

# *Archaeology Wales*

## **Land at Madryn Arms, Chwillog**

Archaeological Evaluation



By  
**Irene Garcia-Rovira**

Report No. 1213



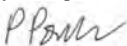
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# Archaeology Wales

## Land at Madryn Arms, Chwilog

### Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared For: Alliance Planning  
On behalf of: Admiral Taverns

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## Summary

*In March 2014 Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) carried out a trenched evaluation on land at Madryn Arms, Chwilog, Gwynedd (SH 4330 38350). The investigation was commissioned by Alliance Planning, on behalf of Admiral Taverns, on the recommendation of Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS) prior to the determination of a planning application. The submitted planning application proposed developing the site for housing.*

*The evaluation of the proposed development site comprised the excavation of machine excavated trenches to determine the potential of the archaeological resources. The trenches all measured 20m by 2m and were distributed evenly throughout a pasture field forming the majority of the proposed development site. A brief for the archaeological evaluation was provided by GAPS, which highlighted the potential for prehistoric and medieval archaeology in the area.*

*No finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were noted within any of the evaluation trenches. Undisturbed, naturally-occurring, subsoil deposits were noted underlying the ploughsoil in all trenches. It is therefore concluded that overall the archaeological potential of the site is low.*

## 1. Introduction

In March 2014, Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) carried out a trenched evaluation on land at Madryn Arms, Chwillog, Gwynedd (SH 43330 38350) (Figures 1 – 2). The evaluation comprised the excavation of four trenches, each measuring 20m in length and 2m in width. AW were commissioned by Alliance Planning, on behalf of their clients Admiral Taverns, to carry out the archaeological evaluation of the potential impacts of proposed development on the site (Archaeology Wales Project Number 2218, site code MAC/14/EV).

A planning application has been submitted to develop the site and construct residential units with road access and improved car parking for the adjacent Madryn Arms public house (planning application number C14/0061/41/AM, Figure 2).

The site is located in an area which has some archaeological potential. A prehistoric hammer stone (PRN 2274) and stone axe (PRN 5761) have been recovered from unspecified locations within the vicinity of the site. Dispersed prehistoric artefactual discoveries have also been made in various locations south of the site. Additionally, Chwillog is recorded as a medieval township (PRN 7349). This evaluation therefore had the potential to shed light into the origins of the town. The former line of a railway, opened in 1863, also borders the site, as does the Grade II listed Madryn Arms which was built the following year.

As a result of the archaeological potential of the site Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS), in its capacity as archaeological advisor to the local planning authority (Cyngor Gwynedd Council), recommended that an archaeological evaluation of the site be undertaken prior to the determination of the planning application. A brief for the archaeological work was prepared by GAPS, which recommended the excavation of four trenches measuring 20m x 2m distributed across the site. A specification (Appendix 2) for the archaeological evaluation was prepared by AW and agreed with GAPS prior to work commencing on site.

Both the evaluation trenching and the subsequent phases of post-excavation analysis and reporting have been undertaken to the requirements set out within the Specification. The work was managed by Phil Poucher and supervised by Irene Garcia-Rovira. All work conformed to the IfA's Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IfA 1994, revised 2008 with updates Nov 2013). The evaluation trenching was undertaken between 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

## **2. Site Description**

### **2.1 Location, Topography and Geology**

The proposed development site lies on land to the east and south of the Madryn Arms, a public house on Madryn Terrace (B4354), within the centre of the village of Chwilog, Gwynedd (NGR: SH 43330 38350) (Figure 1). Chwilog lies halfway between Pwllheli and Criccieth, close to the south coast of the Llŷn Peninsula.

The site covers an area of approximately 0.7ha, comprising an area of roadside car parking, beer garden and a field to the rear used for pasture. The site is to be accessed off Madryn Terrace (B4354), which forms part of the northern boundary to the site, the remainder of the northern boundary comprising rear gardens to the Post Office and residential buildings along Madryn Terrace. To the east the boundary is formed by a stone wall topped by post and wire fencing, beyond which lies light industrial units. A field boundary and ditch defines the western boundary, the southern edge of the site has no existing boundary and forms part of the agricultural field. Agricultural land extends to the south and west of the site.

The ground is relatively level, at c.30m OD with a low local summit c.250m to the south. The Afon Wen lies c.200m to the east, feeding into the sea of Tremadoc Bay c.1.5km to the southeast.

The geology of the site is defined by the British Geological Survey (2001) as Diamicton till deposits overlying interbedded mudstone and sandstone. The overlying soils are usually sandy, silty clay with pebbles, but can contain gravel-rich, or laminated sand layers with varied colour and consistency.

### **2.2 Historical and Archaeological Background**

A brief assessment of the historical and archaeological background of the site has been carried out, this is highlighted within the Brief provided by GAPS and reproduced in the Specification (Appendix 2).

There are two records of prehistoric findspots in Chwilog, both of which refer to stone axes (PRNs 2274 & 5761), one of which has been dated to the Bronze Age. The exact location of these finds is unclear. In the wider landscape more extensive activity in this area during the Bronze Age is indicated by Bronze Age features recorded along the line of the A497 that runs to the south of Chwilog (PRNs 19659, 31147, 31151 & 35032) which include pits, a burnt mound, enclosures and a burial mound.

Chwilog itself is recorded as a medieval township (PRN 7349), although there is currently very little information about the form and extent of the settlement during this period. By the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (Ordnance Survey 1811) Chwilog is marked on maps as a small scattering of possible dwellings along the main road, with the only building or feature labelled being that of the Chwilog Inn (at the east end of the current village). In 1862 the Caernarfonshire branch of the London and North-Western Railway was opened through the village, bordering the eastern side of the proposed development site. A station was built at Chwilog and the arrival of the railway no doubt encouraged development. Partly as result of the railway the nearby Grade II listed Madryn Arms Hotel was built in 1863. The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 illustrates the proposed development site as two fields, bordered to the east by the railway. Field boundaries within this area have been altered during the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the field has more recently been improved for agriculture.

### **3. Aims and Objectives**

The objective of the evaluation was primarily to elucidate the presence or absence of associated archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance through the excavation of a series of strategically placed trial trenches (Figure 3).

The placement of the trenches aimed at creating a uniform coverage of the site. This report provides details of the results of this work and aims to provide information of sufficient detail to allow informed planning decisions to be made which can safeguard the archaeological resource.

### **4. Methodology**

A total of four evaluation trenches was excavated across the site (Figure 3). They each measured 20m long by 2m wide and were evenly spatially distributed across the site. The presence of a functioning water pipe required a slight adjustment in the location of some trenches to avoid damage to the pipe.

All of the trenches were excavated using a tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were excavated to the uppermost archaeological horizon or to the top of the natural soil horizon, whichever was encountered first. All areas

were then hand cleaned using hoes and/or pointing trowels to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features and to determine their significance. Recording was carried out using Archaeology Wales recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc), using a continuous number sequence for all contexts. The methodology followed by the excavation team is set out in detail in the Specification (see Appendix 2).

The Trenches were excavated, cleaned, recorded and backfilled over a three day period, from 10/3/14 to 12/3/14.

## 5. Results

In the following descriptions all the trenches are 2m in width and 20m in length.

Context numbers are in round brackets if they are deposit or fills, and in square brackets if they are cuts.

Figures (plans and sections) have only been included if features were present.

### Trench 1 (Plate 1)

Trench 1 was orientated east to west and located on the eastern part of the field. It was 20m long and excavated to a depth of up to 0.6m.

The topsoil (100) was typically 0.25m thick with little variation, and consisted of a friable dark brown silty-clay, with infrequent stone inclusions (<0.1m in size).

Beneath this topsoil was a consistent subsoil deposit (101) composed of loose dark orange-brown sandy-silt with moderate cobbles and angular stone (>0.1m in size) inclusions. This context was present throughout the extent of Trench 1 but varies in thickness from at most 0.4m at the east end of the trench, down to 0.15m thick at the west of the trench.

This deposit overlay a naturally occurring undisturbed subsoil (102) consisting of mid orange-brown sandy-clay with moderate angular stone inclusions, including angular stones (<0.10m in size), cobbles and boulders. This natural subsoil occurred at a depth of 0.6m below the contemporary ground surface and it undulated at the south-eastern end of the trench.

No archaeological finds or features were identified within any of the deposits.

### Trench 2 (Plate 2)

Trench 2 was orientated north to south and located on the northern part of the field. It was 20m long and excavated to a depth of up to 0.4m.

Topsoil (200) was 0.30m thick and consisted of a friable dark brown silty-clay, with infrequent stone inclusions (<0.1m in size). A fragment of clay pipe and a small quantity of late post-medieval pottery fragments were recovered from this deposit.

Underlying the topsoil was a subsoil deposit (201) composed of loose dark orange-brown sandy-silt with moderate cobbles and angular stone (>0.1m in size) inclusions. This

relatively thin deposit was 0.15m in thickness at the southern end of the trench and 0.05m in its northern side. This context was present throughout the extent of Trench 2.

Underlying this was a naturally occurring subsoil deposit (202) that consisted of mid orange-brown sandy-clay with moderate angular stone inclusions, including angular stones (<0.10m in size), cobbles and boulders. This subsoil deposit occurred consistently at a depth of 0.4m below the contemporary ground surface.

No archaeological finds or features were identified within the subsoil deposits (201 & 202).

### Trench 3 (Plate 3)

Trench 3 was orientated east to west and located on the southern part of the site area. It was 20m long and excavated to a depth of up to 0.5m. A clay field drainage pipe was encountered at the western end of the trench and therefore this area was not further excavated to avoid damage to the pipe. This trench also became waterlogged during the period it was open.

Topsoil (300) was 0.38m thick and consisted of a friable dark brown silty-clay, with infrequent stone inclusions (<0.1m in size).

Underlying this was a thin subsoil deposit (301) composed of loose dark orange-brown sandy-silt with moderate cobbles and angular stone (>0.1m in size) inclusions. This context was present throughout the extent of Trench 2 and measured consistently 0.05m thick.

Underlying this was a naturally occurring subsoil deposit (302) consisting of mid orange-brown sandy-clay with moderate angular stone inclusions, including angular stones (<0.10m in size), cobbles and boulders. This natural subsoil was located at a depth of 0.5m below the contemporary ground surface.

The underlying bedrock (303) was exposed in the centre of the trench. At the eastern end of the trench a deposit of cobbles (304) was also revealed underlying the natural subsoil (302). After close inspection, it was determined that this deposit was of natural origin.

No archaeological finds or features were identified within any of the deposits.

### Trench 4 (Plate 4)

Trench 4 was orientated north to south and located on the western part of the field. It was 20m long and excavated to a depth of up to 0.5m.

Topsoil (400) was 0.45m thick and consisted of a friable dark brown silty-clay, with infrequent stone inclusions (<0.1m in size). A few fragments of late-18<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered from this deposit.

The underlying naturally occurring subsoil (401) consisted of mid orange-brown sandy-clay with frequent angular stone inclusions, including angular stones (<0.10m in size), cobbles and boulders. The natural subsoil was located at a depth of 0.48m below the contemporary ground surface.

The southern part of the trench quickly became waterlogged during excavation. Underlying fragmented bedrock deposits (402) were revealed throughout much of the trench, closer to the surface at the northern end.

No archaeological finds or features were identified within the subsoil deposits (401 & 402).

## **5.1 Finds**

No finds were recovered in archaeological contexts.

Three fragments of late 18<sup>th</sup> century blue decorated ware were recovered from the topsoil (400) in Trench 4.

A fragment of clay pipe and a variety of late post-Medieval earthenware pottery fragments were recovered from the topsoil (200) in Trench 2.

## **5.2 Summary of the Results**

A total of 4 evaluation trenches were cut across the development area. The trenches were 20m in length and 2m in width. No archaeological features were recovered. All topsoil finds appear to relate to activity carried out at the site during the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century, likely derived from ploughing.



## 6. Discussion and Conclusions

Four evaluation trenches were excavated across the site area. These trenches revealed a consistent topsoil deposit of dark brown silty-clay that varied between 0.25m and 0.45m in thickness, gradually becoming thicker to the west. This topsoil represents a ploughsoil, and contained the only finds recovered from the excavation, all of which dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and appear consistent with general pottery finds recovered from plough soil contexts.

Under the topsoil in trenches 1, 2 and 3 a relatively uniform dark orange-brown sandy-silt deposit was recorded, varying in thickness from 0.05m to 0.4m. It would appear at its thickest towards the eastern end of the field. No finds or features of archaeological interest were noted within this deposit. This deposit may represent plough-disturbed subsoil.

Appearing consistently throughout all the trenches was an underlying subsoil deposit of orange-brown sandy-clay. No finds or features of archaeological interest were noted within this deposit, which would appear to represent naturally occurring and undisturbed subsoil. This deposit occurred at depths of between 0.4m and 0.6m below the contemporary ground levels. In Trenches 3 and 4 excavation revealed bedrock deposits underlying this subsoil.

No finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were revealed by the archaeological evaluation. It is concluded, therefore, that overall the archaeological potential of the site is low.

## Bibliography

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Ordnance Survey      1900      2<sup>nd</sup> edition 1;2500 Caernarvonshire

Ordnance Survey      1917      3<sup>rd</sup> edition 1;2500 Caernarvonshire

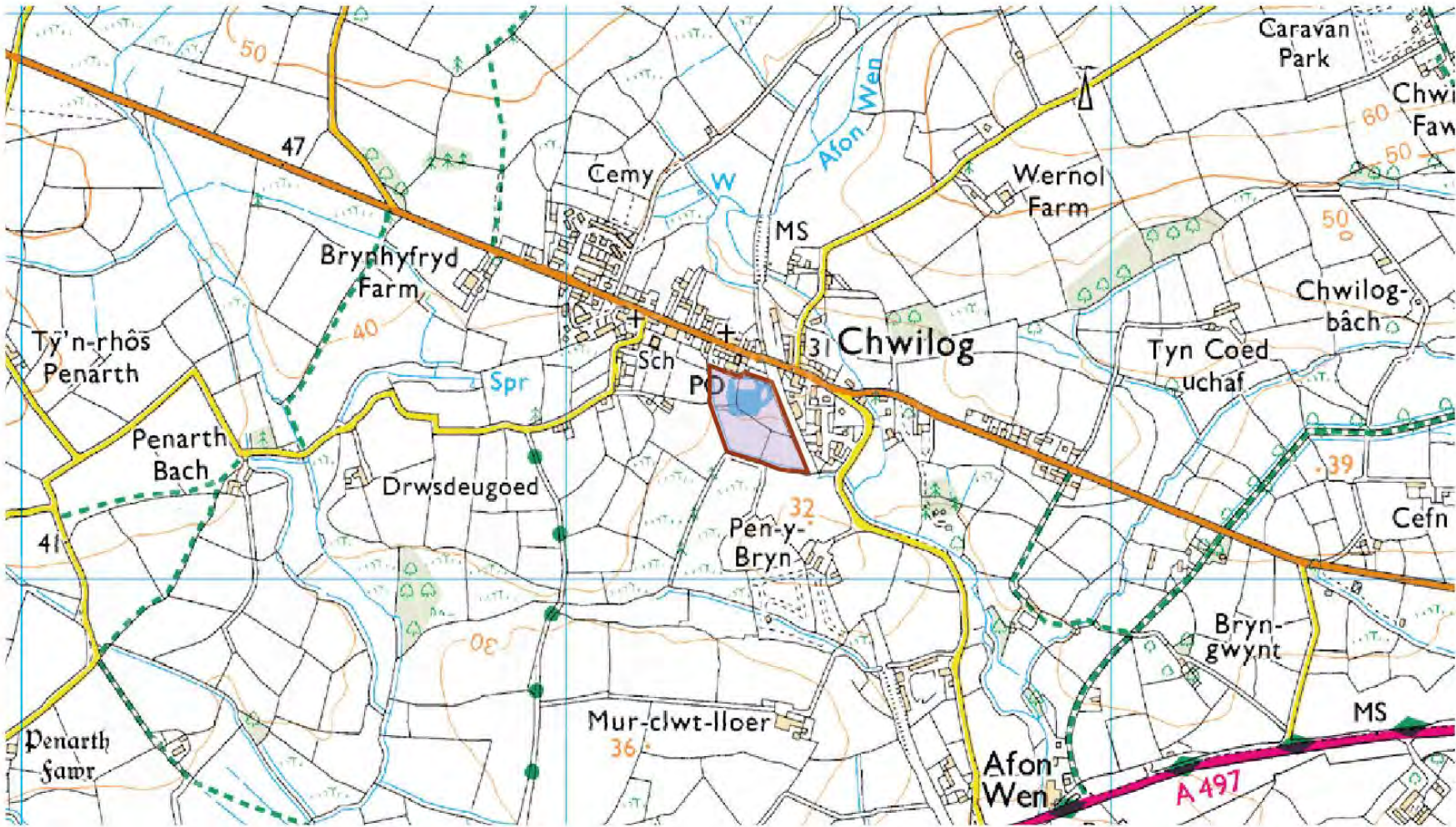


Figure 1: Site location plan.





Figure 2: Proposed site development plan, as provided by Alliance Planning prior to archaeological evaluation

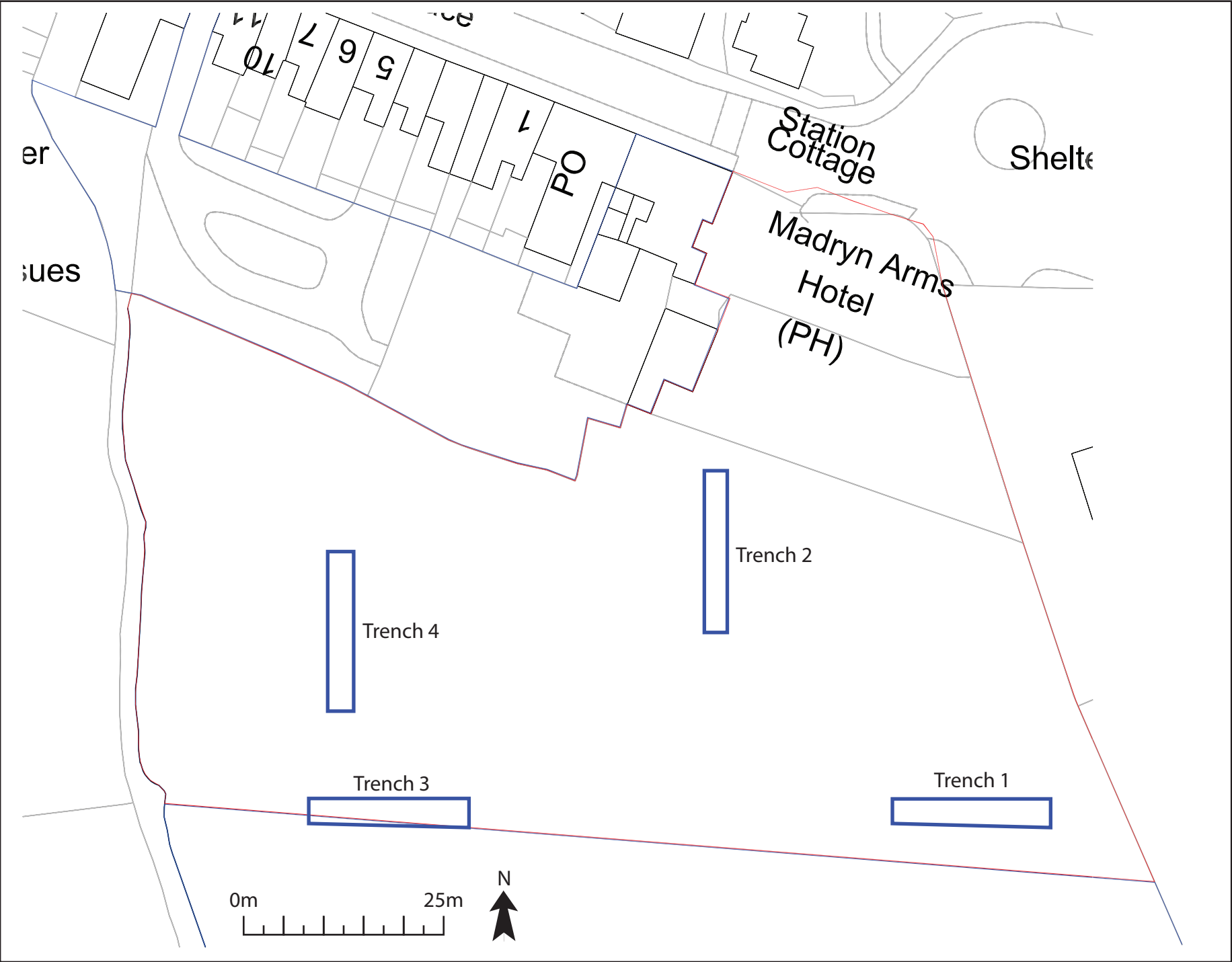


Figure 3: Trench location plan (in blue) within the area of proposed development (in red).





Plate 1: Trench 1, post excavation, looking east. 1m scales.





Plate 2: Trench 2, post excavation, looking north. 1m scales.





Plate 3: Trench3, post excavation, looking west. 1m scales.



Plate 4: Trench 4, post excavation, showing exposed bedrock deposits, looking south. 1m scales.



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## **APPENDIX I: Context Descriptions**

## Context Descriptions

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Dimensions (Length x width x thickness)
<b>Trench 1</b>			
100	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topsoil</li> <li>• Friable, dark brown, silty-clay with rare, small, sub-angular stone inclusions</li> </ul>	20m x 2m (extends beyond trench limits) x 0.25m
101	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subsoil</li> <li>• Loose, dark orange-brown, sandy-silt with common small-medium-large sub-angular stone and cobble inclusions.</li> </ul>	20m x 2m (extends beyond width of trench) x 0.15m to 0.4m
102	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subsoil</li> <li>• Compact, mid orange-brown, sandy-clay with common small sub-angular stone inclusions.</li> </ul>	20m x 2m (extends beyond width of trench). Full depth not established
<b>Trench 2</b>			
200	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topsoil</li> <li>• Friable, dark brown, silty-clay with rare, small, sub-angular stone inclusions</li> <li>• One fragment of clay pipe stem, several fragments of late post-medieval pottery sherds</li> </ul>	20m x 2m (extends beyond trench limits) x 0.3m
201	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subsoil</li> <li>• Loose, dark orange-brown, sandy-silt with common small-medium-large sub-angular stone and cobble inclusions.</li> </ul>	20m x 2m (extends beyond width of trench) x 0.05m to 0.15m
202	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subsoil</li> <li>• Compact, mid orange-brown, sandy-clay with common small sub-angular stone inclusions.</li> </ul>	20m x 2m (extends beyond width of trench). Full depth not established
<b>Trench 3</b>			
300	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topsoil</li> <li>• Friable, dark brown, silty-clay with rare, small, sub-angular stone inclusions</li> </ul>	20m x 2m (extends beyond trench limits) x 0.38m
301	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subsoil</li> <li>• Loose, dark orange-brown, sandy-silt with common small-medium-large sub-angular stone and cobble inclusions.</li> </ul>	20m x 2m (extends beyond width of trench) x 0.05m
302	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subsoil</li> </ul>	20m x 2m (extends beyond width of

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compact, mid orange-brown, sandy-clay with common small sub-angular stone inclusions.</li> </ul>	trench). Full depth not established
303	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bedrock</li> <li>• Fragmented grey mudstone</li> </ul>	1.2m x 2m (extends beyond trench limits)
304	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subsoil/fragmented bedrock</li> <li>• Abundant medium-large sub-rounded stone cobbles in a subsoil (302) matrix</li> </ul>	1.3m x 2m (extends beyond width of trench).
<b>Trench 4</b>			
400	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topsoil</li> <li>• Friable, dark brown, silty-clay with rare, small, sub-angular stone inclusions</li> <li>• Two sherds of 18<sup>th</sup> century blue &amp; white pottery</li> </ul>	20m x 2m (extends beyond trench limits) x 0.43m
401	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subsoil</li> <li>• Friable, mid orange-brown, sandy-clay with frequent small-medium sub-angular stone inclusions.</li> </ul>	20m x 2m (extends beyond width of trench). Full depth not established
402	Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bedrock</li> <li>• Fragmented grey mudstone</li> </ul>	2m x 2m (extends beyond width of trench)

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## **APPENDIX II: Specification**

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## **Specification**

### **For an Archaeological Evaluation on land at Madryn Arms, Chwillog**

**Prepared for:  
Admiral Taverns**

Project No: 2218

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014

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## NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

*This specification outlines the location, previous development and planning background of the proposed development site, adjacent and to the rear of Madryn Arms, Chwilog, Gwynedd and proposes a programme of intrusive archaeological trial trench evaluation designed to investigate features of potential significance. This trial trenching comprises four trenches, each measuring 20m by 2m, and spread across the proposed development site. This document has been produced by Archaeology Wales Ltd for Admiral Taverns.*

### 1. Introduction

The proposed development is located on land adjacent and to the rear of Madryn Arms, situated on the B4354 within the village of Chwilog in Gwynedd (Henceforth – the site), NGR: SH 43330 38350 (Figure 1). The local planning authority is the Cyngor Gwynedd Council and the planning application number is C14/0061/41/AM.

This specification has been prepared by Philip Poucher, Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (Henceforth - AW) at the request of Admiral Taverns. It provides information on the methodology that will be employed by AW during an archaeological evaluation at the site.

The purpose of the proposed archaeological evaluation is to provide the local planning authority with the information that they have requested from the client in response to their planning application, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy Wales (revised November 2012), Section 6.5, and Welsh Office Circular 60/96 (*Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology*).

Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (Henceforth – GAPS), in its capacity as archaeological adviser to the local authority, have recommended that an archaeological field evaluation is undertaken prior to the determination of the planning application. This evaluation will use strategically placed trial trenches to investigate the possibility of archaeological remains surviving on the site that may be disturbed by the proposed development process, and will obtain sufficient information about the archaeological resource of the area to inform an appropriate decision by the Planning Authority on the planning application. A Brief for the required archaeological work has been prepared by GAPS.

All work will conform to **the IFA's** Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IfA 1994, revised 2008 with updates Nov 2013), and be undertaken by suitably qualified staff to the highest professional standards.

### 2 Site description

The proposed development site lies on land to the east and south of the Madryn Arms, a public house on Madryn Terrace (B4354), within the centre of the village of Chwilog, Gwynedd (NGR: SH 43330 38350 (Figure 1). Chwilog lies roughly halfway between Pwllheli and Criccieth, **close to the south coast of the Llŷn Peninsula**.

The site covers an area of approximately 0.7ha, comprising an area of roadside car parking, beer garden and a field to the rear used for pasture. The site is accessed off

Madryn Terrace (B4354), which forms part of the northern boundary to the site, the remainder of the northern boundary comprising rear gardens to the Post Office and residential buildings along Madryn Terrace. To the east the boundary is formed by a stone wall topped by post and wire fencing, beyond which lies light industrial units. A field boundary and ditch defines the western boundary, the southern edge of the site has no existing boundary and forms part of the agricultural field. Agricultural land extends to the south and west of the site.

The ground is relatively level, at c.30m OD with a low local summit c.250m to the south. The Afon Wen lies c.200m to the east, feeding into the sea of Tremadoc Bay c.1.5km to the southeast.

### **3 Site specific objectives**

The primary objectives of the work will be to locate and describe, by means of strategic trial trenching, the archaeological potential that may be present within the development area. The work will elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance.

The work will include an assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within national and regional research frameworks.

The work will result in a report that will provide information of sufficient detail to allow informed planning decisions to be made which can safeguard the archaeological resource. Preservation *in situ* will be advocated where at all possible, but where engineering or other factors result in loss of archaeological deposits, preservation by record will be recommended.

### **4 Historical Background**

A brief examination of readily available sources indicates several sites of archaeological interest in the near vicinity, these are highlighted in the Brief supplied by GAPS.

The Brief states:

2.1 The discovery of a prehistoric stone hammer is recorded along the southern boundary of the site (PRN 2274). The exact findspot is unknown and little information is available about the discovery. A general potential for prehistoric archaeology is indicated by other dispersed artefactual discoveries in the locality, generally to the south of the site.

2.2 Chwillog is also recorded as a medieval township (PRN 7349), although again little information is available as to the location, form and extent of this settlement.

2.3 The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map illustrates the site as two fields, bordered to the east by the Caernarfonshire branch of the London and North-Western Railway, originally opened in 1862. The Grade II listed Madryn Arms Hotel was built partly in response to the new railway, in 1863.

## **5 Previous site investigations/disturbance**

There have been no known previous investigations on the site, and no known borehole records of relevance within the vicinity.

As pointed out in the brief the field that encompasses the majority of the site has been improved for agriculture, although it does not appear to have been previously disturbed, allowing that any archaeological remains may be well preserved.

## **6 The proposed archaeological work**

The proposed archaeological work relates to the whole of the site, i.e. all of the application area.

The aim of the work will be to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site. The work will include the following elements:

- A programme of strategic trial trenching (Stage 1)
- The production of an illustrated report and the deposition of the site archive (Stage 2)

## **7 Method statement for Strategic Trial Trenching (Stage 1)**

### Preliminary work

The archaeological project manager in charge of the work will satisfy him/herself that all constraints to ground works have been identified, including the siting of live services, Tree Preservation Orders and public footpaths.

The agreed evaluation areas will be positioned to maximise the retrieval of archaeological information and to ensure that the archaeological resource is understood.

It is proposed that four trenches, each measuring 20m by 2m, will be machine-excavated across the site area (Figure 1). As there are no specific identified features within the proposed development area to target, these trenches will be distributed across the agricultural land that comprises the majority of the proposed development area as it is anticipated that this area may contain the best preserved, or least disturbed, deposits.

The locations and dimensions of the trenches will be agreed with GAPS prior to the commencement of works.

### Evaluation

The evaluation areas will initially be excavated to the top of the archaeological horizon by machine. All mechanical excavation will be undertaken using a toothless bucket. All areas will be hand cleaned using hoes and/or pointing trowels to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features and to determine their significance. In each area the excavation of the minimum number of archaeological features will be undertaken, to elucidate the character, distribution, extent and importance of the archaeological remains. In each area sufficient excavation will be undertaken to ensure that the natural horizons are reached and proven. If safety reasons preclude manual excavation to natural, hand augering may be used to try to assess the total depth of stratification within each area. The depth of the excavation must conform to current safety requirements. If excavation is required below 1.2m the options of using shoring or stepped trenching will be discussed



with GAPS.

Recording will be carried out using Archaeology Wales recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc), using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Written, drawn and photographic records (b&w, 35mm colour slides and digital) of an appropriate level of detail will be maintained throughout the course of the project. Digital photographs will be taken using cameras with resolutions of 5 mega pixels or above.

Plans and sections will be made on all archaeological features, drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required, and these will be related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

#### Monitoring

GAPS will be contacted prior to the commencement of ground works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

GAPS will be provided with notice of the start date, a projected timetable and a copy of the Health and Safety Risk Assessment prior to the commencement of the work.

Any changes to the specification that the contractor may wish to make after approval will be communicated to GAPS for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.

Representatives of GAPS will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the field evaluation. No area will be back-filled, until GAPS has had the opportunity to inspect it, unless permission has been given in advance. GAPS will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

Topsoil and subsoil will be separated during excavation and the trenches will be backfilled appropriately, with the topsoil on top, at the end of the archaeological evaluation.

#### Artifacts

Archaeological artifacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be cleaned and labelled using an accession number which will be obtained from an appropriate local museum. A single number sequence will be allocated to all finds. The artifacts will be stored appropriately until they are deposited with the museum.

All artefacts recovered during the project will be retained and be related to the contexts from which they were derived. All typologically distinct and closely datable finds will be recorded three-dimensionally.

The evaluation will carefully consider any artefactual or economic information and provide an assessment of the viability, for further study, of such information. It will be particularly important to provide an indication of the relative significance of such material for any subsequent decision-making process regarding mitigation strategies.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (Phil Parkes of Cardiff Conservation Services).

A catalogue by context of all artefactual material found, quantified by number, weight, or both, and containing sketches of significant artefacts will be compiled.

Pottery will be analysed to the standards outlined in "Guidelines for the Preparation of Pottery Archives" as prepared by the Study Group for Roman Pottery in consultation with the IFA. All other material will be analysed following the advice given in the Institute of Field Archaeologists: Guidelines for Finds Work.

The requirements for the conservation of artefacts will be unpredictable until after the completion of the fieldwork. The archaeological contractor will ensure, however, that at least minimum acceptable standards are achieved (the UK Institute of Conservation's Guidelines for the Treatment of Finds from Archaeological Site should be used as guidance).

#### Environmental and technological samples

Samples will be taken where necessary when significant deposits are located. These will be retained for processing. The level of post-excavation processing will be dependent on the results of the field evaluation and following discussion with an environmental specialist and GAPS.

Any features containing deposits of environmental or technological significance will be sampled. If required, the project manager will arrange, through a suitably qualified expert the assessment of the environmental potential of the site through examination of suitable deposits. The assessment of potential should consider the guidelines set out in the English Heritage publication 'Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology' March 2002.

#### Human remains

Human remains will be left *in situ*, covered and protected when discovered. No further investigation should normally be permitted and GAPS and the local Coroner must be informed immediately. After discussion, it may be appropriate to take bone samples for C14 dating. If removal is essential it can only take place under the appropriate Ministry of Justice and Environmental Health regulations.

#### Conservation

All archaeologically recovered artefacts, building materials, industrial residues, environmental material, biological remains (including human remains) and decay products (collectively referred to as 'finds') will be conserved following the guidelines set out in 'Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials' (Institute for Archaeologists, 2008).

## **9 Method statement for the production of an illustrated report and the deposition of the site archive (Stage 2)**

### Report preparation

The report will contain the following:

- Desk-based research to allow an informed interpretation of the site (which will include consultation of the HER, a review of relevant published and unpublished sources and a review of relevant available archive material held at the Gwynedd Archives and other appropriate bodies)
- A fully representative description of the information gained from Stage 1 above, even if there should be negative evidence.
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results. This will be presented in Welsh to meet any Welsh language policy requirements.
- At **least one plan showing the site's location in respect to the local topography**, as well as the position of all excavated areas.

- Suitably selected plans and sections of significant archaeological features. All plans and sections should be related to Ordnance Datum.
- Written descriptions of all features and deposits excavated and their considered interpretation.
- A summary report on the artefactual and ecofactual assemblage and an assessment of its potential for further study, prepared by suitably qualified individuals or specialists.
- A statement of the local and regional context of the archaeological remains identified.
- An impact assessment, with mitigation proposals, of the proposed development on the archaeological resource can be considered and presented for consideration. This could include the mapped archaeological potential of the site in relation to the proposed development.

Copies of the report will be sent to Admiral Taverns, the local planning authority, and Gwynedd Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the HER and for the attention of the Development Control Archaeologist. Digital copies will be provided in pdf format if required.

A summary report of the work will be submitted for publication to a national journal (eg Archaeology in Wales) no later than one year after the completion of the work.

#### The site archive

A project archive will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and be deposited within an appropriate local museum on completion of site analysis and report production. It will also conform to the **IfA's** Standards & Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (2009) and guidelines set out in 'Management of Archaeological Projects Two, Appendix 3' (English Heritage 1991).

Arrangements will be made with the local museum before work starts. Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, the report and the archive will be deposited not later than six months after completion of the work.

Other significant digital data generated by the survey (ie AP plots, EDM surveys, CAD drawings, GIS maps, etc) will be presented as part of the report on a CD/DVD. The format of this presented data will be agreed with the curator in advance of its preparation.

## **10 Resources and timetable**

#### Standards

The field evaluation will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice.

AW is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation and all work will be undertaken to the standards and guidelines of the IFA.

#### Staff

The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified AW staff. Overall management of the project will be undertaken by Philip Poucher (a CV is available upon request).

#### Equipment

The project will use existing AW equipment.

#### Timetable of archaeological works

The work will be undertaken at the convenience of the client. An anticipated start date of 10/03/14 has been agreed. It is anticipated the evaluation will last three days.

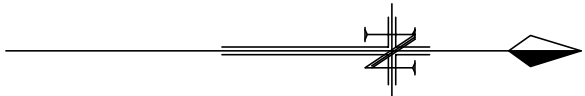
#### Insurance

AW is an affiliated member of the CBA, and holds Insurance through the CBA insurance service.

#### Health and safety

All members of staff will adhere to the requirements of the *Health & Safety at Work Act*, 1974, and the Health and Safety Policy Statement of AW.

If AW has sole possession of the site, then AW will produce a detailed Risk Assessment for approval by the client before any work is undertaken. If another organisation has responsibility for site safety, then AW employees will be briefed on the contents of all existing Risk Assessments, and all other health and safety requirements that may be in place.



Location Plan  
1:1250

1:1250

revision

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# Archaeology Wales



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