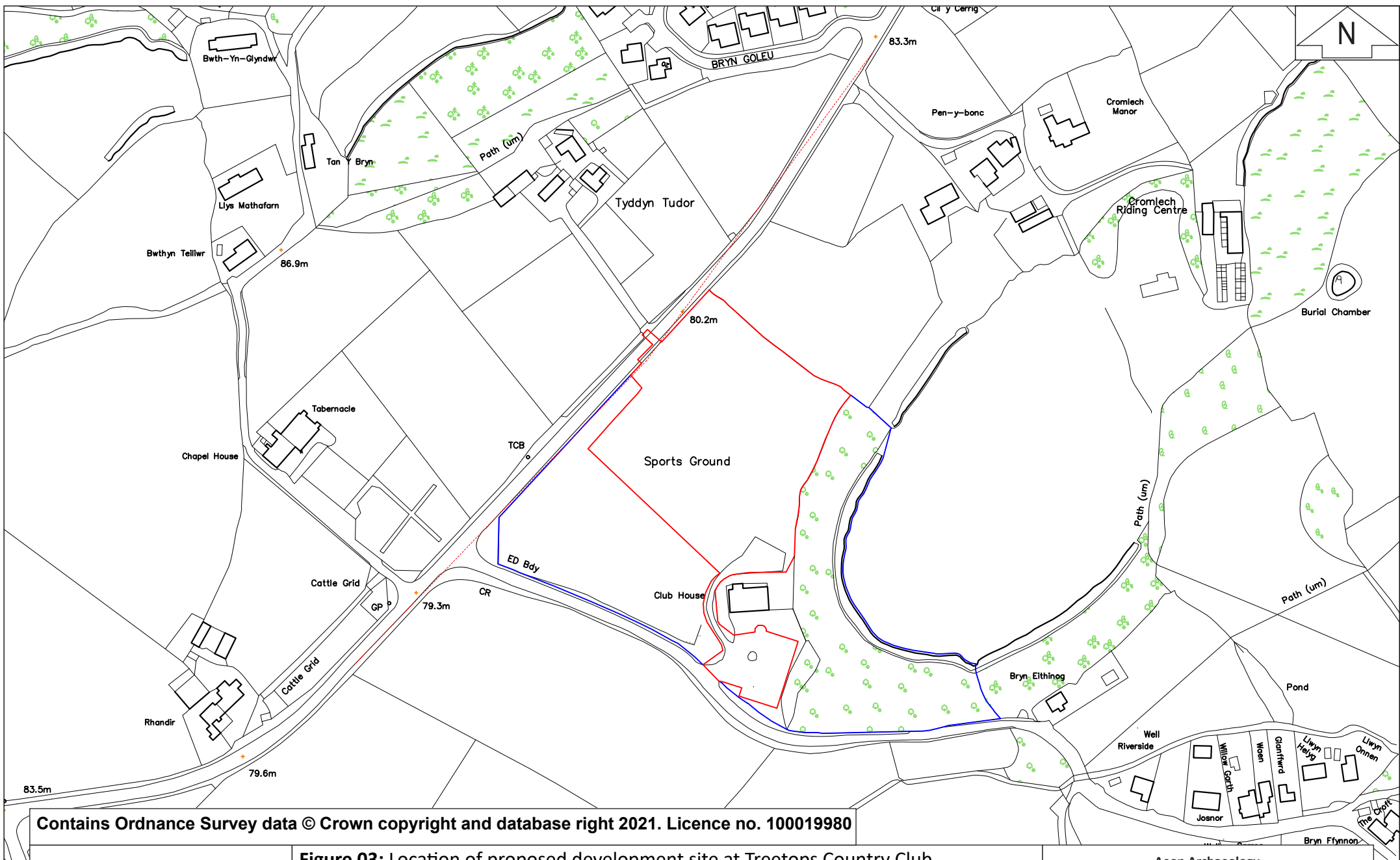
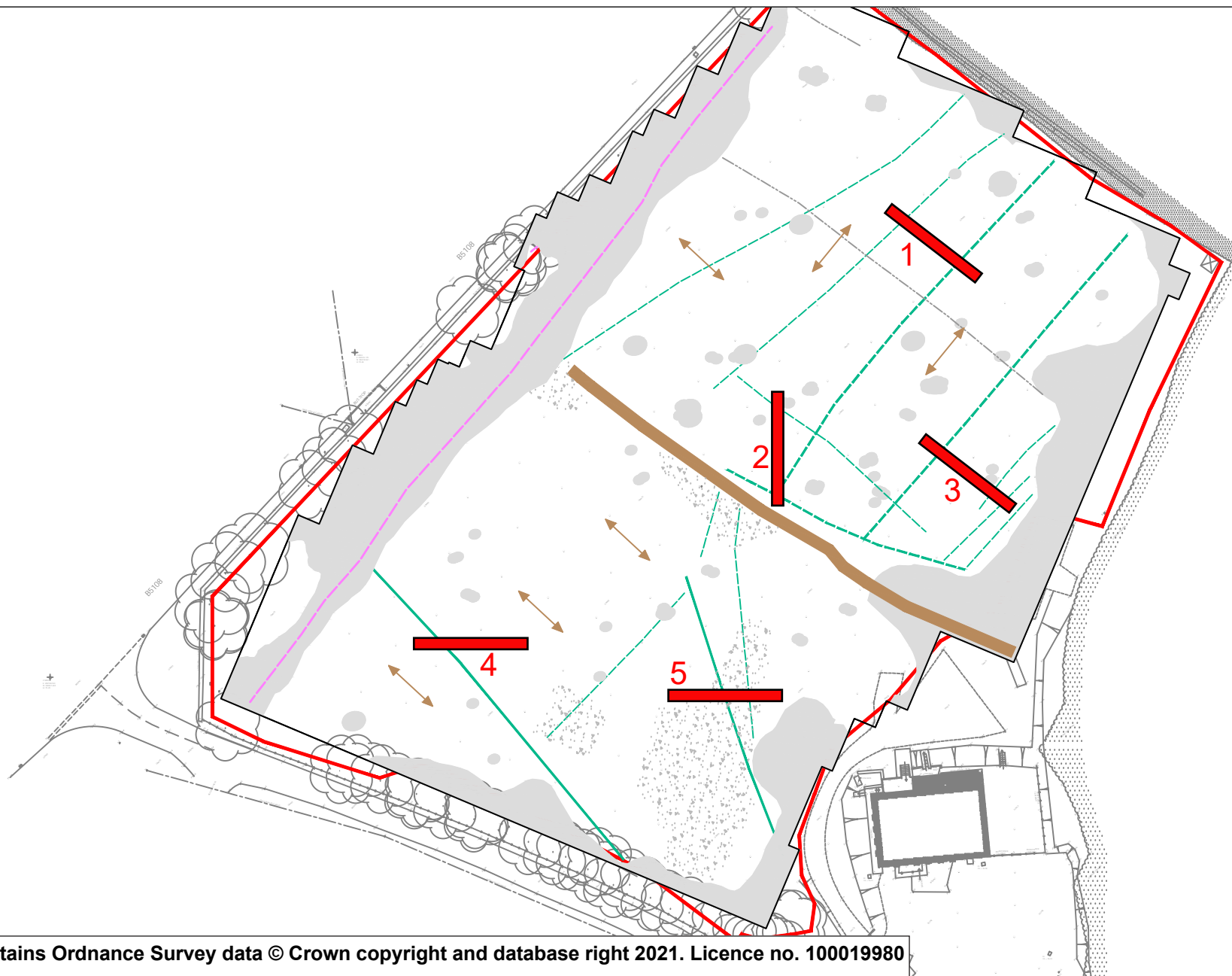


Figure 03: Location of proposed development site at Treetops Country Club,
Tyn y Gongl, Benllech, Anglesey LL74 8SF. Scale 1:2,500 at A4.



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Figure 04: Magnetometer survey interpretation and location of proposed archaeological trenches at Treetops Country Club, Tyn y Gongl, Benllech, Anglesey LL74 8SF. Scale 1:1,000 at A4.

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3.0 POLICY CONTEXT

Planning Policy Wales sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. Chapter 6 covers the historic environment and emphasises that the positive management of change in the historic environment is based on a full understanding of the nature and significance of historic assets and the recognition of the benefits that they can deliver in a vibrant culture and economy.

Various principles and policies related to cultural heritage and archaeology are set out in the Planning Policy Wales which guide local planning authorities with respect to the wider historic environment.

The following paragraphs from Planning Policy Wales are particularly relevant and are quoted in full:

Paragraph 6.1.5 concerns planning applications:

The planning system must take into account the Welsh Government's objectives to protect, conserve, promote and enhance the historic environment as a resource for the general well-being of present and future generations. The historic environment is a finite, non-renewable and shared resource and a vital and integral part of the historical and cultural identity of Wales. It contributes to economic vitality and culture, civic pride, local distinctiveness and the quality of Welsh life. The historic environment can only be maintained as a resource for future generations if the individual historic assets are protected and conserved. Cadw's published Conservation Principles highlights the need to base decisions on an understanding of the impact a proposal may have on the significance of an historic asset.

Planning Policy Wales is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TAN). Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment contains detailed guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment during development plan, preparation and decision making on planning and listed building consent applications. TAN 24 replaces the following Welsh Office Circulars:

- 60/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology
- 61/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas
- 1/98 Planning and the Historic Environment: Directions by the Secretary of State for Wales

4.0 SITE LOCATION AND HISTORIC BACKGROUND

The site is located in the settlement of Tyn y Gongl, a village and post town just west of the town of Benllech and east of Brynteg, on the island of Anglesey. The Site is roughly rectangular in shape measuring c.1.43ha and orientated northeast-southwest. It is occupied by one field that has until fairly recently been utilised as a sports pitch. It is bounded to the north and east by mature hedgerows, to the south by an unnamed road linking Tyn y Gongl and Bwlch, and to the west by the B5108 road. The Site is level and lies at 83m OD.

The DCA at GAPS made the following consultee comments regarding the proposed development:

Several archaeological sites are recorded within the locality of the site, representing occupation in the Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, later prehistoric to Roman, and early medieval periods. The closest recorded sites (each approximately 250m from the site) are the Pant y Saer burial chamber (scheduled monument AN004) and a Romano-British enclosure that appears to have been used for settlement and possibly smelting (PRN 3605). The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW) records 'Bwlch burial chamber' in the field immediately north of the application site (NPRN 402934) but this appears to be a duplicate record for Pant y Saer. Within the wider landscape are two further later prehistoric/Roman hut settlements (scheduled monuments AN043 and AN127), a burial chamber (scheduled monument AN154) and an early medieval cemetery (PRN 3608).

All of these sites are of regional or national importance. Collectively, they indicate a potential for archaeology of each of these periods in undeveloped land throughout this area. The recorded sites are those that have been found by chance or that survive as visible field monuments, with the only modern archaeological investigation in the vicinity being the well-known research project at the multi-period site of Glyn Farm, Llanbedrgoch. The relative sparsity of HER data in the immediate surroundings of the site is therefore likely to be at least in part a product of an absence of archaeological investigation. Observations at the known sites indicate that preservation of archaeological remains in the area is relatively good, as might be expected on limestone, and that the sites in the locality have produced larger artefact assemblages than is typical for the region.

5.0 PROJECT AIMS

Before evaluation commenced an agreed programme of excavation timing, siting, duration, surface re-instatement and health and safety protection measures were agreed with the Client and the DCA at GAPS.

The size, location and orientation of the evaluation trenches were agreed in advance so as to best target areas that may contain archaeological features within the proposed development footprint – however the intention was to excavate 5 x evaluation trenches of the following dimensions (figure 04):

- Test Trench 1: measuring 20m by 1.8m and located over a linear feature identified during the magnetometer survey.
- Test Trench 2: measuring 20m by 1.8m and located over a linear feature identified during the magnetometer survey.
- Test Trench 3: measuring 20m by 1.8m and located over a linear feature identified during the magnetometer survey.
- Test Trench 4: measuring 20m by 1.8m and located over a linear feature identified during the magnetometer survey.
- Test Trench 5: measuring 20m by 1.8m and located over a linear feature identified during the magnetometer survey.

The broad aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains within the proposed development area, the integrity of which may be threatened by development at the site.
- To establish the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion to sub-surface deposits and, where the data allows, assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits of archaeological significance.
- To enable the Client to establish a schedule for archaeological risks.
- To allow the DCA at GAPS to make an informed decision on the need for, and scope of, further evaluative and/or mitigatory archaeological works at the site.

The detailed objectives of the archaeological evaluation are:

- Insofar as possible within methodological constraints, to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between the structures/remains identified, and any relationships between these and the archaeological and historic elements of the wider landscape.
- Where the data allows, identify the research implications of the site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work on Anglesey.

6.0 METHODOLOGY – ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

6.1 Evaluation

If archaeological deposits are identified they were to be manually cleaned, excavated and recorded to determine extent, function, date and relationship to adjacent features.

Contingency provision was to be made for the following:

- Additional excavation of up to 100% of any given feature should the excavated sample prove to be insufficient to provide information on the character and date of the feature.
- Expansion of excavation trench limits, to clarify the extent of features equivalent to an additional 20% of the core trench area.

The archaeological works were surveyed with respect to the nearest Ordnance Survey datum point and with reference to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The excavation area, deposits, features and structures within them were to be accurately located on a site plan prepared at the most appropriate and largest scale.

A written record of the trench content and all identified features was completed via Aeon Archaeology pro-formas.

Any subsurface remains were to be recorded photographically, with detailed notations, measured drawings, and a measured survey. The photographic record was maintained using a digital SLR camera (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution (72dpi) with photographs taken in RAW format and later converted to TIFF format for long-term storage and JPEG format for presentation and inclusion in the archive. Photographic identification boards were also used.

The excavation area was opened with a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The excavation area and spoil heaps were routinely investigated through the use of a metal detector and any finds/artefacts collected and processed as below.

All excavations were backfilled with the material excavated and upon departure Aeon Archaeology left the site in a safe and tidy condition. Aeon Archaeology were not requested to re-lay turf/lawn surface.

6.2 Data Collection from Site Records

A database of the site photographs was produced to enable active long-term curation of the photographs and easy searching. The site records were checked and cross-referenced and photographs were cross-referenced to contexts. These records were used to write the site narrative and the field drawings and survey data were used to produce an outline plan of the site.

All paper field records were scanned to provide a backup digital copy. The photographs were organised and precisely cross-referenced to the digital photographic record so that the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (GAT) Historic Environment Record (HER) can curate them in their active digital storage facility.

6.3 Artefact Methodology

All artefacts were to be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. They would be bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. After processing, all artefacts would be cleaned and examined in-house at Aeon Archaeology. If required, artefacts would be sent to a relevant specialist for conservation and analysis.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds was kept under review throughout the archaeological watching brief. Any changes in recovery priorities would be made under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Client and the DCA at GAPS. There was a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

6.4 Environmental Samples Methodology

The sampling strategy and requirement for bulk soil samples was related to the perceived character, interpretational importance and chronological significance of the strata under investigation. This ensured that only significant features would be sampled. The aim of the sampling strategy was to recover carbonised macroscopic plant remains, small artefacts particularly knapping debris and evidence for metalworking.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs would be obtained from Oxford Archaeology if required.

6.5 Report and dissemination

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project was prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions were labelled, and cross-referenced, and will be lodged within a suitable repository to be agreed with the archaeological curator within six months of the completion of the project.

A draft copy of the report has been sent to the client and upon written approval from them paper and digital copies of the report will be sent to the regional HER, the DCA at GAPS, and will be lodged with the RCAHMW. Copies of all notes, plans, and photographs arising from the evaluation will be stored at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0301.1** with the originals being lodged with the RCAHMW.

7.0 DIGITAL DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

7.1 Type of study

Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent at Treetops Country Club, Tyn y Gongl, Benllech, Anglesey LL74 8SF (centred on NGR SH 50665 82328).

7.2 Types of data

- Photographs (RAW)
- Context sheets (paper)
- Photographic register (paper)
- Drawings (drafting film)
- Misc registers (paper)
- Compiled report

7.3 Format and scale of the data

Photographs taken in *RAW* format and later converted to *TIF* format for long term archiving and *JPEG* format for use in the digital report, converted using *Adobe Photoshop*. All photographs renamed using *AF5* freeware with the prefix (*project code_frame number*) and a photographic metadata created using Microsoft Excel (*.xlsx*) or Access (*.accdb*).

Compiled report (including figures and plates) as *.PDF* files.

7.4 Methodologies for data collection / generation

Digital data will be collected / generated in line with recommendations made in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2014. Rev 2020). Sections 3.3.1 and 3.3.3 are relevant:

3.3.1 Project specifications, research designs or similar documents should include a project specific Selection Strategy and a Data Management Plan.

3.3.3 Project designs or schedules of works etc should outline the methodology used in recording all information, in order to demonstrate that all aspects of archive creation will ensure consistency; for instance in terminologies and the application of codes in digital data sets, highlighting relevant data standards where appropriate

7.5 Data quality and standards

Consistency and quality of data collection / generation shall be controlled and documented through the use of standardised procedure as outlined in the WSI. This will include the use of standardised data capture file formats, digital proformas, data entry validation, peer review, and use of controlled vocabularies.

7.6 Managing, storing and curating data.

All digital data will be organised into Aeon Archaeology proforma project file systems and backed up to the cloud using *Digital River's Crashplan* with additional copies made to external physical hard drive.

7.7 Metadata standards and data documentation

Digital metadata created using Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) or Access (.accdb) of all photographic plates.

Paper metadata created from Aeon Archaeology proformas for contexts, artefacts, environmental samples, watching brief day sheets, trench sheets, and basic record sheets and then scanned to create digital .PDF copies.

7.8 Data preservation strategy and standards

Long term data storage will be through the submission of digital (.PDF) reports to the regional Historic Environment Record (HER); submission of digital (.PDF) reports and a project completion form to the RCAHMW; submission of the scanned (.PDF) archive, photographic plates (.TIF), and metadata (.xlsx) (.accdb) to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS); and retention of copies of all digital files at Aeon Archaeology on physical external hard drive and uploaded to the cloud.

7.9 Suitability for sharing

All digital data will be placed within the public realm (through the channels in 6.8) except for where project confidentiality restricts the sharing of data. All data sets will be selected / discriminated by the Senior Archaeologist at Aeon Archaeology and written permission will be sought from all project specific Clients prior to the sharing of data.

7.10 Discovery by potential users of the research data

Potential users of the generated digital data (outside of the organisation) will be able to source the data and identify whether it could be suitable for their research purposes through access granted via the ADS and RCAHMW websites. Requests can also be made for data through the regional HER's and directly to Aeon Archaeology (info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk).

7.11 Governance of access

The decision to supply research data to potential new users will be via the associated website request (ADS, RCAHMW, HER) or via the Senior Archaeologist when made directly to Aeon Archaeology.

7.12 The study team's exclusive use of the data

Aeon Archaeology's requirement is for timely data sharing, with the understanding that a limited, defined period of exclusive use of data for primary research is reasonable according to the nature and value of the data, and that this restriction on sharing should be based on simple, clear principles. This time period is expected to be six months from completion of the project however Aeon Archaeology reserves the right to extend this period without notice if primary data research dictates.

7.13 Restrictions or delays to sharing, with planned actions to limit such restrictions

Restriction to data sharing may be due to participant confidentiality or consent agreements. Strategies to limit restrictions will include data being anonymised or aggregated; gaining participant consent for data sharing; and gaining copyright permissions. For prospective studies, consent procedures will include provision for data sharing to maximise the value of the data for wider research use, while providing adequate safeguards for participants.

7.14 Regulation of responsibilities of users

External users of the data will be bound by data sharing agreements provided by the relevant organisation or directly through Aeon Archaeology.

7.15 Responsibilities

Responsibility for study-wide data management, metadata creation, data security and quality assurance of data will be through the Senior Archaeologist (Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA) at Aeon Archaeology when concerning data generation and early/mid-term storage. Upon deposition with digital depositories the study-wide data management, metadata creation, data security and quality assurance of data will be the responsibility of the specific organisations' themselves.

7.16 Organisational policies on data sharing and data security

The following Aeon Archaeology policies are relevant:

- Aeon Archaeology Archive Deposition Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Quality Assurance Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Conflict of Interest Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Outreach Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Digital Management Plan 2020

8.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS

8.1 The Documentary Archive

The following documentary records were created during the archaeological evaluation:

Trench Sheets	5
Digital photographs	40

8.2 Environmental Samples

No environmental samples were taken as part of the archaeological evaluation.

8.3 Artefacts

This section will summarise the pottery sherds recovered from the works undertaken at Tree Tops, Tyn y Gongl. The ceramic evidence recovered from the site was not extensive but did however correspond with recognised patterns associated within agricultural manuring scatters throughout Britain. The finds were recovered from the topsoil in trenches 1 and 3.

The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight, and maximum number of vessels (MNV), according to ware names commonly in use by archaeological ceramic specialists across the North West and West Midlands regions. Codes shown thus: (STRSB) relate to the identification system used for medieval and post-medieval ceramics used by The Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA).

The Post-Medieval Pottery

The evaluation trenching produced a total of 4 sherds of post-medieval pottery with a combined weight of 40g, representing 4 individual vessels. The pottery spans the period from 1740-1900. The pottery was in good condition overall although fragmented, with all sherds representing individual parts of single vessels. The pottery is in a stable condition and requires no long-term storage requirements.

Wares and Forms

Lead Glazed Blackware 1740 - 1900 (BLACK)

Three body sherds of Lead Glazed Blackware (BLACK) from a probable jug were recovered from the topsoil in trenches 1 and 3 (1 x trench 1) (2 x trench 3) weighing 35g in total. Black lead glazed wares made from mixed red and yellow clays were being produced in Wales and England, particularly Northwest England by the mid-17th century, and continued to be made into the 19th century (Cresswell & Davey 1989).

Bone china - 1810 - 1900

One sherds of Bone china (*BONE TR6*) weighing 3g was recovered from the topsoil in trench 1. The modern bone china product was developed by the Staffordshire potter Josiah Spode in the early 1790s. Spode included kaolin, so his formula, sometimes called "Staffordshire bone-porcelain", was effectively hard-paste porcelain, but stronger, and versions were adopted by all the major English factories by around 1815.

Most early uses of underglaze were on expensive porcelain wares, in contrast to the 19th century, when it was much more used on earthenwares. Initially, all pieces were overglaze printed. The advent of printed underglaze designs on earthenware made production of the complex landscapes and geometric borders like those found on Chinese porcelain more cost-efficient for potteries to produce and more affordable for the consumer. The most enduring Chinese-style pattern was "Blue Willow," first introduced around 1790 by Josiah Spode and made by numerous potters into the present day. These motifs dominated printed designs from the introduction of underglaze printing in Staffordshire in the 1780s until 1814, with peak production between 1790 and 1814. These examples are much later probably late 19th century (Coysh and Henrywood 1982).



Artefact Image A: Ceramic sherds recovered from the topsoil in trench 1. Scale 0.05m.



Artefact Image B: Ceramic sherds recovered from the topsil in trench 3. Scale 0.05m.

9.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

9.1 Overview

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA and Josh Dean BA, archaeological contractors and consultants at Aeon Archaeology between the 6th and 8th April 2021. The weather conditions were ideal for the evaluation, being both bright and clear.

Trench 1 (plates 1-3) (figure 4 and 5)

SH 50670.48/82332.73 – SH 50686.46/82320.76 – SH 50685.44/82319.34 – SH 50669.44/82331.26

Trench 1 measured 20m in length by 1.80m in width, orientated northwest-southeast and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.67m.

The trench was targeting two linear geophysical anomalies orientated northeast-southwest and located towards the north-western and south-eastern ends of the trench.

The trench was excavated through a 0.22m deep soft mid grey-brown clay-silt topsoil, a 0.4m deep soft mid red-brown silt-clay subsoil and a >0.01m deep fairly firm, light yellow-brown sand-clay natural glacial substrata.

There were no archaeological features uncovered within the trench limits however two linear depressions at surface level corresponded with the identified geophysical anomalies. These depressions appeared to be eroded informal footpaths across the former sports field.

The topsoil horizon produced one sherd of post-medieval blackware and one sherd of bone china ceramic.



Plate 01: Trench 1 post-excavation photograph, from the northwest. Scale 2 x 1.0m.



Plate 02: Trench 1 post-excavation photograph, from the southeast. Scale 2 x 1.0m.



Plate 03: Trench 1 post-excavation photograph trench section, from the southwest. Scale 0.5m.

Trench 2 (plates 4-7) (figure 4 and 5)

SH 50651.54/82304.56 – SH 50650.48/82284.59 – SH 50647.66/82284.59 – SH 50648.68/82304.62

Trench 2 measured 20m in length by 1.80m in width, orientated north-south and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.98m.

The trench was targeting two linear geophysical anomalies orientated northwest-southeast and located towards the northern and southern ends of the trench.

The trench was excavated through a 0.22m deep soft mid grey-brown clay-silt topsoil, and a 0.44m deep soft mid red-brown silt-clay subsoil. At the northern end of the trench this lay above a >0.32m deep mixed stony / shaley, dark grey and mid grey-brown mottled, silt-clay natural glacial substrata. Towards the centre of the trench the natural substrata altered to a light / mid orange-brown sand-clay.

At the northern end of the trench a lens of gravel substrate had been deposited between the topsoil and subsoil horizons, possibly for drainage. This lens corresponded with the northernmost geophysical anomaly.

There was no clear reason for the southernmost geophysical anomaly although it is speculated that this may have been a surface striation related to the former sports pitch.

There were no artefacts recovered from trench 2.



Plate 04: Trench 2 showing gravel substrate beneath topsoil, from the north. Scale 2 x 1.0m.



Plate 05: Trench 2 post excavation, from the north. Scale 2 x 1.0m.



Plate 06: Trench 2 post excavation, from the south. Scale 2 x 1.0m.



Plate 07: Trench 2 post excavation trench section showing gravel substrate band, from the west. Scale 0.5m.

Trench 3 (plates 8-11) (figure 4 and 5)

SH 50674.75/82296.87 – SH 50690.91/82284.92 – SH 50673.67/82295.31 – SH 5067475/82296.87

Trench 3 measured 20m in length by 1.80m in width, orientated northwest-southeast and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.0m.

The trench was targeting three linear geophysical anomalies orientated northeast-southwest, one of which was located at the north-western end with the two remaining anomalies located at the south-eastern end of the trench.

The trench was excavated through a 0.3m deep soft mid grey-brown clay-silt topsoil, and a 0.4m deep soft mid red-brown silt-clay subsoil. At the north-western and south-eastern ends of the trench the subsoil overlaid a reasonably firm, light orange-brown sand-clay natural glacial substrata. Towards the centre of the trench it overlaid a 6.0m wide band of mixed light orange-brown mottled with dark grey and light yellow-brown silt-clay natural glacial substrata, with occasional small, sub-angular cobble inclusions and degraded stone and manganese fragments.

The central band of silt-clay continued beneath the natural sand-clay either side and appeared to be an area where it had peaked to the surface. This created a false linear reading with the geophysical survey which had detected the interface between the natural substrata bands.

At the south-eastern end of the trench a gravel substrate had been deposited between the topsoil and subsoil horizons as part of the drainage for the former sports pitch. This accounted for the south-easternmost geophysical anomaly.

The topsoil horizon produced two sherds of post-medieval blackware ceramic.



Plate 08: Trench 3 post excavation, from the northwest. Scale 2 x 1.0m.



Plate 09: Trench 3 post excavation, from the southeast. Scale 2 x 1.0m.



Plate 10: Trench 3 post excavation trench section, from the southwest. Scale 0.5m.



Plate 11: Trench 3 post excavation showing variation in natural glacial substrata, from the south. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Trench 4 (plates 12-14) (figure 4 and 5)

SH 50605.04/82266.10 – SH 50604.88/82264.01 – SH 50584.76/82264.34 – SH50584.87/82266.52

Trench 4 measured 20m in length by 1.80m in width, orientated east-west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m.

The trench was targeting a single linear geophysical anomaly orientated northwest-southeast and located at the western end of the trench.

The trench was excavated through a 0.22m deep soft mid grey-brown clay-silt topsoil, and a 0.4m deep soft mid red-brown silt-clay subsoil. This overlaid a >0.28m deep mid red-brown clay natural glacial substrata with fairly frequent manganese inclusions and very infrequent small sub-rounded cobble inclusions.

Towards the western end of the trench a modern drain of small angular cobbles was found running northeast-southwest across the trench and lying immediately beneath the turf layer. This appears to have been part of the drainage associated with the former sports pitch and corresponds with the targeted geophysical anomaly.

A small sub-rounded negative feature was investigated at the western end of the trench and was found to be a vegetation bole cut into the natural substrata.

There were no artefacts recovered from trench 4.



Plate 12: Trench 4 post excavation, from the west. Scale 2 x 1.0m.



Plate 13: Trench 4 post excavation, from the east. Scale 2 x 1.0m.



Plate 14: Trench 4 post excavation trench section, from the south. Scale 0.5m.

Trench 5 (plates 15-20) (figure 4 and 5)

SH 50648.62/82257.19 – SH 50648.45/82255.08 – SH 50628.31/82255.41 – SH 50628.45/82257.56

Trench 5 measured 20m in length by 1.80m in width, orientated east-west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.05m.

The trench was targeting a two linear geophysical anomalies orientated northwest-southeast and located towards the centre of the trench.

The trench was excavated through a 0.18m deep soft mid grey-brown clay-silt topsoil, and a 0.47m deep soft mid red-brown silt-clay subsoil. For the easternmost 16m of the trench a 0.2m deep dark black-grey silt-clay horizon with very frequent small, angular cobbles lay between the topsoil and subsoil horizons. This appeared to have been deposited to aid drainage as part of the former sports pitch.

For the easternmost 16m of the trench the subsoil horizon lay above a reasonably form, mid red-brown clay natural glacial substrata, with the remaining westernmost 4m lying above a firm, light orange-brown clay natural glacial substrata.

To the east of centre a north-south aligned linear feature was uncovered and investigated. This was found to carry a modern ceramic drain and accounts for the easternmost geophysical anomaly.

To the west of centre a northwest-southeast aligned linear feature was uncovered and investigated and was found to be a stone filled (French) drain. The cut for this feature could be seen in section continuing from the stony deposit beneath the topsoil and was therefore surmised to be of modern date and associated with the former sports pitch. This feature accounts for the second geophysical anomaly.

There were no artefacts recovered from trench 5.



Plate 15: Trench 5 post excavation, from the east. Scale 2 x 1.0m.



Plate 16: Trench 5 post excavation, from the west. Scale 2 x 1.0m.



Plate 17: Trench 5 post excavation trench section, from the north. Scale 0.5m.



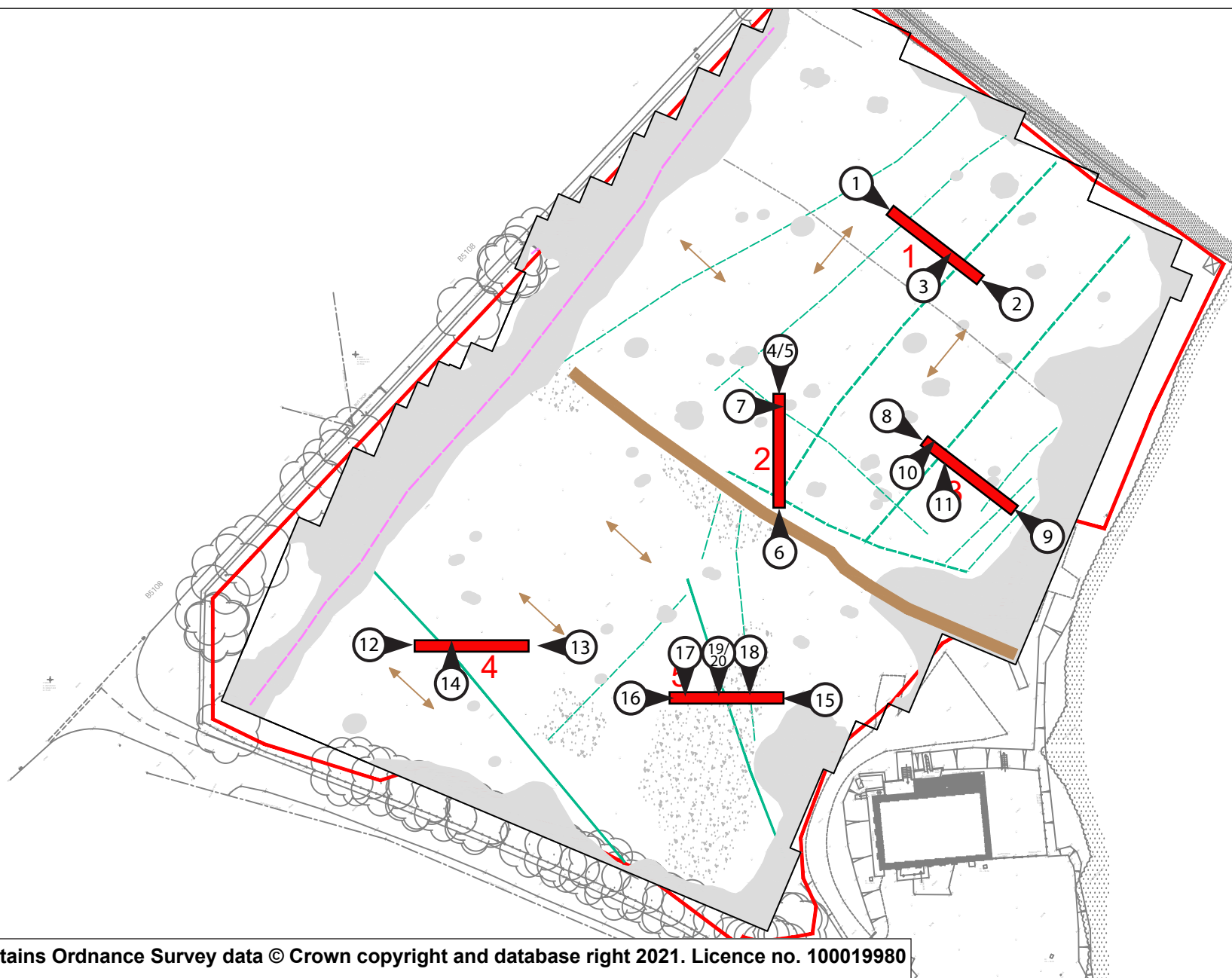
Plate 18: Trench 5 post excavation showing modern drain, from the north. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 19: Trench 5 post excavation showing stone drain, from the north. Scale 1.0m.



Plate 20: Trench 5 post excavation showing stone drain cut, from the north. Scale 0.5m.



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Figure 05: Location and orientation of photographic plates at Treetops Country Club, Tyn y Gongl, Benllech, Anglesey LL74 8SF. Scale 1:1,000 at A4.

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10.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The archaeological evaluation on land at Treetops Country Club, Tyn y Gongl did not reveal any remains of archaeological origin. All but one of the targeted geophysical anomalies were found and all were of either modern date associated with the former sports pitch, or of natural origin.

The archaeological recommendation was applied in advance of outline planning determination due to the perceived potential for archaeological remains, particularly of the prehistoric era. However, no remains of this time period were uncovered and no other archaeological remains were found.

The results of the archaeological evaluation did show that the Site, although impacted upon by the modern sports pitch, had for the most part not been disturbed down to the natural glacial substrata. The Site therefore retained the capacity for the preservation of archaeological remains and the lack of any such remains can be attributed to absence rather than disturbance. This absence is perhaps attributed to the low lying land and underlying clay substrata possibly having been waterlogged in antiquity and thus not conducive to early habitation or activity.

Due to the theorised former waterlogged conditions the potential for prehistoric archaeology within the Site is otherwise realistically limited to remains associated with prehistoric temporary hunting camps and / or burnt mounds, none of which were revealed during the evaluation and it can be surmised the site is therefore devoid of archaeological remains.

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APPENDIX I: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



æon archaeology

**Treetops Country Club, Tyn y Gongl,
Benllech, Anglesey LL74 8SF
(30C225K/ECON).**

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
for Archaeological Evaluation.**

March 2021 v1.0



Project Code: A0301.1
Planning Ref: 30C225K/ECON



Treetops Country Club, Tyn y Gongl, Benllech, Anglesey LL74 8SF (30C225K/ECON).

March 2021 v1.0

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been commissioned by Ogwen Bank Caravan Park, hereafter the Client, to produce a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for carrying out an archaeological evaluation on land at Treetops Country Club, Tyn y Gongl, Benllech, Anglesey LL74 8SF, hereafter the Site (centred on **NGR SH 50665 82328**) as part of an outline planning application for the siting of 25 holiday chalets together with leisure complex and associated access roads, with some matters reserved (figures 1-3).

Outline planning permission (**30C225K/ECON**) was applied for by the Client on the 15th January 2019 and is awaiting determination. The following pre-determination consultee comments concerning archaeology were made by the Development Control Archaeologist (DCA) at the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS):

Several archaeological sites are recorded within the locality of the site, representing occupation in the Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, later prehistoric to Roman, and early medieval periods. The closest recorded sites (each approximately 250m from the site) are the Pant y Saer burial chamber (scheduled monument AN004) and a Romano-British enclosure that appears to have been used for settlement and possibly smelting (PRN 3605). The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW) records 'Bwlch burial chamber' in the field immediately north of the application site (NPRN 402934) but this appears to be a duplicate record for Pant y Saer. Within the wider landscape are two further later prehistoric/Roman hut settlements (scheduled monuments AN043 and AN127), a burial chamber (scheduled monument AN154) and an early medieval cemetery (PRN 3608).

All of these sites are of regional or national importance. Collectively, they indicate a potential for archaeology of each of these periods in undeveloped land throughout this area. The recorded sites are those that have been found by chance or that survive as visible field monuments, with the only modern archaeological investigation in the vicinity being the well-known research project at the multi-period site of Glyn Farm, Llanbedrgoch. The relative sparsity of HER data in the immediate surroundings of the site is therefore likely to be at least in part a product of an absence of archaeological investigation. Observations at the known sites indicate that preservation of archaeological remains in the area is relatively good, as might be expected on limestone, and that the sites in the locality have produced larger artefact assemblages than is typical for the region.

Although the application site may have received some landscaping or levelling in the creation of a sports pitch, it cannot be assumed on present evidence that this would have damaged or removed any archaeological deposits that might exist at the site. Accordingly, it is considered that field investigation is necessary in order to determine whether archaeological remains survive at the site, and to inform upon their nature, date and significance, with any implications for the development that they may present.

In the light of these comments and in accordance with Planning Policy Wales (2016) and TAN24: The Historic Environment, an archaeological evaluation of the site should be carried out prior to determination of the planning application. This should initially comprise a geophysical survey of the site, which may need to be followed by a programme of trial trenching in order to adequately characterise the archaeological resource of the site.

A geophysical magnetometer survey was carried out by SUMO Geophysics Ltd in August 2018 (report 13211) and the following is a summary of the results of that survey:

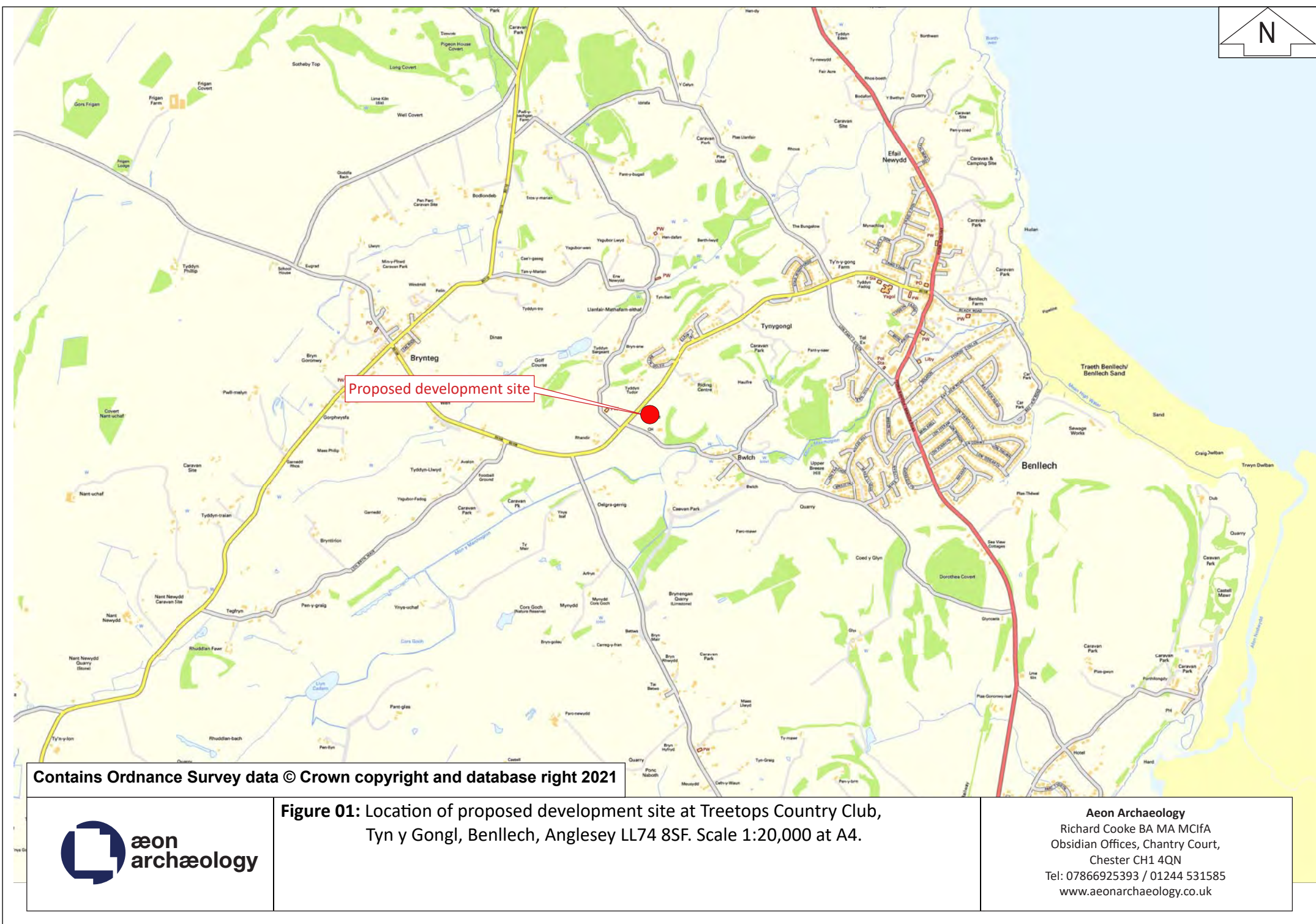
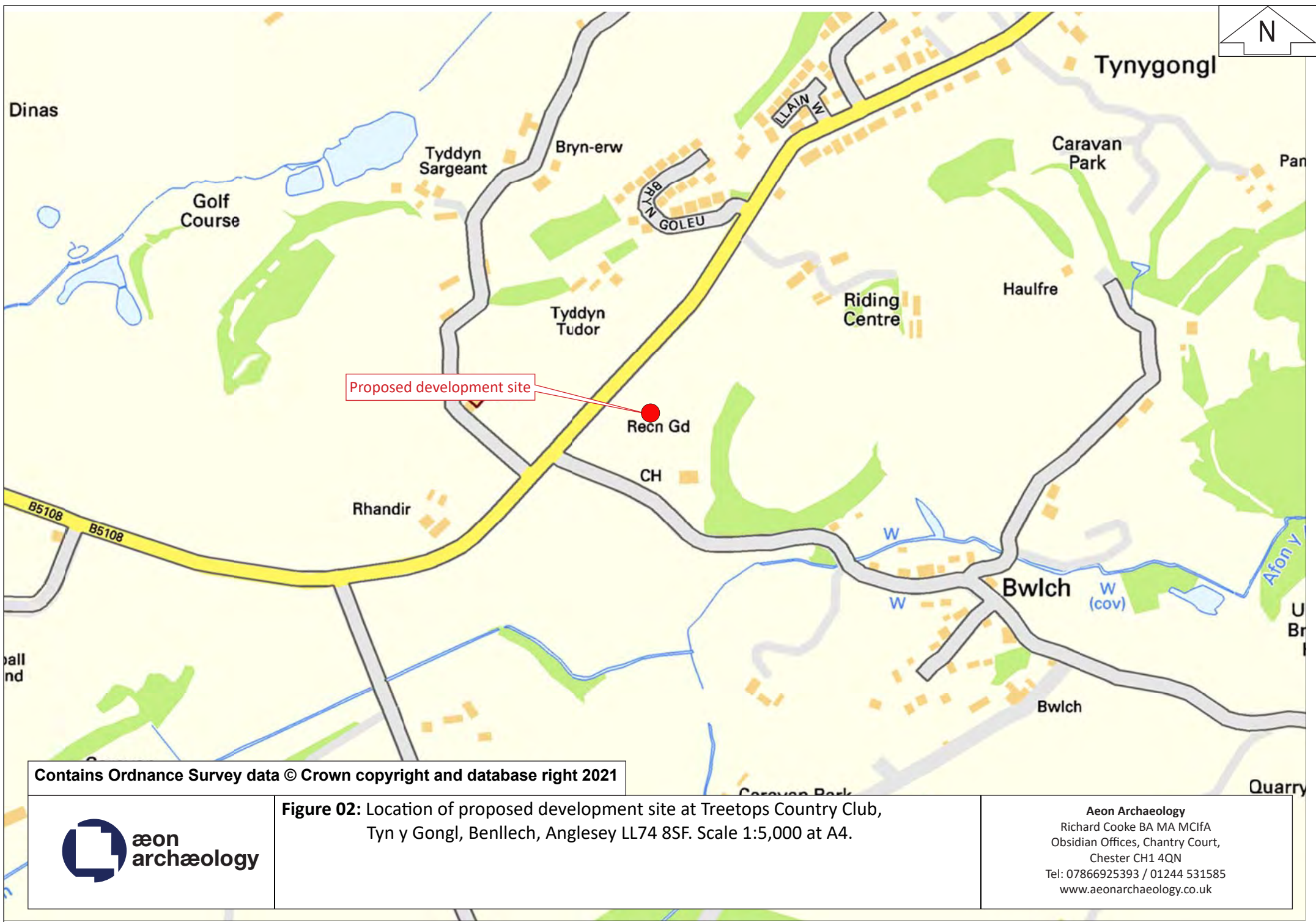


Figure 01: Location of proposed development site at Treetops Country Club,
Tyn y Gongl, Benllech, Anglesey LL74 8SF. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.



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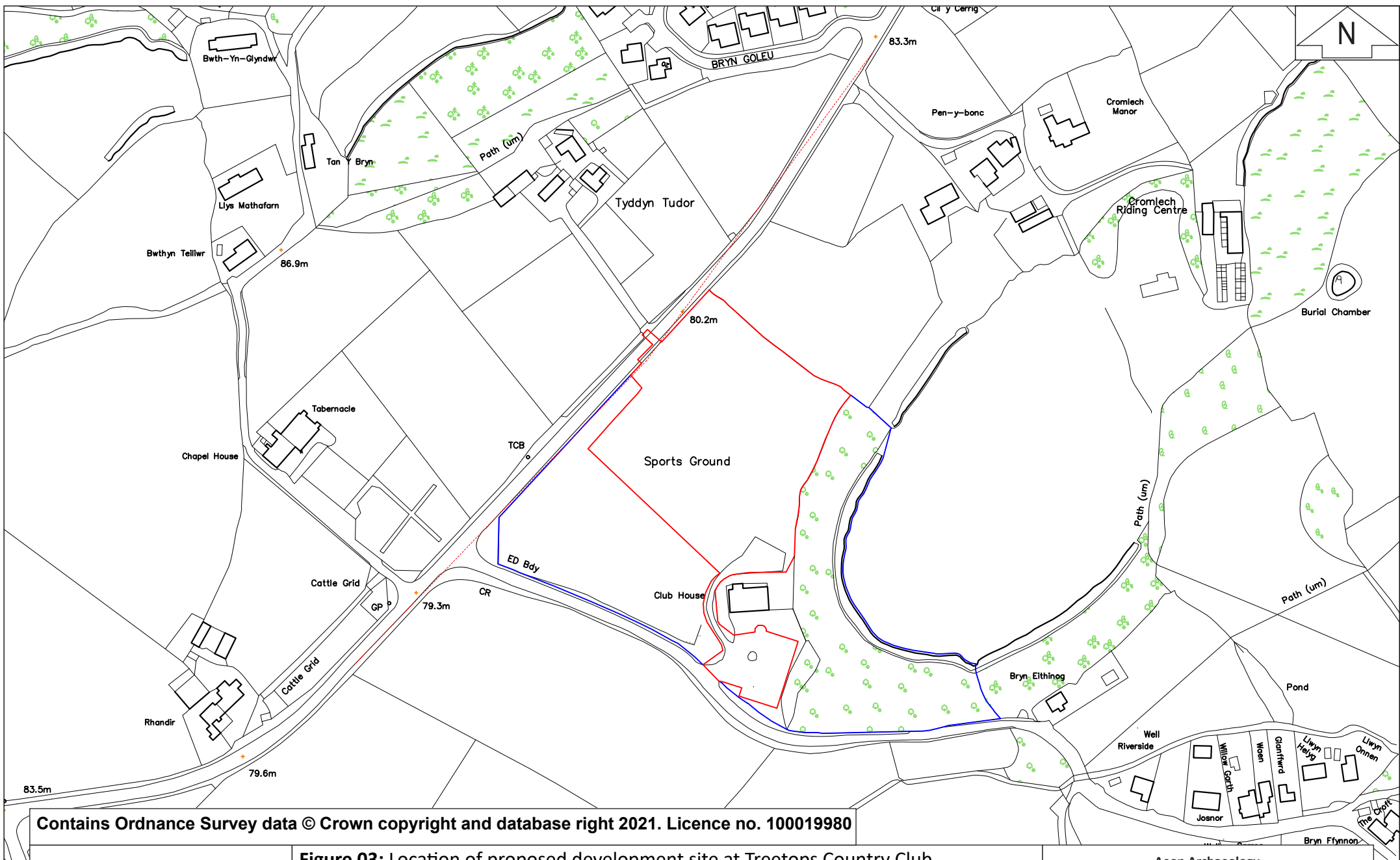
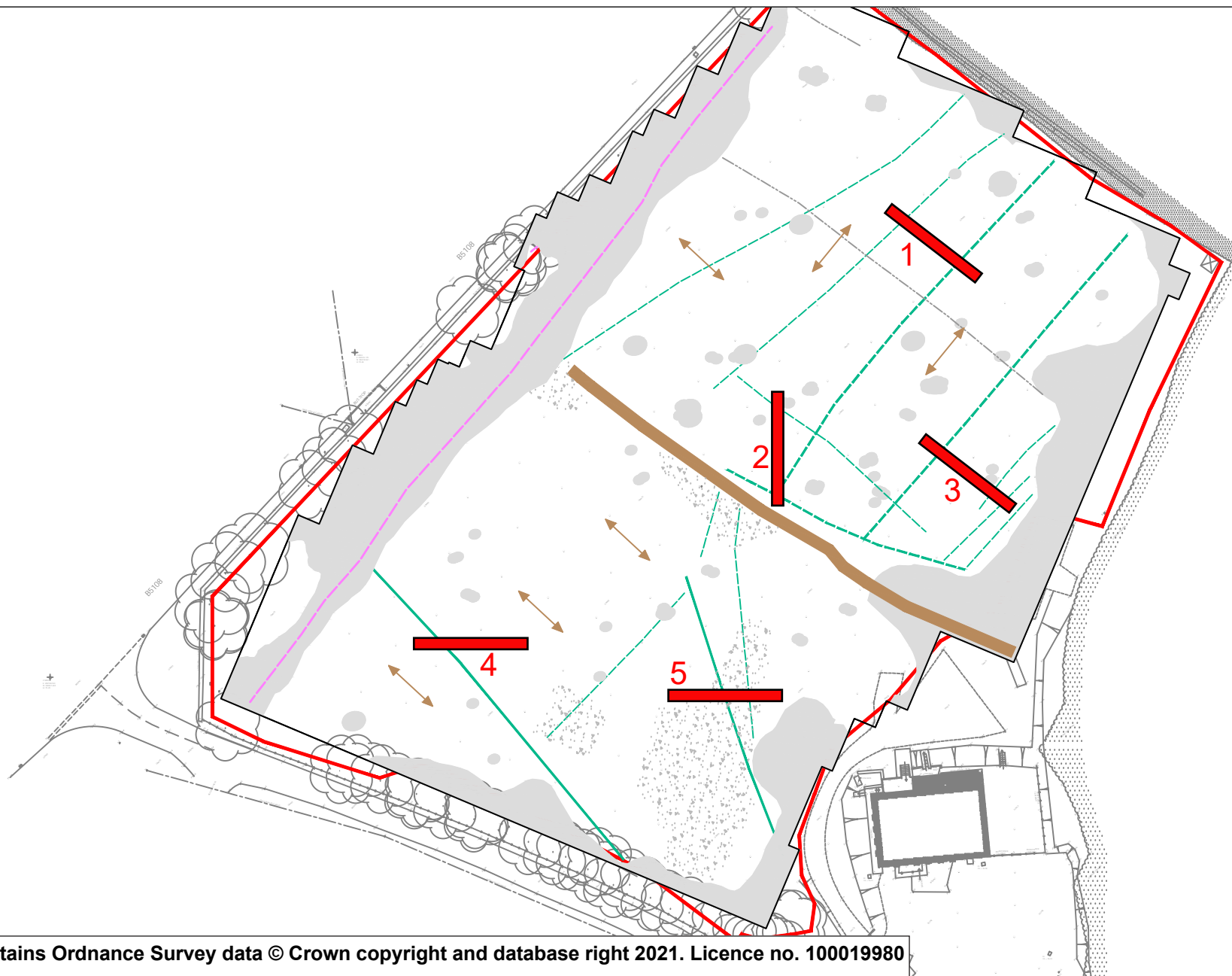


Figure 03: Location of proposed development site at Treetops Country Club,
Tyn y Gongl, Benllech, Anglesey LL74 8SF. Scale 1:2,500 at A4.



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Figure 04: Magnetometer survey interpretation and location of proposed archaeological trenches at Treetops Country Club, Tyn y Gongl, Benllech, Anglesey LL74 8SF. Scale 1:1,000 at A4.

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A geophysical survey at Tree Tops Country Club, Benllech, Anglesey detected no anomalies of archaeological interest. A former field boundary was identified, and a number of anomalies of are of uncertain origin but, are likely to be due to agricultural causes or drainage. A pipe was also located.

Due to the uncertainty around the identification of the linear anomalies, it was proposed by the DCA at GAPS that the archaeological resource be investigated via the excavation of five evaluation trial trenches. The results of the archaeological evaluation trenches will determine the requirement, if any, for further mitigatory response.

The location of the test trenches are shown on Figure 04.

This WSI states the aims and objectives for implementing the archaeological evaluation and the methods by which they will be met in order to meet the spirit and intent of the archaeological consultee comments of planning application 30C225K/ECON.

Reference will be made to the guidelines specified in *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020).

2.0 POLICY CONTEXT

At an international level there are two principal agreements concerning the protection of the cultural heritage and archaeological resource – the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, commonly known as the Valetta Convention. The latter was agreed by the Member States of the Council of Europe in 1992, and also became law in 1992. It has been ratified by the UK, and responsibility for its implementation rests with Department for Culture Media and Sport.

The management and protection of the historic environment in Wales is set out within the following legislation:

- The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (As amended)
- The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- The Town and Country Planning Act 1990
- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
- The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 (As amended)

The Historic Environment (Wales) Act is the most recent legislation for the management of the Historic Environment and amends two pieces of UK legislation — the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The new Act has three main aims:

- to give more effective protection to listed buildings and scheduled monuments;
- to improve the sustainable management of the historic environment; and
- to introduce greater transparency and accountability into decisions taken on the historic environment.

With respect to the cultural heritage of the built environment the Planning (Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings) Act 1990 applies. The Act sets out the legislative framework within which works and development affecting listed buildings and conservation areas must be considered. This states that:-

“In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses” (s66(1))

Other known sites of cultural heritage/archaeological significance can be entered onto county-based Historic Environment Records under the Town and Country Planning 1995.

Planning Policy Wales sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. Chapter 6 covers the historic environment and emphasises that the positive management of change in the historic environment is based on a full understanding of the nature and significance of historic assets and the recognition of the benefits that they can deliver in a vibrant culture and economy.

Various principles and policies related to cultural heritage and archaeology are set out in the Planning Policy Wales which guide local planning authorities with respect to the wider historic environment.

The following paragraphs from Planning Policy Wales are particularly relevant and are quoted in full:

Paragraph 6.1.5 concerns planning applications:

The planning system must take into account the Welsh Government’s objectives to protect, conserve, promote and enhance the historic environment as a resource for the general well-being of present and future generations. The historic environment is a finite, non-renewable and shared resource and a

vital and integral part of the historical and cultural identity of Wales. It contributes to economic vitality and culture, civic pride, local distinctiveness and the quality of Welsh life. The historic environment can only be maintained as a resource for future generations if the individual historic assets are protected and conserved. Cadw's published Conservation Principles highlights the need to base decisions on an understanding of the impact a proposal may have on the significance of an historic asset.

Planning Policy Wales is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TAN). Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment contains detailed guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment during development plan, preparation and decision making on planning and listed building consent applications. TAN 24 replaces the following Welsh Office Circulars:

- 60/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology
- 61/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas
- 1/98 Planning and the Historic Environment: Directions by the Secretary of State for Wales

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AIMS

Before evaluation commences an agreed programme of excavation timing, siting, duration, surface reinstatement and health and safety protection measures will be agreed with the Client and the DCA at the GAPS.

The size, location and orientation of the evaluation trenches will be agreed in advance so as to best target areas that may contain archaeological features within the proposed development footprint – however the intention is to excavate 5 x evaluation trenches of the following dimensions (figure 04):

- Test Trench 1: measuring 20m by 1.8m and located over a linear feature identified during the magnetometer survey.
- Test Trench 2: measuring 20m by 1.8m and located over a linear feature identified during the magnetometer survey.
- Test Trench 3: measuring 20m by 1.8m and located over a linear feature identified during the magnetometer survey.
- Test Trench 4: measuring 20m by 1.8m and located over a linear feature identified during the magnetometer survey.
- Test Trench 5: measuring 20m by 1.8m and located over a linear feature identified during the magnetometer survey.

The broad aims of the archaeological evaluation are:

- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains within the proposed development area, the integrity of which may be threatened by development at the site.
- To establish the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion to sub-surface deposits and, where the data allows, assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits of archaeological significance.
- To enable the Client to establish a schedule for archaeological risks.
- To allow the DCA at GAPS to make an informed decision on the need for, and scope of, further evaluative and/or mitigatory archaeological works at the site.

The detailed objectives of the archaeological evaluation are:

- Insofar as possible within methodological constraints, to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between the structures/remains identified, and any relationships between these and the archaeological and historic elements of the wider landscape.
- Where the data allows, identify the research implications of the site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work on Anglesey.

4.0 METHOD STATEMENT – ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

If archaeological deposits are identified they will be manually cleaned, excavated and recorded to determine extent, function, date and relationship to adjacent features.

Contingency provision will be made for the following:

- Additional excavation of up to 100% of any given feature should the excavated sample prove to be insufficient to provide information on the character and date of the feature.
- Expansion of excavation trench limits, to clarify the extent of features equivalent to an additional 20% of the core trench area.

The archaeological works will be surveyed with respect to the nearest Ordnance Survey datum point and with reference to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The excavation area, deposits, features and structures within them will be accurately located on a site plan prepared at most appropriate and largest scale.

A written record of the trench content and all identified features will be completed via Aeon Archaeology pro-formas.

Any subsurface remains will be recorded photographically, with detailed notations, measured drawings, and a measured survey. The photographic record will be maintained using a digital SLR camera (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution (72dpi) with photographs taken in RAW format and later converted to TIFF format for long-term storage and JPEG format for presentation and inclusion in the archive. Photographic identification boards will also be used.

The excavation area will be opened with a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The excavation area and spoil heaps will be routinely investigated through the use of a metal detector and any finds/artefacts collected and processed as outlined in section 10.0.

All excavations, where required, will be backfilled with the material excavated and upon departure Aeon Archaeology will leave the site in a safe and tidy condition. Aeon Archaeology has not been requested to re-lay turf/lawn surface.

5.0 EVALUATION REPORT

5.1 Post-evaluation Assessment

A report on the results of the evaluation, in accordance with the recommendations in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006; 2015); *Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)* (2018 v1.0); and in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation* (2020) will be required to be produced upon conclusion of the archaeological fieldwork. The report will be completed within a maximum of two months of completion of work on site and may include examination and quantification leading to the identification of function, form, date, method of manufacture, material/fabric type, source, parallels, attributes and condition of artefacts; of the exploitation of wild or domesticated resources; the reconstruction of environments; and the nature of human populations.

Full analysis of the results of the project, including: dating and interpretation of excavated features; pottery and other finds analysis; analysis of industrial residues by an appropriate specialist or specialists; analysis of samples for environmental data (including pollen, plant macrofossils and beetles) by an appropriate specialist or specialists; radiocarbon dating; discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context, including relating the excavated features and palaeoenvironmental data to evidence from nearby sites, and discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context may be required.

5.2 Post-evaluation Report

Following completion of the stages outlined above, a report will be produced that will include:

- A non-technical summary.
- A table of contents.
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the site.
- A statement of the project aims.
- An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same to include a statement on preservation bias and the means of data collection and sampling strategies.
- A factual summary of the history, development and use of the site.
- A statement setting out the nature, quantity and condition of the material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) including commentary on any bias observed due to collection and sampling strategies and commentary on long-term storage requirements.
- A statement setting out the nature and quantity of the documentary archive (notes, photographs, drawings, digital data).
- A general site plan indicating the position and size of the areas subject to evaluation and the locations of archaeological deposits identified and recorded during the works.
- Plans and sections at appropriate scales, augmented with appropriate photographs. All plans and sections will be related to the Ordnance Survey datum levels and to the National Grid.
- Other maps, plans, drawings, stratigraphic matrices and photographs as appropriate.
- A discussion of the location, extent, date, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits and finds identified during the project.
- A discussion of any research implications arising from the archaeological work.
- A bibliography of sources consulted.

A draft copy of the report will be sent to the DCA at GAPS and to the Client for comment and approval prior to production of the final report.

6.0 DIGITAL DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

6.1 Type of study

Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent at Treetops Country Club, Tyn y Gongl, Benllech, Anglesey LL74 8SF (centred on NGR SH 50665 82328).

6.2 Types of data

- Photographs (RAW)
- Context sheets (paper)
- Photographic register (paper)
- Drawings (drafting film)
- Misc registers (paper)
- Compiled report

6.3 Format and scale of the data

Photographs taken in *RAW* format and later converted to *TIF* format for long term archiving and *JPEG* format for use in the digital report, converted using *Adobe Photoshop*. All photographs renamed using *AF5* freeware with the prefix (*project code_frame number*) and a photographic metadata created using Microsoft Excel (*.xlsx*) or Access (*.accdb*).

Compiled report (including figures and plates) as *.PDF* files.

6.4 Methodologies for data collection / generation

Digital data will be collected / generated in line with recommendations made in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2014. Rev 2020). Sections 3.3.1 and 3.3.3 are relevant:

3.3.1 Project specifications, research designs or similar documents should include a project specific Selection Strategy and a Data Management Plan.

3.3.3 Project designs or schedules of works etc should outline the methodology used in recording all information, in order to demonstrate that all aspects of archive creation will ensure consistency; for instance in terminologies and the application of codes in digital data sets, highlighting relevant data standards where appropriate

6.5 Data quality and standards

Consistency and quality of data collection / generation shall be controlled and documented through the use of standardised procedure as outlined in the WSI. This will include the use of standardised data capture file formats, digital proformas, data entry validation, peer review, and use of controlled vocabularies.

6.6 Managing, storing and curating data.

All digital data will be organised into Aeon Archaeology proforma project file systems and backed up to the cloud using *Digital River's Crashplan* with additional copies made to external physical hard drive.

6.7 Metadata standards and data documentation

Digital metadata created using Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) or Access (.accdb) of all photographic plates.

Paper metadata created from Aeon Archaeology proformas for contexts, artefacts, environmental samples, watching brief day sheets, trench sheets, and basic record sheets and then scanned to create digital .PDF copies.

6.8 Data preservation strategy and standards

Long term data storage will be through the submission of digital (.PDF) reports to the regional Historic Environment Record (HER); submission of digital (.PDF) reports and a project completion form to the Oasis database; submission of the scanned (.PDF) archive, photographic plates (.TIF), and metadata (.xlsx) (.accdb) to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS); and retention of copies of all digital files at Aeon Archaeology on physical external hard drive and uploaded to the cloud.

6.9 Suitability for sharing

All digital data will be placed within the public realm (through the channels in 6.8) except for where project confidentiality restricts the sharing of data. All data sets will be selected / discriminated by the Senior Archaeologist at Aeon Archaeology and written permission will be sought from all project specific Clients prior to the sharing of data.

6.10 Discovery by potential users of the research data

Potential users of the generated digital data (outside of the organisation) will be able to source the data and identify whether it could be suitable for their research purposes through access granted via the ADS and Oasis websites. Requests can also be made for data through the regional HER's and directly to Aeon Archaeology (info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk).

6.11 Governance of access

The decision to supply research data to potential new users will be via the associated website request (ADS, Oasis, HER) or via the Senior Archaeologist when made directly to Aeon Archaeology.

6.12 The study team's exclusive use of the data

Aeon Archaeology's requirement is for timely data sharing, with the understanding that a limited, defined period of exclusive use of data for primary research is reasonable according to the nature and value of the data, and that this restriction on sharing should be based on simple, clear principles. This time period is expected to be six months from completion of the project however Aeon Archaeology reserves the right to extend this period without notice if primary data research dictates.

6.13 Restrictions or delays to sharing, with planned actions to limit such restrictions

Restriction to data sharing may be due to participant confidentiality or consent agreements. Strategies to limit restrictions will include data being anonymised or aggregated; gaining participant consent for data sharing; and gaining copyright permissions. For prospective studies, consent procedures will include provision for data sharing to maximise the value of the data for wider research use, while providing adequate safeguards for participants.

6.14 Regulation of responsibilities of users

External users of the data will be bound by data sharing agreements provided by the relevant organisation or directly through Aeon Archaeology.

6.15 Responsibilities

Responsibility for study-wide data management, metadata creation, data security and quality assurance of data will be through the Senior Archaeologist (Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA) at Aeon Archaeology when concerning data generation and early/mid-term storage. Upon deposition with digital depositories the study-wide data management, metadata creation, data security and quality assurance of data will be the responsibility of the specific organisations' themselves.

6.16 Organisational policies on data sharing and data security

The following Aeon Archaeology policies are relevant:

- Aeon Archaeology Archive Deposition Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Quality Assurance Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Conflict of Interest Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Outreach Policy 2019
- Aeon Archaeology Digital Management Plan 2020

7.0 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

If archaeological features are encountered that cannot satisfactorily be characterised within the limits of the evaluation then further archaeological works may be required. This may involve the excavation of additional test pits or the extension of the limits of existing test pits. This will require the submission of new cost estimates to the Client and may be subject to a separate WSI, to be agreed with the DCA at GAPS prior to implementation.

8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

If necessary, relevant archaeological deposits will be sampled by taking bulk samples (a minimum of 10.0 litres and maximum of 30.0 litres) for flotation of charred plant remains. Bulk samples will be taken from waterlogged deposits for macroscopic plant remains. Other bulk samples, for example from middens, may be taken for small animal bones and small artefacts.

Bulk environmental samples will also be taken from any fills, deposits or structures which yield archaeological artefacts, charcoal flecks/ fragments, bone, or any other historic remains.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs will be obtained from Oxford Archaeology.

For guidance purposes the following volume criteria represent the minimum feature sampling requirements:

- 50% of each discrete feature (e.g. pits and postholes)
- 25% of the exposed areas of each linear feature and all terminals/intersections
- 50% of structural features (e.g. beamslots, ring-ditches)
- 50%-100% of domestic/industrial working features (e.g. hearths and ovens)

9.0 HUMAN REMAINS

Any finds of human remains will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, and both the coroner and the DCA at GAPS informed. If removal is necessary it will take place under appropriate regulations and with due regard for health and safety issues. In order to excavate human remains, a licence is required under Section 25 of the Burials Act 1857 for the removal of any body or remains of any body from any place of burial. This will be applied for should human remains need to be investigated or moved.

10.0 SMALL FINDS

The vast majority of finds recovered from archaeological excavations comprise pottery fragments, bone, environmental and charcoal samples, and non-valuable metal items such as nails. Often many of these finds become unstable (i.e. they begin to disintegrate) when removed from the ground. All finds are the property of the landowner; however, it is recommended that all finds are donated to an appropriate museum where they can receive specialist treatment and study. Access to finds must be granted to Aeon Archaeology for a reasonable period to allow for analysis and for study and publication as necessary. All finds would be treated according to advice provided within *First Aid for Finds* (Rescue 1999). Aeon Archaeology staff will undertake initial identification, but any additional advice would be sought from a wide range of consultants.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds will be kept under review throughout the fieldwork phase. Any changes in recovery priorities will be under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the DCA at GAPS. There will be a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds with the exception of unstratified items dating to the twentieth or twenty-first centuries AD which will be recorded by material, type, form, identification and weight, and discarded.

All finds will be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. Their location will be recorded; finds numbers attributed, bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. Where specialist advice is required provision will be made to do so at the earliest possible convenience.

After processing, artefacts which are suitable will be cleaned and conserved in-house. Artefacts requiring specialist cleaning and conservation will be sent to the relevant specialist. All finds will then be sent to a specialist for analysis, the results of which will then be assessed to ascertain the potential of the finds assemblage to meet the research aims of the project. The value of the finds will also be assessed in terms of the wider educational and academic contributions.

11.0 UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES: TREASURE TROVE

Treasure Trove law has been amended by the Treasure Act 1996. The following are Treasure under the Act:

- *Objects other than coins* any object other than a coin provided that it contains at least 10% gold or silver and is at least 300 years old when found.
- *Coins* all coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found (if the coins contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least 10. Any object or coin is part of the same find as another object or coin, if it is found in the same place as, or had previously been left together with, the other object. Finds may have become scattered since they were originally deposited in the ground. Single coin finds of gold or silver are not classed as treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act.
- *Associated objects* any object whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or that had previously been together with, another object that is treasure.
- *Objects that would have been treasure trove* any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. These objects have to be made substantially of gold or silver, they have to be buried with the intention of recovery and their owner or his heirs cannot be traced.

The following types of finds are not treasure:

- Objects whose owners can be traced.
- Unworked natural objects, including human and animal remains, even if they are found in association with treasure.
- Objects from the foreshore which are not wreck.

All finds of treasure must be reported to the coroner for the district within fourteen days of discovery or identification of the items. Items declared Treasure Trove become the property of the Crown.

The British Museum will decide whether they or any other museum may wish to acquire the object. If no museum wishes to acquire the object, then the Secretary of State will be able to disclaim it. When this happens, the coroner will notify the occupier and landowner that he intends to return the object to the finder after 28 days unless he receives no objection. If the coroner receives an objection, the find will be retained until the dispute has been settled.

12.0 ARCHIVING

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project will be prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions will be labelled, and cross-referenced, and lodged with the National Monument Record, RCAHMW within six months of the completion of the project.

A draft copy of the report will be produced within two months of the completion of the fieldwork and sent to the Client and the GAPS DCA for comment prior to finalisation of the report and dissemination. Bound copies of the report and an archive CD will be sent to the regional HER, the GAPS DCA and to RCAHMW for long term archiving. Furthermore, a summary of the project will be sent to *Archaeology in Wales* for publication. Copies of all digital files (inc. photos, report as PDF and Word, spreadsheets, databases, survey data etc) to be presented to each of above on optical disc (ie DVD).

The project report and archive will adhere to the Welsh Trusts' and Cadw's *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)* (2018) including the translation of a non-technical summary into the medium of Welsh.

13.0 STAFF & TIMETABLE

13.1 Staff

The work will be managed and undertaken by Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA, Archaeological Contractor and Consultant at Aeon Archaeology.

13.2 Timetable

The archaeological evaluation can currently be undertaken from April 2021, although the Client is encouraged to give as much notice as possible to Aeon Archaeology as project commitments are currently high.

14.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Aeon Archaeology has a Health and Safety Policy Statement which can be supplied upon request. Furthermore, site-specific Risk Assessments and Method Statements are compiled and distributed to every member of staff involved with the project prior to the commencement of works.

15.0 INSURANCE

Liability Insurance

- Employers' Liability: Limit of Indemnity £10m in any one occurrence
- Public Liability: Limit of Indemnity £2m in any one occurrence
- Legal Defence Costs (Health and Safety at Work Act): £100,000

The current period expires 07/09/21

Professional Indemnity Insurance

- Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 07/09/21

16.0 GENERAL

All project staff will adhere to the *Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*.

The project will follow the requirements set down in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* prepared by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

A Method Statement and Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork and circulated to all staff concerned.

Please note the following:

Aeon Archaeology will not be held responsible for any delays to the work programme resulting from the discovery of archaeological sites or finds.

17.0 SPECIALISTS

Specialist advice required will be sought from the following list if required:

- Bone: Nora Bermingham
- Glass: Hilary Cool, Barbican Research Associates.
- Metal artefacts: Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services, Cardiff.
- Slag, burnt clay, hammerscale: Dr. Tim Young, Geoarch, Cardiff.
- Stone artefacts: Oxford Archaeology
- Wood artefacts: Jane Foley, Foley Conservation, Builth Wells.
- Leather: Quita Mould, Barbican Research Associates.
- Waterlogged environmental: Dr Mike Allen, Allen Environmental Archaeology.
- Environmental samples: Oxford Archaeology
- Numismatics: Peter Guest, Barbican Research Associates.
- Pottery (all periods): Oxford Archaeology
- Clay pipe: Oxford Archaeology

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation of waterlogged material:

- Organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)
- Non-organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)

